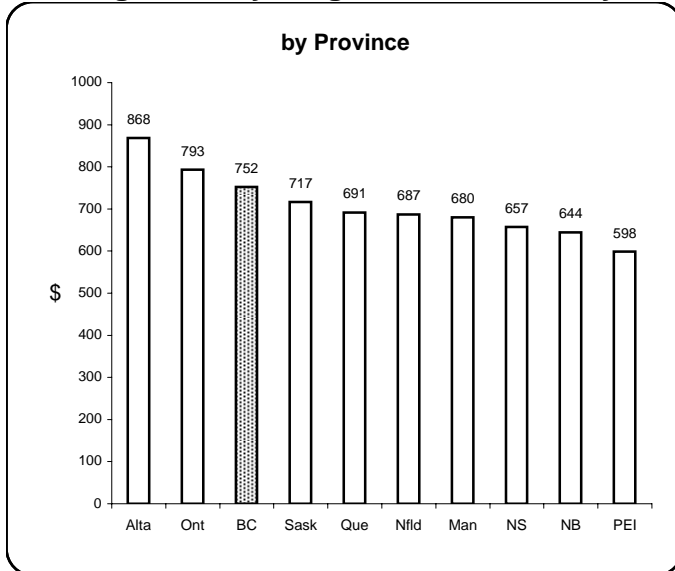
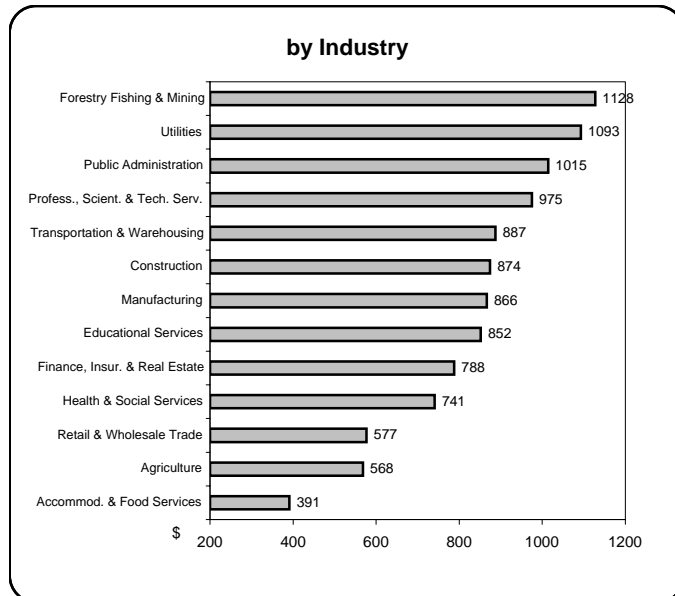
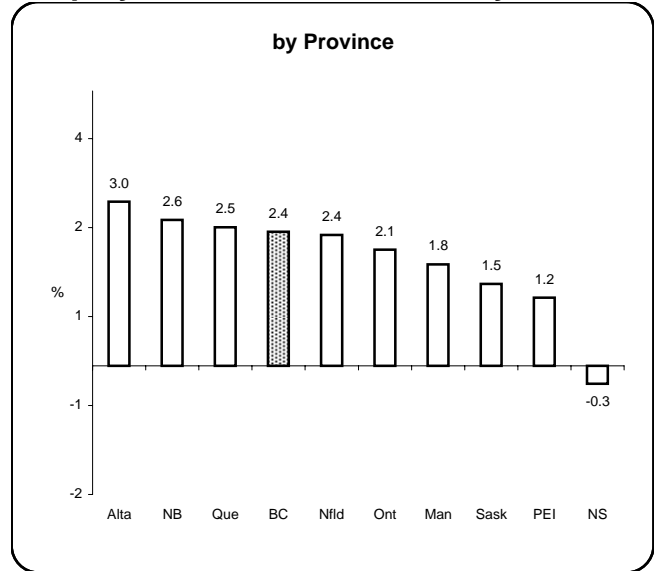


Earnings & Employment Trends ♦ February 2008

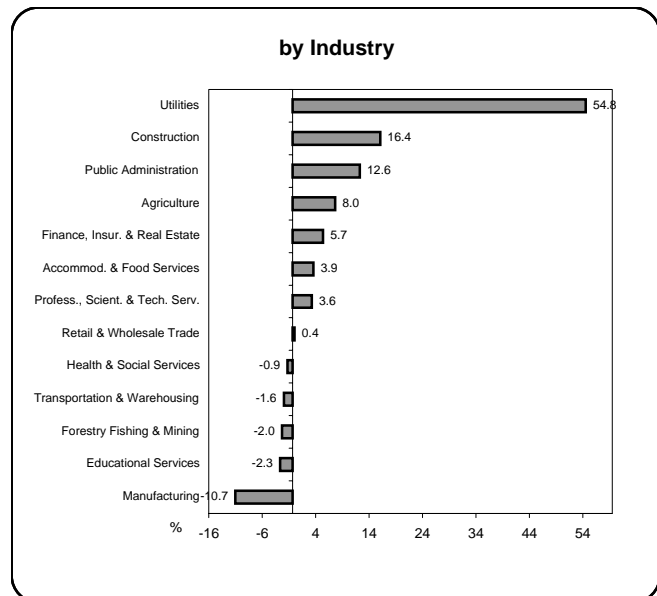
Average Weekly Wage Rate* - February 2008



Employment Growth* - February 2008



* Latest 12 month average



* Month over same month previous year (unadjusted)

Prepared by: BC STATS

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Feature Article: Labour Market Conditions in Canada's Major Cities

Labour Market Conditions in Canada's Major Cities

Introduction

Since 2002, labour market conditions in Canada have tightened considerably. Employment growth has outpaced population growth, and despite an increase in the overall labour force participation rate, the unemployment rate has fallen steadily in each of the past five years. In 2007, Canada's unemployment rate was at its lowest point in over 30 years.

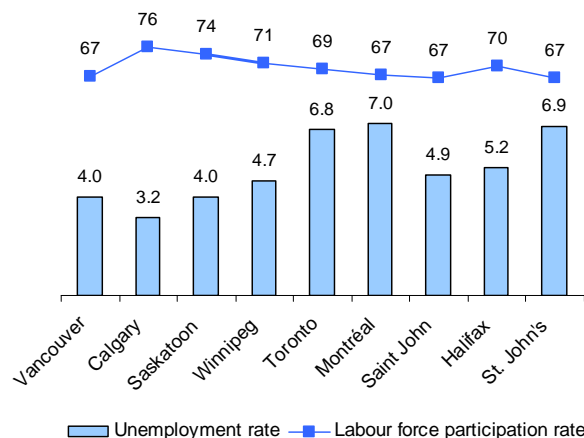
This article focuses on the current labour market conditions in Canada's major cities.¹ Major cities are defined as the city in each province with the largest job market.² The nine major cities presented in this article account for 44% of the Canadian population. In the past year, just over half (51%) of the total employment gains in Canada were concentrated in these major cities.

Current Labour Market Conditions

Labour market conditions vary widely across Canada's major cities. In the western cities, unemployment rates are relatively low and labour force participation rates (with the exception of British Columbia) are relatively high. For example, in Calgary, the unemployment rate in 2007 was only 3.2%, and the participation rate was 76%. The Maritime cities of Saint John and Halifax also had relatively low unemployment rates, at 4.9% and 5.2%, respectively. For comparison, the 2007 national average unemployment rate was 6.0%,

and the national average participation rate was 68%.

Unemployment and participation rates vary widely across Canada's major cities



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

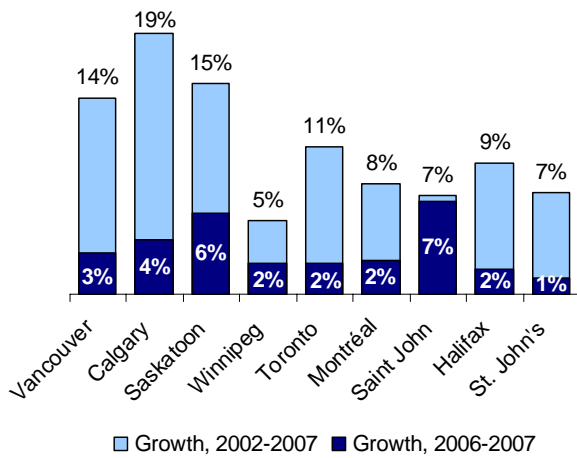
Recent Pressures and Changing Conditions

In the past year, all major cities experienced gains in employment. Saint John (7%) and Saskatoon (6%) experienced the largest growth in employment, while Calgary (4%) and Vancouver (3%) also experienced significant gains. In the past five years, every major city had employment growth of at least 5%, with Calgary (19%), Saskatoon (15%), and Vancouver (14%) leading the way. At the national level, employment has grown by 2% in the past year, and 10% over the past five years.

¹ Cities are defined as the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA's) which comprise the main city plus surrounding areas.

² Charlottetown, PEI is not included because it is relatively small.

Employment growth has been strong in every major Canadian city



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

With the exception of Toronto, employment growth has outpaced population growth in every major city over the past five years. In Toronto, population and employment grew at the same pace.

Despite this increased pressure on labour markets, labour force participation rates have remained relatively steady (changing by less than 1 percentage point since 2002) in all but one of Canada's major cities. The exception to this is Saskatoon, where the labour force participation rate increased by 5 percentage points between 2002 and 2007, and increased by 3 percentage points in the last year alone. Saint John also appears to be responding to recent labour market pressures with increased labour force participation; the participation rate in Saint John increased by 3 percentage points between 2006 and 2007.

Labour force participation rates have remained relatively steady in most major cities

City	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
Vancouver	-0.1	0.4
Calgary	0.2	-0.2
Saskatoon	4.9	2.8
Winnipeg	0.2	1.0
Toronto	-0.7	0.5
Montréal	0.1	-0.1
Saint John	0.6	3.1
Halifax	0.9	0.9
St. John's	-0.1	-0.3

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

As a result of the factors described so far, the unemployment rates in most of Canada's major cities have been falling. In the past five years, the unemployment rate in every major city has fallen, although some cities have experienced more notable declines than others. Vancouver has experienced the largest percentage point decrease, falling from 7.7% in 2002 to 4.0% in 2007. Winnipeg and Toronto experienced the most modest declines in their unemployment rates, falling by only 0.6 percentage points over the last five years.

Between 2006 and 2007, Montréal, Saint John, and Saint John's were the only cities to record significant declines in their unemployment rates. Vancouver and Saskatoon experienced modest declines in their unemployment rates, while unemployment rates in other cities remained stable or increased slightly.

Between 2002 and 2007, unemployment rates fell in every major city

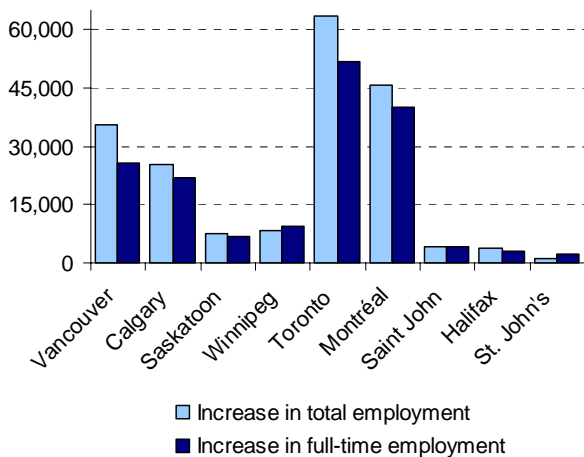
City	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
Vancouver	-3.7	-0.4
Calgary	-2.5	0.0
Saskatoon	-2.1	-0.4
Winnipeg	-0.6	0.1
Toronto	-0.6	0.2
Montréal	-1.6	-1.4
Saint John	-3.4	-1.2
Halifax	-2.4	0.2
St. John's	-2.3	-1.2

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

Sources of Employment Growth in 2007

In the past year, most of the jobs created in Canada's major cities were full-time, not part-time. In every major city, increases in full-time employment represented most or all of the total gain in employment overall. Part-time employment experienced small gains in most cities, but actually declined in Saint John (-100 jobs), Winnipeg (-1,000 jobs), and Saint John's (-1,200 jobs). The decline in part-time employment in Saint John's was significant, given the size of the overall labour market in this city (94,500 employed).

In 2007, the vast majority of employment growth was in full-time employment

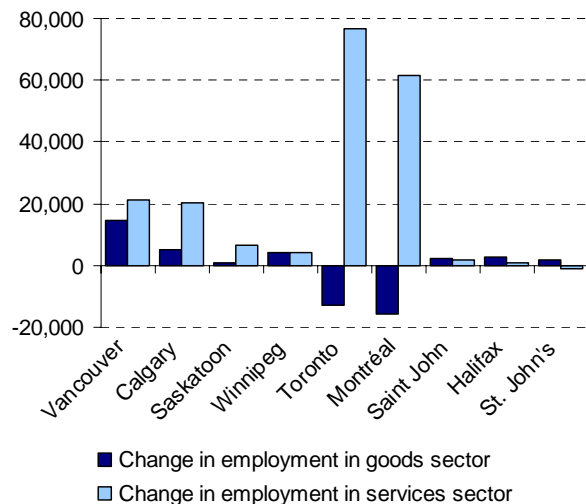


Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

Nationwide, 98% of all jobs created in 2007 were in the services-producing sector, while the goods-producing sector accounted for only 2% of the total employment increase. However, industry gains in employment were very different across Canada's major cities.

In Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Saint John, employment gains in 2007 were spread somewhat evenly across the goods-producing and service-producing sectors. Calgary and Saskatoon resembled the national economy, with almost all gains in the services sector, and only minor gains in the goods sector. Toronto and Montreal also experienced large gains their service industries, but actually saw small declines in their goods industries. In contrast, in Halifax, the goods-producing sector accounted for almost all of the total employment increase, with only a small gain in the services-producing sector. And finally, in St. John's, the goods producing sector experienced large employment increases, while the services-producing sector experienced relatively large losses.

Nationwide, most new jobs were created in 2007 were in the services-producing sector



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada