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This Week...

Aboriginal Employment
Airport Traffic
Voting Patterns
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Aboriginal Employment



By Doug Elliott, Editor

Statistics Canada has included a question about Aboriginal identity on their regular monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS)

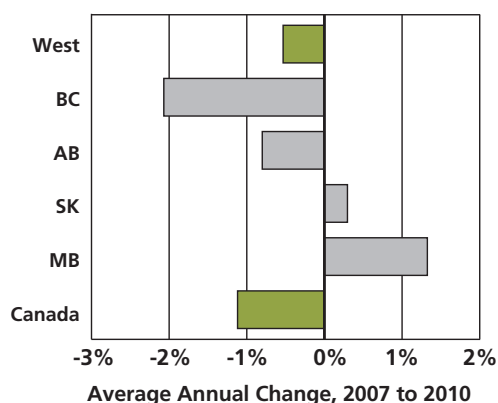
since 2007. This enables a more up-to-date picture of the labour market activities of Aboriginal people than the 2006 data provided by the decennial census. The picture is still incomplete, however, because the LFS excludes the population living on-Reserve. Undoubtedly the labour market statistics for the First Nations population would be different if the on-Reserve population was included in the LFS.

There are two ways to look at the labour market activity of Aboriginal people. One is the absolute level of employment, that is, how many are working at a particular point in time and how that number changes over time. The other is the employment rate, that is, the percentage of adult population who are employed.

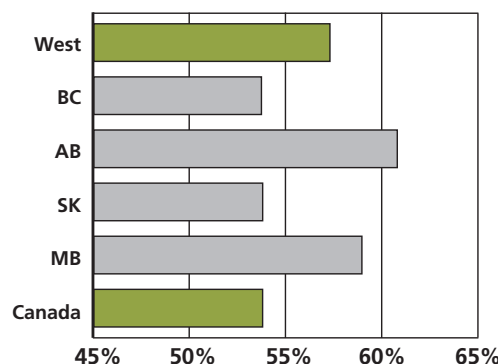
In 2010, there were 224,000 Aboriginal people employed in western Canada which represents about 4% of total employment. Aboriginal employment is down slightly from 227,000 in 2007. The uppermost figure shows that an increase in Manitoba and Saskatchewan during that period was offset by a decline in Alberta and B.C. Some of this might have been expected given the tightening of the labour market but employment in the non-Aboriginal

population grew over the same period. It is clear that Aboriginal employment was hit hard by the economic slowdown in 2009.

Change in Aboriginal Employment, Off-Reserve Residents Only, 2007 to 2010



Aboriginal Employment Rate, Off-Reserve Residents Only, 2010

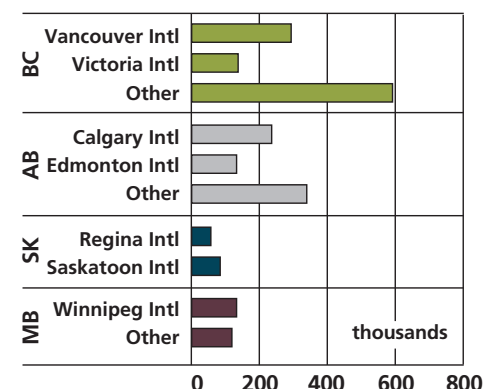


The employment rate tells a different story. The Aboriginal employment rate is higher in the West than in other provinces and it is higher in Alberta and Manitoba than in B.C. or Saskatchewan. In 2010, for example, 57% of Aboriginal adults in the West were working compared with 54% for Canada as a whole and 64% of the non-Aboriginal population in the West. The Aboriginal employment rate has also declined in recent years as the labour market tightened, dropping from 61% in 2007 to 57% in 2010.

Airport Traffic¹

Most travellers would expect that the busiest of the larger airports in western Canada would be Vancouver International and they would be right because there were 296,000 takeoffs and landings in 2010. This is equivalent to about one every 30 seconds. The next busiest is Calgary International with 234,000.

Takeoffs and Landings in 2010



¹ These statistics cover only airports with NAV Canada control towers and flight service stations. Some smaller airports have very high traffic counts. Both military and civilian flights are counted. Passenger traffic may increase even though the number of takeoffs/landings has declined.

Measured by the number of takeoffs and landings, activity slowed at most airports in 2010. Compared with 2009, traffic was down 2.0% nationally and 5.5% in the West. The largest declines were in Victoria (-13%), Vancouver (-6%), Regina (-7%) and Saskatoon (-5%). Traffic was up 3% at Edmonton International.

Voting Patterns

A survey on civic participation, conducted by Statistics Canada in 2003, sheds some light on how many people might vote in the coming federal election. In the survey, respondents were asked if they had voted in the last federal election. If the past is any indication, fewer people in the West will vote than in Canada as a whole. In 2003, 66% reported that they had voted in the last federal election compared with 71% in Canada as a whole and 79% in Quebec.

As the figure shows, residents of Saskatchewan were the most likely to vote and those in B.C. the least likely to do so. Voting in a federal election is more common than voting in a provincial one but the same interprovincial differences exist. This suggests that there is an inherent political culture in the provinces driving voter participation rather than the specifics of any given provincial or federal election. This is buttressed by the finding that Manitoba and Saskatchewan respondents were also the most likely to report that they voted in the last civic election.

The same survey showed that among westerners voting rates in federal elections are much lower among young people and those with lower levels of education or income.

- Participation ranges from a low of 42% among those under 35 years of age to a high of 85% among those 55 and older.
- Participation ranges from a low of 60% among those with less than a high school education to a high of 71% for post-secondary graduates.
- Participation ranges from a low of 60% among those with household incomes under \$30,000 (in 2003) to a high of 76% among those with incomes of \$80,000 or more.

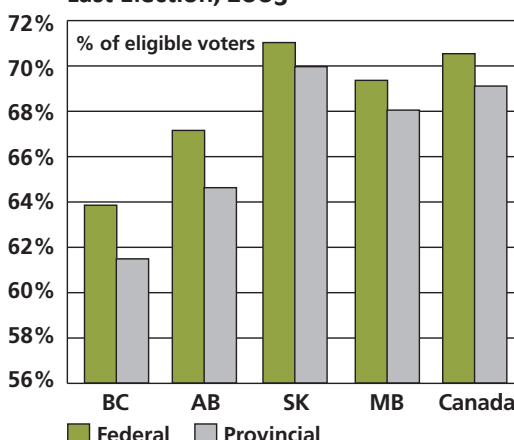
An update to this survey was conducted in 2008. There is insufficient detail published from that survey to look at the specific provinces but it suggests that voting rates were lower than in 2003.

Film, Video and Television Production

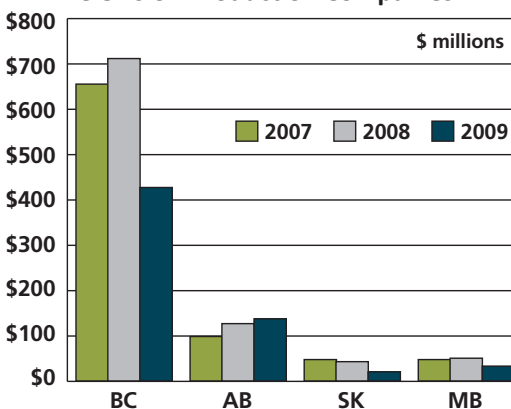
Canadian businesses in the film, video and television production industry reported \$3.0 billion in operating revenues in 2009, with about 20% of this production originating in the West, mainly B.C.

Nationally, revenue declined by 9% from 2008 but the drop was much sharper (33%) in the West. This was because revenues in B.C. fell from \$717 million to \$427 million. There were also declines in

Voter Participation in the Last Election, 2003



Gross Revenues: Film, Video and Television Production Companies



Saskatchewan and Manitoba where the industry is quite small. Alberta bucked the trend with an increase in revenues from \$127 million to \$137 million.

Upcoming Releases

In the next two weeks Statistics Canada will be releasing data describing:

- February employment insurance recipients on April 18th;
- The March consumer price index on April 19th;
- February retail sales on April 21st;
- Spring seeding intentions on April 26th; and
- February payrolls and earnings on April 28th.

Sources:

The figures are adapted from the following sources:

Aboriginal Employment: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey special tabulations

Airport Traffic: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 401-0023

Voting Patterns: Author's tabulations from Statistics Canada's General Social Survey Cycle 17

Film, Video, and Television Production: Statistics Canada 87-010-XWE

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EDITOR

Doug Elliott

EDITORIAL BOARD

Peter Phillips
Lihui Zhang
Jim Marshall

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Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

University of Saskatchewan Campus
Diefenbaker Building
101 Diefenbaker Place
Saskatoon, SK, Canada
S7N 5B8

Tel: 306 966-8525

Fax: 306 966-1967

Email: public.policy@usask.ca

University of Regina Campus

3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, SK, Canada
S4S 0A2

Tel: 306 585-5460

Fax: 306 585-5461

Email: gspp@uregina.ca

Outreach and Training

University of Regina
College Avenue Campus,
Gallery Building, Second Floor
Regina, SK, Canada
S4S 0A2

Tel: 306 585-5777

Fax: 306 585-5780

Email: js_outreach@uregina.ca

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University
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