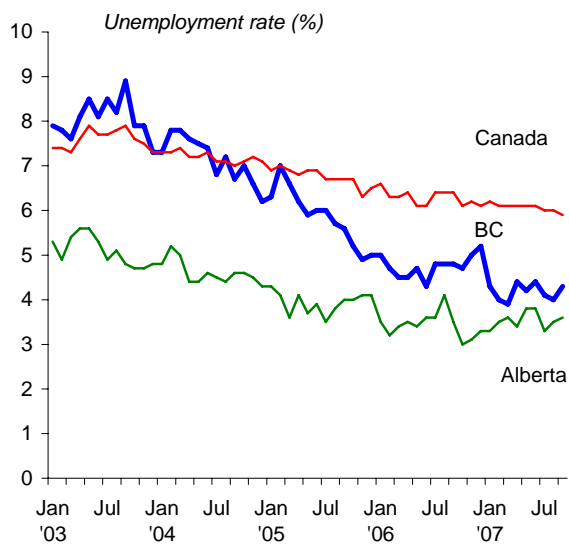


Labour Force Statistics ♦ September 2007

(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Unemployment rate rises slightly in September



BC Stats

British Columbia's unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points in September, rising to 4.3%. The increase in the jobless rate came about because employment was unchanged in September, so there were not enough jobs available to absorb an expanding labour force (+0.4%).

Goods industries expand while service sector cuts back

Job growth in the province has been somewhat volatile since the end of last year. This reflects counterbalancing trends in the goods and service sectors, which have been moving in opposite, and alternating, directions during much of the last year. September was no exception. Employment in the goods sector jumped (+2.5%), while the number of jobs in service industries contracted (-0.6%).

The job growth in the goods sector was concentrated in the two largest industries. Manufacturing (+4.1%) recovered from a downturn in the summer months, while the construction industry (+1.7%) took on more workers for a second straight month. There were more jobs in agriculture (+10.2%), but forestry, fishing & mining (-4.1%) and utilities (-7.0%) shed jobs. Month-to-month fluctuations in the latter industries are not uncommon, partly because of their relatively small size, which means that sampling issues can have a big effect on the data.

Six of the eleven industries in the service sector trimmed down their workforce, with accommodation & food (-5.5%) and finance, insurance & real estate (-3.6%) posting the biggest declines. However, there were significant job gains in the public sector, as education (+10.9%), public administration (+3.2%) and health care (+0.5%) took on more workers.

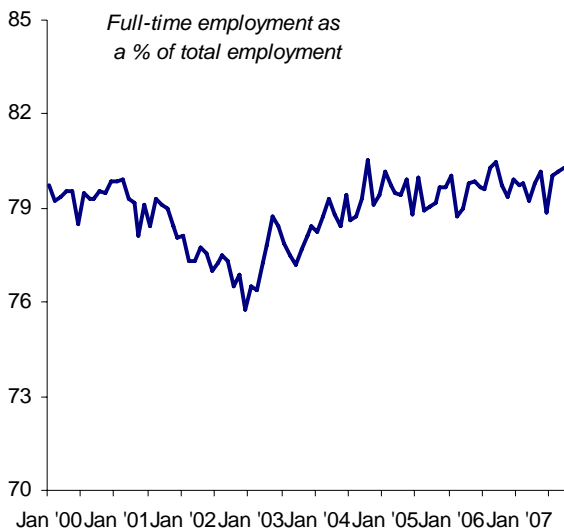
The number of men with jobs increased (+0.5%), partly reflecting the higher concentration of male workers in the goods sector where employment was expanding. On the other hand, the number of women (-0.4%) who were employed dipped in September.

Overall, public sector employment rose 2.2%, while the number of private sector jobs edged up 0.3%. Self-employment dropped sharply (-2.9%), declining for the sixth time since the beginning of the year. Self-employment had peaked at about 21% of total employment in the late 1990s but is currently at 18.5%.

Full-time employment increased slightly (+0.2%) in September, rising for a third straight month, but the number of people with part-time jobs dropped (-0.6%). Full-time employment had been declining

during the early part of the decade, but the trend appears to have reversed as gains in full-time employment have been outstripping growth in the number of part-time jobs. Just over 80% of the province's workers are now employed full-time, up from a low of 76% in December 2002.

More full-time workers



BC Stats

The youth (aged 15 to 24) unemployment rate jumped in September, rising to 8.1%. However, the unemployment rate among those aged 25 and over remained relatively stable, at 3.6%.

Labour force continues to shrink in North Coast/Nechako and Cariboo

Northeast (1.6%¹, 3-month moving average) continued to have the lowest unemployment rate

in the province, and job markets in Thompson/Okanagan (4.1%), Mainland/Southwest (4.2%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (4.3%) were also quite robust. North Coast/Nechako, where the unemployment rate was 7.0%, was the lone outlier. Employment in the region has been declining in tandem with the labour force. Cariboo also continues to see a downward trend in both the labour force and the number of jobs.

Among the province's cities, unemployment rates ranged from very low levels in Dawson Creek (1.7%) and Chilliwack (2.6%), to 6.6% in Nanaimo. Vancouver's unemployment rate remained steady at 4.2%; in Victoria, the rate increased slightly to 4.3%.

The Nation

The Canadian unemployment rate dropped to 5.9% in September, its lowest level in 33 years. While unemployment rates have been declining in most parts of the country, the jobless rate in Ontario (6.2%) was not unusually low, while Quebec's unemployment rate (6.9%) was only marginally less than it has been in the recent past. The real impetus for the falling unemployment rate appears to be coming from the west (and to a lesser extent, Newfoundland), where unemployment rates are very low by historic standards. In September, Alberta (3.6%), Saskatchewan (3.8%), Manitoba (4.2%) and BC (4.3%) all recorded unemployment rates that were well below those seen in the rest of the country.

Selected Statistics	Sept-07	Aug-07	Sept-06
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	4.0	4.8
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	6.0	6.4
BC Employment ('000)	2,267	2,266	2,203
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	66.1	65.9	65.7
Sept % change in employment relative to:	-	0.0	2.9
Sept % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.4	2.4

¹ Rates for Northeast, as well as some cities, are BC Stats estimates, calculated using data supplied by Statistics Canada. The very low unemployment rate in Northeast should be interpreted cautiously because it is based on a relatively small sample.