

Labour Force Survey, February 2015

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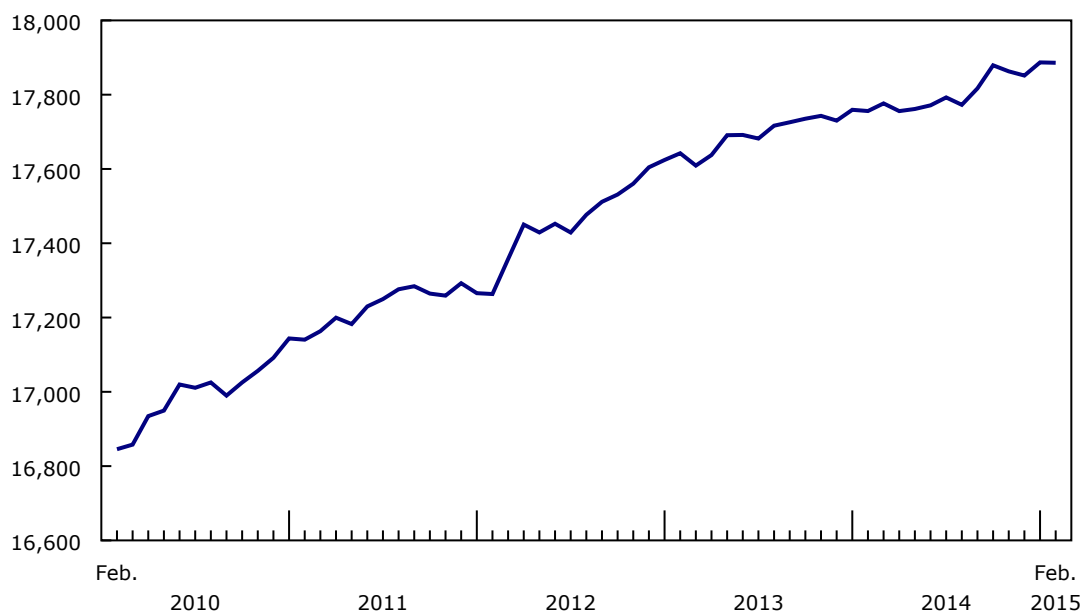
Employment was unchanged in February, while the unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 6.8% as more people searched for work.

In the 12 months to February, employment increased by 130,000 (+0.7%) with most of the growth in the second half of the period.

Compared with February 2014, full-time employment rose by 121,000 (+0.8%), while there was little change in part-time work. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked was up slightly (+0.2%).

Chart 1 Employment

thousands



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

In February, employment increased among men aged 55 and older, while there was little change in the other demographic groups.

Provincially, employment declined in Alberta, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, while it increased in Quebec.

There were fewer people working in manufacturing; natural resources; information, culture and recreation; as well as in 'other services.' However, there were gains in construction and educational services in February.

The number of public sector workers increased in February. There was little change in the number of private sector employees and the self-employed.

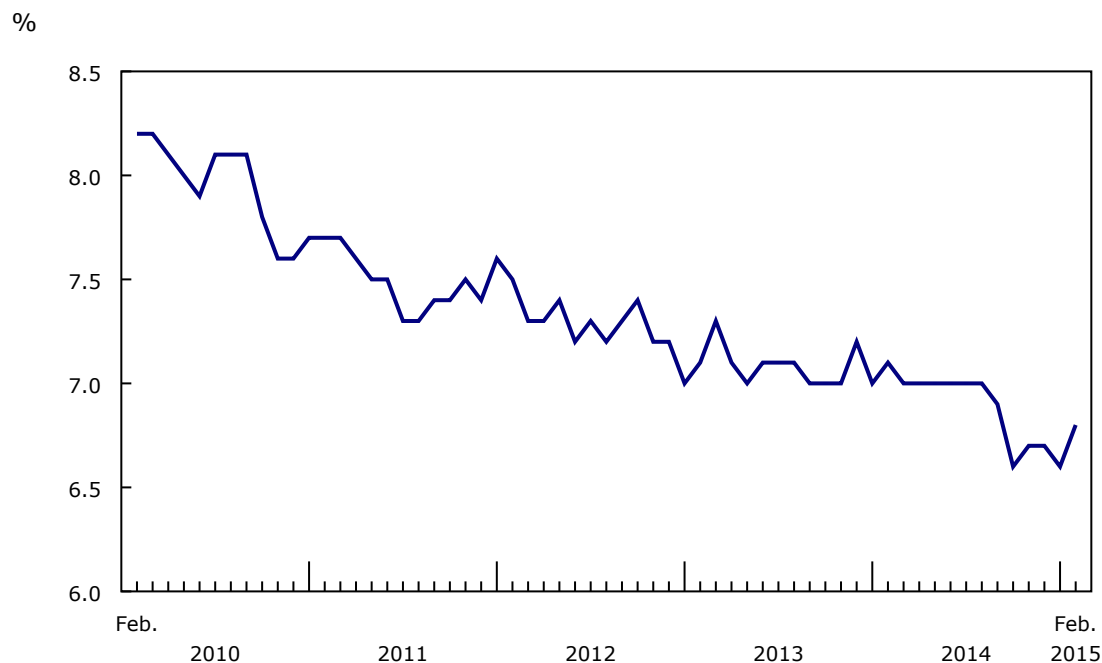
Adjusted to the concepts used in the United States, the unemployment rate in Canada was 5.9% in February, up 0.3 percentage points compared with January. At the same time, the US unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to 5.5%.



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Chart 2
Unemployment rate



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

More employed men aged 55 and older

There were 17,000 more men aged 55 and older working in February and their unemployment rate was 6.3%. Employment for women in the same age group was little changed. However, their unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 5.2% as more of them were searching for work.

While youth employment was virtually unchanged in February, their unemployment rate rose 0.5 percentage points to 13.3% as more youths looked for work.

For men and women aged 25 to 54, employment was little changed in February. However, the unemployment rate for men went up 0.5 percentage points to 6.1% as more of them searched for work. The unemployment rate for women in this age group was 5.1% in February, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month.

In the 12 months to February, most of the increase in employment was among men aged 25 and older, up 91,000 or 1.1%. These gains were entirely in full-time work.

Provincial summary

Employment in Alberta fell by 14,000 in February, pushing the unemployment rate in the province up 0.8 percentage points to 5.3%, the highest since September 2011. Employment losses were in a number of industries, most notably retail and wholesale trade; natural resources; professional, scientific and technical services; as well as manufacturing. In the province's natural resources sector, employment has decreased by 20,000 (-11.0%) since the most recent peak in September 2014.

In Nova Scotia, employment fell by 4,400 and the unemployment rate increased 0.7 percentage points to 9.1%. Despite fewer people working in February, employment in the province was virtually unchanged on a year-over-year basis.

Employment in Newfoundland and Labrador declined by 3,000 in February, bringing losses over the past 12 months to 6,900 (-2.9%). In February, the unemployment rate in the province increased by 1.2 percentage points to 12.6%.

In Quebec, employment increased for the second consecutive month, up 17,000 in February and all in part-time work. In the 12 months to February, overall employment in the province increased by 44,000 or 1.1%. Despite more employment in February, the unemployment rate remained at 7.4% as more people participated in the labour force.

In Ontario, gains in full-time employment were largely offset by declines in part-time work, leaving overall employment little changed. The unemployment rate in the province remained at 6.9%. Compared with a year earlier, employment increased by 39,000 or 0.6%.

Employment in the remaining provinces was little changed between January and February.

Industry perspective

The number of people employed in manufacturing fell by 20,000 in February, the first decline since August 2014. The bulk of the losses in February occurred in Ontario and Alberta.

Employment in natural resources decreased by 17,000 in February, bringing losses over the past two months to 26,000 (-6.8%). Most of the declines for the month were in British Columbia and Alberta.

The number of people employed in information, culture and recreation declined by 12,000 in February. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry was little changed.

In February, employment declined by 12,000 in 'other services' industries, such as repair and maintenance, bringing losses over the past 12 months to 44,000 (-5.5%).

More people were working in construction in February, up 16,000, bringing gains over the past 12 months to 56,000 (+4.1%).

Employment also rose in educational services (+15,000) in February. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the industry increased by 61,000 or 5.0%.

Between January and February, the number of public sector employees rose by 24,000, while there was little change in the number of private sector employees and the self-employed.

On a year-over-year basis, self-employment grew by 60,000 or 2.2% and the number of public sector employees was up by 43,000 or 1.2%. Over the same period, the number of private sector employees was little changed.

Canada–United States comparison

Adjusted to US concepts, the unemployment rate in Canada was 5.9%, while the rate in the United States was 5.5%. Compared with February 2014, the unemployment rate in Canada edged down 0.1 percentage points, while the US rate fell by 1.2 percentage points.

In February, the employment rate in Canada (adjusted to US concepts) was 62.0%, compared with 59.3% in the United States. On a year-over-year basis, the employment rate declined by 0.2 percentage points in Canada, while it increased by 0.5 percentage points in the United States.

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for February are for the week of February 15 to 21.

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](#).

Sample redesign

Every 10 years, the LFS undergoes a sample redesign to reflect changes in population and labour market characteristics, as well as new definitions of geographical boundaries. The redesigned sample was introduced starting in January 2015 and will be fully implemented by June 2015.

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

	January 2015	February 2015	Standard error ¹	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over							
Population	29,139.2	29,160.7	...	21.5	305.6	0.1	1.1
Labour force	19,148.4	19,197.6	29.0	49.2	91.3	0.3	0.5
Employment	17,886.9	17,885.9	28.7	-1.0	129.9	0.0	0.7
Full-time	14,454.2	14,488.2	39.2	34.0	121.1	0.2	0.8
Part-time	3,432.7	3,397.8	36.1	-34.9	8.9	-1.0	0.3
Unemployment	1,261.5	1,311.7	24.6	50.2	-38.6	4.0	-2.9
Participation rate	65.7	65.8	0.1	0.1	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.6	6.8	0.1	0.2	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	61.4	61.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	19.2	19.0	0.2	-0.2	-0.1	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years							
Population	4,451.4	4,446.9	...	-4.5	-42.5	-0.1	-0.9
Labour force	2,860.5	2,870.9	16.9	10.4	19.7	0.4	0.7
Employment	2,495.6	2,488.4	15.6	-7.2	28.4	-0.3	1.2
Full-time	1,286.5	1,266.2	18.8	-20.3	-16.9	-1.6	-1.3
Part-time	1,209.1	1,222.1	19.8	13.0	45.2	1.1	3.8
Unemployment	364.9	382.6	14.5	17.7	-8.6	4.9	-2.2
Participation rate	64.3	64.6	0.4	0.3	1.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.8	13.3	0.5	0.5	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	56.1	56.0	0.3	-0.1	1.2	...	...
Part-time rate	48.4	49.1	0.7	0.7	1.3	...	...
Men, 25 years and over							
Population	12,074.8	12,087.5	...	12.7	169.9	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,636.1	8,674.0	15.3	37.9	78.8	0.4	0.9
Employment	8,137.5	8,139.5	16.5	2.0	91.1	0.0	1.1
Full-time	7,455.4	7,497.2	21.9	41.8	90.1	0.6	1.2
Part-time	682.1	642.3	17.9	-39.8	1.0	-5.8	0.2
Unemployment	498.6	534.5	14.3	35.9	-12.3	7.2	-2.2
Participation rate	71.5	71.8	0.1	0.3	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.8	6.2	0.2	0.4	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	67.4	67.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	8.4	7.9	0.2	-0.5	-0.1	...	...
Women, 25 years and over							
Population	12,613.1	12,626.2	...	13.1	178.1	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,651.7	7,652.7	16.5	1.0	-7.2	0.0	-0.1
Employment	7,253.7	7,258.1	16.0	4.4	10.5	0.1	0.1
Full-time	5,712.2	5,724.7	24.9	12.5	47.8	0.2	0.8
Part-time	1,541.5	1,533.4	23.7	-8.1	-37.3	-0.5	-2.4
Unemployment	398.0	394.6	13.2	-3.4	-17.7	-0.9	-4.3
Participation rate	60.7	60.6	0.1	-0.1	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.2	5.2	0.2	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	57.5	57.5	0.1	0.0	-0.7	...	...
Part-time rate	21.3	21.1	0.3	-0.1	-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): 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

	January 2015	February 2015	Standard error ²	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker							
Employees	15,120.6	15,116.0	34.8	-4.6	70.5	0.0	0.5
Self-employed	2,766.3	2,769.9	24.8	3.6	59.5	0.1	2.2
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,554.7	3,579.0	19.6	24.3	42.8	0.7	1.2
Private	11,566.0	11,537.0	34.8	-29.0	27.6	-0.3	0.2
All industries	17,886.9	17,885.9	28.7	-1.0	129.9	0.0	0.7
Goods-producing sector	3,917.2	3,893.1	16.2	-24.1	-19.7	-0.6	-0.5
Agriculture	304.8	303.2	5.7	-1.6	-13.6	-0.5	-4.3
Natural resources ³	368.7	351.8	5.5	-16.9	-21.3	-4.6	-5.7
Utilities	139.8	138.7	2.4	-1.1	-2.7	-0.8	-1.9
Construction	1,393.2	1,408.7	10.9	15.5	56.1	1.1	4.1
Manufacturing	1,710.6	1,690.7	10.3	-19.9	-38.1	-1.2	-2.2
Services-producing sector	13,969.6	13,992.8	27.2	23.2	149.7	0.2	1.1
Trade	2,711.3	2,723.7	14.2	12.4	-5.7	0.5	-0.2
Transportation and warehousing	898.3	902.1	7.7	3.8	6.8	0.4	0.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,090.3	1,089.7	8.1	-0.6	7.4	-0.1	0.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,351.2	1,351.1	10.5	-0.1	27.0	0.0	2.0
Business, building and other support services	754.3	750.6	9.6	-3.7	26.6	-0.5	3.7
Educational services	1,262.5	1,277.9	10.3	15.4	61.2	1.2	5.0
Health care and social assistance	2,253.0	2,262.7	10.5	9.7	67.0	0.4	3.1
Information, culture and recreation	761.0	748.6	9.5	-12.4	-17.0	-1.6	-2.2
Accommodation and food services	1,218.2	1,223.4	11.2	5.2	13.2	0.4	1.1
Other services	767.8	756.3	8.1	-11.5	-43.9	-1.5	-5.5
Public administration	901.8	906.7	6.9	4.9	7.2	0.5	0.8

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): 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**

	January 2015	February 2015	Standard error ¹	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Population	443.4	443.2	...	-0.2	-1.6	0.0	-0.4
Labour force	268.5	268.7	1.9	0.2	-5.5	0.1	-2.0
Employment	237.9	234.9	2.1	-3.0	-6.9	-1.3	-2.9
Full-time	200.9	200.4	2.5	-0.5	-7.6	-0.2	-3.7
Part-time	37.0	34.5	2.0	-2.5	0.7	-6.8	2.1
Unemployment	30.6	33.9	1.9	3.3	1.5	10.8	4.6
Participation rate	60.6	60.6	0.4	0.0	-1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.4	12.6	0.7	1.2	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	53.7	53.0	0.5	-0.7	-1.4	...	...
Prince Edward Island							
Population	120.8	120.7	...	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.2
Labour force	82.5	82.4	0.6	-0.1	-1.0	-0.1	-1.2
Employment	74.1	74.1	0.7	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Full-time	62.4	61.8	0.9	-0.6	-0.4	-1.0	-0.6
Part-time	11.7	12.3	0.7	0.6	0.3	5.1	2.5
Unemployment	8.4	8.3	0.6	-0.1	-0.9	-1.2	-9.8
Participation rate	68.3	68.3	0.5	0.0	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.2	10.1	0.7	-0.1	-0.9	...	...
Employment rate	61.3	61.4	0.5	0.1	-0.2	...	...
Nova Scotia							
Population	784.1	784.2	...	0.1	1.9	0.0	0.2
Labour force	492.0	491.2	2.6	-0.8	-1.0	-0.2	-0.2
Employment	450.9	446.5	2.6	-4.4	-1.8	-1.0	-0.4
Full-time	369.2	367.4	3.5	-1.8	5.1	-0.5	1.4
Part-time	81.7	79.0	3.1	-2.7	-7.0	-3.3	-8.1
Unemployment	41.1	44.8	2.4	3.7	0.9	9.0	2.1
Participation rate	62.7	62.6	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.4	9.1	0.5	0.7	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	57.5	56.9	0.3	-0.6	-0.4	...	...
New Brunswick							
Population	622.0	622.1	...	0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Labour force	394.0	393.4	2.3	-0.6	-2.1	-0.2	-0.5
Employment	354.6	352.4	2.4	-2.2	-4.6	-0.6	-1.3
Full-time	298.9	296.8	3.0	-2.1	-4.4	-0.7	-1.5
Part-time	55.7	55.6	2.5	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4
Unemployment	39.4	41.0	2.1	1.6	2.5	4.1	6.5
Participation rate	63.3	63.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.0	10.4	0.5	0.4	0.7	...	...
Employment rate	57.0	56.6	0.4	-0.4	-0.8	...	...
Quebec							
Population	6,825.0	6,827.5	...	2.5	44.3	0.0	0.7
Labour force	4,400.7	4,420.3	14.7	19.6	20.6	0.4	0.5
Employment	4,077.1	4,093.9	14.5	16.8	44.4	0.4	1.1
Full-time	3,257.3	3,257.1	19.9	-0.2	10.5	0.0	0.3
Part-time	819.8	836.8	18.3	17.0	33.9	2.1	4.2
Unemployment	323.6	326.4	13.0	2.8	-23.8	0.9	-6.8
Participation rate	64.5	64.7	0.2	0.2	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.4	0.3	0.0	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	59.7	60.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	...	...

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

	January 2015	February 2015	Standard error ¹	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
Ontario							
Population	11,329.1	11,338.1	...	9.0	113.9	0.1	1.0
Labour force	7,393.3	7,414.1	20.0	20.8	-3.2	0.3	0.0
Employment	6,886.3	6,900.1	19.2	13.8	39.0	0.2	0.6
Full-time	5,516.9	5,577.1	26.6	60.2	12.0	1.1	0.2
Part-time	1,369.3	1,323.1	24.3	-46.2	27.1	-3.4	2.1
Unemployment	507.1	514.0	16.9	6.9	-42.2	1.4	-7.6
Participation rate	65.3	65.4	0.2	0.1	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	6.9	0.2	0.0	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	60.8	60.9	0.2	0.1	-0.2	...	...
Manitoba							
Population	982.5	983.1	...	0.6	11.4	0.1	1.2
Labour force	675.3	671.9	2.6	-3.4	13.5	-0.5	2.1
Employment	635.0	634.6	2.6	-0.4	11.2	-0.1	1.8
Full-time	518.1	518.7	3.7	0.6	16.7	0.1	3.3
Part-time	116.9	115.9	3.5	-1.0	-5.5	-0.9	-4.5
Unemployment	40.3	37.3	2.1	-3.0	2.4	-7.4	6.9
Participation rate	68.7	68.3	0.3	-0.4	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	5.6	0.3	-0.4	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	64.6	64.6	0.3	0.0	0.4	...	...
Saskatchewan							
Population	857.8	858.4	...	0.6	10.7	0.1	1.3
Labour force	593.1	595.7	2.6	2.6	6.6	0.4	1.1
Employment	566.6	565.9	2.6	-0.7	0.7	-0.1	0.1
Full-time	468.2	470.0	3.5	1.8	2.9	0.4	0.6
Part-time	98.4	96.0	3.3	-2.4	-2.0	-2.4	-2.0
Unemployment	26.5	29.8	1.8	3.3	5.9	12.5	24.7
Participation rate	69.1	69.4	0.3	0.3	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.5	5.0	0.3	0.5	0.9	...	...
Employment rate	66.1	65.9	0.3	-0.2	-0.8	...	...
Alberta							
Population	3,323.0	3,327.8	...	4.8	82.4	0.1	2.5
Labour force	2,423.5	2,429.2	9.5	5.7	62.8	0.2	2.7
Employment	2,313.9	2,299.9	10.1	-14.0	36.7	-0.6	1.6
Full-time	1,934.4	1,927.5	13.3	-6.9	34.2	-0.4	1.8
Part-time	379.5	372.4	12.0	-7.1	2.5	-1.9	0.7
Unemployment	109.7	129.3	7.6	19.6	26.1	17.9	25.3
Participation rate	72.9	73.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.5	5.3	0.3	0.8	0.9	...	...
Employment rate	69.6	69.1	0.3	-0.5	-0.6	...	...
British Columbia							
Population	3,851.6	3,855.5	...	3.9	42.4	0.1	1.1
Labour force	2,425.5	2,430.6	10.1	5.1	0.5	0.2	0.0
Employment	2,290.6	2,283.6	9.9	-7.0	11.2	-0.3	0.5
Full-time	1,827.9	1,811.4	14.1	-16.5	52.1	-0.9	3.0
Part-time	462.7	472.3	13.4	9.6	-40.8	2.1	-8.0
Unemployment	134.9	147.0	7.9	12.1	-10.7	9.0	-6.8
Participation rate	63.0	63.0	0.3	0.0	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	6.0	0.3	0.4	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	59.5	59.2	0.3	-0.3	-0.4	...	...

... 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): 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 282-0042](#), [282-0047 to 282-0051](#), [282-0069 to 282-0089](#), [282-0092 to 282-0095](#), [282-0100 to 282-0108](#), [282-0122 to 282-0140](#) 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 for the week ending February 21. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects* then *Labour*.

[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 April 10.

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 Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca) or Andrew Fields (613-951-3551; andrew.fields@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.