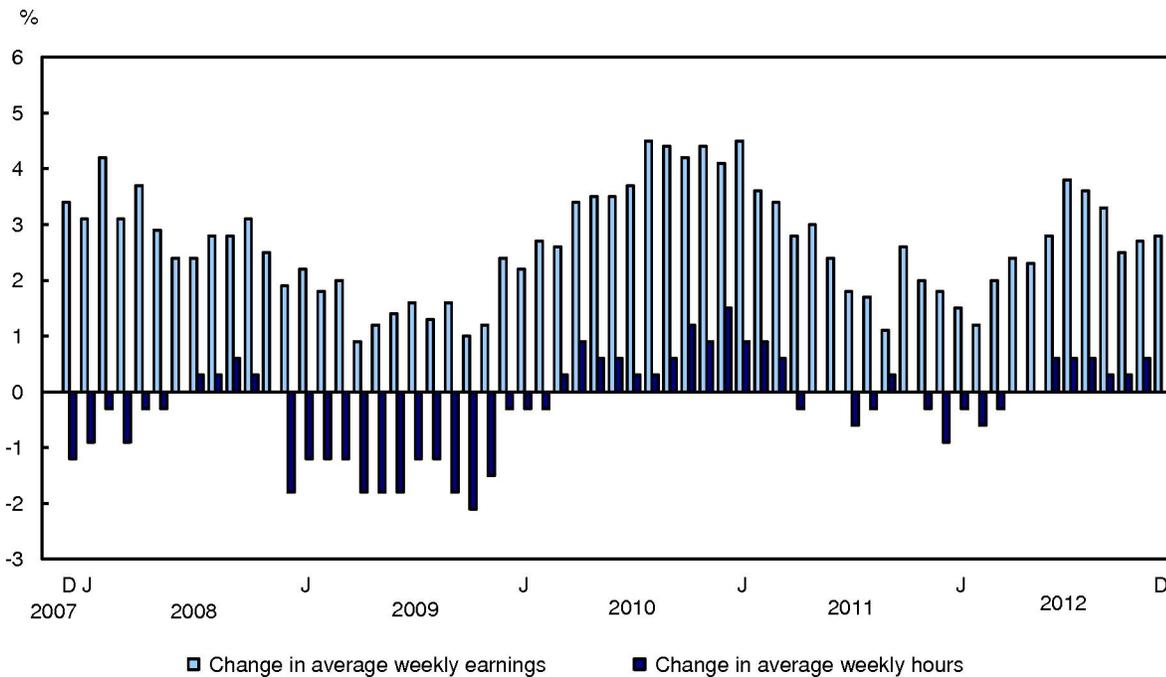


Payroll employment, earnings and hours, December 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees were \$908 in December, up 0.3% from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis earnings increased 2.8%.

Chart 1
Year-over-year change in average weekly earnings and average weekly hours

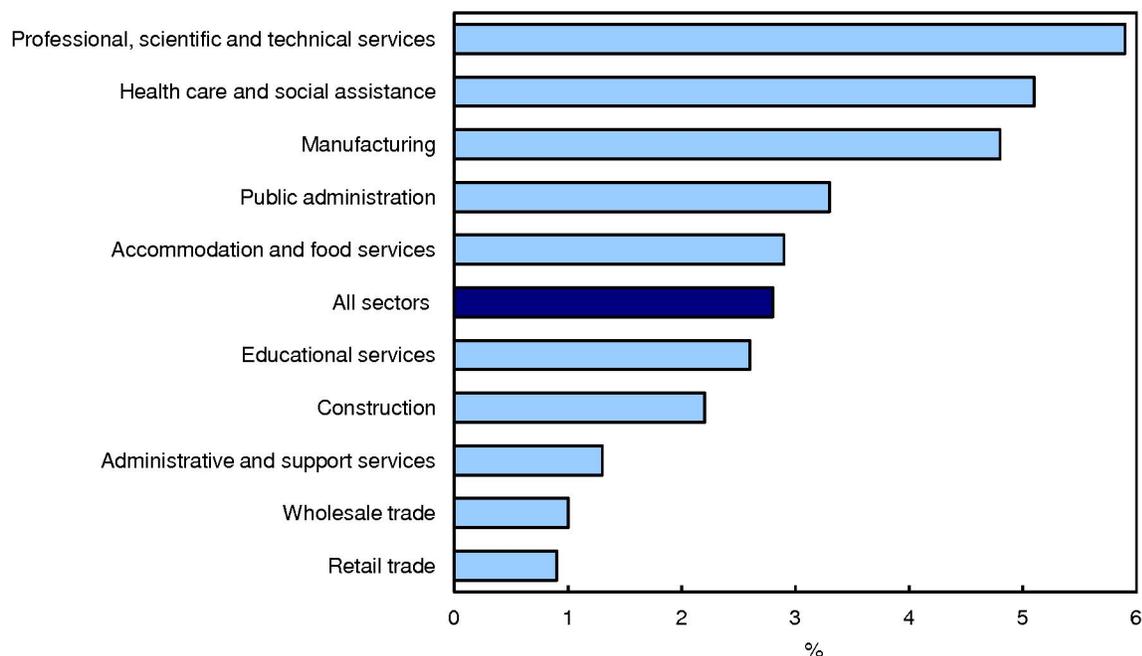


The 2.8% increase in earnings during the 12 months to December reflects a number of factors, including wage growth, changes in composition of employment by industry, occupation and level of job experience, as well as average hours worked per week. In December, non-farm payroll employees worked an average of 32.8 hours per week, unchanged from 12 months earlier but down from 33.1 in November.

Average weekly earnings by sector

Year-over-year growth in average weekly earnings outpaced the national average in five of the largest industrial sectors, led by professional, scientific and technical services; health care and social assistance; and manufacturing.

Chart 2
Year-over-year change in average weekly earnings in the 10 largest sectors, December 2011 to December 2012



Average weekly earnings in professional, scientific and technical services increased 5.9% to \$1,263 in the 12 months to December. The largest growth was in advertising, public relations, and related services; computer systems design and related services; and legal services.

Weekly earnings in health care and social assistance increased 5.1% to \$835. The most notable growth occurred in hospitals as well as nursing and residential care facilities.

In manufacturing, weekly earnings rose 4.8% to \$1,040, led by growth in the manufacturing of transportation equipment; plastics and rubber products; food; and machinery.

Average weekly earnings in public administration increased 3.3% in December to \$1,161, with the largest gains in local, municipal and regional and Aboriginal public administration.

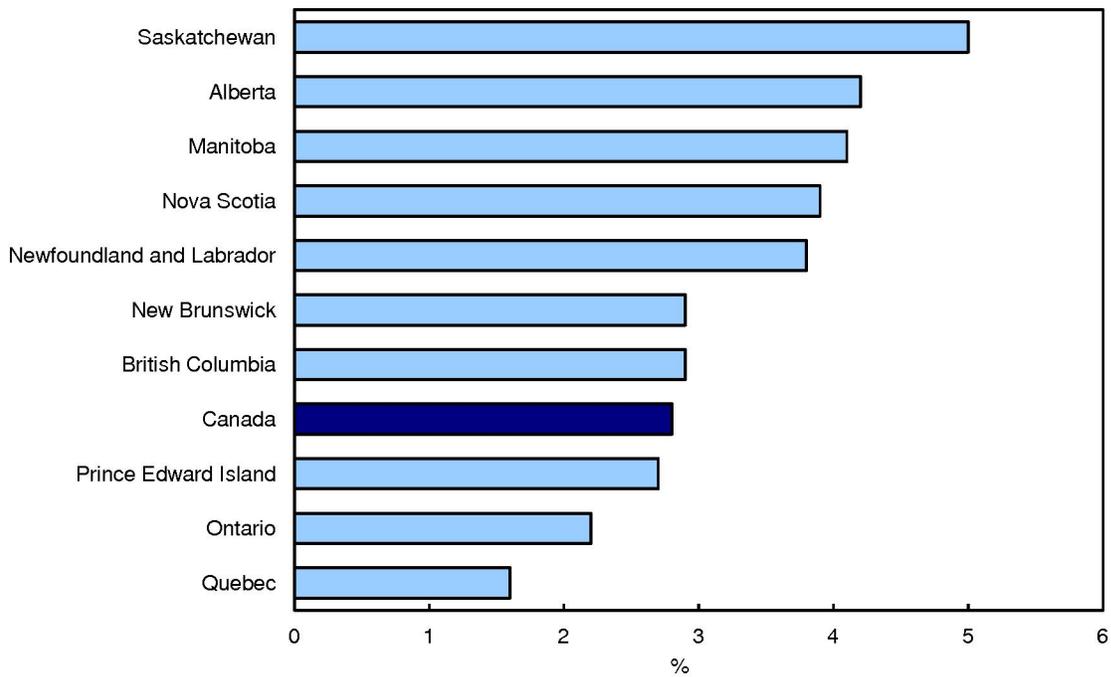
In accommodation and food services, weekly earnings rose 2.9% to \$371, led by growth in full-service restaurants; traveller accommodation; and drinking places.

Average weekly earnings by province

Year-over-year earnings growth of non-farm payroll employees was above the national average in seven provinces, with the highest growth in Saskatchewan.

Chart 3

Year-over-year growth in average weekly earnings by province, December 2011 to December 2012



In Saskatchewan, average weekly earnings rose 5.0% to \$936 in the 12 months to December. The main contributors to this increase were health care and social assistance; accommodation and food services as well as professional, scientific and technical services.

In Alberta, earnings rose 4.2% from December 2011 to \$1,094. This earnings level was at least 17% higher than that of any other province.

Compared with 12 months earlier, the two largest provinces posted earnings growth below the national average. In Ontario, average weekly earnings grew by 2.2% to \$919, and in Quebec, they increased by 1.6% to \$832.

Non-farm payroll employment by sector

Total non-farm payroll employment declined by 19,100 in December, following an increase of 37,300 the previous month.

In December, the number of payroll employees fell in administrative and support services; retail trade; and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction. At the same time, there were increases in construction and finance and insurance.

On a year-over-year basis, payroll employment rose by 245,400 or 1.6%.

Among all sectors, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction continued to post the highest 12-month growth rate in payroll employment, at 5.6%. Growth was also high in construction (+5.4%); educational services (+2.9%); accommodation and food services (+2.6%); and transportation and warehousing (+2.6%). The most notable declines were in forestry, logging and support services (-6.9%) and utilities (-3.6%).

Note to readers

The Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH) is a business census of non-farm payroll employees. Its key objective is to provide a monthly portrait of the level of earnings, the number of jobs and hours worked by detailed industry at the national, provincial and territorial level.

Estimates of average weekly earnings and hours are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Payroll employment estimates are based on a census of administrative data and are not subject to sampling variability.

Statistics Canada also produces employment estimates from its monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is a household survey, the main objective of which is to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive groups: the employed (including the self-employed), unemployed and not in the labour force. This survey is the official source for the unemployment rate and collects data on the socio-demographic characteristics of all those in the labour market.

As a result of conceptual and methodological differences, estimates of changes from SEPH and LFS do differ from time to time. However, the trends in the data are quite similar.

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](#).

Non-farm payroll employment data are for all hourly and salaried employees, as well as the 'other employees' category, which includes piece-rate and commission-only employees.

Average weekly hours data are for hourly and salaried employees only and exclude businesses that could not be classified to a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.

All earnings data include overtime pay and exclude businesses that could not be classified to a NAICS code. Earnings data are based on gross taxable payroll before source deductions.

Average weekly earnings are derived by dividing total weekly earnings by the number of employees.

With each release, data for the current reference month are subject to revision. Data have been revised for the previous month. Users are encouraged to request and use the most up-to-date data for each month.

Revisions

With the March 27 release of January data, SEPH will start using the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of NAICS 2007. Data will be revised historically back to 1991. At the same time, seasonally adjusted data will be revised based on the latest seasonal factors. Historical revisions will also be made to a small number of industries by province or territory. These changes will have little impact on SEPH estimates.

Table 1
Average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2011	November 2012 ^r	December 2012 ^p	November to December 2012	December 2011 to December 2012	November to December 2012	December 2011 to December 2012
	current dollars			change in current dollars		% change	
Sector aggregate¹	883.68	905.68	908.35	2.67	24.67	0.3	2.8
Forestry, logging and support	968.55	1,052.86	1,060.23	7.37	91.68	0.7	9.5
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1,799.53	1,875.47	1,881.82	6.35	82.29	0.3	4.6
Utilities	1,660.22	1,606.09	1,595.38	-10.71	-64.84	-0.7	-3.9
Construction	1,131.95	1,185.85	1,157.38	-28.47	25.43	-2.4	2.2
Manufacturing	992.94	998.74	1,040.33	41.59	47.39	4.2	4.8
Wholesale trade	1,067.26	1,056.53	1,078.25	21.72	10.99	2.1	1.0
Retail trade	525.41	528.93	529.89	0.96	4.48	0.2	0.9
Transportation and warehousing	933.96	941.30	954.48	13.18	20.52	1.4	2.2
Information and cultural industries	1,061.91	1,125.90	1,162.36	36.46	100.45	3.2	9.5
Finance and insurance	1,108.70	1,100.66	1,106.10	5.44	-2.60	0.5	-0.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	890.84	871.00	903.94	32.94	13.10	3.8	1.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,192.88	1,267.45	1,262.85	-4.60	69.97	-0.4	5.9
Management of companies and enterprises	1,184.25	1,228.25	1,257.58	29.33	73.33	2.4	6.2
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	731.50	725.34	741.06	15.72	9.56	2.2	1.3
Educational services	956.08	987.16	981.17	-5.99	25.09	-0.6	2.6
Health care and social assistance	794.61	824.61	835.28	10.67	40.67	1.3	5.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	543.84	542.69	546.75	4.06	2.91	0.7	0.5
Accommodation and food services	360.63	371.62	371.10	-0.52	10.47	-0.1	2.9
Other services (excluding public administration)	760.51	761.44	758.57	-2.87	-1.94	-0.4	-0.3
Public administration	1,123.71	1,166.06	1,161.05	-5.01	37.34	-0.4	3.3
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	901.49	934.41	936.04	1.63	34.55	0.2	3.8
Prince Edward Island	730.82	749.00	750.36	1.36	19.54	0.2	2.7
Nova Scotia	778.91	812.09	809.29	-2.80	30.38	-0.3	3.9
New Brunswick	794.25	814.79	817.53	2.74	23.28	0.3	2.9
Quebec	819.04	836.99	832.07	-4.92	13.03	-0.6	1.6
Ontario	899.39	913.62	919.11	5.49	19.72	0.6	2.2
Manitoba	808.78	835.82	842.10	6.28	33.32	0.8	4.1
Saskatchewan	891.04	925.29	936.00	10.71	44.96	1.2	5.0
Alberta	1,049.78	1,080.13	1,093.58	13.45	43.80	1.2	4.2
British Columbia	853.20	875.61	877.57	1.96	24.37	0.2	2.9
Yukon	966.38	993.24	1,002.47	9.23	36.09	0.9	3.7
Northwest Territories	1,254.46	1,293.23	1,298.04	4.81	43.58	0.4	3.5
Nunavut	930.41	968.71	967.73	-0.98	37.32	-0.1	4.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Sector breakdown is based on the 2007 North American Industry Classification System.

Note(s): Earnings data are based on gross payroll before source deductions.

Table 2
Number of employees – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2011	November 2012 ^r	December 2012 ^p	November to December 2012	December 2011 to December 2012	November to December 2012	December 2011 to December 2012
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Sector aggregate¹	15,053.3	15,317.8	15,298.7	-19.1	245.4	-0.1	1.6
Forestry, logging and support	40.4	37.8	37.6	-0.2	-2.8	-0.6	-6.9
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	212.3	226.7	224.3	-2.4	12.0	-1.1	5.6
Utilities	124.6	122.2	120.1	-2.1	-4.5	-1.8	-3.6
Construction	865.3	905.3	911.8	6.5	46.5	0.7	5.4
Manufacturing	1,488.3	1,487.8	1,486.7	-1.1	-1.6	-0.1	-0.1
Wholesale trade	746.2	761.3	759.4	-1.9	13.2	-0.2	1.8
Retail trade	1,847.9	1,869.8	1,864.7	-5.1	16.8	-0.3	0.9
Transportation and warehousing	695.0	712.6	713.2	0.6	18.2	0.1	2.6
Information and cultural industries	327.8	322.9	324.3	1.4	-3.5	0.4	-1.1
Finance and insurance	687.7	700.4	704.7	4.3	17.0	0.6	2.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	241.8	248.6	248.5	-0.1	6.7	0.0	2.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	787.9	803.5	801.6	-1.9	13.7	-0.2	1.7
Management of companies and enterprises	105.2	110.5	108.7	-1.8	3.5	-1.7	3.3
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	749.0	762.8	757.5	-5.3	8.5	-0.7	1.1
Educational services	1,147.3	1,182.1	1,180.3	-1.8	33.0	-0.1	2.9
Health care and social assistance	1,664.7	1,694.0	1,693.6	-0.4	28.9	0.0	1.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	249.6	250.9	250.1	-0.8	0.5	-0.3	0.2
Accommodation and food services	1,099.9	1,129.0	1,128.7	-0.3	28.8	0.0	2.6
Other services (excluding public administration)	518.8	523.6	524.2	0.6	5.4	0.1	1.1
Public administration	1,054.6	1,049.1	1,047.6	-1.5	-7.0	-0.1	-0.7
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	207.4	212.4	212.1	-0.3	4.7	-0.1	2.3
Prince Edward Island	64.2	63.5	63.5	0.0	-0.7	0.0	-1.1
Nova Scotia	402.3	402.3	398.5	-3.8	-3.8	-0.9	-0.9
New Brunswick	316.9	311.1	309.5	-1.6	-7.4	-0.5	-2.3
Quebec	3,440.2	3,486.6	3,482.7	-3.9	42.5	-0.1	1.2
Ontario	5,745.8	5,828.0	5,828.6	0.6	82.8	0.0	1.4
Manitoba	566.5	576.1	571.5	-4.6	5.0	-0.8	0.9
Saskatchewan	459.8	473.0	469.8	-3.2	10.0	-0.7	2.2
Alberta	1,855.8	1,940.4	1,938.7	-1.7	82.9	-0.1	4.5
British Columbia	1,934.1	1,963.0	1,961.8	-1.2	27.7	-0.1	1.4
Yukon	20.4	21.0	21.1	0.1	0.7	0.4	3.4
Northwest Territories	27.9	28.6	28.8	0.2	0.9	0.8	3.1
Nunavut	11.9	11.8	12.0	0.2	0.1	1.7	0.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Sector breakdown is based on the 2007 North American Industry Classification System.

Available in CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0039 and 281-0041 to 281-0049.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2612.

A [data table](#) is available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for January will be released on March 27.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; jeannine.usalcas@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.