

The BC Labour Market Report's

# Labour Market Hot Sheet

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[www.LabourMarketOnline.com](http://www.LabourMarketOnline.com) ----- September 9th, 2020

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## Employment reaches 94.1% of its February peak, as BC continues to manage the pandemic

**Data / Labour Force Survey**

Employment rose in most Western provinces in August. British Columbia reported the largest increase, up 15,000 (+0.6%). Employment reached 94.1% of its February level and the unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 10.7%.

While the summer presented a significant improvement for the accommodation, food service and retail sectors, August data demonstrates this growth is slowing.

Accommodation and food services as well as retail trade were among the industries hardest hit by the initial COVID-19 economic shutdown. By April, employment had fallen to half (-50.0%) of its pre-pandemic level in accommodation and food services and to 77.1% of its pre-COVID-19 level in retail trade. Starting in May, employment rebounded in both sectors as many provinces began reopening their economy.

Employment growth in accommodation and food services rose by 18.4% per month on average from May to July. In August,

*Below, we've included some of the most popular sections of Labour Market Online. If you are already a member, for direct access to these sections, simply click on the link below and input your email and password.*

Breaking LMI  
News

Occupation  
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Industry Research

Exclusive BCLMR  
Resources

however, the pace of growth in the industry slowed to 5.3% (+49,000). Despite these recent gains, employment in accommodation and food services was at 78.9% of its February level. August marked the fifth full month of international travel restrictions, which continues to affect industries with strong ties to tourism.

The number of people employed in retail trade edged up 0.7% (+14,000) in August, following average monthly increases of 6.3% over the previous three months. Employment in retail trade reached 93.4% of its pre-COVID-19 level, but fell just below the rate of recovery for total employment (94.3%).

While employment remained below pre-COVID-19 levels, retail sales in June were higher than in February and are expected to continue to rise in July, based on preliminary estimates. This highlights potential structural changes within the industry as employers have been able to increase their sales despite a smaller workforce.

In contrast, employment rose by 51,000 (+3.9%) in educational services in August, reaching 97.6% of its pre-pandemic level. This was the fourth consecutive monthly employment increase and the largest since April, when employment fell to 88.5% of its pre-pandemic level. As thousands of students return to school in August and September, almost all workers in educational services (99.2%) reported that they or their employer had put in place measures to reduce the risk to COVID-19 exposure, such as physical distancing protocols and access to personal protective equipment.

Employment growth in the goods-producing sector was almost entirely attributable to manufacturing (+29,000; +1.8%) in August, with the gains concentrated in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. Employment in manufacturing reached 95.3% of its pre-COVID-19 level.

Results from the most recent **Canadian Survey on Business Conditions** indicated that in June, nearly one-quarter of manufacturing businesses expected to add more employees over the next three months.

Meanwhile, the number of people employed in the natural resources sector declined by 9,000 (-3.0%), with most of the decrease in Alberta (-7,000; -5.0%). Capital expenditures in the oil and gas extraction industries declined by over half (54%) from the first quarter to the second quarter, including spending on exploration and evaluation. Nevertheless, employment in the natural resources sector was within 95.9% of its February level and remained above the all-industry average.

We'll be discussing all of the latest employment detail at the October Labour Market Briefing, taking place September 24th from 3-4pm. For more information, please visit: [www.LabourMarketOnline.com](http://www.LabourMarketOnline.com)

## The Future of Work is Flexible

### Research / Workplace Changes

Video and  
Workshop  
Curriculum

### BC Labour Market Report

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As many Canadians head back to their place of work, a new survey by ADP Canada and Maru/Blue indicates a shift in attitude towards the traditional workplace. The survey found that 45 percent of working Canadians surveyed say they would prefer to work remotely at least three days a week and more than one quarter would prefer to work flex hours.

Respondents, including managers and front-line employees, also said that remote work did not have a significant impact on productivity, quality of work and hours of work. While over half of employees surveyed (55%) say their employer has continued to allow remote and flexible work throughout COVID-19, it's clear that employers have an opportunity to embrace flexible work options beyond the pandemic.

Although the findings show strong support for flexible and remote work options, 69 percent of respondents are not willing to accept reduced compensation for the changes, which, prior to the pandemic, were sometimes seen as a perk. In addition, only four percent of workers said they would consider accepting reduced compensation to work reduced hours, for example, a four-day work week. Most Canadians surveyed (45%) also feel that remote workers have equal opportunity for job promotion and career advancement.

The younger generation of workers appear particularly drawn to remote work, with 61 percent of workers aged 18 to 34 saying they prefer to work remotely at least three days a week, compared to 43 percent of workers over 35. Additionally, only 13 percent of workers aged 18 to 34 said their job does not allow remote work, compared to one quarter of workers aged over 35.

So, what will the workplace look like in five years? While just under half (44%) of Canadians surveyed do not think the workplace will change drastically, more than one quarter believe their employer will offer more flexible work options. Additionally, nearly one quarter believe most employees will work remotely in the future and six percent believe the workplace will be entirely virtual.

Those aged 18 to 34 are more likely to believe the workplace will change, compared to other age groups: 44 per cent believe their employer will offer more flexible work options in the next five years, compared to only a quarter of workers over 35.

Although anxious, results also show most employees (84%) believe their employer has taken the necessary precautions to protect workers from COVID-19. Over two-thirds of respondents say their employer has increased sanitization and cleaning of workspaces (66%), implemented social distancing measures (64%) or has provided protective barriers and equipment (51%).

## **Major labour market stories from the past week**

**For all of the major stories from last week, please login to Labour Market Online and visit the 'Breaking News Section'**

- Minister's statement on August Labour Force Survey results ([Click Here](#))
- New B.C. jobs won't be enough when CERB ends: economist ([Click Here](#))
- Full speed ahead for work this fall on Vancouver's \$2.8-billion Broadway subway ([Click Here](#))
- Opinion: Make tons of money hiring 'exploited' workers ([Click Here](#))
- The easy part is over for the labour market recovery. Get ready for a long slog back to normal ([Click Here](#))
- Canada needs a national income program for people with disabilities ([Click Here](#))
- Contract for new inland ferry awarded to B.C. company ([Click Here](#))
- UVic law school expansion to house National Centre for Indigenous Laws -- Sep. 4, 2020 ([Click Here](#))
- Maximum allowable rent increase set at 1.4% for 2021 ([Click Here](#))
- Services sector growth slows in August but still positive ([Click Here](#))
- Disability Employment Month celebrates B.C.'s inclusive workforce ([Click Here](#))
- Province supports jobs and innovation in clean tech sector ([Click Here](#))
- New survey warns of COVID-19 effects on post-secondary debt in Canada -- Sep. 3, 2020 ([Click Here](#))
- It's a Good Thing: Autism creates some challenges for employment, but also some opportunities ([Click Here](#))
- Delta company gets \$30-million contract for highway widening project in Salmon Arm ([Click Here](#))
- Campaigning for affordable child-care spaces in BC ([Click Here](#))
- These Vancouver companies are currently hiring in September ([Click Here](#))

## This Week in Social Media

Please take the time to 'like' or follow:

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

- Why so many millennials are choosing careers in massage therapy ([Click Here](#))
- RBC Future Launch and Magnet partner to support Canadian businesses in hiring and supporting youth job seekers ([Click Here](#))
- Building Science Advances Help Construction Firms Build ([Click Here](#))
- Kootenay ski resort operators gear up for uncertainty during this winter's season ([Click Here](#))

On our social media feeds we only post labour market and job search information, research and the occasional ironic observation. You can trust our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds. We carefully evaluate social media posts to see if they would be valuable to you.

For instance, we're not going to post stories like: ['Bohemian Rhapsody' sung in Klinton](#). *But it does seem obvious, 'we are the champions, no time for losers', it's not like we're going to see an all-Klinton cast of Mamma Mia!*

Your time is valuable and we wouldn't want to waste it, follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#) today :-)

## Community Calendar

### Career Development Events

**ASPECT 2020****November 5 & 6, 2020**

Virtual Conference

Details: [aspect.bc.ca/ASPECT-Conference](https://aspect.bc.ca/ASPECT-Conference)**Career Education Society Annual Conference****November 23 and 24, 2020**

Virtual Conference

Details: [Click Here](#)**CANNEXUS21****January 25 & 27, February 1 & 3, 2021**

Virtual Conference

Details: [cannexus.ceric.ca](https://cannexus.ceric.ca)**BC Career Development Conference 2021****April 29 and 30, 2021**

SFU Harbourside

Details: [Click Here](#)

## Job Postings

### Career Development Employment

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To post a job here, please email: [bclmr@outlook.com](mailto:bclmr@outlook.com)*(When you write your cover letter, please mention you saw this advertisement in the BC Labour Market Report)*

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**Employment Counsellor**

S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

Vancouver, British Columbia

Closes: September 15, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Career and Training Counsellor \*NEW\***

Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Society

Nanaimo, British Columbia

Closes: September 18, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Job Developer, WorkBC \*NEW\***

Mosaic

Delta, British Columbia

Closes: September 25, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Case Manager and Employment Counsellor \*NEW\***

ETHOS Career Management Group Ltd.

Ladysmith, British Columbia

Closes: Open Until Filled

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**JETS Program Facilitator**

Beacon Community Services

Victoria, British Columbia

Closes: Unknown

Link: [Please Click Here](#)

## Did you know?

### Fascinating Facts

The number of people who wanted to work but did not search for a job was little changed in August. If people in this group were included as unemployed, the adjusted unemployment rate would be 13.0%. The adjusted unemployment rate was 13.8% in July and 7.3% in February.

- Statistics Canada

## Quote of the Week

### Career Inspiration

"Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned."

- Peter Marshall

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