

Labour Force Statistics ♦ October 2009

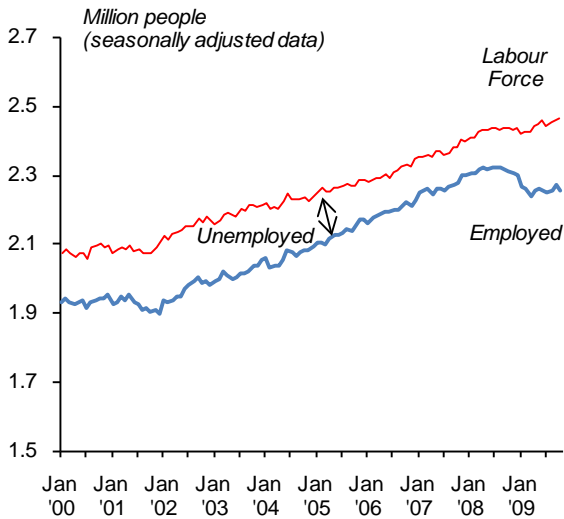
(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Jobless rate rises to 8.3% in October

Employment in British Columbia fell in October (-12,900), reversing most of September's gains. Coupled with an increase in the size of the labour force (+0.3%), October's job losses caused the jobless rate to rise to 8.3%, the highest it has been since September 2003.

Over the past year, employment has declined while B.C.'s labour force has grown, placing substantial pressure on the jobless rate (+3.1 percentage points since October 2008). Despite upward pressure on the jobless rate, B.C.'s unemployment rate remains below the national average (8.6%).

There were fewer jobs, and more people in the labour market, in October



BC Stats

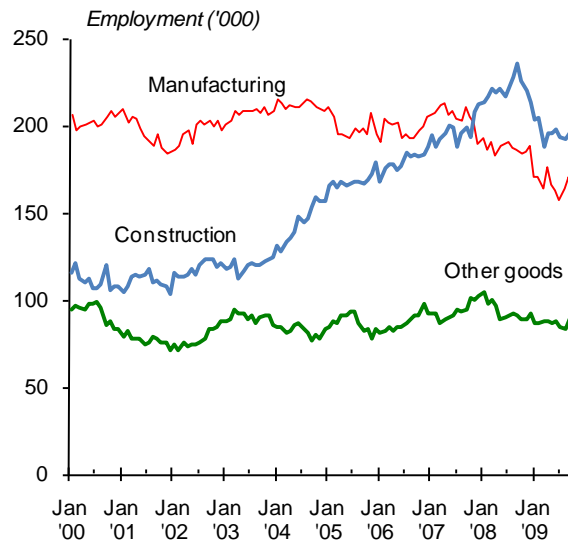
Almost all of the job losses in October were attributable to part-time employment (-12,400), although the proportion of total employment that

is full-time (78.7%) is still down compared to October of last year (80.3%).

Fewer jobs in manufacturing

October's job losses were concentrated in the goods sector (-2.0%), with employment in the services sector (-0.2%) virtually unchanged. Within the goods producing sector, almost all of the job losses were in manufacturing (-7.2%), with slight job losses in construction (-0.3%). Employment in all other goods industries increased in October, with the most notable increase in agriculture (+6.0%).

Recent gains in manufacturing are reversed in October



BC Stats

In the services sector, employment remained relatively stable in all industries. Slight declines in information, culture & recreation (-3.3%), educational services (-2.1%), and public administration (-1.7%) were offset by small gains in transportation and warehousing (+1.9%),

accommodation & food services (+1.6%), and professional, scientific & technical services (+1.3%).

Youth unemployment rate climbs

The jobless rate among the province's youth (aged 15-24) rose 2.7 percentage points in October. At 15.8%, the youth unemployment rate is more than double that of adults aged 25 and over (6.9%).

Youth unemployment rate rises to 15.8% in October



BC Stats

Youth and women bore the brunt of all of October's job losses: employment among youth (aged 15-24) fell by 8,300, and employment among women (aged 25+) fell by 12,900; men (aged 25+) actually experienced job gains of 8,300.

Aboriginal Population

As the unemployment rate among B.C. youth has risen, Aboriginal youth are also experiencing difficulty finding employment. The jobless rate

among Aboriginal youth (aged 15-24) in October was 22.9% (3-month moving average, unadjusted), 9.4 percentage points higher than the same time last year. For comparison, the jobless rate among non-Aboriginal youth was 13.0%, 4.7 percentage points higher than the same time last year

Immigrant Population

In October, the jobless rate among the province's landed immigrant population (aged 25-54) was 7.3% (3-month moving average, unadjusted), one percentage point higher than the rate of their Canadian-born counterparts.

The Regions

In the past year, the jobless rate (3-month moving average, unadjusted) has risen in all regions of the province. Currently, at 11.5%, the Cariboo region has B.C.'s highest unemployment rate, up 5.1 percentage points compared to this time last year. In the North Coast & Nechako region, the jobless rate is also in the double digits (10.0%). Unemployment rates are lowest in the Northeast (7.2%), Thompson-Okanagan (7.3%), and Mainland/Southwest (7.4%) regions.

The Nation

Nationwide, employment fell by 43,200 in October, causing the unemployment rate to edge up to 8.6%. Alberta (-14,900) and British Columbia (-12,900) were the provinces that experienced the largest job losses. Although jobless rates rose in all western provinces, unemployment rates in Manitoba (5.8%), Saskatchewan (5.3%), Alberta (7.5%) and British Columbia (8.3%) are still the lowest in the country.

Selected Statistics	Oct-09	Sep-09	Oct-08
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	7.4	5.2
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	8.4	6.3
BC Employment ('000)	2,257	2,270	2,309
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	66	65.9	66.4
Oct % change in employment relative to:	-	-0.6	-2.2
Oct % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.3	1.1