

Labour Force Statistics Highlights



BCStats

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The unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage points to 5.6%.



The participation rate decreased 0.1 percentage points to 65.2%.



The employment rate increased 0.1 percentage points to 61.5%.

B.C. Highlights

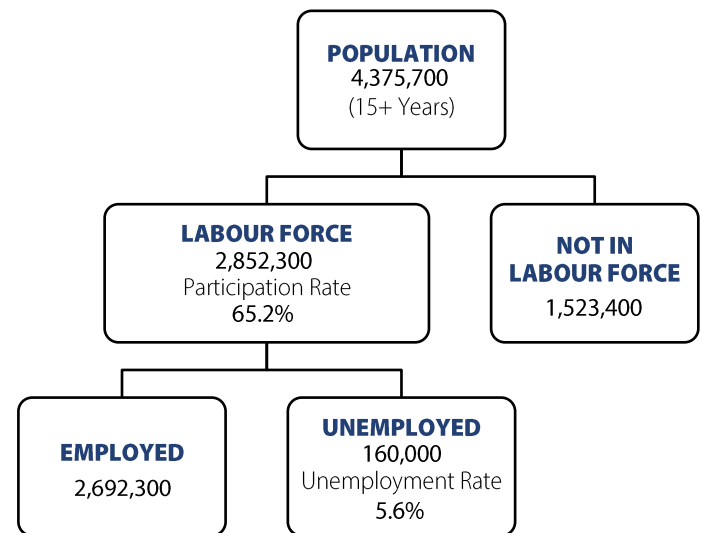
The unemployment rate in British Columbia was 5.6% in October, down 0.3 percentage points from September and 2.4 percentage points from 12 months ago. In October, the labour force grew (+1,800) from September, and the number of jobs increased (+10,400). Employment is up by 125,500 from 12 months ago, and the labour force grew by 61,000.

Compared to September, there were 38,400 more full-time and 28,000 fewer part-time jobs in October. By age group, full-time employment increased for those aged 25 to 54 (+29,200) and 15 to 24 (+16,300), with fewer positions for those aged 55 and over (-7,100). There were fewer part-time jobs for those aged 15 to 24 (-21,400), 25 to 54 (-6,400) and 55 and over (-300).

In October, employment increased in the private (+1,400) and public (+16,200) sectors. The number of self-employed individuals decreased (-7,100) compared to September.

Provincial Comparisons

At 5.6%, British Columbia's unemployment rate was the second lowest in Canada during the month of October. The lowest unemployment rate was in Manitoba (5.3%), followed by British Columbia (5.6%), Quebec (5.6%), and Saskatchewan (6.2%). Alberta (7.6%) had the sixth lowest rate.



National Highlights

In Canada, employment increased with 31,200 more jobs in October than in September. The unemployment rate was 6.7%, down from 6.9% in September and down from 9.0% 12 months ago.

Gender

Compared to September, employment in British Columbia for men (aged 25 years and over) increased by 15,800, while 15,500 men were added to the labour force. As a result, the unemployment rate for men was 4.9% in October, down from 5.0% in September.

For women (aged 25 years and over), there were 300 fewer jobs in September, while the labour force

decreased by 12,000 women. The unemployment rate for women was 4.4%, a decrease from 5.3% in September.

Compared to October 2020, the unemployment rate for men was down 2.9 percentage points to 4.9%, while the rate for women decreased 1.4 percentage points to 4.4%. Jobs for men increased by 71,000 (+6.1%) from 12 months ago, while employment for women increased by 13,500 (+1.2%).

Youth Aged 15 to 24 Years

The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years was 11.4% in October, up from 10.5% the previous month. Total employment decreased by 5,100, while 1,800 youth left the labour force. An increase in full-time (+16,300) was offset by a decrease in part-time (-21,400) positions.

Compared to October 2020, the unemployment rate for youth was down 4.5 percentage points to 11.4%.

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)

In October, Victoria (+7,100 or +3.5%), Kelowna (+3,900 or +3.5%), Abbotsford-Mission (+2,100 or +2.0%), and the areas outside the CMAs (+1,300 or +0.2%) posted employment increases, while there was a decline in employment for Vancouver (-4,000 or -0.3%).

Industry

Employment in the goods-producing sector was up (+3,500 or +0.7%) from September. The agriculture (+2,700 or +13.1%) industry had the largest increase in employment, followed by the construction (+2,300 or +1.1%) and manufacturing (+2,000 or 1.1%) industries. Employment decreased in the forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-3,600 or -7.0%) and utilities (-100 or -0.7%) industries. In the 12 months to October, employment in the goods-producing sector was up 500 (+0.1%).

In October, overall employment for the services-producing sector increased (+6,900 or +0.3%) from the previous month. Wholesale and retail trade (+20,000 or +5.0%) posted the largest increase, followed by health care and social assistance (+7,200 or +2.0%), public administration (+4,200 or +2.9%), and information, culture and recreation (+3,400 or +2.6%). There were fewer jobs in professional, scientific and technical services (-12,800 or -5.0%), accommodation and food services (-8,000 or -4.4%), and business, building and other support services (-5,800 or -5.3%). On a year-over-year basis, the services-producing sector had 125,000 (+6.0%) more positions.

[Visit the Labour Market Statistics page](#) for detailed data tables and other resources.

British Columbia Unemployment Rates

October 2021 - Unadjusted, 3 Month Moving Average

