

## Labour Force Statistics ♦ September 2009

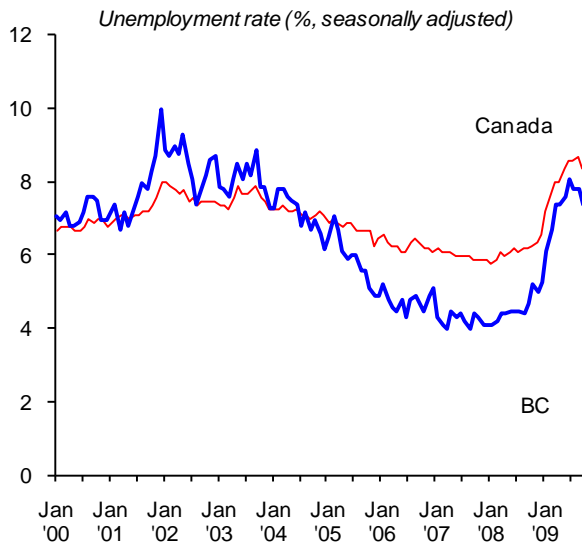
*(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)*

### Jobless rate falls to 7.4% in September

British Columbia's unemployment fell 0.4 percentage points to 7.4% in September. The improvement in the jobless rate was the result of job growth (+14,400, up 0.6% from August) that outpaced growth in the number of people either working or looking for work (+0.2%). September marked the second consecutive month of employment gains in the province.

After steadily rising for several months, the provincial unemployment rate appears to have leveled off, decreasing or remaining stable in each of the past three months. The province's jobless rate remains below the national average of 8.4%.

The jobless rate fell in September, remains below national average



BC Stats

Most of September's job growth was attributable to part-time employment--of the 14,400 new jobs, only 2,200 were full-time.

### Job gains concentrated in goods sector

Over the past year, the goods sector has borne the brunt of the economic downturn, with the number of jobs down 11.2 percent compared to the same month last year. Following a small increase in August (+1.1%), employment in the province's goods-producing sector rose again in September (+3.5%).

Job gains in goods sector, service sector holds steady



BC Stats

For the second month in a row, job gains were seen in manufacturing (+3.6%), a sign that this industry may be starting to recover from substantial job losses over the past year (down 8.7% compared to the same month last year). The construction industry, which has also experienced significant job losses in the past year (-16.8% compared to September 2008) posted a slight increase in the number of jobs in September (+2.1%). Job gains in agriculture and utilities also contributed to overall growth in the goods sector, although the number

of jobs in forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas declined slightly.

In the services-producing sector, employment was unchanged. Within this sector, however, there was strong job growth in finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (+7.2%) and health care & social assistance (+4.4%). These gains were offset by losses in other service sector industries, namely professional, scientific & technical services (-9.8%) and information, culture & recreation (-8.6%).

**Women benefit most from job growth**

All of the employment gains in September were among women aged 25+ (+17,500). Employment among men aged 25+ remained relatively stable, while youth (aged 15-24) saw a slight decline in the number of jobs (-2,700). As a result of job gains among women, the gap in the jobless rate (aged 25+ between men (7.3%) and women (5.5%) widened.

**Aboriginal Population**

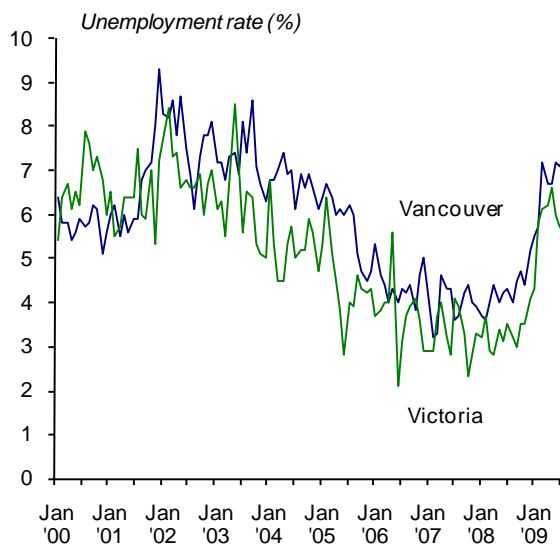
Among the Aboriginal population (off-reserve, age 25+), the unemployment rate was 10.1% (3-month moving average, unadjusted) in September, 2.3 percentage points higher than the same time last year.

**The Regions**

The jobless rate improved in every region except Vancouver Island/Coast, where the rate edged up slightly to 7.1% (3-month moving average, unadjusted). Despite increasing in September, the unemployment rate in Vancouver Island/Coast was still the lowest among the regions. In the Cariboo and North Coast/Nechako regions, the jobless rate remained in the double digits (12.4% and 10.1%, respectively).

In the province’s largest urban center, Vancouver registered an increase in employment (+12,000), and a decrease in the jobless rate (down 0.7 percentage points to 6.7%). In Victoria, however, employment decreased by 3,300 and the unemployment rate rose 1.5 percentage points to 7.1%.

Jobless rate drops in Vancouver, rises in Victoria



BC Stats

**The Nation**

Canada’s unemployment rate dropped slightly, falling to 8.4% in September. This decrease was the result of both job growth (+0.2%) and a decline in the size of the labour force (-0.1%). British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island were the only provinces with notable employment gains.

Selected Statistics	Sep-09	Aug-09	Sep-08
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4	7.8	4.7
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	8.4	8.7	6.2
BC Employment ('000)	2,270	2,256	2,316
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	65.9	65.9	66.5
Sep % change in employment relative to:	-	0.6	-2.0
Sep % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.2	0.9