

Labour Force Statistics Highlights



BCStats

Reference date: March Issue: #25-03

Released: April 4, 2025



The unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 6.1%



The participation rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 65.0%

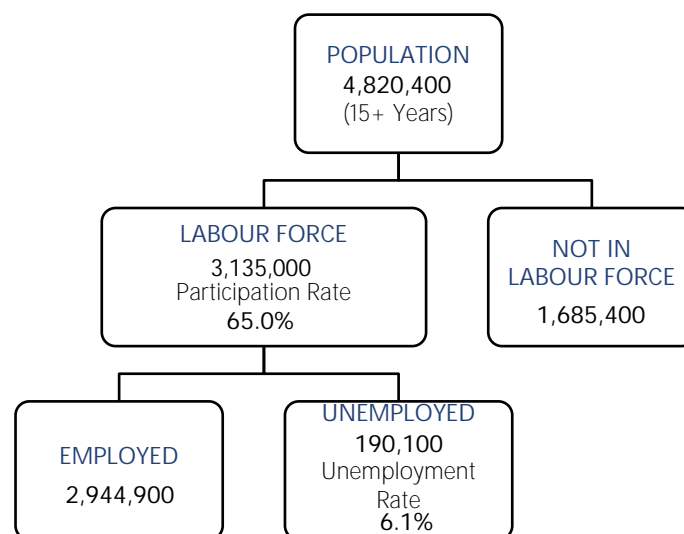


The employment rate remained the same at 61.1%

B.C. Highlights

The unemployment rate in British Columbia was 6.1% in March 2025, up 0.1 percentage points from one month prior. Compared to February, employment rose by 5,700, while the labour force grew by 9,100. The province saw a gain of 10,000 full-time jobs but lost 4,400 part-time positions. Employment fell for both private (-2,700) and self-employed (-2,300) workers while the number of public sector employees (+10,700) increased.

Over the past year, the unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points. The labour force grew by 47,200, while employment increased by 27,700. Part-time employment expanded by 26,500 whereas full-time employment saw a smaller increase of 1,200.



Provincial Comparisons

At 6.1%, British Columbia was tied with Nova Scotia for the fourth-lowest unemployment rate in Canada in March. Saskatchewan (4.9%) had the lowest rate followed by Quebec (5.7%), and Manitoba (6.0%). New Brunswick followed in sixth place at 7.0%, with Alberta (7.1%), Prince Edward Island (7.5%), Ontario (7.5%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (10.0%) following behind.

National Highlights

In Canada, employment decreased with 32,600 fewer jobs in March than in February. The national unemployment rate (6.7%) was up 0.1 percentage points compared to 1

one month prior and was up 0.6 percentage points compared to 12 months ago.

Gender

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

Compared to February, employment in British Columbia for men decreased by 3,800 while the labour force fell by 2,500. As a result, the unemployment rate for men increased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.9%. For women, both the number of jobs and the size of the labour force grew by 10,500. For this reason, the unemployment rate for women remained the same month over month, at 5.1%.

Compared to 12 months ago, the unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage points for both men and women. During the same period, employment rose by 25,500 (+1.9%) for men and by 25,300 (+2.1%) for women.

Youth Aged 15 to 24

The youth unemployment rate increased from 12.9% to 13.3% in March as the number of positions decreased (-1,000), and the labour force (+900) increased. While part-time employment increased month over month (+800), this was offset by decreases in full-time employment (-1,700).

Compared to March 2024 (12 months prior), the unemployment rate for youth was up 2.5 percentage points from 10.8%.

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)

In March, employment increased in Kamloops, Chilliwack, Vancouver, and Nanaimo, while decreasing in Kelowna, Abbotsford-Mission, and Victoria. In the areas outside of these CMAs, net jobs fell by 1,200.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY CMA	Mar-25	MoM	MoM%
VANCOUVER	1,704.0	14.7	0.9%
KAMLOOPS	78.6	3.4	4.5%
CHILLIWACK	59.2	1.1	1.9%
NANAIMO	61.5	0.1	0.2%
ABBOTSFORD-MISSION	111.9	-0.7	-0.6%
VICTORIA	246.1	-1.1	-0.4%
KELOWNA	109.5	-5.8	-5.0%

Note that labour force estimates for CMAs are given 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 March 2025 (-2,100 or -0.4%) compared to February while employment in the services producing sector increased (+7,800 or +0.3%). On a year-over-year basis, the goods producing subsector added 5,200 positions (+1.0%) while the services-producing subsector added 22,500 positions (+0.9%).

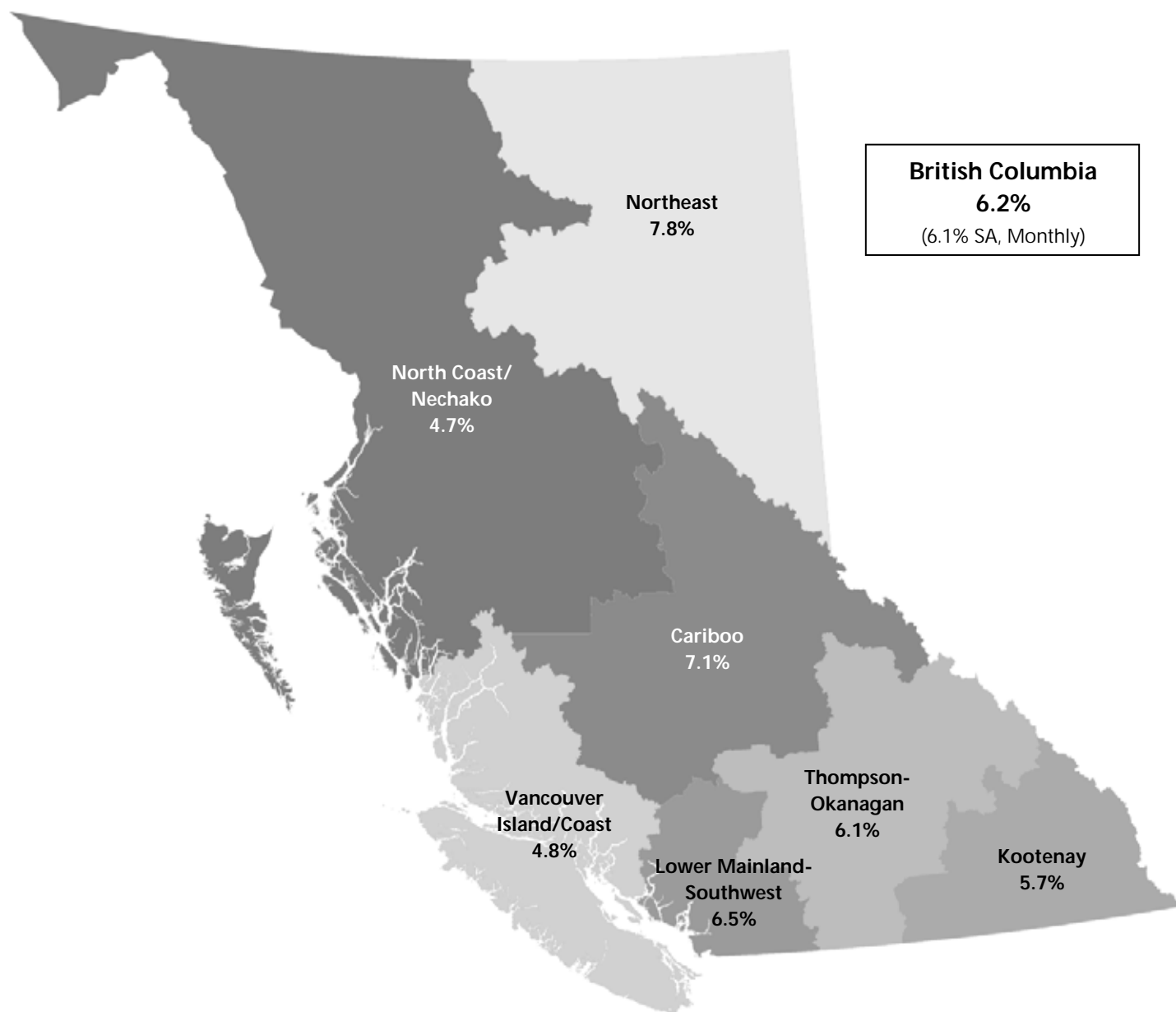
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY INDUSTRY	MoM	MoM%
GOODS-PRODUCING SECTOR	-2,100	-0.4%
Manufacturing	1,700	0.9%
Construction	1,300	0.5%
Agriculture	600	4.9%
Utilities	-1,600	-10.6%
Forestry, mining, oil & gas	-4,100	-8.1%
SERVICES-PRODUCING SECTOR	7,800	0.3%
Health & social assistance	6,600	1.6%
Information & recreation	6,600	4.9%
Transportation & warehousing	4,700	2.9%
Professional & technical services	2,400	0.8%
Public administration	2,300	1.5%
Finance, insurance & real estate	1,900	1.0%
Accommodation & food services	1,800	0.9%
Education	1,100	0.5%
Business & support services	-3,000	-3.0%
Other services (excl. public admin)	-7,700	-6.9%
Retail & wholesale trade	-8,900	-2.0%

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

Adapted from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS), April 2025. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

British Columbia Unemployment Rates

March 2025 - Unadjusted, 3 Month Moving Average



Adapted from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS), April 2025.
This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Prepared by: BC Stats