

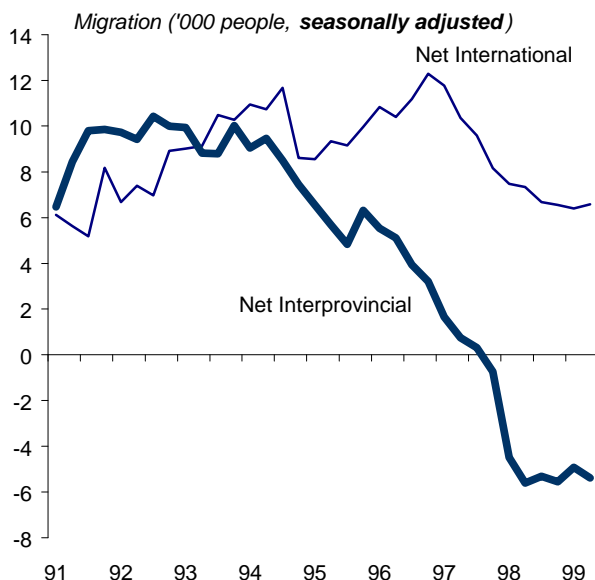
## Current Statistics ♦ October 1999

- **During the second quarter of 1999, BC gained 1,336 people (unadjusted data) as a result of net migration from all sources.** This compares to an increase of 1,924 in the same period last year. A net inflow of people from other countries continued to offset a net outflow from BC to other provinces in the second quarter. Net international migration totalled 7,365 people, well below the levels seen earlier in the decade.

The net outflow of population from BC to the rest of Canada continued in the second quarter, with a loss of 6,029 people. BC lost people to every region except Quebec (+215) and Saskatchewan (+207). Alberta (-4,571) was the biggest beneficiary, receiving three-quarters of the net outflow. Ontario (-1,283), Atlantic Canada (-321), Manitoba (-195) and the territories (-81) also received more people from BC than they lost to the province.

*Source: BC STATS*

**The net outflow of people from BC to other provinces is levelling off, suggesting that a four-year-long downturn may be coming to an end**



- **Seasonally adjusted data indicate that the net outflow to other provinces may have bottomed out.** After declining steadily during most of the period since 1994, net interprovincial migration has remained relatively stable during the last year. *Source: BC STATS*

- **After leading the country in terms of population growth during most of the 1990s, BC's rate of population increase has settled into a more moderate pace.** During the 12-month period ending July 1<sup>st</sup>, the province's population grew 0.7%. This was slightly less than the national average (+0.9%), and well below the rate of increase in Alberta (+2.0%), which has been Canada's fastest growing province since it overtook BC in mid-1997. BC is currently ranked third, after Ontario (+1.3%). The province's population was estimated at 4,029,253 on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

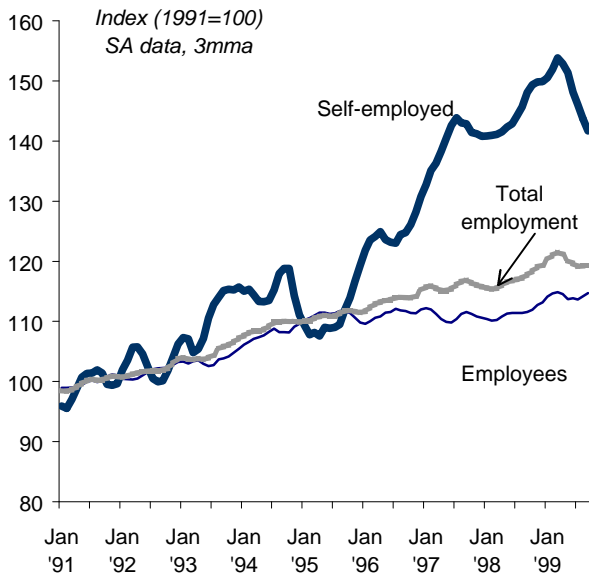
- **British Columbia's unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points, to 8.0% (seasonally adjusted) between August and September.** The decline in the unemployment rate occurred as the labour force shrank by 6,700 while the number of people with jobs in BC increased by the same amount. Both factors helped pull down the jobless rate.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of self-employed British Columbians fell for the sixth straight month (-1.4%, seasonally adjusted 3-month moving average) in September.** The latest decrease brought self-employment in the province down to its lowest level since early 1998. Self-employment had been one of the main factors driving job growth in BC since the mid-1990s. However, employment gains in recent months have been attributable to increases in the number of paid employees in the province.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

**Self-employment, which had been a major factor in BC's job growth since the mid-1990s, has begun to fall**



- **British Columbia's annual inflation rate increased to 2.0% in September, its highest level in four years.** The inflation rate has been climbing since May, bringing to an end a three-year-long hiatus during which the increase in BC's overall price level has remained at or below one percent. Despite the spike, BC residents continued to experience the lowest inflation of any province. The Canadian inflation rate was 2.6% in September, and rates in other provinces ranged from 2.2% in Saskatchewan to 3.5% in Alberta.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **The province continues to owe its relatively low inflation rate to falling shelter costs, which were down 0.1% from September 1998.** The CPI for owned accommodation, which has been falling since 1994, decreased 1.8% in September. In addition, a freeze on electricity prices helped offset the effect of higher prices for piped gas (+17.7%) and other heating fuel (+8.5%). However, rented accommodation in the province cost 0.4% more last month than it did a year earlier.

Excluding shelter costs, BC's inflation rate would have been 2.8% in September, just slightly below the Canadian rate (less shelter

of 2.9%. Shelter costs include owned and rented accommodation, as well as water, fuel and electricity. Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS

- **Shipments of goods manufactured in BC rose 0.5% (seasonally adjusted) between July and August.** Wood shipments were down 3.8% from the previous month, but paper (+3.6%) and food (+2.9%) manufacturers shipped more goods than in July.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Exports of BC products declined 0.4% (seasonally adjusted) between July and August.** This marked the third straight month in which exports have changed modestly (they were up 0.4% (revised) in each of the two previous months). Exports to the US fell 1.2%, but shipments to other countries recovered slightly, increasing 1.6%.

Source: BC STATS

- **On a seasonally adjusted basis, forest product exports edged down 0.5% in August after expanding 7.1% in the previous month.** August's drop was the third in the last four months. International shipments of mineral products remained weak (-11.5%), offsetting gains made earlier in the summer.

Source: BC STATS

**Exports have recovered to 1997 levels, but have changed little since May**

