

- **BC exports down for the first time in three months in July**
- **Approximately two-thirds of British Columbian households used the Internet in 2002**
- **Registered Nurses employed in nursing in BC moved up slightly in 2002 to reach 27,901**

The Economy

- **The value of exports of BC products decreased 2.0% (seasonally adjusted) in July, after increasing in the two previous months.** The decline in exports of energy (-10.9%) was the main contributor to the overall decline. Excluding the volatile energy component, exports increased 1.6%. Forestry products, BC's main export commodity, declined (-0.9%) for the sixth time in the last seven months. Exports of industrial, consumer goods and special transactions posted the largest increase (+10.9%).

The value of exports destined for US markets dropped 1.0%, as energy exports slipped (-8.0%). Exports of all other commodities to the US were up. Machinery, equipment and automotive (+4.4%), and industrial, consumer goods and special transactions (+3.6%) increased considerably. Forest products (+0.6%) rose for a third consecutive month. Exports to overseas destinations registered a bigger drop (-4.3%).

Source: BC STATS

- **Manufacturing shipments in BC rose 1.0% (seasonally adjusted) in July, the first monthly increase of the year.** Manufacturers of non-durable goods (+2.3%) contributed to the overall increase. Plastics and rubber shipments rose (+15.4%) for a fourth consecutive month. Smaller elements such as leather & allied (+10.6%) and textile product mills (+6.8%) rebounded from weak levels in June. Shipments of durable goods remained unchanged (0.0%). Solid gains in machinery (+6.2%) and computer & electronic products (+9.8%) were offset by declines in non-metallic minerals (-6.3%) and transportation equipment (-9.8%).

Nationally, shipments jumped 1.7%, the second highest increase of the year. Manitoba's manu-

facturers (+3.2%) posted the highest increase in shipments, followed by Ontario (+3.1%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in BC and the territories surged in July (+22.2%, seasonally adjusted), more than reversing June's decline (-8.7%).** This increase was largely due to various incentives, including 0% financing and cash-back deals. Nationally, sales also climbed (+12.6%), as they were up in all provinces. Only Saskatchewan posted a higher increase (+24.8%) in sales than BC. Trucks, vans and buses made up 49% of all new vehicle sales in Canada, rebounding 19.5% after sales were down 12.4% in June.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of sales by wholesalers in the province rose a strong 1.0% in July, the first increase since January.** Wholesalers in BC sold \$3.4 billion worth of goods and services, counting for 9.3% of sales in Canada. Nationally, sales increased 1.1%, following also five consecutive monthly declines. Strong gains were reported in computer and electronics products (+9.1%) and lumber and building materials (+5.3%). Sales in New Brunswick (+4.6%) and Quebec (+2.4%) went up significantly while Nova Scotia (-3.2%) saw the largest decline of the provinces.

Source: Statistics Canada

Bankruptcies

- **There were 821 consumer bankruptcies in the province in July, up (+3.4%) from 796 in the same month last year.** Consumer bankruptcies in Canada increased (+11.2%), as all provinces and territories experienced more consumer bankruptcies than last year except Manitoba (-9.3%) and Yukon (-100%).

The number of business bankruptcies registered in BC was 81 in July, down (-4.7%) from

Did you know...

A total of 542 wildfires were burning in BC on September 18th, one fifth of which were caused by people

85 last year. Most (56) of the bankruptcies were experienced in services industries. The retail trade industry (16) had the most bankruptcies on the services-producing side, followed by business service (7) and wholesale trade (5). Construction (13) and manufacturing (10) were the goods industries that registered most business bankruptcies. Total liabilities of insolvent firms in BC were \$21.2 million.

Source: Industry Canada

Household Internet Use

- **After surging during the late 1990s, Internet use among British Columbian households has levelled off, increasing slightly to 65.7% in 2002 from 65.3% in 2001.** The rate of households with at least one regular Internet user, either from home, work, school, a public library or another location increased substantially between 1998 (42.0%) and 2002 (65.7%). Internet use was highest (58.0%) among households with members who surfed at home, up from 53.7% in 2001. One-third (33.6%) of households reported that someone went online at work at least once a day on average, same as last year. Use of the Internet at school (22.4%) and at a public library (8.5%) also remained fairly constant. The proportion of households using the Internet regularly in any location was slightly higher in Vancouver (69.4%) than Victoria (67.4%).

Nationally, an estimated 7.5 million households used the Internet regularly, accounting for 61.6% of Canadian households. BC has the second highest Internet use rate in any location after Ontario (67.4%) and the highest at home (58.0%).

Source: Statistics Canada

Housing Affordability

- **Mortgage payments in BC, based on a five-year fixed interest rate, decreased 3.5% in the May-July 2003 period compared to the same period last year, but remained higher (\$166 per month) than mortgage payments based on a variable interest rate.** The cost of carrying a variable rate mortgage in BC increased 16.2% compared to a 3.5% drop in the case of a five-year fixed rate mortgage. The falling five-year interest fixed rate had more than offset the im-

part of higher house prices. Despite this drop, monthly mortgage payments based on a five-year fixed rate remained higher (\$1,500) than payments based on a variable rate (\$1,334). In Greater Vancouver, mortgage payments based on a variable rate were \$1,691 (+14.6%) compared to \$1,900 (-4.9%) for payments based on a five-year fixed rate. In Victoria, mortgage payments based on a variable rate rose 24.2% to reach \$1,450. Payments based on a five-year fixed rate also increased (+3.0%) to reach \$1,630 due to the jump in average housing price (+14.6%) in the BC capital.

BC's mortgage payments were the highest among all provinces due to the high average housing price (\$254,418). Monthly payments were \$253 higher than the national average if one opted for a variable rate and \$285 higher if one chose a five-year fixed rate.

Source: Bank of Montreal

Registered Nurses

- **The number of registered nurses (RNs) employed in nursing in BC increased 1.9% to reach 27,901 in 2002 up from 27,375 in 2001.** However, the number of RNs in BC remained virtually unchanged (-0.4%) between 1998 and 2002. Nationally, the RN workforce increased 1.4% over this five-year period.

BC was the province that attracted the most RNs as almost half (45%) of BC's RNs in 2002 were trained elsewhere, graduating from another province (30%) or another country (15%). The number of RNs per 10,000 British Columbians increased from 66.4 in 2001 to 67.2 in 2002. Despite this increase, this ratio was below the national average (73.4 RNs) and the second lowest registered among all provinces after Ontario (65.0 RNs). The workforce age of BC's RNs rose 1.6 years to reach 45.2 years old between 1998 and 2002. On average, BC's RNs were the oldest among all provinces and one year older than the Canadian average in 2002.

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

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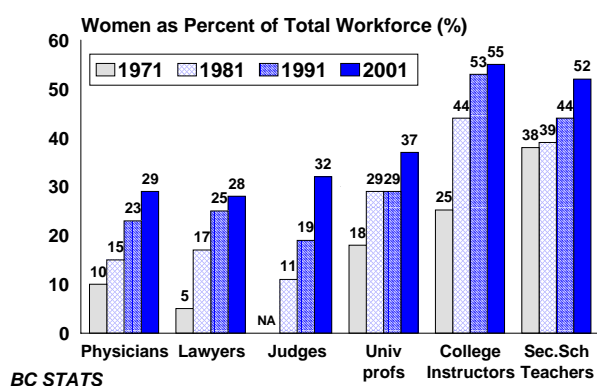
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Progress in women's integration into the traditional male-dominated occupations

Women's education levels have continued to increase relative to men's, so that today, more women than men are graduating from high school and are obtaining post-secondary credentials. As one would expect, this is reflected in a shift in the occupational distribution of women into higher-paid occupations. This shift has been very dramatic throughout the '90s. Below are some examples of what women have achieved in the professional occupations, traditional male-dominated trades, and in senior management.

To put the issue into an historical perspective, it is useful to observe women's integration over the last 30 years into some of the more highly paid/influential occupations.

Among many of the more influential professional jobs in society, women have made substantial progress. However, their representation in some jobs, remains well below their overall workforce representation of 47%.



Among university professors, college instructors and secondary school teachers, a group of occupations that provide important role models for youth in the process of making career choices, there are now as many women, as men.

Importantly, the medical and legal professions, often considered the more prestigious occupations, have been opened up to women. Considering that only one in twenty lawyers was a woman back in 1971, it is very impressive that they now represent more than one of every four. While that represents a considerable gain, there remains some distance to go if their numbers are to equal their overall representation in the workforce (47%). The same applies to women physicians.

The dramatic increases in women's representation in these high profile occupations in the last 30 years is also evident in most occupations that demand good salaries, do not require physical strength and have historically been considered "male occupations". Below we look at some of these jobs and the progress women have made in the 1990s.

For decades, women have out-numbered men in the *Business and Finance* occupations, such as bookkeepers and accounting clerks, but they were extremely under-represented in the management of these jobs. They have now successfully moved into the field – *Financial administrative managers* saw women increase their representation from 35 to 52 per cent. Women also outnumber men (58%) among *Banking, credit and other investment managers*.

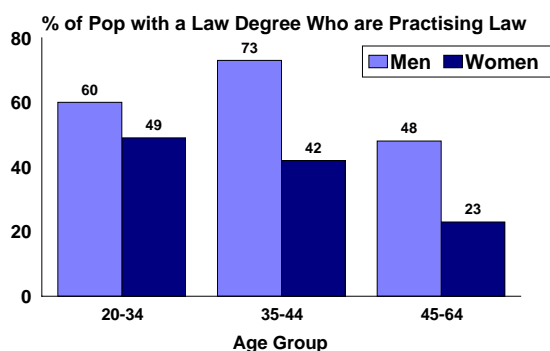
In the *Teaching* profession, traditionally, women have outnumbered men among *Elementary school and kindergarten teachers* but were under-represented among *Secondary school teachers*. Women's representation among elementary teachers has stayed pretty constant over the decade at approximately 81 per cent, but they now outnumber males among *Secondary school*

teachers, increasing from 44 to 52 per cent. Of importance was the increase in the proportion of women in education management roles. For a sector that is so female dominated, the dominance of men in management has been questioned for decades. Among *School principals and administrators of elementary and secondary schools*, women are still the minority but in 2001, women represented 38 per cent of principals, compared to 29 per cent in 1991.

In the *Health Services* sector, women have improved their representation in some of the highly paid health professions such as physicians and dentists—they now comprise 30 per cent of the *General practitioners and family physicians*, up from 24 per cent 10 years earlier. Women dentists have doubled their relative representation in *Dentistry*, from 11 to 22 per cent. In addition, there are now as many women *Veterinarians* as there are men.

Among the *Legal Professions*, judges and lawyers, women increased their representation in the first half of the decade, from 19 to 32 per cent for judges and from 25 to 28 per cent for lawyers, but then their representation remained unchanged between 1996 and 2001. This flattening-out in the share may reflect that the long hours and stress required to practise law are not compatible with raising a family, so women lawyers are switching careers. The data illustrated in the chart below support this theory.

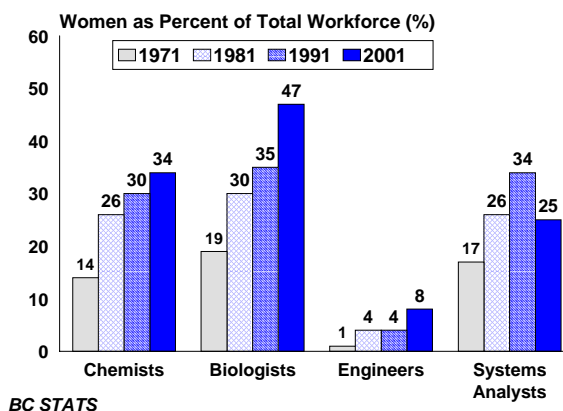
The data from the 2001 Census show that many more men than women with law degrees are practising law



BC STATS

Within the professional occupations in the *Natural and Applied Sciences*, women continue to gradually increase their presence, rising from 13 per cent at the beginning of the decade to 16 per cent by the 2001 Census.

Among Scientists, only Systems Analysts have seen a decline in women's representation over the 90's



BC STATS

Women have not increased their participation in the Systems Analyst field to the same extent men have. A big drop occurred between 1991 and 1996, when women's representation fell from 34 to 27 per cent. The decline continued in the last half of the decade when a further 2 percentage point drop occurred, so by 2001 only one out of 4 systems analysts were women.

In the *Construction Trades*, women comprised only 3 per cent of the workforce in 2001. That number had remained virtually unchanged throughout the '90s. It is difficult to understand why more women do not apprentice in the construction trades, as they represent 12 per cent of the *construction trades helpers and labourers*. For some reason, they do not appear to continue on and undertake formal training. In occupations such as *plumbers and carpenters*, the representation of women is only 1.5 per cent. The only construction trade where the number of women is significant is among painters—10 per cent of *painters and decorators* are women.

A sample of *Other trades* where women's presence is virtually non-existent are:

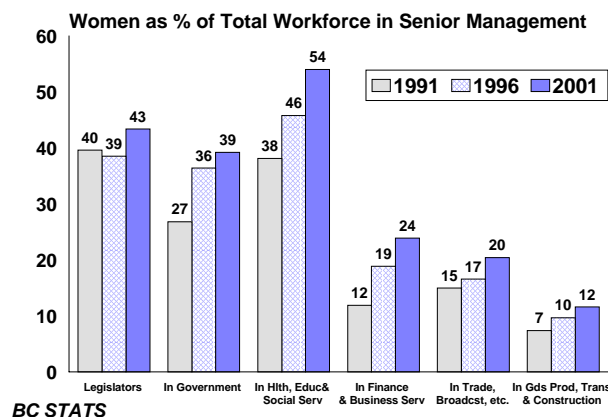
Electricians	2.5%
Machinists	2.6%
Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanics	1.3%
Motor vehicle mechanics	1.4%
Sheet Metal Workers	1.8%

Women's representation is somewhat more significant in *Telecommunications installation and repair* (12.5%), *Printing press operators* (10.5%), and *Cabinetmakers* (4.7%). Women dominate in *Tailors, dressmakers, furriers and milliners* (88%).

For the *Senior Management* occupations, the pre-1991 and the post-1991 occupational classification systems are not consistent enough to be able to make comparisons of women's representation in senior management over a 30-year time frame. However, it is possible to compare the management group as a whole, which shows that women increased their representation from 12 per cent in 1971 to 36 per cent in 2001.

During the 1990s, women's representation in *Senior Management* trended upwards at an average annual rate of one per cent per year, from 16 per cent in 1991, to 21 per cent in 1996, to 26 per cent in 2001. As the chart below shows, women now dominate senior management positions in the area of Health, Education, Social and Community Services, which all are primarily within the public sector. As well, *legislators*, (includes MPs, MLAs, City Councillors, School Trustees, and other elected officials) now have a gender mix verging on the gender mix in the overall workforce.

Women still hold only 26% of Senior Management positions. However, they have made considerable inroads into Senior Management in the Public Sector.



However, by far the majority of Senior Managers are in the private sector, and women have not been as successful in moving into those areas. Three out of four senior managers are in the sectors represented by the three categories in the right hand side of the chart above. It becomes obvious that despite a very high representation of women in many of these sectors, they have not made very substantial headway into senior management. The successful movement of women into senior management in the public sector begs the question as to whether the Employment Equity Programs, which are more prevalent within the public sector, have proved beneficial for women.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Apr 1/03	
BC	4,162.5	0.8
Canada	31,559.2	0.8
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>	2002 Prelim.	
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 - Jul	2,718	1.0
Merchandise Exports - Jul	2,544	-2.0
Retail Sales - Jun	3,399	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg % change
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>	Jul '03	
BC	120.5	2.6
Canada	122.2	3.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	Aug '03	
Labour Force - BC	2,216	0.5
Employed - BC	2,023	0.3
Unemployed - BC	193	1.7
	Jul '03	
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	8.7	8.6
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	8.0	7.8
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sep 17/03	Sep 18/02
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.55	5.30
- 5 year	6.40	6.70
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sep 17/03	Sep 18/02
<i>(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$</i>	1.3661	1.5833
<i>US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.7324	0.6336
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	Aug '03	
BC	687.38	2.9
Canada	666.46	2.2

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.bankofcanada.ca

British Columbia Provincial Economic Multipliers and How to Use Them

Author: Garry Horne, April 2003

37 pages

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- Earnings & Employment Trends, August 2003

Next week

- Small Business Quarterly, 2nd Quarter 2003
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