

Labour Force Survey, March 2012

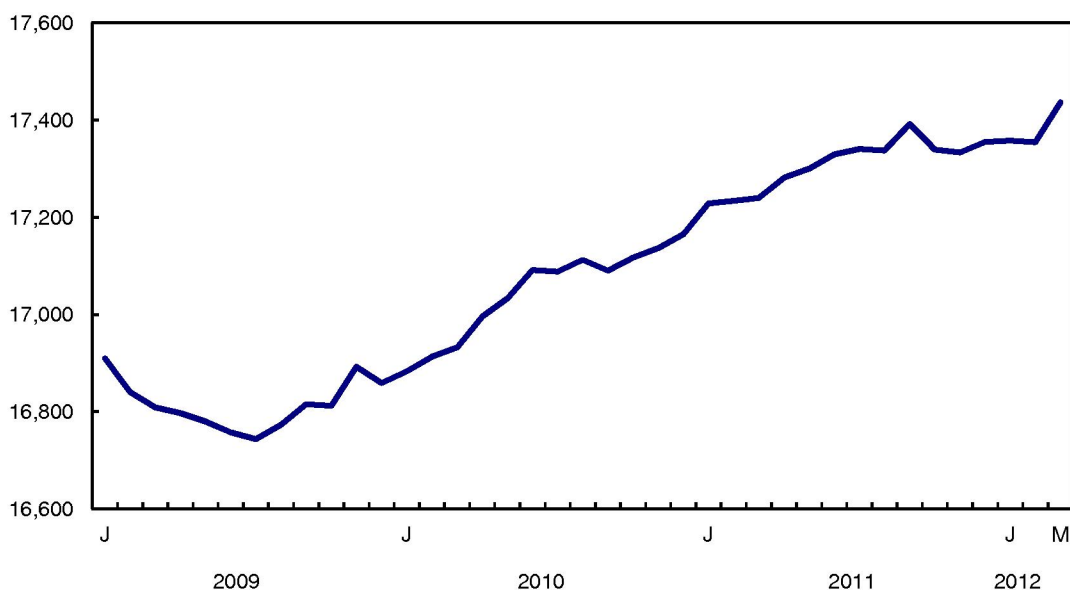
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, April 5, 2012

Following four months of little change, employment increased by 82,000 in March, mostly in full-time work. This brought the unemployment rate down 0.2 percentage points to 7.2%.

Compared with 12 months earlier, employment was up 1.1% or 197,000. Almost all of this growth was in full-time employment, up 181,000 (+1.3%), while part-time employment edged up. The total number of hours worked rose 1.6% over the same period.

Chart 1 Employment

thousands



Employment gains in March were spread across several industries, including health care and social assistance; information, culture and recreation; and public administration. There was a decline in educational services.

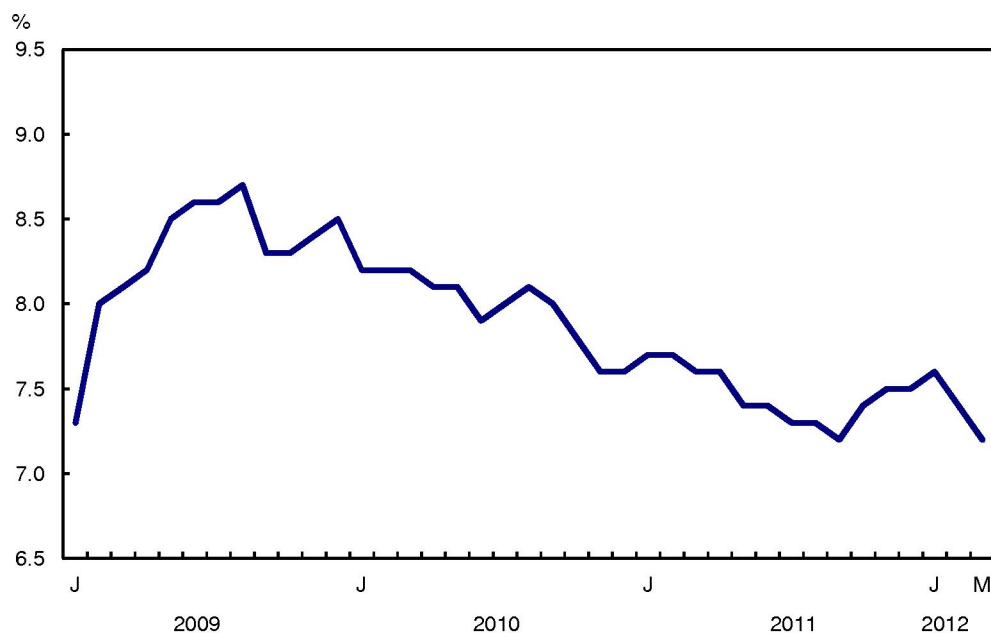
Employment increased in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, while it declined in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

In March, employment rose among people aged 55 and over and among youths, while it was little changed for those aged 25 to 54.

Employment in March increased notably among private sector employees, and edged up for public sector employees and the self-employed. Over the past 12 months, the number of private sector employees grew 1.7%, while public sector and self-employment were little changed.



Chart 2
Unemployment rate



Employment increases in services

Following three months of small declines, employment in health care and social assistance increased by 32,000 in March. With these gains, employment in this industry was up 2.0% (+42,000) compared with March 2011.

There were gains of 28,000 in information, culture and recreation in March. Employment over the past 12 months increased 6.7% (+52,000) in this industry, with all of the growth occurring in the past four months.

Employment rose by 15,000 in public administration in March, following a decline of similar magnitude the previous month. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry was little changed.

Natural resources employment edged up in March. Total growth over the previous 12 months was 11.0% (+37,000), the fastest growth rate of all industries.

Following increases in the previous two months, employment declined by 25,000 in educational services. Employment in the industry was little changed compared with March 2011.

Manufacturing employment edged up in March, the fourth consecutive month of modest increases. However, compared with 12 months earlier, the number of factory workers was down slightly.

Gains in Central Canada

Following four months of little change, Ontario posted employment gains of 46,000, all in full-time work. The unemployment rate in the province declined 0.2 percentage points to 7.4%, its lowest level in three years. With this month's gain, employment in Ontario was up 1.3% (+89,000) since March 2011.

Employment in Quebec increased by 36,000 in March, pushing the unemployment rate down 0.5 percentage points to 7.9%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was unchanged.

Employment rose by 6,100 in Manitoba, bringing the unemployment rate down 0.3 percentage points to 5.3%. With this increase, employment in the province was up slightly compared with 12 months earlier.

In March, employment fell by 5,700 in New Brunswick, bringing employment down by 6,600 (-1.9%) from 12 months earlier. While Nova Scotia showed declines in March (-2,900), the employment level in the province was slightly up (+0.7%) from 12 months earlier.

While employment in Alberta was little changed in March, employment growth continued to be the highest among the provinces for the 12-month period, at 3.1% (+65,000). With more people participating in the labour market in March, the unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 5.3%.

Increases among people aged 55 and over and youths

Employment among those aged 55 and over continued on an upward trend in March, up 47,000. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment among men and women of this age group increased 5.8% or 176,000, partly because of population aging.

Employment rose by 39,000 among youths aged 15 to 24 in March, pushing their unemployment rate down 0.8 percentage points to 13.9%. Despite the increase in March, the number of youths employed has changed little since July 2009—the lowest point of the last labour market downturn.

Employment was unchanged among people aged 25 to 54 in March. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment for this age group was up slightly, with gains among both men and women.

Quarterly update for the territories

The Labour Force Survey also collects labour market information about the territories. This information is produced monthly in the form of three-month moving averages. The following estimates are not seasonally adjusted; therefore, comparisons should only be made on a year-over-year basis.

Employment levels in all three territories were little changed from the first quarter of 2011 to the first quarter of 2012.

Over the same period, the unemployment rate increased from 5.1% to 9.0% in Yukon and rose from 6.3% to 8.7% in the Northwest Territories, as more people were looking for work. The unemployment rate in Nunavut declined from 17.3% to 15.3%, as fewer people participated in the labour market.

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates, and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication Labour Force Information (71-001-X, free).

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends](#).

Table 1
Labour force characteristics by age and sex – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2012	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over						
Population	28,180.9	28,208.1	27.2	318.9	0.1	1.1
Labour force	18,740.3	18,792.8	52.5	128.9	0.3	0.7
Employment	17,354.2	17,436.5	82.3	197.2	0.5	1.1
Full-time	14,058.0	14,128.0	70.0	181.3	0.5	1.3
Part-time	3,296.1	3,308.5	12.4	15.9	0.4	0.5
Unemployment	1,386.2	1,356.2	-30.0	-68.4	-2.2	-4.8
Participation rate	66.5	66.6	0.1	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.2	-0.2	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	61.6	61.8	0.2	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	19.0	19.0	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years						
Population	4,456.2	4,456.7	0.5	-1.9	0.0	-0.0
Labour force	2,822.8	2,843.3	20.5	-33.7	0.7	-1.2
Employment	2,409.1	2,448.3	39.2	-15.7	1.6	-0.6
Full-time	1,268.8	1,302.0	33.2	1.5	2.6	0.1
Part-time	1,140.3	1,146.3	6.0	-17.2	0.5	-1.5
Unemployment	413.7	395.0	-18.7	-18.1	-4.5	-4.4
Participation rate	63.3	63.8	0.5	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	14.7	13.9	-0.8	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	54.1	54.9	0.8	-0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	47.3	46.8	-0.5	-0.4	...	...
Men, 25 years and over						
Population	11,609.3	11,622.2	12.9	159.6	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,429.3	8,460.2	30.9	76.8	0.4	0.9
Employment	7,899.5	7,927.9	28.4	102.2	0.4	1.3
Full-time	7,281.3	7,305.2	23.9	88.9	0.3	1.2
Part-time	618.2	622.6	4.4	13.2	0.7	2.2
Unemployment	529.8	532.3	2.5	-25.4	0.5	-4.6
Participation rate	72.6	72.8	0.2	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.3	0.0	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	68.0	68.2	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	7.8	7.9	0.1	0.1	...	...
Women, 25 years and over						
Population	12,115.4	12,129.2	13.8	161.2	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,488.2	7,489.3	1.1	85.8	0.0	1.2
Employment	7,045.6	7,060.4	14.8	110.8	0.2	1.6
Full-time	5,508.0	5,520.8	12.8	90.9	0.2	1.7
Part-time	1,537.6	1,539.6	2.0	19.9	0.1	1.3
Unemployment	442.6	428.9	-13.7	-24.9	-3.1	-5.5
Participation rate	61.8	61.7	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.9	5.7	-0.2	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	58.2	58.2	0.0	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	21.8	21.8	0.0	-0.1	...	...

... not applicable

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Table 2
Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹) – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2012	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,703.9	14,767.5	63.6	215.1	0.4	1.5
Self-employed	2,650.2	2,669.0	18.8	-17.9	0.7	-0.7
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,561.5	3,582.4	20.9	23.7	0.6	0.7
Private	11,142.5	11,185.1	42.6	191.3	0.4	1.7
All industries	17,354.2	17,436.5	82.3	197.2	0.5	1.1
Goods-producing sector	3,821.0	3,845.9	24.9	8.0	0.7	0.2
Agriculture	303.5	300.3	-3.2	-8.8	-1.1	-2.8
Natural resources ²	366.0	372.1	6.1	37.0	1.7	11.0
Utilities	135.8	137.4	1.6	-10.8	1.2	-7.3
Construction	1,265.2	1,273.9	8.7	12.9	0.7	1.0
Manufacturing	1,750.5	1,762.3	11.8	-22.2	0.7	-1.2
Services-producing sector	13,533.1	13,590.6	57.5	189.2	0.4	1.4
Trade	2,636.7	2,625.9	-10.8	-30.9	-0.4	-1.2
Transportation and warehousing	830.8	841.5	10.7	9.2	1.3	1.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,070.3	1,073.6	3.3	-7.1	0.3	-0.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,303.2	1,313.7	10.5	17.6	0.8	1.4
Business, building and other support services	683.6	683.9	0.3	9.3	0.0	1.4
Educational services	1,259.9	1,235.3	-24.6	7.3	-2.0	0.6
Health care and social assistance	2,080.6	2,112.1	31.5	42.1	1.5	2.0
Information, culture and recreation	796.5	824.8	28.3	52.1	3.6	6.7
Accommodation and food services	1,110.7	1,105.7	-5.0	26.9	-0.5	2.5
Other services	798.4	796.7	-1.7	48.0	-0.2	6.4
Public administration	962.4	977.4	15.0	14.8	1.6	1.5

1. North American Industry Classification System.

2. Also referred to as forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas.

Note(s): Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Table 3
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2012	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	428.6	428.5	-0.1	-0.7	-0.0	-0.2
Labour force	262.7	262.3	-0.4	2.3	-0.2	0.9
Employment	228.8	228.1	-0.7	0.2	-0.3	0.1
Full-time	198.1	196.6	-1.5	0.4	-0.8	0.2
Part-time	30.7	31.5	0.8	-0.2	2.6	-0.6
Unemployment	33.9	34.2	0.3	2.1	0.9	6.5
Participation rate	61.3	61.2	-0.1	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.9	13.0	0.1	0.7	...	...
Employment rate	53.4	53.2	-0.2	0.1	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	120.1	120.3	0.2	1.7	0.2	1.4
Labour force	80.9	81.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Employment	72.2	72.0	-0.2	0.2	-0.3	0.3
Full-time	60.1	58.8	-1.3	-0.8	-2.2	-1.3
Part-time	12.1	13.2	1.1	1.0	9.1	8.2
Unemployment	8.7	9.2	0.5	0.1	5.7	1.1
Participation rate	67.4	67.4	0.0	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.8	11.3	0.5	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	60.1	59.9	-0.2	-0.6	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	779.8	779.9	0.1	0.9	0.0	0.1
Labour force	500.4	498.0	-2.4	0.2	-0.5	0.0
Employment	459.5	456.6	-2.9	3.3	-0.6	0.7
Full-time	367.0	368.9	1.9	-0.2	0.5	-0.1
Part-time	92.5	87.7	-4.8	3.5	-5.2	4.2
Unemployment	40.9	41.4	0.5	-3.1	1.2	-7.0
Participation rate	64.2	63.9	-0.3	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.2	8.3	0.1	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	58.9	58.5	-0.4	0.3	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	620.5	620.4	-0.1	1.5	-0.0	0.2
Labour force	392.3	386.5	-5.8	-4.5	-1.5	-1.2
Employment	352.6	346.9	-5.7	-6.6	-1.6	-1.9
Full-time	296.6	293.8	-2.8	-3.0	-0.9	-1.0
Part-time	55.9	53.1	-2.8	-3.6	-5.0	-6.3
Unemployment	39.7	39.6	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	5.6
Participation rate	63.2	62.3	-0.9	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.1	10.2	0.1	0.6	...	...
Employment rate	56.8	55.9	-0.9	-1.2	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,614.2	6,618.4	4.2	62.8	0.1	1.0
Labour force	4,274.1	4,289.7	15.6	8.5	0.4	0.2
Employment	3,915.7	3,952.1	36.4	0.2	0.9	0.0
Full-time	3,180.3	3,204.2	23.9	11.1	0.8	0.3
Part-time	735.3	747.9	12.6	-10.9	1.7	-1.4
Unemployment	358.4	337.5	-20.9	8.2	-5.8	2.5
Participation rate	64.6	64.8	0.2	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.4	7.9	-0.5	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	59.2	59.7	0.5	-0.6	...	...

... not applicable

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Table 4
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2012	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Ontario						
Population	11,014.9	11,027.1	12.2	143.5	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,298.9	7,329.6	30.7	45.8	0.4	0.6
Employment	6,742.1	6,788.2	46.1	88.5	0.7	1.3
Full-time	5,436.3	5,484.2	47.9	28.1	0.9	0.5
Part-time	1,305.8	1,304.0	-1.8	60.4	-0.1	4.9
Unemployment	556.8	541.5	-15.3	-42.6	-2.7	-7.3
Participation rate	66.3	66.5	0.2	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.6	7.4	-0.2	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	61.2	61.6	0.4	0.0	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	959.6	960.6	1.0	10.7	0.1	1.1
Labour force	662.6	666.7	4.1	3.0	0.6	0.5
Employment	625.3	631.4	6.1	4.4	1.0	0.7
Full-time	502.3	508.9	6.6	5.2	1.3	1.0
Part-time	123.0	122.5	-0.5	-0.8	-0.4	-0.6
Unemployment	37.4	35.2	-2.2	-1.4	-5.9	-3.8
Participation rate	69.0	69.4	0.4	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.3	-0.3	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	65.2	65.7	0.5	-0.3	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	805.8	806.6	0.8	9.4	0.1	1.2
Labour force	557.1	556.4	-0.7	3.2	-0.1	0.6
Employment	529.4	529.7	0.3	5.1	0.1	1.0
Full-time	436.2	438.2	2.0	8.5	0.5	2.0
Part-time	93.2	91.5	-1.7	-3.5	-1.8	-3.7
Unemployment	27.7	26.6	-1.1	-2.0	-4.0	-7.0
Participation rate	69.1	69.0	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.8	-0.2	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	65.7	65.7	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Alberta						
Population	3,037.1	3,042.4	5.3	52.3	0.2	1.7
Labour force	2,239.0	2,250.6	11.6	58.7	0.5	2.7
Employment	2,127.9	2,132.3	4.4	64.9	0.2	3.1
Full-time	1,780.8	1,783.0	2.2	79.2	0.1	4.6
Part-time	347.1	349.3	2.2	-14.3	0.6	-3.9
Unemployment	111.1	118.2	7.1	-6.3	6.4	-5.1
Participation rate	73.7	74.0	0.3	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.0	5.3	0.3	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	70.1	70.1	0.0	1.0	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,800.4	3,803.9	3.5	36.7	0.1	1.0
Labour force	2,472.4	2,471.8	-0.6	11.3	-0.0	0.5
Employment	2,300.8	2,299.1	-1.7	36.8	-0.1	1.6
Full-time	1,800.3	1,791.4	-8.9	52.7	-0.5	3.0
Part-time	500.5	507.7	7.2	-15.9	1.4	-3.0
Unemployment	171.5	172.7	1.2	-25.5	0.7	-12.9
Participation rate	65.1	65.0	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	7.0	0.1	-1.1	...	...
Employment rate	60.5	60.4	-0.1	0.3	...	...

... not applicable

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0063, 282-0069 to 282-0095 and 282-0100 to 282-0121.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-X, free), is now available online for the week ending March 17. From the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Labour*.

[Data tables](#) are also now available online. From the *Subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on May 11.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

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