

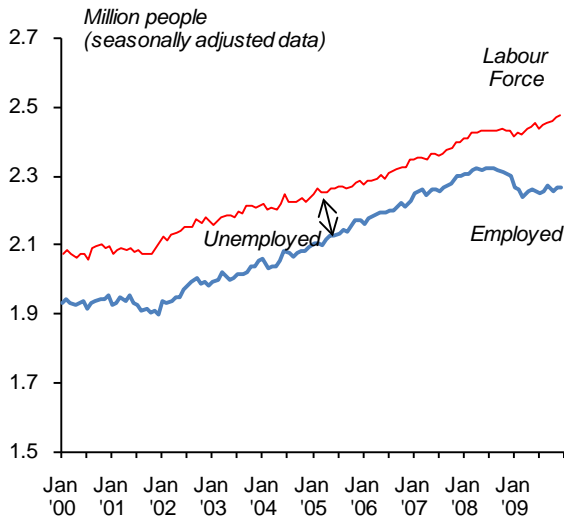
## Labour Force Statistics ♦ December 2009

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

### Unemployment rate inches higher to 8.4% in December

Job growth in British Columbia stalled in December putting upward pressure on the province's unemployment rate as a result of a slight expansion in the size of the province's labour force (+0.1%). Steadily rising throughout the year, BC's jobless rate reached a high of 8.4% by the end of 2009, nearly equal to the national average of 8.5%.

#### Unemployment rose quickly in 2009 as labour force grew despite a lack of stable job growth



BC Stats

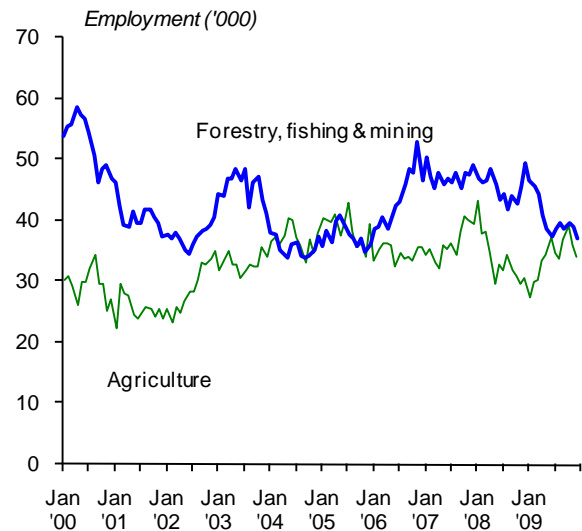
The apparent lack of growth in employment can be attributed to a reduction in the number of part-time jobs (-7,700), which more than offset the increase in full-time employment (+6,900).

### Primary industries continue to cut jobs

December brought a number of offsetting changes at the industry level. Employment in forestry, fishing & mining dropped (-4.4%) for a second consecutive

month and the ninth time in 2009. Also registering job losses was agriculture which saw employment slide lower by 4.7%. However, an expansion in the number of jobs in the construction (+0.6%), manufacturing (+3.4%) and utilities (+3.6%) industries was sufficient to buoy total employment in the goods sector (+0.8%).

#### Employment in BC's primary industries continued to slide lower in December



BC Stats

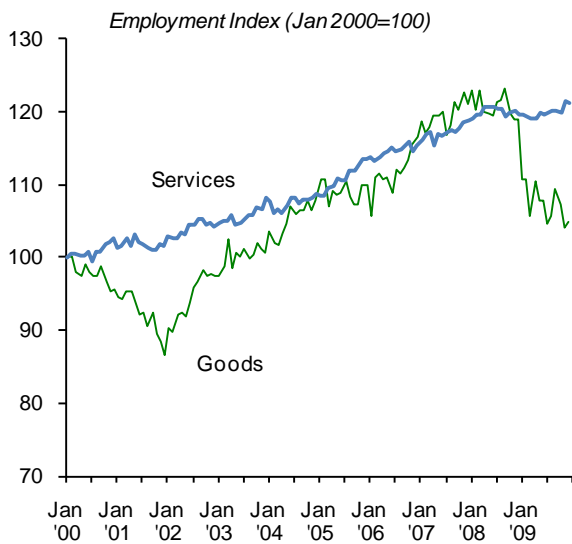
Public administration (-1.9%), finance, insurance & real estate (-2.2%), education (-2.9%), and other services (-4.4%) all saw their workforces thinned in December, putting the brakes on service sector employment (-0.2%). This despite an increased number of jobs in professional, scientific & technical services (+5.9%), accommodation & food (+0.9%), trade (+0.7%) and health care (+0.7%).

### A tough year for job-seekers

Overall, the effects of the global economic slowdown made 2009 a particularly harsh year for

those looking for work in BC. The province saw a total of 54,900 (-2.4%) jobs eliminated by the end of the year with most of those losses in the goods sector where over one in ten (-11.0%) jobs disappeared. Especially hard-hit were manufacturing (-12.6%) and forestry, fishing & mining (-11.2%), two industries that had already posted substantial job losses during the previous year.

**Goods sector employment plummeted in 2009 while the service sector remained stable**



BC Stats

Service sector employment remained virtually unchanged in 2009 as workforce reductions in transportation (-10.0%), accommodation & food (-3.4%) and finance, insurance & real estate (-2.8%) were offset by employment gains in health care (+6.0%), trade (+4.0%) and public administration (+3.3%).

**The Regions**

Unemployment rates at the regional level (3-month moving average, unadjusted) ranged from a low of 5.4% in Northeast to a high of 12.0% in Cariboo. Compared to the same period last year, only Thompson/Okanagan (+3.0%) made any employment gains. However, despite this growth in the number of jobs, a rapid expansion in the size of the region’s labour force (+4.4%) pushed its unemployment rate up to 7.4% (+1.1 percentage points).

**Aboriginal population**

In December (3-month moving average, unadjusted), only 85% of off-reserve Aboriginals (aged 25 to 64) in BC’s labour market had completed high school, compared with 93% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. The jobless rate among Aboriginal persons (aged 25 to 64) who had not completed high school was 31%.

**Immigrant population**

Immigrants in BC’s labour force are well educated. In December (3-month moving average, unadjusted), 67% of landed immigrants in B.C.’s labour force (aged 25 to 54) had a post-secondary credential, compared with only 61% of their Canadian born-counterparts.

**The Nation**

Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.5% as neither employment nor the labour force saw any appreciable changes compared to the previous month. Provincially, job growth was up most notably in Alberta (+0.7%). Ontario, on the other hand, saw employment slow (-0.3%).

Selected Statistics	Dec-09	Nov-09	Dec-08
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	8.4	8.3	5.3
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	8.5	8.5	6.6
BC Employment ('000)	2,266	2,267	2,303
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	66.2	66.2	66.2
Dec % change in employment relative to:	-	0.0	-1.6
Dec % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.1	1.8