



Labour Market Bulletin

British Columbia

July 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 increased slightly in July. There were 12,100 additional people employed in the province compared to a month earlier, representing an employment jump of 0.5%. This month-over-month increase is entirely due to a gain in part-time employment (+33,900) with loses in full-time work (-21,800) only partially offsetting part-time gains. The provincial labour market continues to perform well on a year-over-year basis. Employment is up 3.7% on the year and 84,700 more people were employed compared to the same month last year. In fact, BC has the highest rate of annual employment growth among provinces, far out pacing national growth of 0.4% during the same period.

Employment gains have led to a decrease in the unemployment rate in British Columbia. In July the unemployment rate stood at 5.6% compared to 5.9% in June 2016 and 6.0% in July 2015. The number of unemployed shrunk both on the month (-7,400) and on the year (-6,200).

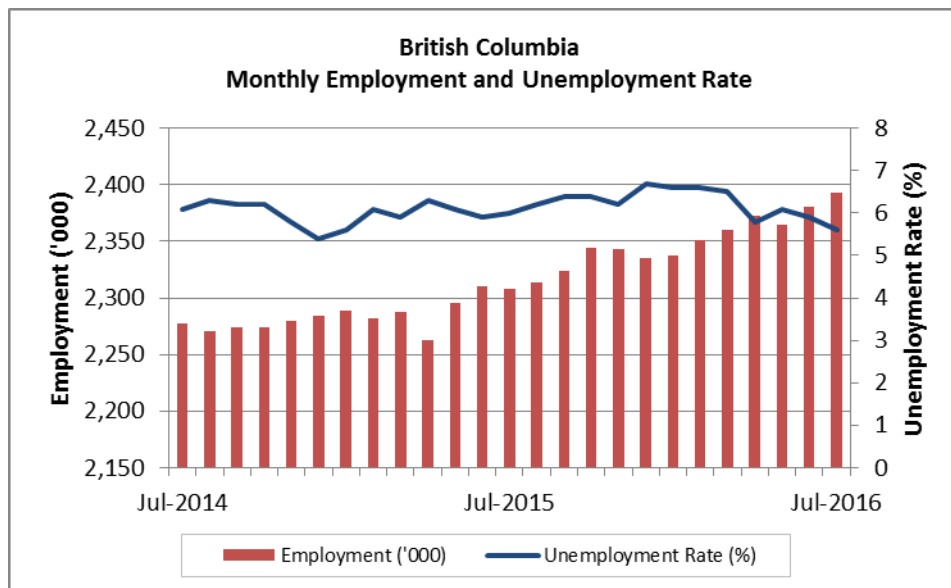
British Columbia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2016	June 2016	July 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	3,934.6	3,928.9	3,879.5	5.7	0.1	55.1	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	2,535.0	2,530.3	2,456.5	4.7	0.2	78.5	3.2
Employment ('000)	2,392.7	2,380.6	2,308.0	12.1	0.5	84.7	3.7
Full-Time ('000)	1,859.3	1,881.1	1,819.3	-21.8	-1.2	40.0	2.2
Part-Time ('000)	533.4	499.5	488.6	33.9	6.8	44.8	9.2
Unemployment ('000)	142.3	149.7	148.5	-7.4	-4.9	-6.2	-4.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.9	6.0	-0.3	-	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.4	64.4	63.3	0.0	-	1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.8	60.6	59.5	0.2	-	1.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Moreover, all signs point to British Columbia holding on to the top spot in 2016 provincial growth rankings.¹ According to the Royal Bank of Canada’s latest forecast, GDP growth in the province will be 3.0% in 2016, before easing to 2.3% in 2017.²



British Columbia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2016	June 2016	July 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.6	5.9	6.0	-0.3	-0.4
25 years and over	4.9	5.0	5.2	-0.1	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	5.1	5.3	5.3	-0.2	-0.2
Women - 25 years and over	4.7	4.7	5.0	0.0	-0.3
15 to 24 years	9.8	11.2	11.2	-1.4	-1.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.1	11.2	12.8	0.9	-0.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.3	11.1	9.5	-3.8	-2.2

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

At 9.8%, the unemployment rate for BC youth aged 15 to 24 continues to hover around two times the overall unemployment rate, but is moderately lower than last year (-1.4 percentage points). The change is largely due to a decrease in the unemployment rate for young women—from 9.5% to 7.3% on the year.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in BC's goods-producing sector increased by 2,700 (0.6%) from last month and by 25,400 (5.7%) from last year. Growth occurred primarily in construction (+2,200 monthly; +16,800 yearly).

Employment in BC's services-producing sector was up 59,300 (+3.2%) from the same period one year earlier. The largest yearly employment gains occurred in professional, scientific and technical services (+16,700). Health care and social assistance showed strong employment gains on the month (+9,900).

British Columbia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2016	June 2016	July 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	2,392.7	2,380.6	2,308.0	12.1	0.5	84.7	3.7
Goods-producing sector	471.6	468.9	446.2	2.7	0.6	25.4	5.7
Agriculture	25.9	23.9	22.8	2.0	8.4	3.1	13.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	51.7	52.9	47.4	-1.2	-2.3	4.3	9.1
Utilities	13.0	13.5	14.2	-0.5	-3.7	-1.2	-8.5
Construction	213.6	211.4	196.7	2.2	1.0	16.9	8.6
Manufacturing	167.3	167.3	165.1	0.0	0.0	2.2	1.3
Services-producing sector	1,921.1	1,911.7	1,861.8	9.4	0.5	59.3	3.2
Trade	363.9	361.5	353.4	2.4	0.7	10.5	3.0
Transportation and warehousing	138.5	138.9	141.9	-0.4	-0.3	-3.4	-2.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	136.3	133.9	124.0	2.4	1.8	12.3	9.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	202.3	203.2	185.6	-0.9	-0.4	16.7	9.0
Business, building and other support services	107.0	106.0	97.7	1.0	0.9	9.3	9.5
Educational services	163.5	170.9	167.7	-7.4	-4.3	-4.2	-2.5
Health care and social assistance	298.0	288.1	298.5	9.9	3.4	-0.5	-0.2
Information, culture and recreation	125.8	121.1	116.8	4.7	3.9	9.0	7.7
Accommodation and food services	175.4	178.5	180.0	-3.1	-1.7	-4.6	-2.6
Other services	105.4	104.5	100.4	0.9	0.9	5.0	5.0
Public administration	105.0	105.2	96.0	-0.2	-0.2	9.0	9.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Southern urban centers continue to be the main drivers of provincial employment growth in July. At 5.9%, the Lower Mainland's year-over-year employment growth rate was by far BC's highest, but the North Coast and Nechako region has seen a growth in employment of 4.0% annually.

Most of the province's employment is centered in the Lower Mainland-Southwest region with 1.6 million people working in that region; an increase of 87,100 from the same month last year. Meanwhile, the region's unemployment rate dropped 0.5 percentage points to 5.5% on a year-over-year basis. Notable employment increases occurred in information, culture and recreation (16.0%), business, building and other support services (15.9%), and wholesale and retail trade (10.6%).

Year-over-year employment is also up in Vancouver Island and Coast (+8,700). Growth is particularly evident in public administration (+8,100) and professional, scientific and technical services (+4,100). The unemployment rate in Vancouver Island and Coast (4.9%) is at its lowest in the province.

The North Coast and Nechako region saw important gains in the service sectors that are offsetting losses in the goods sectors. The region added 1,800 jobs in wholesale and retail trade, 1,500 in the public administration and 1,400 in educational services. In parallel, manufacturing has declined by 2,100 employed individuals. Most employment gains have been part-time employment (+2,600 over last year) compared to full-time employment (-700). Overall, employment growth is slowing down from the July 2014 to July 2015 period, mostly due to a reduction in full-time employment.

Meanwhile, Kootenay experienced the largest year-over-year employment decline, as employment slid back 6.1%. There were 4,300 fewer people employed in Kootenay in July 2016 compared to the same month last year. The region's employment losses are largely attributed to declines in wholesale and retail trade (-4,800) and accommodation and food services (-1,200). However, there also was a large decrease in the active population in the region and, as a consequence, the unemployment rate decreased 2.3 percentage points on a year-over-year basis reaching 6.8%.

British Columbia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2016 ('000)	July 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2016 (%)	July 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
British Columbia	2,406.7	2,323.3	3.6	5.8	6.1	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Vancouver Island and Coast	366.1	357.4	2.4	4.9	6.0	-1.1
Lower Mainland-Southwest	1,559.6	1,472.5	5.9	5.5	6.0	-0.5
Thompson-Okanagan	251.3	261.4	-3.9	6.9	4.6	2.3
Kootenay	66.3	70.6	-6.1	6.8	9.1	-2.3
Cariboo	79.4	79.1	0.4	8.3	7.9	0.4
North Coast and Nechako	44.5	42.8	4.0	7.5	8.2	-0.7
Northeast	39.5	39.6	-0.3	8.8	6.4	2.4

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

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¹ RBC Economics Research; Provincial Outlook: June 2016: British Columbia <http://www.rbc.com/economics/economic-reports/pdf/provincial-forecasts/bc.pdf>

² Ibid