

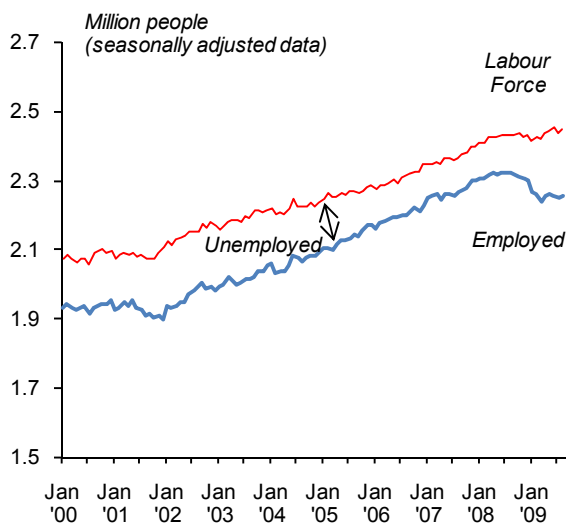
Labour Force Statistics ♦ August 2009

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

Unemployment rate remains stable in August

British Columbia's unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.8% in August. The stability in the rate was the result of job growth (+8,600, up 0.4% from July) that occurred in tandem with an increase in the size of the labour force (+11,000, up 0.5%). This was the first significant employment growth since April¹.

There were more jobs, and more people in the labour force, in August



BC Stats

A one-month increase in employment does not mean that there has been a turnaround in labour market conditions. However, there are some encouraging signs. Job losses in recent months have been relatively modest compared to those that occurred in the latter part of 2008 and at the

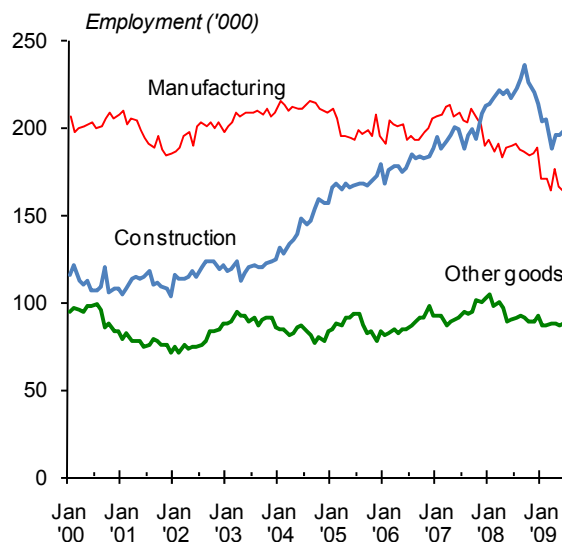
beginning of this year. Similarly, although the province's unemployment rate in August was 3.4 percentage points higher than in the same month of 2008, it has stopped climbing.

More jobs in manufacturing

Employment in the province's goods-producing industries rose (+1.1%) for the first time since April. This was driven by an increase (+4.5%) in manufacturing jobs and in the number of people working in forestry, fishing & mining (+3.1%).

Employment in construction fell (-0.7%) for a second straight month in August. Although it remains the biggest employer in the goods sector, the size of the gap that opened up between construction and manufacturing in late 2007 has been shrinking.

Construction still the biggest employer in the goods sector



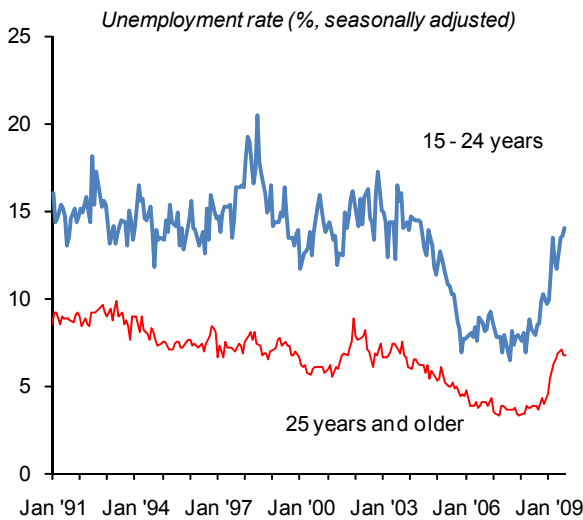
BC Stats

¹ The number of jobs in the province rose in May, but only marginally (+0.1%).

In the service sector, employment inched up 0.2%, as education (+8.4%), public administration (+8.8%), retail & wholesale trade (+1.7%), other services (+1.6%) and transportation & warehousing (+1.5%) took on more workers. However, there were fewer jobs in several service industries, including finance, insurance & real estate (-4.6%), health care & social assistance (-3.7%), management & administration (-2.6%), professional, scientific & technical (-2.4%) and accommodation & food (-1.9%) services.

Although job growth was strongest in the goods sector, which employs more men than women, the number of men working in the province fell 0.5% in August, while employment among women increased 1.3%.

Youth unemployment rate rises to 14.0%



BC Stats

The youth unemployment rate, which had dropped to a low of 6.4% in August 2007, is now back at a more normal level. The unemployment rate among young people was 14.0% in August, more than double the 6.7% jobless rate for workers aged 25 and over.

Public sector employment jumped 2.8%, reflecting strong job growth in public administration and education. The number of people working in the private sector inched up 0.4%. Self-employment shrank (-2.0%) for the first time since March. Full-time employment increased 1.4%, but there were fewer part-time workers (-3.3%).

The Regions

Among the regions, jobless rates ranged from 6.6% (3-month moving average, unadjusted) in Vancouver Island/Coast to 13.2% in Cariboo. North Coast/Nechako (11.0%) was the only other region where the unemployment rate was in the double digits. However, jobless rates have been climbing all over the province, and were also well above the provincial average in Thompson/Okanagan (9.6%) and Kootenay (9.0%).

The Nation

Canada's unemployment rate increased marginally, rising to 8.7% in August. The increase was the result of labour force growth (+0.3%) that slightly outpaced job gains (+0.2%) at the national level.

Unemployment rates rose in most parts of the country. While BC's rate was the highest in western Canada, it was only slightly more than the jobless rate in Alberta (7.4%). Saskatchewan (5.0%) and Manitoba (5.7%) had the lowest jobless rates in the country.

Selected Statistics	Aug-09	Jul-09	Aug-08
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	7.8	4.4
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	8.7	8.6	6.2
BC Employment ('000)	2,256	2,247	2,323
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	65.9	65.7	66.5
Aug % change in employment relative to:	-	0.4	-2.9
Aug % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.5	0.7