



Labour Market Bulletin

British Columbia

November 2016



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of British Columbia (BC), including the regions of Northern BC, Vancouver Island and Coast, Lower Mainland, Thompson-Okanagan and the Kootenays.

OVERVIEW

Employment in BC decreased by an estimated 9,300 in November, with losses in both full-time (-5,600) and part-time (-3,700). The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 6.1% in November, still the lowest among the provinces. Nationally, the unemployment rate declined to 6.8%, as fewer people searched for work.

On a year-over-year basis, BC's employment growth of 2.1% in November remained the fastest among the provinces.¹ In contrast to the national trend, where part-time employment drove gains over the 12-month period, in BC gains were more evenly split between full-time (+28,000) and part-time (+20,400).

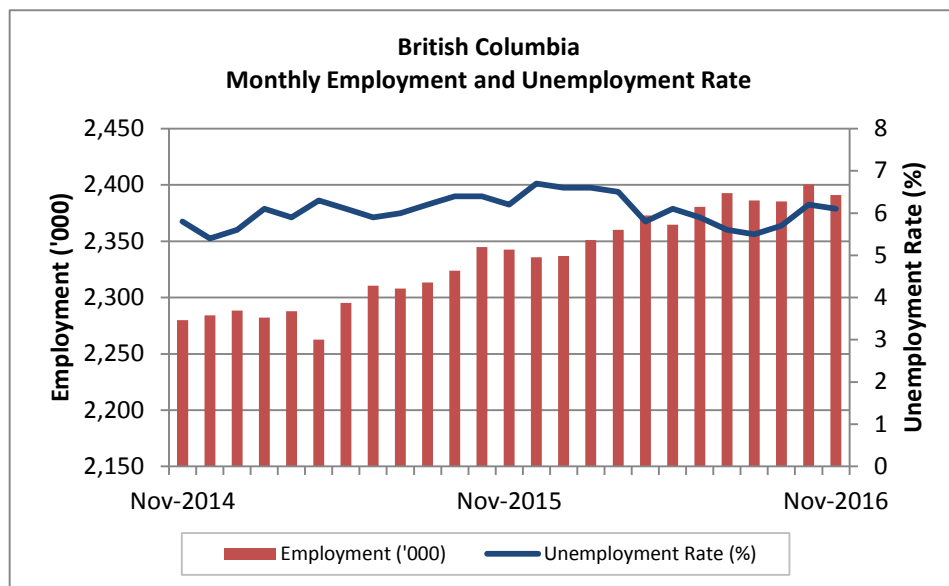
The labour force expanded rapidly in BC over the past 12-months by an estimated 48,300 (+1.9%); this rate of growth is double the overall national rate (+0.8%). The participation rate in BC at 64.5% also posted the strongest year-over-year growth (0.4 percentage points) in November amongst the provinces.

British Columbia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	November 2016	October 2016	November 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	3,950.0	3,947.3	3,899.9	2.7	0.1	50.1	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	2,546.6	2,558.2	2,498.3	-11.6	-0.5	48.3	1.9
Employment ('000)	2,391.1	2,400.4	2,342.7	-9.3	-0.4	48.4	2.1
Full-Time ('000)	1,865.7	1,871.3	1,837.7	-5.6	-0.3	28.0	1.5
Part-Time ('000)	525.4	529.1	505.0	-3.7	-0.7	20.4	4.0
Unemployment ('000)	155.4	157.8	155.6	-2.4	-1.5	-0.2	-0.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	6.2	6.2	-0.1	-	-0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.5	64.8	64.1	-0.3	-	0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.5	60.8	60.1	-0.3	-	0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087



Youth aged 15 to 24 years in BC saw their employment decline by 7,600 in November, bringing total employment to total 331,200. The gains in youth part-time (+5,000) were not enough to offset their full-time losses (-12,600) in November. The BC youth unemployment rate (10.6%) is twice that for workers 25 years and over (5.3%) in November.

The youth unemployment rate in BC is 0.6 percentage points lower compared with the previous 12-months, and is still the lowest compared to other provinces. The national unemployment rate for youth is 12.9% in November.

British Columbia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	November 2016 (%)	October 2016 (%)	November 2015 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.1	6.2	6.2	-0.1	-0.1
25 years and over	5.3	5.5	5.4	-0.2	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	5.6	5.8	5.7	-0.2	-0.1
Women - 25 years and over	5.1	5.1	5.0	0.0	0.1
15 to 24 years	10.6	10.2	11.2	0.4	-0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	10.9	9.4	14.1	1.5	-3.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.3	11.0	8.0	-0.7	2.3

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment losses in November were concentrated in the services-producing sector (-16,000); while gains occurred in the goods-producing sector (+6,700). Although, on a year-over-year basis, the services sector employed 42,600 more workers, representing growth of 2.3%. The goods-producing sector saw a relatively smaller increase of 5,800 workers (+1.2%) over the same 12-month period.

In BC's services sector declines were wide-spread in November among the 11 sub-sectors. Only finance, insurance, real estate (FIRE) and leasing, along with accommodations and food services posted monthly increases. Although the FIRE industries only posted a modest increase of 1,400 for the month, this sub-sector grew 19.7% (+23,700) year-over-year, accounting for half the gains in the services sector. The growth in the FIRE sub-sector over the 12-month period comes from employment growth in finance, represented by banks, investment banking, and securities brokerages. A few new federally chartered banks have opened in Vancouver since the start of the year; many of these offer services in financial planning and wealth management.²

The largest monthly employment declines in the services sector were in: public administration (-4,700), educational services (-3,300), transportation and warehousing (-2,700), and information, culture and recreation (-2,700). On a year-over-year basis, the declines in educational services translated to 7,500 (-4.5%) fewer workers, and the declines occurred mainly in elementary and secondary schools. The November Supreme Court of Canada ruling on class-size limits, specialist teachers and the number of students with special needs per class³, will likely mean increased recruitment of teachers in BC.

On the goods-producing side in November, more workers were employed in construction (+3,500) and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+2,300). On a year-over-year basis, construction added 15,700 (+7.8%) more workers and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas contributed 3,500 (+7.4%) to employment.

British Columbia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	November 2016	October 2016	November 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	2,391.1	2,400.4	2,342.7	-9.3	-0.4	48.4	2.1
Goods-producing sector	476.9	470.2	471.1	6.7	1.4	5.8	1.2
Agriculture	26.3	25.7	26.1	0.6	2.3	0.2	0.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	50.8	48.5	47.3	2.3	4.7	3.5	7.4
Utilities	13.5	13.5	15.2	0.0	0.0	-1.7	-11.2
Construction	218.2	214.7	202.5	3.5	1.6	15.7	7.8
Manufacturing	168.2	167.9	180.0	0.3	0.2	-11.8	-6.6
Services-producing sector	1,914.2	1,930.2	1,871.6	-16.0	-0.8	42.6	2.3
Trade	365.2	366.3	354.3	-1.1	-0.3	10.9	3.1
Transportation and warehousing	139.9	142.6	141.5	-2.7	-1.9	-1.6	-1.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	143.9	142.5	120.2	1.4	1.0	23.7	19.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	194.9	196.8	188.3	-1.9	-1.0	6.6	3.5
Business, building and other support services	107.2	108.8	99.7	-1.6	-1.5	7.5	7.5
Educational services	158.0	161.3	165.5	-3.3	-2.0	-7.5	-4.5
Health care and social assistance	292.5	294.0	297.0	-1.5	-0.5	-4.5	-1.5
Information, culture and recreation	127.1	129.8	121.9	-2.7	-2.1	5.2	4.3
Accommodation and food services	175.8	171.1	176.2	4.7	2.7	-0.4	-0.2
Other services	106.2	108.7	108.2	-2.5	-2.3	-2.0	-1.8
Public administration	103.4	108.1	98.8	-4.7	-4.3	4.6	4.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Provincial employment growth in November was once again centered in the southern-most region of the province. Year-over-year employment is down in three of BC's seven sub-regions.

On a year-over-year basis, the unemployment rate for Vancouver Island and Coast dropped by 1.1 percentage points to 5.2%. In the Lower Mainland, the unemployment rate was also 5.2% in November. Both regions continue to benefit from a strong housing market, and increased activity in tourism and other service-oriented industries. The population in both regions continues to rise, stimulating demand for housing and other goods and services.

In the Northeast of BC, the unemployment rate increased to 10.1%, a level not seen since 2009. On a year-over-year basis, the unemployment rate increased 3.1 percentage points in the Northeast. In the Kootenay region, the unemployment rate eased to 8.9% in November, still a 3.2 percentage point increase compared with the previous 12-months.

British Columbia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	November 2016 ('000)	November 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	November 2016 (%)	November 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
British Columbia	2,400.6	2,346.2	2.3	5.7	6.0	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Vancouver Island and Coast	378.1	362.8	4.2	5.2	6.3	-1.1
Lower Mainland-Southwest	1,542.4	1,504.5	2.5	5.2	5.8	-0.6
Thompson-Okanagan	252.4	249.4	1.2	7.4	6.4	1.0
Kootenay	68.3	69.0	-1.0	8.9	5.7	3.2
Cariboo	79.9	80.2	-0.4	7.2	7.1	0.1
North Coast and Nechako	41.3	40.6	1.7	7.4	6.9	0.5
Northeast	38.2	39.8	-4.0	10.1	7.0	3.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

Prepared by: Labour Market Information (LMI) Directorate, Service Canada, British Columbia

For further information, please contact the LMI team at: NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2016, all rights reserved

¹ Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, November 2016. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/161202/dq161202a-eng.htm?HPA=1>

² The Vancouver Sun. September 21, 2016. Retrieved from: <http://vancouversun.com/business/local-business/new-bank-targets-chinese-canadians>

³ CBC, November 10, 2016. BCTF wins Supreme Court battle over class size and composition. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bctf-wins-supreme-court-battle-over-class-size-and-composition-1.3845620>