

Labour Force Statistics Highlights



BCStats

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↓ The unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percentage points to 5.8%.
 ↓ The participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 63.7%.
 = The employment rate remained the same at 60.0%.

B.C. Highlights

The unemployment rate in British Columbia was 5.8% in October 2024, down 0.2 percentage points from September and up 0.5 percentage points from 12 months earlier. Relative to September, employment increased by 8,300 while the labour force rose 2,700. Over the last 12 months, the labour force increased by 30,500 while employment increased by 15,900.

B.C. gained 8,000 part-time and 200 full-time jobs in October. Over the previous 12 months, part-time employment has grown by 17,200, while full-time employment fell by 1,400.

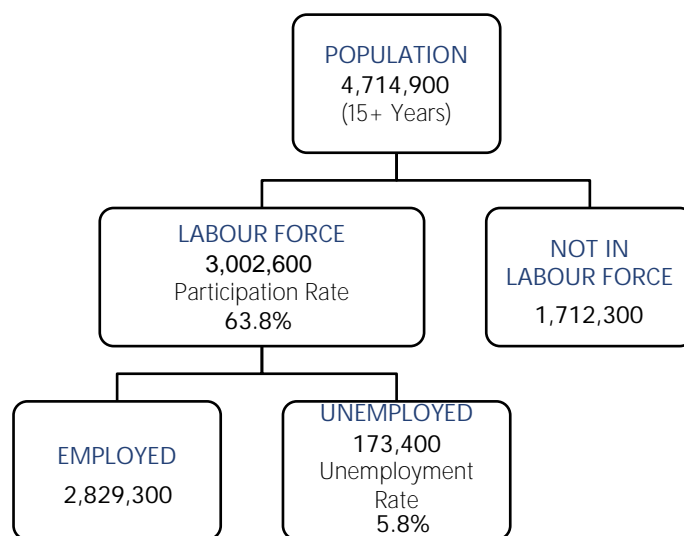
Employment decreased in the public sector (-8,900) while increasing in the private sector (+19,600). At the same time, there was a decrease (-2,500) in the number of self-employed people.

Provincial Comparisons

At 5.8%, British Columbia had the second-lowest unemployment rate in Canada during the month of October, just behind Quebec (5.7%). Manitoba had the third lowest rate (5.9%) followed by Saskatchewan (6.0%), and Nova Scotia (6.2%). Ontario ranked sixth with a rate of 6.8%, while Alberta ranked eighth with a rate of 7.3%.

National Highlights

In Canada, employment increased with 14,500 more jobs in October than in September. The national unemployment



rate (6.5%) remained the same month over month and was up 0.8 percentage points compared to 12 months ago.

Gender

Estimates on employment by gender are for people aged 25 years and over only.

Compared to September, employment in British Columbia for men increased by 2,500 while the labour force fell by 3,600. As a result, the unemployment rate for men decreased by 0.5 percentage points to 4.6%. For women, there were 2,300 more jobs in October and 4,400 women entered the labour force on net. Month over month, the unemployment rate for women increased 0.2 percentage points to 4.5%.

Compared to 12 months prior, the unemployment rate for men rose by 0.1 percentage points, while the rate for women dropped by 0.9 percentage points. Employment for men increased by 20,600 (+1.6%) from 12 months ago, while employment for women increased by 19,500 (+1.7%).

Youth Aged 15 to 24

The youth unemployment rate decreased from 13.7% to 13.3% in October as both employment (+3,400) and the labour force (+1,900) increased. There was a net increase in part-time employment (+5,700), while full-time employment decreased (-2,200).

Compared to October 2023 (12 months prior), the unemployment rate for youth was up 5.3 percentage points from 8.0%.

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)

In October, employment decreased in Abbotsford-Mission (-1,100 or -0.9%) and Victoria (-800 or -0.3%), while increasing in Vancouver (+19,500 or +1.2%) and Kelowna (+3,300 or +3.0%). For the rest of B.C. (areas outside these four CMAs), employment decreased by 12,600 (-1.6%).

Note that labour force estimates for CMAs are presented as seasonally adjusted on a three-month moving average, with larger standard errors due to small sample sizes.

Industry

Employment in the goods-producing sector was down in October (-13,600) compared to September. The only goods-producing subsectors to add jobs were forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+1,400 or +2.7%) and utilities (+500 or +2.8%). Construction (-9,200 or -3.8%) had the largest decrease in employment followed by manufacturing (-4,800 or -2.7%) and agriculture (-1,500 or -9.1%).

In the 12 months to October, employment in the goods-producing sector was virtually the same, decreasing by only 200 positions (or less than -0.05%). While agriculture positions decreased by 10,600 during this time, this was offset by increases in most other goods-producing industries.

In October, overall employment for the services-producing sector increased by 22,000 (+1.0%) from the previous month. The subsectors that added jobs were business, building and other support services (+10,100 or +11.5%), accommodation and food services (+9,200 or +5.2%), health care and social assistance (+2,500 or +0.6%), information, culture and recreation (+2,400 or +1.7%), public administration (+2,000 or +1.3%), other services (except public administration) (+1,100 or +1.0%), educational services (+400 or +0.2%), and professional, scientific and technical services (+400 or +0.1%). Service subsectors that lost jobs in October were transportation and warehousing (-5,800 or -3.9%), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (-300 or -0.2%), and wholesale and retail trade (-100 or less than -0.5%).

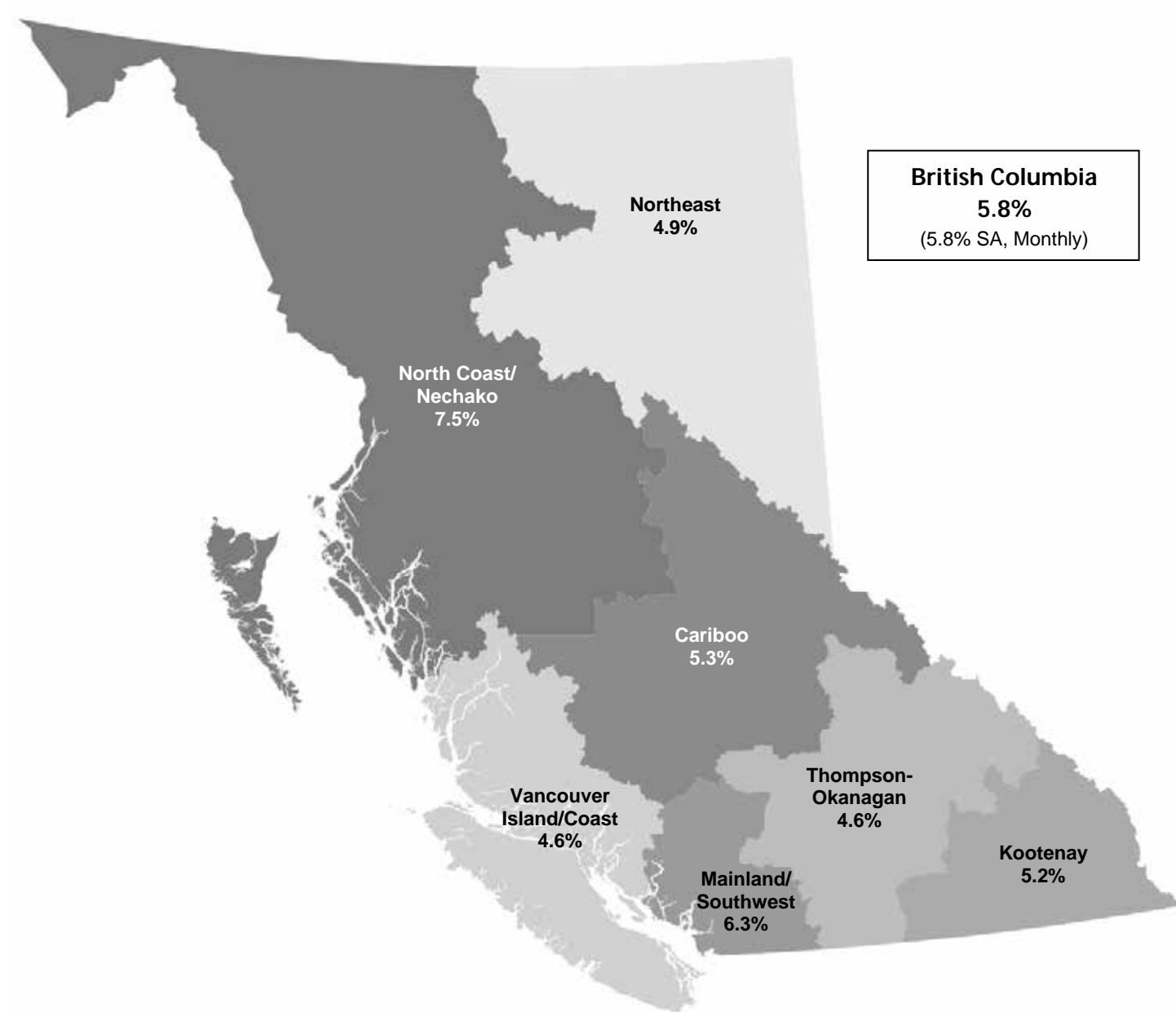
On a year-over-year basis, the services-producing sector gained 16,100 positions (+0.7%). Health care and social assistance added the most jobs (+27,400) during this time, while wholesale and retail trade lost the most jobs (-16,600).

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

Adapted from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS), November 2024. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

British Columbia Unemployment Rates

October 2024 - Unadjusted, 3 Month Moving Average



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Prepared by: BC Stats