

## highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

### *Immigration*

- **During 1998, British Columbia received a total of 35,671 immigrants, down significantly (-25%) from the 47,545 people who came to the province in 1997.** Canadian landings were also lower, falling 20% to 173,206 from 216,301 in the previous year. The decline in both BC and Canada was partly due to reduced immigration from Hong Kong following the hand-over of the colony to China in 1997. Despite the downturn, BC was the second most popular immigrant destination in Canada after Ontario. BC's share of total Canadian immigration was 21% in 1998, down slightly from a high of 23% in 1996. The province also continued to attract a relatively high share of business immigrants (63%), and a relatively low share of people in the refugee/designated (31%) classes. People entering the country under the family unification program made up 31% of immigrants to the province.

*Source: BC STATS*

- **Vancouver continued to be the primary destination of immigrants choosing to make their home in British Columbia.** Eight in ten immigrants who came to the province last year said they were planning to settle in the Vancouver area. Victoria was the stated destination of only 539 people, with 4,978 immigrants saying they were heading to other parts of the province. Regions outside the southwest corner of the province are attracting a larger share of immigrants: in 1996, one in nine said they did not plan to settle in Vancouver or Victoria, compared to one in seven last year.

*Source: BC STATS*

### *The Economy*

- **British Columbians earned \$61.6 billion in wages, salaries and benefits last year.** This was 1.7% more than in 1997. During the same

period, the labour income of all Canadians rose 3.8%, to \$466.7 billion. Alberta (+6.2%), and the other prairie provinces (where labour income increased 5.2%) experienced the strongest growth. British Columbia's 1.7% growth rate was the lowest among the provinces. However, labour income fell in the Northwest Territories (-1.1%) and Yukon (-0.7%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Lumber shipments from BC sawmills and planing mills declined 5.2%, to 30.0 million cubic metres (mcm), in 1998.** The decline was part of a nationwide-trend which saw lumber shipments fall for the first time in seven years. Canadian shipments dropped 2.0%, to 64.5 mcm. BC-Canada's largest lumber producer—and the Prairies (-5.4%, to 6.4 mcm) were hardest hit. Factors contributing to the downturn include a downturn in Canadian housing starts, weak lumber prices, export restrictions resulting from the Canada-US Softwood Lumber Agreement, and a deterioration in Asian demand for Canadian lumber products. Quebec, which produced 16.3 mcm of lumber last year, managed to maintain its output at 1997 levels, and production was up 21.0% (to 4.9 mcm) on the east coast.

*Source: SC, The Daily*

### *The Environment*

- **2.4 million tonnes of solid waste were sent to public and private waste disposal facilities in the province during 1996.** On a per capita basis, British Columbians generated 620 kilograms of garbage (including construction and demolition waste) in 1996. This means that the average person sent 140 kg less garbage to landfills and other waste disposal sites than two years earlier. British Columbians have gone from generating more waste per person than the average Canadian to being more "environmentally friendly".

### **Did you know...**

**The skies over BC weren't as congested last year as in 1997. Only 58 UFO sightings were reported in the province, down from 99 in the previous year. However, BC's airspace remained one of the most heavily travelled corridors for aliens with an interest in Canada. Ontario (59) was the only region where there were more sightings. In total, Canadians reported 194 UFO sightings—but no abductions—in 1998. A tenth (22) of the sightings were in Yukon.**

Average waste generation in Canada fell from 730 kg to 690 kg per person between 1994 and 1996. Residents of BC, Ontario (620 kg) and Nova Scotia (590 kg) produced the least waste in 1996, while those living in Alberta (880), Saskatchewan (880) and Manitoba (840) generated the most. These differences may be partly due to initiatives such as blue box programs which are not available in all areas. *Source: SC, The Daily*

### **Port Activity**

- **The Port of Vancouver handled 71.9 million tonnes of cargo in 1998, 2.2% less than in the previous year, when port activity reached a record high of 73.5 million tonnes.** Almost all (67.8 million tonnes) of the cargo was either arriving from or being shipped to foreign ports. Domestic cargo made up about 6% (4.1 million tonnes) of the total tonnage handled at the Port.

*Source: Vancouver Port Authority*

### **Farm Family Income**

- **The average farm family in British Columbia had a total income of \$59,240 in 1996, more than in any other province except Ontario (\$61,585) and Alberta (\$59,989).** The national average was \$56,788. BC was the only province where less than 15% (\$7,881) of the average farm family's income was derived from farming activities. Canadian farm families derived about a third (\$17,658) of their income from farming. Quebec (40%, or \$20,275) was the province where farming activities made the largest contribution to family income. *Source: Statistics Canada*

### **Performing Arts**

- **Attendance at theatre, music, dance and opera performances in British Columbia reached 1.6 million during the 1996/97 season.** Live theatre was the most popular, with 893,300 people attending 4,471 performances during the season. Musicians gave 508 performances to an audience of 458,600 people. Another 149,800 attended 238 performances put on by BC's two opera companies. Dance (79,300) had the lowest attendance figures. Attendance at performing arts presentations has

been declining. In 1994/95, the total reached 1.8 million and the 1996/97 figure was the lowest this decade. *Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0003XPE*

- **Public and private sector support has helped keep performing arts organizations in the province afloat.** Of the \$44.3 million in revenues received by non-profit performing arts societies in BC during 1996/97, \$25.3 million came from grants and donations. Federal (\$5.2 million), provincial (\$4.3 million) and local governments (\$2.9 million) made significant contributions.

Private sector donations are becoming an increasingly important source of funds for the arts community. Private donors added \$12.1 million to the coffers of BC's performing arts societies in 1996/97, 45% more than in 1990/91. During the same period, public sector grants have increased 7%, while earnings from ticket sales and other revenue sources have risen 22%. However, performing arts companies in the province recorded an overall operating deficit of \$1.2 million in 1996/97.

*Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0003XPE*

### **The Nation**

- **The Canadian economy picked up speed in the fourth quarter of last year, growing 1.1%—more than twice the increase seen in the previous two quarters.** Real GDP rose 3.0% last year, after growing 3.8% in 1997. For the second straight year, exports were up significantly, increasing 8.1%. Import growth was more restrained (+6.4%), and Canada's trade surplus rose to \$17.7 billion. Business (+4.1%) and government (+4.5%) investment also provided a boost to the economy, but consumers were more cautious than in 1997. Consumer spending on goods and services was up 2.7% after growing 4.1% in the previous year. *Source: Statistics Canada*

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Research, Evaluation & Accountability

Min. of Advanced Education, Training & Technology

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**1. Introduction . . .** With the release of January 1999 data, Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) has changed to different classification systems for reporting industry and occupational data. Categorization of employment data into "private" vs. "public" sector is also revised. Industrial and occupational employment levels in the attached Tables 8 and 9 show data back to 1989 using the new classification structures.

- **Estimates by Class of Worker** now use a revised definition of public and private sector employees so that all employees in hospitals and universities are now fully classified in the public sector.
- **Estimates by Occupation** changed from the 1980 Standard Occupation Classification (SOC80) to the 1991 Standard Occupation Classification (SOC91).
- **Estimates by Industry** are no longer classified using the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC80) but instead use the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

These changes by Statistics Canada are designed to better reflect the labour market of the 1990's and aim to improve the relevance of the LFS data. Revised historical data on industry and occupation is available back to January 1987, and back to 1976 for Class of Worker. This article provides an overview of the changes. Next month's article will explore some numerical impacts on the data.

**2. Changes to Class of Worker . . .** The distinction between public and private sector employment is often used in the analysis of employment growth. The LFS had been using a different definition of "public" and "private" sectors than that used by the System of National Accounts (SNA) Data.

Beginning in January 1999, LFS data for the public and private sectors are harmonized with the SNA standard which is used by other divisions of Statistics Canada, such as the Public Institutions Division. Estimates of public sector employment are now based on "funding" of an establishment rather than on "ownership." Historical data has been revised back to 1976.

This change shifts the classification of all hospital workers to the public sector where formerly they were coded partly in the public sector (40 per cent) and partly in the private sector (60 per cent). The other major change is a shift of all university workers formerly coded in the private sector to the public sector.

The impact of this change in definition is quite large. For example, in 1998 for B.C. the reclassification results in an increase in the employment base of public sector employees by 26 per cent, and a decrease of 6 per cent in the base level of private sector employees.

**3. Changes to Estimates by Occupation . . .** The LFS has changed from the 1980 Standard Occupation Classification (SOC80) to the **1991 Standard Occupation Classification (SOC91)**. SOC91 provides an overall structure for classifying occupations according to **the kind of work performed** and is similar, to and compatible with, the National Occupational Classification (NOC) system that is now widely used. SOC91 is fundamentally different from SOC80 and so there are very few unit groups that are exactly the same. Even though labels of various levels of aggregation may have the same name, the data found within may be very different. For instance, unit group C021 Biologists and Related Scientists has the identical label in the SOC80 and SOC91 but these groups do not have identical content. Biochemists were classified as biologists in SOC80 but are classified as chemists in SOC91.

Table 1 provides a contrast of the major occupational aggregates between SOC80 and SOC91. SOC80 tended to group very diverse

knowledge-intensive occupations together, and also aggregated them with Management occupations.

*Table 1: Level of Occupational Detail For Seasonally Adjusted Monthly LFS Data*

SOC80	SOC91
<b>All Occupations</b>	<b>All Occupations</b>
Managerial, professional, etc.	Management
Clerical	Business, finance and administration
Sales	Natural & applied sciences
Service	Health
Primary	Social science, education, gov. service & religion
Processing	Art, culture, recreation and sport
Construction	Sales and service
Transportation	Trades, transport and equipment operators
Materials handling and other crafts	Occupations unique to primary
	Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities

#### 4. Changes to Estimates by Industry . . .

Canada, the United States and Mexico have created a new common industry classification system - **North American Industrial Classifications System (NAICS)**. This replaces the former industry classifications in each country. NAICS provides enhanced industry comparability among the three NAFTA trading partners, while increasing compatibility with the two-digit level of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC Rev.3) of the United Nations.

This is a new and unique classification system that has been designed for statistical purposes and is based on the principal that economic units (businesses and other organizations engaged in the production of goods and services) that use similar production processes, should be grouped together.

**Features of NAICS . . .** NAICS is a comprehensive system encompassing all economic activities. The criteria used to group establishments into industries are similarity of input structures, labour skills or production processes used. It can be used to classify units

engaged in market and non-market production and own-account production such as the unpaid work of households.

NAICS has a hierarchical structure. The numbering system is a six-digit code, of which the first five digits are used to describe the NAICS levels that will be used by the three countries to produce comparable data. The sixth digit is used to designate national industries. NAICS Canada divides the economy into 20 sectors, 99 sub-sectors, 321 industry groups, 734 industries and 921 national industries. NAICS Canada will replace both the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification and the 1980 Classification of Companies and Enterprises.

The new classification system differs in a number of ways from the Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC80) which was adopted by the LFS in 1984. NAICS groups industries in terms of common inputs and processes rather than outputs, the basis of SIC80. The new system includes a number of new industries that have emerged since 1970 and has expanded the service industries which

account for about three-quarters of employment and play a more prominent role in the Canadian economy than in the past.

**Impacts to the LFS. . .** At the highest level of aggregation, NAICS has 20 sectors compared with 18 divisions in the SIC classification. The LFS has regrouped some of the sectors for monthly, seasonally adjusted publication. While the titles of some of these groupings have not changed, the detailed industries that they represent have. As a result, exact direct comparisons cannot be made (see Table 2).

For instance, the label “construction” is used in both systems but in SIC80 it includes the inspection of buildings and landscaping activities and excludes street and highway repairs. Using NAICS, “construction” excludes building and

landscaping inspection, but includes street and highway repairs. Another examples is “utilities”, a sub-division in SIC80 and a sector in NAICS. The SIC80 “utilities” includes garbage collection and excludes irrigation systems, while it is the reverse in the “utilities” sector in NAICS. Given the differences, Statistics Canada has constructed a historical series of LFS data for NAICS sectors back to 1987 to support time series analysis.

Table 3 highlights new NAICS sectors which did not exist in SIC80. Table 4 illustrates differences in the numbers of detailed industries that go to make up similarly named NAICS sectors versus SIC80 divisions.

*Table 2: Level of Industry Detail For Seasonally Adjusted Monthly LFS Data*


SIC80	NAICS
<b>All industries</b>	<b>All industries</b>
<b>Good-Producing Sector</b>	<b>Goods-Producing Sector</b>
Agriculture	Agriculture
Other Primary	Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas
Fishing	Utilities
Logging and forestry	Construction
Mining, quarries and oil wells	Manufacturing
Utilities	<b>Service-Producing Sector</b>
Construction	Trade
Manufacturing	Transportation and warehousing
<b>Services-Producing Sector</b>	Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing
Transportation, storage and communication	Professional, scientific & technical services
Trade	Management, administrative and other support
Wholesale	Educational services
Retail	Health care and social assistance
Finance, insurance and real estate	Information, culture and recreation
Community, business and personal services	Accommodation and food services
Education	Public administration
Health and social services	
Business and personal services	
Public administration	

*Table 3: NAICS Canada Sectors that did not Exist as Divisions in the 1980 SIC*

<b>New NAICS Sectors</b>	<b>No. of Cdn Industries</b>
Information and cultural industries	30
Real estate, rental and leasing	21
Professional, scientific and technical services	40
Management of companies and enterprises	2
Administration and support, waste management and remedial services	34
Arts, entertainment and recreation	31

*Table 4: Number of Industries in Similarly Named NAICS Sectors and 1980 SIC Divisions*

<b>NAICS Sector and SIC80 Division Title</b>	<b>NAICS Ind.</b>	<b>SIC80 Ind.</b>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	48	46
Mining and oil and gas extraction	27	29
Utilities	10	4
Construction	36	66
Manufacturing	259	236
Wholesale trade	78	78
Retail trade	69	73
Transportation, warehousing and storage	58	45
Finance and insurance	44	38
Educational services	12	6
Health care and social assistance	37	59
Accommodation and food services	18	13
Other services (except public admin)	38	67
Public administration	29	69

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## BC at a glance . . .

<b>POPULATION (thousands)</b>	Oct 1/98	% change on one year ago
BC	4,016.9	0.9
Canada	30,381.1	0.9
<b>GDP and INCOME</b>		% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>	1997	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	109,347	3.3
GDP (\$ 1992 millions)	98,201	2.2
GDP (\$ 1992 per Capita)	24,775	0.1
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1992 per Capita)	16,340	-2.3
<b>TRADE (\$ millions)</b>		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Dec	2,948	4.9
Merchandise Exports (raw) Dec	2,160	4.1
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Dec	2,752	-5.0
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>		% change on one year ago
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>	Jan '99	
BC	109.9	0.2
Canada	108.9	0.6
<b>LABOUR FORCE (thousands)</b>		% change on one year ago
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	Jan '99	
Labour Force - BC	2,096	4.2
Employed - BC	1,926	5.7
Unemployed - BC	170	-10.8
		Jan '98
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	8.1	9.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.8	8.8
<b>INTEREST RATES (percent)</b>	Mar 3/99	Mar 4/98
Prime Business Rate	6.75	6.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.60	6.40
- 5 year	7.15	6.85
<b>US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE</b>	Mar 3/99	Mar 4/98
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.4986	1.4219
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of above rate)</i>	0.6673	0.7033
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	Dec '98	
BC	619.63	1.1
Canada	606.59	1.1
<b>SOURCES:</b>		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Earnings	} Statistics Canada	
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		

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