

SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE

THOMPSON OKANAGAN

The economy in BC's Southern Interior has experienced continued growth over the past several years. Unemployment rose for the first time in several years resulting in part from an increase in the overall labour force and participation rate.

Labour Force Characteristics, Population 15 Years and Older, Thompson Okanagan – 1996 to 2008¹

	Total population 15 years and over (000s)	In the labour force (000s)	Employed (000s)	Un-employed (000s)	Not in the labour force (000s)	Participation rate %	Employment rate %	Unemployment rate %
1996	359.2	223.8	200.3	23.5	135.4	62.3	55.8	10.5
1997	365.8	224.9	206.1	18.7	140.9	61.5	56.3	8.3
1998	370.3	226.0	207.4	18.6	144.3	61.0	56.0	8.2
1999	374.0	228.1	206.1	22.0	145.9	61.0	55.1	9.6
2000	377.3	231.7	210.3	21.5	145.5	61.4	55.7	9.3
2001	380.8	231.8	210.2	21.6	149.0	60.9	55.2	9.3
2002	385.0	229.8	208.1	21.7	155.1	59.7	54.1	9.4
2003	390.2	239.9	218.8	21.1	150.3	61.5	56.1	8.8
2004	396.7	245.9	229.7	16.2	150.7	62.0	57.9	6.6
2005	404.3	257.6	244.0	13.6	146.7	63.7	60.4	5.3
2006	413.8	267.4	253.7	13.7	146.4	64.6	61.3	5.1
2007	423.0	268.5	256.7	11.8	154.5	63.5	60.7	4.4
2008	431.0	280.5	265.0	15.5	150.5	65.1	61.5	5.5

Labour Force Characteristics, Population 15 Years and Older, British Columbia²

B.C.	Mar-09	Apr-09	March 2009 to April 2009	April 2008 to April 2009	March 2009 to April 2009	April 2008 to April 2009
	thousands				%	
Population	3,685.80	3,690.40	4.6	63.5	0.1	1.8
Labour force	2,420.20	2,437.10	16.9	10.1	0.7	0.4
Employment	2,240.10	2,257.40	17.3	-62.8	0.8	-2.7
Unemployment	180.1	179.8	-0.3	73	-0.2	68.4
Participation rate (%)	65.7	66	0.3	-0.9
Unemployment rate (%)	7.4	7.4	0	3
Employment rate (%)	60.8	61.2	0.4	-2.8

¹ Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table (for fee) 282-0055 and Catalogue no. 71-001-PIB. Last modified: 2009-01-09. <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/labor36c-eng.htm> (Accessed April 15, 2009)

² Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table (for fee) 282-0087 and Catalogue no. 71-001-XIE. Last modified: 2009-05-08. (Accessed May 14, 2009)

CENTRAL OKANAGAN (RDCO)

The Central Okanagan has experienced consistently high population growth over the past decade. The numbers of people in the labour force as well as those not in the labour force have raised along with the population. In 2008, the participation rate rebounded after a small decline in 2007. Both the employment rate and unemployment rates increased, due in large part to a significant increase in the overall size of the labour force.

Labour Force Characteristics, Population 15 Years and Older, Central Okanagan – 1996 - 2008³

	Total population 15 years and over (000s)	In the labour force (000s)	Employed (000s)	Un-employed (000s)	Not in the labour force (000s)	Participation rate %	Employment rate %	Unemployment rate %
1996	113.5	73.6	66.8	6.9	39.8	64.8	58.9	9.4
1997	116.6	71.4	65.3	6.1	45.2	61.2	56.0	8.5
1998	119.1	75.8	70.3	5.5	43.4	63.6	59.0	7.3
1999	121.5	76.4	69.9	6.5	45.1	62.9	57.5	8.5
2000	123.6	77.9	71.9	6.0	45.7	63.0	58.2	7.7
2001	125.8	80.6	75.3	5.3	45.1	64.1	59.9	6.6
2002	128.2	81.7	73.8	7.9	46.5	63.7	57.6	9.7
2003	131.0	82.3	75.2	7.2	48.6	62.8	57.4	8.7
2004	134.3	87.0	82.6	4.3	47.3	64.8	61.5	4.9
2005	138.0	86.4	81.7	4.7	51.6	62.6	59.2	5.4
2006	143.4	92.4	86.9	5.5	51.0	64.4	60.6	6.0
2007	148.7	92.5	88.2	4.2	56.2	62.2	59.3	4.5
2008	152.7	100.4	95.3	5.1	52.3	65.7	62.4	5.1

³ BC Stats, Labour Force Activity by Selected B.C. Cities - Annual Averages, <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/dd/handout/lfscity.pdf> (Accessed April 16, 2009)

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS BY GENDER – 2006⁴

Labour force characteristics for the Central Okanagan are similar to the province as a whole. However, significant job growth in relation to the increase in labour force has resulted in a lower unemployment rate for the region for both males and females. The region's older population base contributes to the lower labour force participation rate (64.0%).

Labour Force Characteristics by Gender, RDCO and BC – 2006

	Central Okanagan (RDCO)			BC		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population 15 years and over	135,045	48.3%	51.7%	3,394,910	48.6%	51.4%
In the labour force	86,390	52.1%	47.9%	2,226,380	52.4%	47.6%
Employed	82,005	52.4%	47.6%	2,092,770	52.5%	47.5%
Unemployed	4,385	47.8%	52.2%	133,615	50.2%	49.8%
Not in the labour force	48,655	41.6%	58.4%	1,168,525	41.3%	58.7%
Participation rate	64.0%	69.0%	59.3%	65.6%	70.7%	60.7%
Employment rate	60.7%	65.8%	56.0%	61.6%	66.7%	56.9%
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.7%	5.5%	6.0%	5.8%	6.3%

⁴ Statistics Canada. 2007. Central Okanagan, British Columbia (table). 2006 Community Profiles. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Updated March 10, 2009.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed April 15, 2009)

SIZE OF LABOUR FORCE BY COMMUNITY

Labour force characteristics vary by community within the Central Okanagan; Kelowna accounts for two thirds of the regions labour force (66.3%). Lake Country had the highest labour force participation rate (69.4%). Peachland had a significantly lower participation rate than the region as a whole (52.6%).

Labour Force Characteristics, Population 15 Years and Older, by Community - 2006⁵

	Total population 15 years and over	In the labour force	Employed	Un-employed	Not in the labour force	Participation rate %	Employment rate %	Unemployment rate %
Central Okanagan (RCDO)	135,045	86,390	82,005	4,385	48,655	64.0%	60.7%	5.1%
Kelowna	88,810	57,305	54,525	2,775	31,505	64.5%	61.4%	4.8%
West Kelowna ⁶	22,160	14,395	13,555	835	7,765	65.0%	61.2%	5.8%
Lake Country	7,950	5,515	5,250	270	2,430	69.4%	66.0%	4.9%
Peachland	4,325	2,275	2,155	115	2,050	52.6%	49.8%	5.1%

⁵ Statistics Canada. 2007. Central Okanagan, British Columbia (table). 2006 Community Profiles. 2006 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Updated March 10, 2009.
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed April 15, 2009)

⁶ Statistics Canada, Custom Data Run, West Kelowna Geography, 2006 Census Data, April 2009