



## Highlights

- Full-time employment up in B.C. in December; employment gains in services sector

## B.C. employment rates increase in December

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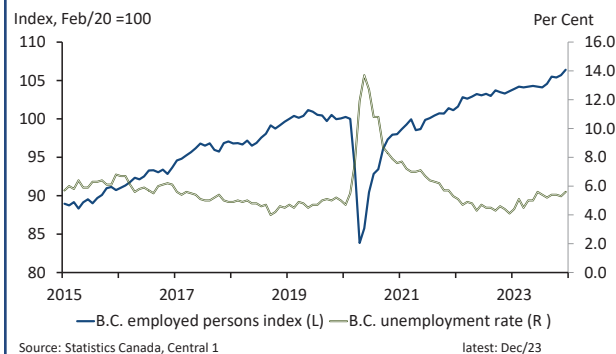
After an increase in September 2023 and minimal changes experienced in both October and November, employment in British Columbia saw a notable rise of 17,700 people (0.6 per cent) in December on a seasonally adjusted basis to regain traction heading into 2024.

On a year-over-year basis, provincial employment increased 2.7 per cent. The labour participation rate rose to 65.7 per cent, while the provincial unemployment rate went up from 5.3 per cent in November to 5.6 per cent in December. B.C.'s labour force expanded by one per cent during the same period, outpacing a gain of 0.2 per cent in the working age population.

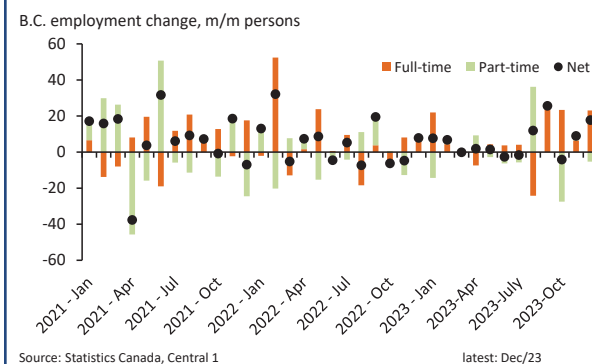
Full-time employment in the province rose by one per cent (23,100 people) in December, offsetting a decline in part-time employment, which was down 0.9 per cent (5,300 people). Vancouver census metropolitan area recorded a 0.6 per cent increase in employment from the prior month, while the unemployment rate went up to 6.2 per cent.

By sector, the goods producing industries saw employment fall 2.1 per cent following the growth in November, with the highest sub-sector proportional losses observed in utilities (21.7 per cent) and agriculture (-11.1 per cent). The rest of goods-producing sectors — except the natural resources industry — also posted declines including manufacturing (-2.8 per cent or 5,100 people). Total employment in the services industries increased on the other side by 1.2 per cent, with notable increase in information, culture and recreation (10.1 per cent or 13,200 people). In contrast, a large decline was reported in business, building and other support services (-9.9 per cent or 8,700 people).

Total employment in B.C. went up in December, unemployment rate edged up



Full-time employment increased in B.C. in December



B.C. labour force performance in December was in line with national trends, with relatively more positive trends and fluctuations among industries. That said, economic traction and slower economic conditions in Q4 2023 and heading into Q1 2024 will continue to impact the labour market.

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