B.C. employment rose for the third straight month in January and the sixth time in seven months, pointing to an ongoing upward trend in hiring since mid-2018. Total employment rose to a seasonally-adjusted 2.544 million persons, up a modest 0.3 per cent or 8,700 persons from December. Year-over-year employment was up a solid 2.5 per cent or 61,900 persons. In comparison, national employment rose 0.4 per cent from December and 1.8 per cent year-over-year.

While January’s headline numbers marked a solid start to the year and extended upward hiring momentum, details were on the soft side. Full-time employment fell 0.7 per cent (13,900 persons) from December and the third time in four months, with all gains owing to a 4.1 per cent rebound in part-time employment. On the bright side, the growth came from the private and public sectors as self-employment dipped. B.C.’s unemployment rate edged higher to 4.7 per cent from December and 1.8 per cent year-over-year.

Provincially, average hourly wage growth accelerated from a 1.7 per cent year-over-year pace in December to 2.3 per cent in January. This remains well below peak growth of about five per cent observed in the first half of 2018. Wage growth is somewhat disappointing given labour market tightness, but it could reflect job composition, increasing gig work and employers being unable to hike wages due to retail competition. Employers may also increase non-wage benefits or employer-paid social benefits to remain competitive. That said, competition for talent is expected to drive wage acceleration going forward.

Among industries, employment growth was mixed. On the downside, natural resources employment (down 18,000 persons or 9.3 per cent) and construction (down 11,200 persons or 4.5 per cent) were the main drags on employment. Given these are higher paying sectors, it also constrained upward pressure on wages. On the upside, services-producing sectors posted a strong gain of 26,700 persons or 1.3 per cent from December. There was broad strength in this sector, led by significant growth in transportation and warehousing (up 4.6 per cent or 6,400 persons), information and cultural industries (up 5,600 persons or 4.4 per cent) and accommodation and foodservices (up 4,500 persons or 2.9 per cent).

Average employment is forecast to rise 1.2 per cent in 2019 with the unemployment rate trending within a range of 4.5 to 5.0 per cent. Labour supply will remain a key constraint for employers.

Lower Mainland-Southwest
Lower Mainland-Southwest labour market trends were positive over the latest three-month period. Employment rose by about 42,400 persons or 2.6 per cent. Rising population and labour force participation facilitated the increase and lifted the unemployment rate 0.7 percentage points to 4.8 per cent.

Vancouver Island-Coast
The latest seasonally adjusted, short-term trends in labour market indicators were negative. Average employment fell by 3.2 per cent or about 12,830 persons over the latest three-month period. The unemployment rate declined sharply by 0.8 percentage points to 3.6 per cent, driven by both a more pronounced declined
in the labour force which reflected a lower participation rate. Some of the downswing in employment and labour force may reflect sampling variability in the survey, but labour market conditions remain tight.

**Thompson-Okanagan**
The latest seasonally adjusted, short-term trends in labour market indicators were positive. Employment rose 4.2 per cent or 10,760 persons over the latest three-month period. The unemployment rate fell sharply by 1.9 percentage points to 4.1 per cent despite higher labour force participation.

**Kootenay**
The latest seasonally adjusted, short-term trends in labour market indicators were positive. Estimated employment rose 1.6 per cent or 1,170 persons over the latest three-month period. The regional unemployment rate fell sharply by 3.0 percentage points to a microscopic 2.8 per cent suggesting a sharp tightening in labour market conditions. That said, small market labour estimates can be volatile.

**Cariboo**
The latest seasonally adjusted, short-term trends in labour market indicators were negative. Employment fell 2.7 per cent or 2,110 persons over the latest three-month period. The unemployment rate rose 0.9 percentage points to 6.1 per cent despite a lower labour force participation rate.

**North Coast-Nechako**
The latest seasonally adjusted, short-term trends in labour market indicators were positive. Employment declined rose 2.0 per cent or 820 persons over the latest three-month period. The region’s unemployment rate declined 1.1 percentage points to 4.4 per cent as labour force expansion lagged employment gains.

**Northeast**
The latest seasonally adjusted, short-term trends in labour market indicators were negative. Regional employment fell by 2,813 persons or 2.0 per cent over the latest three-month period. The average unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.7 per cent, reflecting as the labour force also contracted.

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**Bryan Yu**
Deputy Chief Economist
byu@central1.com
604.742.5346 Mobile: 604.649.7209
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Labour Force x 1,000</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Employed x 1,000</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date

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Source: Based on Statistics Canada data, Central 1 Credit Union
## Full-Time & Part-Time Employment, British Columbia

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<th>% Change</th>
<th>Part-Time Employment x 1,000</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date

### Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data

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Source: Based on Statistics Canada data, Central 1 Credit Union
### Employment by Class of Worker, British Columbia

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<th>Employees, Public Sector x 1,000</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Self-Employed x 1,000</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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**2018 YTD** * 1,550.7 | 445.7 | 445.8 | 7.1*  
**2019 YTD** * 1,617.4 | 4.3  | 448.8 | 0.7 | 440.5 | -1.2*  

* YTD = Calendar year-to-date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data</th>
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<td>2018M12</td>
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Based on Statistics Canada data, Central 1 Credit Union
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Labour Force Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
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<td>%</td>
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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date based on 3-month moving average monthly data

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Source: Based on Statistics Canada data, Central 1 Credit Union
## Lower Mainland-Southwest

<table>
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<th>Labour Force</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date based on 3-month moving average monthly data

### Seasonally Adjusted, 3-Month Moving Average, Monthly Data

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Source: Based on Statistics Canada data, Central 1 Credit Union
Employment (x 1,000): Lower Mainland-Southwest

Unemployment Rate (%): Lower Mainland-Southwest

Participation Rate (%): Lower Mainland-Southwest

Employment, Index =100 in 2007: Lower Mainland-Southwest
## Thompson-Okanagan

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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date based on 3-month moving average monthly data

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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date based on 3-month moving average monthly data

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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date based on 3-month moving average monthly data

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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date based on 3-month moving average monthly data

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Source: Based on Statistics Canada data, Central 1 Credit Union
## Northeast

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<th>Employed</th>
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* YTD = Calendar year-to-date based on 3-month moving average monthly data

### 2018 YTD*  
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### 2019 YTD*  
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### Seasonally Adjusted, 3-Month Moving Average, Monthly Data

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Source: Based on Statistics Canada data, Central 1 Credit Union
Employment (x 1,000): Northeast

Seasonally Adjusted 3-MMA
Trend

Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1 CU. Latest: 2019:01.

Monthly Change in Employment (x 1,000): Northeast

Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1 CU. Latest: 2019:01.

Unemployment Rate (%): Northeast

Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1 CU. Latest: 2019:01.

Participation Rate (%): Northeast

Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1 CU. Latest: 2019:01.

Employment, Index =100 in 2007: Northeast

Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1 CU. Latest: 2019:01.
Labour Force Statistics
Definitions and Explanatory Notes

Reference Week
Monthly estimates of employment, unemployment, and persons not in the labour force refer to the specific week covered by the survey each month, normally the week containing the 15th day.

Labour Force
The labour force is composed of those members of the civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed.

Employed
Employed persons are those who, during the reference week, either: (a) did any work at all, or (b) had a job but were not at work due to own illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, bad weather, labour dispute, vacation, or other reason not specified above (excluding persons whose job attachment was to a job to start at a definite date in the future).

Unemployment
Unemployed persons are those who, during the reference week, either: (a) were without work, had actively looked for work in the past four weeks (ending with the reference week), and were available for work; or (b) had not actively looked for work in the past four weeks but had been on layoff and were available for work; or (c) had not actively looked for work in the past four weeks but had a new job to start in four weeks or less from the reference week, and were available for work.

Unemployment Rate
The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, etc.) is the number of unemployed in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that group.

Participation Rate
The participation rate represents the labour force expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, etc.) is the labour force for that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

Employment Rate
The employment rate (employment/population ratio) is the number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, etc.) is the employment for that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

Rounding
 Estimates published by the Labour Force Survey are rounded to the nearest thousand but all derived values (totals, averages, rates, ratios, percent changes, etc.) are calculated from unrounded figures. Therefore, the sum of the individual rounded items may not equal the total.

Seasonal Adjustment
Fluctuations in economic time series are caused by seasonal, cyclical and irregular movements. A seasonally adjusted series is one from which seasonal movements have been eliminated. Seasonal movements are defined as those which are caused by regular annual events such as climate, holidays, vacation periods, and cycles related to crops, production and retail sales associated with Christmas and Easter. It should be noted that the seasonally adjusted series contain irregular as well as longer-term cyclical fluctuations.