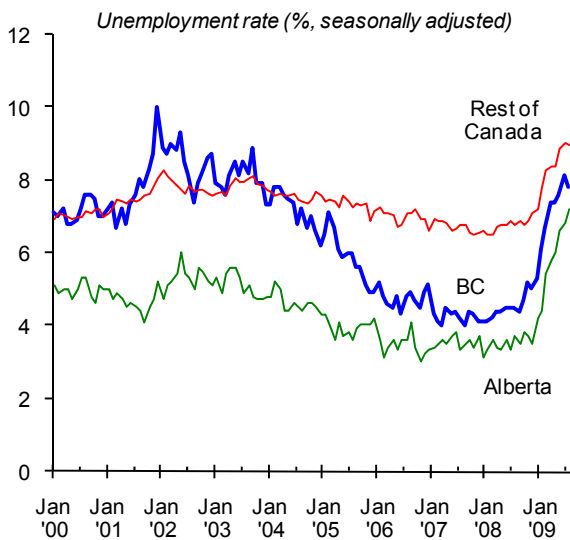


## Labour Force Statistics ♦ July 2009

*(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)*

### Unemployment rate inches down to 7.8% in July

Jobless rates in BC and Alberta have increased more than in any other province, but are still below the average for the rest of Canada



BC Stats

British Columbia's unemployment rate inched down to 7.8% in July, as a 0.3% drop in employment was outweighed by an even larger decline (-0.7%) in the number of people who were either working or looking for work.

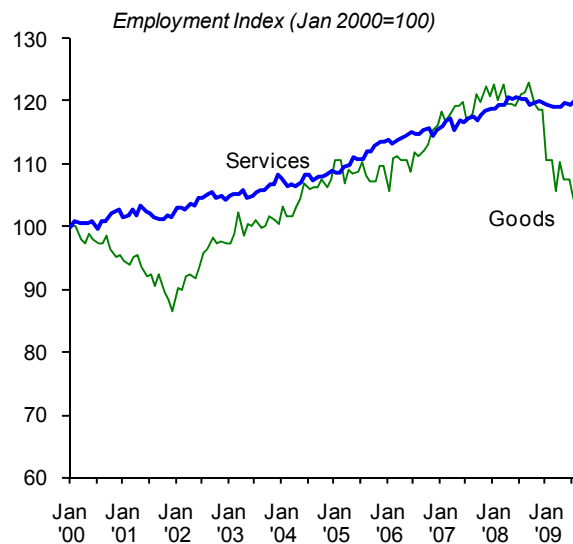
Labour market conditions in BC, and other parts of Canada, have deteriorated significantly during the last year and a half. Jobless rates in the province had been falling since early in the decade, and British Columbia went from having a higher-than-average unemployment rate to one that was significantly lower than the national average. While the province's unemployment rate remains

comparatively low, the size of the gap has shrunk to less than one percentage point.

BC's unemployment rate has nearly doubled during the last nineteen months, rising from 4.1% in January 2008 to 7.8% in July 2009. The increase was more rapid than in any other province except Alberta, where the rate climbed from 3.3% to 7.2% over the same period. By comparison, Ontario's unemployment rate (9.3%) in July was three percentage points higher than in January 2008.

The current recession has resulted in rising unemployment rates in every province. However, the change in unemployment rates is most marked in BC and Alberta. Other provinces, including Saskatchewan, Manitoba and parts of Atlantic Canada, have seen much smaller increases in the incidence of unemployment in recent months.

### Job losses primarily in the goods sector



BC Stats

The effects of the current economic slowdown are very evident in the goods sector, where employment has dropped off significantly since peaking in the fall of 2008. Employment in service industries has been much more stable, declining only marginally over the same period. Since the service sector employs eight out of ten workers, this stability has helped mitigate the effect of job losses in the goods industries on the overall employment figures for BC.

The number of jobs in goods-producing industries shrank 2.9% between June and July, with most industries showing substantial declines. Forestry, fishing & mining (+3.2%) was the lone exception. Construction, the biggest employer, shed 2.1% of its workers, while the number of jobs in manufacturing fell (-3.6%) for a third straight month.

In the service sector, employment was down in accommodation & food services (-3.9%), education (-3.2%), management & administrative services (-1.6%), public administration (-0.9%) and "other" services (-6.7%). However, there were more people working in finance, insurance & real estate (+7.8%), transportation & warehousing (+3.1%) and retail & wholesale trade (+1.4%), which is the largest employer in the sector. Other key industries, including health care & social assistance (+1.6%) also took on more workers, and overall, employment in the service sector was up 0.3%.

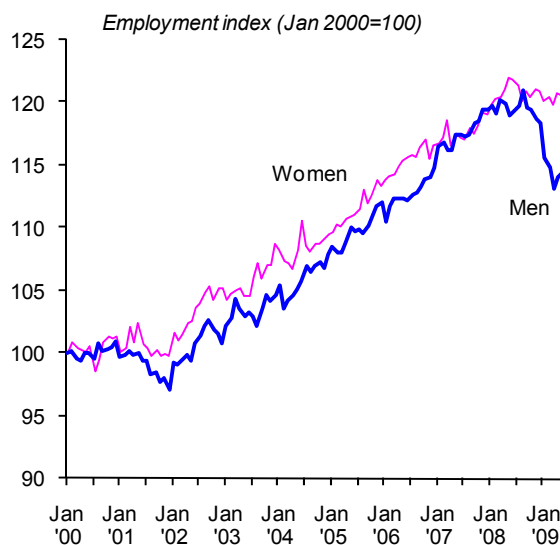
**Fewer full-time jobs**

With continued job losses in the goods sector (where full-time work is more common than in the service industries), the number of full-time jobs was down 0.7% in July. There were, however, 0.8% more part-time workers.

Public sector employment fell 0.4% in July, while the number of people working in the private sector dropped 1.3%, marking the third straight month in which private sector employment has fallen.

The youth (15-24) unemployment rate continued to climb, rising to 13.6% in July. Among workers aged 25 and over, the jobless rate was 6.7%. Men (8.4%) were more likely to be unemployed than women (7.0%).

Men have borne the brunt of the job losses



BC Stats

**Job losses in all regions**

Employment fell in all parts of the province, but Cariboo (-9.4%, 3-month moving average), North Coast/Nechako (-8.5%) and Thompson-Okanagan (-7.7%) were hardest hit. Mainland/Southwest (-1.0%) saw only a marginal decline in employment in July. Among the regions, unemployment rates ranged from 6.4% in Vancouver Island/Coast to 14.2% in Cariboo.

Selected Statistics	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	8.1	4.5
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	8.6	6.1
BC Employment ('000)	2,247	2,255	2,322
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	65.7	66.3	66.7
Jul % change in employment relative to:	-	-0.3	-3.2
Jul % change in labour force relative to:	-	-0.7	0.2