



Employment in mining and oil and gas extraction rose by 12.8 per cent (+23,900). Within the services-producing sector, educational services had the strongest employment growth in 2005, up 6.2 per cent (+64,600). Wholesale trade also had a strong year, growing by 4.4 per cent (+25,600). Finally, finance, insurance, real state and leasing had a robust performance with an increase of 4.1 per cent (+39,200).

Although both the employment and the participation rates stayed almost the same as in 2004, the unemployment rate in Canada reached historic lows, closing the year 2005 at 6.7 per cent, down from 7.2 per cent in 2004. On a monthly basis, the unemployment rate reached a thirty-year low in November 2005 at 6.4 per cent.

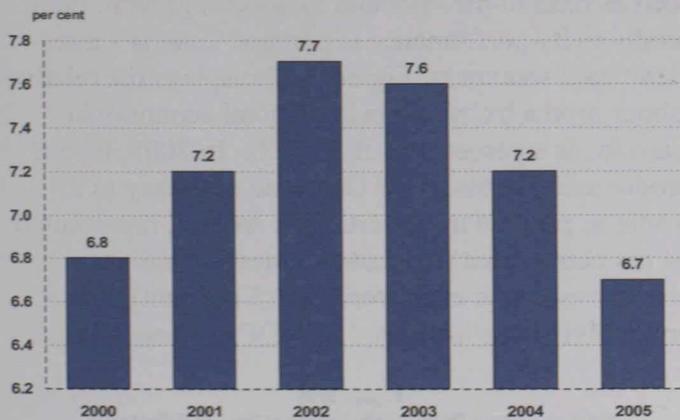
This historically low unemployment rate decreased in all provinces. However, there was a great deal of variation in performance. All provinces east of Ontario experienced higher unemployment rates relative to

the national average, all provinces west of Ontario experienced lower unemployment rates relative to the national average. Alberta and Manitoba registered the lowest unemployment rates in 2005, at 3.9 per cent and 4.8 per cent, respectively, whereas British Columbia and Alberta experienced the fastest drop in their unemployment rates.

The Dollar

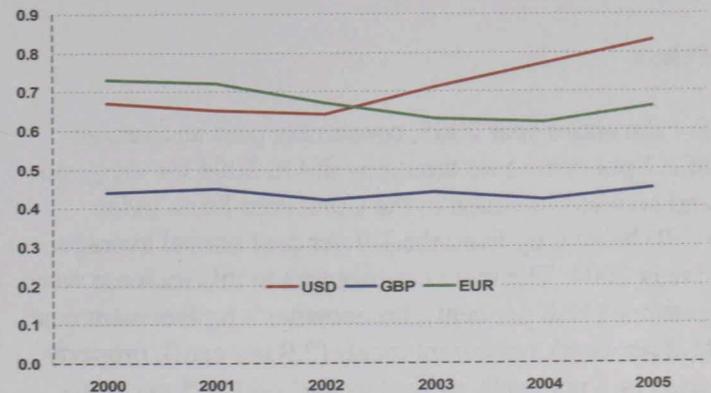
As displayed in Figure 3-6, the year 2005 was marked by further appreciation of the Canadian dollar against several of the world's major currencies (the U.S. dollar, the euro and the UK pound). For example, the Canadian dollar appreciated a further 7 per cent from the 11 per cent and 7 per cent gains posted in 2003 and 2004, respectively against the U.S. dollar. Despite the marked appreciation in the dollar, Canadian exports remained strong over this period as noted earlier (see Figure 3-7).

Figure 3-4
Unemployment Rate in Canada, 2000-2005



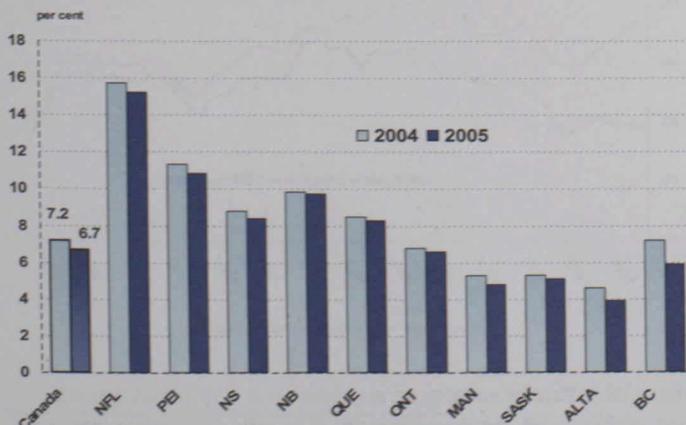
Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 3-6
Canadian Dollar Against the USD, the Euro and the UK Pound



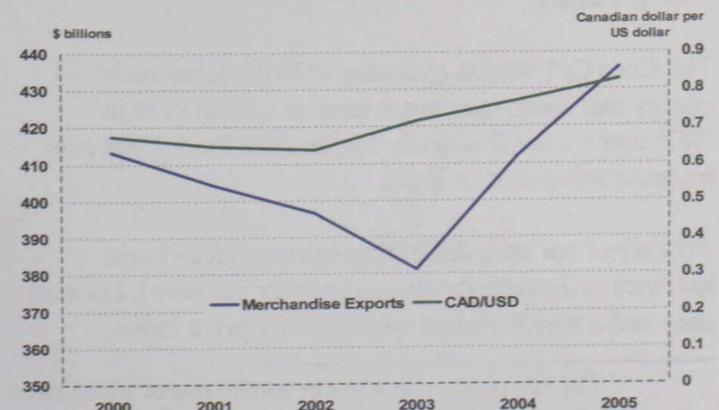
Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 3-5
Unemployment Rates in Canada and Provinces, 2004-2005



Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 3-7
Canada's Exports and Exchange Rate



Source: Statistics Canada