

## highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

### *The Economy*

- **Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts in the province increased 8.2% last year, to \$4.4 billion.** More than half of this total was earned by licenced restaurants, with another fifth originating at unlicenced restaurants. Take-outs (11%), caterers (7%) and taverns (7%) had smaller shares of the market. Canadian restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts rose 4.0% to \$24.2 billion last year.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Department store sales in British Columbia (including the two territories) were 5.4% lower in May than in the same month last year.** Nationally, sales were up 5.9%, with increases in the rest of the country ranging from 2.4% in Newfoundland to 10.0% in Alberta. BC and the north was the only region where sales were lower than in May 1997.

Year-to-date, department store sales in the province were 2.9% higher than in the first five months of 1997. In the rest of the country, year-to-date increases were all in excess of ten percent, ranging from 10.8% in Manitoba to 15.7% in Alberta. Total Canadian sales were up 11.0%.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **British Columbia's coal production during the first four months of the year totalled 8,985 kilotonnes, accounting for just over a third of all Canadian production (25,761 kilotonnes) during this period.** Year-to-date, coal production in BC was up 8.8%. However, coal production in April was 10.6% lower than in the same month last year. April marked the beginning of a new multi-year contract with Japan, which calls for reduced deliveries of Canadian coal.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### *College Enrolment*

- **Six percent more students were enrolled full-time at community colleges and related institutions in the province last fall than in the previous school year.** Total full-time enrolment was 35,319, with about half (49%) of these students enrolled in university transfer or degree programs. Quebec (49%) and Alberta (24%) were the only other provinces where a significant number of college students were working towards a university degree.

Nationally, full-time enrolment at colleges was only marginally higher (<1%) than in 1996/97. New Brunswick (26%) and Manitoba (19%) were the provinces with the strongest enrolment growth. Enrolment was up in all provinces except Newfoundland (-17%) and Quebec (-2%). Three-quarters of Canadian college students studying full-time were enrolled in career programs.

*Source: SC, The Daily*

- **BC's full-time college enrolment rate (enrolment as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 24) was 7%.** The national average was 10%, with rates ranging from 2% in NWT and Saskatchewan to 16% in Quebec. Quebec's high enrolment rate is partly a result of the CEGEP system in that province, where university-bound students spend their last year of high school and first year of post-secondary studies at a community college. Quebec's participation rate for students in career programs (8%) was much closer to the national average of 7%.

*Source: SC, The Daily, BC STATS*

### *Sudden Infant Death Syndrome*

- **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the third most common cause of death among**

### Did you know...?

#### Five percent of British Columbians enrolled in apprenticeship programs last year were women.

**infants.** From 1994 to 1996, SIDS accounted for 13.5% of all cases of infant mortality in BC.

During the last 16 years, the rate of SIDS in BC has been above the national average, but it has been declining and is currently at about the same level as Canada's. Between 1992 and 1996, the number of deaths in the province due to SIDS dropped from 55 to 24, bringing the rate down from 1.20 to 0.52 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Although the incidence of SIDS is declining, it remains high among Aboriginal infants. The risk of mortality due to SIDS among Aboriginals is about five times that for other BC residents. In 1996, 29% of the deaths due to SIDS occurred to Aboriginal infants, even though these children accounted for only 7% of all births in the province. The proportion of SIDS cases occurring to Aboriginals has increased over time.

*Source: Vital Statistics Agency, Quarterly Digest 4:97*

### The Nation

- **Tourism expenditures in Canada reached \$8.8 billion during the first quarter of 1998.** This was 4.4% more than in the same period last year. Expenditures by non-residents (exports of tourism services) were valued at \$1.7 billion, 2.7% more than in the first quarter of last year. This was the lowest year-over-year increase since the beginning of 1993. Most of the tourism expenditures were made by Canadians travelling within the country, who spent an estimated \$7.1 billion (+4.8%) in the first quarter. Transportation costs, which accounted for 44% of total spending by Canadians and non-residents, rose 6.6%, largely as a result of steeper ticket prices. Employment generated by tourism reached 490,000 in the first quarter, up 4.7% from a year earlier.  
*Source: SC, The Daily*
- **Canada's international trade in services continued to grow last year.** Exports of services rose 3.9% to \$41.6 billion, while service imports increased more slowly (+2.1%) to \$50.3 billion. As a result, the service trade deficit improved, decreasing from \$9.3 billion in 1996 to \$8.7 billion last year. Although international trade in services remains small compared to that in goods, it is becoming an increasingly important factor in the Canadian economy. Services traded internationally include commercial services,

travel, transportation, and government services.

*Source: SC, Catalogue 67-203-XPB*

- **Canada exported \$20.1 billion of commercial services last year, almost double the level in 1992 (\$11.1 billion).** The most important service exports in this category include insurance services (\$3.8 billion), architectural, engineering and technical services (\$2.6 billion), management services (\$2.0 billion), R&D (\$1.8 billion), communications (\$1.9 billion), and computer and information services (\$1.7 billion). Canada had an overall trade deficit in commercial services (imports totalled \$22.6 billion last year), but exported more communications, R&D, computer services, and architectural, engineering and technical services than it imported.

*Source: SC, Catalogue 67-203-XPB*

- **The Canadian economy stalled in April, with real GDP at factor cost remaining virtually unchanged at \$711.8 billion (seasonally adjusted).** The goods-producing sector was weak, declining 0.5%. Weakness in the auto, primary metals, machinery and chemical sectors contributed to a 0.7% decline in manufacturing, which accounts for over half the output of this sector. GDP in the mining industry fell for the third time this year, dropping 0.4%. Logging and forestry was down 4.2%, and output was unchanged in construction and utilities. The only industry in the goods sector to show any significant growth was fishing and trapping (+4.9%).

Service-producing industries posted a modest overall gain of 0.2%, marking the second month in which this sector has seen little growth. Business services contracted for the first time in two years, declining 0.7% as the output of computer services, miscellaneous business services, architects, engineers, scientists and accountants fell. The transportation and storage industry was also weak (-0.7%), primarily due to a reduction in railcar loadings of autos and coal. Offsetting this were strong gains in communications (+0.9%), retailing (+0.9%) and finance and insurance (+0.7%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

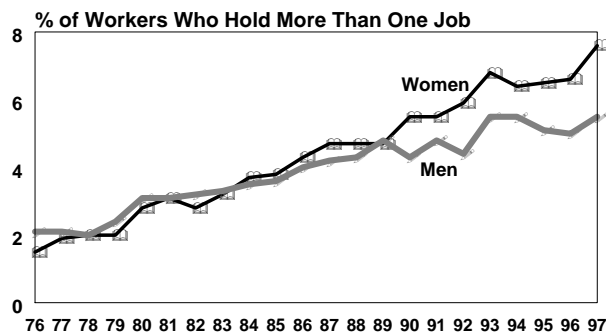
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Currently, there are approximately 120,000 persons who have more than one job in BC. This represents 6.4 per cent of the workforce. Persons with more than one job can be classified into two types; those who have multi part-time jobs that together make up an equivalent full-time job; or those whose main job is full-time who supplement their full-time salary with a second or third job. This latter group, commonly referred to as "moonlighters", comprise the majority (64%) of multi-job holders.

### Who are the workers with more than job?

Surprisingly, women are more likely to hold more than one job than men. This was not always the case. Up until the 90's, women and men had similar multi-job patterns but beginning in 1990, the number of women holding down two or more jobs took off. Today, women are one third more likely than men to have multi-jobs.

### Multi Job Holders in BC have been on an Upward Trend, Particularly amongst Women

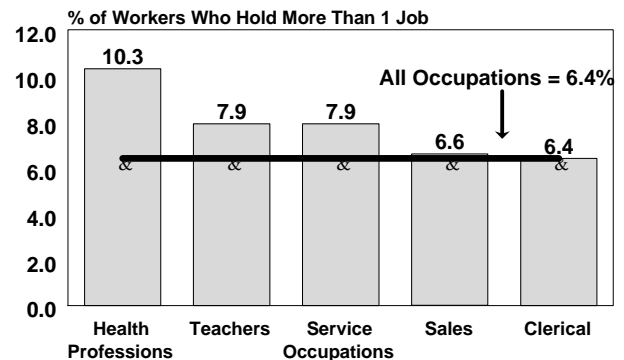


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The common perception is that women work at more than one job because they are only able to find part-time work and therefore need two jobs to make ends meet. It is true that women are more likely to work at two part-time jobs in order to make up a full-time equivalent job (19 per cent of multi-job women compared to 13 per cent for men), but that is not the primary reason and only represents one in five of all multi-job women. The majority of women are topping up their full-time main job.

Most men (52 per cent) who work at two or more jobs work more than 40 hours per week (excluding overtime) compared to 32 per cent of women.

### Occupations with the Highest Proportion of Multi Job Holders, BC - 1997



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Among the different occupations, the group most likely to hold more than one job are Health Professionals. Nurses make up a large proportion of this sector. Since the mid 80s, and particularly within the last three years, the working patterns of this occupation group have undergone major structural changes. Currently one in 10 work at more than one job compared to one in 27 in the mid 1980's. Why this shift has occurred is difficult to explain as there is no evidence of a trend to more part-time jobs in this sector.

The other profession with a high proportion of moonlighters is the teaching profession but unlike the health professionals, teachers have always shown this tendency, (at least since 1984 when data first became available).

The fact that many Sales, Clerical and Service (primarily those working in Hotels & Restaurants) workers have more than one job reflects the prevalence of part-time jobs in these sectors.

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 also on the Internet at <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>

## BC at a glance . . .

| <b>POPULATION (thousands)</b>  |           | % change on  |
|--|-----------|--------------|
|  | Apr 1/98  | one year ago |
| BC   | 3,958.7   | 1.4          |
| Canada   | 30,488.9  | 1.0          |
| <b>GDP and INCOME</b>  |           | % change on  |
| <i>(BC - at market prices)</i>   | 1997      | one year ago |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)                                 | 109,347   | 3.3          |
| GDP (\$ 1992 millions)   | 98,201    | 2.2          |
| GDP (\$ 1992 per Capita)   | 25,039    | 0.2          |
| Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1992 per Capita)                            | 16,515    | -2.3         |
| <b>TRADE (\$ millions)</b>   |           |              |
| Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Apr                                   | 2,738     | -9.0         |
| Merchandise Exports (raw) Apr  | 1,909     | -19.5        |
| Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Apr                                     | 2,811     | 1.5          |
| <b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>  |           | % change on  |
| <i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>  | May '98   | one year ago |
| BC   | 110.3     | 0.3          |
| Canada   | 108.7     | 1.1          |
| <b>LABOUR FORCE (thousands)</b>  |           | % change on  |
| <i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>   | May '98   | one year ago |
| Labour Force - BC  | 2,048     | 2.2          |
| Employed - BC  | 1,850     | 1.3          |
| Unemployed - BC  | 198       | 12.1         |
|  |           | May '97      |
| Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)   | 9.7       | 8.8          |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)                                       | 8.4       | 9.4          |
| <b>INTEREST RATES (percent)</b>  | Jul 1/98  | July 2/97    |
| Prime Business Rate  | 6.50      | 4.75         |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year  | 6.55      | 5.20         |
| - 5 year   | 6.95      | 7.00         |
| <b>US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE</b>   | Jun 30/98 | July 2/97    |
| <i>(avg. noon spot rate)</i> Cdn \$  | 1.4716    | 1.3773       |
| US \$ <i>(reciprocal of above rate)</i>                                    | 0.6795    | 0.7261       |
| <b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>   |           | % change on  |
| <i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>                                    | Apr '98   | one year ago |
| BC   | 612.18    | -0.2         |
| Canada   | 608.94    | 2.0          |
| <b>SOURCES:</b>  |           |              |
| Gross Domestic Product: Statistics Canada, revised by BC STATS             |           |              |
| Population, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Earnings: Statistics Canada       |           |              |
| Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics |           |              |

### Released this week by BC STATS

- No subscription releases

### Next week

- Exports, April 1998
- Immigration Highlights, First Quarter, 1998
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtrs 1998