

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ June 2006

### HIGHLIGHTS

*All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated*

#### **Unemployment rate drops to 4.3% in June, setting another record low**

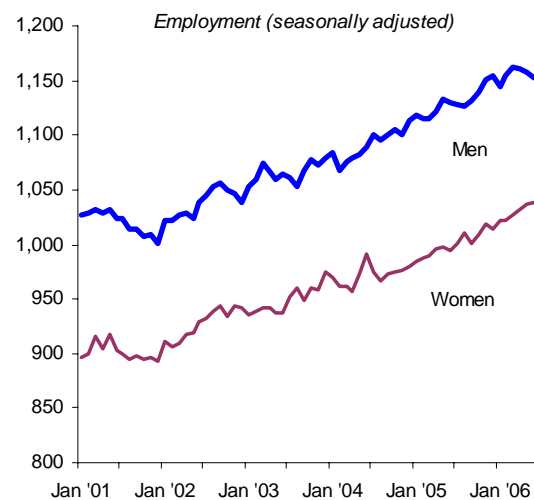
British Columbia's unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points to a new record low of 4.3% in June. The improvement in the jobless rate came as the labour force shrank (-0.6%) between May and June and the number of jobs remained relatively unchanged (-0.1%, or a net loss of 1,800 jobs).

The province's goods producing industries (-2.3%) took on less workers in June. Employment increases in construction (+1.1%), utilities (+8.6%) and forestry, fishing & mining (+3.2%) were not able to offset a shedding of employees in manufacturing (-5.3%) and agriculture (-10.6%).

Meanwhile, employment in the service sector advanced 0.5%. Among those who took on more workers were retail & wholesale trade (+1.3%), education (+2.0%) and health & social services (+2.7%). However, there were job losses in public administration (-5.6%) and professional, scientific & technology services (-4.0%).

The private (+0.4%) and public (+0.6%) sectors took on a smaller number of workers, while fewer people were self-employed (-2.4%). Full-time employment (-0.3%) decreased slightly, but the number of part-time workers increased (+0.9%) for the first time since February. The job market remained favourable for young people (aged 15-24) as their unemployment rate slipped to 7.6%.

#### **There were fewer jobs for men, but more women were employed in June**



The number of women with jobs rose 0.3% in August, however, the job market for men continued to tighten. Male employment slipped for the third straight month, falling 0.4% in June. Young women continued to have a particularly favourable job market condition. The unemployment rate for women aged 15 to 24 reached a record low of 6.1% in June, while the jobless rate for young men of the same age group was much higher (9.2%). However, unemployment rates for all working-age (15+) men (4.2%) and women (4.3%) continued to decline at relatively the same pace.

### *Jobless rates trend down in most regions despite declining employment*

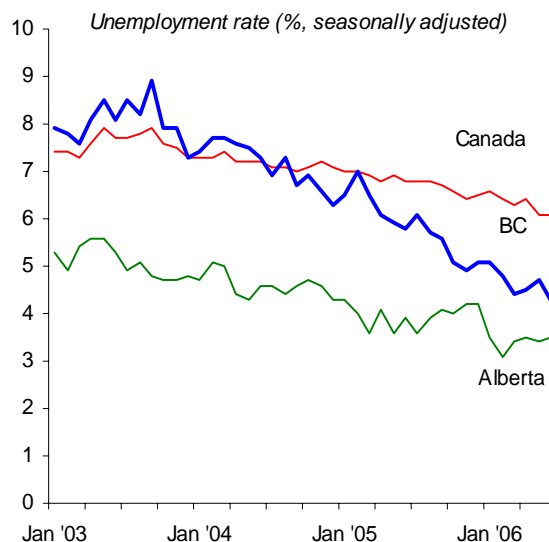
There were more jobs across all regions of the province except Northeast (+0.0%, 3-month-moving average) in June. Kootenay (+4.9%) led the job creation in the province. Other regions to see significant employment growth were North Coast & Nechako (+3.0%) and Mainland/Southwest (+1.0%).

Unemployment rates were down in every region except Kootenay (5.7%). Jobless rates ranged from 4.1% in Mainland/Southwest to 6.6% in Cariboo.

### *Unemployment rates slide in BC's largest cities*

BC's biggest urban centres also reported lower incidence of unemployment. In Abbotsford, jobless rates fell nearly four percentage points to 3.2% and Vancouver's rate inched down to 4.0%. Victoria's unemployment rate slipped to 1.7% in June, over four percentage points below the national average.

### *BC's unemployment rate remains among the lowest in the country*



Alberta (3.5%) and Manitoba (3.6%) continued to be the only provinces with a lower incidence of unemployment than BC. Jobless rates in the rest of the country ranged from 4.9% in Saskatchewan to 14.8% in Newfoundland. The Canadian unemployment rate held steady at 6.1%, as the number of jobs was virtually un-changed and the number of people either employed or looking for work shrank by a mere 0.1%.

<b>Selected Statistics</b>	<b>June-06</b>	<b>May-06</b>	<b>June-05</b>
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	4.7	5.8
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	6.1	6.8
BC Employment ('000)	2,192	2,194	2,124
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	65.2	65.7	65.5
June % change in employment relative to:	-	-0.1	3.2
June % change in labour force relative to:	-	-0.6	1.5