

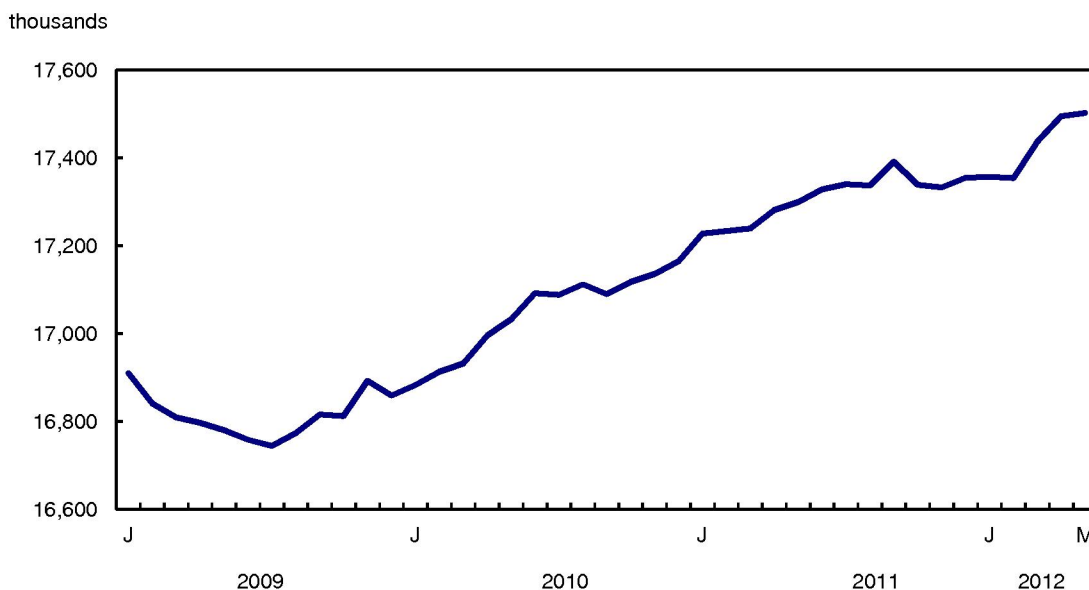
Labour Force Survey, May 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, June 8, 2012

Following two months of large gains, employment was unchanged in May, and the unemployment rate remained at 7.3%.

Compared with 12 months earlier, employment increased 1.2% or 203,000. Virtually all of this growth was in full-time work, up 192,000 (+1.4%). The total number of hours worked rose 1.3% over the same period.

Chart 1 Employment



Employment for the month increased in manufacturing, educational services, retail and wholesale trade, and agriculture. At the same time, information, culture and recreation as well as construction showed declines.

Provincially, employment rose in Alberta and New Brunswick, while it fell in Prince Edward Island. There was little change in the other provinces.

In May, employment increased among men aged 25 and over, and changed little in the other major demographic groups.

The number of employees and self-employed held steady in May. Employment growth over the previous 12 months was all among private sector employees (+1.7%).



Chart 2
Unemployment rate



Industry perspective

The number of people working in manufacturing increased by 36,000 in May. Manufacturing employment has been on an upward trend since November 2011.

Employment in educational services increased by 26,000 in May. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry was up 5.6% (+68,000).

Following a downward trend that started in summer 2011, employment in retail and wholesale trade rose by 24,000 in May. Despite this increase, employment in this industry was 1.5% (-41,000) below its level of 12 months earlier.

In May, employment also rose in agriculture, up by 11,000. Following 10 months of little change, gains in April and May brought employment growth in this industry to 5.0% (+15,000) from 12 months earlier.

Employment in information, culture and recreation fell by 27,000 in May, bringing employment in this industry back to its level of 12 months earlier.

Employment in construction also declined by 27,000 in May, offsetting a gain of similar magnitude in the previous month. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry was little changed.

Provincial summary

The number of people working in Alberta increased for the second month in a row, up 9,800 in May. This increase pushed the unemployment rate down 0.4 percentage points to 4.5%, the lowest since December 2008. Over the previous 12 months, employment in the province rose 4.1%—the fastest growth of all provinces and exceeding the national average of 1.2%.

Employment in New Brunswick rose for the second consecutive month, up 5,300 in May, and the unemployment rate edged down to 9.4%.

Employment in Quebec edged up in May, following two consecutive months of notable gains, and the unemployment rate was 7.8%. The number of employed in the province was little changed from 12 months earlier.

In Ontario, employment edged down in May, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.8%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was little changed.

Following notable gains in April, employment in British Columbia was unchanged in May. The unemployment rate rose 1.2 percentage points to 7.4%, as there was a marked increase in the number of job-seekers, particularly among youths. Over the 12 previous months, employment in the province grew by 1.9%, above the national average.

Employment up among men aged 25 and over

For the fourth month in a row, employment rose among men aged 25 and over, up 19,000 in May. Compared with 12 months earlier, the number of employed for this group was up 1.6% (+129,000).

Among women aged 25 and over, employment was unchanged in May. Over the 12 previous months, employment for this group rose 1.7% (+121,000).

Employment edged down among youths aged 15 to 24, and their unemployment rate was 14.3%. Youth employment is roughly at the same level as in July 2009, when the labour market downturn hit a low.

Student summer employment

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects labour market data about young people aged 15 to 24 who were attending school full time in March and who intend to return to school full time in the fall. The May survey results provide the first indicators of the summer job market, especially for students aged 20 to 24, as most students aged 15 to 19 are not yet out of school for the summer. The data for June, July and August will provide further insight into the summer job market. The published data are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore comparisons can only be made from one year to another.

The rate of employment among students aged 20 to 24—that is, the number of employed as a percentage of their population—was 58.9% in May 2012. This is lower than the rate of 60.8% observed in May 2011, as the increase in the student population outpaced that of student employment.

The May 2012 employment rate of 58.9% was higher than the 56.3% rate in May 2009, when student employment was hit hard by the labour market downturn.

The unemployment rate for students aged 20 to 24 was 14.9% in May, similar to the rate in May 2011, but well below the 18.2% rate in May 2009.

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](#).

New LFS tables have been added to CANSIM—tables 282-0200 to 282-0219. They include estimates of weekly and hourly wage distributions by industry and occupation. Also available are labour force estimates by highest educational degree, family type and family age composition, as well as estimates on hours lost, activity prior to unemployment, reason for leaving last job and reason for not looking for work.

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

	April 2012	May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over						
Population	28,242.0	28,271.6	29.6	322.6	0.1	1.2
Labour force	18,865.3	18,881.0	15.7	206.4	0.1	1.1
Employment	17,494.7	17,502.4	7.7	203.4	0.0	1.2
Full-time	14,171.9	14,173.3	1.4	192.2	0.0	1.4
Part-time	3,322.8	3,329.1	6.3	11.2	0.2	0.3
Unemployment	1,370.6	1,378.6	8.0	3.0	0.6	0.2
Participation rate	66.8	66.8	0.0	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.3	7.3	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	61.9	61.9	0.0	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	19.0	19.0	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years						
Population	4,457.2	4,457.3	0.1	-0.8	0.0	0.0
Labour force	2,842.2	2,843.6	1.4	-39.2	0.0	-1.4
Employment	2,448.0	2,436.1	-11.9	-45.8	-0.5	-1.8
Full-time	1,291.7	1,280.3	-11.4	-20.6	-0.9	-1.6
Part-time	1,156.4	1,155.8	-0.6	-25.2	-0.1	-2.1
Unemployment	394.2	407.5	13.3	6.6	3.4	1.6
Participation rate	63.8	63.8	0.0	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.9	14.3	0.4	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	54.9	54.7	-0.2	-1.0	...	...
Part-time rate	47.2	47.4	0.2	-0.2	...	...
Men, 25 years and over						
Population	11,639.1	11,653.9	14.8	161.3	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,495.0	8,503.0	8.0	125.6	0.1	1.5
Employment	7,954.6	7,973.8	19.2	128.5	0.2	1.6
Full-time	7,343.1	7,364.3	21.2	137.7	0.3	1.9
Part-time	611.5	609.6	-1.9	-9.1	-0.3	-1.5
Unemployment	540.3	529.2	-11.1	-2.9	-2.1	-0.5
Participation rate	73.0	73.0	0.0	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.2	-0.2	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	68.3	68.4	0.1	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	7.7	7.6	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Women, 25 years and over						
Population	12,145.7	12,160.4	14.7	162.2	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,528.1	7,534.4	6.3	119.9	0.1	1.6
Employment	7,092.0	7,092.5	0.5	120.7	0.0	1.7
Full-time	5,537.1	5,528.7	-8.4	75.1	-0.2	1.4
Part-time	1,554.9	1,563.8	8.9	45.6	0.6	3.0
Unemployment	436.1	441.9	5.8	-0.7	1.3	-0.2
Participation rate	62.0	62.0	0.0	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.8	5.9	0.1	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	58.4	58.3	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	21.9	22.0	0.1	0.2	...	...

... not applicable

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

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

	April 2012	May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,834.1	14,818.5	-15.6	220.4	-0.1	1.5
Self-employed	2,660.6	2,683.9	23.3	-17.0	0.9	-0.6
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,563.2	3,570.1	6.9	28.0	0.2	0.8
Private	11,270.9	11,248.4	-22.5	192.3	-0.2	1.7
All industries	17,494.7	17,502.4	7.7	203.4	0.0	1.2
Goods-producing sector	3,915.9	3,927.0	11.1	114.6	0.3	3.0
Agriculture	310.5	321.2	10.7	15.4	3.4	5.0
Natural resources ²	383.1	378.9	-4.2	40.8	-1.1	12.1
Utilities	137.7	133.0	-4.7	-13.5	-3.4	-9.2
Construction	1,298.5	1,271.5	-27.0	13.4	-2.1	1.1
Manufacturing	1,786.1	1,822.5	36.4	58.6	2.0	3.3
Services-producing sector	13,578.8	13,575.4	-3.4	88.8	0.0	0.7
Trade	2,607.5	2,631.1	23.6	-41.1	0.9	-1.5
Transportation and warehousing	853.5	852.2	-1.3	24.5	-0.2	3.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,083.8	1,074.6	-9.2	-17.1	-0.8	-1.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,311.3	1,298.8	-12.5	-9.7	-1.0	-0.7
Business, building and other support services	681.2	672.1	-9.1	-13.2	-1.3	-1.9
Educational services	1,252.1	1,277.8	25.7	67.6	2.1	5.6
Health care and social assistance	2,110.4	2,106.4	-4.0	16.1	-0.2	0.8
Information, culture and recreation	816.3	789.0	-27.3	-4.3	-3.3	-0.5
Accommodation and food services	1,110.8	1,109.6	-1.2	20.8	-0.1	1.9
Other services	806.9	813.4	6.5	64.1	0.8	8.6
Public administration	945.0	950.7	5.7	-18.8	0.6	-1.9

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

	April 2012	May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	428.0	427.4	-0.6	-1.6	-0.1	-0.4
Labour force	264.5	261.8	-2.7	3.0	-1.0	1.2
Employment	232.0	230.3	-1.7	2.8	-0.7	1.2
Full-time	201.9	199.3	-2.6	6.3	-1.3	3.3
Part-time	30.1	31.0	0.9	-3.5	3.0	-10.1
Unemployment	32.5	31.5	-1.0	0.2	-3.1	0.6
Participation rate	61.8	61.3	-0.5	1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.3	12.0	-0.3	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	54.2	53.9	-0.3	0.9	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	120.5	120.6	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.3
Labour force	82.0	81.2	-0.8	0.0	-1.0	0.0
Employment	73.0	72.0	-1.0	0.4	-1.4	0.6
Full-time	60.0	58.6	-1.4	-0.7	-2.3	-1.2
Part-time	12.9	13.4	0.5	1.1	3.9	8.9
Unemployment	9.0	9.2	0.2	-0.4	2.2	-4.2
Participation rate	68.0	67.3	-0.7	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.0	11.3	0.3	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	60.6	59.7	-0.9	-0.4	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	780.0	780.1	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.2
Labour force	499.2	499.5	0.3	6.2	0.1	1.3
Employment	454.5	453.5	-1.0	4.5	-0.2	1.0
Full-time	369.9	366.2	-3.7	6.5	-1.0	1.8
Part-time	84.6	87.3	2.7	-2.0	3.2	-2.2
Unemployment	44.7	46.0	1.3	1.7	2.9	3.8
Participation rate	64.0	64.0	0.0	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.0	9.2	0.2	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	58.3	58.1	-0.2	0.4	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	620.4	620.3	-0.1	1.2	0.0	0.2
Labour force	389.4	393.4	4.0	5.0	1.0	1.3
Employment	351.4	356.7	5.3	5.6	1.5	1.6
Full-time	298.2	301.3	3.1	8.0	1.0	2.7
Part-time	53.2	55.4	2.2	-2.4	4.1	-4.2
Unemployment	38.0	36.8	-1.2	-0.4	-3.2	-1.1
Participation rate	62.8	63.4	0.6	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.8	9.4	-0.4	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	56.6	57.5	0.9	0.8	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,624.1	6,629.1	5.0	60.6	0.1	0.9
Labour force	4,319.0	4,328.5	9.5	35.5	0.2	0.8
Employment	3,975.4	3,990.1	14.7	12.5	0.4	0.3
Full-time	3,195.2	3,232.1	36.9	33.4	1.2	1.0
Part-time	780.2	758.0	-22.2	-20.9	-2.8	-2.7
Unemployment	343.6	338.4	-5.2	23.0	-1.5	7.3
Participation rate	65.2	65.3	0.1	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.0	7.8	-0.2	0.5	...	...
Employment rate	60.0	60.2	0.2	-0.4	...	...
Ontario						
Population	11,041.9	11,054.3	12.4	145.0	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,354.8	7,331.9	-22.9	31.2	-0.3	0.4
Employment	6,780.5	6,761.8	-18.7	32.9	-0.3	0.5
Full-time	5,507.3	5,476.6	-30.7	18.1	-0.6	0.3
Part-time	1,273.2	1,285.2	12.0	14.8	0.9	1.2
Unemployment	574.3	570.2	-4.1	-1.5	-0.7	-0.3
Participation rate	66.6	66.3	-0.3	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.8	0.0	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	61.4	61.2	-0.2	-0.5	...	...

Table 3 - continued
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	April 2012	May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012
Manitoba						
Population	961.7	962.2	0.5	10.4	0.1	1.1
Labour force	664.7	664.5	-0.2	5.5	0.0	0.8
Employment	629.6	630.6	1.0	7.3	0.2	1.2
Full-time	507.5	503.2	-4.3	-0.4	-0.8	-0.1
Part-time	122.0	127.3	5.3	7.5	4.3	6.3
Unemployment	35.1	33.9	-1.2	-1.8	-3.4	-5.0
Participation rate	69.1	69.1	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.1	-0.2	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	65.5	65.5	0.0	0.0	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	807.7	808.9	1.2	10.4	0.1	1.3
Labour force	564.0	561.7	-2.3	7.7	-0.4	1.4
Employment	536.5	536.1	-0.4	9.8	-0.1	1.9
Full-time	444.4	440.0	-4.4	11.1	-1.0	2.6
Part-time	92.0	96.1	4.1	-1.3	4.5	-1.3
Unemployment	27.6	25.5	-2.1	-2.2	-7.6	-7.9
Participation rate	69.8	69.4	-0.4	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.5	-0.4	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	66.4	66.3	-0.1	0.4	...	...
Alberta						
Population	3,050.5	3,058.4	7.9	58.3	0.3	1.9
Labour force	2,254.6	2,255.0	0.4	69.4	0.0	3.2
Employment	2,143.0	2,152.8	9.8	84.5	0.5	4.1
Full-time	1,779.2	1,787.4	8.2	64.4	0.5	3.7
Part-time	363.8	365.4	1.6	20.1	0.4	5.8
Unemployment	111.6	102.2	-9.4	-15.1	-8.4	-12.9
Participation rate	73.9	73.7	-0.2	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.5	-0.4	-0.9	...	...
Employment rate	70.3	70.4	0.1	1.5	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,807.2	3,810.3	3.1	35.4	0.1	0.9
Labour force	2,473.1	2,503.6	30.5	43.0	1.2	1.7
Employment	2,318.8	2,318.6	-0.2	43.4	0.0	1.9
Full-time	1,808.1	1,808.7	0.6	45.7	0.0	2.6
Part-time	510.7	510.0	-0.7	-2.2	-0.1	-0.4
Unemployment	154.3	185.0	30.7	-0.4	19.9	-0.2
Participation rate	65.0	65.7	0.7	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.2	7.4	1.2	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	60.9	60.9	0.0	0.6	...	...

... 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, 282-0100 to 282-0121 and 282-0200 to 282-0219.

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 May 19. 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 July 6.

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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