

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ May 2005

### HIGHLIGHTS

*All labour force statistics in this Highlights article are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated*

- In May, BC's unemployment rate fell to **5.7 percent**, the second lowest rate on record.
- Canada's unemployment rate remained unchanged over the month at 6.8 percent.
- BC's youth unemployment rate was down from 11.4 percent in April to 10.9 percent in May. This is its lowest level since August 1990.
- The unemployment rate for those 25 years and older declined from 5.1 percent in April to 4.7 percent in May.
- The number of unemployed declined by 7,300 workers due to a growth in employment opportunities.
- In May, the Province saw a net gain of 17,700 jobs, which is 4,400 more than last month's gain of 13,300 jobs.
- The labour force participation rate increased slightly from 65.6 percent in April to 65.7 percent in May.
- For May, there was a net decrease of 7,200 jobs in the Goods producing industries. The largest loss was experienced in construction (-7,000).
- Among Service producing industries, there was a gain of 24,900 jobs. Employment growth was strongest in Public Administration, Transport and Warehousing, and Trade.
- When comparing the number of employed with the size of the working age population, B.C.'s employment rate increased over the month from 61.6 percent to 62.0 percent. Meanwhile, Alberta continued to have the highest rate of employment among provinces at 70.2 percent.

| Selected Statistics                     | May 2005 | Apr. 2005 | May 2004 |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|
| BC Unemployment Rate                    | 5.7%     | 6.1%      | 7.5%     |
| Canada Unemployment Rate                | 6.8%     | 6.8%      | 7.1%     |
| BC Employment - Change from prev. mo.   | 0.8%     | 0.6%      | 4.1%     |
| BC Labour Force - Change from prev. mo. | 0.5%     | 0.1%      | 2.1%     |
| BC Labour Force Participation Rate      | 65.7%    | 65.6%     | 65.5%    |

*Labour Force Statistics is a joint compilation and review by BC STATS of the Ministry of Management Services and the Planning and Data Management Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education, reflecting the results of the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by Statistics Canada. For more information, call BC STATS (250) 387-0327 or the Planning and Data Management Branch (250) 387-0713.*