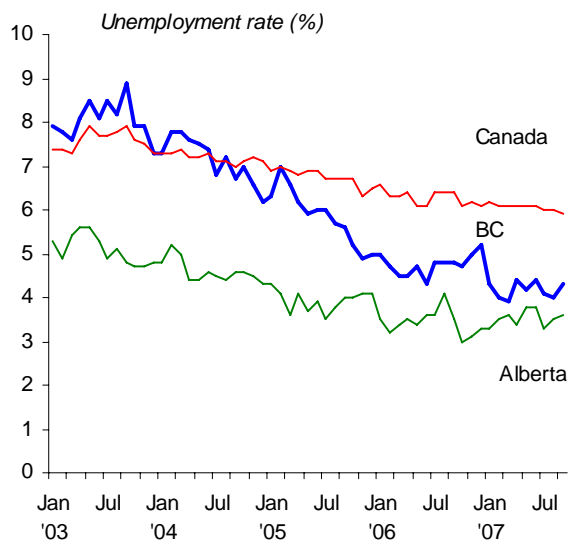


Labour Force Statistics ♦ October 2007

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

Unemployment rate rises slightly in October, but remains well below historic levels



BC Stats

British Columbia's unemployment rate inched up to 4.4% in October. The modest increase in the jobless rate occurred as the province's labour force expanded slightly more (+6,700) than the number of jobs (+5,800).

Despite the recent increase, BC's unemployment rate remains well below historic levels. Labour market conditions in BC as well as the Prairie provinces have been very robust of late, and all four western provinces continue to record jobless rates that are significantly lower than the national average. Although BC had the highest unemployment rate in western Canada last month, it was still 1.4 percentage points lower than the average for all of Canada.

The very low unemployment rates in the west have been pulling down the national average. Ontario, which has historically had a lower-than-

average unemployment rate, has seen a reversal of this trend since the middle of last year.

More jobs in the service sector, but goods industries cut back

The service sector picked up speed (+0.5%) in October, and as a result overall employment rose 0.3%. In the service sector, the job growth was localized in a few large industries: health care & social assistance (+3.0%), trade (+2.0%), transportation & warehousing (+1.2%) and miscellaneous services (+2.0%). Trade and health care are the largest service sector employers, accounting for one in three jobs in the sector.

Employment fell in the rest of the service industries, with the most notable decline seen in management & administration (-3.0%). October's decline only partly offset a surge in employment in the previous month.

The number of people working in the province's goods-producing industries contracted (-0.6%) as both manufacturing (-2.3%) and construction (-2.5%) shed jobs. Employment in other goods industries increased in October.

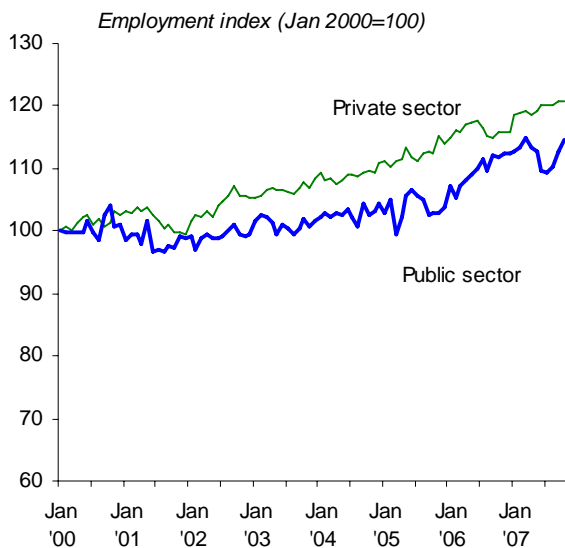
More part-time workers

While employment growth was fairly evenly split among the sexes (employment for men was up 0.2%, while the number of women with jobs increased 0.3%), labour force growth was very uneven. The number of men in the labour force expanded 0.8%, but the female labour force shrank 0.4%. There were fewer full-time workers (-0.2%) in October; last month's job growth was concentrated in the part-time workforce (+2.2%).

The unemployment rate for young workers (aged 15 to 24) remained relatively low, at 7.5%, but was

still nearly double the rate (3.8%) for more experienced workers (aged 25 and over).

Big gains in public sector employment as health care industry takes on more workers



BC Stats

Public sector employment advanced 1.6% in October, reflecting the strong growth in the health care industry. The number of private sector jobs in the province was up only marginally (+0.1%) from the September level, while the ranks of the self-employed shrank (-0.5%) for the fourth time since June.

A mixed bag for the regions

Among the regions, Northeast¹ (1.6%, 3-month moving average, unadjusted) continued to have the lowest unemployment rate in the province, while the jobless rate was highest in North Coast/Nechako (7.3%), where the labour force continued to shrink (-0.4%) in tandem with the

number of jobs (-0.2%). However Cariboo, which had been experiencing a similar trend, made gains in October. Its unemployment rate dropped to 4.7% as both employment (+5.1%) and the labour force (+4.5%) expanded significantly.

Kootenay posted another double-digit employment increase (+13.1%), but the labour force expanded at about the same pace (+13.3%), so the jobless rate rose to 5.8% in October.

Unemployment rates in Thompson/Okanagan (3.7%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (3.9%) were well below the provincial average. Victoria (3.7%) continued to fare better than the northern regions of the Island-Nanaimo’s unemployment rate was 5.4% in October. The unemployment rate in Kelowna (3.6%) was significantly lower than in Vernon (4.2%) and Kamloops (5.5%), the other major centres in the Thompson/Okanagan region.

In contrast, Cariboo’s unemployment rate of 4.7% was lower than in Prince George (5.5%), suggesting that workers in more rural areas of that region fared better than those living in the largest city.

In Vancouver, the unemployment rate was 4.2%, the same as the rate for the entire Mainland/Southwest region. Chilliwack’s rate was 3.2%, while the jobless rate in Abbotsford was higher, at 4.5%.

The Nation

Canada’s unemployment rate fell to a 33-year-low of 5.8% in October as employment expanded (+0.4%) faster than the labour force (+0.3%). Unemployment rates declined in most provinces.

| Selected Statistics | Oct-07 | Sept-07 | Oct-06 |
|---|--------|---------|--------|
| BC Unemployment Rate (%) | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.7 |
| Canadian Unemployment Rate (%) | 5.8 | 5.9 | 6.1 |
| BC Employment ('000) | 2,273 | 2,267 | 2,215 |
| BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 66.2 | 66.1 | 65.9 |
| Oct % change in employment relative to: | - | 0.3 | 2.6 |
| Oct % change in labour force relative to: | - | 0.3 | 2.2 |

¹ Rates for Northeast, as well as some cities, are BC Stats estimates, calculated using data supplied by Statistics Canada.