

Current Statistics ♦ December 1999

- **During the third quarter of 1999, BC gained 9,276 people as a result of net migration from all sources.** This compares to an increase of 1,640 in the same period last year. A turnaround in net interprovincial migration was the primary reason for the increase.

The third quarter marked the first net inflow (+186) of people from the rest of Canada to BC in almost two years, as more people came to the province, and fewer left it for other parts of Canada. BC continued to lose people to Alberta (with a net loss of 1,197 people), but the outflow was the smallest it has been since late 1996. The province gained people from most other parts of Canada. Ontario (+769) was the biggest net contributor, followed by Quebec (+293) and Manitoba (+221).

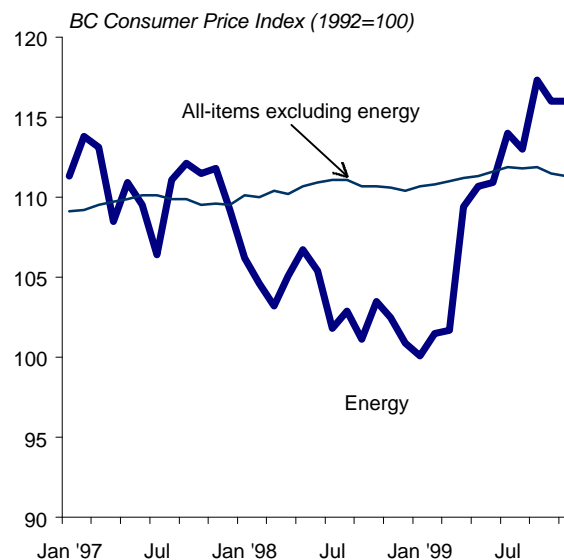
Net international migration to the province also registered an increase in the third quarter, with a net inflow of 9,540 people, up 22% over the same quarter last year. *Source: BC STATS*

- **British Columbia's all-items consumer price index (CPI) was 1.5% higher this November than in the same month last year.** The inflation rate began to edge up in the summer, ending a three-year-long period during which it had remained below one percent. Residents of Victoria (+1.4%) and Vancouver (+1.5%) saw prices rise less than in other metropolitan areas. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **Soaring energy costs are the reason for the jump in the overall price level that has occurred in recent months.** Gasoline prices in BC were nearly a fifth (+19.4%) higher than in November 1998, and similarly large increases have occurred for piped gas (+19.7%) and fuel oil (+14.2%). These price hikes are almost entirely responsible for the upward movement of the overall CPI, as inflation rates for other goods and services have not changed significantly since the beginning of the year. Excluding energy costs, BC's inflation rate would have been 0.6% in Novem-

ber, while the Canadian rate would have stood at 1.5%—about the same level it has been at during most of the last two years.

Source: Statistics Canada

Soaring energy costs are putting upward pressure on the CPI



- **After having dipped slightly (-0.1%) in October, employment in BC in November increased by 12,800 (+0.7%) to 1,909,600 (seasonally-adjusted).** At the same time, BC's unemployment rate increased from 7.4% in October to 8.0% in November, as an additional 25,600 people entered the work force.

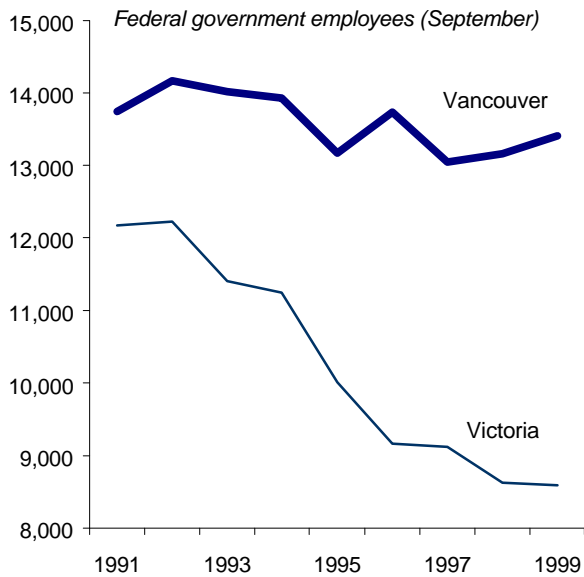
Source: Statistics Canada

- **Wages, salaries and benefits earned by workers in British Columbia increased 0.5% (seasonally adjusted) between August and September, less than in any other region of the country.** Canadian labour income was up 0.8% in September.

During the first nine months of the year, labour income in the province was 1.3% higher than in the same period of 1998. This compares to a 3.5% advance at the national level.

Source: SC, Catalogue 13F0016XPB

The number of federal government employees in the Victoria CMA has declined quite significantly since 1991



- In September, about two-thirds (223,200) of the federal government's employees worked in one of Canada's 25 census metropolitan areas (CMA)—those with a population of at least 100,000.** Forty-two percent (93,347) of them were located in Ottawa-Hull. After Ottawa, Montreal (10%), Toronto (8%), and Halifax (7%) had the largest number of federal government employees. Vancouver was next, with 6% of the CMA workforce, while Victoria (4%) was eighth among the CMAs.

Since 1991, the number of federal government employees in CMAs has decreased 17%, but Saskatoon (-1%), Vancouver (-2%) and Kitchener (-3%) have been only marginally affected. In Victoria, the number of federal government workers has decreased by nearly a third (-29%), more than in all but four other CMAs.

Source: SC, Public Institutions Division

- In the third quarter of 1999, there were 81 public sector employees in BC for every 1,000 people living in the province.** BC had the second-lowest public sector employment rate in the country. Ontario (80) and Alberta (84) were the only other provinces where pub-

lic sector employment rates were below the national average (88). Public sector employment includes all those who work for federal, provincial and local government ministries and agencies, as well as employees at hospitals, schools, universities, other public institutions, and crown corporations.

Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS

- Exports of BC products increased 1.2% (seasonally adjusted) between September and October.** The rise in the value of exports was due to continued strength in US markets (+1.8%), which helped offset a dip (-0.2%) in shipments to other countries. After two slow months, exports of forest products picked up (+3.4%) in October, boosting BC's overall export performance. International shipments of other products rose only 0.7%, reflecting declining exports of agriculture and fish (-13.8%) and mineral (-13.5%) products to both the US and overseas. Despite the downturn in the natural resource sector, exports of other goods strengthened (+2.2%), largely due to strong US demand for these products.

Source: BC STATS

Strong US markets for BC products continued to boost BC's exports in October

