
Labour Force Statistics ♦ September 1999

HIGHLIGHTS

- **B.C. seasonally adjusted employment in September rose by 6,700 from August (up 0.4 per cent) while those actively searching for work, the unemployed, fell by 13,300.** This pushed down the September unemployment rate in B.C. to 8.0 per cent, its lowest monthly level since October 1998.
- **Full-time seasonally adjusted employment in the third quarter fell by 18,100 (down 1.2 per cent) from the second quarter, while part-time employment increased by 12,300 (up 3.0 per cent).** Women saw all of the gains in part-time work while men and women shared the decrease in full-time work.
- **Third quarter seasonally adjusted employment for youth (aged 15-24) rose from the second quarter by 7,300 (up 2.8 per cent), compared to a decrease of 13,100 (down 0.8 per cent) by adults aged 25+.** The youth unemployment rate dropped to 14.5 per cent in the third quarter, down 0.5 percentage points.
- **Seasonally adjusted employment in September for Canada overall increased by 0.4 per cent from August.** All provinces saw an increase or no change in employment except Manitoba and P.E.I. All except the Atlantic provinces saw lower or no change in unemployment rates in September.

Selected Statistics (SA)*	Sep 1999	Aug 1999	Sep 1998
B.C. Unemployment Rate	8.0%	8.6%	8.2%
Canada Unemployment Rate	7.5%	7.8%	8.3%
B.C. Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	131.0	128.0	120.0
B.C. Employment - Monthly Change	0.4%	0.6%	-
B.C. Labour Force - Monthly Change	-0.3%	0.6%	-
B.C. Participation Rate	64.7%	65.0%	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.

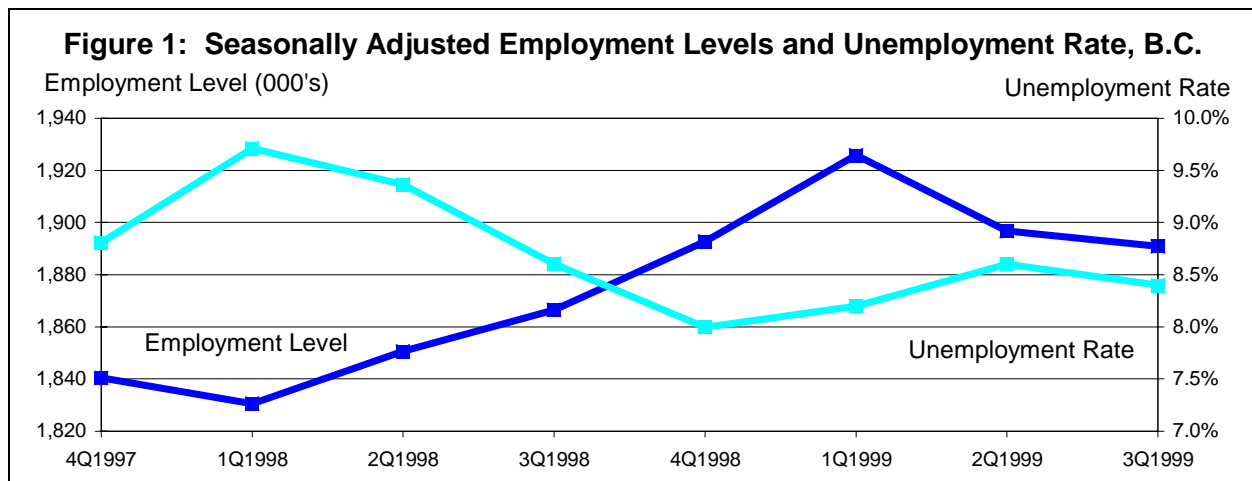
The British Columbia Labour Market - Third Quarter 1999

Summary . . . Seasonally adjusted **employment** in British Columbia in the third quarter was down slightly from the second quarter of 1999, declining 0.3 per cent. This is the second quarterly decrease after four consecutive quarters of employment growth. An increase in the number of private sector employees in the third quarter (up 18,200) was more than offset by a combined decrease in public sector employees and self-employed workers. **Full-time employment** in the third quarter was down by 1.2 per cent, but part-time employment grew by 3.0 per cent. However, the strong employment gains in the fourth quarter of 1998 and the first quarter of 1999 have only been partially offset by the decreases in the last two quarters. The number of those actively looking for work in the third quarter of 1999, **the unemployed**, fell by 4,900 from the second quarter. The seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** dropped to 8.4 per cent in the third quarter of 1999 from 8.6 per cent in the second quarter.

Employment and Unemployment Rate . . .

Figure 1 provides a view of quarter to quarter changes in seasonally adjusted employment levels and the unemployment rate. Using the axis on the left side of the chart, employment has leveled off somewhat in the third quarter compared to the decline in the second quarter of 1999. All of the slight employment decrease in the third quarter of 1999 was experienced by men. In spite of this decrease in the last two quarters, employment stands at 24,400 above the level seen in the third quarter of 1998.

Looking at the right side axis of Figure 1, we note that the slight decrease in employment in the third quarter of 1999 was also accompanied by a decrease in the estimated number of unemployed persons, as the unemployment rate fell to 8.4 per cent from 8.6 per cent. The unemployment rate for men was 9.2 per cent and for women 7.5 per cent.



Employment by Industry Classification . . .

Figure 2 compares seasonally adjusted quarterly net changes in employment by industrial classification. The *goods sector* in the third quarter recovered slightly with a net increase of 4,700 in seasonally adjusted employment, following decreases in the previous two quarters totaling 14,500. Construction, other primary

and utilities showed employment increases this quarter. Over the past five quarters, manufacturing employment has held very steady, showing little change.

Employment declined in the *services sector* for the second straight quarter after four previous quarters of substantial increases. For the latest

quarter, services were down or flat in most sectors except for notable net gains in transportation/warehousing, and moderate gains in management/administrative services, education, and information/culture/recreation services. The combined retail and wholesale trade sector saw its first recent quarterly

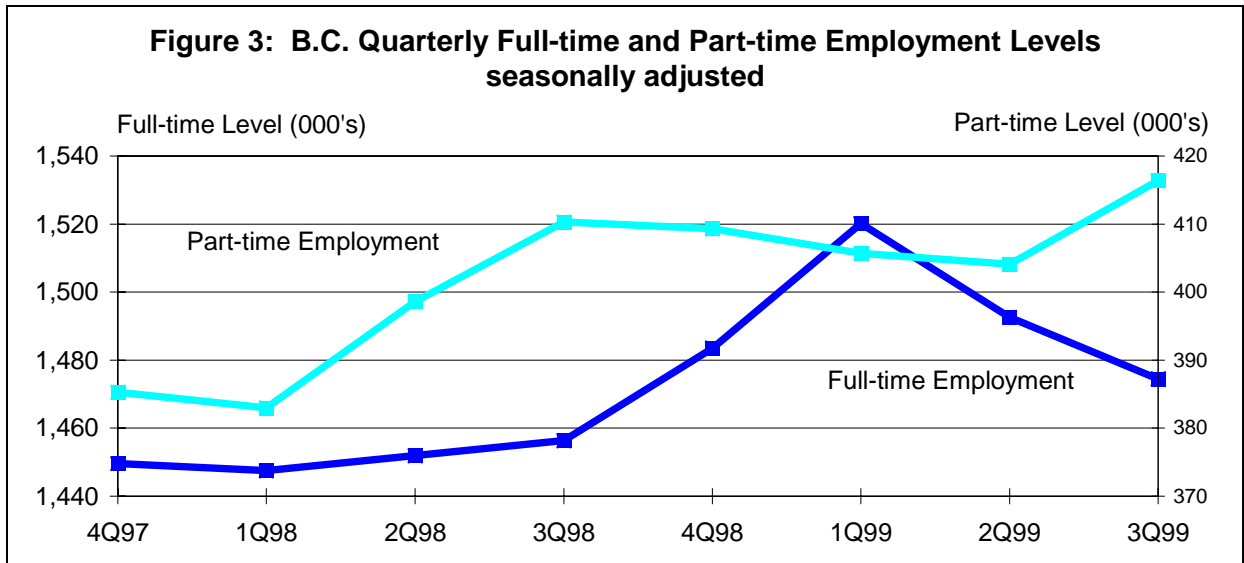
decrease in employment in the third quarter, following continuous quarterly net employment gains since the first quarter of 1998. Similarly, accommodation & food services saw decreases in employment in the last two quarters, but this only partially offset the cumulative net increases in the previous three quarters.

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

	1Q98	2Q98	3Q98	4Q98	1Q99	2Q99	3Q99	Employment Level 3Q99 (000's)
Goods Sector	-0.3	-19.3	-11.5	8.7	-2.7	-11.8	4.7	390.4
Agriculture	0.7	-0.4	-4.7	-1.2	2.7	3.3	-0.8	29.3
Other primary	-2.6	-3.6	-3.6	0.4	-0.3	-4.3	2.1	45.3
Utilities	-0.1	1.5	1.5	-1.7	-2.7	0.9	2.0	12.9
Construction	1.0	-8.8	-5.7	10.8	-3.5	-10.6	2.2	111.7
Manufacturing	0.8	-8.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	-0.9	-0.9	191.2
Service Sector	-4.1	39.4	27.4	17.3	35.9	-17.3	-10.4	1,500.5
Trade	-8.4	22.5	7.9	3.6	4.2	5.5	-11.5	309.6
Transportation & warehousing	-2.7	-0.6	4	12.9	0.7	-3.1	11.2	122.6
Finance, insur. & real estate	-0.2	-2.6	-3.7	7.2	4.8	-1.4	1.6	119.3
Prof. Scientific & technical	-8.1	8.5	7.4	-1.0	-1.2	-8.0	-2.1	124.8
Management, administrative	8.1	4.8	0.8	-5.3	-2.8	0.3	4.0	66.2
Education services	4.9	1.6	-0.8	9.7	-2.9	-2.4	7.3	130.4
Health & social assistance	1.8	7.3	10.5	0.5	-7.1	6.0	-14.1	192.5
Information, culture & rec.	-6.9	-4.7	2.7	-8.0	6.6	-3.2	6.8	95.3
Accommodation & food	3.1	-11.3	4.4	8.8	9.6	-7.1	-3.3	153.1
Other services	0.4	6.7	-9.0	0.8	19.8	-3.0	-6.5	100.2
Public administration	4.0	7.3	3.2	-12.1	4.2	-0.8	-3.9	86.4

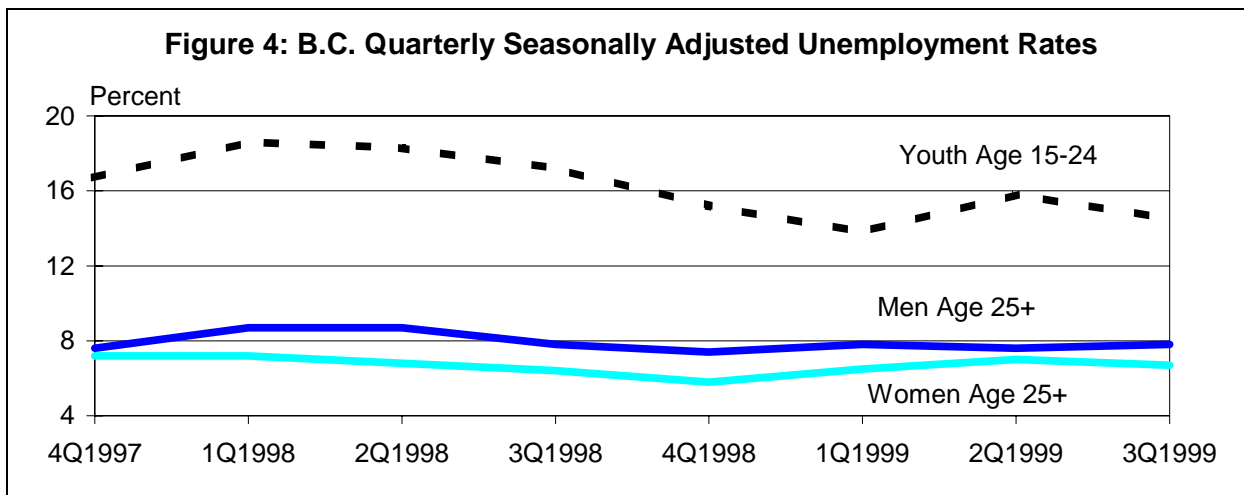
Full and Part-time Employment . . . Figure 3 shows quarterly seasonally adjusted full-time and part-time employment levels in B.C. Seasonally adjusted full-time employment in the third quarter of 1999 fell for the second consecutive quarter after four quarters of growth. Declines of 18,100 in the third quarter and 27,500 in the second quarter, only partially offset the net gains of 27,200 in the fourth

quarter of 1998 and 36,600 in the first quarter of 1999. Sixty per cent of the decrease in full-time employment in the third quarter was felt by women (down 10,900). Overall part-time employment increased by 12,300 in the third quarter of 1999, following very modest net declines in the previous three quarters. Nearly all of the increase in part-time work (12,200) was experienced by women.



Unemployment . . . The B.C. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the third quarter of 1999 fell slightly to 8.4 per cent from 8.6 per cent in the second quarter. Looking at Figure 4, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for men aged 25+ in the third quarter of 1999 rose slightly to 7.8 per cent. It dropped to 6.7 per cent for women aged 25+, down 0.3 percentage points from the second quarter of 1999. The

overall youth unemployment rate in the third quarter fell 1.3 percentage points to 14.5 per cent. This remains well below the average level of over 17 per cent where it stood for the first three quarters of 1998. The unemployment rate for male youth remains notably higher at 17.5 per cent compared to 11.4 per cent for female youth.



Regional . . . Average actual employment growth for the first three quarters of 1999 from the same period in 1998 was strongest in the Lower Mainland-Southwest region (up 3.4 per cent). Employment growth was also seen in the Vancouver Island/Coast region (up 2.0 per cent)

and Thompson/Okanagan region (up 1.2 per cent).

Actual average employment levels declined in the Cariboo, North Coast/Nechako and Northeast regions, likely reflecting their higher employment concentrations in the other primary

and resource manufacturing sectors, and related indirect impacts on services sector employment.

Unemployment rates fell or were little changed in all regions except for rises in the Thompson/Okanagan region and the Northeast region. For the Northeast region, the jump in unemployment rate likely mainly reflects variability of estimate size of unemployed persons for this small region as opposed to a severe worsening in labour market conditions.

Regional results show labour market improvements chiefly in the large urban areas

which are covered in the Vancouver Island/Coast and Lower Mainland/Southwest regions. Employment growth, with no rise in unemployment rate, and a rise in the employment to population ratio, in these two regions contrast to more mixed results in most other regions. The Kootenay region saw a decline in its unemployment rate. However, with little change in employment, this decline occurred mainly from people leaving the labour force in this region.

Development Regions	Employment (000's)			Unemployment Rate			Employment/Pop. Ratio		
	1st Three Quarters 1998	1st Three Quarters 1999	% Change	1st Three Quarters 1998	1st Three Quarters 1999	Absolute Change	1st Three Quarters 1998	1st Three Quarters 1999	Absolute Change
Vancouver Island/Coast	329.7	336.3	2.0%	8.2%	8.3%	0.0%	57.2%	58.3%	1.1%
Lower Mainland/S.W.	1,082.1	1,118.5	3.4%	8.8%	8.0%	-0.8%	59.9%	61.0%	1.2%
Thompson/Okanagan	211.6	213.8	1.0%	8.6%	10.0%	1.4%	55.5%	55.6%	0.2%
Kootenay	70.1	70.2	0.1%	12.0%	9.1%	-2.9%	57.7%	57.7%	-0.1%
Cariboo	81.2	80.5	-0.9%	14.3%	12.6%	-1.7%	63.5%	62.3%	-1.2%
North Coast/Nechako	49.9	49.5	-0.9%	9.8%	9.0%	-0.8%	62.3%	61.5%	-0.8%
Northeast	33.6	32.9	-2.0%	3.6%	9.0%	5.4%	65.7%	64.3%	-1.4%
B.C. Avg above	1,858.2	1,901.7	2.3%	9.0%	8.6%	-0.4%	59.1%	59.9%	0.8%

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