

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **Manufacturing shipments in BC fell 2.5% between May and June (seasonally adjusted), marking the fifth decrease in the past six months.** Across the country, shipments were down 1.9% overall, as declines were posted in five provinces including BC, Ontario (-3.5%) and Alberta (-2.0%).

BC shipments of durable goods fell 2.1%, following two months of increases. Declines were reported in seven of the major groups, including the largest of the sector, wood product manufacturing (-0.1%). Shipments by the electronic equipment, appliance and component (-13.7%), computer and electronic product (-12.4%) and transportation equipment (-8.1%) industries fell substantially. On the non-durable goods side, shipments fell 3.1% in June, following a 1.5% increase in the previous month. The drop was largely due to reduced shipments by manufacturers of paper (-5.5%) and food (-2.0%) although declines were also posted in printing (-5.6%) and clothing manufacturing (-6.8%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Exports of BC products fell for the first time in three years in June, dropping to 3.8% below the June 2000 level.** The drop in the value of exports was due to weakness in the forest sector, where international shipments this June were 13.8% lower than they had been a year earlier. At the same time, exports of industrial (-15.5%) and consumer (-30.0%) goods also fell sharply. Partly offsetting the downturn was continued strength in the energy sector, with exports increasing by 23.0% relative to June 2000. Canadian exports were also down (-3.2%) in June, as the value of goods shipped by three of the four biggest provinces fell. Alberta (+12.3%), where

the value of exports continued to reflect a booming energy sector (+22.7%) escaped the general malaise, as did the four Atlantic provinces.

Despite June's relatively weak performance, year-to-date, the value of BC's exports was well above 2000 levels (+13.3%). Canadian exports rose 5.8%, as strong gains in Alberta (+40.9%) and BC helped offset the effect of a slowdown in Ontario, where exports were down 2.7%, reflecting weakness in the auto products, industrial goods and machinery and equipment sectors. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of consumer bankruptcies in BC fell 4.0% in June, year-over-year.** There were 847 bankruptcies in the province, compared to 882 registered twelve months previously. Across the country, consumer bankruptcies rose or remained constant in seven provinces. In total, 6,892 consumers across Canada filed for bankruptcy in June, up 42 or 0.6% over the same month last year. *Source: Industry Canada*
- **Business bankruptcies in the province rose 20.5% year-over-year in June.** BC was one of seven provinces to record an increase. The number of Canadian businesses filing bankruptcy papers increased 7.5%. In total, 874 businesses in Canada, and 88 in BC filed papers in June. *Source: Industry Canada*
- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in BC and the north fell 2.9% (seasonally adjusted) between May and June.** A total of 14,291 units were sold, down 431 on the previous month. However, second quarter sales were up 8.1% compared to the first three months of the year. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts in the province increased 6.5% in June, year-over-**

Did you know...

Of the 3,775,735 British Columbians who filed tax returns in 1999, 202,384 were under the age of 5, and 440 were 100 years or older.

year, continuing an upward trend that began 17 months earlier. Rises were seen in limited- (1.0%) and full-service (+11.3%) restaurants, as well as drinking places (+1.1%). Total Canadian receipts were up 6.1%.

Source: Statistics Canada

Family Income

- **The median income of families in BC rose 1.1% (adjusted for inflation) in 1999, from \$46,700 to \$47,200, but remained below the national level.** Moreover, the size of the gap is growing. In 1998, family income in the province was \$600 less than the Canadian median of \$47,300. The difference had increased to \$1,400 in 1999. Across the country, four regions had median incomes that were higher than BC's. At the top of the list was NWT (\$60,600), followed by Yukon (\$53,300), Ontario (\$53,600) and Alberta (\$52,000). The lowest family income (\$36,500) was in Newfoundland. The median is the value at which half of all families have a higher, and half a lower, income.

Source: SC Catalogue 13C0016

Income of Individuals

- **BC taxfilers reported receiving \$80.1 billion in income from all sources in 1999.** Most (72.5%) of it came from employment. Government transfers (12.5%) were the second-most important income source. Provincial tax credits/benefits (5.8%), Canada Pension Plan (3.7%), Old Age Security (3.4%), EI (1.5%) and Social Assistance (1.3%) comprised the bulk of these transfers. The remainder of the income reported came from investments (6.0%), non-government pensions (6.0%) and other sources such as RRSPs (3.0%).
- **The median total income of individuals in the province rose by \$500 to \$20,800 between 1998 and 1999.** BC ranked fifth among the regions in 1999, equaling the national average. The highest incomes were reported in NWT (\$27,400), Yukon (\$25,100), Ontario (\$23,000) and Alberta (\$21,600), while the lowest was in Newfoundland (\$15,100).

Source: SC Catalogue 13C0015

BC women fared better than men, when compared with people in other parts of the country. In 1999, the median income of males in BC

(\$27,400) was slightly below the national level (\$27,500). In contrast, women in the province had a median income (\$16,600) that was \$500 above the national level. The highest incomes for both men and women were in NWT (\$32,500 and \$22,800 respectively). The greatest disparity between the sexes was in Ontario, where men (\$30,300) typically earned \$12,600 more than women.

Source: SC Catalogue 13C0015

- **The median employment income of British Columbians who worked during 1999 was \$22,800, up \$400 from the previous year.** It was higher for residents of BC's two largest cities than for the province as a whole. Median employment income in Vancouver was \$24,300 down 0.4% from 1998, while in Victoria it was up 1.2% to \$24,400. The economic dependency ratio (which is a measure of the value of transfer payments received for every \$100 of employment income) in Vancouver (13.58) was lower than the national average (16.62), while in Victoria it was higher (18.71). BC's dependency ratio was 17.20.

Source: SC Catalogue 71C0018

Legal Aid

- **Total legal aid expenses in BC were \$75.2 million (constant 1992/93 dollars) in 1999/00, up 1.4% on 1998/99.** Prior to that, expenses had decreased each year since 1995/96, when they totalled \$98.3 billion. Per capita expenditure in the province fell from \$25.98 in 1995/96 to \$18.70 (1992/93=100). Most (88.6%) revenue for BC's legal aid plans in 1999/00 came from the provincial government, with a further 9.2% being contributed by the federal government. The remaining portion of revenue came from other sources such as client contributions, cost recoveries and legal professional contributions.

There were 98,535 applications made for legal aid in the province in 1999/00, of which 38,409 were in relation to criminal matters, and 60,126, civil cases. Of the total applications, 51,534 or 52% were approved, giving a rate of 13 per 1,000 population.

Source: SC Catalogue 85F0028

highlights, Issue 01-33
August 17, 2001

Contact: Linda Coldwell (250) 356-2328

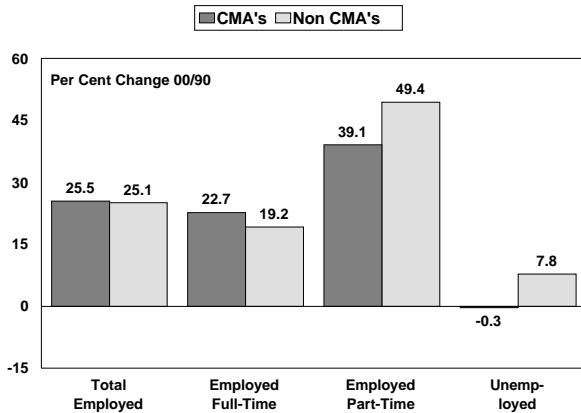
Originally published in May 2001 issue, Earnings and Employment Trends. Annual subscription \$60 plus GST

**Labour Market Comparisons between the
Census Metropolitan Areas¹ (CMAs) and the Rest of British Columbia**

Of the 3,236,600 working aged British Columbians (aged 15 years and over) in 2000, close to 60 per cent resided in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs. This article looks at some of the changes that have occurred in the labour force over the last 10 years in the CMA and non CMA populations.

Unemployment in the CMAs has remained pretty much constant over the last ten years, with a decrease in male unemployment (-1.6 per cent) offsetting an increase among females (+1.6 per cent). In the rest of the province the number of unemployed persons has grown by 7.8 per cent, with an increase of 11.3 per cent for males and of 4.1 per cent for females.

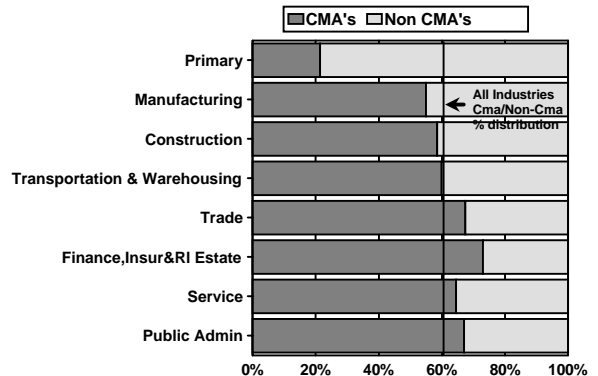
Labour Force Characteristics



Between 1990 and 2000, the overall employment growth rate was virtually the same in the non CMAs and the CMAs. However, part-time employment grew at a much faster rate than full-time employment in the province as a whole but particularly in the non-CMAs. Part-time jobs now comprise 23 per cent of all jobs in the non-CMA part of the province compared to 19 per cent in Vancouver/Victoria

As illustrated in the chart below, compared to the non-CMAs, the CMAs have an under-representation in the primary and manufacturing sectors in their industrial mix and an over-represented in the service producing industries such as Trade and Finance.

Employment Distribution by Industry - 2000



¹ A census metropolitan area is a very large urban area, together with adjacent urban and rural areas which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that urban area. It has a population of at least 100,000 persons currently. Vancouver and Victoria are the only metropolitan areas in British Columbia.

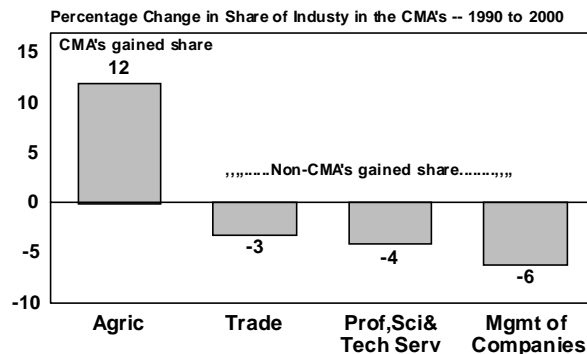
However, the extent of this divergence in the industrial structures of Victoria/Vancouver compared to the outlying regions has moderated considerably over the past 10 years.


A good example of this is the emergence of the greenhouse industry in the Fraser Valley leading to a 62 per cent increase in CMA agriculture employment. At the same time, there was a decline by 14 per cent in the rest of the province. The result is that 12 per cent of BC's agriculture industry has moved from the non-CMAs to the CMAs.

In the service producing sectors, Trade employment grew in both the CMAs and the non-CMAs but twice as quickly in the non-CMAs. Also, the industry of Management of Companies, Administrative and Other Support Services experienced rapid employment growth, almost doubling since 1990. In the CMAs, employment in this service industry increased by 81 per cent and in the non CMAs by a whopping 136 per cent. Also worth mentioning is the ten year growth in Professional, Scientific and Technical services, which has grown by 47 per cent in the CMAs and 91 per cent in the non CMAs.

One service industry that has grown much faster in the CMAs than in the rest of the province is the Information and Cultural Industries, which includes all software and information database creation and dissemination. While both geographies saw growth, the CMAs grew at more than 50 per cent compared to 20 per cent elsewhere. The momentum of the high-tech boom remains in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs.

Significant Shifts in the Industrial Structural between the CMA's and the Non-CMA's



 fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

 Email transmission information service from **BC STATS**

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

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/01	% change on one year ago
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.) Jun	2,902	-8.7
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jun	2,771	-3.8
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>	Jul '01	
Labour Force - BC	2,108	1.2
Employed - BC	1,955	1.2
Unemployed - BC	152	1.3
		Jul '00
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	7.2	7.2
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.0	6.8
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 15/01	Aug 16/00
Prime Business Rate	6.00	7.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.20	7.90
- 5 year	7.75	8.25
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 15/01	Aug 16/00
<i>(avg. noon spot rate)</i> Cdn \$	1.5290	1.4770
US \$ <i>(reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.6548	0.6767
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	Jul '01	
BC	638.50	0.4
Canada	631.21	2.9

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

- Labour Force Statistics, July 2001

Next week

- Exports, June 2001