

# LABOUR MARKET Snapshot



Ministry of  
Advanced Education  
and Labour Market  
Development

JUNE 2009

## B.C. EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT**  
-0.2%

**+0.5%**  
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

**+0.2%**  
**PARTICIPATION RATE**

## LABOUR FORCE

- The unemployment rate in B.C. increased to 8.1% over the last month; the highest monthly unemployment rate over the last year. The rate one year ago was 3.6 percentage points lower at 4.5%. B.C.'s unemployment rate is still below the national rate of 8.6%, which also increased between May and June (+0.2 percentage points).
  - Total employment in B.C. remained at approximately 2.25 million, decreasing by 4,100 jobs over the last month. This is 2.8%, or 65,200 less jobs, than one year ago. Full-time employment grew in June (+12,000) but gains were offset by losses in part-time employment (-16,200).
  - Total unemployment in B.C. increased 7.8% since May, bringing unemployment to 198,900; an increase of 14,400 of those unemployed. At the same time, the size of the labour force grew in June (+10,400) as more people looked for work. Compared to June 2008, the total number of unemployed workers in B.C. increased by 80.0% or 88,400 workers.
  - Unemployment rates between May and June rose in most provinces, except for Saskatchewan (-0.3%) and PEI (-0.9%). B.C. fell one place to have the fourth lowest unemployment rate, with Saskatchewan (4.6%), Manitoba (5.2%) and Alberta (6.8%) the only provinces with lower rates.
  - Youth (aged 15 to 24) received the biggest employment loss in June (-2,400), as the youth unemployment rate increased to 13.4% (1.7 percentage points over the last month). This rate is 5.2 percentage points higher than June 2008.
  - Unemployment rates in all but two B.C. Development Regions decreased since May. Cariboo (+0.6%) and the Lower Mainland/Southwest (+0.1%) were the only two regions where the unemployment rate increased. The Cariboo region continued to have the highest unemployment rate in B.C. (13.5%). This marks the third consecutive month that this region has had the highest unemployment rate of all the regions.<sup>1</sup>
  - Still holding the lowest rate of the seven regions, the unemployment rate for Vancouver Island/Coast decreased to 6.6% in June. The Northeast had the largest monthly decrease (-0.7 percentage points) in their unemployment rate, followed closely by North Coast & Nechako (-0.6%).<sup>2</sup>

## INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS<sup>3</sup>

-0.4% (-1,500)  
**RETAIL AND  
WHOLESALE TRADE**

**HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES**  
+0.9% (+2,200)

**CONSTRUCTION**  
+0.8% (+1,500)

**PROFESSIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND  
TECHNICAL SERVICES**  
+0.8% (+1,300)

-1.2% (-2,100)  
**ACCOMMODATION,  
FOOD AND BEVERAGE**

-1.8% (-2,900)  
**MANUFACTURING**

-3.4% (-1,300)  
**FORESTRY, FISHING  
AND MINING<sup>4</sup>**

- The service producing sector experienced job losses of 4,000 in June while employment in the goods producing sector remained stable. In the service sector, gains in Finance & Related Service (+2,900) and the Health & Social Services industry (+2,200), were offset by large declines in both Public Administration (-5,800) and Transport and Warehousing (-4,700). The Transport and Warehousing industry has now suffered losses for the third consecutive month in 2009.
- In the goods sector, largest decreases in employment were in the Manufacturing industry, with -2,900, or 1.8%, of jobs lost over the last month. Other Primary industries<sup>5</sup> continued to see employment decline (-1,300 jobs) in June. These industries have been hard hit in 2009, experiencing declines in each subsequent month. Largest increases in employment were in Agriculture, up 2,600 jobs (+7.5%).

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING<sup>6</sup>

- The number of full time equivalents provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and Industry Training Authority increased 5.2% to 195,317 in 2008-09, up from 186,749 in 2007-08. The increase includes 930 health spaces, 97 physician spaces, and 2,006 apprenticeship spaces.

<sup>1</sup> 3 Month Moving Average, Actual

<sup>2</sup> 3 Month Moving Average, Actual

<sup>3</sup> Industry groups are ordered by employment totals (largest to smallest).

<sup>4</sup> These groups are part of the Other Primary category in the Labour Force Survey (categories are: Forestry & Logging; Fishing, Hunting & Trapping; and Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction).

<sup>5</sup> Forestry & Logging; Fishing, Hunting & Trapping; and Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction

<sup>6</sup> B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, 2008/09 Final Audited FTE Reports

NOTE: All labour force statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. Data is seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated.

## Regional Highlights

(Unemployment Rates, 3 Month Moving Average, Actual)



### City Centres

Abbotsford:	8.4%(↑) <sup>1</sup>
Dawson Creek:	12.6% <sup>2</sup> (↓)
Kamloops:	8.4% (↓)
Kelowna:	12.3% (↑)
Nanaimo:	7.2% (↓)
Prince George:	11.3% (↓)
Vancouver:	7.2% (↑)
Vernon:	8.0% <sup>3</sup> (↑)
Victoria:	6.2% (↔)

<sup>1</sup> Compared to previous month

<sup>2</sup> Denotes derived number

<sup>3</sup> Denotes derived number