
Labour Force Statistics ♦ June 1999

HIGHLIGHTS

- **B.C. seasonally adjusted employment rose by 7,000 in June from May.** Following declines in March, April and May, employment in June again stands above the highest monthly level seen during 1998, recorded in December 1998.
- **Seasonally adjusted employment for the first half of 1999 stands at 32,000 above the second half of 1998, paced by gains seen in the first two months of 1999.** Full-time employment accounted for all of the net increase, as part-time employment was down slightly by 5,000.
- **Actual employment for the first half of 1999 stands 3.6 per cent above the average for the first half of 1998.** Above average employment growth was seen in the Victoria Metro Area and the Mainland-Southwest region, while employment levels declined in the Cariboo, North Coast/Nechako and Northeast regions.
- **Seasonally adjusted employment in June for Canada overall was flat.** All provinces have seen fluctuating monthly gains and declines in employment during 1999, except Manitoba which saw gains in each of the past four months.

Selected Statistics (SA)*	Jun. 1999	May 1999	Jun. 1998
B.C. Unemployment Rate	8.6%	8.4%	9.3%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.6%	8.1%	8.4%
B.C. Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	125.0	121.0	121.0
B.C. Employment - Monthly Change	0.4%	-0.9%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Monthly Change	0.5%	-1.3%	-
B.C. Participation Rate	65.2%	64.9%	64.8%

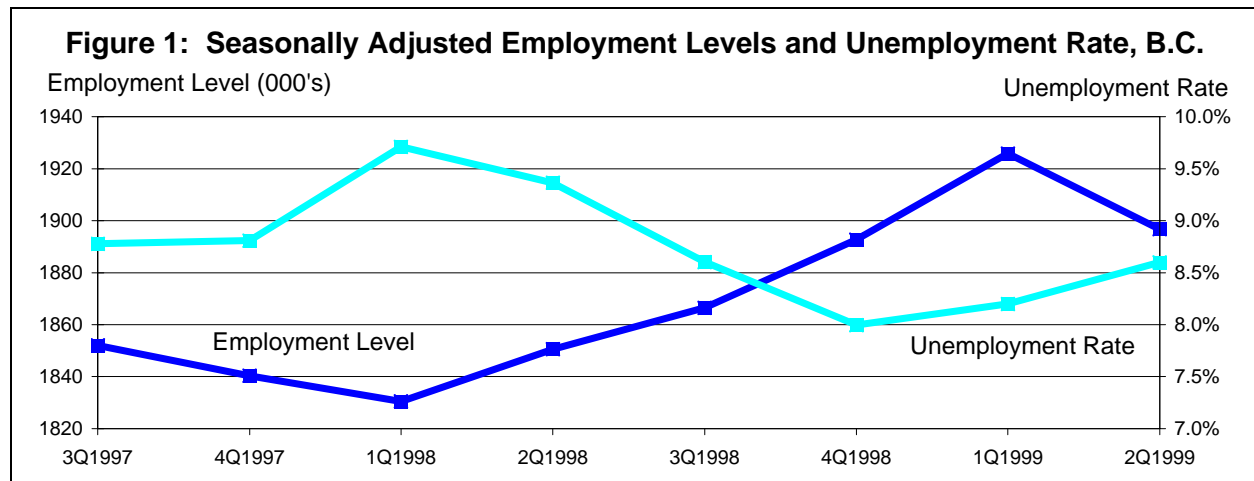
* Unless otherwise indicated, all labour force variables are seasonally adjusted.

Labour Force Statistics is a joint compilation and review by BC STATS of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations and the Research, Evaluation and Accountability Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology of the results of the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by Statistics Canada. For more information, call BC STATS (250) 387-0327 or R,E&A (250) 952-6111.

The British Columbia Labour Market - Second Quarter 1999

Summary . . . Seasonally adjusted **employment** in British Columbia in the second quarter decreased from the first quarter of 1999 by 1.5 per cent. This is the first decrease after four consecutive quarters of employment growth. Decreases in **full-time employment** were seen for the first time in four quarters, but part-time employment has been declining modestly for the last three quarters in a row. However, the strong employment gains in the first quarter of 1999 more than offset the decreases in the second quarter of 1999, so seasonally adjusted employment for the first half of 1999 stands at 32,000 above the second half of 1998. The number of those actively looking for work in the second quarter of 1999, **the unemployed**, rose by 4,000 from the first quarter. The seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** rose to 8.6 per cent from 8.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1999.

Employment and Unemployment Rate . . . Figure 1 provides a view of quarter to quarter changes in seasonally adjusted employment levels and the unemployment rate. Employment declined in the second quarter of 1999 for the first time since the first quarter of 1998. Four-fifths of the employment decrease in the second quarter of 1999 were experienced by women. In spite of this decrease in the latest quarter, employment had grown in each of the previous four quarters. In the second quarter of 1998, the decrease in employment was accompanied by a rise in the estimated number of unemployed persons, which pushed up the unemployment rate to 8.6 per cent from 8.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1999. All of the increase occurred for women, whose unemployment rate rose to 8.3 per cent from 7.5 per cent, while the rate for men remained at 8.8 per cent.



Employment by Industry Classification . . . Figure 2 compares seasonally adjusted quarterly net changes in employment by industrial classification. The goods sector in the second quarter from the previous quarter saw a net decline of 12,000 in seasonally adjusted employment, adding to the loss of 3,000 in the first quarter of 1999. Construction and other primary (which includes logging, mining, oil & gas, and fishing) were both down, but overall

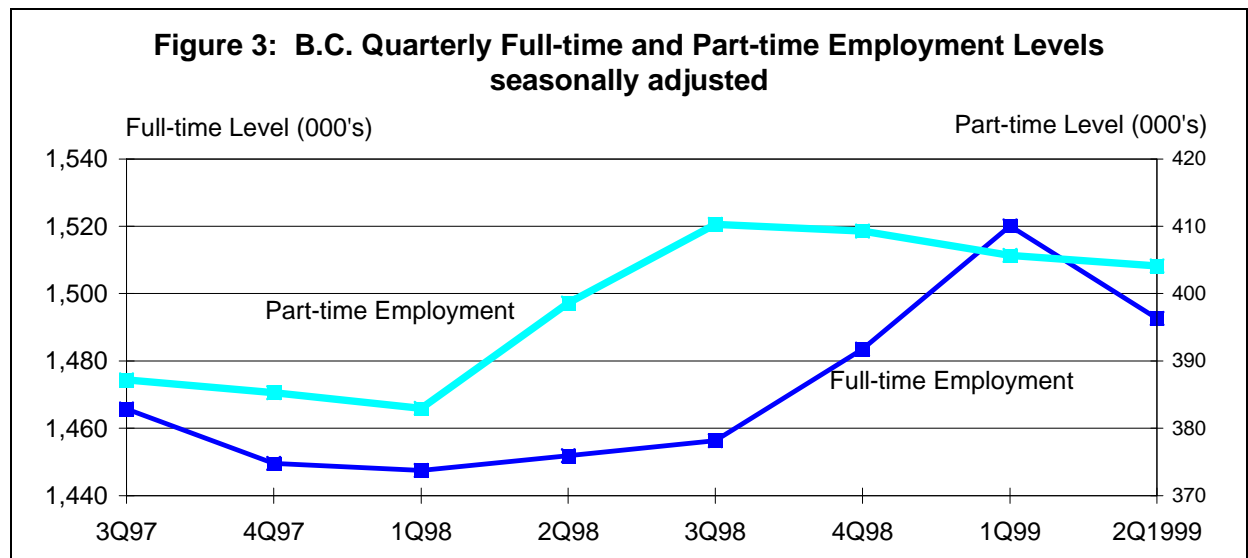
manufacturing has held steady since the second quarter of 1998. In services, the second quarter of 1999 saw the first net decline in overall services employment following strong gains in each of the previous four quarters. For the latest quarter, services were down or flat in all sectors except for modest net gains in health services and retail & wholesale trade. The latter sector has continued to add net employment gains since the first quarter of 1998.

Figure 2: B.C. Employment by Industrial Classification (seasonally adjusted)
(net change from previous quarter in '000's)

	1Q98	2Q98	3Q98	4Q98	1Q99	2Q99	Employment Level 2Q99 (000's)
Goods Sector	-0.3	-19.3	-11.5	8.7	-2.7	-11.8	385.7
Agriculture	0.7	-0.4	-4.7	-1.2	2.7	3.3	30.1
Other primary	-2.6	-3.6	-3.6	0.4	-0.3	-4.3	43.2
Utilities	-0.1	1.5	1.5	-1.7	-2.7	0.9	10.9
Construction	1	-8.8	-5.7	10.8	-3.5	-10.6	109.5
Manufacturing	0.8	-8.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	-0.9	192.1
Service Sector	-4.1	39.4	27.4	17.3	35.9	-17.3	1,510.9
Trade	-8.4	22.5	7.9	3.6	4.2	5.5	321.1
Transportation & warehousing	-2.7	-0.6	4	12.9	0.7	-3.1	111.4
Finance, insur. & real estate	-0.2	-2.6	-3.7	7.2	4.8	-1.4	117.7
Prof. scientific & technical	-8.1	8.5	7.4	-1.0	-1.2	-8.0	126.9
Management, administrative	8.1	4.8	0.8	-5.3	-2.8	0.3	62.2
Education services	4.9	1.6	-0.8	9.7	-2.9	-2.4	123.1
Health & social assistance	1.8	7.3	10.5	0.5	-7.1	6.0	206.6
Information, culture & rec.	-6.9	-4.7	2.7	-8.0	6.6	-3.2	88.5
Accommodation & food	3.1	-11.3	4.4	8.8	9.6	-7.1	156.4
Other services	0.4	6.7	-9.0	0.8	19.8	-3.0	106.7
Public administration	4	7.3	3.2	-12.1	4.2	-0.8	90.3

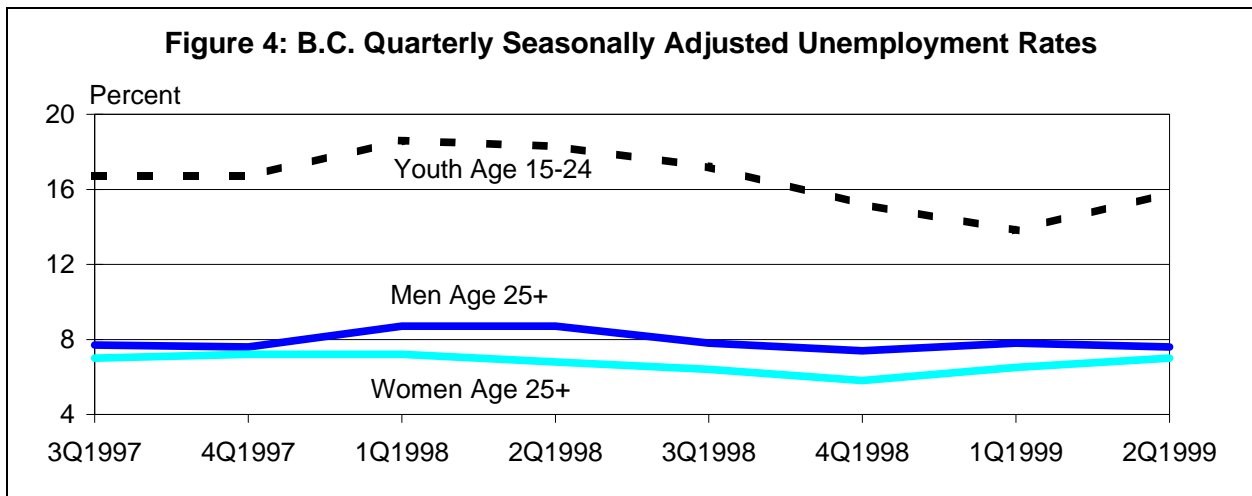
Full and Part-time Employment . . . Figure 3 shows quarterly seasonally adjusted full-time and part-time employment levels in B.C. Seasonally adjusted full-time employment in the second quarter of 1998 fell by 28,000, partially offsetting the consecutive net gains of 27,000 in the fourth quarter of 1998 and 37,000 in the first

quarter of 1999. Most of the decrease in full-time employment in the second quarter was felt by women (down 23,000). Overall part-time employment remained little changed in the second quarter of 1999, following very modest net declines in both the fourth quarter of 1998 and first quarter of 1999.



Unemployment . . . The B.C. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the second quarter of 1999 rose to 8.6 per cent from 8.2 per cent in the first quarter, yet remains well below the 9.7 per cent level seen in the first quarter of 1998. Looking at Figure 5, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for men aged 25+ in the second quarter of 1999 was 7.6 per cent, down 0.2 percentage points from the first quarter of 1999. The unemployment rate for

women aged 25+ rose to 7.0 per cent, up 0.5 percentage points from the first quarter of 1999. For youth overall, their unemployment rate rose to 15.8 per cent, yet this remains below the 17 per cent level where it stood above for the first three quarters of 1998. Most of the rise in the youth unemployment rate in the second quarter was felt by young women, yet their unemployment rate of 15.1 per cent still remains below the 16.2 per cent level for young men.



Regional . . . Above average actual employment growth for the first half of 1999 from the same period in 1998 was seen in the large Vancouver Island-Coast and Lower Mainland-Southwest regions, boosting their respective employment to population ratios. Actual average employment levels declined in the Cariboo, North Coast/Nechako and Northeast regions, likely reflecting their higher

concentrations in the other primary and resource manufacturing sectors. Unemployment rates fell in all regions except the Thompson-Okanagan and the Northeast (yet for the latter, the jump in unemployment rate likely reflects variability of estimated size of unemployed persons for this small region). Regional results suggest strength in the large urban areas which have a higher concentration of service sector employment.

Figure 5: Regional Labour Market Changes, Actual

Development Regions	Employment (000's)			Unemployment Rate			Employment/Pop. Ratio		
	1st Half 1998	1st Half 1999	Change	1st Half 1998	1st Half 1999	Change	1st Half 1998	1st Half 1999	Change
Vancouver Island/Coast	316.8	331.0	4.5%	10.8%	8.6%	-2.2%	54.9%	57.4%	2.4%
Lower Mainland/S.W.	1067.0	1117.9	4.8%	9.4%	7.9%	-1.5%	59.1%	61.1%	2.0%
Thompson/Okanagan	209.3	211.6	1.1%	9.2%	10.8%	1.6%	54.9%	55.1%	0.2%
Kootenay	67.0	69.7	3.9%	12.7%	10.2%	-2.5%	55.3%	57.2%	2.0%
Cariboo	80.3	78.5	-2.3%	14.5%	13.8%	-0.7%	62.9%	60.8%	-2.1%
North Coast/Nechako	48.9	48.0	-1.9%	10.3%	9.2%	-1.1%	61.1%	59.6%	-1.5%
Northeast	33.7	32.7	-3.3%	3.2%	8.5%	5.4%	66.0%	63.8%	-2.3%
B.C. Avg above	1823.2	1889.1	3.6%	9.9%	8.8%	-1.1%	58.0%	59.6%	1.5%

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