BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Management Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca   Issue: 03-25   June 20, 2003

- **BC inflation rate falls to 1.9% in May**
- **Wholesale sales drop 1.9% in April**
- **Youth court caseloads in BC down 48% over last ten years**

Prices

- **BC's consumer price index was up 1.9% in May compared to the same month last year.** This is below the 12-month increase of 2.3% recorded in April. The 12-month increase in energy prices was much lower in May (3.0%) than in April (8.3%). Inflation in transportation was also lower in May (2.1%) than in April (4.2%).

  Inflation was greater in Victoria (+2.0%) than in Vancouver (+1.6%). The national inflation rate (+2.9%) was a full percentage point higher than in BC. Alberta showed the highest price increases (+4.8%), a position it has held throughout the year. Manitoba, with a 12-month CPI increase of 1.5%, had the lowest inflation in the country. *Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Wholesale sales fell 1.9% (seasonally adjusted) in April, the third month of consecutive decline.** Nationally, sales were down 1.1%. Saskatchewan, with a steep drop of 5.1%, led the nation in slumping wholesale sales.

  Source: Statistics Canada

Government Finance

- **Consolidated provincial/local government sector revenues fell 1.2% in BC during the 2002/03 fiscal year.** The decline in revenue was largely due to lower income tax receipts, following the implementation of tax cuts by the provincial government. Governments in Manitoba (-5.5%) and Quebec (-0.5%) also reduced their claims on taxpayer's pockets. Nationally, revenues were up 3.2%, with the largest increases occurring in Newfoundland (+5.3%) and Ontario (+4.6%).

  At the same time, expenditures in the province continued to rise (+2.2%) as spending on health care (+6.0%) and education (+2.8%) was boosted. However, the provincial and local government sector spent less (-6.8%) on social services in 2002/03 than in the previous year. Nationally, total spending was up 2.3%, with increases posted in most provinces. Alberta (-4.8%) and Saskatchewan (-2.9%) were the only exceptions.

  Lower interest rates kept the lid on public debt charges, which were down 5.6% in BC last fiscal year. Overall, the Canadian provincial/local public sector spent 2.9% less on debt charges in 2002/03. Alberta (-14.3%), where there has been a concerted effort to reduce the size of the debt, saw the biggest decrease. *Source: SC, Public Institutions Division, Financial Management System (FMS) data*

Note

Consolidated provincial/local government statistics include data for provincial government ministries and agencies, local governments, and related institutions such as hospitals, universities, colleges and school boards. The data is prepared by Statistics Canada using a broader definition of the public sector than is employed in the Public Accounts. The FMS data are, however, comparable across provinces.

Youth Courts

- **The caseload of BC youth courts has marched steadily downward over the last ten years**. In 2001/02 there were 220 court cases per 10,000 youth in the province. This is roughly one-half the rate of 423 cases per 10,000 youth in 1992/93 (-48%).

  BC has the second lowest rate of youth court cases in Canada. Only Quebec, at 184 cases per 10,000 youth, saw fewer of its youth in court. The national average is 347 per 10,000 youth.

  Youth court cases in BC typically end in conviction (64%). In one-third (33%) of the

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cases charges are stayed, and 2% of cases end in a "not guilty" verdict. Of the youth convicted in court, 33% are sentenced to custody, 73% assigned to probation, and 32% ordered to perform community service.

Source: SC, Catalogue no. 85-002

Marriages

- **The average age at marriage has risen significantly in BC over the last two decades**. Grooms were 34.9 years of age on average in 2000—5.2 years older than in 1979. Brides were 32.1 years of age—5.5 years older than in 1979. BC's average age at marriage was the second highest among the provinces in 2000. Only in Quebec were grooms (35.3 years) or brides (32.5 years) older than in BC. The youngest average age at marriage is in Saskatchewan (grooms at 32.1 years, brides at 29.6 years). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Child and Spousal Support

- **The BC government had 40,065 active case files for the enforcement of child and spousal support in 2002, a 6% increase over 2000**. (Not all child and spousal support orders are monitored by government. In BC, people owed support payments contact government if they need assistance collecting.)

  Enforcement actions are overwhelmingly for the assistance of children. In BC, 93.4% of cases are purely for enforcing child support orders. Combined child and spousal support cases make up an additional 4.2%, and purely spousal support cases are only 2.1% of the caseload. Compliance with government-monitored support orders was 61% in BC. Among the six provinces in the study, Quebec had the highest compliance rate (78%), while PEI had the lowest (53%).

  Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **The number of visitors entering Canada via BC border crossings declined 1.8% in April (seasonally adjusted), continuing the downward trend that started last November**. Visitor entries from Asia—though only accounting for about 10% of travel to BC—were down dramatically (-26.7%). Taiwan showed the steepest drop (-56.0%), followed by Hong Kong (-25.6%), Japan (-21.2%), and South Korea (-20.3%). This, no doubt, is fall-out from the SARS panic in Toronto. However, entries from the US showed little change (+0.5%), and the volume of travellers from Australia and the South Pacific actually increased (+9.3%). *Source: BC Stats and Statistics Canada*

- **The number of Canadians returning from overseas trips via BC was down 19.5% in April–the largest decline recorded since March 1987**. The onset of war in Iraq–which began March 20th–may have led Canadians to delay or cancel their overseas travel plans.

  Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts Canadian GDP growth at 2.8% for 2003, outpacing all the major industrialised countries**. IMF forecasts 2.2% GDP growth for the US, 1.3% for the European Union, and 0.8% for Japan. *Source: IMF, "World Economic Outlook"*

- **The poverty rate of recent immigrants to Canada has risen sharply over the last 20 years**. In 1980, 25% of recent immigrants (in Canada for five years or less) lived below the low-income cut-off line. By 2000, 36% were living below the cut-off line. In contrast, the incidence of low income among the Canadian-born population declined during this time from 17% in 1980 to 14% in 2000.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Advertising revenues of TV broadcasters were $2.6 billion in Canada in 2002, an increase of 9.5% since 1999**. Private broadcasters posted a 10.5% profit margin–down from the roughly 15% rate of profit in each of the previous three years.

  Pay TV broadcasters have shown the strongest performance over the last 4 years. Between 1999 and 2002, revenues soared 112% at pay TV broadcasters, and profit margins in 2002 were 24.2%. Pay TV broadcasters accounted for 7% of total industry revenues in 2002, up from 3.9% in 1999. *Source: Statistics Canada*

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Infoline Report

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B.C. Occupational Employment Projections 2001 to 2011

Introduction:

This article provides an overview of the B.C. occupational employment projections (i.e. the COPS[1] BC Unique Scenario) for the period 2001 to 2011. The COPS BC Unique Scenario was prepared jointly by the Accountability Branch, Ministry of Advanced Education, and the Strategic Services Unit, BC/Yukon Region, Human Resources Development Canada. The B.C. occupational projections provide information of future occupational demand trends to the year 2011 and are used by government planners and analysts, post-secondary institutions, and business groups. They also provide information used in career and labour market information products for students, parents and job seekers.

Highlights:

According to the COPS BC Unique Scenario, February 2003, B.C. is projected to experience a total of 695,867 employment openings between 2001 and 2011. That total consists of 296,536 employment openings attributable to economic and employment growth (an annual average employment growth rate of 1.4%) and 399,331 employment openings attributable to attrition (i.e. retirements and deaths). B.C.'s annual average employment growth per the COPS BC Unique Scenario for the years 2003 to 2007 is 1.9%, which is consistent with the B.C. Ministry of Finance's most recent five-year employment forecast that was released on February 18, 2003 as part of the BC Budget 2003.

[1] Canadian Occupational Projection System

Industry Employment

The COPS BC Unique Scenario, February 2003, projects that overall employment will experience annual average growth of 1.4% between 2001 and 2011. As reflected in Figure 1, the largest annual average employment growth between 2001 and 2011 is projected to occur in a number of service industries, including *Business Services* (2.3% per year); *Accommodation, Food and Recreation Services* (2.1% per year); *Retail Trade* (1.9% per year); *Wholesale Trade* (1.9% per year); *Personal and Household Services* (1.9% per year); and *Health Services* (1.5% per year). In the goods-producing industries, only the *Construction* industry is projected to experience annual average growth above 1.4% between 2001 and 2011. Annual average employment growth is projected to be modest or virtually flat in *Primary Goods* (0.5% per year), *Education* (0.2% per year) and *Public Administration* (0.1% per year).

While the *Education* sector overall is projected to see modest annual average growth of only 0.2%, employment in the primary/secondary sub-sector is projected to actually decline, as the number of K–12 aged children in B.C. continues to decline through 2011 and beyond. Meanwhile, the post-secondary and adult education and training sub-sectors are projected to experience employment growth, due to the projected growth in the prime post-secondary aged population (18–29 years of age) together with increased participation in adult training to meet changing skill needs.

Projected net employment growth is only one aspect of the overall employment picture; the size of an industry (in terms of employment level) is also important. Larger industries with average annual employment growth rates can generate more employment openings than small industries with above average annual employment growth rates. Also, attrition (i.e. due to retirements and deaths) is expected to generate significant numbers of employment openings, including in some industries that are projected to experience very little or no employment growth.

Figure 1 also shows the projected total number of employment openings by industry between 2001 and 2011, separately identifying the projected openings due to growth and the projected openings due to attrition. For example, *Retail Trade* is a very large industry in terms of employment level, and is expected to generate almost 100,000 employment openings in B.C. between 2001 and 2011. Of those openings, approximately 50,000 are projected to be due to growth and approximately 50,000 are projected to be due to attrition. As reflected in Figure 1, the majority of employment openings in most industries between 2001 and 2011 will be due to attrition, as large numbers of baby-boomers reach retirement age. Industries such as *Education, Public Administration* and *Primary Goods* are projected to generate relatively few employment openings due to growth, but are projected to generate significant numbers of employment openings due to attrition.

Occupational Employment

Figure 2 shows projected B.C. employment openings between 2001 and 2011 for broad occupational groups, separately identifying openings due to growth and openings due to attrition. It also shows the average annual employment growth rate for broad occupational groups. It is clear from Figure 2 that there is significant variation in the projected growth rates and projected number of employment openings between broad occupational groups. The large *Business, Finance and Administrative*

Figure 1: Projected B.C. Employment Openings by Industry from Growth and Attrition, and Average Annual Growth Rates, 2001-2011

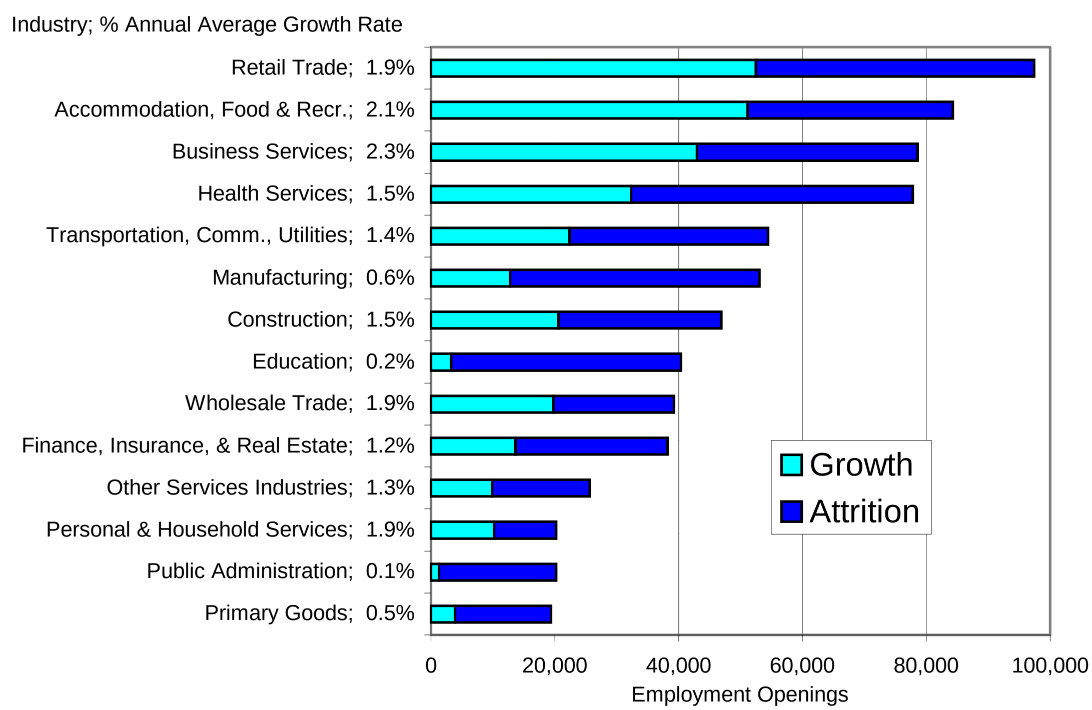
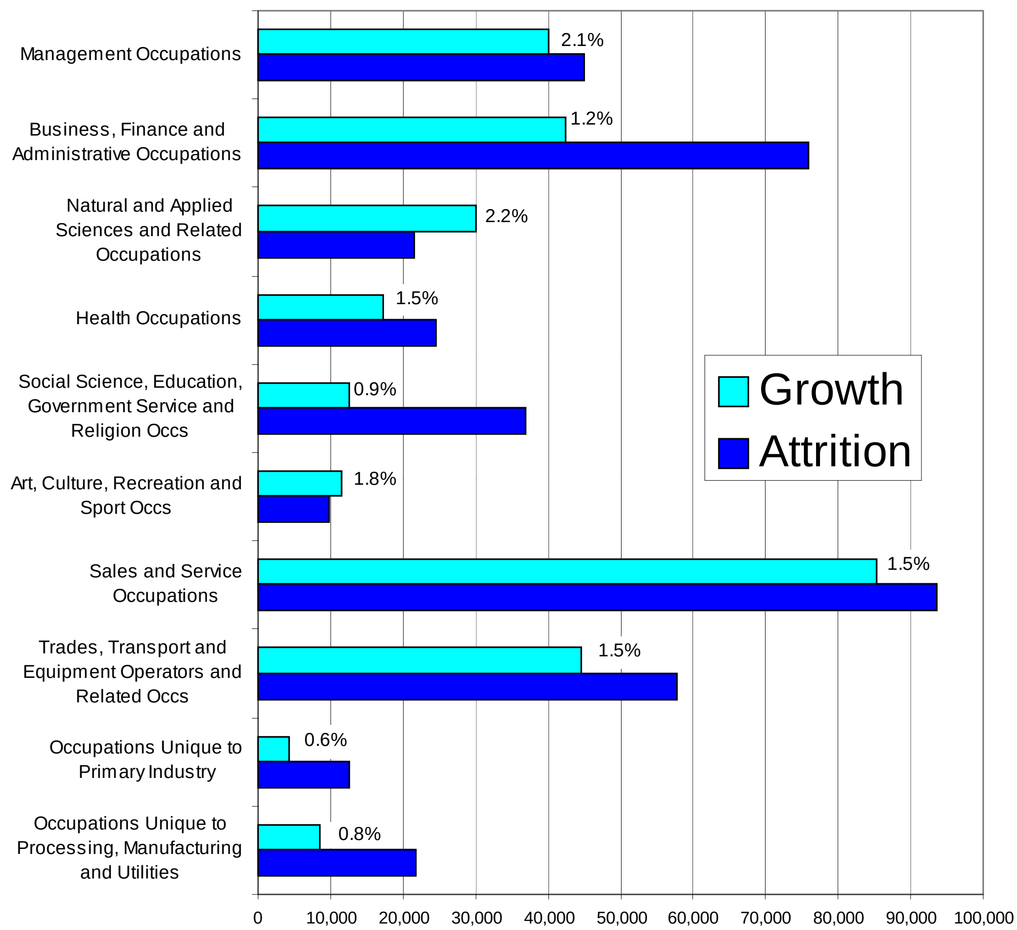


Figure 2: Projected B.C. Employment Openings by Broad Occupational Group from Growth and Attrition, and Average Annual Growth Rates, 2001-2011



occupational group (which includes *Accountants, Secretaries, Office Clerks*, etc.) is projected to experience below average employment growth (1.2% per year), but is projected to generate over 40,000 employment openings due to growth and approximately 75,000 employment openings due to attrition. The *Natural and Applied Sciences* group (which includes *Professional Engineers, Computer Systems Analysts, Electronic Technologists,* etc.) is the only broad occupational group where the projected number of employment openings due to growth (30,000) is larger than the projected number of openings due to attrition (approx. 22,000).

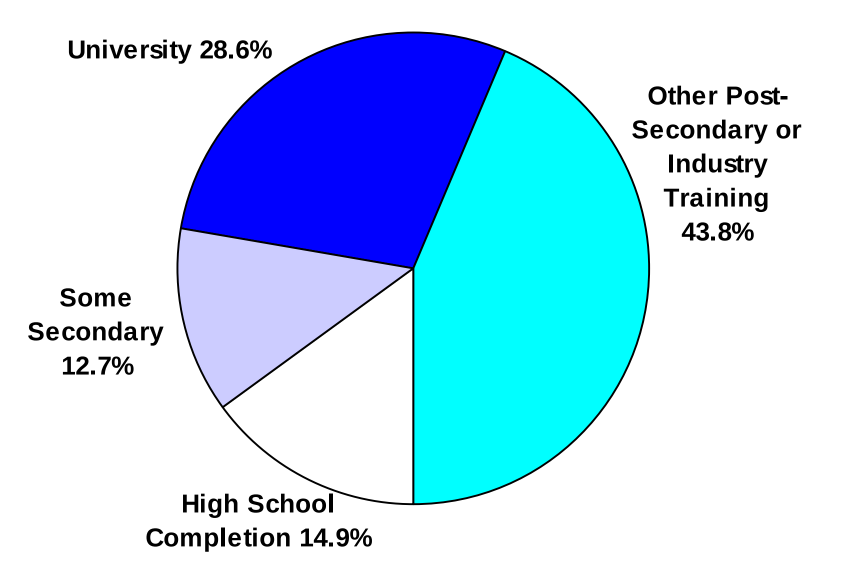
Employment Openings by Education/ Training Levels

Figure 3 displays the distribution and level of projected employment openings in B.C. (due to both growth and attrition) between 2001 and 2011, on the basis of four categories of education/training required. Each of the 510 detailed occupations is assigned to at least one of the education/training categories, and in some cases an occupation is shared between two categories (e.g. where an occupation can be reached via two education/training routes). For example, the *Computer Programmers* occupation has been shared equally between the "University" and "Other Post-Secondary or Industry Training" categories, reflecting that this occupation hires employees from both of these education/training categories. This categorization of employment openings by occupation into education/training required has a number of challenges owing to how the National Occupational Classification system is structured in terms of its assigned skill levels to detailed occupations for those in the "University" versus the "Other Post-Secondary or Industry Training" categories. For example, within a particular occupation whose assigned skill level falls under "Other Post-Secondary or Industry Training", some employers may prefer workers with a university degree. The main point of Figure 3 is to highlight that 72.4% of expected employment openings will require more than just high school completion.

Figure 3 shows that 72.4% of projected employment openings between 2001 and 2011 will be in occupations requiring "University" or "Other Post-Secondary or Industry Training". In part, this reflects the existing large size of these two categories in terms of employment levels. In 2001, 66% of B.C. occupational employment required "University" or "Other Post-Secondary or Industry Training". The large proportion of projected employment openings requiring "University" or "Other Post-Secondary or Industry Training" also reflects larger than average annual growth rates for these occupations, and the relatively large number of projected openings due to attrition over the period.

It is recognized that the categorization of occupations on the basis of the most typical education/training route provides only an approximation of the overall number of openings by education/training requirement. This categorization could understate the proportion of employees in relatively low-skill occupations actually possessing "University" or "Other Post-Secondary or Industry Training". At the same time it could be argued that the occupations assigned to these two education/training categories may contain

Figure 3: Distribution and Level of B.C. Projected Employment Openings, 2001-2011, by Education/Training Required



significant numbers of employees who have completed high school and acquired additional skills through informal processes as opposed to through obtaining a formal post-secondary credential. For example, some Java computer programmers are self-taught, some reporters at major dailies did not complete their journalism diploma or degree program, and some framing carpenters acquired their skills informally on the job over a period of years without having obtained a formal trade certificate.

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June 20, 2003

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/03	% change on one year ago
BC	4,155.8	0.8
Canada	31,499.6	0.8
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2002 Prelim.	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	134,365	2.7
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	126,141	1.8
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	30,459	0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,445	-0.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Apr	2,792	-0.6
Merchandise Exports - Apr	2,439	-5.9
Retail Sales - Mar	3,373	-2.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	May '03	12-month avg % change
BC	120.4	2.6
Canada	122.0	3.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	May '03	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,193	0.2
Employed - BC	2,005	-0.4
Unemployed - BC	189	6.5
		Apr '03
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.6	8.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.8	7.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 18/03	Jun 19/02
Prime Business Rate	5.00	4.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.85	5.55
- 5 year	5.80	7.25
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 18/03	Jun 19/02
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.3342	1.5414
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.7483	0.6490
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	May '03	% change on one year ago
BC	684.33	2.1
Canada	662.79	1.9

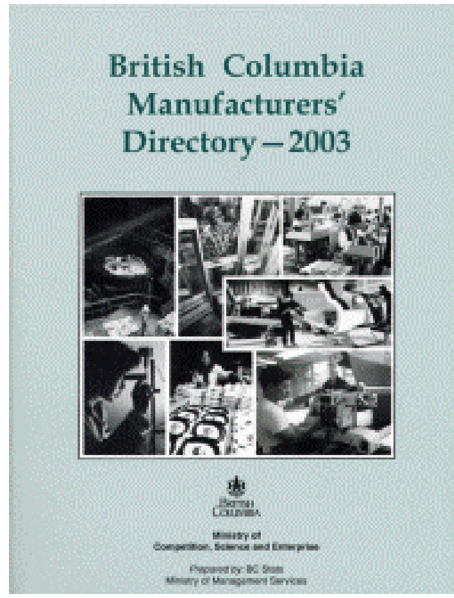
SOURCES:

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.bankofcanada.ca

2003 Manufacturers' Directory



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- Current Statistics, June 2003

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