

Labour Force Survey, March 2015

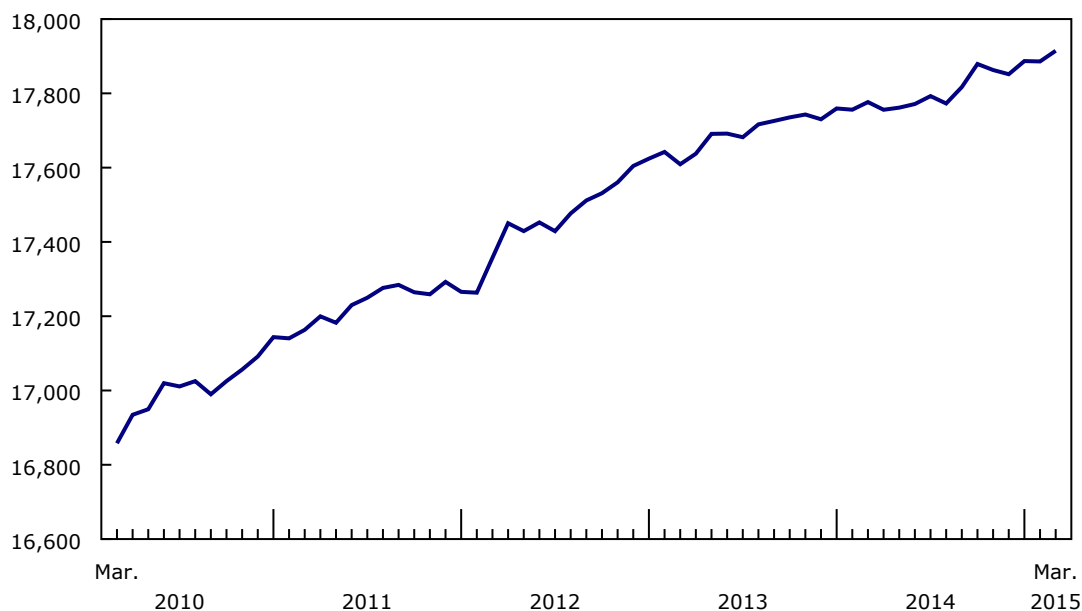
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, April 10, 2015

Employment increased by 29,000 in March, driven by gains in part-time work. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.8%.

Over the first quarter, employment gains totalled 63,000 (+0.4%), the result of more part-time work.

Chart 1 Employment

thousands



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

In the 12 months to March, employment increased by 138,000 (+0.8%), with most of the growth in full-time work. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked was little changed (+0.1%).

In March, employment rose in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and was little changed in the other provinces.

There were more people working in retail and wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, educational services and natural resources in March. At the same time, there were fewer people working in construction, public administration as well as agriculture.

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

In March, employment rose among women aged 55 and older, while there was little change among the other demographic groups.

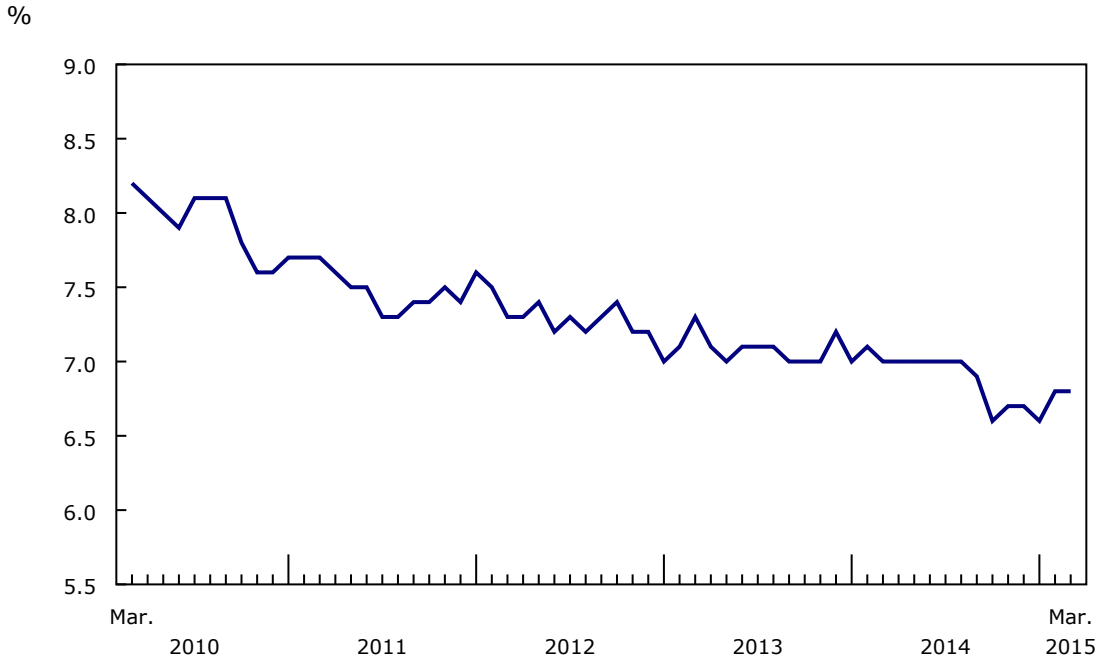
Adjusted to concepts used in the United States, the unemployment rate in Canada was 5.9% in March, unchanged from February. At the same time, the US unemployment rate was 5.5%, also unchanged from a month earlier.



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**Chart 2
Unemployment rate**



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

Provincial summary

Employment in Saskatchewan rose by 7,000 in March, the first notable increase since September. The unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points to 4.4% in March, the lowest among the provinces. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in Saskatchewan increased by 6,700 (+1.2%).

In March, employment in Manitoba increased by 6,100, bringing year-over-year growth to 19,000 or 3.1%, the highest growth rate among the provinces.

Employment in Alberta was little changed in March, as gains in part-time work were offset by losses in full time. Despite no growth in the first quarter, employment in the province was up 1.9% (+44,000) on a year-over-year basis.

In March, employment was also little changed in both Quebec and Ontario. In Quebec, year-over-year growth was 0.8%, with all of the gains in the first two months of 2015. In Ontario, employment edged up 0.5% compared with 12 months earlier.

Industry perspective

There were 20,000 more people working in retail and wholesale trade in March, the first gain in this industry since October. However, employment in this industry was little changed compared with March 2014.

Employment in transportation and warehousing was up 16,000 in March. Employment in this industry was little changed compared with 12 months earlier, as losses in the first six months of the period were offset by gains in the second half.

Following two months of losses totalling 26,000, employment in natural resources increased by 6,300 in March. Over the past 12 months, employment in this industry was down 16,000 (-4.3%).

In March, there were 12,000 more people working in educational services. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry was up 69,000 or 5.7%, the largest year-over-year growth rate of all sectors.

Employment in construction was down 12,000 in March. Despite this loss, employment in this industry has been on an upward trend since May 2014.

There were 11,000 fewer people employed in public administration in March. Employment in the industry was little changed compared with 12 months earlier, as gains in the first six months of the period were followed by losses in the second half.

Agriculture employment declined by 6,100 in March, contributing to a year-over-year employment loss of 14,000 (-4.5%).

While there was little employment change in 'other services' in March, employment has been declining in this industry group since July 2014. Compared with 12 months earlier, there were 45,000 fewer people working in 'other services,' the largest decline of all industries. Most of the declines were in repair and maintenance, and private household services such as those provided by nannies and home support workers.

Employment up for women aged 55 and older

There were 18,000 more women aged 55 and older working in March and their unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.2%. Employment for men in the same age group was little changed, but their unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 5.8% as fewer of them searched for work.

In the 12 months to March, most of the increase in total employment was among people aged 55 and older, up 96,000 or 2.8%.

Youth employment was virtually unchanged in March, as was the case for men and women aged 25 to 54.

Canada–United States comparison

Adjusted to US concepts, the unemployment rate in Canada was 5.9% in March, while the rate in the United States was 5.5%. Compared with March 2014, the unemployment rate in Canada edged down 0.2 percentage points, while the US rate fell by 1.1 percentage points.

In March, 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 edged down 0.1 percentage points in Canada, while it increased by 0.3 percentage points in the United States.

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. With this release, data for the territories are seasonally adjusted, allowing comparisons with consecutive time periods.

In the first quarter of 2015, employment in Yukon and the Northwest Territories was little changed compared with the fourth quarter of 2014, and their unemployment rates were 5.3% and 7.9%, respectively. Employment in Nunavut increased by 400 in the first quarter of 2015, and the unemployment rate fell from 12.9% to 12.0%. Employment in all three territories was little changed compared with the first quarter of 2014.

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for March are for the week of March 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

	February 2015	March 2015	Standard error ¹	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over							
Population	29,160.7	29,183.3	...	22.6	303.8	0.1	1.1
Labour force	19,197.6	19,224.0	29.0	26.4	111.9	0.1	0.6
Employment	17,885.9	17,914.6	28.7	28.7	138.1	0.2	0.8
Full-time	14,488.2	14,460.0	39.2	-28.2	110.5	-0.2	0.8
Part-time	3,397.8	3,454.6	36.1	56.8	27.6	1.7	0.8
Unemployment	1,311.7	1,309.3	24.6	-2.4	-26.3	-0.2	-2.0
Participation rate	65.8	65.9	0.1	0.1	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.8	6.8	0.1	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	61.3	61.4	0.1	0.1	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	19.0	19.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years							
Population	4,446.9	4,443.8	...	-3.1	-43.2	-0.1	-1.0
Labour force	2,870.9	2,872.4	16.9	1.5	6.8	0.1	0.2
Employment	2,488.4	2,499.0	15.6	10.6	23.3	0.4	0.9
Full-time	1,266.2	1,262.7	18.8	-3.5	-14.6	-0.3	-1.1
Part-time	1,222.1	1,236.3	19.8	14.2	37.9	1.2	3.2
Unemployment	382.6	373.3	14.5	-9.3	-16.6	-2.4	-4.3
Participation rate	64.6	64.6	0.4	0.0	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.3	13.0	0.5	-0.3	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	56.0	56.2	0.3	0.2	1.0	...	...
Part-time rate	49.1	49.5	0.7	0.4	1.1	...	...
Men, 25 years and over							
Population	12,087.5	12,099.8	...	12.3	168.9	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,674.0	8,655.8	15.3	-18.2	63.0	-0.2	0.7
Employment	8,139.5	8,135.2	16.5	-4.3	76.3	-0.1	0.9
Full-time	7,497.2	7,486.7	21.9	-10.5	102.2	-0.1	1.4
Part-time	642.3	648.5	17.9	6.2	-25.9	1.0	-3.8
Unemployment	534.5	520.6	14.3	-13.9	-13.3	-2.6	-2.5
Participation rate	71.8	71.5	0.1	-0.3	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.0	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	67.3	67.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Part-time rate	7.9	8.0	0.2	0.1	-0.4	...	...
Women, 25 years and over							
Population	12,626.2	12,639.8	...	13.6	178.2	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,652.7	7,695.8	16.5	43.1	42.1	0.6	0.6
Employment	7,258.1	7,280.4	16.0	22.3	38.5	0.3	0.5
Full-time	5,724.7	5,710.6	24.9	-14.1	22.8	-0.2	0.4
Part-time	1,533.4	1,569.8	23.7	36.4	15.7	2.4	1.0
Unemployment	394.6	415.4	13.2	20.8	3.6	5.3	0.9
Participation rate	60.6	60.9	0.1	0.3	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.2	5.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	57.5	57.6	0.1	0.1	-0.5	...	...
Part-time rate	21.1	21.6	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): 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

	February 2015	March 2015	Standard error ²	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker							
Employees	15,116.0	15,161.8	34.8	45.8	100.2	0.3	0.7
Self-employed	2,769.9	2,752.9	24.8	-17.0	38.0	-0.6	1.4
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,579.0	3,605.5	19.6	26.5	67.7	0.7	1.9
Private	11,537.0	11,556.3	34.8	19.3	32.6	0.2	0.3
All industries	17,885.9	17,914.6	28.7	28.7	138.1	0.2	0.8
Goods-producing sector	3,893.1	3,876.6	16.2	-16.5	-47.1	-0.4	-1.2
Agriculture	303.2	297.1	5.7	-6.1	-14.0	-2.0	-4.5
Natural resources ³	351.8	358.1	5.5	6.3	-15.9	1.8	-4.3
Utilities	138.7	136.5	2.4	-2.2	-3.0	-1.6	-2.2
Construction	1,408.7	1,396.6	10.9	-12.1	16.2	-0.9	1.2
Manufacturing	1,690.7	1,688.3	10.3	-2.4	-30.3	-0.1	-1.8
Services-producing sector	13,992.8	14,038.1	27.2	45.3	185.3	0.3	1.3
Trade	2,723.7	2,743.5	14.2	19.8	18.3	0.7	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	902.1	918.0	7.7	15.9	14.0	1.8	1.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,089.7	1,097.4	8.1	7.7	20.6	0.7	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,351.1	1,347.1	10.5	-4.0	18.9	-0.3	1.4
Business, building and other support services	750.6	745.7	9.6	-4.9	6.2	-0.7	0.8
Educational services	1,277.9	1,290.0	10.3	12.1	69.2	0.9	5.7
Health care and social assistance	2,262.7	2,268.9	10.5	6.2	72.9	0.3	3.3
Information, culture and recreation	748.6	751.7	9.5	3.1	-5.6	0.4	-0.7
Accommodation and food services	1,223.4	1,219.7	11.2	-3.7	19.3	-0.3	1.6
Other services	756.3	760.7	8.1	4.4	-45.4	0.6	-5.6
Public administration	906.7	895.4	6.9	-11.3	-3.1	-1.2	-0.3

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

	February 2015	March 2015	Standard error ¹	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Population	443.2	443.1	...	-0.1	-1.3	0.0	-0.3
Labour force	268.7	271.0	1.9	2.3	-1.6	0.9	-0.6
Employment	234.9	234.9	2.1	0.0	-6.2	0.0	-2.6
Full-time	200.4	202.0	2.5	1.6	-3.7	0.8	-1.8
Part-time	34.5	33.0	2.0	-1.5	-2.3	-4.3	-6.5
Unemployment	33.9	36.0	1.9	2.1	4.5	6.2	14.3
Participation rate	60.6	61.2	0.4	0.6	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.6	13.3	0.7	0.7	1.7	...	...
Employment rate	53.0	53.0	0.5	0.0	-1.3	...	...
Prince Edward Island							
Population	120.7	120.8	...	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Labour force	82.4	82.8	0.6	0.4	-0.1	0.5	-0.1
Employment	74.1	73.6	0.7	-0.5	0.0	-0.7	0.0
Full-time	61.8	61.8	0.9	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.2
Part-time	12.3	11.9	0.7	-0.4	0.2	-3.3	1.7
Unemployment	8.3	9.1	0.6	0.8	-0.2	9.6	-2.2
Participation rate	68.3	68.5	0.5	0.2	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.1	11.0	0.7	0.9	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	61.4	60.9	0.5	-0.5	-0.1	...	...
Nova Scotia							
Population	784.2	784.4	...	0.2	2.2	0.0	0.3
Labour force	491.2	491.8	2.6	0.6	1.7	0.1	0.3
Employment	446.5	446.0	2.6	-0.5	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Full-time	367.4	361.6	3.5	-5.8	0.9	-1.6	0.2
Part-time	79.0	84.4	3.1	5.4	-0.9	6.8	-1.1
Unemployment	44.8	45.8	2.4	1.0	1.6	2.2	3.6
Participation rate	62.6	62.7	0.3	0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.1	9.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	56.9	56.9	0.3	0.0	-0.1	...	...
New Brunswick							
Population	622.1	622.3	...	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Labour force	393.4	394.5	2.3	1.1	-2.8	0.3	-0.7
Employment	352.4	354.5	2.4	2.1	-4.4	0.6	-1.2
Full-time	296.8	297.9	3.0	1.1	-1.7	0.4	-0.6
Part-time	55.6	56.6	2.5	1.0	-2.7	1.8	-4.6
Unemployment	41.0	40.0	2.1	-1.0	1.6	-2.4	4.2
Participation rate	63.2	63.4	0.4	0.2	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.4	10.1	0.5	-0.3	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	56.6	57.0	0.4	0.4	-0.7	...	...
Quebec							
Population	6,827.5	6,830.3	...	2.8	44.1	0.0	0.6
Labour force	4,420.3	4,431.2	14.7	10.9	23.1	0.2	0.5
Employment	4,093.9	4,099.2	14.5	5.3	31.3	0.1	0.8
Full-time	3,257.1	3,270.9	19.9	13.8	1.0	0.4	0.0
Part-time	836.8	828.3	18.3	-8.5	30.3	-1.0	3.8
Unemployment	326.4	332.0	13.0	5.6	-8.2	1.7	-2.4
Participation rate	64.7	64.9	0.2	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.5	0.3	0.1	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	60.0	60.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	...	...

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

	February 2015	March 2015	Standard error ¹	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
Ontario							
Population	11,338.1	11,347.5	...	9.4	114.9	0.1	1.0
Labour force	7,414.1	7,411.8	20.0	-2.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Employment	6,900.1	6,902.1	19.2	2.0	37.0	0.0	0.5
Full-time	5,577.1	5,551.4	26.6	-25.7	21.0	-0.5	0.4
Part-time	1,323.1	1,350.6	24.3	27.5	15.9	2.1	1.2
Unemployment	514.0	509.8	16.9	-4.2	-33.6	-0.8	-6.2
Participation rate	65.4	65.3	0.2	-0.1	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	6.9	0.2	0.0	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	60.9	60.8	0.2	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Manitoba							
Population	983.1	984.0	...	0.9	11.5	0.1	1.2
Labour force	671.9	677.3	2.6	5.4	20.0	0.8	3.0
Employment	634.6	640.7	2.6	6.1	19.2	1.0	3.1
Full-time	518.7	521.3	3.7	2.6	16.2	0.5	3.2
Part-time	115.9	119.4	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0	2.6
Unemployment	37.3	36.6	2.1	-0.7	0.8	-1.9	2.2
Participation rate	68.3	68.8	0.3	0.5	1.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.4	0.3	-0.2	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	64.6	65.1	0.3	0.5	1.2	...	...
Saskatchewan							
Population	858.4	859.0	...	0.6	10.3	0.1	1.2
Labour force	595.7	599.1	2.6	3.4	5.7	0.6	1.0
Employment	565.9	572.9	2.6	7.0	6.7	1.2	1.2
Full-time	470.0	478.3	3.5	8.3	12.0	1.8	2.6
Part-time	96.0	94.6	3.3	-1.4	-5.3	-1.5	-5.3
Unemployment	29.8	26.1	1.8	-3.7	-1.0	-12.4	-3.7
Participation rate	69.4	69.7	0.3	0.3	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.4	0.3	-0.6	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	65.9	66.7	0.3	0.8	0.0	...	...
Alberta							
Population	3,327.8	3,332.6	...	4.8	78.8	0.1	2.4
Labour force	2,429.2	2,434.1	9.5	4.9	55.3	0.2	2.3
Employment	2,299.9	2,301.4	10.1	1.5	43.5	0.1	1.9
Full-time	1,927.5	1,909.1	13.3	-18.4	19.0	-1.0	1.0
Part-time	372.4	392.3	12.0	19.9	24.6	5.3	6.7
Unemployment	129.3	132.7	7.6	3.4	11.8	2.6	9.8
Participation rate	73.0	73.0	0.3	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	69.1	69.1	0.3	0.0	-0.3	...	...
British Columbia							
Population	3,855.5	3,859.3	...	3.8	42.8	0.1	1.1
Labour force	2,430.6	2,430.5	10.1	-0.1	7.3	0.0	0.3
Employment	2,283.6	2,289.3	9.9	5.7	10.9	0.2	0.5
Full-time	1,811.4	1,805.7	14.1	-5.7	45.9	-0.3	2.6
Part-time	472.3	483.6	13.4	11.3	-35.1	2.4	-6.8
Unemployment	147.0	141.2	7.9	-5.8	-3.5	-3.9	-2.4
Participation rate	63.0	63.0	0.3	0.0	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	5.8	0.3	-0.2	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	59.2	59.3	0.3	0.1	-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 March 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 May 8.

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.