

- BC's off-reserve Aboriginal labour force faces high unemployment rate
- Unemployment rate hits 25 year low
- Energy products continue to boost BC exports

Aboriginal Labour Force

- **BC's working age, off-reserve Aboriginal population faces high unemployment, with rates nearly double those of non-Aboriginals for the Métis population (12.2%) and over three times as high for North American Indians (20.9%).** The survey shows that among North American Indians, women have a harder time finding work (24%) than men (18%) even though they are better educated. Aboriginal peoples in the northern part of the province have a particularly high unemployment rate (23%) compared to the non-Aboriginal population (7%) in the region. However, well-educated Aboriginal peoples do well in the job market -- 80 per cent of those with a post-secondary credential plus a high school diploma are employed which is virtually the same as the non-Aboriginal population with similar credentials (81%). The Aboriginal population is twice as likely to work in the forest sector (8%) as the non-Aboriginal population (4%).

Data Source: BC Stats, BC Aboriginal Labour Force Survey

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 5.7% (seasonally adjusted) in May, reaching the lowest level since January 1981.** The improvement in the unemployment rate was due to strong job growth (+0.8%, or a net gain of 17,700 jobs) in May. Employment in BC has been increasing for six consecutive months since December 2004. The labour force (+0.5%) grew at a lower pace than employment for the third month in a row.

The Canadian unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.8%, as the number of jobs (+0.2%) grew on par with the size of the labour force (+0.2%). Jobless rates in the rest of the country

ranged from 3.5% in Alberta to 15.2% in Newfoundland.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The province's service sector took on more workers in May (+1.5%), while employment in the goods sector contracted 1.6%.** Job losses were localized in the agriculture (-8.9%) and construction (-4.0%) industries. Manufacturing, the biggest employer, also experienced a marginal job loss (-0.3%).

Employment expansion in the service industries were widespread except health care & social assistance (-2.5%) and information, culture & recreation (-2.7%). Public administration (+9.0%) and transportation & warehousing (+6.1%) were the leading industries in May. Wholesale and retail trade (+2.0%), the biggest employer in the service sector, also hired more workers.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Both men (+1.2%) and women (+0.4%) benefited from a more robust job market.** The private (+1.3%) and public (+4.2%) sectors took on more workers, but fewer people were self-employed (-3.7%). Full-time employment rose in May (+1.4%), but 1.2% of part-time jobs were lost.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Relative to May 2004, more workers were hired across the province, with Kootenay (+16.0%, 3-month-moving average) and northern BC (+15.0% in North Coast/Nechako; +10.8% in Northeast) leading the growth.** All other regions of the province saw significant job gains during the 12-month period ending in May.

Unemployment rates were down in every region. Jobless rates dropped substantially in Kootenay (-4.8 percentage points) and North Coast/Nechako (-5.6 percentage points) with the big job gains. Unemployment rates in the

Did you know...

Nine out of ten Canadians feel very shy, afraid or uncomfortable when performing or giving a talk, six out of ten are nervous when going on a date, and one-third are reluctant to use a public washroom.

province ranged from 5.4% in Northeast to 9.5% in Cariboo.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **BC origin exports (seasonally adjusted) climbed 2.2% in April, mostly on the strength of a 9.6% rise in the value of energy exports.** Soaring shipments of coal and natural gas have been mainly responsible for the growth. While the jump in coal exports has been due to a combination of both higher prices and increased demand, the value of natural gas shipments has increased solely due to price inflation as quantities shipped have fallen. Elsewhere, forest sector exports dipped (-0.9%) for the second month in a row, but there was strong growth in shipments of machinery, equipment and automobiles (+4.2%).

Exports to the United States rebounded (+1.2%) to recover all the ground lost in March. Energy (+3.3%), forest products (+1.6%) and machinery, equipment and automobiles (+5.0%) all had strong growth in exports; however, shipments of industrial and consumer products fell significantly (-4.7%).

Source: BC Stats

- **Canadian exports edged up 0.3% (seasonally adjusted) in April.** Shipments to the US slipped (-0.4%), while exports to other nations strengthened. Machinery and equipment (+3.6%) and agriculture & fish (+2.4%) product exports expanded, but international shipments of energy (-1.7%), automotive (-1.2%) and forest (-1.0%) products were down from March levels.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities fell 4.6% (seasonally adjusted) in April, the first decline in 2005, as a plunge in the value of permits for non-residential construction (-28.6%) offset a gain in the residential sector (+13.0%).** Institutional projects (-62.1%) posted the steepest drop. The value of building permits in Vancouver (-4.3%), Victoria (-2.0%) and Abbotsford (-55.6%) all declined.

Nationally, building permits were down 2.6%, with rates ranging from a decrease of 39.7% in Newfoundland & Labrador to an increase of

36.0% in Prince Edward Island.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Housing

- **The cost of new housing in BC's two largest cities continued to climb in April, rising 4.4% (year-over-year) in Vancouver and 5.9% in Victoria.** House prices played an important role in the Victoria market, increasing 6.2%.

Nationally, the cost of new housing advanced 4.9% during the twelve-month period ending in April. New housing costs were up in every metropolitan area, with Winnipeg (+8.4%) posting the largest increase. After Winnipeg, the most inflationary new housing markets were in St. Catharines-Niagara (+8.1%), Saskatoon (+7.6%), and Hamilton (+7.1%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **Canadian industries operated at 86.4% of full capacity in the first quarter of 2005, down slightly from 86.6% at the end of 2004.** Demand in durable goods gave a boost to the manufacturing sector, where capacity utilization reached its highest level (87.0%). Producers of wood (93.6%) and paper (90.6%) both operated at near-full capacity, although capacity utilization for both was lower than in the fourth quarter of 2004.

Other than manufacturing, capacity utilization declined in all sectors. Forestry & logging (92.7%) and mining, oil & gas extraction (84.7%), although still busy, both declined substantially from the previous quarter. Capacity utilization edged down in construction (-0.5 percentage points) and the electrical power (-0.4 percentage points) industry.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Labour productivity growth was stagnant in Canada (+0.2%) in the first quarter of 2005.** It was only one-third of the US productivity increase (+0.6%). This gap is mainly from more rapid economic growth in the United States.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

*Infoline Issue: 05-23
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Labour Market Characteristics of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Population in British Columbia

For the 12 month period April 2004 to March 2005

Since April 2004, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through the monthly Labour Force Survey on the labour market status of Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in the four western provinces. In order to get more reliable information on the labour market outcomes of off-reserve Aboriginal peoples in BC, the province of British Columbia sponsored an expansion of the survey. The increased sample has enabled Statistics Canada to produce reasonably reliable estimates of labour market characteristics of the off-reserve North American Indian and Métis populations living in BC for the 12-month period from April 2004 to March 2005. Data will continue to be released on a quarterly basis up to the 1st quarter of 2006. At that point, BC STATS will produce a second Highlights report covering the April 2005 to March 2006 period.

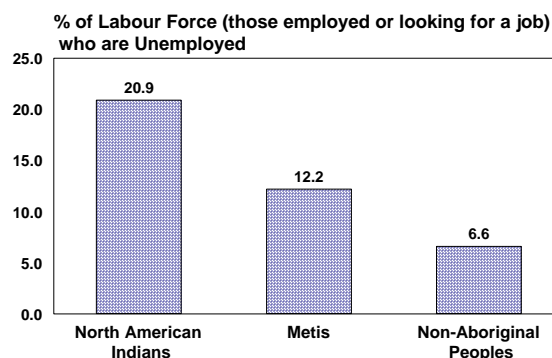
The expanded sample of Aboriginal peoples in the Labour Force Survey has made it possible to provide estimates of their labour market characteristics at 3 sub-provincial areas of the province; 1) the Large Metropolitan Areas of Vancouver, Victoria, Abbotsford and Kelowna; 2) the South, excluding the large metropolitan areas; and 3) the North. There are also tabulations of where the First Nations, who live off-reserve, reside in the province by Band Grouping and by Band.

In a time period when the British Columbia labour market has been performing well, with an average unemployment rate of 6.9 per cent, North American Indians still show high incidences of unemployment. Among the working age population (15 and over), the unemployment rate of 21 per cent is more than three times that of the non-Aboriginal population.

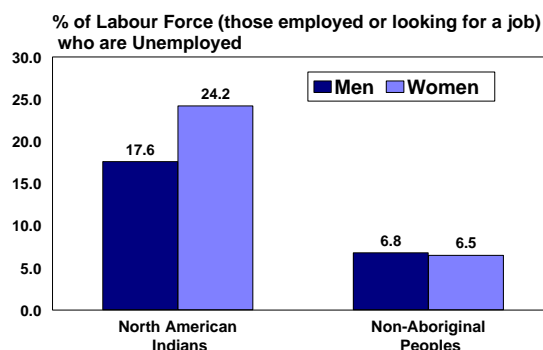
The Métis population are finding work more readily than North American Indians, but their unemployment rate, at 12 per cent, is close to double that of the non-Aboriginal population.

While the unemployment rates for non-Aboriginal men and women have been very similar in the last year or so, Aboriginal women appear to have significantly more difficulty in finding work, particularly female North American Indians.

The Unemployment Rate for Aboriginal Peoples is significantly higher than for Non-Aboriginal Peoples. One in five North American Indians who want to work are unable to find a job. This compares to one in fifteen of Non-Aboriginal Peoples.



North American Indian men have a substantially easier time finding work than the women. This is in contrast to Non-Aboriginal men and women, where the men find it marginally more difficult to find work.



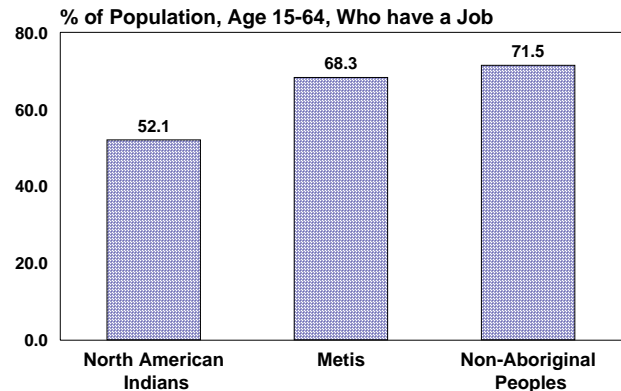
In terms of the relative number of people in the three populations who have jobs, the differences are not nearly so dramatic. Among the Métis population, the per cent of their population who do have a job is very similar to that of the non-Aboriginal population.

Among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples who do have work, their hours spent on the job are fairly similar at 36.5 versus 36.9 average hours per week, respectively.

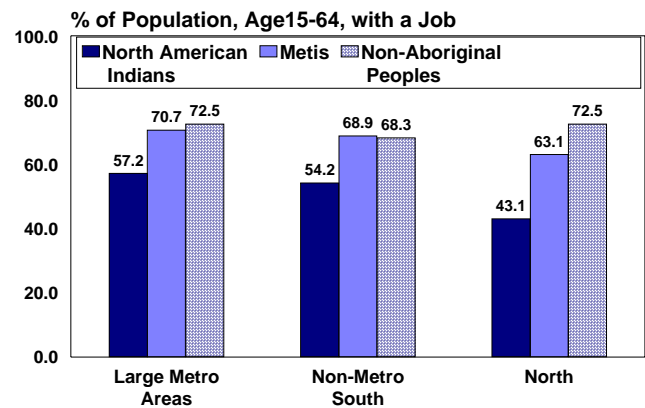
The differences in employment rates between North American Indians living off-reserve and non-Aboriginal peoples in Northern BC is particularly daunting. In a part of the province where three out of four prime-aged non-Aboriginal persons are able to find work, only 43 per cent of North American Indians are able to do so. The Métis in the North also seem to be having problems relative to the Métis in other parts of BC as well as to the non-Aboriginal population in the region. One of the positive pieces of information that shows up in the data is that when the employment rates are compared between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples who have the same levels of education, many of the differences in labour market outcomes disappear.

Approximately 78 per cent of North American Indians who have a completed high school diploma plus a post secondary certificate or diploma have a job compared to 81 per cent among non-Aboriginal peoples.

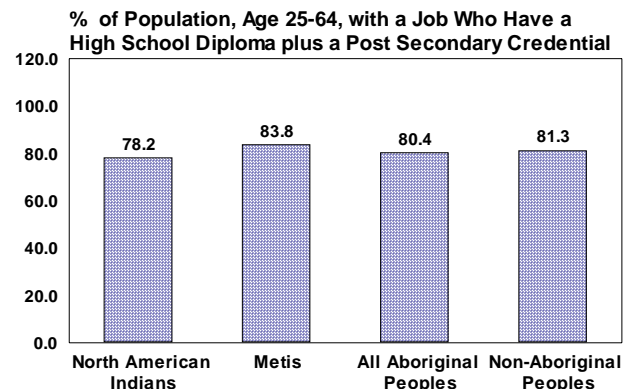
Once more, the differential between North American Indians' employment rate and that of the Non-Aboriginal population is substantial. However, the proportion of Métis with a job is not far behind that of the Non-Aboriginal population



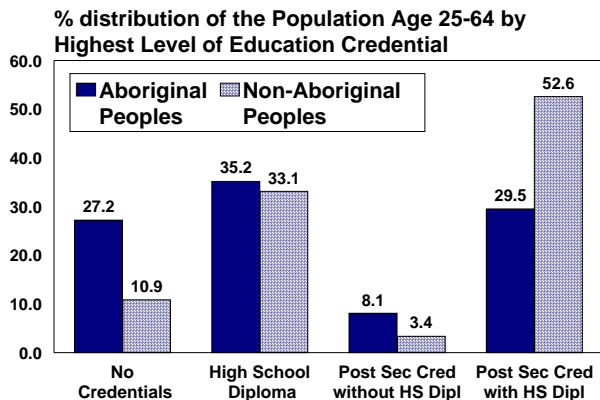
In the Southern parts of BC, the work profiles of Métis and Non-Aboriginal Peoples are virtually the same. However, the employment rates of North American Indians indicate they are an extremely dis-advantaged group across the province, particularly in the North.



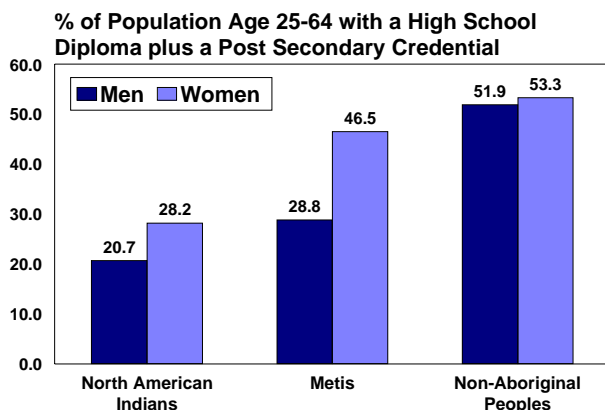
Among the well educated segment of the population, the differences in participation in the job market between aboriginal and non-aboriginal groups all but disappear.



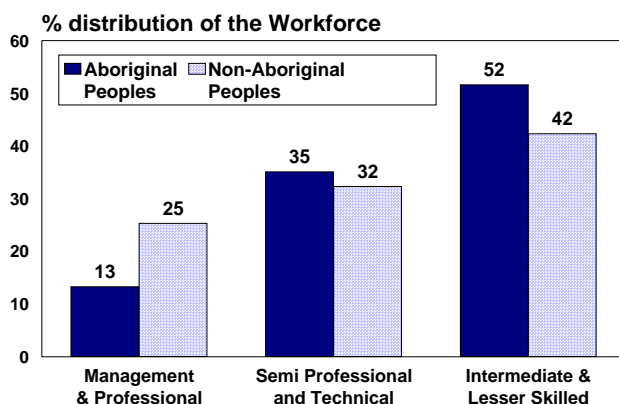
The differing levels of education attainment between the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal groups goes a long way in explaining their inequality in the workplace.



Among the Aboriginal populations, the women are significantly better educated than the men.



As one would expect, given their differing levels of education attainment, Aboriginal Peoples are under-represented in the higher skilled occupations and over-represented in the lower skilled occupations



As so much of the differences between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups can be explained by the differences in their education levels, it is critical to understand how very disadvantaged North American Indians are when it comes to their education attainment. More than one in four (28%) of the prime working-aged population have neither a high school diploma nor post secondary credentials. Only 5 per cent have a university degree, compared to 11 per cent for the Métis and 22 per cent for the non-Aboriginal population.

The gender differences in educational attainment are also of interest. Women in off-reserve Aboriginal communities far surpass men in their education levels. Close to 50 per cent of Métis women have completed high school plus post secondary, well ahead of the men where only 29 per cent have achieved the same level.

The disparity in educational attainment means the skill levels of the jobs that are available to Aboriginal peoples are considerably lower than those available to non-Aboriginal peoples. Few Aboriginal peoples have university degrees, so most of the professions are not accessible. Aboriginal peoples are more than equally represented in the Technical group of occupations, particularly in the trades. Four out of 10 of the Métis workforce are in this occupational group.

The relative wage rates between the Aboriginal groups reflect the relative skill levels of their populations. The wages shown by level of education are particularly enlightening. Those with a high school diploma are working in jobs that on average pay the same wage regardless of ethnicity.

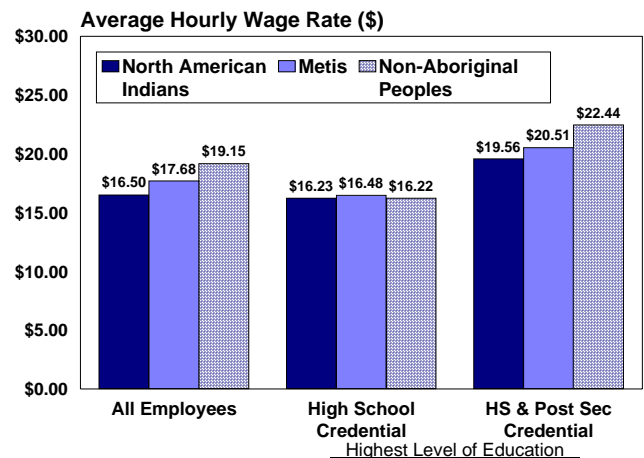
There does remain a differential in wages for those who have completed high school plus post secondary but that is explainable. All post secondary credentials are not of equal value and as was already shown, relatively more of the non-Aboriginal population have university degrees.

There is virtually no difference between the male and female wage rates among North American Indians (men earn only \$.80 more per hour) while among the non-Aboriginal community, men earn \$3.33 more than women.

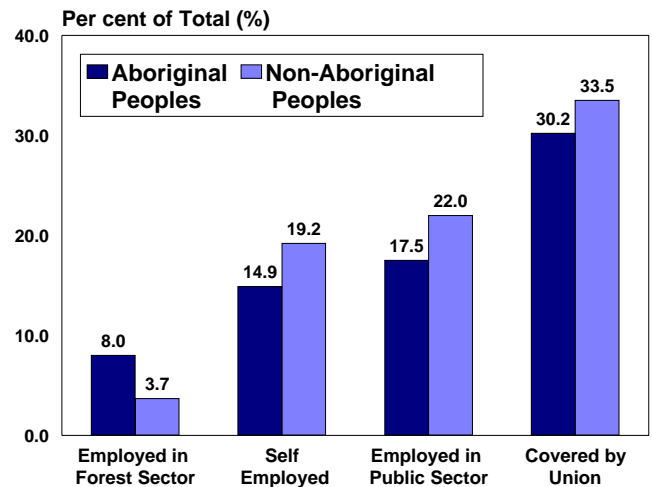
Other interesting information gleaned from the data is that Aboriginal peoples are twice as likely as non-Aboriginal peoples to work in the forest sector. On the other hand, Aboriginal peoples are less likely to work in the health and education sectors. As these sectors consist primarily of unionized, public sector jobs, Aboriginal peoples tend to be under-represented in the public sector and have lower levels of unionization. Relatively fewer Aboriginal peoples are self-employed due in part to lower representation in professional occupations such as doctors, lawyers and accountants.

Aboriginal peoples are observed to be returning to school in their adult years. The percentages appear fairly small at six per cent. However, if six per cent of all Aboriginal adults complete a post secondary credential each year, their education attainment levels could improve very quickly.

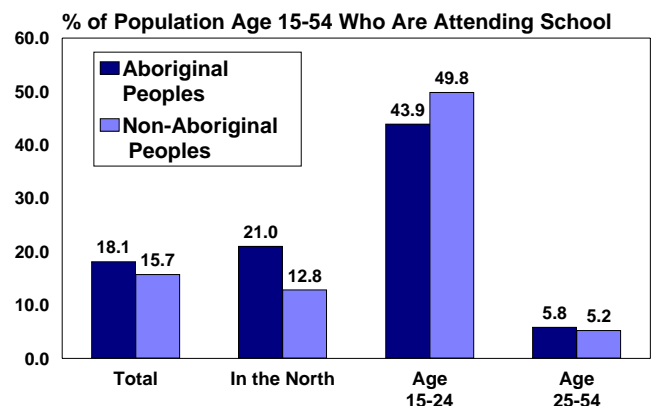
Indicators of Wage Rate Differentials



Other Job Characteristics



A higher proportion of the Aboriginal population attend school than the Non-Aboriginal population, not in their youth, but when over the age of 24. There is an indication that in Northern BC, many Aboriginals are now attending school.





Aboriginal Peoples Labour Force Survey

12 Month Average -- April 2004 to March 2005

Population Living Off Reserve

	North American Indian	Metis	All Aboriginal Peoples	Non- Aboriginal Peoples	Gap Between Non-Aboriginal Peoples and Aboriginal Peoples <small>(Value for Non- Aboriginal Peoples minus value for Aboriginal Peoples¹)</small>
Who Has a Job? (view similar info from 2001 Census)					
% of the Population With a Job					
Among the 15-64 Population (number)					
	53,800	32,400	86,700	2,778,200	
Total	52.1	68.3	58.0	71.5	13.5
<i>By Age</i>					
Age 15-24	35.5	53.8	41.9	55.8	13.9
Age 25-64	59.0	74.0	64.6	75.3	10.7
<i>By Gender</i>					
Male	58.2	73.8	64.3	75.6	11.3
Female	46.7	62.7	52.2	67.5	15.3
<i>By Region</i> (view map)					
In the Large Metropolitan Areas	57.2	70.7	62.5	72.5	10.0
In the South Outside the Metropolitan Areas	54.2	68.9	59.7	68.3	8.6
In the North	43.1	63.1	49.4	72.5	23.1
<i>By Highest Level of Education</i>					
<i>Among Non-students, age 25-64</i>					
With No Completed Credentials	46.7	69.6	54.4	58.5	4.1
With High School Diploma	57.3	70.6	61.8	74.6	12.8
With Post Secondary Credential	76.2	79.9	77.9	80.6	2.7
- Without High School	*	*	68.4	71.1	2.7
- With High School	78.2	83.8	80.4	81.3	0.9
Who Is Unemployed? (view similar info from 2001 Census)					
% of the Labour Force who are Unemployed					
Among the 15+ Labour Force					
Total	20.9	12.2	17.3	6.6	-10.7
<i>By Age</i>					
Age 15-24	27.2	18.8	23.6	12.5	-11.1
Age 25-64	19.5	10.3	15.7	5.6	-10.1
<i>By Gender</i>					
Male	17.6	*	14.6	6.8	-7.8
Female	24.2	*	20.2	6.5	-13.7
<i>By Region</i> (view map)					
Large Metropolitan Areas	18.3	*	15.8	6.2	-9.6
Southern Region (Outside the Metropolitan Areas)	*	*	14.8	7.7	-7.1
Northern Region	28.2	*	23.0	7.3	-15.7



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Population Living Off Reserve

	North American Indian	Metis	All Aboriginal Peoples	Non- Aboriginal Peoples	Gap Between Non-Aboriginal Peoples and Aboriginal Peoples <small>(Value for Non- Aboriginal Peoples minus value for Aboriginal Peoples¹)</small>
Type of Jobs (view similar info from 2001 Census)					
<i>Among the Population Who Have a Job (Number)</i>	28,600	22,300	51,000	2,024,600	
<i>Occupation</i>					
% in Management and Professional Occupations *		*	13.3	25.3	12.0
% in Semi Professional/Technical occupation	32.9	38.1	35.1	32.3	-2.8
% in Intermediate and lesser skilled occupations	54.9	47.5	51.6	42.3	-9.3
<i>Industrial Sector</i>					
% In Goods Producing	28.7	26.0	27.6	21.1	-6.5
% in Forest Industry (logging, wood and pulp & paper manufacturing)	*	*	8.0	3.7	-4.3
% In Service Sector	71.3	74.4	72.5	78.9	6.4
% in Education, Health & Social Services	*	*	12.9	17.2	4.3
<i>Industrial Sector by Region</i> (view map)					
% In Service Sector					
-In the Large Metropolitan Areas	77.2	80.4	78.7	81.7	3.0
-In the Southern Region outside the Large Metropolitan Areas	67.8	69.4	68.1	74.2	6.1
-In the Northern Region	*	*	66.7	66.5	-0.2
<i>Other Attributes of the Job</i>					
% Self Employed	14.7	15.2	14.9	19.2	4.3
% Paid Worker	85.3	84.8	85.1	80.8	-4.3
<i>Among Paid Workers</i>					
% in the Private Sector	80.7	85.2	82.5	78.0	-4.5
% Covered by a Collective Agreement	31.6	28.0	30.2	33.5	3.3
Average Hourly Wage Rate (\$)	16.50	17.68	17.02	19.15	2.13
<i>By Gender</i>					
- Male	16.89	18.92	17.80	20.81	3.01
- Female	16.09	16.26	16.16	17.48	1.32
- Male-Female Wage Gap(\$)	0.80	2.66	1.64	3.33	
<i>By Highest Level of Education</i>					
-With completed High School	16.23	16.48	16.33	16.22	-0.11
-With completed High School and a Post Secondary Credential	19.56	20.51	20.04	22.44	2.40
<i>By Region</i>					
-In the Large Metropolitan Areas	16.25	17.61	16.87	19.31	2.44
-In the Southern Region outside the Large Metropolitan Areas	16.18	19.05	17.44	18.45	1.01
-In the Northern Region	17.35	*	16.76	19.67	2.91
<i>Other Characteristics of the Workforce</i>					
% who work part time	22.4	23.8	22.9	19.3	-3.6
% who work > 40 Hours	*	*	17.8	17.7	-0.1
Average Weekly Hours Worked	36.7	36.2	36.5	36.9	0.4



Aboriginal Peoples Labour Force Survey

12 Month Average -- April 2004 to March 2005

Population Living Off Reserve

	North American Indian	Metis	All Aboriginal Peoples	Non- Aboriginal Peoples	Gap Between Non-Aboriginal Peoples and Aboriginal Peoples <small>(Value for Non- Aboriginal Peoples minus value for Aboriginal Peoples¹)</small>
Labour Supply (view similar info from 2001 Census)					
Highest Level of Education					
Among the Population Age 25-64					
% With No Completed Credentials	28.5	24.6	27.2	10.9	-16.3
% with High School Credential	38.0	31.0	35.2	33.1	-2.1
% with Post Secondary Credential	33.2	44.8	37.6	56.0	18.4
- % with a Credential, either High School or Post Secondary	71.2	75.9	72.8	89.1	16.3
<i>By Gender</i>					
Men	66.9	71.2	68.8	88.4	19.6
Women	75.1	80.7	76.6	89.8	13.2
<i>By Region</i> (view map)					
-In the Large Metropolitan Areas	73.7	79.8	76.0	90.9	14.9
-In the Southern Region (outside the Large Metropolitan Areas)	70.2	80.2	75.0	85.9	10.9
-In the Northern Region	68.2	61.4	65.9	81.9	16.0
- % with both a High School Credential and a Post Secondary Credential	24.8	37.5	29.5	52.6	23.1
<i>By Gender</i>					
Men	20.7	28.8	24.0	51.9	27.9
Women	28.2	46.5	34.8	53.3	18.5
<i>By Region</i> (view map)					
-In the Large Metropolitan Areas	34.6	46.8	39.6	56.3	16.7
-In the Southern Region (outside the Large Metropolitan Areas)	*	*	22.4	44.9	22.5
-In the Northern Region	*	*	22.8	41.5	18.7
<i>By Level of Post Secondary Credential</i>					
- % With a University Degree	*	10.8	7.0	22.4	15.4
Who's at School? (view similar info from 2001 Census)					
Among the Population Age 15-54					
% Attending School	18.6	17.4	18.1	15.7	-2.4
<i>By Age</i>					
15-24	*	*	43.9	49.8	5.9
25-54	*	*	5.8	5.2	-0.6
<i>By Gender</i>					
Men	*	*	17.7	15.0	-2.7
Women	*	*	18.4	16.4	-2.0
<i>By Region</i> (view map)					
-In the Large Metropolitan Areas	*	*	19.1	16.6	-2.5
-In the Southern Region (outside the Large Metropolitan Areas)	*	*	14.6	13.7	-0.9
-In the Northern Region	*	*	21.0	12.8	-8.2

* Estimate too unreliable to release.

1. A positive gap means that Aboriginal peoples have a higher value for that variable than non-Aboriginal peoples and a negative gap means the opposite. For variables where higher values mean better outcomes (for example, the "% of the population with a job"), a positive gap means Aboriginal performance is not as good as non-Aboriginal performance. For variables where higher values mean worse outcomes (for example, the "% of the labour force who are unemployed"), a positive gap means Aboriginal performance is better than non-Aboriginal performance. The greater the number, the greater the inequality between the two groups. For variables that measure a societal good, such as education achievements or a societal bad such as unemployment rates, the goal is to minimize the gap between the two groups.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Produced by: BC STATS

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 **Email** transmission information service from **BC STATS**

 also on the **Internet** at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Jan 1/05	
BC	4,220.0	1.1
Canada	32,078.8	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
<i>(BC - at market prices)</i>	2004	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	156,481	7.5
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	138,783	3.9
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	33,072	2.8
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	20,002	1.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar	3,581	-0.1
Merchandise Exports - Apr	2,652	2.2
Retail Sales - Mar	4,134	0.8
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg % change
<i>(all items - 1992=100)</i>	Apr '05	
BC	124.9	2.3
Canada	126.9	2.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
<i>(seasonally adjusted)</i>	May '05	
Labour Force - BC	2,261	0.5
Employed - BC	2,132	0.8
Unemployed - BC	130	-5.3
	Apr '05	
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	5.7	6.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	6.8	6.8
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 8/05	Jun 9/04
Prime Business Rate	4.25	3.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.75	4.45
- 5 year	5.70	6.70
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 8/05	Jun 9/04
<i>(avg. noon spot rate)</i> Cdn \$	1.2440	1.3541
US \$ <i>(reciprocal of the closing rate)</i>	0.7990	0.7360
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
<i>(industrial aggregate - dollars)</i>	May '05	
BC	698.81	3.7
Canada	696.25	2.7
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		

Labour market characteristics of off-reserve Aboriginal population



It is now possible to examine the labour market characteristics of off-reserve Aboriginals. The data, from an expanded sample of Aboriginal peoples in the labour force survey, highlight some defining characteristics that contribute to their experience. In the past, this type of data has been available from the census but was limited to a snapshot taken in mid-May at five year intervals. A full year of sampled monthly data, fully integrated to the labour force survey, will be of great interest to researchers, policy makers and other users.

On-line at

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lfs/abor/ap_index.htm

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