

## The Labour Force Survey for February 2008

released March 7, 2008

### Highlights

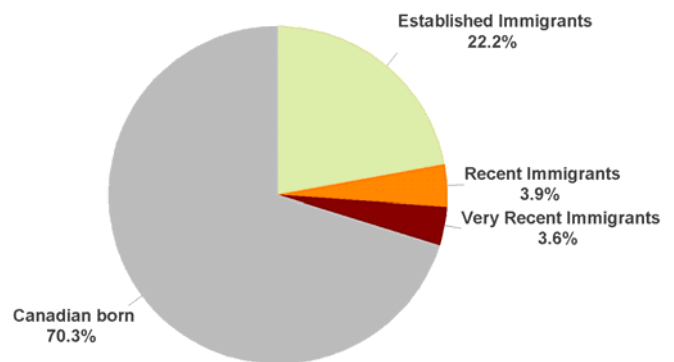
- There was little change in the overall labour market situation in BC last month. Employment and labour force showed little change, so the unemployment rate remained at 4.1%.
- On an annual basis, however, job growth in the province is starting to slow. BC gained an additional 52,100 jobs, which translates to a growth rate of 2.3% That's below the 4.5% peak reached a couple of years ago, but much closer to what forecasters expect for BC for 2008.
- Construction employment continues to grow, adding 4,700 jobs and pushing the level of employment in the industry to a record 214,500. That's 14.7% above last February. Manufacturing employment, however, took a hit, losing 8,700 jobs over the past month. Over the year, employment in the industry is down 10.0%

### Immigrants

Since January, 2006, the Labour Force Survey has been tracking the labour market performance of immigrants in Canada. We'll look at the past year of data.

Three out of every ten persons aged 15 and over in BC are immigrants. As the graph shows, established immigrants (defined by Statistics Canada as those in Canada for over 10 years) account for most of our non-Canadian born population. Very recent immigrants (those here for less than 5 years) account for a much smaller 3.6% share (124,800 immigrants) of the province's working-age population.

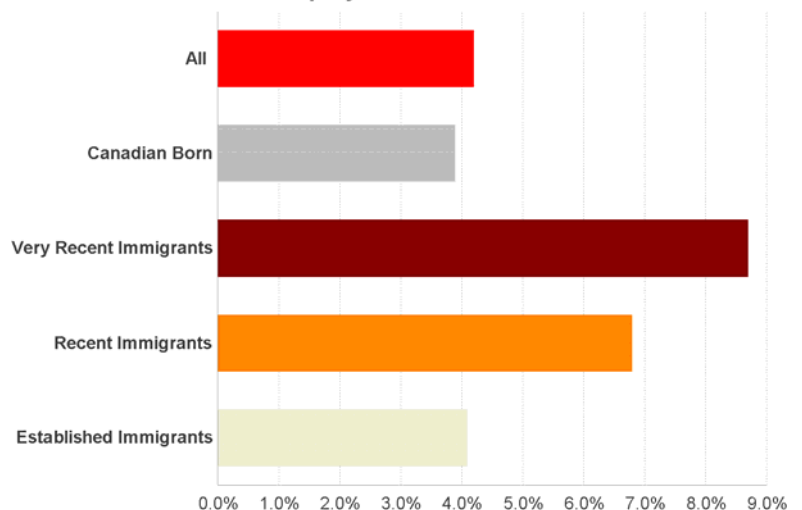
Composition of BC's Population aged 15 and Over



Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, Mar/07 - Feb/08

As the second graph illustrates, very recent immigrants have an unemployment rate that is double the BC average (8.7% vs. 4.3%). Over time, however, the labour market situation for immigrants improves. Those here between 5 to 10 years had a lower unemployment rate of 6.8%. And for those who have been here for over ten years, there was no statistical difference between their rate of unemployment and the rate for those born in Canada.

Unemployment Rates in BC



Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, Mar/07-Feb/08

## Summary of Labour Force Survey Results

### 1. Summary Data - BC 1 Month (Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	MC (#)	MC (%)	YC (#)	YC (%)
Population 15+ (000)	3,614.1	3,609.5	3,547.4	4.6	0.1	66.7	1.9
Labour Force (000)	2,402.5	2,402.9	2,345.8	-0.4	0.0	56.7	2.4
Employed (000)	2,303.2	2,305.2	2,251.1	-2.0	-0.1	52.1	2.3
Emp - Full-Time (000)	1,835.0	1,833.1	1,794.0	1.9	0.1	41.0	2.3
Emp - Part-time (000)	468.2	472.1	457.0	-3.9	-0.8	11.2	2.5
Unemployed (000)	99.3	97.7	94.7	1.6	1.6	4.6	4.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0		0.1	
Participation Rate (%)	66.5	66.6	66.1	-0.1		0.4	
Employment Rate (%)	63.7	63.9	63.5	-0.2		0.2	

### 2. Employment by Industry - BC 1 Month (Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	MC (#)	MC (%)	YC (#)	YC (%)
<b>Total Industry (000)</b>	<b>2,303.2</b>	<b>2,305.2</b>	<b>2,251.1</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>499.2</b>	<b>509.3</b>	<b>485.0</b>	<b>-10.1</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Agriculture	38.4	43.2	35.5	-4.8	-11.1	2.9	8.2
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil&Gas	46.7	47.8	47.4	-1.1	-2.3	-0.7	-1.5
Utilities	14.4	14.6	9.3	-0.2	-1.4	5.1	54.8
Construction	214.5	209.8	187.0	4.7	2.2	27.5	14.7
Manufacturing	185.2	193.9	205.8	-8.7	-4.5	-20.6	-10.0
<b>Service-Producing</b>	<b>1,804.0</b>	<b>1,795.9</b>	<b>1,766.1</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Trade	359.9	355.9	359.4	4.0	1.1	0.5	0.1
Transportation & Warehousing	128.4	129.1	131.0	-0.7	-0.5	-2.6	-2.0
Finance, Ins, Real Estate, Leasing	147.9	145.1	139.9	2.8	1.9	8.0	5.7
Professional, Scientific&Tech Serv	175.0	171.2	168.9	3.8	2.2	6.1	3.6
Business, Bldg & Other Supp Serv	102.2	108.2	96.5	-6.0	-5.5	5.7	5.9
Education Services	156.7	166.7	158.8	-10.0	-6.0	-2.1	-1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	240.9	246.3	243.2	-5.4	-2.2	-2.3	-0.9
Info, Culture & Recreation	122.4	116.9	116.6	5.5	4.7	5.8	5.0
Accommodation & Food Services	176.8	168.1	172.3	8.7	5.2	4.5	2.6
Other Services	91.9	93.3	88.5	-1.4	-1.5	3.4	3.8
Public Administration	101.8	95.1	91.2	6.7	7.0	10.6	11.6

### 3. Employment by Sector - BC 1 Month (Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	MC (#)	MC (%)	YC (#)	YC (%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,303.2</b>	<b>2,305.2</b>	<b>2,251.1</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Employee (000)	1,899.9	1,893.3	1,827.3	6.6	0.3	72.6	4.0
Public	416.4	417.4	403.4	-1.0	-0.2	13.0	3.2
Private	1,483.5	1,475.9	1,423.9	7.6	0.5	59.6	4.2
Self-Employed (000)	403.3	411.9	423.8	-8.6	-2.1	-20.5	-4.8

### 4. Unemployment Rates by Age & Sex - BC 1 Month (Seasonally Adj.)

	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	MC (#)	YC (#)
<b>Both - 15+ Yrs</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Both - 15-24 Yrs	7.9	7.5	7.7	0.4	0.2
Both - 25+ Yrs	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	0.1
Men - 15+ Yrs	4.0	4.1	3.7	-0.1	0.3
Men - 15-24 Yrs	7.4	8.2	7.8	-0.8	-0.4
Men - 25+ Yrs	3.4	3.4	2.9	0.0	0.5
Women - 15+ Yrs	4.3	4.0	4.4	0.3	-0.1
Women - 15-24 Yrs	8.4	6.8	7.6	1.6	0.8
Women - 25+ Yrs	3.4	3.4	3.7	0.0	-0.3

### 5. Unemployment Rates - Provinces 1 Month (Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	MC (#)	YC (#)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	13.1	12.2	14.1	0.9	-1.0
Prince Edward Island	10.0	10.6	10.3	-0.6	-0.3
Nova Scotia	7.7	7.4	7.5	0.3	0.2
New Brunswick	8.1	8.2	6.9	-0.1	1.2
Quebec	7.0	6.8	7.8	0.2	-0.8
Ontario	6.1	6.3	6.3	-0.2	-0.2
Manitoba	4.2	3.8	4.3	0.4	-0.1
Saskatchewan	4.1	3.9	4.0	0.2	0.1
Alberta	3.5	3.2	3.5	0.3	0.0
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Abbotsford	4.5	3.6	4.4	0.9	0.1
Vancouver	3.8	4.0	4.2	-0.2	-0.4
Victoria	3.4	3.1	3.1	0.3	0.3

### 6. Unemp Rates - BC Economic Regions 3 Month Avg (Unadjusted)

	February 2008	January 2008	February 2007	MC (#)	YC (#)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
British Columbia	4.2	4.1	4.6	0.1	-0.4
910 Vancouver Island	5.0	4.5	5.3	0.5	-0.3
920 Lower Mainland - SW	3.7	3.6	4.2	0.1	-0.5
930 Thompson Okanagan	5.3	4.8	5.0	0.5	0.3
940 Kootenay	4.4	4.8	6.8	-0.4	-2.4
950 Cariboo	5.8	5.2	5.3	0.6	0.5
960/970 N. Coast/Nechako	7.3	8.2	7.1	-0.9	0.2
980 Northeast	--	--	--	--	--
Vancouver CMA	3.7	3.7	4.1	0.0	-0.4
Victoria CMA	3.3	3.0	2.9	0.3	0.4
Abbotsford (MATSQUI)	4.9	3.6	4.7	1.3	0.2

#### Legend

MC(#) = Absolute Monthly Change; MC(%) = Percentage Monthly Change; YC(#) = Absolute Yearly Change; YC(%) = Percentage Yearly Change  
 "--" indicates number suppressed due to high sample variance