

# LABOUR MARKET Snapshot



Ministry of  
Advanced Education  
and Labour Market  
Development

SEPTEMBER 2009

## B.C. EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

+0.6%  
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
-0.4%

PARTICIPATION RATE

## LABOUR FORCE

- B.C.'s unemployment rate decreased to 7.4% in September. This is the first decrease since November 2008. B.C. led the country in job creation (+14,400) over the last month, followed by Ontario (+12,600), Alberta (+3,000) and New Brunswick (+2,900). The unemployment rate one year ago was 2.7 percentage points lower at 4.7%. B.C.'s rate is below the national unemployment rate, which also decreased over the last month (8.4%).
  - Total employment in B.C. increased to over 2.27 million in September. This is 2.0%, or 45,900 less jobs, than September 2008. Employment gains were in both full-time (+2,200) and part-time employment (+12,300); another positive indicator for B.C.
  - Total unemployment in B.C. declined 4.5% in September, bringing unemployment down to 182,600; a decrease of 8,700 unemployed. Compared to one year ago, the total number of unemployed workers in B.C. has increased by 67,300 workers (+58.4%).
  - Unemployment rates between August and September decreased in all provinces except for Nova Scotia, where the rate remained stable. At 7.4%, B.C. has the fourth lowest unemployment rate of the provinces, only behind Saskatchewan (4.6%), Manitoba (5.3%) and Alberta (7.1%). Prince Edward Island (-1.9%) and New Brunswick (-1.2%) saw the largest decreases over the last month; however, their unemployment rates are higher than B.C.'s at 11.8% and 8.1%, respectively.
  - Youth (aged 15 to 24) employment continued to see losses (-2,700) for the fourth consecutive month. The youth unemployment rate also declined 0.9 percentage points, to 13.1%.
  - Unemployment rates decreased all B.C. Development Regions, except for Vancouver Island/Coast (+0.5%) since August. This region, however, still had the lowest unemployment rate of all the regions. For the sixth consecutive month, Cariboo continued to have the highest unemployment rate in B.C. (12.4%).<sup>1</sup>

## INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS<sup>2</sup>

RETAIL AND  
WHOLESALE TRADE  
(-100)

HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
+4.4% (+11,000)

CONSTRUCTION  
+2.1% (+4,000)

MANUFACTURING  
+3.6% (+5,900)

ACCOMMODATION,  
FOOD AND BEVERAGE  
+1.6% (+2,600)

-9.8% (-16,600)  
PROFESSIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND  
TECHNICAL SERVICES

-2.8% (-1,100)  
FORESTRY, FISHING  
AND MINING<sup>3</sup>

- Employment gains in the goods producing sector (+15,300) significantly out-paced gains in the service producing sector (-800) in September. In the goods sector, Manufacturing (+5,900) and Construction (+4,000) experienced largest gains in employment. This is the first increase in employment in the Construction industry since June 2009. Utilities also experienced its first gains (+3,600) in the last three months. The Other Primary industries<sup>4</sup> were the only group in the goods sector to see a drop in employment (-2.8% or 1,100 jobs lost).
- In the service producing sector, the Accommodation, Food and Beverage industry experienced its first increase in employment (+2,600) since May 2009. The Health & Social Services (+11,000) and Finance & Related (+10,000) industries also experienced large gains over the last month. The Professional, Scientific & Technical Services industry saw the most losses (-16,600).

## IMMIGRATION<sup>5</sup>

- Citizenship and Immigration Canada introduced the Canadian Experience Class on September 17, 2008, allowing certain foreign workers and students to transition from temporary to permanent residence. In the first half of 2009, B.C. received a total of 111 new immigrants under this new class.
- In the first half of 2009, 1,514 new immigrants to B.C. arrived through the Live-in Caregiver Program, the highest first half number on record. This was also a 40.6% increase over the first half of 2008 and a 160.1% increase over 2007.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- B.C. has undertaken the largest post-secondary expansion in its history, spending approximately \$1.8 billion in capital funding on 840 projects at campuses throughout B.C.

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

<sup>2</sup> Industry groups are ordered by employment totals (largest to smallest).

<sup>3</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>4</sup> Forestry & Logging; Fishing, Hunting & Trapping; and Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction.

<sup>5</sup> Landed Immigrants Database, Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

## Regional Highlights

(Unemployment Rates, 3 Month Moving Average, Actual)



### City Centres

Abbotsford:	8.8% <sup>1</sup> (↓)
Dawson Creek:	11.8% <sup>2</sup> (↓)
Kamloops:	8.3% (↓)
Kelowna:	7.5% (↓)
Nanaimo:	6.5% (↓)
Prince George:	11.7% (↓)
Vancouver:	7.3% (↓)
Vernon:	7.0% <sup>3</sup> (↓)
Victoria:	6.6% (↑)

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

<sup>2</sup> Denotes derived number

<sup>3</sup> Denotes derived number