

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products fell 2.0% between April and May (seasonally adjusted).** The drop, which followed two months of increases, came as declines were seen in exports to both the US (-0.3%) and overseas (-7.2%).

US-bound exports fell largely as a result of a 2.3% drop in the forestry sector. This, in combination with a 0.6% decline in exports of other products, more than offset increases in other areas. Agricultural and fish products (excluding processed goods) rose (+2.1%), as did exports of mineral products (+3.1%).

As with shipments to the US, exports to other countries, were down mainly due to a sharp drop in forestry-related product exports (-14.5%). Exports of mineral products also fell (-4.8%). These declines were more than enough to offset increases in exports of agricultural and fish products (+39.1%) and other products (+6.3%). *Source: BC STATS*

- **British Columbia's retail sales rose 1.9% in May (seasonally adjusted), after declining during the two previous months.** May's jump was the second largest in the country, behind Newfoundland (+4.4%). Across the country, retailers in New Brunswick (-4.1%), Quebec (-1.4%) and Yukon (-0.6%) saw lower sales over the month, while nationally, sales increased 0.2%. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **The number of British Columbians receiving employment insurance benefits rose 4.3% between April and May (seasonally adjusted).** It is estimated that 57,880 people in BC received regular employment insurance benefits during May. Declines in the number of recipients were seen in six regions, with the greatest drop recorded in Newfoundland (-5.5%). Overall, the total number of Canadians who received regular benefits

increased slightly (+0.2%) in May to 496,840 people.

Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **Visitor entries to BC from the US and overseas were down 1.2% between April and May (seasonally adjusted).** The decline was partly due to a 0.5% drop in visitors from the US. There was a stronger decrease (-4.6%) in the number of entries from overseas, due to a drop in visitors from Europe (-8.6%) and Asia (-3.0%) which more than offset an increase (+3.8%) in the number of people arriving from Oceania.

Despite May's decline, compared to the same month in 2000, visitor entries were up 3.3%, with a total of 726,800 international visitors to BC.

Source: BC STATS

- **More British Columbian travellers took part in cultural activities within Canada than tourists from any other province in 1999.** A total of 17.6% of all overnight trips starting in British Columbia involved some sort of cultural or heritage component (such as attending a festival or visiting a museum or historic site). This compared to a national average of 15.6%. Between 1996 and 1999, there has been an increase of 21.4% in this type of trip by British Columbians, compared to only a slight (+0.1%) rise in the number of non-cultural trips. In total, provincial trips from BC increased 3.7% between 1996 and 1999. *Source: SC Catalogue 87-003*

Housing

- **New housing prices in Vancouver were unchanged between the last quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of this year.** Apartment building costs increased +0.2% in the city, while non-residential building construction costs were unchanged. New house prices in Victoria rose slightly (+0.3%) over the period, however, they

Did you know...

Joshua was the first name most often chosen for baby boys born in BC last year, with 392 children given that name. For girls, the most popular choice, Emily, was given to 359 babies.

stayed at the same level overall in the province. Across the country, new house prices rose 0.7% between the last three months of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001. The rise was largely driven by gains in Quebec (+1.3%), Ontario (+0.9%), the Atlantic Region (+0.6%) and the Prairies (+0.4%).

Source: SC Catalogue 62-007-XPB

Farm Prices

- **The price BC farmers received for their agricultural commodities increased 2.1% in May (year-over-year).** The Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) rose to 105.7 (1997=100), continuing the upward trend seen throughout 2001. Strong gains in the prices of livestock and animal products (+7.5%) offset a decline in crop prices (-4.6%) in the province, resulting in May's overall increase. BC's situation mirrored the national picture, with livestock and animal commodity prices increasing (+7.9%), while crop prices dropped (-2.4%). Overall, Canada's FPPI rose 2.8% in May.

Source: SC Catalogue 21-007-XIB

Retirement Savings

- **Three-quarters of British Columbians, who filed a tax return in each year from 1993 to 1999, also saved for their retirement.** A total of 75% of tax filers, aged 25 to 64, saved for retirement in at least one of the years between 1993 and 1999. Savings were made by contributing to either a registered retirement savings plan, or to an employer-sponsored registered pension plan. BC's percentage was higher than in any other province, and second only to Northwest Territories (77%). The lowest proportion was in Newfoundland (55%). Nationally, 71.7% of those filing tax returns saved for their retirement.

Source: SC Catalogue 74F0002XIB

Births

- **Women in BC are having fewer babies.** The birth rate in the province last year was 10.0 live births per 1,000 population, down from 10.4 in the previous year and the lowest to date. The birth rate, which peaked in 1957 at 26.1 per 1,000, has declined almost every year since. The actual number of births in BC last year was 40,467.

Source: BC Vital Statistics Agency

Marriages

- **The average age of brides and grooms who married for the first time, in BC last year, has increased by approximately five years since 1977.** Thirteen years ago, a first-time bride was typically 22.5 years old, while her groom was 25.2 years. By last year, these ages had increased to 27.9 and 30.0 years, respectively. The average age of brides and grooms entering into marriage but not necessarily for the first time, has also increased. In 1977 a bride in BC was 26.2 years old on average. By 2000, this had increased to 32.1 years. Similarly, grooms in 1977 were an average age of 29.3 years, compared to 34.8 years in 2000.

Source: BC Vital Statistics Agency

HIV

- **The number of deaths due to HIV disease in the province increased by 22% last year, from 100 in 1999 to 122 in 2000.** This was the first year to see an increase since 1994, when 331 deaths were recorded. Most (73%) of the deaths last year were men, with the greatest number (32) in the age group 30-39 years. Of the 25 women who died of the disease, 20 were under the age of 50.

Source: BC Vital Statistics Agency

Internet Use

- **More British Columbians accessed the internet from home last year than computer users in any other province.** A total of 45.9% of households logged on in 2000, compared to a national average of 40.1%. The percentage of users in the province has increased each year since 1997, when just under a fifth (19.9%) of households used the internet from home. More people in BC also accessed the internet in public libraries (6.7%) than the national average (6.5%), although fewer logged on at work (26.2% in BC compared to 27.5% nationally) or school (17.8% compared to 19.2%).

Source: SC Catalogue 56M0002XCB

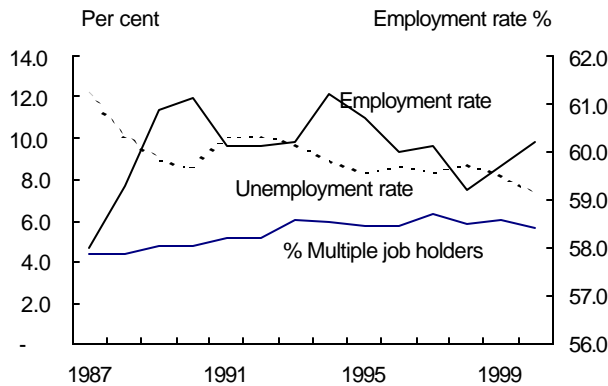
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Having a Second Job

In the mid seventies, about 2% of employed British Columbians held more than one job. The rate has since tripled, reaching 6.1% in 1999, dropping the following year to 5.6%. In 2000, 109,000 people had some reason for working at more than one job.

Multiple job holding has been viewed rather negatively in the past, often termed "moonlighting". Neither employers nor the labour movement have supported the practice. It is often thought that moonlighting takes jobs away from others. However, there is really no evidence of that.

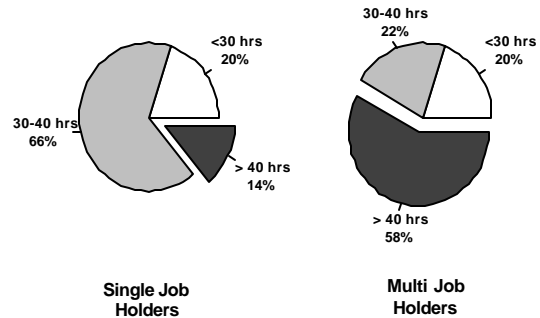
Multiple job holding has little negative impact on employment or unemployment



Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey offers a variety of characteristics of multiple job holders but doesn't provide reasons, such as, whether people need the additional income, are looking for work experience in another field, insuring themselves against future job loss or other reasons.

The majority of multiple job holders usually work more than forty hours, although equal proportions of single and multiple job holders work up to 30 hours.

More than one-half of multi-job holders work more than 40 hours per week



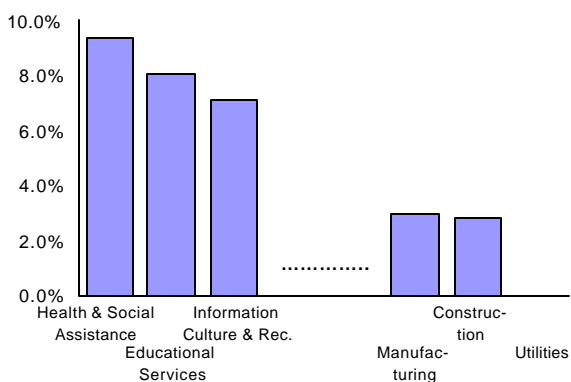
One might suppose that most multiple job holders would be persons unable to find full-time main jobs, and therefore, forced to string part-time jobs together to make up full-time work. However, sixty per cent of multiple job holders work full-time (30 hours or more) at their main job and therefore are considered "moonlighters".

Multiple job holding rates for men and women were similar in the late 1980's at around 4.5% but have increasingly diverged. In 2000, the rate for women (6.7%), is two percentage points above that for men (4.6%). As their participation in the labour force increased, women have taken a greater share of the available work.

It is not unexpected that the rate for youth 15 to 24 years of age, would be higher than that for older persons. Young women were more likely than young men to work at more than one job, and in recent years the spread has been as much as 4 percentage points. In the mid 1990's, there was a brief deviation in the age pattern when men between 25 to 44 years had a somewhat higher rate than their younger counterparts. Persons 45 years of age and older were least likely to be multiple job holders. However, this age group has consistently increased its share of the "multiple job market", having gone from 21.1% of the total in 1987 to 28.2% by 2000.

The industry sectors with the highest rates of multiple job holding were Health Care and Social Assistance and Educational Services at 9.4% and 8.1% respectively in 2000. Further examination by occupation shows that persons with primary jobs in childcare and home support services and in technical, assisting and related occupations in health had the highest rates of multiple job holding as well as high part-time rates. The high part-time rates may mean that persons in these jobs look for secondary work to supplement their incomes.

Service industry workers are more likely to have second jobs

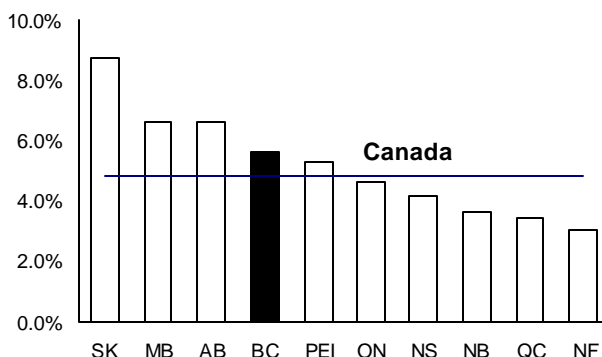


The Information, Culture and Recreation industry was in third position (7.2%). Since the Labour Force Survey defines the primary job as the one with most hours, LFS data may not measure all of workers whose primary job aspirations are in the arts, culture and recreation fields, nor the degree of multiple job holding. This may be true for other industries as well.

Workers in the highly unionized goods-producing industries showed the lowest rates of multiple job holding. Workers in Utilities have a very low rate.

Although one might expect some seasonality in the degree of multiple job holding, no pattern emerges from the data. Examining both the numbers and the rates for the years from 1987 to 2000, peak months are scattered throughout the year.

Saskatchewan has the highest rate in 2000



Among the provinces, multiple job holding rates tended to be lowest where unemployment rates were highest. Provinces with higher overall rates had significantly high concentrations in agriculture and also in educational services and health and social assistance.

Source: All data and charts are based on information from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

 fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

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

| BC at a glance . . . | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|
| POPULATION (thousands) | | % change on one year ago |
| | Apr 1/01 | |
| BC | 4,087.2 | 0.8 |
| Canada | 30,949.9 | 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.) May | 3,043 | -4.7 |
| Merchandise Exports (raw) May | 3,347 | 17.8 |
| Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) May | 3,145 | 7.4 |
| CONSUMER PRICE INDEX | | % change on one year ago |
| <i>(all items - 1992=100)</i> | Jun '01 | |
| BC | 116.3 | 2.7 |
| Canada | 117.5 | 3.3 |
| LABOUR FORCE (thousands) | | % change on one year ago |
| <i>(seasonally adjusted)</i> | Jun '01 | |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,105 | 0.6 |
| Employed - BC | 1,957 | 0.4 |
| Unemployed - BC | 148 | 3.9 |
| | | Jun '00 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC (percent) | 7.0 | 6.8 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent) | 7.0 | 6.6 |
| INTEREST RATES (percent) | July 25/01 | July 26/00 |
| Prime Business Rate | 6.00 | 7.50 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 6.45 | 7.90 |
| - 5 year | 7.75 | 8.25 |
| US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE | July 25/01 | July 26/00 |
| <i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i> | 1.5375 | 1.4664 |
| <i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i> | 0.6509 | 0.6826 |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE | | % change on one year ago |
| <i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i> | Jun '01 | |
| BC | 649.40 | 2.8 |
| Canada | 634.36 | 3.8 |
| SOURCES: | | |
| Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, | } Statistics | |
| Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate | | } 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 | | |

Socio-Economic Profiles

Free on our website!

The profiles consist of charts and tables for the 27 Regional Districts and 78 Local Health Areas within the Province of British Columbia. Each region contains the following information:

1. Maps
2. Demographic profile
3. Economic hardship
4. Labour market structure
5. Education concerns
6. Crime
7. Health problems
8. Children at risk
9. Youth at risk

Released this week by BC STATS

- Consumer Price Index
- Business Indicators
- Current Statistics
- Exports
- Earnings and Employment Trends

Next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor