

Labour Force Survey: Year-end review, 2014

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Employment gains in 2014 amounted to 121,000 or 0.7%, with the bulk of the growth in September and October. In the 12 months to December, the unemployment rate declined 0.5 percentage points to 6.7%.

Following the release of population estimates based on the most recent Census of Population, a standard revision is applied to the Labour Force Survey estimates. This review is based on these revised estimates released today, which are different from those published on January 9 (see note to readers).

The employment growth rate of 0.7% observed in 2014 was the same as that of 2013, and below the rate of 1.8% recorded in 2012.

Compared with December 2013, full-time employment increased by 158,000 or 1.1%, while part-time employment was little changed. The total number of hours worked increased by 0.6% over the period.

Employment growth in the year was concentrated among men aged 25 and older.

Provincially, employment grew in Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario in 2014. At the same time, employment declined in Newfoundland and Labrador as well as in New Brunswick.

In the 12 months to December, employment increased in health care and social assistance, construction, and educational services, while it declined in 'other services.'

There were more private sector employees (+88,000 or +0.8%) compared with December 2013. The number of public sector employees and self-employed was little changed.

Adjusted to the concepts used in the United States, the unemployment rate in Canada was 5.7% in December, while the US rate was 5.6%.

Participation rate trended down

The population aged 15 and older grew by 1.1% in 2014, a faster pace than employment. As a result, the employment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to 61.3%.

The labour market participation rate trended downward throughout 2014, falling 0.6 percentage points to 65.7% in December 2014—the lowest since 2000.

The downward trend in labour force participation was partly due to population ageing. There was an increase in the share of Canadians aged 55 and older, who are less likely to participate in the labour market. Furthermore, the participation rate among people aged 55 and older declined 0.9 percentage points over the 12 months. At the same time, the rate for women aged 25 to 54 declined 0.8 percentage points, also contributing to the downward trend.

The unemployment rate was 6.7% in December, down 0.5 percentage points compared with December 2013. The unemployment rate edged downward in the fall of 2014, hitting a five-year low of 6.6% in October.

Employment gains for men aged 25 and older

From December 2013 to December 2014, employment among men aged 25 to 54 increased by 75,000 (+1.2%), mostly in full-time work. Their unemployment rate fell 0.9 percentage points to 5.6%, the lowest rate for this group since October 2008.

In December 2014, employment was little changed for women aged 25 to 54 compared with 12 months earlier. Their unemployment rate declined 0.4 percentage points to 5.3%, the result of fewer women in this age group looking for work.



Among men aged 55 and older, employment grew by 44,000 (+2.3%) in the 12 months to December, pushing their unemployment rate down 0.8 percentage points to 5.8%. For their female counterparts, employment was little changed and their unemployment rate in December was 5.1%.

In the 12 months to December, youth employment edged up by 26,000 (+1.0%), all among women. At the same time, the youth population declined 39,000 (-0.9%). As a result, the youth participation rate increased 1.0 percentage point to 64.6% over the period. The unemployment rate for this age group was 13.5% in December.

Fastest employment growth in the Western provinces

Employment in Alberta trended upward throughout 2014, increasing 2.8% (+63,000) compared with December 2013, the fastest growth rate of all the provinces. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.7%, the second-lowest among the provinces.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan also had year-over-year employment growth above the national average, at 2.3% and 1.4% respectively. The unemployment rate in Saskatchewan was 3.7%, the lowest among the provinces. In Manitoba, the unemployment rate was 5.4% in December.

Employment in Ontario increased 0.6% (+38,000) in the 12 months to December. The unemployment rate in the province trended downward in 2014, reaching 7.0% in December 2014.

In British Columbia, employment was little changed compared with December 2013. However, the unemployment rate in the province declined 1.4 percentage points to 5.5% in December, as fewer people searched for work. This was the lowest rate since November 2008.

In the 12 months to December, employment in Quebec was little changed and the unemployment rate was 7.5% in December, also little changed.

There were no employment gains in the Atlantic provinces from December 2013 to December 2014. While employment was little changed in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, it declined by 2.5% in Newfoundland and Labrador and 1.6% in New Brunswick.

Nova Scotia was the lone Atlantic province with a notable change in its unemployment rate, down 0.9 percentage points to 8.4%, as fewer people searched for work.

Largest employment gains in health care and social assistance

Employment in health care and social assistance trended upward throughout 2014, increasing by 54,000 (+2.4%).

From December 2013 to December 2014, employment in construction grew by 39,000 (+2.9%), driven by gains in the second half of the year.

Employment in educational services went up by 37,000 (+3.1%) in the 12 months to December.

The lone industry with an employment decline in 2014 was 'other services,' down 35,000 (-4.4%) over the 12-month period. The declines were among private household services, such as services provided by nannies and home support workers.

Employment levels for all other industries were relatively unchanged on a year-over-year basis.

Canada–United States comparison

Adjusted to US concepts, the unemployment rate in Canada was 5.7% in December 2014, and the US rate was 5.6%. In the 12 months to December, the unemployment rate in Canada declined by 0.4 percentage points, while the rate in the United States fell by 1.1 percentage points.

In December, the employment rate in Canada, adjusted to US concepts, was 61.9%, compared with 59.2% in the United States. Compared with a year earlier, the employment rate declined by 0.2 percentage points in Canada, while it increased by 0.6 percentage points in the United States.

Revisions

Statistics Canada has an established history of applying a standard revision to the Labour Force Survey estimates following the release of postcensal population estimates from each census of population. For more information on the revisions, refer to the publication "The 2015 Revisions of the Labour Force Survey (LFS)," which is now available as part of the Improvements to the Labour Force Survey (71F0031X) series.

Note to readers

The 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, youths 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).

Seasonal adjustment

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 [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

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

	December 2013	December 2014	Standard error ¹	December 2013 to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)	% change
Both sexes, 15 years and over					
Population	28,809.0	29,116.6	...	307.6	1.1
Labour force	19,107.9	19,127.7	52.7	19.8	0.1
Employment	17,730.2	17,851.5	54.9	121.3	0.7
Full-time	14,307.7	14,466.0	62.7	158.3	1.1
Part-time	3,422.5	3,385.5	52.0	-37.0	-1.1
Unemployment	1,377.7	1,276.2	35.6	-101.5	-7.4
Participation rate	66.3	65.7	0.2	-0.6	...
Unemployment rate	7.2	6.7	0.2	-0.5	...
Employment rate	61.5	61.3	0.2	-0.2	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years					
Population	4,494.4	4,455.0	...	-39.4	-0.9
Labour force	2,858.8	2,875.8	28.7	17.0	0.6
Employment	2,463.4	2,488.9	29.0	25.5	1.0
Full-time	1,259.4	1,289.5	27.9	30.1	2.4
Part-time	1,204.0	1,199.3	28.8	-4.7	-0.4
Unemployment	395.4	387.0	19.1	-8.4	-2.1
Participation rate	63.6	64.6	0.6	1.0	...
Unemployment rate	13.8	13.5	0.6	-0.3	...
Employment rate	54.8	55.9	0.6	1.1	...
Men, 25 to 54 years					
Population	7,243.5	7,256.4	...	12.9	0.2
Labour force	6,572.5	6,591.4	23.5	18.9	0.3
Employment	6,147.4	6,222.2	28.6	74.8	1.2
Full-time	5,809.0	5,877.2	32.4	68.2	1.2
Part-time	338.4	345.0	18.9	6.6	2.0
Unemployment	425.1	369.2	19.5	-55.9	-13.1
Participation rate	90.7	90.8	0.3	0.1	...
Unemployment rate	6.5	5.6	0.3	-0.9	...
Employment rate	84.9	85.7	0.4	0.8	...
Women, 25 to 54 years					
Population	7,292.5	7,313.0	...	20.5	0.3
Labour force	6,008.6	5,970.5	28.2	-38.1	-0.6
Employment	5,665.9	5,654.1	29.7	-11.8	-0.2
Full-time	4,587.5	4,589.2	36.5	1.7	0.0
Part-time	1,078.4	1,064.9	29.4	-13.5	-1.3
Unemployment	342.7	316.4	17.2	-26.3	-7.7
Participation rate	82.4	81.6	0.4	-0.8	...
Unemployment rate	5.7	5.3	0.3	-0.4	...
Employment rate	77.7	77.3	0.4	-0.4	...
Men, 55 years and over					
Population	4,648.8	4,805.2	...	156.4	3.4
Labour force	2,010.1	2,040.3	23.5	30.2	1.5
Employment	1,877.2	1,921.3	24.3	44.1	2.3
Unemployment	132.8	119.0	10.4	-13.8	-10.4
Participation rate	43.2	42.5	0.5	-0.7	...
Unemployment rate	6.6	5.8	0.5	-0.8	...
Employment rate	40.4	40.0	0.5	-0.4	...

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

	December 2013	December 2014	Standard error ¹	December 2013 to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
Women, 55 years and over					
Population	5,129.8	5,286.9		157.1	3.1
Labour force	1,658.0	1,649.7	24.1	-8.3	-0.5
Employment	1,576.3	1,565.1	24.5	-11.2	-0.7
Unemployment	81.7	84.6	8.8	2.9	3.5
Participation rate	32.3	31.2	0.5	-1.1	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	5.1	0.5	0.2	...
Employment rate	30.7	29.6	0.5	-1.1	...

... not applicable

1. Average standard error for the change between December 2013 and December 2014. 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): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

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

	December 2013	December 2014	Standard error ²	December 2013 to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
	thousands			change in thousands	% change
Class of worker					
Employees	15,026.5	15,126.3	63.7	99.8	0.7
Self-employed	2,703.7	2,725.2	44.4	21.5	0.8
Public/private sector employees					
Public	3,549.4	3,561.4	40.2	12.0	0.3
Private	11,477.1	11,564.9	64.6	87.8	0.8
All industries	17,730.2	17,851.5	54.9	121.3	0.7
Goods-producing sector					
Goods-producing sector	3,875.0	3,907.5	36.5	32.5	0.8
Agriculture	302.2	303.3	11.6	1.1	0.4
Natural resources ³	370.2	377.5	11.9	7.3	2.0
Utilities	139.9	138.3	6.3	-1.6	-1.1
Construction	1,349.6	1,388.5	25.2	38.9	2.9
Manufacturing	1,713.1	1,699.9	24.5	-13.2	-0.8
Services-producing sector					
Services-producing sector	13,855.1	13,943.9	56.4	88.8	0.6
Trade	2,732.9	2,715.5	32.7	-17.4	-0.6
Transportation and warehousing	887.1	904.2	18.8	17.1	1.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,092.8	1,093.8	19.7	1.0	0.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,325.1	1,328.8	25.2	3.7	0.3
Business, building and other support services	744.7	751.2	21.4	6.5	0.9
Educational services	1,219.0	1,256.4	23.1	37.4	3.1
Health care and social assistance	2,191.6	2,245.2	24.9	53.6	2.4
Information, culture and recreation	763.9	760.1	20.7	-3.8	-0.5
Accommodation and food services	1,188.8	1,216.2	25.8	27.4	2.3
Other services	797.5	762.6	19.5	-34.9	-4.4
Public administration	911.6	910.1	15.7	-1.5	-0.2

1. North American Industry Classification System.

2. Average standard error for the change between December 2013 and December 2014. 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): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [282-0088](#) and [282-0089](#).

Table 3
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2013	December 2014	Standard error ¹	December 2013 to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)	% change
Canada					
Population	28,809.0	29,116.6	...	307.6	1.1
Labour force	19,107.9	19,127.7	52.7	19.8	0.1
Employment	17,730.2	17,851.5	54.9	121.3	0.7
Full-time	14,307.7	14,466.0	62.7	158.3	1.1
Part-time	3,422.5	3,385.5	52.0	-37.0	-1.1
Unemployment	1,377.7	1,276.2	35.6	-101.5	-7.4
Participation rate	66.3	65.7	0.2	-0.6	...
Unemployment rate	7.2	6.7	0.2	-0.5	...
Employment rate	61.5	61.3	0.2	-0.2	...
Newfoundland and Labrador					
Population	445.0	443.3	...	-1.7	-0.4
Labour force	275.3	268.7	3.7	-6.6	-2.4
Employment	243.3	237.1	3.9	-6.2	-2.5
Full-time	206.4	203.6	4.2	-2.8	-1.4
Part-time	36.8	33.5	3.0	-3.3	-9.0
Unemployment	32.0	31.6	2.8	-0.4	-1.3
Participation rate	61.9	60.6	0.8	-1.3	...
Unemployment rate	11.6	11.8	1.0	0.2	...
Employment rate	54.7	53.5	0.9	-1.2	...
Prince Edward Island					
Population	120.2	120.7	...	0.5	0.4
Labour force	82.8	82.2	1.1	-0.6	-0.7
Employment	73.5	73.1	1.2	-0.4	-0.5
Full-time	61.6	62.0	1.3	0.4	0.6
Part-time	11.9	11.1	1.0	-0.8	-6.7
Unemployment	9.3	9.1	0.9	-0.2	-2.2
Participation rate	68.9	68.1	0.9	-0.8	...
Unemployment rate	11.2	11.1	1.1	-0.1	...
Employment rate	61.1	60.6	1.0	-0.5	...
Nova Scotia					
Population	782.5	784.1	...	1.6	0.2
Labour force	493.2	492.1	4.8	-1.1	-0.2
Employment	447.5	451.0	5.1	3.5	0.8
Full-time	359.3	369.0	5.9	9.7	2.7
Part-time	88.2	82.0	4.7	-6.2	-7.0
Unemployment	45.7	41.1	3.6	-4.6	-10.1
Participation rate	63.0	62.8	0.6	-0.2	...
Unemployment rate	9.3	8.4	0.7	-0.9	...
Employment rate	57.2	57.5	0.7	0.3	...
New Brunswick					
Population	622.4	621.7	...	-0.7	-0.1
Labour force	396.7	390.2	3.8	-6.5	-1.6
Employment	356.9	351.2	4.3	-5.7	-1.6
Full-time	299.1	295.5	4.9	-3.6	-1.2
Part-time	57.8	55.7	3.7	-2.1	-3.6
Unemployment	39.8	39.0	3.2	-0.8	-2.0
Participation rate	63.7	62.8	0.6	-0.9	...
Unemployment rate	10.0	10.0	0.8	0.0	...
Employment rate	57.3	56.5	0.7	-0.8	...

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

	December 2013	December 2014	Standard error ¹	December 2013 to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
Quebec					
Population	6,778.1	6,822.3	...	44.2	0.7
Labour force	4,410.5	4,389.5	26.2	-21.0	-0.5
Employment	4,070.7	4,061.1	28.0	-9.6	-0.2
Full-time	3,256.0	3,261.7	32.6	5.7	0.2
Part-time	814.7	799.4	27.3	-15.3	-1.9
Unemployment	339.9	328.4	19.0	-11.5	-3.4
Participation rate	65.1	64.3	0.4	-0.8	...
Unemployment rate	7.7	7.5	0.4	-0.2	...
Employment rate	60.1	59.5	0.4	-0.6	...
Ontario					
Population	11,206.7	11,320.4	...	113.7	1.0
Labour force	7,419.9	7,407.2	36.9	-12.7	-0.2
Employment	6,847.3	6,885.0	38.2	37.7	0.6
Full-time	5,531.6	5,540.1	42.8	8.5	0.2
Part-time	1,315.7	1,344.9	35.3	29.2	2.2
Unemployment	572.6	522.2	25.1	-50.4	-8.8
Participation rate	66.2	65.4	0.3	-0.8	...
Unemployment rate	7.7	7.0	0.3	-0.7	...
Employment rate	61.1	60.8	0.3	-0.3	...
Manitoba					
Population	969.9	981.5	...	11.6	1.2
Labour force	657.1	670.0	4.8	12.9	2.0
Employment	619.6	633.8	5.0	14.2	2.3
Full-time	500.9	514.9	5.8	14.0	2.8
Part-time	118.7	118.9	5.2	0.2	0.2
Unemployment	37.5	36.2	2.9	-1.3	-3.5
Participation rate	67.7	68.3	0.5	0.6	...
Unemployment rate	5.7	5.4	0.4	-0.3	...
Employment rate	63.9	64.6	0.5	0.7	...
Saskatchewan					
Population	845.6	857.0	...	11.4	1.3
Labour force	590.7	597.3	5.0	6.6	1.1
Employment	566.8	575.0	5.2	8.2	1.4
Full-time	465.4	479.7	6.1	14.3	3.1
Part-time	101.4	95.3	4.6	-6.1	-6.0
Unemployment	23.9	22.3	2.5	-1.6	-6.7
Participation rate	69.9	69.7	0.6	-0.2	...
Unemployment rate	4.0	3.7	0.4	-0.3	...
Employment rate	67.0	67.1	0.6	0.1	...
Alberta					
Population	3,232.0	3,317.2	...	85.2	2.6
Labour force	2,347.1	2,413.4	17.1	66.3	2.8
Employment	2,237.1	2,300.2	18.0	63.1	2.8
Full-time	1,880.9	1,924.3	21.1	43.4	2.3
Part-time	356.2	375.9	17.1	19.7	5.5
Unemployment	110.0	113.2	9.7	3.2	2.9
Participation rate	72.6	72.8	0.5	0.2	...
Unemployment rate	4.7	4.7	0.4	0.0	...
Employment rate	69.2	69.3	0.6	0.1	...

Table 3
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2013	December 2014	Standard error ¹	December 2013 to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
British Columbia					
Population	3,806.6	3,848.4	...	41.8	1.1
Labour force	2,434.5	2,417.1	19.3	-17.4	-0.7
Employment	2,267.4	2,283.9	20.0	16.5	0.7
Full-time	1,746.4	1,815.1	22.4	68.7	3.9
Part-time	521.0	468.8	18.6	-52.2	-10.0
Unemployment	167.1	133.2	11.4	-33.9	-20.3
Participation rate	64.0	62.8	0.5	-1.2	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	5.5	0.5	-1.4	...
Employment rate	59.6	59.3	0.5	-0.3	...

... not applicable

1. Average standard error for the change between December 2013 and December 2014. 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): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [282-0001 to 282-0024](#), [282-0085 to 282-0089](#), [282-0092 to 282-0095](#), [282-0100](#) and [282-0122 to 282-0136](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3701](#).

[Summary tables](#) are 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 February 6, 2015.

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

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Andrew Fields (613-951-3551; andrew.fields@statcan.gc.ca) or Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118; jason.gilmore@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.