

# Labour Force Survey, March 2014

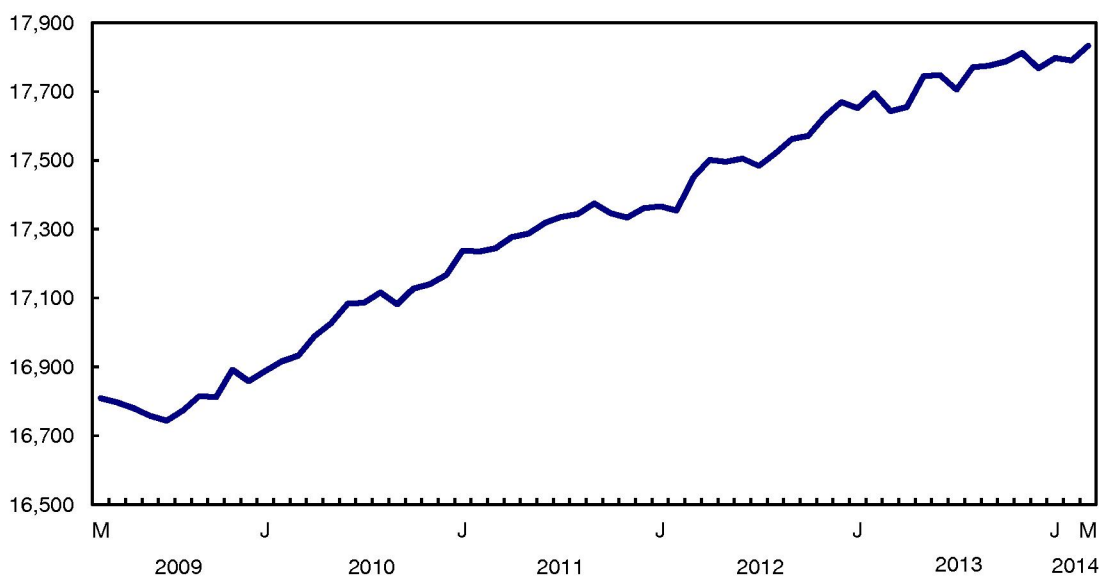
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, April 4, 2014

Employment increased by 43,000 in March, driven by gains among youths. The unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage points to 6.9%. Overall employment growth in Canada has been subdued since August 2013.

Compared with March 2013, the number of people working rose by 190,000. Over this 12-month period, employment and the number of hours worked grew at the same pace, that is 1.1%.

## Chart 1 Employment

thousands



In March, employment rose by 33,000 among youths aged 15 to 24, while it was little changed for the other demographic groups.

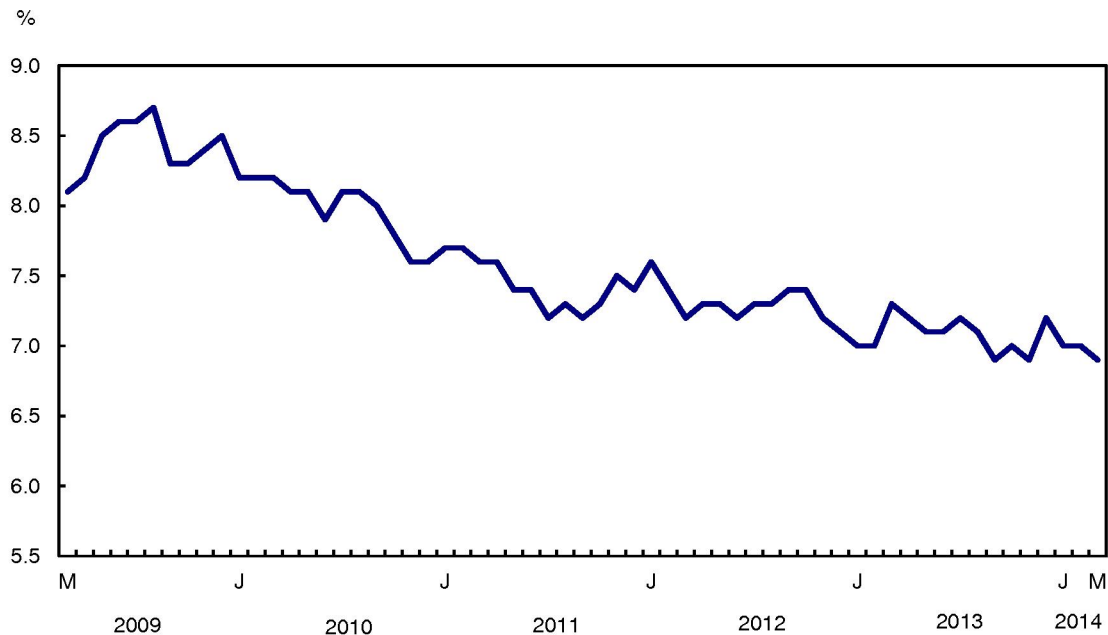
Provincially, employment increased in British Columbia and New Brunswick, edged up in Quebec and fell in Nova Scotia.

There were more people working in health care and social assistance, and in business, building and other support services. At the same time, employment fell in agriculture.

Public sector employment increased in March while the number of private sector employees and self-employed was unchanged.



## Chart 2 Unemployment rate



### More youths working in March

Employment for people aged 15 to 24 rose by 33,000 in March, but their unemployment rate remained at 13.6% as more youths participated in the labour market. Compared with 12 months earlier, both employment and the unemployment rate for this group were little changed.

While there was little change in employment for men and women aged 25 to 54 in March, the unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to 5.7%, as fewer people in this age group searched for work.

Employment was also little changed for men and women aged 55 and over in March. Nonetheless, employment for this group has risen by 3.4% (+114,000) since March 2013, virtually all the result of population ageing. The unemployment rate for this age group was little changed at 6.0% in March.

### Provincial employment

In British Columbia, 18,000 more people were employed in March, pushing the unemployment rate down 0.6 percentage points to 5.8%. Prior to this increase, British Columbia had seen little employment growth since the autumn of 2012.

Employment in New Brunswick rose by 3,200 in March, and the unemployment rate was 9.7%. On a year-over-year basis, employment in the province was up 5,600 or 1.6%.

Following a decline in February, employment in Quebec edged up by 15,000 in March, and the unemployment rate was 7.6%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was up by 31,000 (+0.8%).

There were 3,400 fewer people working in Nova Scotia in March, and the unemployment rate was 9.3%. Compared with the 12 months earlier, employment in the province was down 9,100 or 2.0%.

In the Prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, employment was little changed, but an increase in the number of people searching for work pushed their unemployment rates up to 5.7%, 4.5%, and 4.9% respectively. However, the unemployment rates in these provinces remain the lowest in the country.

### **Industry perspective**

Employment in health care and social assistance increased by 24,000 in March, continuing a long-term upward trend.

In business, building and other support services, employment rose by 15,000 in March but was little changed from 12 months earlier.

There were 12,000 fewer people working in agriculture in March, bringing employment declines in the industry to 24,000 (-7.5%) since March 2013.

Public sector employment increased by 39,000 in March, with most of the gains in health care and social assistance.

On a year-over-year basis, there was little change in the public sector and in self-employment, while the number of private sector employees was up 206,000 (+1.8%).

### **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 data are not seasonally adjusted; therefore, comparisons should only be made on a year-over-year basis.

From the first quarter of 2013 to the first quarter of 2014, employment in Yukon increased by 900 and the unemployment rate fell from 7.6% to 5.9%.

Over the same period, employment was little changed in the Northwest Territories. The unemployment rate was 8.1% in the first quarter of 2014, also little changed from a year earlier.

In Nunavut, employment was virtually unchanged in the first quarter of 2014, and the unemployment rate was 12.5%.

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### Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. As a result, monthly estimates will show more variability than trends observed over longer time periods. For more information, see *Interpreting Monthly Changes in Employment from the Labour Force Survey*. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries also 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)*.

This analysis focuses on differences between estimates that are statistically significant at the 68% confidence level.

The **employment rate** is the number of employed persons as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The rate for a particular group (for example, youth aged 15 to 24) is the number employed in that group as a percentage of the population for that group.

The **unemployment rate** is the number unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed).

The **participation rate** is the number of employed and unemployed as a percentage of the population. For more detailed information, see the *Guide to the Labour Force Survey (71-543-G)*.

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted estimates, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see *Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends*.

Each year, the LFS revises its estimates for the previous three years, using the latest seasonal factors.

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

	February 2014	March 2014	Standard error <sup>1</sup>	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
<b>Both sexes, 15 years and over</b>							
Population	28,893.5	28,924.1	...	30.6	372.9	0.1	1.3
Labour force	19,133.4	19,158.6	29.1	25.2	136.0	0.1	0.7
Employment	17,790.3	17,833.2	28.9	42.9	190.0	0.2	1.1
Full-time	14,443.6	14,456.4	39.2	12.8	136.7	0.1	1.0
Part-time	3,346.7	3,376.8	36.1	30.1	53.3	0.9	1.6
Unemployment	1,343.1	1,325.4	24.9	-17.7	-54.0	-1.3	-3.9
Participation rate	66.2	66.2	0.1	0.0	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.0	6.9	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	61.6	61.7	0.1	0.1	-0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	18.8	18.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	...	...
<b>Youths, 15 to 24 years</b>							
Population	4,433.8	4,432.0	...	-1.8	-20.5	0.0	-0.5
Labour force	2,803.1	2,838.5	17.2	35.4	-16.5	1.3	-0.6
Employment	2,420.7	2,453.2	15.8	32.5	3.8	1.3	0.2
Full-time	1,268.4	1,282.0	18.6	13.6	-6.2	1.1	-0.5
Part-time	1,152.2	1,171.2	19.7	19.0	10.0	1.6	0.9
Unemployment	382.4	385.3	14.6	2.9	-20.2	0.8	-5.0
Participation rate	63.2	64.0	0.4	0.8	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.6	13.6	0.5	0.0	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	54.6	55.4	0.4	0.8	0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	47.6	47.7	0.7	0.1	0.3	...	...
<b>Men, 25 years and over</b>							
Population	11,980.0	11,996.4	...	16.4	199.6	0.1	1.7
Labour force	8,654.5	8,650.4	15.1	-4.1	101.1	0.0	1.2
Employment	8,110.0	8,123.0	16.4	13.0	99.8	0.2	1.2
Full-time	7,478.1	7,448.2	22.0	-29.9	37.0	-0.4	0.5
Part-time	631.9	674.7	18.0	42.8	62.7	6.8	10.2
Unemployment	544.5	527.5	14.5	-17.0	1.4	-3.1	0.3
Participation rate	72.2	72.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	67.7	67.7	0.1	0.0	-0.3	...	...
Part-time rate	7.8	8.3	0.2	0.5	0.7	...	...
<b>Women, 25 years and over</b>							
Population	12,479.7	12,495.7	...	16.0	193.7	0.1	1.6
Labour force	7,675.9	7,669.6	16.6	-6.3	51.3	-0.1	0.7
Employment	7,259.7	7,257.0	16.4	-2.7	86.4	0.0	1.2
Full-time	5,697.1	5,726.2	25.7	29.1	105.9	0.5	1.9
Part-time	1,562.5	1,530.8	24.0	-31.7	-19.5	-2.0	-1.3
Unemployment	416.2	412.6	13.3	-3.6	-35.1	-0.9	-7.8
Participation rate	61.5	61.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.4	0.2	0.0	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	58.2	58.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	21.5	21.1	0.3	-0.4	-0.5	...	...

... not applicable

1. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the section "About the Labour Force Survey" at the end of the publication Labour Force Information (71-001-X) for further explanations.

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 282-0087. The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

**Table 2**  
**Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS<sup>1</sup>) – Seasonally adjusted**

	February 2014	March 2014	Standard error <sup>2</sup>	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
<b>Class of worker</b>							
Employees	15,085.3	15,128.5	35.7	43.2	210.2	0.3	1.4
Self-employed	2,705.1	2,704.6	25.5	-0.5	-20.3	0.0	-0.7
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,586.3	3,625.6	25.0	39.3	4.3	1.1	0.1
Private	11,499.0	11,502.9	37.9	3.9	206.0	0.0	1.8
<b>All industries</b>	<b>17,790.3</b>	<b>17,833.2</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>190.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	<b>3,896.6</b>	<b>3,881.0</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>-15.6</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Agriculture	310.7	298.3	7.5	-12.4	-24.1	-4.0	-7.5
Natural resources <sup>3</sup>	386.4	387.2	7.4	0.8	29.4	0.2	8.2
Utilities	158.4	160.7	5.4	2.3	30.1	1.5	23.0
Construction	1,297.5	1,300.2	17.7	2.7	2.8	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	1,743.7	1,734.5	19.6	-9.2	16.0	-0.5	0.9
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	<b>13,893.7</b>	<b>13,952.2</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>135.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Trade	2,700.1	2,694.3	24.5	-5.8	-9.0	-0.2	-0.3
Transportation and warehousing	888.2	895.4	14.2	7.2	25.0	0.8	2.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,124.2	1,129.4	16.8	5.2	16.6	0.5	1.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,367.9	1,373.6	18.6	5.7	35.5	0.4	2.7
Business, building and other support services	691.1	706.5	14.4	15.4	1.2	2.2	0.2
Educational services	1,282.8	1,281.1	16.2	-1.7	-10.4	-0.1	-0.8
Health care and social assistance	2,194.0	2,217.6	19.5	23.6	47.6	1.1	2.2
Information, culture and recreation	808.1	800.6	14.8	-7.5	17.2	-0.9	2.2
Accommodation and food services	1,147.0	1,147.3	17.2	0.3	28.3	0.0	2.5
Other services	776.1	784.0	13.8	7.9	18.1	1.0	2.4
Public administration	914.1	922.4	13.0	8.3	-34.3	0.9	-3.6

1. North American Industry Classification System.

2. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the section "About the Labour Force Survey" at the end of the publication Labour Force Information (71-001-X) for further explanations.

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

**Note(s):** Related CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089. The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

**Table 3  
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted**

	February 2014	March 2014	Standard error <sup>1</sup>	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>							
Population	429.2	429.1	...	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	-0.1
Labour force	263.7	262.1	1.9	-1.6	-5.5	-0.6	-2.1
Employment	232.5	231.8	2.0	-0.7	-3.1	-0.3	-1.3
Full-time	198.3	197.3	2.4	-1.0	-4.5	-0.5	-2.2
Part-time	34.2	34.5	1.9	0.3	1.4	0.9	4.2
Unemployment	31.2	30.3	1.8	-0.9	-2.4	-2.9	-7.3
Participation rate	61.4	61.1	0.4	-0.3	-1.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.8	11.6	0.6	-0.2	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	54.2	54.0	0.5	-0.2	-0.7	...	...
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>							
Population	121.2	121.3	...	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.6
Labour force	84.4	83.9	0.6	-0.5	-1.1	-0.6	-1.3
Employment	74.7	74.1	0.7	-0.6	-0.9	-0.8	-1.2
Full-time	62.5	62.4	0.9	-0.1	0.5	-0.2	0.8
Part-time	12.2	11.7	0.7	-0.5	-1.4	-4.1	-10.7
Unemployment	9.7	9.9	0.7	0.2	-0.1	2.1	-1.0
Participation rate	69.6	69.2	0.5	-0.4	-1.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.5	11.8	0.8	0.3	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	61.6	61.1	0.6	-0.5	-1.1	...	...
<b>Nova Scotia</b>							
Population	781.3	781.2	...	-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Labour force	494.8	492.9	2.6	-1.9	-11.1	-0.4	-2.2
Employment	450.7	447.3	2.6	-3.4	-9.1	-0.8	-2.0
Full-time	363.9	360.1	3.5	-3.8	-9.0	-1.0	-2.4
Part-time	86.8	87.2	3.2	0.4	-0.1	0.5	-0.1
Unemployment	44.1	45.6	2.4	1.5	-2.0	3.4	-4.2
Participation rate	63.3	63.1	0.3	-0.2	-1.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.9	9.3	0.5	0.4	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	57.7	57.3	0.3	-0.4	-1.1	...	...
<b>New Brunswick</b>							
Population	620.1	620.3	...	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1
Labour force	391.5	394.8	2.2	3.3	2.5	0.8	0.6
Employment	353.1	356.3	2.4	3.2	5.6	0.9	1.6
Full-time	298.3	296.3	3.0	-2.0	2.1	-0.7	0.7
Part-time	54.8	60.0	2.6	5.2	3.5	9.5	6.2
Unemployment	38.4	38.4	2.3	0.0	-3.2	0.0	-7.7
Participation rate	63.1	63.6	0.4	0.5	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.8	9.7	0.6	-0.1	-0.9	...	...
Employment rate	56.9	57.4	0.4	0.5	0.8	...	...
<b>Quebec</b>							
Population	6,719.6	6,724.1	...	4.5	49.4	0.1	0.7
Labour force	4,375.3	4,379.1	15.1	3.8	27.0	0.1	0.6
Employment	4,032.7	4,047.8	15.2	15.1	31.4	0.4	0.8
Full-time	3,242.1	3,266.1	20.0	24.0	0.8	0.7	0.0
Part-time	790.6	781.7	18.3	-8.9	30.6	-1.1	4.1
Unemployment	342.7	331.3	13.2	-11.4	-4.5	-3.3	-1.3
Participation rate	65.1	65.1	0.2	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.6	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	60.0	60.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	...	...

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

	February 2014	March 2014	Standard error <sup>1</sup>	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014
<b>Ontario</b>							
Population	11,287.3	11,298.6	...	11.3	139.1	0.1	1.2
Labour force	7,448.7	7,449.7	19.8	1.0	39.3	0.0	0.5
Employment	6,888.9	6,902.3	19.0	13.4	60.5	0.2	0.9
Full-time	5,605.9	5,599.4	26.6	-6.5	89.6	-0.1	1.6
Part-time	1,283.0	1,302.9	24.6	19.9	-29.1	1.6	-2.2
Unemployment	559.8	547.4	17.2	-12.4	-21.2	-2.2	-3.7
Participation rate	66.0	65.9	0.2	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	61.0	61.1	0.2	0.1	-0.2	...	...
<b>Manitoba</b>							
Population	980.9	982.1	...	1.2	12.3	0.1	1.3
Labour force	666.5	667.1	2.7	0.6	-4.6	0.1	-0.7
Employment	631.4	629.3	2.7	-2.1	-8.3	-0.3	-1.3
Full-time	509.2	508.9	3.7	-0.3	-1.9	-0.1	-0.4
Part-time	122.2	120.5	3.5	-1.7	-6.3	-1.4	-5.0
Unemployment	35.1	37.8	2.1	2.7	3.8	7.7	11.2
Participation rate	67.9	67.9	0.3	0.0	-1.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.7	0.3	0.4	0.6	...	...
Employment rate	64.4	64.1	0.3	-0.3	-1.6	...	...
<b>Saskatchewan</b>							
Population	836.4	837.9	...	1.5	17.3	0.2	2.1
Labour force	580.4	584.4	2.5	4.0	7.6	0.7	1.3
Employment	557.9	558.3	2.6	0.4	4.0	0.1	0.7
Full-time	464.3	457.7	3.4	-6.6	0.4	-1.4	0.1
Part-time	93.6	100.6	3.1	7.0	3.6	7.5	3.7
Unemployment	22.5	26.1	1.8	3.6	3.6	16.0	16.0
Participation rate	69.4	69.7	0.3	0.3	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.9	4.5	0.3	0.6	0.6	...	...
Employment rate	66.7	66.6	0.3	-0.1	-0.9	...	...
<b>Alberta</b>							
Population	3,236.3	3,243.9	...	7.6	108.6	0.2	3.5
Labour force	2,364.2	2,377.7	9.3	13.5	92.1	0.6	4.0
Employment	2,262.1	2,261.2	9.9	-0.9	86.6	0.0	4.0
Full-time	1,896.7	1,895.2	12.6	-1.5	47.8	-0.1	2.6
Part-time	365.5	366.0	11.2	0.5	38.8	0.1	11.9
Unemployment	102.0	116.5	7.1	14.5	5.6	14.2	5.0
Participation rate	73.1	73.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.9	0.3	0.6	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	69.9	69.7	0.3	-0.2	0.3	...	...
<b>British Columbia</b>							
Population	3,881.1	3,885.6	...	4.5	45.1	0.1	1.2
Labour force	2,463.9	2,466.8	10.5	2.9	-10.3	0.1	-0.4
Employment	2,306.4	2,324.7	10.4	18.3	23.2	0.8	1.0
Full-time	1,802.7	1,813.0	14.6	10.3	10.9	0.6	0.6
Part-time	503.7	511.7	13.8	8.0	12.3	1.6	2.5
Unemployment	157.5	142.1	8.6	-15.4	-33.5	-9.8	-19.1
Participation rate	63.5	63.5	0.3	0.0	-1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	5.8	0.3	-0.6	-1.3	...	...
Employment rate	59.4	59.8	0.3	0.4	-0.1	...	...

... not applicable

1. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the section "About the Labour Force Survey" at the end of the publication *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)* for further explanations.

**Note(s):** Related CANSIM table 282-0087. The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.



Available in CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0051, 282-0054, 282-0055, 282-0060 to 282-0063, 282-0069 to 282-0089, 282-0092 to 282-0095, 282-0100 to 282-0121 and 282-0200 to 282-0225.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.**

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)*, is now available online for the week ending March 15. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Labour*.

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

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on May 9.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lahouaria Yssaad (613-951-0627; [lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.gc.ca)) or Andrew Fields (613-951-3551; [andrew.fields@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:andrew.fields@statcan.gc.ca)), Labour Statistics Division.