

job gains, or 157,800 jobs, were in full-time positions. With jobs being created, the national unemployment rate fell from 8.3 percent in January 2010 to 7.6 percent in December 2010. For the year as a whole, the unemployment rate averaged 8.0 percent, down 0.3 percentage point from 2009 (Figure 3-4).

Job gains were widespread across Canada, with only Alberta (down 8,000) and New Brunswick (down 4,000) posting losses in 2010.

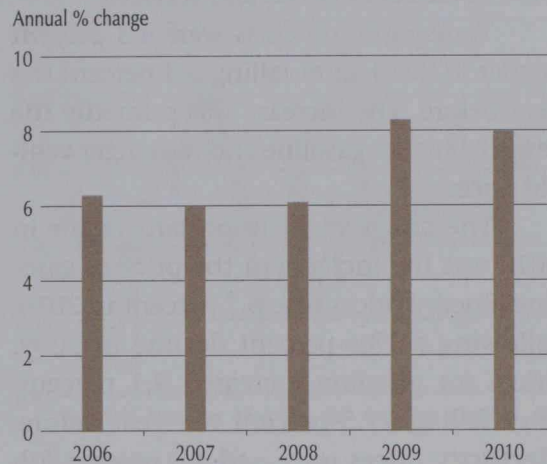
Three provinces accounted for the bulk of the job gains. Ontario was responsible for some 47.4 percent of the national total, followed by Quebec at 29.4 percent, and British Columbia at 16.7 percent.

The number of jobs in the goods-producing industries was up in 2010 compared to 2009. However, not all sub-sectors posted gains. Manufacturing jobs fell 2.1 percent compared to their 2009 level, as this sector cut some 37,500 positions. Similarly, there were 15,400 (or 4.9 percent) fewer jobs in agriculture. This is a continuation of a longer-term trend, as both manufacturing and agriculture have been shedding jobs during much of the decade. However, construction added 56,400 jobs to the payroll, while both utilities and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas made smaller additions to their employment levels in 2010. Overall, goods-producing industries added 15,700 positions to the payroll last year.

The services sector, which added 212,200 jobs to the payroll, was responsible for the bulk of the new jobs in 2010. Gains in health care and social assistance services (up 81,500) and in professional scientific and technical services (up 74,800) accounted for about three quarters of the overall gains to services jobs. Small declines were registered for miscellaneous services (down

FIGURE 3-4

Unemployment Rate in Canada, 2006-2010



Source: Statistics Canada.

33,500), transportation and warehousing (down 10,500), and information, culture and recreational services (down 3,600).

Over the course of 2010, Canada closed the gap with the October 2008 peak level of employment, but ended the year with employment just slightly below that pre-recession level. By January 2011, Canadian employment levels had fully recovered all the jobs lost during the recession and the economy continued to add jobs over the first few months of 2011.

Inflation

Consumers paid 1.8 percent more on average for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket in 2010 compared to 2009. This was up considerably from the recession-driven 0.3-percent increase registered in 2009, but slightly lower than the average of 2.2 percent recorded over 2006-2008.

For the year as a whole, prices were up in seven of the eight major components of the CPI. Price advances in transportation and shelter rebounded in 2010 after having declined in 2009, driven by price increases