

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **Personal income in British Columbia rose 5.3% in 2000.** Personal income is a measure of income from all sources (employment, unincorporated business, investments and transfers). The largest component, wages and salaries, rose 6.4% last year, more than at any time since 1990. Investment income (+4.3%) and total transfers from government, such as employment insurance, social assistance and other payments including pensions (+3.1%) also increased, but more moderately. Net income from unincorporated businesses rose 2.7% compared to 1999.

The increase in BC's personal income was lower than the national average of 6.1%, for the fourth consecutive year. The rise in personal income in the province was the sixth highest in the country behind NWT (+8.5%), Alberta (+7.3%), Manitoba (+7.0%), Nunavut (+6.4%) and Ontario (+6.4%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **On a per capita basis, personal income in the province was \$25,978, up 4.4% from 1999.** Despite the increase, the per capita income of British Columbians remained below the national average (\$26,768) in 2000. The highest per capita income was found in the north (NWT \$37,426 and Yukon \$31,210) where workers receive higher wages to compensate for living in a comparatively isolated part of the country. However, Nunavut (\$19,320) had the lowest per capita income in the country. Of the provinces, BC came in third behind Alberta (\$29,364) and Ontario (\$28,977). *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **Department store sales in BC and the north were up 9.2% in February over the February 2000 level.** Sales rose from \$125.9 million to \$138.7 million a year later. This was the second strongest increase in Canada, behind Alberta where sales increased 11.7% over the period.

Sales were up in all regions of the country except Nova Scotia, where they fell 2.9%. Nationally, department store sales increased 6.8%, reaching \$1,103.5 million.

Source: Statistics Canada

Housing

- **New housing prices in BC's two largest cities continued to decline in February.** The cost of new housing in Vancouver fell to 0.8% below the February 2000 level, while prices for new houses built in the Victoria area were down 0.4%. Declines were seen in three other areas of Canada, Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton (-1.7%), Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-1.6%) and Windsor (-0.3%). Of the remaining sixteen areas surveyed, the largest year-over-year increase was seen in Ottawa-Hull, where prices rose 14.2%. Nationally, the new housing price index was up 2.4% compared to the previous year.
- **The number of housing starts in British Columbia fell for the second consecutive month in March, year-over-year.** Housing starts were down 9.7% last month. Starts in six of Canada's provinces, including BC, also fell. The largest drops were posted in Nova Scotia (-42.0%), Newfoundland (-40.0%) and New Brunswick (-26.5%) where abundant snowfall this winter has reduced building activity. Nationally, housing starts were down slightly (-1.5%).

Source: Statistics Canada

Source: Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation

- **New condos cost more in Vancouver than in any other major Canadian city.** The median price of a new two bedroom condo in Vancouver last year was \$203,900. While, less expensive places were available in the city, the majority (50.6%) of condos sold last year cost more than \$200,000. A further quarter of those sold cost between \$160,000 and \$200,000, and 24% between \$100,000 and \$159,900. Only 0.4% were sold for

Did you know...

There were 2,495 new houses costing over \$1 million sold in Vancouver between June 1988 and February 2001, more than anywhere else in the country. Toronto was second highest, with 1,039 sales.

less than \$100,000. Of the eight cities included in the survey, Vancouver was the most expensive by \$4,900, followed by Toronto (\$199,000) and Hamilton (\$162,900). The most affordable place to buy was Montreal, where the median price of a new condo was almost half of the cost in Vancouver (\$107,500).

Monthly rents were cheaper than mortgage payments for the median priced condos in seven of the eight cities surveyed. Ottawa was the only place where the rents were higher. There, the average monthly rent on a condo costing \$123,599 was \$877 last year, while the equivalent mortgage payment was \$840 (assuming a 5% down payment, 25 years amortization and a five year rate at 7.25%). The highest rents were paid in Toronto, where it cost \$979 per month for a condo priced at \$199,000. Vancouver renters paid \$890 per month to live in a condo priced at \$203,900, while the equivalent buyers paid \$1,387 for their mortgage.

Source, CMHC Housing Facts

Education

- **Most (88.5%) parents in British Columbia hope their children will attend post-secondary school.** However, in 1999 only 44.9% were saving for their children's future education. This was the third highest percentage of the provinces, behind Saskatchewan (50.7%) and Manitoba (45.1%). Nationally, 40.7% of parents of children aged 18 and under, were saving. Slightly more than half (51.7%) of BC parents expected that their children would have to take out a loan in order to help finance their post-secondary education. A much larger percentage (86.0%) expected that their offspring would have to work while in post-secondary school, or before starting their studies (72.4%).

In BC, the most popular way to put money aside for education was in a Registered Education Savings Plan (44.8%). This was a higher percentage than all other provinces. In-trust accounts were used for a further 36.8% of children in BC. *Source:*

Statistics Canada

Internet Use

- **Almost all (99%) students in British Columbia attended secondary level schools with access to the Internet in 1998-99.** Nearly as many (98%) intermediate students also had access. Compared to Canada overall, BC did better at the secondary

level, where the national average was 97%, but the same at the intermediate level. However, BC's elementary students fared the worst in Canada in 1998-99. Only 76% attended schools with Internet access, compared to a national average of 88%.

The most popular use of the Internet in BC's intermediate and secondary schools was for access to external databases to find and extract information, with 75% of students taking advantage of this resource. About 39% of students also used e-mail, and 30% designed or maintained a Web site. Only a very small percentage (6%) made use of the Internet to discuss or explore ideas via video conferencing.

The student-computer ratio for elementary, intermediate and secondary schools was 8 in 1998-99. Nationally, the ratios were 9 for elementary schools, 8 for intermediate and 7 for secondary. The highest ratio was found in Nova Scotia's elementary schools where there were 15 children to each computer. The lowest ratio (5) was seen in secondary schools in Manitoba. *Source, SC, Catalogue 56-504-XIE*

Births

- **There were 3,611 fewer births in BC in 1999 than in 1990.** The number of babies born in the province in each of the last ten years reached a peak in 1994 when there were 46,998 births, and has fallen every year since. The number of births per 1,000 women has also declined each year. In 1990 there were 13.9, while by 1999 the rate had fallen to 10.4. In 1999, only Newfoundland (8.8), Nova Scotia (10.0), Quebec (10.0) and New Brunswick (10.2) had lower birth rates than BC.

Source: SC Catalogue 91-213

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BC then...

British Columbia used to be one of the "last frontiers" in Canada: a rough, tough region populated mainly by young men, many of whom were loggers and miners. A hundred years ago, just two percent of all Canadians lived in this province. More than half of the population was under thirty, and men outnumbered women nearly two to one.

At the end of the nineteenth century, BC's economy was highly dependent on resource-based industries such as logging, mining, fishing and agriculture. Manufacturing activities were based on the processing of natural resources: canning Fraser River salmon, or producing lumber and paper from trees harvested in the province's coastal and interior forests. This early dependence on primary industries helped forge an image of BC that persists to this day. Most people, when asked to name the biggest industries in the province, continue to put forestry, mining, fishing and agriculture at the top of the list.

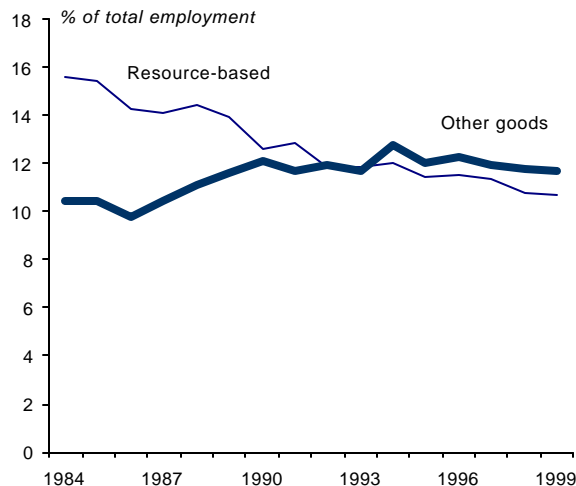
...and now

The province has changed a lot since the early days of European settlement. With 13% of the Canadian population, it's Canada's third biggest province, after Ontario and Quebec. It produces about 12% of the country's total GDP. Vancouver's population has passed the two million mark, making it one of only three metropolitan areas in the country with a population in excess of one million. The city is gaining prominence as a financial and industrial centre.

The composition of BC's population is changing too. It's no longer mainly comprised of young men, as it was a hundred years ago. The percentage of males and females living in BC has been roughly equal since the 1960s. The population's older too: less than 40% of British Columbians are currently under the age of thirty. The cultural mosaic is shifting as more and more immigrants are coming to the province from Asia and other non-European areas. This has had an effect on the economy, as a variety of new types of goods and services are being produced to

meet the needs of an increasingly multicultural population. Technological and cultural changes have also had a big effect on the way the economy's developed.

Resource industries are becoming less prominent. They currently employ about 11% of British Columbia's workforce.



Source: Labour Force Survey

Figure 1

BC's economy is continuing to change as it matures into a more diverse, less resource-dependent structure. Primary goods production is giving way to a greater emphasis on value-added manufacturing and services. Forestry, mining, fishing and agriculture are still important, especially in communities where they are the biggest employers, but they no longer dominate the economy. Since the mid-1990s, there have been fewer people working in these industries than in other types of goods production. And, for every person who's employed in the goods sector (resource and non-resource-based), there are three British Columbians who have jobs in service industries.

Most jobs are in the service sector...

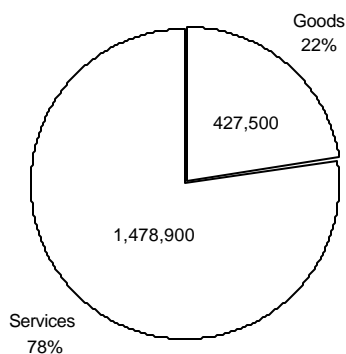
People who work in the service sector are engaged in a broad spectrum of activities, ranging from real estate and finance to retailing and

hairstyling. Some work in industries that have close ties to goods production, providing services such as transportation, wholesaling, retailing and insurance to manufacturers who must transport their products from the factory gate to markets where they can be bought and sold. These industries aren't completely dependent on the goods sector, however. For example, the railway system is primarily used to move cargo, but it also transports people. Truck companies carry freight, but may also transport household goods. And airlines ship a lot of cargo, but derive the bulk of their revenues from passenger traffic.

Other people work in industries that provide real estate, financial, legal, accounting, and other services that are used by businesses as well as individuals. Others are in the personal service industries, staging plays or showing movies, selling lottery tickets, or providing services such as drycleaning or hairstyling. Health care, education and defence are all service industries that can be viewed as benefiting the community at large.

Many of these services have been part of the province's economic makeup since the first settlements came into being. Others, such as computer services or Internet providers, are part of what's often called the *new economy*.

There are three service-sector jobs for every one in the goods industries



Total employment in 1999: 1.9 million

Source: Labour Force Survey

Figure 2

It's important to remember that the goods and service sectors are interdependent. Some service sector industries wouldn't exist without the goods sector. Likewise, some goods industries couldn't exist without services to support them.

...and they're not all entry-level positions

Service sector jobs are often thought of as poorly paid entry-level positions. But the stereotype of a service sector worker as someone who works at a fast food outlet, has little training, and just manages to scrape by on minimum wages isn't accurate. There are many entry-level positions and lower-paid jobs in the sector, but service sector jobs exist at all points along the pay scale. Many workers—engineers, computer scientists, doctors, lawyers and university professors, to name a few—are both highly trained and well paid for their work. So are airline pilots, longshore workers, ferry and railway workers, and numerous others who work in service industries. Even fast-food workers might need more training than you'd think—they might have to use a computer or other specialized equipment on the job. Almost every person in the work force has been affected by new technologies that require special skills.

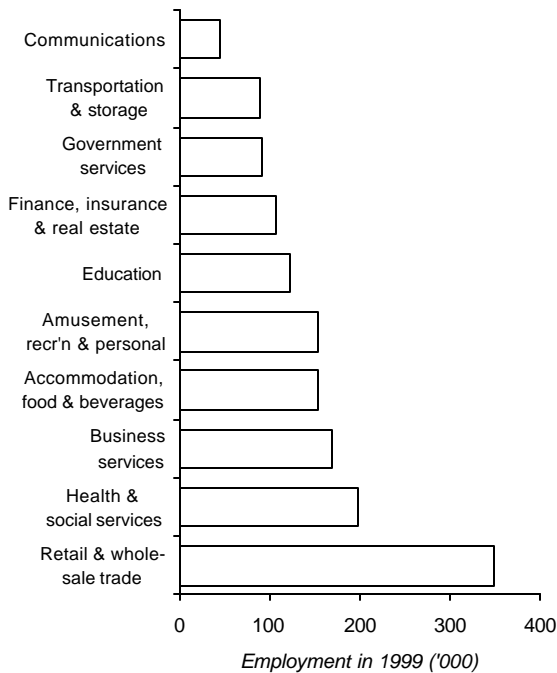
Where are the jobs?

Most jobs are in the service industries

Figure 3 shows where the jobs are in the service sector. Wholesale and retail trade is the biggest employer in the service sector—and BC's economy. It employs one in every four service sector workers. Health and social services is the second largest employer, followed by business services. Accommodation, food and beverages, and other services employ almost as many people as the business services industry.

Nearly three times as many people work in retail and wholesale trade as in construction, the largest employer in the goods sector. The two biggest industries in the service sector—wholesale and retail trade and the health and social services—together employ more people than all of the goods producing industries combined.

One in four service sector jobs is in wholesale and retail trade



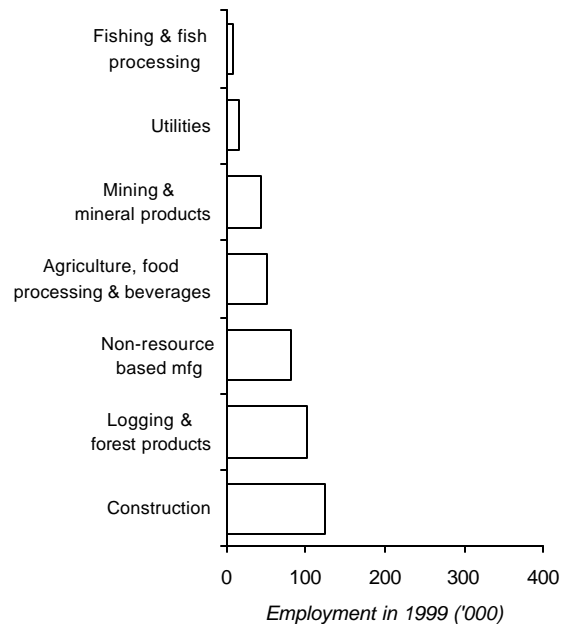
Source: Labour Force Survey

Figure 3

Construction is the biggest employer in the goods sector

Figure 4 ranks industries in the goods sector based on employment. About a third of the jobs in this sector are in construction. Forestry, which includes logging and wood and paper manufacturing, is the second largest industry, employing one in four workers in the goods sector. Other major employers include non-resource-based manufacturing, and agriculture and related industries. One in ten workers in goods-producing industries is employed in mining or mining-related manufacturing, while fishing and fish processing employs one in every 50 workers.

In the goods sector, construction and forestry are the biggest employers



Source: Labour Force Survey

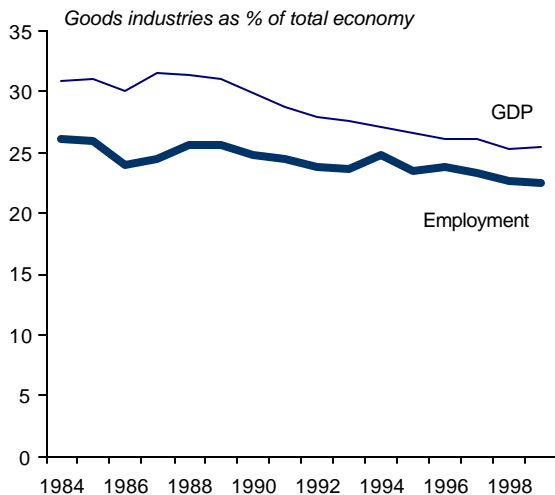
Figure 4

Most of the jobs are in the service sector. Is that true for GDP?

GDP, or value added, is the measure that is most often used to describe the economy. Do the GDP figures tell the same story about the relative importance of the goods and service sectors as the employment numbers? The answer to this question is yes. In 1999, about a quarter of the province's GDP originated in goods production, while three-quarters came from the service sector.

Figure 5 shows how the basic structure of BC's economy has changed since 1984. As the figure shows, the province's economy hasn't always been as service-oriented as it now is. In 1984, there were three service-sector workers for every person employed in goods production. By 1999, the ratio had increased to four to one. The goods sector's share of total GDP has fallen from a third to a quarter of the total during this period. The relative size of the goods sector has been shrinking since the 1960s, when estimates of GDP by province were first produced.

Goods account for a slightly larger share of GDP than employment. However, only a quarter of BC's total GDP originates in goods production.



Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 5

Wages tend to be higher in the goods sector...

The graph also illustrates another interesting phenomenon. The goods sector's share of total GDP is consistently higher than its share of employment. This might seem puzzling. How is it that just over a fifth the workforce can produce nearly a quarter of the economy's total output?

One explanation is that **labour productivity** (GDP per worker) in the goods sector tends to be higher than in the service sector. This reflects, among other things, the fact that workers in the goods sector are usually paid more than people with jobs in service industries. Labour income is one of the biggest components of an industry's GDP.

In 1999, British Columbians working in the goods industries earned an average wage of \$18.82 per hour. The typical wage for hourly-paid workers in service industries was more than four dollars lower, at \$14.40 per hour.

Why do wage rates differ?

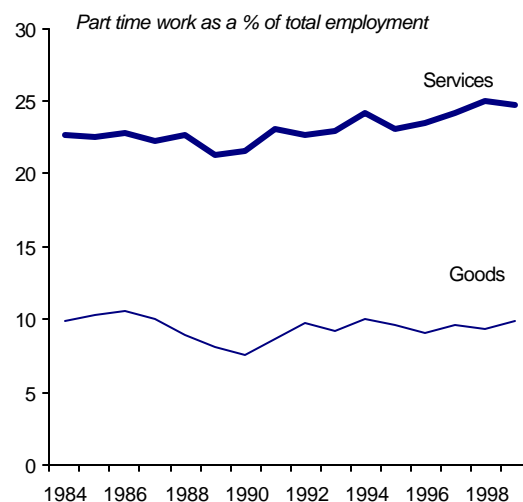
Wages can be viewed as a measure of the value that's placed by a producer on the work done by

his/her employees. People who receive higher wages generally do so because an hour of their work makes a greater contribution (i.e., adds more value) to total economic output. Otherwise, there would be no reason why employers, who usually want to keep their costs down, would choose to pay them more. Many factors such as the nature of the job, working conditions, risk and training, hours of work, and the type of equipment that's used in production also have an effect on the value added to the economy by each worker. These factors all contribute to wage differences in various industries and among workers in different types of occupations.

...and workers usually spend more time on the job

Another factor contributing to the goods sector's higher share of GDP is related to the way we measure employment. The employment numbers we've used in these comparisons are simple job counts, and don't differentiate between full-time and part-time workers. This means that the relationship between GDP and total employment can be a bit misleading as some industries rely more heavily on part-time or seasonal employment than others do.

One in four service sector jobs involves part-time work. The ratio's a lot lower in the good sector.



Source: Labour Force Survey

Figure 6

There are big differences between the use of part-time workers in the goods and service sectors. Part-time employment is quite common in the service sector, where one in four workers work less than 30 hours a week. In the goods industries, relatively few (one in ten) workers are employed part-time. Furthermore, the incidence of part-time employment has been increasing in the service sector, but has remained more stable in the goods industries.

A typical service sector worker spends 29 hours a week on the job. In the goods industries, the average work-week for hourly-paid employees is 39 hours long.

What are the most common occupations?

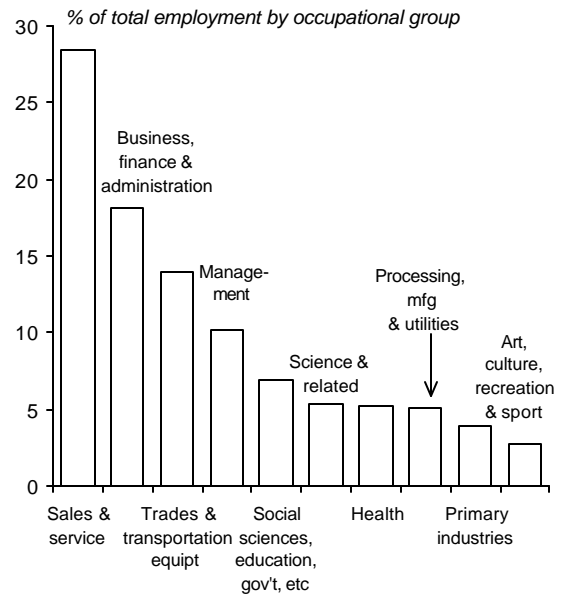
Each industry employs people in all sorts of different occupations, which can involve a broad range of skill levels. Take the health care industry, for instance. It employs managers, doctors, nurses, other health care professionals, trained technical workers like x-ray technicians, and cooks, cleaners, and laundry workers. And these are just some of the occupations that are represented in this industry. While some of them (such as managers and administrators) could work in any industry, others have skills or training that are very specific to health care services.

There are ten broad occupational groups that are used to describe the different types of jobs that people could have.

More than a quarter of the workers in BC are employed in sales or service occupations. This includes workers in retailing, food service and accommodation, as well as workers in protective and other service occupations. Examples of the types of jobs in this category include sales people, clerks, chefs, cooks, butchers, bakers, police officers, tour guides and child care workers.

Workers in business, finance and administrative occupations make up almost a fifth of the work force, while one in six are employed as tradespeople (mechanics, plumbers, pipefitters, carpenters, longshore workers, labourers, and so on) or transportation equipment operators.

More than a quarter of BC's workers are in sales and service occupations



Source: COPS Estimate (1998)

Figure 7

What are the characteristics of the work force?

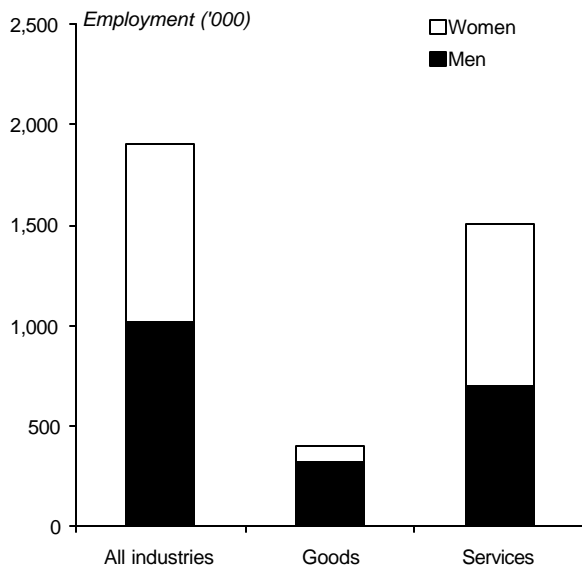
Women make up 45% of the work force. Almost all of them are employed in the service sector.

The male-female composition of the province's work force is almost equal. About 55% of the workers in BC are men, while the remaining 45% are women

However, as you can see in Figure 8, women are much more likely to work in service industries than in the goods sector. Nine out of every ten women who have jobs are employed in the service sector. While there are many reasons for this difference, it is partly related to the nature of work in some goods-producing industries. Women may be less likely than men to choose to work in a job that requires a lot of physical strength, or involves long periods of time spent away from home at a job site where there are not many amenities. These types of jobs are more commonly found in the goods sector than in service industries.

In the goods sector, only 20% of the workers are female. In contrast, more than half of the workers who have jobs in service industries are women. To put it another way, nine out of every ten women—and two out of every three men—with jobs work in the service sector.

Nine out of every ten women with jobs are employed in the service sector



Source: Labour Force Survey (1999)

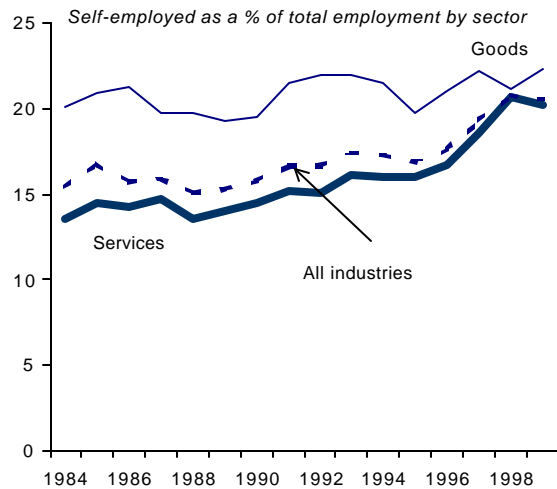
Figure 8

Self employment has mushroomed in the service industries

Self-employment has historically been most common in the goods industries, largely because so many farmers, fishers and loggers are self-employed. In goods industries as a whole, the self-employment rate has remained close to 20% since the mid-1980s. However, as Figure 9 illustrates, the increase in self-employment that's been seen in BC during the last fifteen years comes from the service sector, where the percentage of people who are their own bosses has mushroomed, growing from 14% in 1984 to 21% by the end of the 1990s. This type of working arrangement is now almost as common in the service sector as in goods-producing industries. For the economy as a whole, the percentage of self-employed workers has risen from 16% to 21%, which is quite a significant change over a relatively short time span.

Men are nearly twice as likely to be their own bosses as women are. One-fourth of the male work force was self-employed in 1999. This compares to one-sixth of all employed women.

One in five BC workers is self employed



Source: Labour Force Survey

Figure 9

Unemployment rates tend to be higher in the goods sector

Unemployment rates are affected by many factors. For example, people with jobs in industries such as agriculture, fishing, and construction may not be able to work during the winter months because of weather conditions. In other industries, people won't face the same likelihood of being jobless on a regular basis because the weather doesn't affect their ability to work.

Seasonal factors also have a big effect on unemployment rates. For instance, retailers may need extra staff for the pre-Christmas season but require fewer workers at other times of the year. Hotels might hire additional help during the busy summer months, but lay these workers off during slower periods. People who work in industries where the demand for goods and services is seasonal may also face a higher-than-average likelihood of experiencing periods of unemployment.

In industries that produce goods mainly for export to other countries, unemployment rates can

be affected by changes in world demand for their products. For example, most of BC's wood exports are destined for use in housing construction in the US and overseas. That means that changes in the housing market or other economic conditions in these regions can affect the demand for BC wood products. This may lead to layoffs and shutdowns, or to job growth and overtime work, depending on what the situation is. Similarly, changes in the state of BC's housing market will affect the need for workers in residential construction. These are just a few of the many factors that cause unemployment rates to vary among industries.

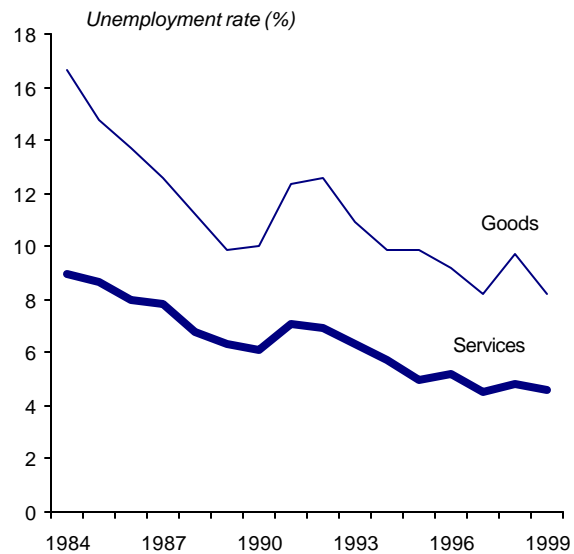
People who work in goods-producing industries face a significantly higher likelihood of being unemployed at some point than their service-sector counterparts do. This is especially true during economic downturns. That's because goods-producing industries tend to cut back on their production when markets are weak. While some service industries are also affected in this way, many of them provide services for which there is a demand even when the economy stalls. The strength and size of BC's service sector is almost certainly what prevented the economy from slipping into a recession in the late 1990s.

Figure 10 illustrates the close relationship between the economic cycle and unemployment in the goods sector. As the figure shows, the jobless rate in the goods sector rose sharply during the economic slowdown in 1991 and didn't fall back to its pre-1991 level until three years later. The unemployment rate also rose in the service sector, but not nearly as much. Similarly, there was a spike in the unemployment rate in the goods sector in 1998, when BC's economy stalled. That slowdown had only a small effect on the unemployment rate in the service industries.

Four out of every ten employees in the province work in small businesses

Of the 1.5 million British Columbians who have a job but are not self-employed, 41% work at an establishment with fewer than 20 employees. These small businesses employ more people than any other business size in the province.

Unemployment rates are higher, and more volatile, in the goods sector



Source: Labour Force Survey

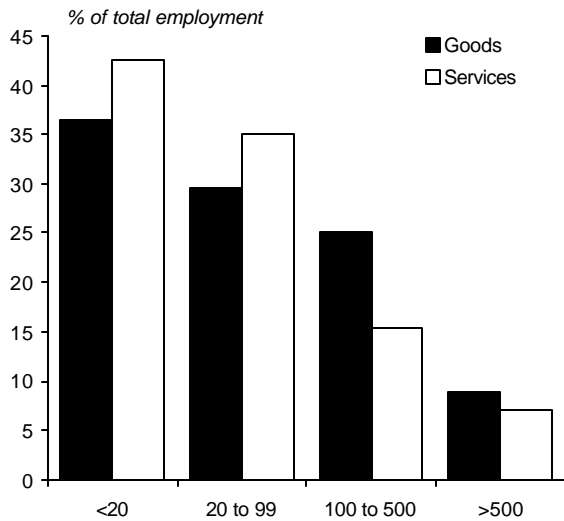
Figure 10

Another 34% of employees in the province have jobs at establishments where there are between 20 and 99 workers. Seventeen percent are in larger businesses (100 to 500 employees) while 7% have jobs in establishments with at least 500 employees.

Establishment sizes tend to be a little smaller in the service sector than in the goods producing industries, where more than a third of all employees work at large establishments (those with at least 100 employees).

It should be noted that these figures don't include people who are self-employed. About 60% of self-employed people in both the goods and service sectors don't have any paid workers. Therefore it's virtually certain that most self-employed workers should be included in the small business category (fewer than 20 workers).

Small businesses are the biggest employers in both the goods and service sectors



Source: Labour Force Survey (1999)
Excludes self-employed workers

Figure 11

But underneath these seasonal patterns, there is no evidence of small businesses hiring greater numbers of full-time workers in the past two years. Monthly numbers of full-time small business employees ranged from summer peaks around 290 thousand to winter lows of around 240 thousand.

For part-time employees, on the other hand, there has been significant growth since 1998. Numbers of part-time small business employees averaged 101 thousand in 2000, up from 92 thousand in 1998 and 98 thousand in 1999. Increases in part-time employment have not been unique to small businesses. The numbers of part-time employees in larger businesses were also growing over these years, expanding from 147 thousand in 1998 to 154 thousand in 2000.

But in small businesses, part-time employment has been expanding faster than full-time employment, while in larger businesses both have expanded at the same pace. The result is that part-time work has become more prevalent in small businesses, while workers in larger businesses are no more or less likely to be working part-time in 2000 than they were in 1999 or 1998.

The part-time rate for small businesses in British Columbia rose from 26 per cent in 1998, to 27 per cent in 1999, to 28 per cent in 2000. Over the same years, the part-time employment rate for larger businesses remained unchanged at 18 per cent.

British Columbia Still A Small Business Province

Small business employment figures for 2000 also show that British Columbia continues to rely more on small businesses for jobs than most provinces. Only Saskatchewan and the Atlantic Provinces (as a whole) recorded larger percentages of their total employee workforces in small businesses.

In 2000, the portion of all private sector employees who were working for small firms was 30 per cent in British Columbia, as compared to 35 per cent for Saskatchewan, and 31 per cent in the Atlantic region. For Canada as a whole the ratio was 25 per cent. Ontario, with its concentration of large companies, recorded the lowest provincial ratio of only 21 per cent of employees working in small businesses.

Small Businesses Are Relatively Highly Unionised In British Columbia

Small business employees anywhere in Canada are much less likely to be unionised than employees in large firms. Four per cent of all employees of small private sector firms in Canada were union members in 2000, as compared to 23 per cent of employees of larger firms (those with 20 or more employees).

British Columbia is one of the most heavily unionised places in Canada. Small business employees here are more likely to be unionised than almost anywhere else in Canada. Six per cent of all British Columbia employees of small firms were unionised in 2000, as compared to 28 per cent of employees in larger businesses in the province.

Only in Quebec was a higher proportion of small business employees unionised. Quebec employees of small firms included 7 per cent who were union members. Thirty per cent of employees of larger businesses in Quebec were union members.

 fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

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



<h2>BC at a glance . . .</h2>		
POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Jan 1/01	
BC	4,077.4	0.7
Canada	30,714.7	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>	1999	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	118,783	4.2
GDP (\$ 1992 millions)	104,323	2.1
GDP (\$ 1992 per Capita)	25,899	1.3
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1992 per Capita)	16,700	0.0
TRADE (\$ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Dec	3,155	-4.9
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jan	2,322	-0.3
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jan	3,064	5.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>	Feb '01	
BC	112.6	1.1
Canada	115.2	2.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on one year ago
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	Mar '01	
Labour Force - BC	2,111	0.9
Employed - BC	1,972	1.4
Unemployed - BC	139	-5.6
		Mar '00
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	6.6	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.0	6.8
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Apr 11/01	Apr 12/00
Prime Business Rate	6.75	7.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.70	7.70
- 5 year	7.25	8.35
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Apr 11/01	Apr 12/00
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.5620	1.4622
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.6398	0.6834
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	Mar '01	
BC	650.17	3.1
Canada	630.47	3.9
SOURCES:		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate	} Statistics } Canada	
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm		

Released this week by BC STATS

- Labour Force Statistics, March 2001
- Tourism Sector Monitor, March 2001

Next week

- No subscription releases