

The BC Labour Market Report's

Labour Market Hot Sheet

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www.LabourMarketOnline.com

October 9, 2020



Employment BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC employment grows by 55,000 jobs in September

Data / Labour Market Research

According to the latest **Labour Force Survey** from **Statistics Canada**, all provinces in Western Canada had more people working in September, led by British Columbia and Alberta. In B.C., employment grew by 55,000 (+2.3%) in September, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. The unemployment rate fell 2.3 percentage points to 8.4%. In the **Vancouver CMA**, employment increased by 35,000 (+2.7%) in the month and was 7.9% below its February level, a degree of recovery lower than the province as a whole.

The following is a breakdown of sector highlights:

- Employment in construction remained little changed for the second consecutive month in September, and was down by 120,000 (-8.1%) compared with its pre-COVID level. Compared with February, employment in construction was down the most in Ontario (-54,000; -9.5%) and British Columbia (-39,000; -16.3%).
- The number of people employed in transportation and warehousing rose by 23,000 (+2.5%) in September, the first notable increase since June. Employment in this industry declined by 82,000 (-8.0%) compared with February.
- Employment in educational services grew by 68,000 (+5.0%) in September, led by Ontario and Quebec. After declining by 11.5% from February to April, employment in the industry has now increased for five consecutive months and has reached a level 2.6% higher than in February.
- The number of people employed in transportation and warehousing rose by 23,000 (+2.5%) in September, the first notable increase since June. Employment in this industry declined by 82,000 (-8.0%) compared with February.
- Employment in accommodation and food services rose by 72,000 (+7.4%) in September. This was the fifth consecutive monthly increase and brought total gains since the initial easing of COVID-19 restrictions in May

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*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.*

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BC Labour Market Report

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to 427,000. Nevertheless, employment in this industry was the furthest from recovery in September, down 15.3% (-188,000) from its pre-pandemic February level.

Despite encouraging employment numbers, labour underutilization continues to fall. The number of people who wanted to work but did not search for a job was down in September (-77,000; -11.8%). If people in this group were included as unemployed, the adjusted unemployment rate would be 11.9%. The overall number of people who wanted to work but did not search for a job (580,000) has been trending downward since peaking at 1.5 million in April.

Labour underutilization occurs when people who could potentially work are not working, or when people could work more hours than they are currently. The "*labour underutilization rate*" combines those who were unemployed, those who were not in the labour force but who wanted a job and did not look for one, and those who were employed but worked less than half of their usual hours for reasons likely related to the pandemic.

The labour underutilization rate peaked at 36.1% in April and has trended downward ever since. In September, as the economy continued to recover, the labour underutilization rate fell from 20.3% in August to 18.3%, but still remained well above pre-pandemic levels (11.2% in February).

Employment for underrepresented groups continues to improve but trails the experiences of the labour market at-large

Culture / Demographics

The labour market impact of the COVID-19 economic shutdown has been particularly severe for low-wage employees (defined as those who earned less than \$16.03 per hour, or two-thirds of the 2019 annual median wage of \$24.04/hour). From February to April, employment among low-wage employees fell by 38.1%, compared with a decline of 12.7% for all other paid employees (not seasonally adjusted).

In September, there were one-fifth fewer (-22.1%; -761,000) low-wage employees than 12 months previously. In comparison, there was a small year-over-year increase (+295,000; +2.3%) in all other employees, reflecting the uneven labour market impact of COVID-19 on different groups of workers.

Almost half (48.8%) of the year-over-year decline in low-wage employees in September was accounted for by three industries: retail trade; accommodation and food services; and business, building and other support services industries. The ability of former employees to return to employment—either in their previous industry or in new activities—will be critical to both the economic well-being of workers and the performance and productivity of the economy.

Employment increased among youth aged 15 to 24 in September, including gains for young women (+62,000; +5.7%) and young men (+66,000; +6.0%). Despite these monthly increases, employment remained further from full recovery for youth than for other major age groups, with female youth employment being 10.4% below February levels and male youth being 10.2% below.

On a year-over-year basis, youth employment in accommodation and food services was down 99,000 (-20.0%, not seasonally adjusted) in September. This industry typically accounts for one-fifth of youth employment (19.6% in 2019).

The employment rate of immigrants who landed in Canada more than five years ago increased by 1.7 percentage points to 57.8% in September. By comparison, the employment rate for people born in Canada increased by 0.5 percentage points to 60.0%. Immigrants who landed in Canada more than five years ago are more likely than very recent immigrants to be employed in industries where employment has been relatively less affected by COVID-19, including health care and social assistance; public administration; and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing.

Employment among Indigenous Canadians living off-reserve increased by 2.7% (+15,000) from August to September, while employment among non-Indigenous Canadians rose by 1.5% (+264,000) (not seasonally adjusted). In September, employment for Indigenous people was at 93.9% of its February level, compared with 98.1% for non-Indigenous Canadians.

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'

- 'Gruelling' articling jobs prompt calls from law students for better work standards ([Click Here](#))
- Solar companies say solar energy is opening up to the general public ([Click Here](#))
- Prince George region faces shortage of paramedics, gaps in service ([Click Here](#))
- New benefits for Canadians unable to work due to COVID-19 take effect next week ([Click Here](#))
- Pre-election economy: Unemployment falls, but hiring slows ([Click Here](#))
- BC NDP promises greater access to student grants, creation of more tech spots ([Click Here](#))
- Industry Perspectives Op-Ed: The truth and fallacies behind 'local hires' ([Click Here](#))
- Multiple BC film and television productions paused amid COVID-19 testing crunch ([Click Here](#))
- Coast Guard Canada Is Looking For Cooks To Set Sail With Them & It Pays \$55K ([Click Here](#))
- BC Is Hiring Election Workers Now & They're Paying More Because Of COVID-19 ([Click Here](#))
- Here's what do as Canada Student Loan payments resume, starting today ([Click Here](#))
- Amazon places an order for another 3000 Vancouver tech workers ([Click Here](#))
- Hiring marginalized workers could jump-start economy, boost incomes by \$5K: Deloitte ([Click Here](#))

This Week in Social Media

Please take the time to 'like' or follow:

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

Technology is transforming real estate—and BCIT Business + Media grads are ready ([Click Here](#))

BC Will Pay For Your Post-Secondary To Be A Health Care Worker & Pay \$20/Hour ([Click Here](#))

Paid sick leave deal reached between NDP and Liberals, Singh says ([Click Here](#))

A national child-care system is crucial for recovery and rebuilding ([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 articles like: [Irish court rules Subway sandwich bread not really bread](#). *And yet, I can totally understand why Subway calls it bread. How could you possibly fit: 'a giant heaping tube of sugary carbohydrates that will leave you wallowing in remorse' on a menu board? Personally, I prefer Italian Herbs and Cheese remorse.*

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

2020: The Labour Market Year-in-Review Workshops

Virtual One-Day Workshops | 10am-3pm

- **Thompson / Okanagan Region**; Tues. Dec. 1, 2020
- **Kootenay Region**; Wed. Dec. 2, 2020
- **Lower Mainland Region**; Thurs. Dec. 3, 2020
- **Fraser Valley Region**; Fri. Dec. 4, 2020
- **Northwest Region**; Tues. Dec. 8, 2020
- **Northeast Region**; Wed. Dec. 9, 2020
- **Vancouver Island**; Thurs. Dec. 10, 2020
- **Cariboo Region**; Fri. Dec. 11, 2020

Workshop Details: www.LabourMarketOnline.com/LMIWorkshops/

Pet Value is Holding a Job Fair

Fri Oct 16th | 10am-2pm

Location: 8151 Churchill Street, Unit #120, Delta, British Columbia

Link: [Please Click Here](#)

ASPECT 2020

November 5 & 6, 2020

Virtual Conference

Details: 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**BC Career Development Conference 2021****April 29 and 30, 2021**

SFU Harbourside

Details: [Click Here](#)

Job Postings

Career Development Employment

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

Program Manager *NEW*

Horton Ventures Inc

Dawson Creek, British Columbia

Closes: October 16, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Program Manager *NEW***

Langley Community Services Society

Langley, British Columbia

Closes: October 18, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Manager of Employment Programs *NEW***

Mosaic

Vancouver, British Columbia

Closes: October 23, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Human Resources Manager/Marketing *NEW***

Langley Community Services Society

Langley, British Columbia

Closes: October 31, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Employment Counsellor (float), WorkBC Programs *NEW***

MOSAIC

Chilliwack, British Columbia

Closes: Open Until Filled

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**IELTS Assistant – On call *NEW***

MOSAIC

Vancouver-Surrey-Abbotsford, British Columbia

Closes: Open Until Filled

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Coordinator/Job Developer SEED Youth Employment Program**

Douglas College

New Westminster, British Columbia

Closes: Unknown

Link: [Please Click Here](#)

Job Developer SEED Youth Employment Program

Douglas College

New Westminster, British Columbia

Closes: Unknown

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Did you know?****Fascinating Facts**

New research suggests that the country could replace its retiring workforce by improving employment options for 88,500 women; 377,300 Canadians over age 65; 700,000 immigrants; 517,657 people with disabilities; and between 38,000 and 59,000 Indigenous Canadians.

- Deloitte**Quote of the Week****Career Inspiration**

“Appreciation can change a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary.”

– Margaret Cousins

BC Labour Market Report | PO Box 18148, Delta, BC V4L 2M4, Vancouver, BC V4L 2M4 Canada

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