

## highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

### Population

- **During the second quarter of 2002, B.C. gained an estimated total of 6,877 persons as a result of net migration from all sources.** This compares to an increase of 9,597 in the second quarter of 2001. Weaker international migration accounted for the drop. Net international migration to the province fell by 24% from the second quarter of last year, with a net inflow of 8,718 persons. Immigration to the rest of the country, especially Ontario, grew more strongly in the second quarter and as a result, BC's share of total Canadian immigration fell to 13.9%.

There was a net outflow (1,841 persons) from BC to the rest of Canada in the second quarter of the year, virtually the same as in the same period last year. The net outflow of people to Alberta (-1,409 persons) slowed to the smallest number since 1996. There was also a net outflow to Ontario (-870 persons), while Manitoba (+227), Saskatchewan (+161) and the North (+124) were the main contributors of population to BC. *Source: BC STATS*

- **The province's population continued to expand at a steady rate, growing 1.0% to 4,141,300 during the twelve-month period ending July 1<sup>st</sup>.** Nunavut (+2.1%), Alberta (+1.8%) and Ontario (+1.5%) continued to lead the nation in terms of population growth. Canada's population grew 1.0%, to 31,413,990. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **The population of Greater Vancouver increased by 30,369 as a result of net migration from other countries, other provinces and other regions of BC during the twelve-month period ending July 1, 2001.** The city gained 79,905 people, far more than the 49,536 who moved away from the Lower Mainland area. In Greater Victoria, the net gain was 2,763, with 14,942 in-migrants, and 12,179 people who left the city. Relative to its population,

Toronto (22.3 per 1,000 people) had the highest net migration rate in the country, followed by Windsor (19.4), Calgary (17.5) and Ottawa-Hull (16.2). Vancouver (14.8) was ranked fifth and Victoria (8.7) ninth among the metropolitan areas.

*Source: SC, The Daily*

- **The number of children born in the province fell 3.0% to 40,672 in 2000.** The drop in the number of births followed a national trend. NWT (+2.1%) was the only region where more babies were born in 2000 than in 1999. In 2000, Canada's fertility rate dropped to a record low of 1.49 births per woman aged 15 to 49, as the number of births decreased for the tenth year in a row. There were 327,882 babies born in that year, the lowest number since 1946. *Source: Statistics Canada*

### The Economy

- **Exports of BC products rose 4.3% (seasonally adjusted) between June and July, as shipments to the US rebounded (+6.3%) from a slump in June (-14.7%).** Forest product exports to the US had dropped more than a third (-34.6%) following the imposition of countervailing duties on softwood lumber exports in late May, but the flow of lumber and other forest products from BC to the US increased in June (+13.9%). At the same time, exports of other products destined for use in the States posted modest gains, ranging from +1.3% for energy products to +3.7% for machinery and equipment and automotive products.

Exports to countries other than the US softened in July, rising just 0.3%. Forest (-1.1%) and energy (-3.6%) product exports destined for use overseas fell below June levels. *Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS*

- **Lumber production at BC sawmills increased 5.2% between June and July.** Relative to July 2001, sawmill production in the province was up

**Did you know...**

**In 1998, almost 38% of Canadian families reported having outstanding credit card or instalment debt. In families where the main income earner was aged 25 to 34, the figure was 50%.**

24.9%. Canadian sawmills increased their output 10.3% over the same period. Mills were busier in all provinces except Ontario (-8.0%) and Quebec (-8.8%) as producers worked to meet increased demand for lumber by the construction industry.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Sales by retailers in the province fell 1.7% (seasonally adjusted) in July.** The decline in the value of sales occurred across the board, as consumers kept a firmer grip on their wallets. Sales were also weak in Alberta (-1.3%), and stalled in most other provinces. PEI (+3.8%), Newfoundland (+1.7%) and the North (+3.3%) were the only regions where cash registers were busier in July than in June. Canadian sales fell 0.3%.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of regular employment insurance (EI) recipients in the province increased 0.9% (seasonally adjusted) between June and July, rising to 66,360.** There were more EI beneficiaries in virtually every part of the country. Nationally the number rose 3.9%, to 573,150, led by near-double-digit gains in Saskatchewan (+9.3%) and Manitoba (+9.9%).

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### **College Enrolments**

- **A total of 39,176 students were enrolled full-time at BC colleges during the 1999/2000 school year.** Most (20,386) of them were in university transfer or related programs, with the remainder (18,790) enrolled in career or technical programs. Enrolment in both types of programs has increased significantly. Between 1994/95 and 1999/2000, the number of students enrolled full-time in career and technical programs increased more than a fifth (+22.4%). Over the same period, enrolment in university transfer programs expanded 16.8%.

BC (20,386), Quebec (78,484) and Alberta (9,163) are the only provinces that offer university transfer programs at community colleges on a large scale. Most of the 108,485 Canadian students enrolled in university transfer programs during the 1999/2000 school year were studying at colleges in these three provinces.

*Source: SC, The Daily*

### **Homicides**

- **British Columbia's homicide rate fell to its lowest level (2.08 per 100,000 population) since 1964 in 2001.** There were 85 people slain in the province last year, the same number as in 2000. The average for the period from 1991 to 2000 was 113. BC's homicide rate was the lowest in western Canada, but still well above the national average of 1.78. Atlantic Canada continued to experience the lowest incidence of murder in the country. There was just one violent death in Newfoundland last year, and the homicide rate in other Atlantic provinces ranged from 0.95 in Nova Scotia to 1.44 in PEI.

There were 44 murders in Vancouver in 2001, and 4 in Victoria. The homicide rate in Vancouver was 2.12, up from 2.04 in the previous year. Victoria's rate (1.25) dropped sharply (from 2.21 in 2000), as the number of murders fell from seven to four.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of spousal homicides in Canada rose for the first time in six years in 2001.** Police reported a total of 554 homicides in Canada last year, 86 of which involved the murder of a spouse. Men (69) were more likely than women (16) to kill their spouse. (The other spousal homicide involved the slaying of a same-sex partner.) Another 97 people were murdered by other family members, more than half of them by fathers (26) or children (25). Seventeen mothers killed their child last year.

Two-thirds of the 485 people accused of homicide had a criminal record. Most of them had been previously convicted of a violent offence, including four who were convicted murderers. Over half (51%) of the 505 homicide victims aged 12 and over also had a criminal record.

Homicide victims were most likely to die as a result of either a gunshot (31%) or stab (31%) wound. Another 22% were beaten and 9% were strangled or suffocated. Eight babies died as a result of shaken baby syndrome.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

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## Provincial Labour Market Conditions and Changes

**Summary . . .** This article provides a comparison of labour market conditions between Provinces. After substantial employment growth in the late 1990s and 2000, employment growth slowed in most provinces in 2001. From the end of 2001 to August 2002, B.C. has shown the fastest job growth of all provinces. Unemployment rates fell to their lowest levels in thirty years in 2000 in the Prairies and Ontario. Unemployment rates in most provinces rose slightly in 2001 and for the year-to-date in 2002, and continue to remain above their 2000 levels.

An alternative measure of overall labour market conditions is the proportion of the population that is employed (employment rate). Since 1997, all provinces except B.C. have shown an improvement in employment rates.

**Provincial Employment Change . . .** Figure 1 shows employment changes by province since 1990. Average annual employment growth between 1990 and 1995 was minimal or negative in most provinces due to the impacts of the 1991/92 recession. The exceptions were B.C. and Alberta where the recession was less severe. The next five years showed improvement in average annual job growth for most provinces, particularly Alberta and Ontario. In 2001, the global slow-down in economic activity resulted in slower employment growth in all provinces and employment decreases in Saskatchewan and B.C. During 2002 to date, positive employment growth has returned to B.C., Saskatchewan and New Brunswick.

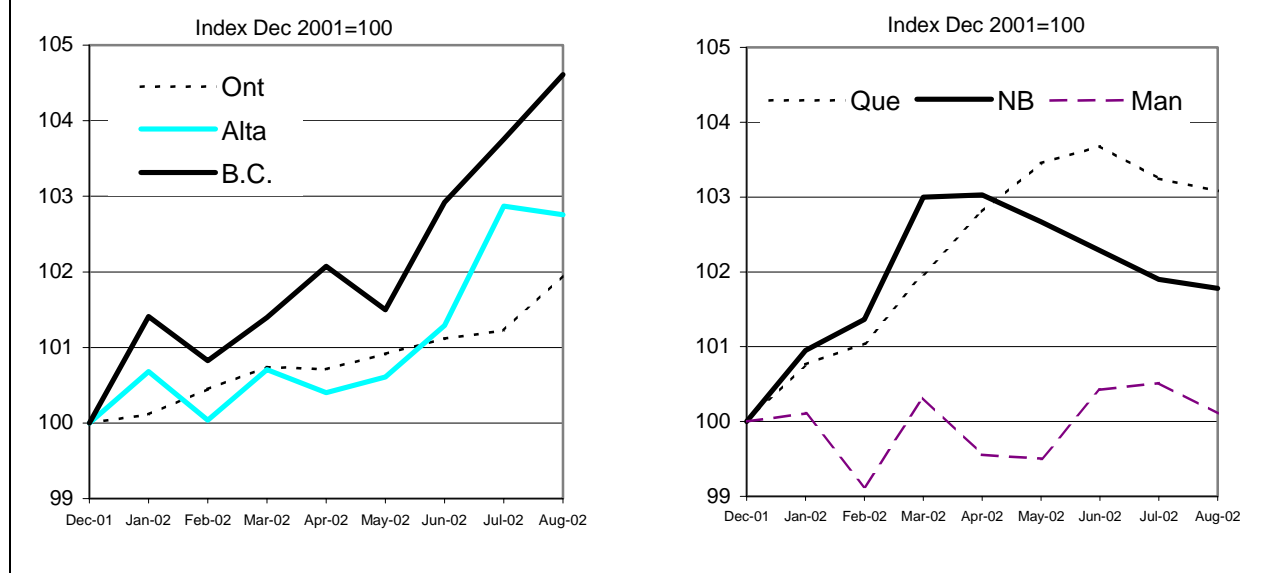
<b>Figure 1: Employment Level and Growth by Province, Age 15+</b>						
	<i>Level in 000's 2002*</i>	<i>Avg. Ann % Change</i>		<i>Change from Prev. Year</i>		
		<i>1990-1995</i>	<i>1995-2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002**</i>	
Canada	15,313.5	0.4%	2.2%	1.1%	1.6%	
Newfoundland and Labrador	215.5	-1.3%	1.0%	3.3%	2.0%	
Prince Edward Island	66.6	0.9%	2.4%	2.2%	1.1%	
Nova Scotia	426.8	-0.5%	2.2%	0.9%	0.8%	
New Brunswick	344.2	0.7%	1.5%	0.0%	2.9%	
Quebec	3,573.8	0.0%	1.8%	1.1%	2.9%	
Ontario	6,024.0	-0.2%	2.7%	1.5%	1.0%	
Manitoba	565.3	0.1%	1.3%	0.6%	1.3%	
Saskatchewan	477.0	0.2%	1.1%	-2.6%	1.0%	
Alberta	1,663.3	1.4%	3.0%	2.8%	1.9%	
British Columbia	1,957.2	2.9%	1.7%	-0.3%	0.8%	

\* 2002 Level is Jan-Aug average, seasonally adjusted.  
\*\* Change in 2002 is Jan-Aug 2002 average, seasonally adjusted, over 2001 average

**Recent Developments in Provincial Employment during 2002 . . .** Figure 2 provides a look at employment levels during the year-to-date in 2002 for selected provinces. Employment is indexed from December 2001 levels. During 2002, employment in B.C. has grown the fastest of any province (up 4.6 per cent), followed by Quebec

(up 3.1 per cent) and Alberta (up 2.8 per cent). The slowest expansion in employment has been seen in Manitoba (up 0.1 per cent) and Nova Scotia (up 0.5 per cent). Most other provinces have seen employment growth of between 1.5 and 2.5 per cent between December 2001 and August 2002.

**Figure 2: Employment in 2002, Age 15+ by Selected Provinces, Seasonally Adjusted & Indexed**



**Unemployment Rates by Province . . .** Figure 3 shows unemployment rates by province for selected years. Unemployment rates in 1990 were relatively low in Canada, having generally been pushed downward due to improving economic conditions over the late 1980s. Although the Atlantic provinces and Quebec were experiencing double-digit unemployment rates, Ontario and the Western provinces had unemployment rates of 8.6 per cent or lower in 1990. The impact of the 1991/92 recession in Canada is reflected in unemployment rates, which by 1993 had risen in all provinces from 1990 levels. By 1997, it was

clear the impact of the recession had been much worse on Atlantic and Central Canadian provinces-although their unemployment rates had fallen back from 1993 levels, they remained higher than the 1990 levels. On the other hand, all four Western provinces had lower unemployment rates in 1997 than they did in 1990. Unemployment rates continued to fall in the late 1990s and reached their lowest levels seen in decades in 2000. Weakening global economic conditions in 2001 have pushed up unemployment rates in most provinces since 2000.

**Figure 3: Unemployment Rates by Province, Age 15+**

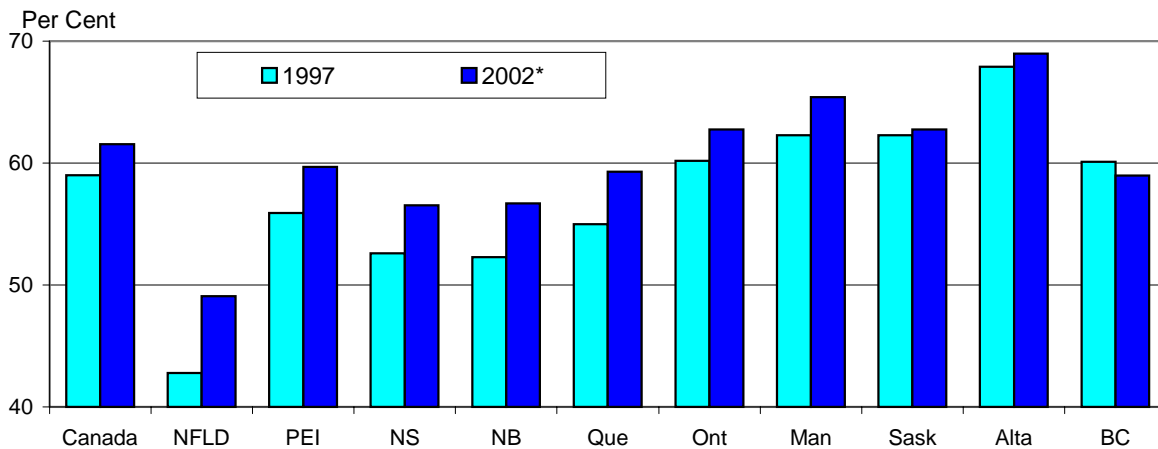
	1990	1993	1997	2000	2001	2002*
<b>Canada</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
Newfoundland	16.9%	20.4%	18.6%	16.7%	16.1%	16.3%
Prince Edward Island	14.6%	17.6%	15.4%	12.0%	11.9%	12.4%
Nova Scotia	10.5%	14.3%	12.1%	9.1%	9.7%	9.8%
New Brunswick	12.1%	12.5%	12.7%	10.0%	11.2%	10.4%
Quebec	10.4%	13.3%	11.4%	8.4%	8.7%	8.7%
Ontario	6.2%	10.9%	8.4%	5.7%	6.3%	7.1%
Manitoba	7.3%	9.3%	6.5%	4.9%	5.0%	5.2%
Saskatchewan	7.0%	8.2%	5.9%	5.2%	5.8%	5.7%
Alberta	6.8%	9.6%	5.8%	5.0%	4.6%	5.2%
British Columbia	8.6%	9.7%	8.4%	7.2%	7.7%	8.7%

\* Jan-Aug 2002 average, seasonally adjusted

**Employment Rates by Province . . .** Figure 4 compares provincial employment rates (employment/population ratio) for 1997 and the first eight months of 2002. The proportion of the working-age population that is employed has risen in every province except B.C. since 1997. The Atlantic provinces show the greatest improvement over this

period, but still generally have the lowest employment rates in Canada. Alberta has by far the highest employment rate, exceeding all other provinces in both 1997 and 2002's year-to-date average. Quebec's employment rate was improved considerably over the last five years, and is currently about the same as B.C.'s employment rate.

**Figure 4: Employment Rates by Province, 1997 and 2002\*, Age 15+**



\* Jan–Aug. 2002 average, seasonally adjusted

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## BC at a glance . . .

<b>POPULATION (thousands)</b>		
	Jul 1/02	% change on one year ago
BC	4,141.3	1.0
Canada	31,414.0	1.0
<b>GDP and INCOME</b>		
(BC - at market prices)	2001	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	130,396	2.2
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	125,534	0.9
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	30,648	-0.1
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	19,177	0.8
<b>TRADE (\$ millions)</b>		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Jul	2,858	0.3
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jun	2,269	-10.6
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jul	3,345	5.2
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>		
(all items - 1992=100)	Aug '02	% change on one year ago
BC	118.7	2.2
Canada	120.1	2.6
<b>LABOUR FORCE (thousands)</b>		
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug '02	% change on one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,171	3.4
Employed - BC	2,001	3.6
Unemployed - BC	170	0.7
		Aug '01
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	7.8	8.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.5	7.3
<b>INTEREST RATES (percent)</b>		
	Sep 25/02	Sep 26/01
Prime Business Rate	4.50	5.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.30	5.45
- 5 year	6.70	7.15
<b>US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE</b>		
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	Sep 25/02	Sep 26/01
	1.5810	1.5729
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)		
	0.6330	0.6359
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE</b>		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug '02	% change on one year ago
BC	668.08	4.0
Canada	652.60	2.6
<b>SOURCES:</b>		
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 <a href="http://www.bankofcanada.ca">www.bankofcanada.ca</a>		

### On our site . . . next week!

**The Profile of the High Technology Sector** is part of an ongoing project to monitor the growth and evolution of the high technology sector in British Columbia. This publication evaluates the economic contribution of the sector, covering the GDP, revenue, employment, wages, exports, etc. generated by firms in selected high technology industries. The latest edition contains information up to the end of 2001, and is based on the new "NAICS" system of industrial classification.

**Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector** is the third annual report prepared by BC STATS in conjunction with the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Division to assess conditions that affect the growth of the high technology sector in British Columbia. This report tracks thirty-two business and economic climate indicators for the province, and provides comparisons to other provinces for twenty-eight of them. The indicators cover key aspects of the educational, business, government, external, and labour sectors from the point of view of their impact on high technology firms. The indicators, which might be termed "input" measures, are chosen for their relevance and general acceptance, as well as their availability on an ongoing basis. This is the ideal companion volume to the Profile of the High Technology Sector, providing the background behind the latest economic developments in high technology in the Province.

#### Released this week by BC STATS

- Consumer Price Index, August 2002
- Business Indicators, September 2002
- Current Statistics, September 2002
- Migration Highlights, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2002

#### Next week

- No subscription releases