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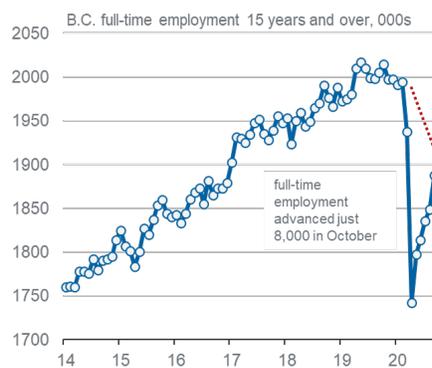
JOB MARKET RECOVERING

The impact of COVID-19 and the shuttering of non-essential consumer services meant hundreds of thousands of B.C. workers were furloughed in March and April. But following the staged re-opening, employment in the province has made a strong recovery considering the magnitude of the earlier job losses.

Total employment – At the low point roughly 400,000 jobs disappeared in B.C. But as of October, employment is down “just” 61,000 from February.

Unemployment rate – the jobless rate hit 13.4%. It now sits at 8.0%. For younger workers (15-24) the current unemployment rate is 16%.

Part-time and full-time employment – the recovery process has produced a strong rotation towards part-time employment. The number of part-time workers in B.C. is now 26,000 higher than in February. In stark contrast, the number of full-time workers has only partially recovered and remains 100,000 below February.



Regional differences

Job losses in the province are concentrated in the Metro Vancouver region. The province’s tourism, hospitality, air transportation, and entertainment industries are over-represented in the province’s largest urban region. As a result, nearly all the provincial job losses are

concentrated in Metro Vancouver. The other smaller Metro regions – Abbotsford, Kelowna and Victoria – experienced proportionally smaller losses. In the rest of the province (all areas outside of the four Metro areas) employment is now above February’s level.