



Ministry of
Advanced Education
and Skills Training



Labour Market Monthly Report

A monthly snapshot of current labour market conditions.

July 2021 Update

Labour Force Survey – June 2021

June 2021 Trends

B.C.'s economic activity and employment have seen steady increases with employment surpassing pre-pandemic levels in March 2021, falling back below pre-pandemic levels in April and May 2021, and then returning to pre-pandemic levels in June 2021.

Trends to watch:

- **Economic Trend:** Previous pandemic-related supply disruptions, combined with stronger demand growth, are creating labour shortages and higher prices of materials.
 - *What impacts will this have on employers' ability to hire new workers?*
- **Labour Market Trend:** As expected with the B.C. Restart Plan, youth have recovered the losses from the spring, mainly through gains in part-time work.
 - *Older workers, specifically older women, are having more difficulty gaining employment.*
 - *Long term-unemployment continues to be a challenge, and involuntary part-time work remains high.*

Economic Summary

There were stronger economic and financial conditions in B.C. in June.

- **External markets:** Continued growth in commodity prices and international trade along with recovery in the U.S. Strong demand growth and supply disruptions are leading to shortages of materials and products. A key exception is the Tourism and Hospitality sector which is still depressed.
- **Goods sector:** Strong manufacturing sales and commodity prices support goods sector labour demand.
- **Construction sector:** Increasing demand for construction labour due to strong residential building permits and housing starts, as well as increasing major project construction activity.
- **Consumer sector:** Strong retail sales, stock returns and housing prices, plus falling consumer insolvencies and historically low interest rates. Rising inflation. Key exception: Tourism and Hospitality spending.
- **Business sector:** Business confidence is improving and is at historically high levels. Insolvencies not rising.

For additional economic indicators, please see the [economic statistics](#) available through contact BC Stats.

Labour Market Summary

- The B.C. economy continues to build strength – it was the lone province with employment exceeding the pandemic level in June 2021.
- Consistent with the Step 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan, such as reopening recreational travel within B.C., the return of indoor dining, and allowing larger organized events and recreation, there were significant employment gains in Sales and services occupations, mainly within the Accommodation and food services industry.
- However, the economic recovery continues. Involuntary part-time remains higher than normal, there are a large number of long-term unemployed individuals (particularly those 55+ years), and there was another significant employment loss in the Construction sector in June.

Contents:

Section 1: Labour Market Highlights

Section 2: Employment by Type of Work, Industry and Geography

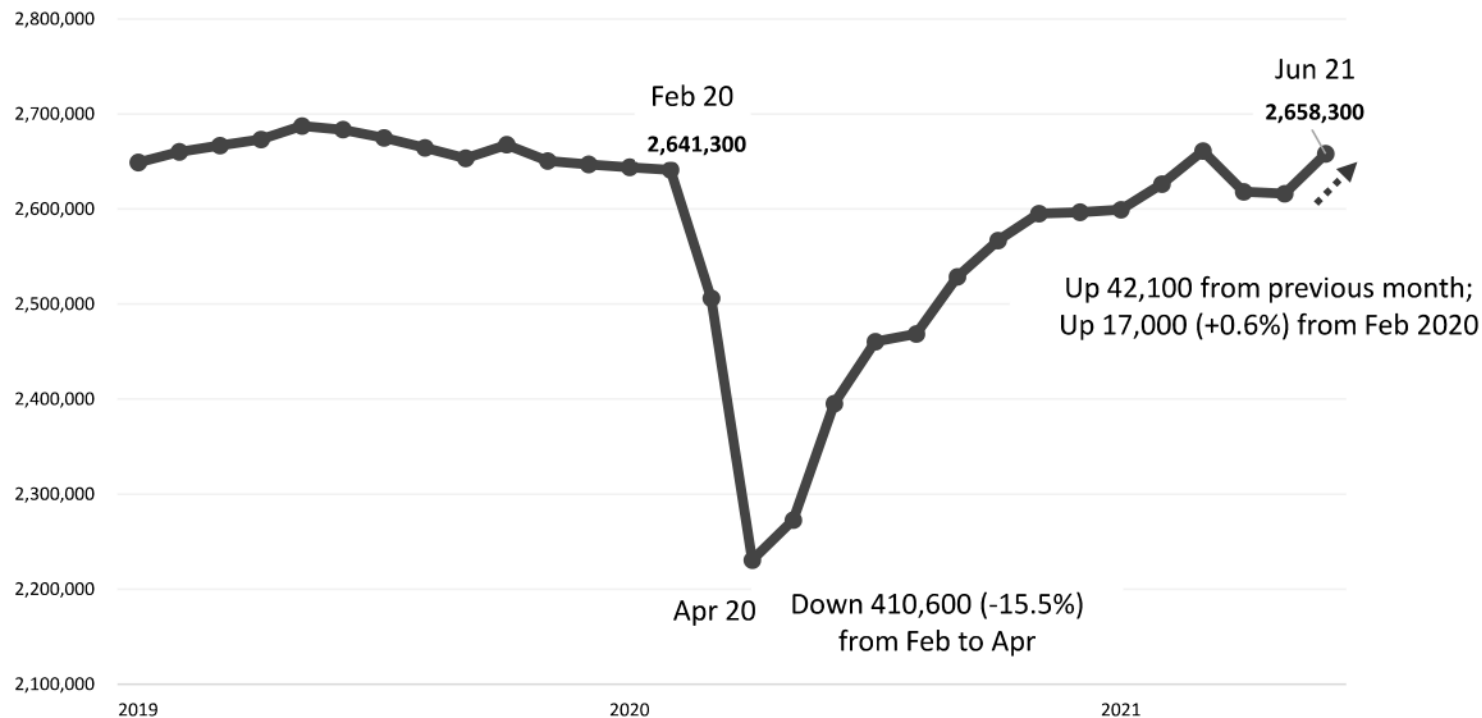
Section 3: Key Information by Demographic Group

Section 1: Labour Market Highlights

- B.C. was the lone province with employment above its pre-pandemic level.
- B.C. employment rose by 42,100 in June amid Step 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan, with employment returning to the March level.
- For those who left the labour force in the last two months (primarily youth), many have returned and found work.
- However, there are still many unemployed, specifically long-term unemployment amongst those age 55+, indicating that a full recovery has not been reached.

Employment

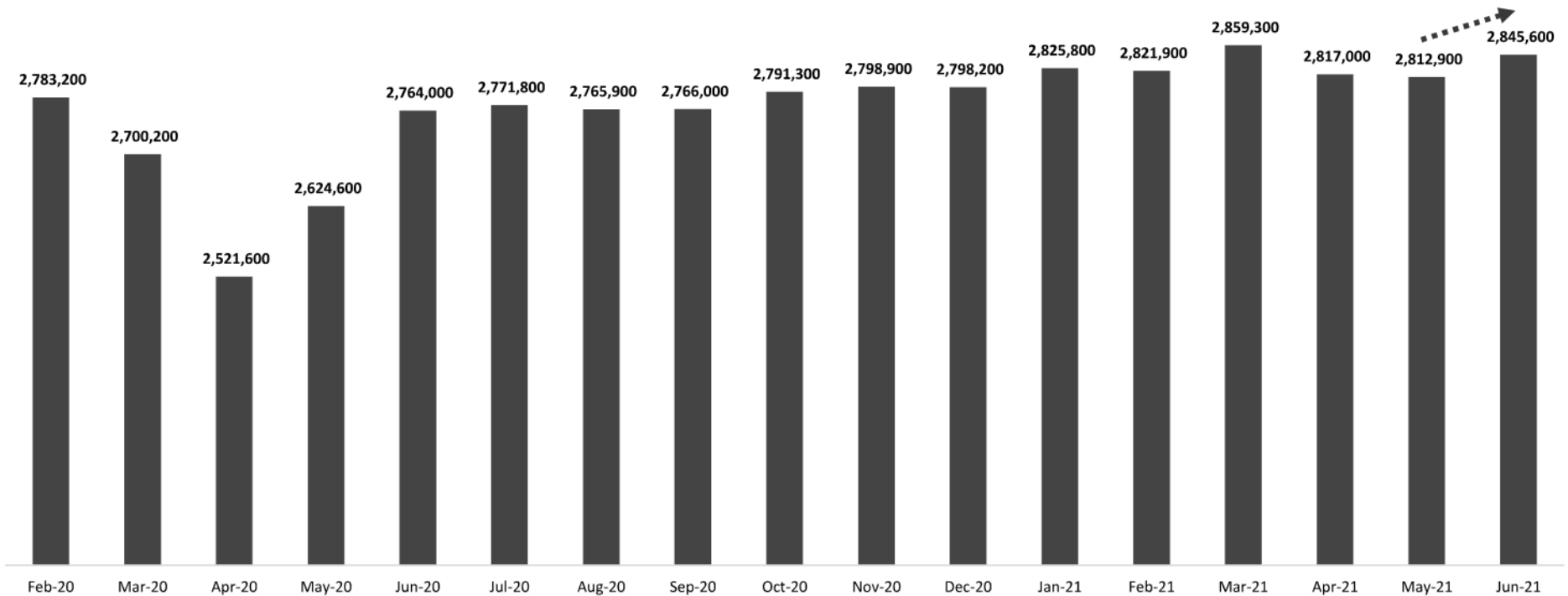
Employment in B.C. rose by 42,100 in June amid Step 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan, and returned to the employment level we saw previously in March.



	Month-over-month change
Mar-20	- 135,200
Apr-20	- 275,400
May-20	41,900
Jun-20	122,600
Jul-20	65,400
Aug-20	8,100
Sep-20	60,100
Oct-20	38,000
Nov-20	28,600
Dec-20	1,400
Jan-21	2,800
Feb-21	26,600
Mar-21	35,000
Apr-21	- 43,100
May-21	- 1,900
Jun-21	42,100

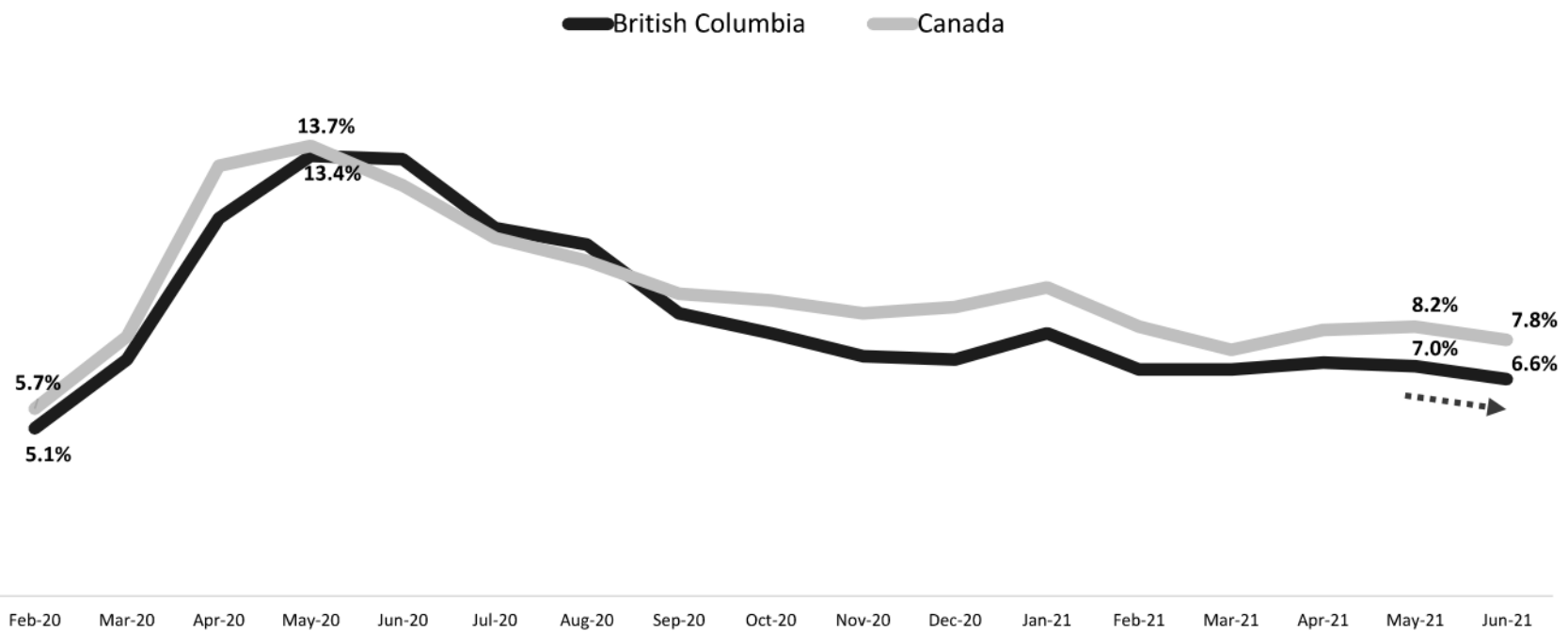
Labour Force

Many of those who left the labour force in the last two months returned in June.



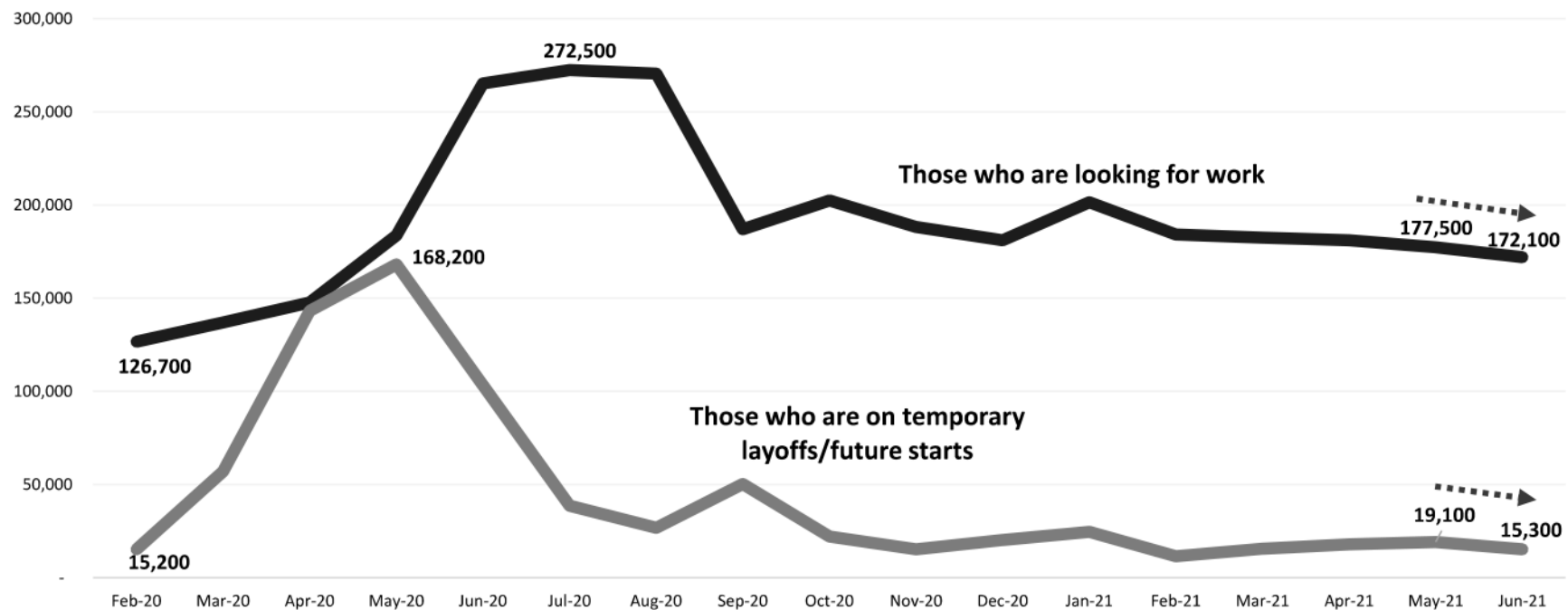
Unemployment Rate

B.C.'s unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage points from last month to 6.6%, and B.C. continues to show a strong economic recovery, indicated by its lower-than-national unemployment rate.



Unemployment

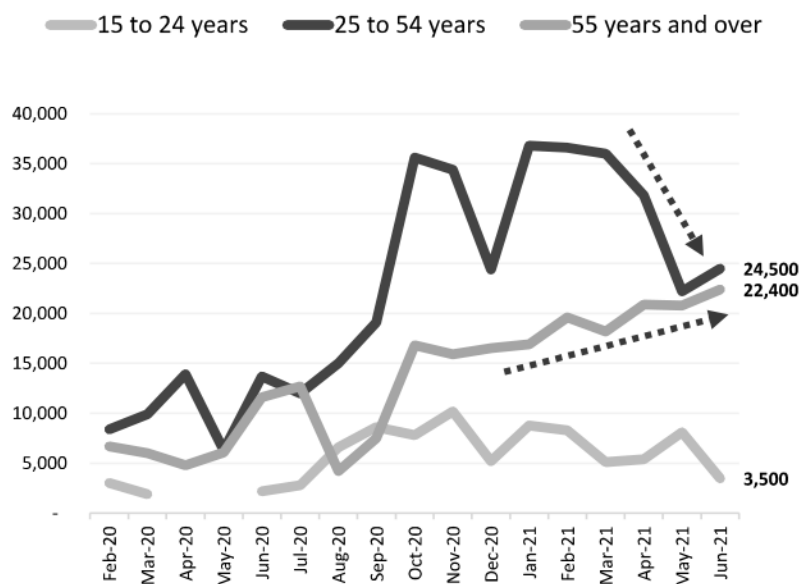
Although B.C.'s economic recovery is strong in Canada, there is still relatively high unemployment compared to pre-pandemic levels in our province, indicating that a full recovery has not been reached.



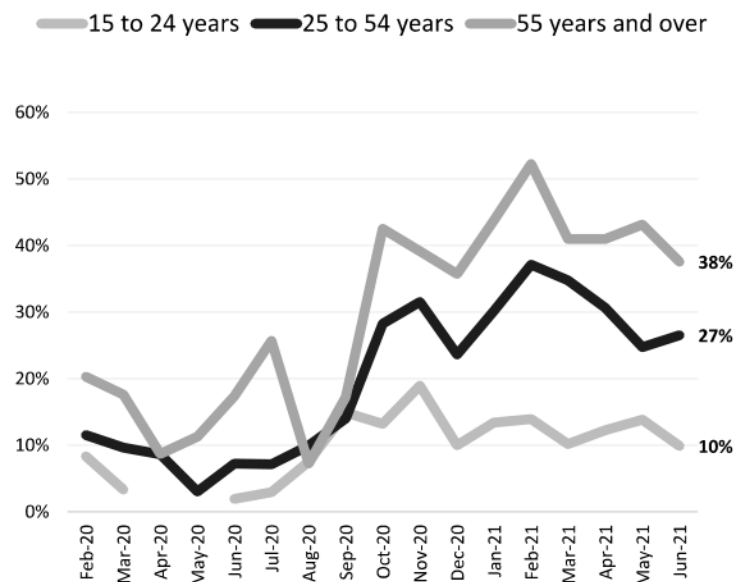
Long-Term Unemployment

During the COVID-19 recovery period, those aged 55+ continue to have increasing numbers of long-term unemployment, and the share of those in this age group remains high (38%). This may indicate that they may be having more difficulty finding employment.

Number of unemployed for 27 weeks or more



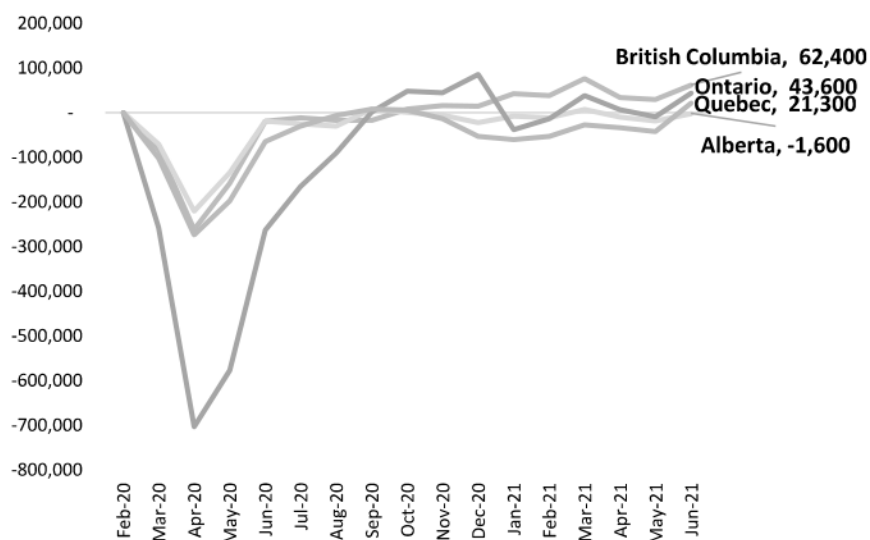
Share of long-term unemployed for each age group



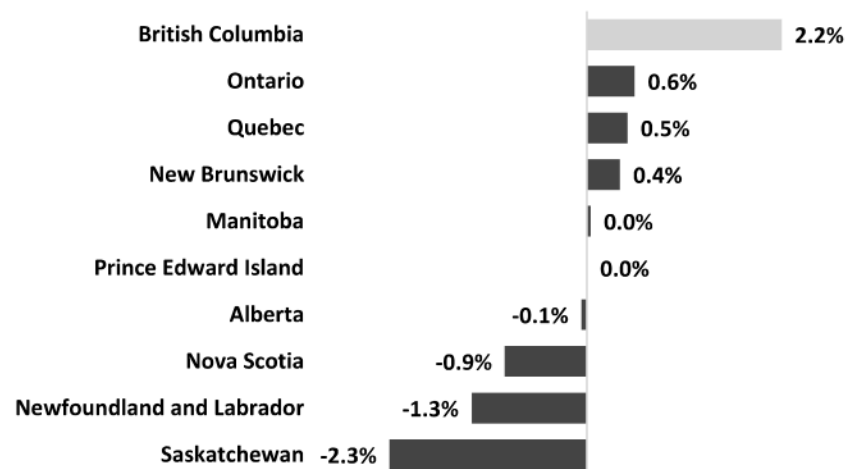
Labour Force by Province

Among the four most populous provinces in Canada, B.C. had the strongest labour force growth (+2.2%).

Labour force change since February 2020



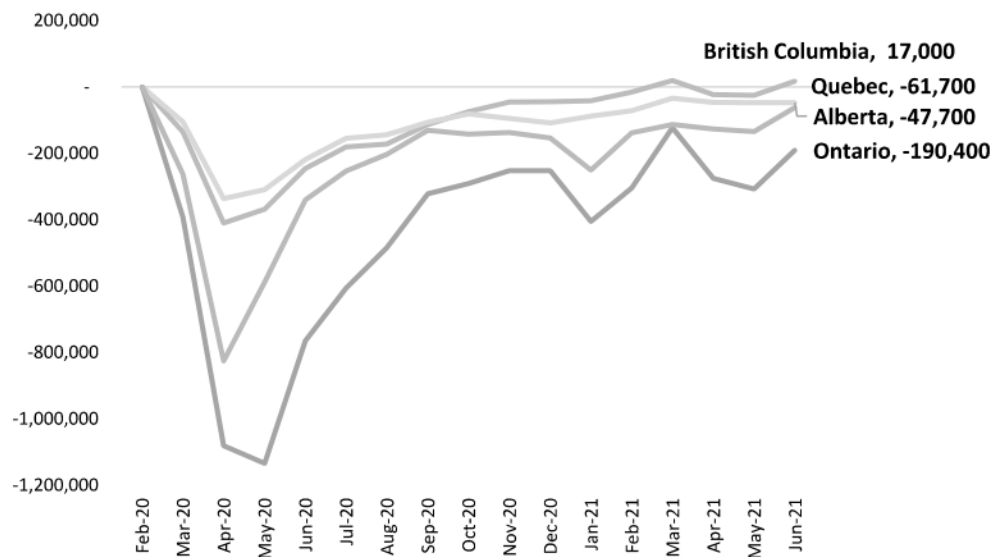
Percentage change of those in labour force since February 2020



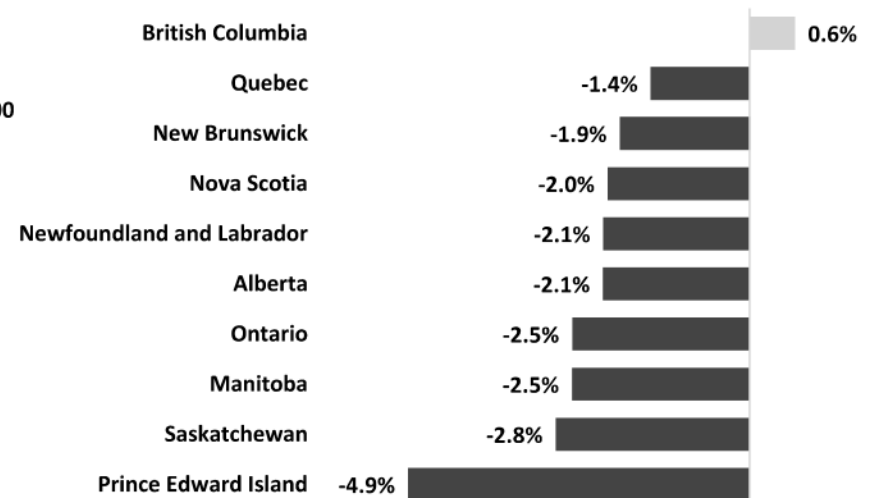
Employment by Province

Among all the provinces in Canada, British Columbia was the lone province with employment above its pre-pandemic level.

Employment change since February 2020



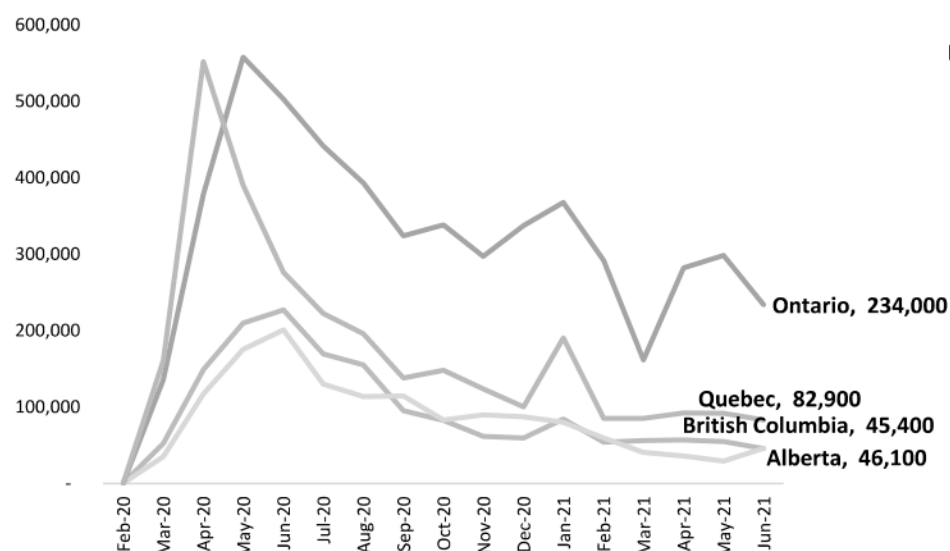
Percentage change of employment since February 2020



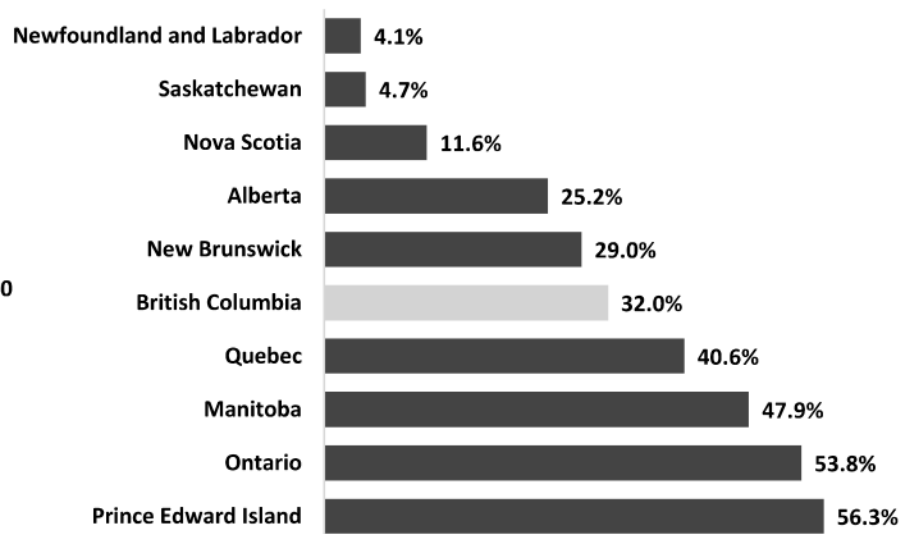
Unemployment by Province

B.C. ranked in the middle of the pack in terms of unemployment.

Unemployment change since February 2020



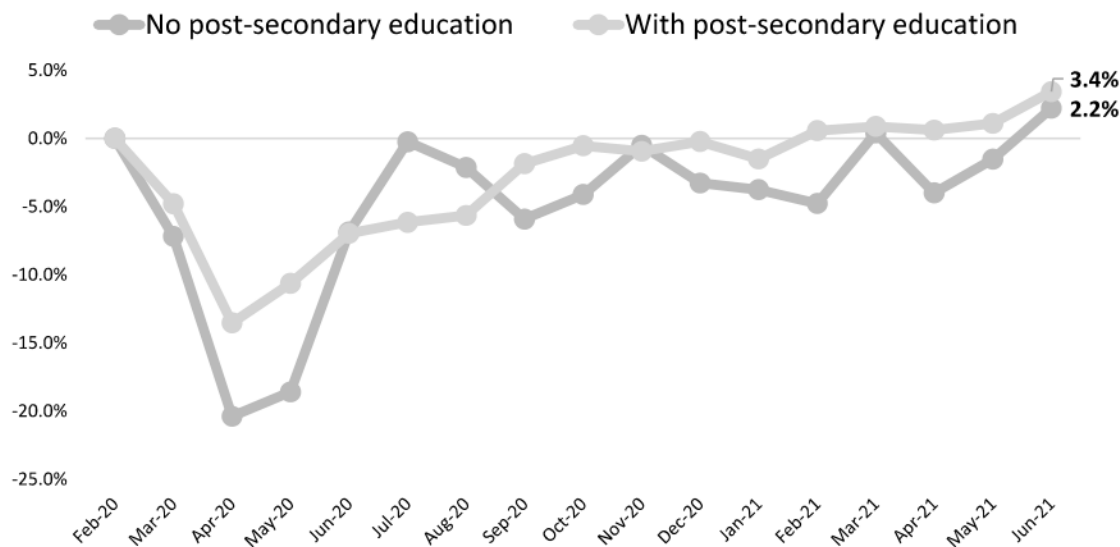
Percentage change of unemployment since February 2020



Employment by Education Level

(Percentage change since February 2020)

Since April 2021, employment for those with no post-secondary education made a sharp return. Compared to pre-pandemic levels, employment for those with no post-secondary education have had a more volatile recovery, whereas those with post-secondary have had more steady and predictable growth.



*PSE includes those with some post-secondary education or completed certificate / diploma / university degree. No PSE includes those without any high school, some high school and high school graduates.

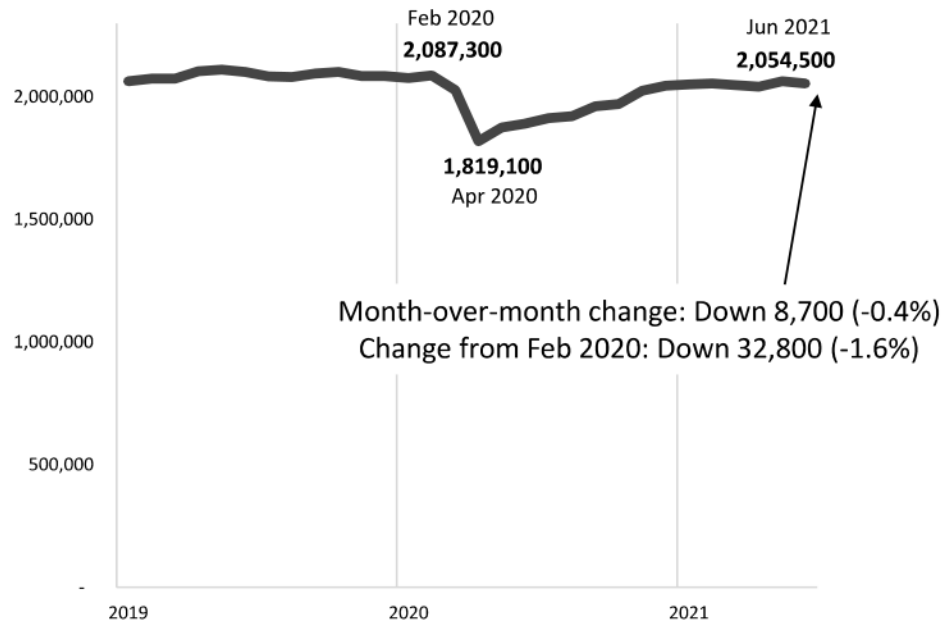
Section 2: Employment by Type of Work, Industry and Geography

- Moving into Step 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan, employment returned to March 2021 levels, with net gains primarily in part-time work.
- As the COVID-19 cases continued to fall, economic recovery continues to build strength:
 - Employment losses in the more hard-hit sectors, namely Accommodation and food services, as well as Information, culture and recreation, have dramatically reduced.
 - Seven out of 10 major occupational groupings saw employment gains.
- A full-recovery has yet to be reached:
 - Involuntary part-time employment remains elevated.
 - Construction sector lost about 10,000 jobs this month.
 - Fewer people were employed in Management occupations (possibly higher-wage positions).
 - Self-employment was down over 10%.

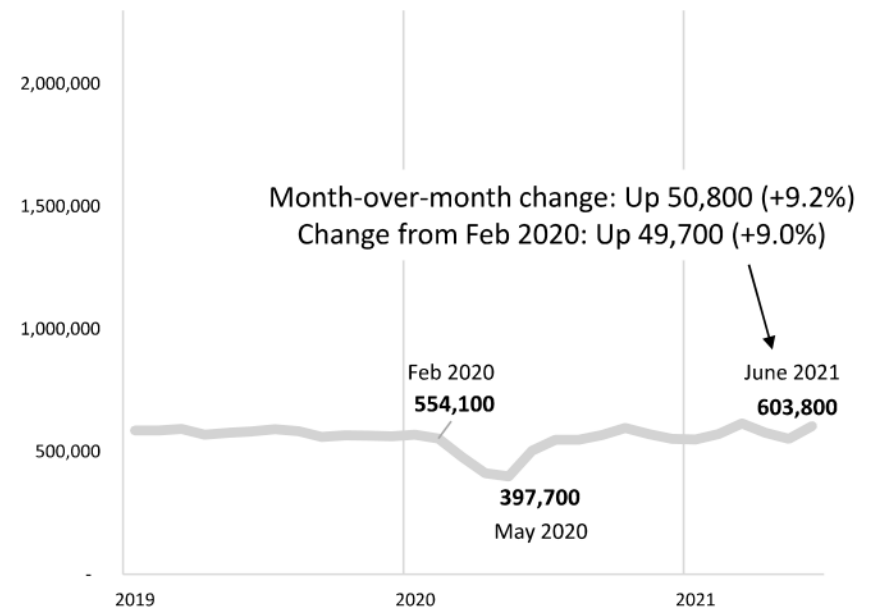
Employment by Full-time/Part-time

Part-time employment increased back to March 2021 levels.
During the recovery, the net gains of employment have been mainly in part-time work.

Full-time employment

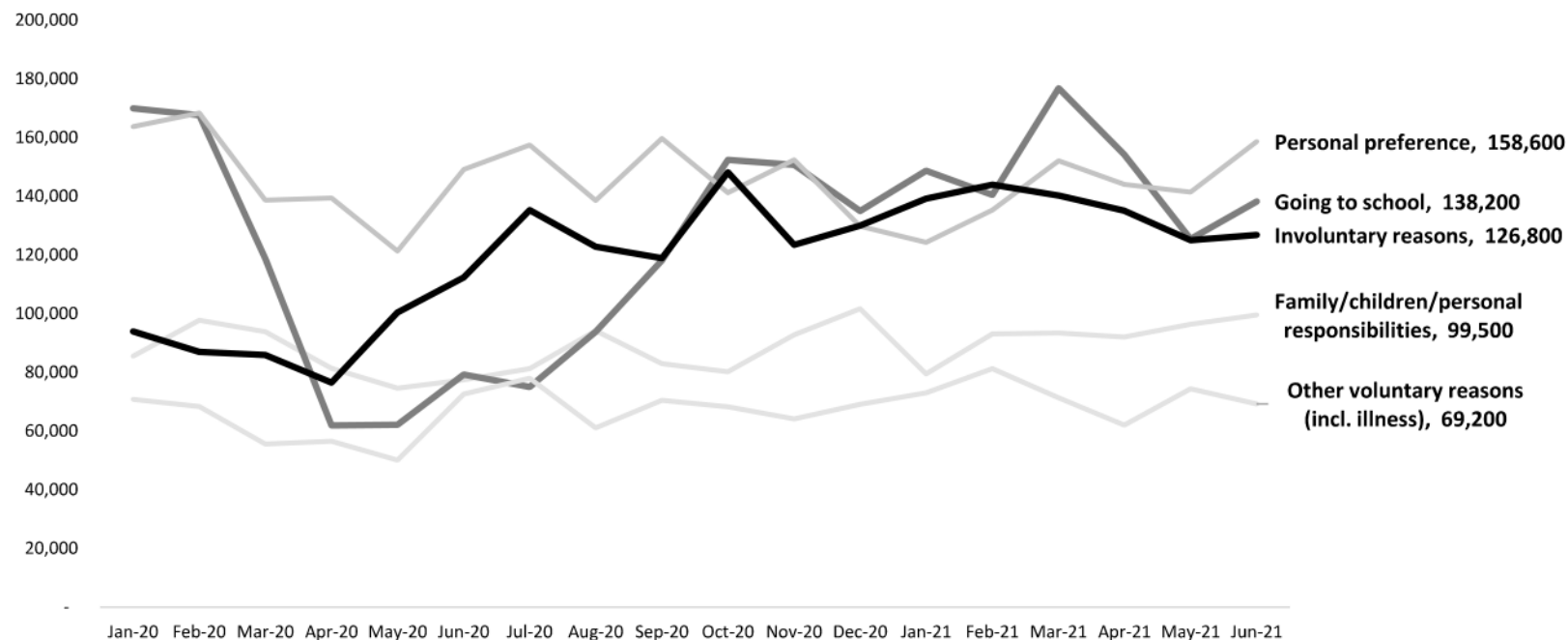


Part-time employment



Reasons for Part-time Employment

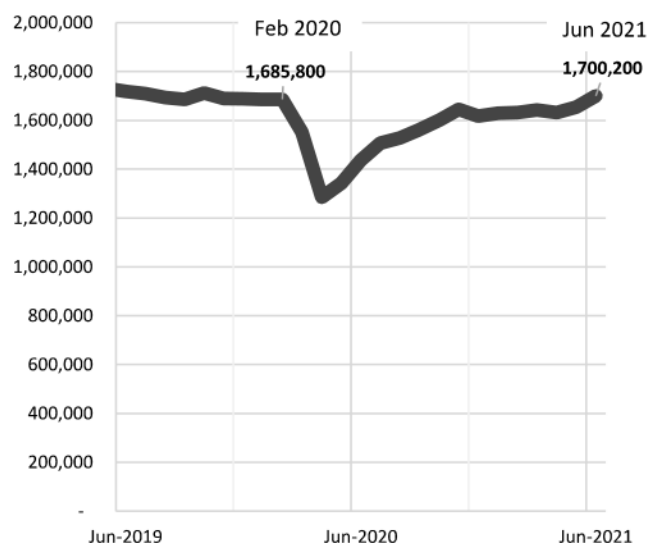
Compared to pre-pandemic levels, working part-time for involuntary reasons remains high while working part-time for going to school remains relatively low, although both are still volatile.



Employment by Class of Worker

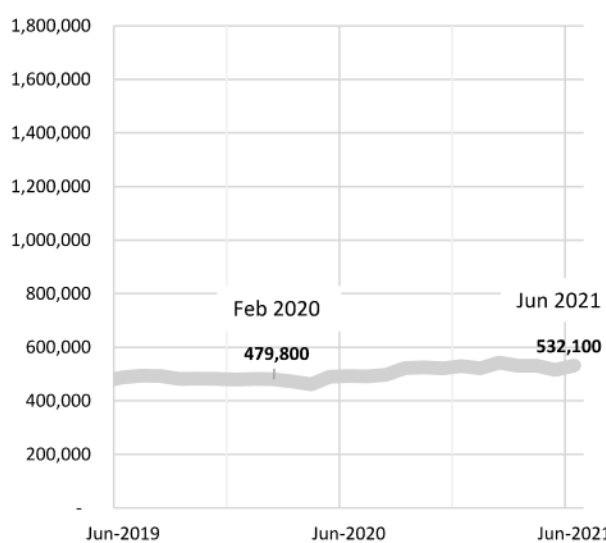
Private sector made significant gains of employment this month, now exceeding pre-pandemic levels, while self-employment is still far below the pandemic levels.

Private sector employees



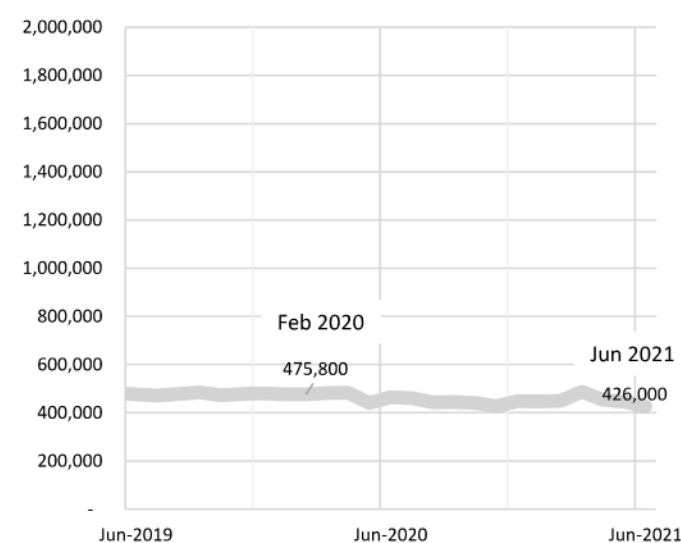
Month-over-month change: Up 46,600 (+2.8%)
Change from Feb 2020: Up 14,400 (+0.9%)

Public sector employees



Month-over-month change: Up 16,400 (+3.2%)
Change from Feb 2020: Up 52,300 (+10.9%)

Self-employment



Month-over-month change: Down 20,900 (-4.7%)
Change from Feb 2020: Down 49,800 (-10.5%)

Employment by Industry

As we moved to Step 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan, employment in Accommodation and food services made significant gains in June. Construction, on the other hand, had another major loss this month, mainly due to weakness in the non-residential building contractor segment.

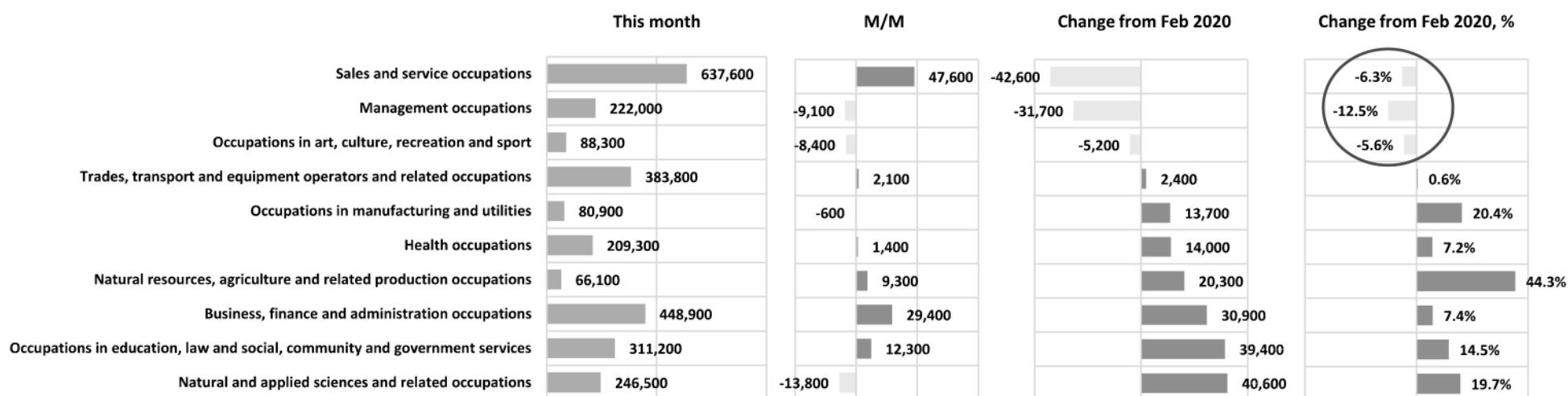
B.C. EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

	This month	M/M	Y/Y % change	Change from Feb 2020	Change from Feb 2020, %
Construction	207,300	-10,100	-3.7%	-42,600	-17.0%
Accommodation and food services	176,600	19,200	9.6%	-24,500	-12.2%
Wholesale and retail trade	396,800	300	11.5%	-14,000	-3.4%
Agriculture	22,300	1,200	19.8%	-6,400	-22.3%
Other services (except public administration)	114,200	2,500	21.9%	-6,400	-5.3%
Transportation and warehousing	137,200	-2,900	7.6%	-6,300	-4.4%
Business, building and other support services	109,100	5,200	33.2%	-5,500	-4.8%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	173,200	6,800	8.1%	-600	-0.3%
Educational services	185,500	3,000	4.3%	4,500	2.5%
Utilities	22,300	1,200	11.5%	6,900	44.8%
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	49,600	-5,100	12.2%	7,200	17.0%
Information, culture and recreation	132,800	3,600	40.4%	8,000	6.4%
Manufacturing	174,600	-2,100	12.4%	8,300	5.0%
Public administration	133,500	3,400	12.6%	18,800	16.4%
Health care and social assistance	358,600	10,600	11.4%	27,700	8.4%
Professional, scientific and technical services	264,900	5,400	10.6%	41,900	18.8%

Employment by Occupations

Seven out of 10 occupational groups have had gains during the recovery.

Employment increased in June, primarily driven by increases in Sales and services occupations, now only 6.3% below the pre-pandemic level. Management occupations, in contrast, were still 12.5% below the pre-pandemic level, with Art, culture, recreation and sport also down 5.6%.



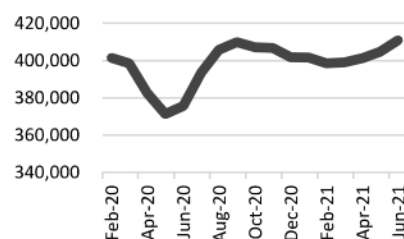
Employment by Region

(Percentage change since February 2020, three-month moving average)

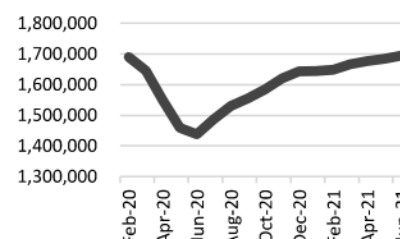
Vancouver Island and Coast	Lower Mainland - Southwest	Thompson-Okanagan	Kootenay	Cariboo	North Coast & Nechako	Northeast
+2.3%	+0.2%	-1.9%	+7.7%	+7.6%	+5.3%	-4.8%

Both the Thompson-Okanagan and Northeast have had a volatile recovery. These regions may also face more challenges in the coming months due to the B.C. wildfires. The Lower Mainland – Southwest region has been slow to recover but is now reaching pre-pandemic levels.

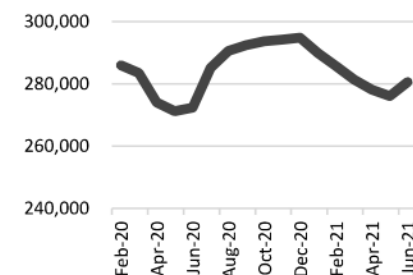
Vancouver Island and Coast



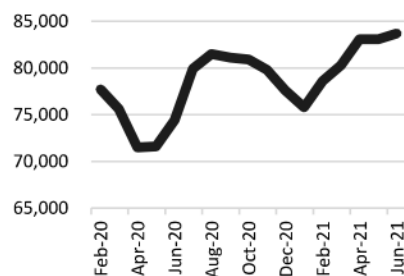
Lower Mainland-Southwest



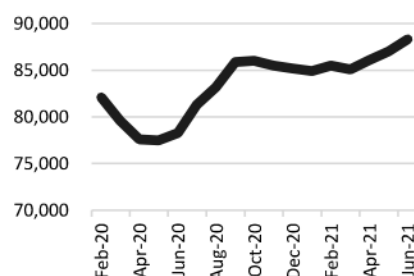
Thompson-Okanagan



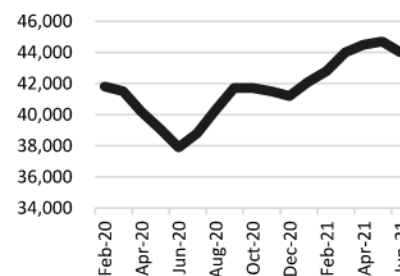
Kootenay



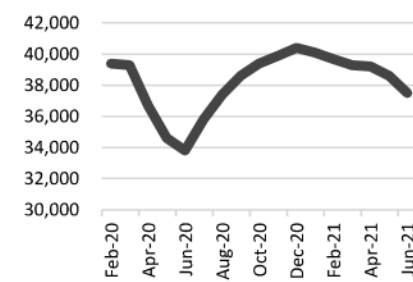
Cariboo



North Coast and Nechako



Northeast

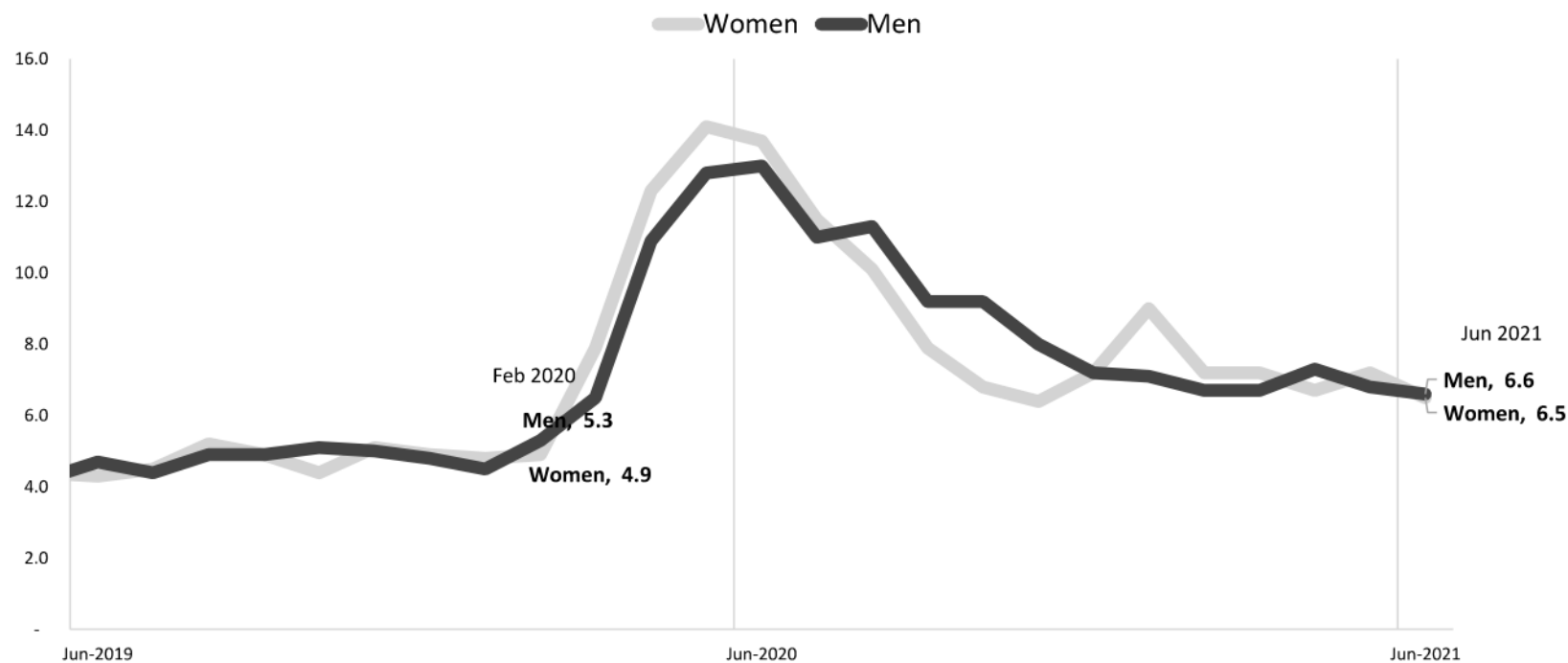


Section 3: Key Information by Demographic Group

- Youth employment increased substantially in June amid Step 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan, but more for young men. Young women had a more volatile recovery during the pandemic than young men.
- Core-age workers have recovered strongly with unemployment rate down to 5.1% -- echoing the strong economic recovery in B.C.
- Older workers, especially older women, are having more difficulty finding employment. The unemployment rate for older women increased to 11.1% in June.
- Immigrants and visible minorities continue to be more impacted during the pandemic.

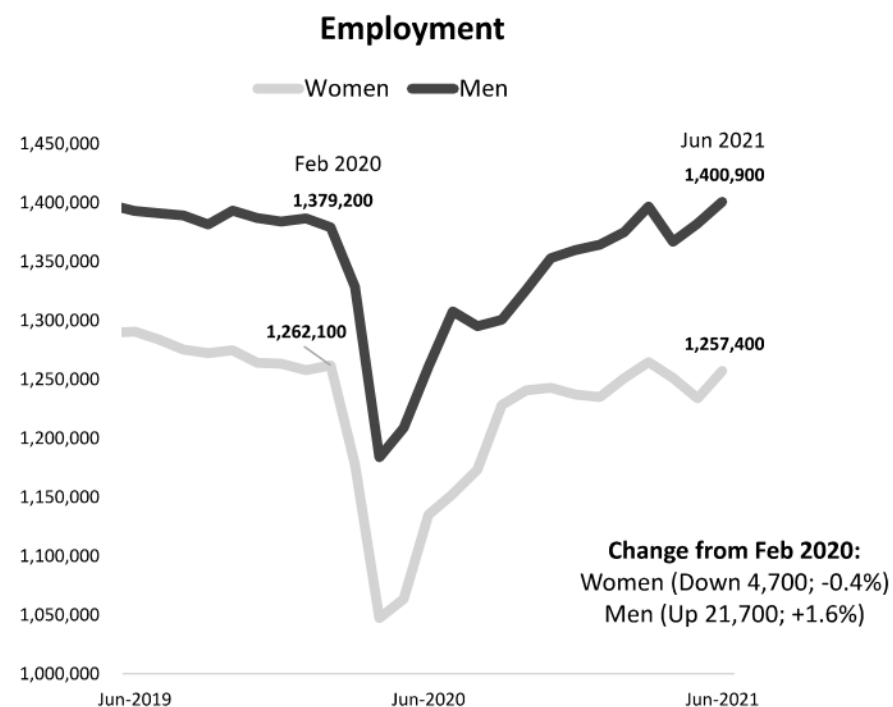
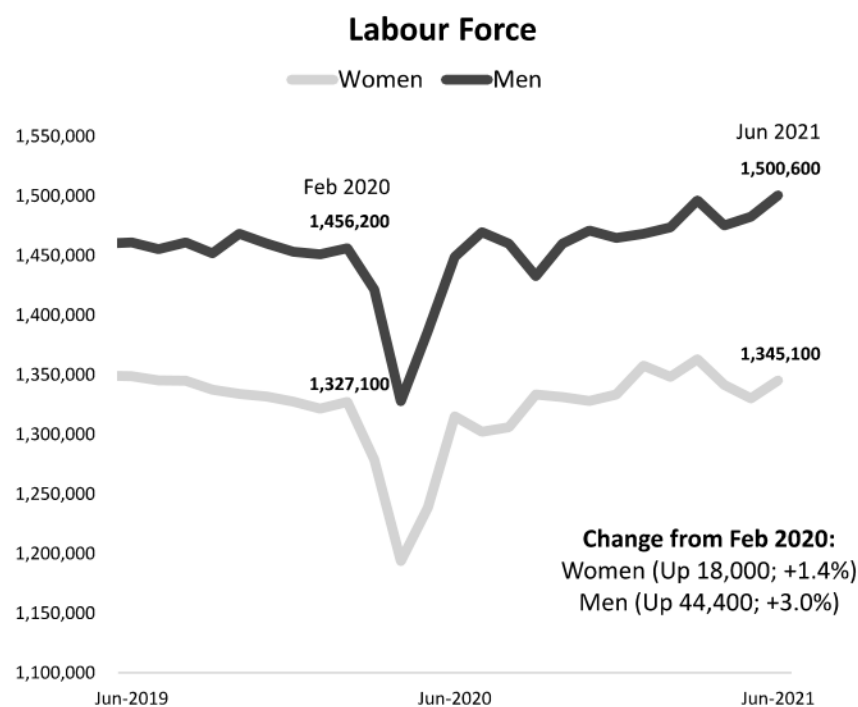
Unemployment Rate by Sex

Overall, unemployment rates for both women and men trended down, but are not at pre-pandemic levels. Women have had a more volatile recovery than men during the pandemic.



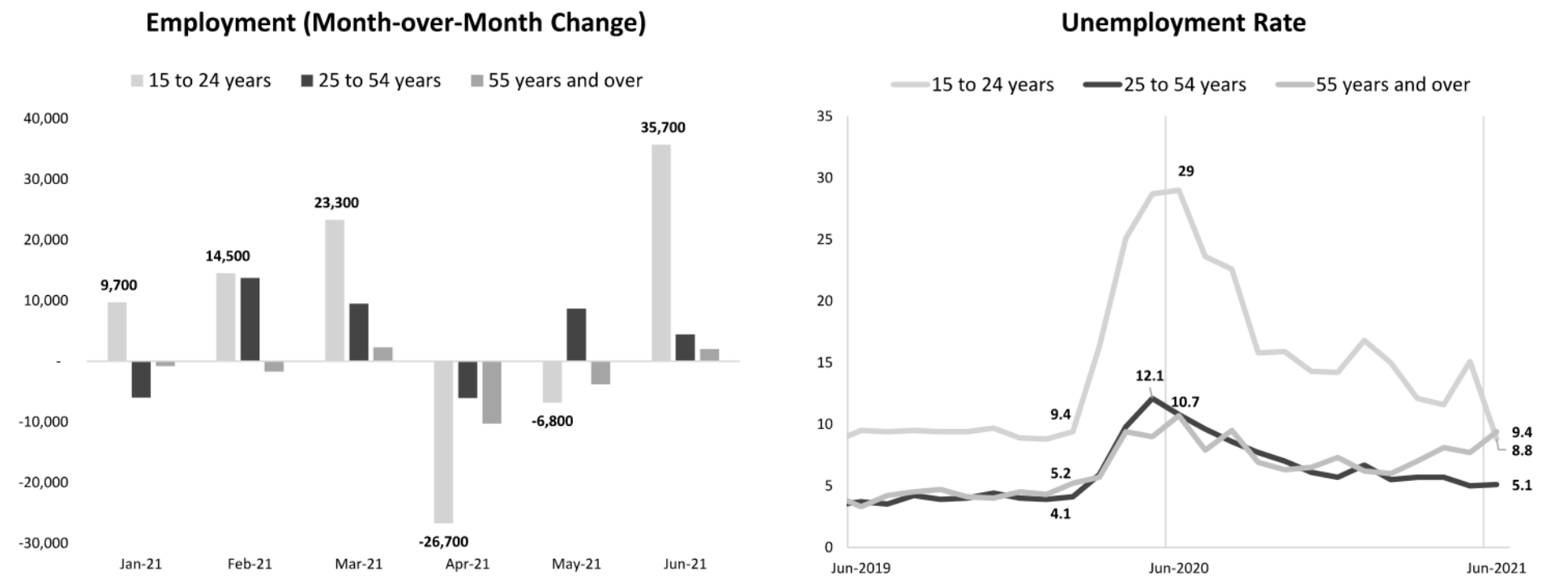
Labour Force and Unemployment by Sex

Overall, labour force increased for both women and men compared to pre-pandemic levels.
In particular, both labour force and employment are growing much faster for men.



Employment and Unemployment Rate by Age

Moving into Step 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan, youth gained employment and for the first time, the youth unemployment rate was lower than pre-pandemic level. In contrast, older workers' unemployment rate trended up.

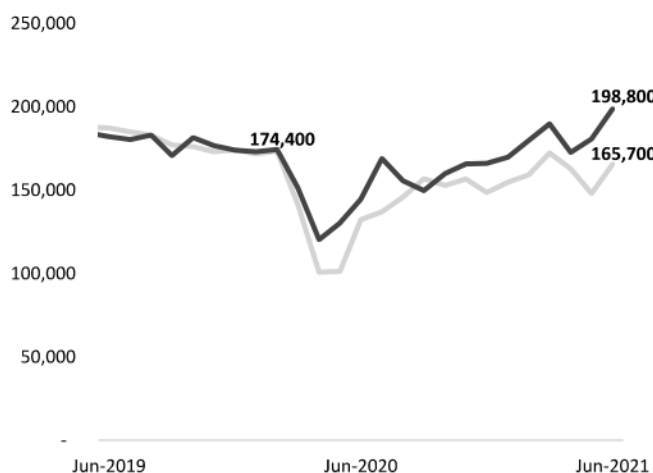


Youth (15 to 24 years)

Step 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan helped many youth. Notably, young men's participation in the labour market rose and their employment increased significantly faster than young women.

Employment

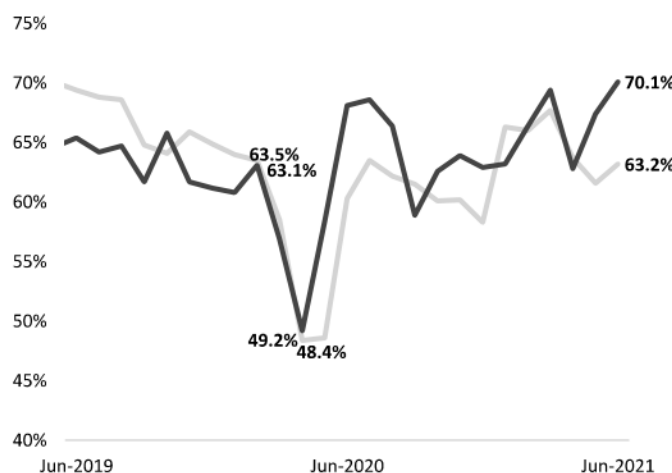
— Women — Men



Change from Feb 2020:
 Women (Down 7,700; -4.4%)
 Men (Up 24,400; +14.0%)

Labour Force Participation Rate

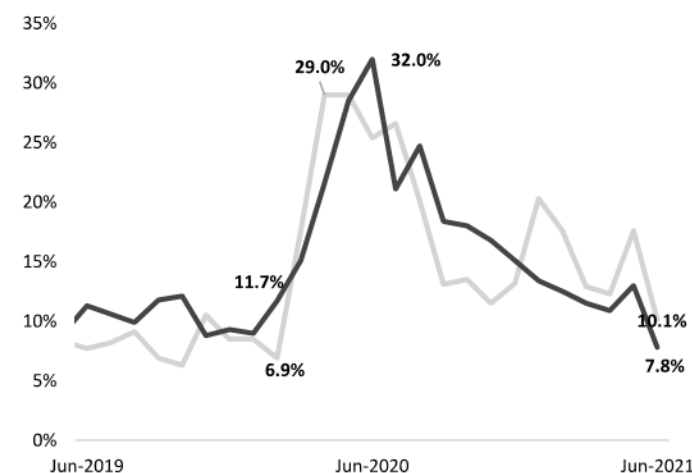
— Women — Men



Change from Feb 2020:
 Women (Down 0.3 percentage points)
 Men (Up 7.0 percentage points)

Unemployment Rate

— Women — Men

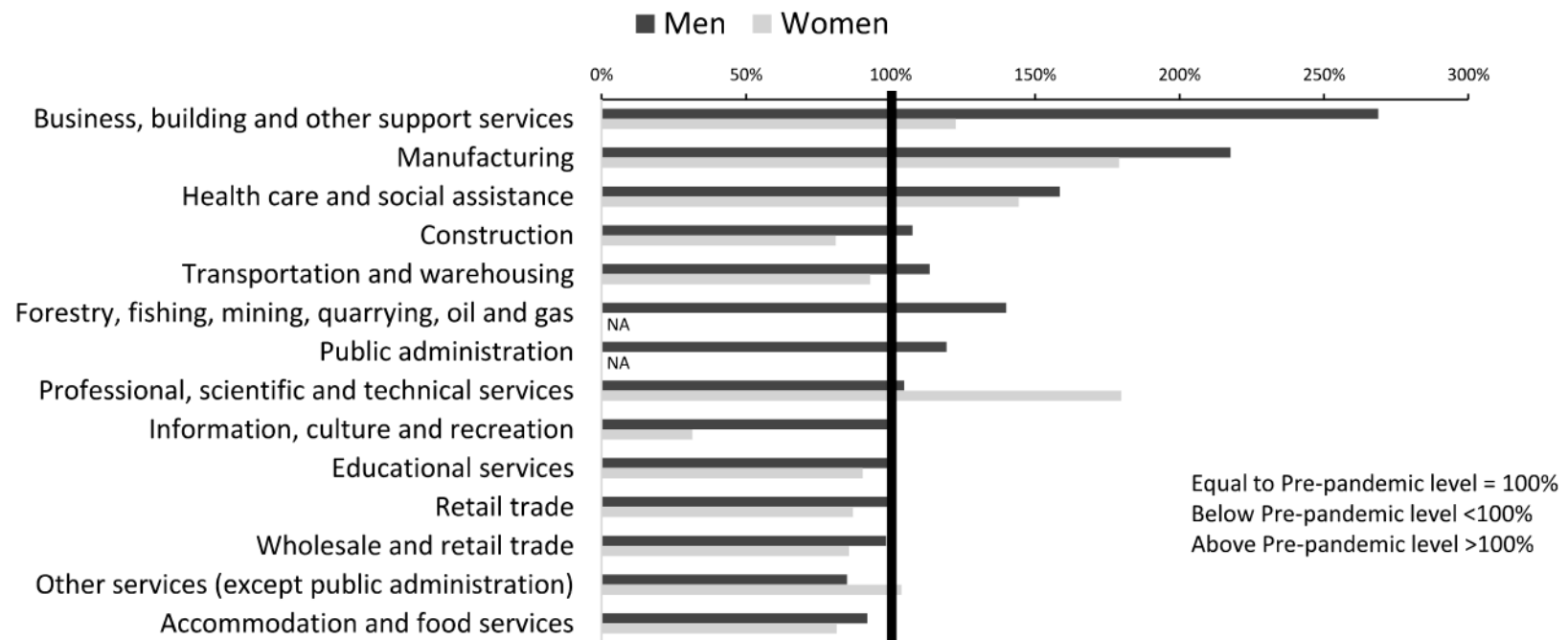


Change from Feb 2020:
 Women (Up 3.2 percentage points)
 Men (Down 3.9 percentage points)

Youth Employment by Industry

(Proportion to Pre-pandemic (February 2020) level, 3mma)

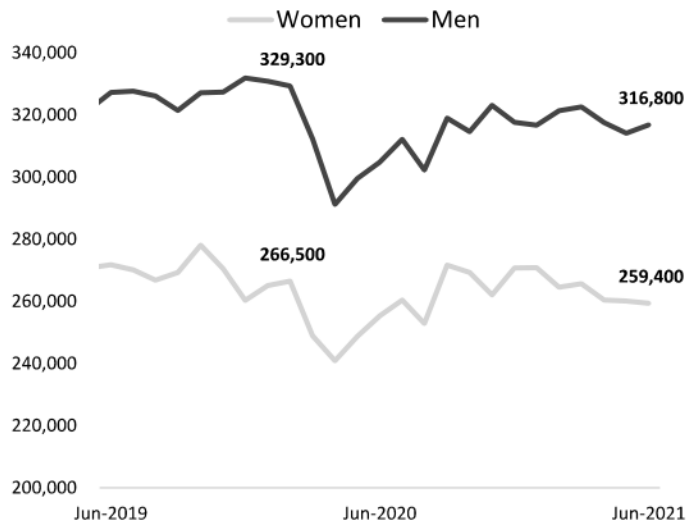
Compared to pre-pandemic level, more young men went into Business, building and other support services, manufacturing, health sector, and natural resources industries. More young women went into Manufacturing, Professional, scientific and technical services, and Health sector industries.



Older Workers (55 years and over)

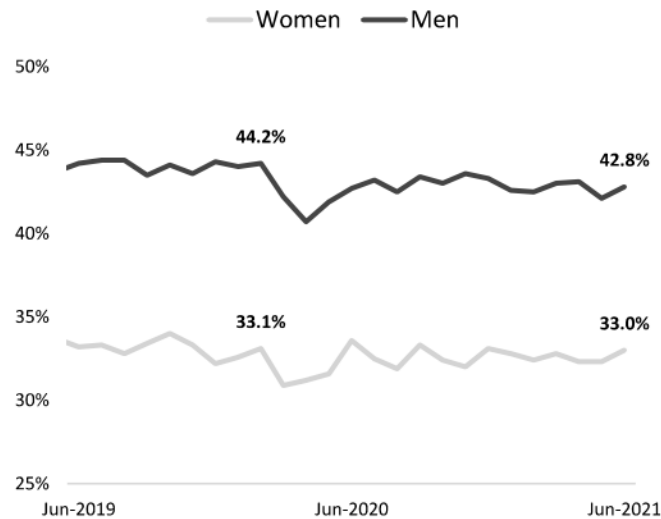
Women age of 55 years and older had the highest unemployment rate in June, indicating that older women were not finding employment.

Employment



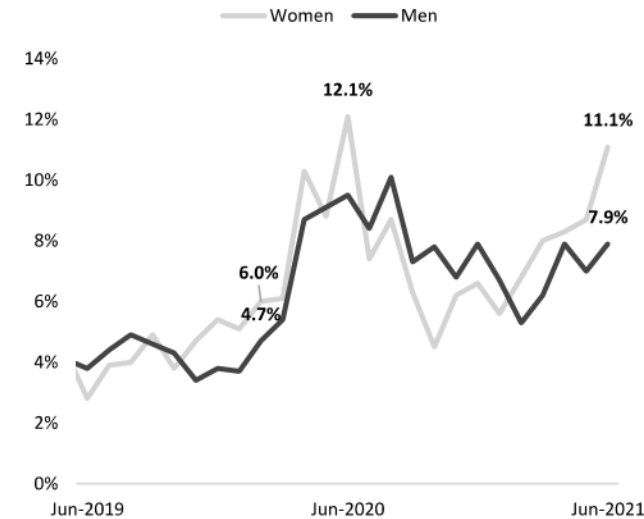
Change from Feb 2020:
 Women (Down 7,100; -2.7%)
 Men (Down 12,500; -3.8%)

Labour Force Participation Rate



Change from Feb 2020:
 Women (Down 0.1 percentage points)
 Men (Down 1.4 percentage points)

Unemployment Rate



Change from Feb 2020:
 Women (Up 5.1 percentage points)
 Men (Up 3.2 percentage points)

Immigrants

Very recent immigrants have low population growth since fewer have been arriving in B.C. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They also have the lowest unemployment rate because many are in the economic class immigration stream and have jobs. Immigrants who have been in Canada for over 5 years had the highest unemployment rate (8.0%) as they would have immigrated during an earlier immigration policy period that had fewer economic class immigration streams.

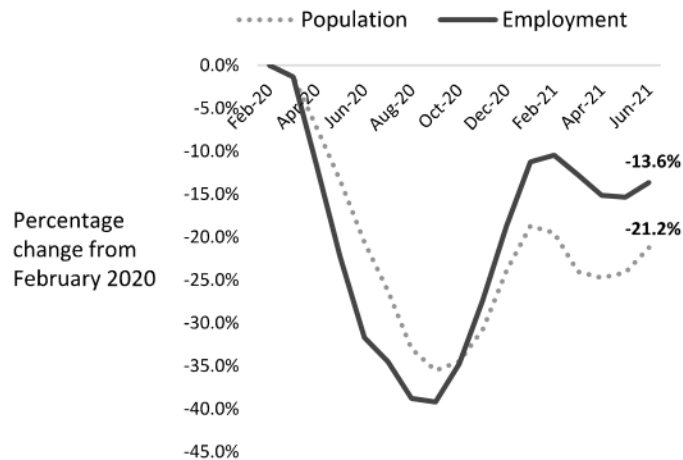
Unemployment
Rate in
June 2021:

4.9%

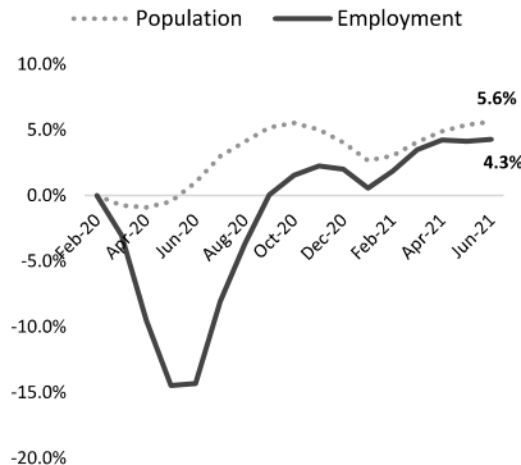
8.0%

6.2%

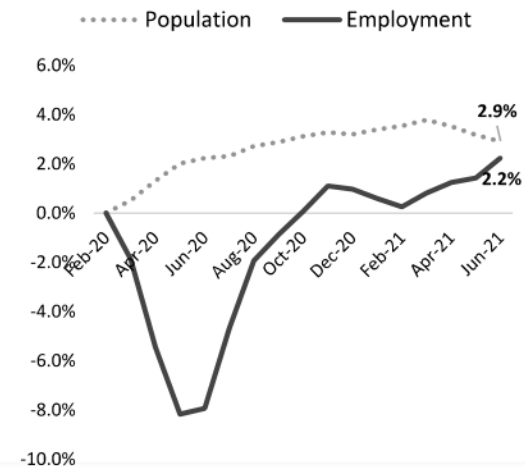
Very Recent Immigrants



Immigrants > 5yrs



Born in Canada

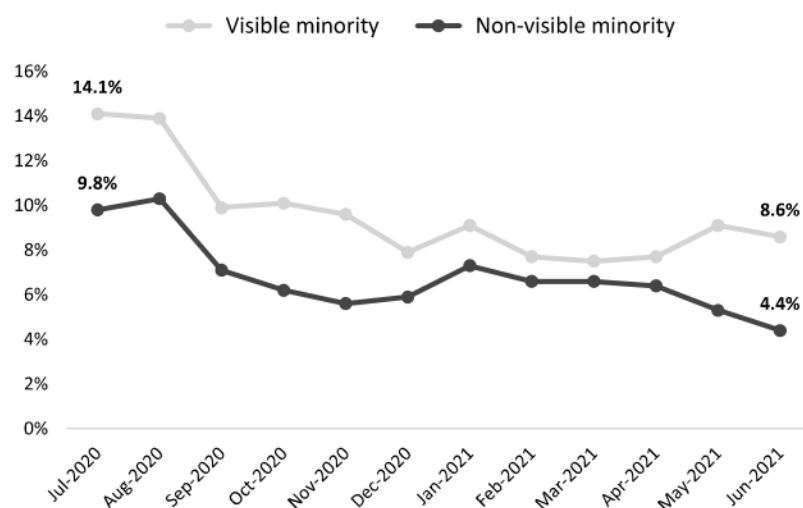


Visible and Non-Visible Minorities in B.C.

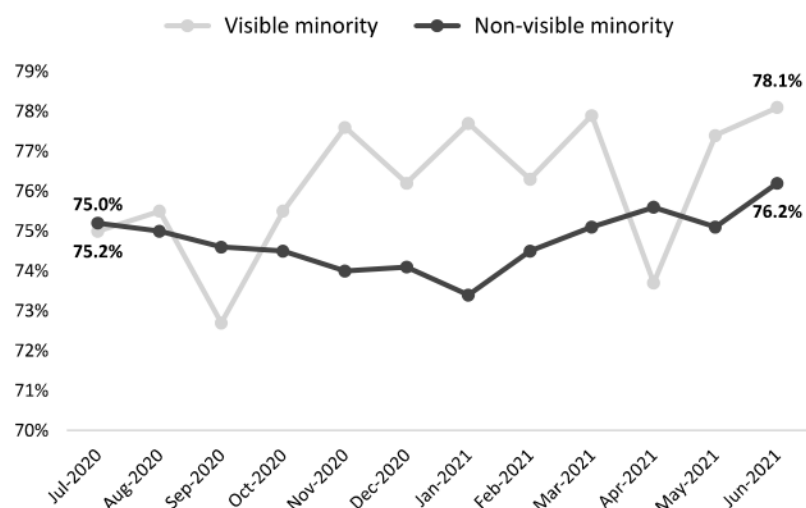
Age 15 to 69 (unadjusted for seasonality)

The unemployment rate remains higher for visible minorities, while it has been decreasing for non-visible minorities. Visible minorities have a higher participation rate, however, coupled with the higher unemployment rate, it means that more visible minorities are also looking for work.

Unemployment Rate



Labour Force Participation Rate
(Percent of population in the labour force)



Visible minorities: non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour (non Indigenous)

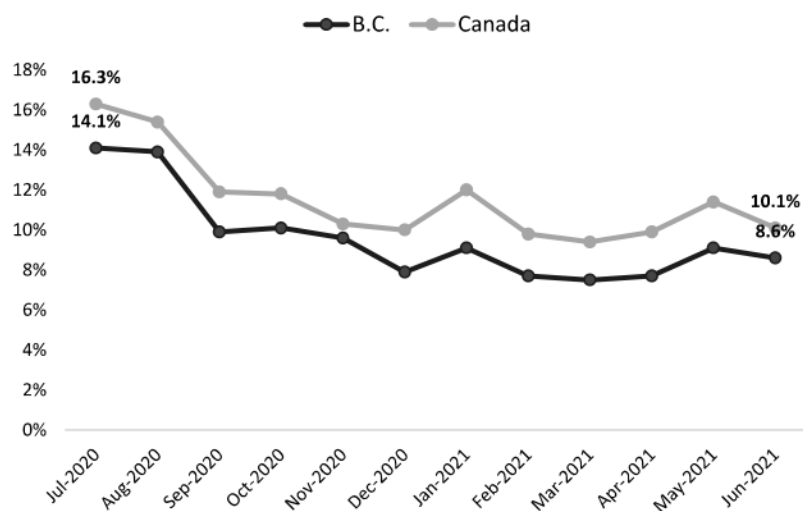
Non-Visible Minorities: Not Indigenous or a visible minority

Visible Minorities, B.C. and Canada

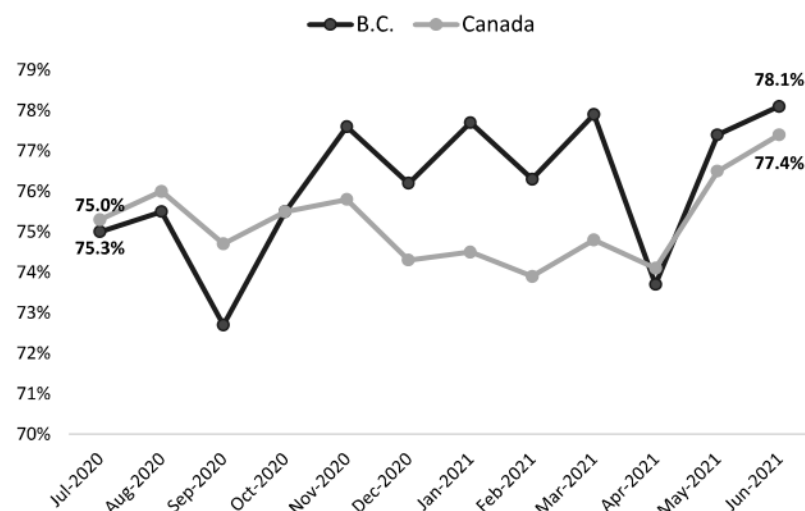
Age 15 to 69 (unadjusted for seasonality)

Visible minorities in B.C. continue to have a lower unemployment rate than the national level.
Visible minorities labour force participation rate is trending up again for both B.C. and Canada.

Unemployment Rate



Labour Force Participation Rate
(Percent of population in the labour force)



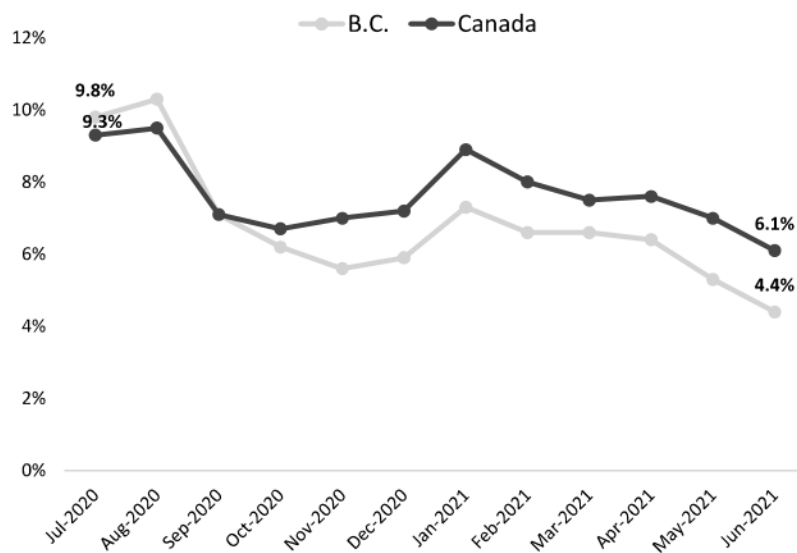
Visible minorities: non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour (non Indigenous)
 Note: B.C. and Canada have different compositions of the visible minorities group.

Non-Visible Minorities, B.C. and Canada

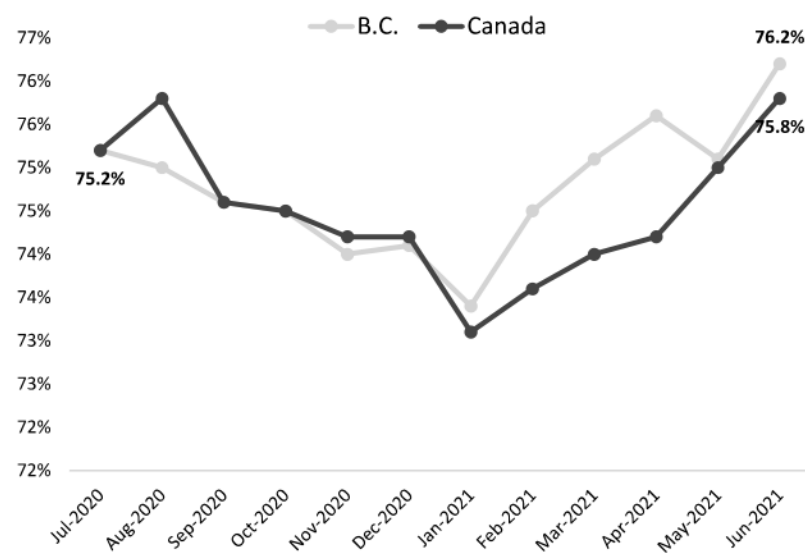
Age 15 to 69 (unadjusted for seasonality)

**Non-visible minorities in B.C. continue to have lower unemployment rates than the national level.
In 2021, the labour market participation for non-visible minorities in B.C. and Canada has been on an upward trend.**

Unemployment Rate



**Labour Force Participation Rate
(Percent of population in the labour force)**



Non-Visible Minorities: Not Indigenous or a visible minority

Conclusion

- **B.C.'s labour market outperformed** the rest of the country in June, primarily led by the strong employment growth in the Professional, scientific and technical services sector, followed by the Health sector and Public administration.
- However, not all British Columbians have recovered in the same way during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Young women, visible minorities, immigrants, as well as older women are having more difficulty finding employment.**
- Looking ahead, the tourism sector, (restaurants and hotels) particularly within **Thompson-Okanagan and the Northern regions, may once again be facing challenges** amid B.C. wildfires.