

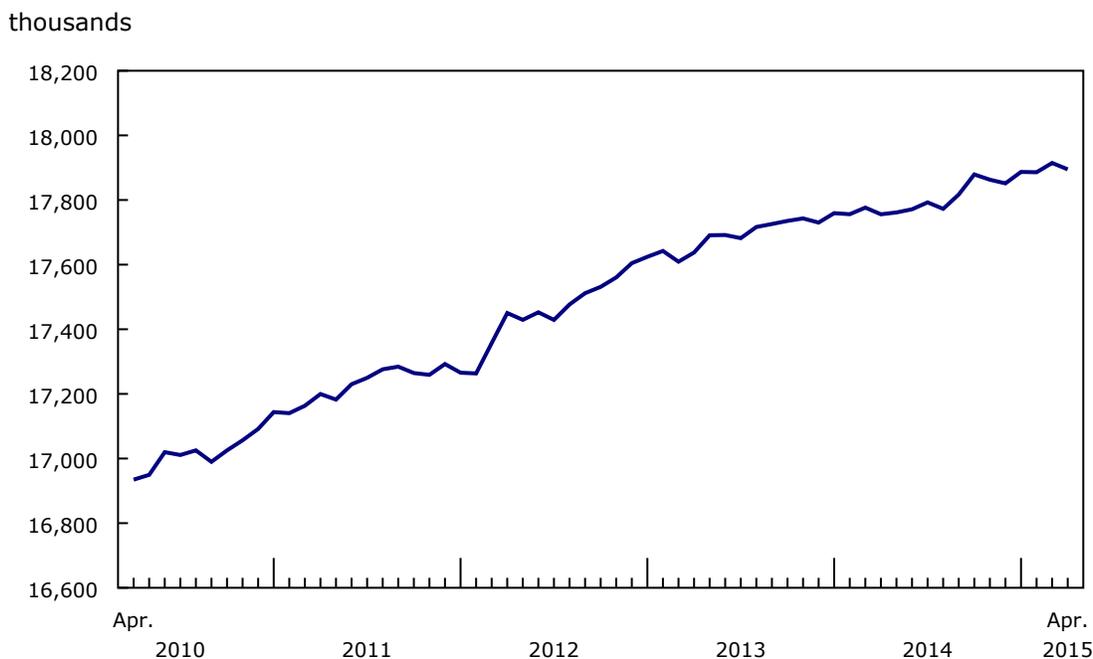
Labour Force Survey, April 2015

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

Employment edged down in April (-20,000), as gains in full-time work were more than offset by losses in part time. The unemployment rate held steady at 6.8% for the third consecutive month.

In the 12 months to April, employment increased by 139,000 (+0.8%), with all of the growth in full-time work. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked increased by 0.9%.

Chart 1 Employment



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

In April, employment declined for women aged 55 and older and increased for their male counterparts. There was little change among the other demographic groups.

Provincially, employment fell in British Columbia and Nova Scotia, while it rose in Alberta as well as in Newfoundland and Labrador.

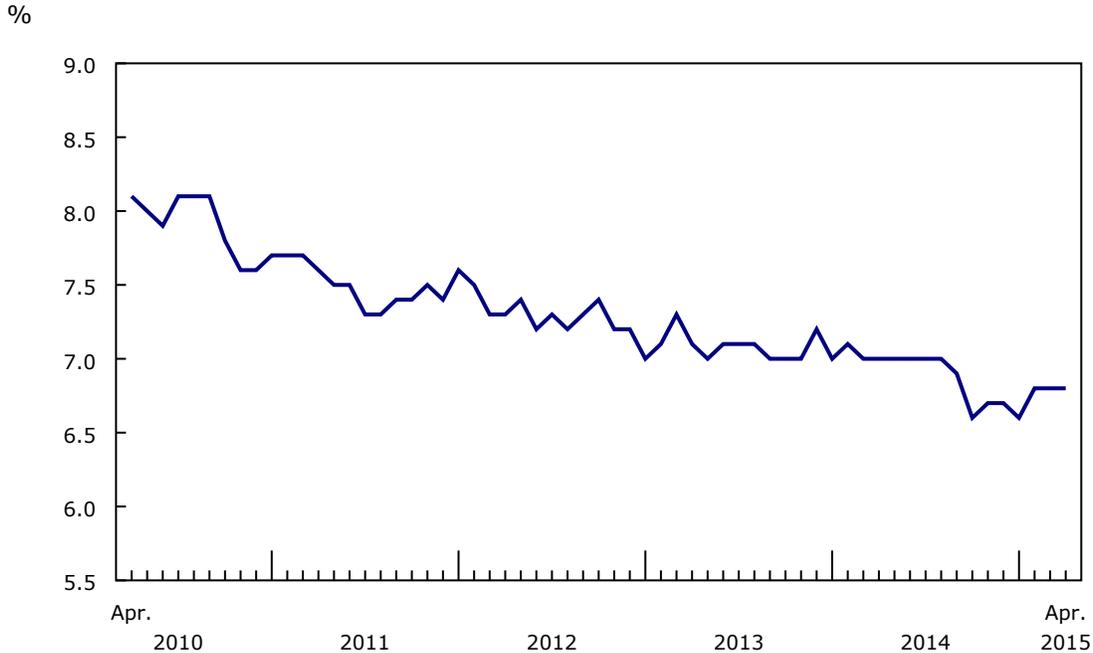
There were fewer people working in construction, retail and wholesale trade, as well as in information, culture and recreation in April. At the same time, there were more people working in business, building and other support services as well as in manufacturing.

Part-time employment declined by 67,000 in April, partly offset by an increase of 47,000 in full time.

In April, public sector employment declined and the number of self-employed workers edged down. There was little change in the number of private sector employees.



Chart 2 Unemployment rate



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

Employment declines among women aged 55 and older

For women aged 55 and older, employment declined by 15,000 in April and the unemployment rate edged up to 5.5%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment was little changed for this group.

For men in the same age group, employment increased by 12,000 in April. However, their unemployment rate was little changed at 5.9% as more of them participated in the labour market. Compared with a year earlier, employment among men aged 55 and older rose by 57,000 (+3.0%), with most of the gains occurring since December.

While employment among youth aged 15 to 24 was little changed in April, their unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage points to 13.6%, as more of them searched for work. On a year-over-year basis, youth employment was little changed.

There was also little employment change for people aged 25 to 54 in April. However, their unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to 5.6%, as fewer of them looked for work. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment for this group rose by 54,000 (+0.5%).

Employment down in British Columbia

Employment fell by 29,000 in British Columbia in April, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.5 percentage points to 6.3%. Despite this decline, employment in the province was little changed compared with 12 months earlier.

In Nova Scotia, employment decreased by 3,000 in April. At the same time, the unemployment rate was virtually unchanged at 9.2% as a result of fewer people participating in the labour market. Employment in the province has been trending downward since January.

Following little employment growth during the first quarter of 2015, employment in Alberta rose by 13,000 in April. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5% as more people participated in the labour market. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was up 53,000 (+2.4%).

Employment in Newfoundland and Labrador increased by 2,200 in April and the unemployment rate declined 0.7 percentage points to 12.6%. Despite more people working in April, employment was little changed compared with 12 months earlier.

In April, employment was little changed in both Quebec and Ontario. However, on a year-over-year-basis, employment in Quebec grew by 69,000 (+1.7%), with most of the gains occurring since December 2014. In Ontario, employment was virtually unchanged compared with 12 months earlier.

Industry perspective

Employment in construction declined for the second consecutive month, down 28,000 in April. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry was little changed.

There were 21,000 fewer people employed in retail and wholesale trade in April, bringing employment back to a level similar to that of April 2014.

Employment in information, culture and recreation was down 9,800 in April. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry decreased by 24,000 (-3.1%).

In business, building and other support services, employment rose by 11,000 in April, but was little changed compared with 12 months earlier.

Manufacturing employment increased by 10,000 in April. However, it was little changed compared with 12 months earlier.

In April, public sector employment declined by 20,000, while there was little change in the number of private sector employees. At the same time, the number of self-employed workers edged down.

In the 12 months to April, the number of private sector employees grew by 75,000 or 0.7% and the number of public sector employees increased by 64,000 or 1.8%. Over the same period, the number of self-employed workers was unchanged.

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for April are for the week of April 12 to 18.

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

	March 2015	April 2015	Standard error ¹	March to April 2015	April 2014 to April 2015	March to April 2015	April 2014 to April 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over							
Population	29,183.3	29,208.2	...	24.9	295.7	0.1	1.0
Labour force	19,224.0	19,205.1	29.0	-18.9	113.4	-0.1	0.6
Employment	17,914.6	17,894.9	28.7	-19.7	139.1	-0.1	0.8
Full-time	14,460.0	14,506.9	39.2	46.9	165.8	0.3	1.2
Part-time	3,454.6	3,388.1	36.1	-66.5	-26.6	-1.9	-0.8
Unemployment	1,309.3	1,310.2	24.6	0.9	-25.7	0.1	-1.9
Participation rate	65.9	65.8	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.8	6.8	0.1	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	61.4	61.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	19.3	18.9	0.2	-0.4	-0.3	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years							
Population	4,443.8	4,441.0	...	-2.8	-42.8	-0.1	-1.0
Labour force	2,872.4	2,875.8	16.9	3.4	26.9	0.1	0.9
Employment	2,499.0	2,485.8	15.6	-13.2	19.3	-0.5	0.8
Full-time	1,262.7	1,299.0	18.8	36.3	36.6	2.9	2.9
Part-time	1,236.3	1,186.8	19.8	-49.5	-17.3	-4.0	-1.4
Unemployment	373.3	390.0	14.5	16.7	7.6	4.5	2.0
Participation rate	64.6	64.8	0.4	0.2	1.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.0	13.6	0.5	0.6	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	56.2	56.0	0.3	-0.2	1.0	...	...
Part-time rate	49.5	47.7	0.7	-1.7	-1.1	...	...
Men, 25 years and over							
Population	12,099.8	12,113.6	...	13.8	165.1	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,655.8	8,650.9	15.3	-4.9	50.8	-0.1	0.6
Employment	8,135.2	8,135.8	16.5	0.6	77.5	0.0	1.0
Full-time	7,486.7	7,502.9	21.9	16.2	99.7	0.2	1.3
Part-time	648.5	632.9	17.9	-15.6	-22.2	-2.4	-3.4
Unemployment	520.6	515.2	14.3	-5.4	-26.5	-1.0	-4.9
Participation rate	71.5	71.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.0	0.2	0.0	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	67.2	67.2	0.1	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	8.0	7.8	0.2	-0.2	-0.4	...	...
Women, 25 years and over							
Population	12,639.8	12,653.5	...	13.7	173.2	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,695.8	7,678.4	16.5	-17.4	35.6	-0.2	0.5
Employment	7,280.4	7,273.4	16.0	-7.0	42.4	-0.1	0.6
Full-time	5,710.6	5,705.0	24.9	-5.6	29.6	-0.1	0.5
Part-time	1,569.8	1,568.4	23.7	-1.4	12.8	-0.1	0.8
Unemployment	415.4	405.0	13.2	-10.4	-6.8	-2.5	-1.7
Participation rate	60.9	60.7	0.1	-0.2	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.3	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	57.6	57.5	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	21.6	21.6	0.3	0.0	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

	March 2015	April 2015	Standard error ²	March to April 2015	April 2014 to April 2015	March to April 2015	April 2014 to April 2015
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker							
Employees	15,161.8	15,166.1	34.8	4.3	138.8	0.0	0.9
Self-employed	2,752.9	2,728.8	24.8	-24.1	0.3	-0.9	0.0
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,605.5	3,585.6	19.6	-19.9	63.5	-0.6	1.8
Private	11,556.3	11,580.5	34.8	24.2	75.3	0.2	0.7
All industries	17,914.6	17,894.9	28.7	-19.7	139.1	-0.1	0.8
Goods-producing sector	3,876.6	3,861.1	16.2	-15.5	-27.8	-0.4	-0.7
Agriculture	297.1	299.1	5.7	2.0	-8.7	0.7	-2.8
Natural resources ³	358.1	357.2	5.5	-0.9	-25.3	-0.3	-6.6
Utilities	136.5	137.9	2.4	1.4	-0.7	1.0	-0.5
Construction	1,396.6	1,368.2	10.9	-28.4	19.9	-2.0	1.5
Manufacturing	1,688.3	1,698.7	10.3	10.4	-12.9	0.6	-0.8
Services-producing sector	14,038.1	14,033.9	27.2	-4.2	167.0	0.0	1.2
Trade	2,743.5	2,723.0	14.2	-20.5	-2.7	-0.7	-0.1
Transportation and warehousing	918.0	923.4	7.7	5.4	24.4	0.6	2.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,097.4	1,099.1	8.1	1.7	21.6	0.2	2.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,347.1	1,349.8	10.5	2.7	28.6	0.2	2.2
Business, building and other support services	745.7	756.7	9.6	11.0	3.8	1.5	0.5
Educational services	1,290.0	1,287.7	10.3	-2.3	72.5	-0.2	6.0
Health care and social assistance	2,268.9	2,268.9	10.5	0.0	54.6	0.0	2.5
Information, culture and recreation	751.7	741.9	9.5	-9.8	-23.5	-1.3	-3.1
Accommodation and food services	1,219.7	1,223.3	11.2	3.6	28.3	0.3	2.4
Other services	760.7	766.2	8.1	5.5	-36.7	0.7	-4.6
Public administration	895.4	893.9	6.9	-1.5	-4.1	-0.2	-0.5

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 extraction.

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

	March 2015	April 2015	Standard error ¹	March to April 2015	April 2014 to April 2015	March to April 2015	April 2014 to April 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Population	443.1	443.1	...	0.0	-0.8	0.0	-0.2
Labour force	271.0	271.3	1.9	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.3
Employment	234.9	237.1	2.1	2.2	-1.4	0.9	-0.6
Full-time	202.0	203.9	2.5	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.7
Part-time	33.0	33.2	2.0	0.2	-2.9	0.6	-8.0
Unemployment	36.0	34.2	1.9	-1.8	2.1	-5.0	6.5
Participation rate	61.2	61.2	0.4	0.0	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.3	12.6	0.7	-0.7	0.7	...	...
Employment rate	53.0	53.5	0.5	0.5	-0.2	...	...
Prince Edward Island							
Population	120.8	120.8	...	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Labour force	82.8	81.8	0.6	-1.0	-0.4	-1.2	-0.5
Employment	73.6	73.2	0.7	-0.4	0.3	-0.5	0.4
Full-time	61.8	60.4	0.9	-1.4	-0.2	-2.3	-0.3
Part-time	11.9	12.8	0.7	0.9	0.5	7.6	4.1
Unemployment	9.1	8.6	0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-5.5	-6.5
Participation rate	68.5	67.7	0.5	-0.8	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.0	10.5	0.7	-0.5	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	60.9	60.6	0.5	-0.3	0.2	...	...
Nova Scotia							
Population	784.4	784.4	...	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.3
Labour force	491.8	487.8	2.6	-4.0	-2.7	-0.8	-0.6
Employment	446.0	443.0	2.6	-3.0	-3.2	-0.7	-0.7
Full-time	361.6	361.1	3.5	-0.5	0.9	-0.1	0.2
Part-time	84.4	81.9	3.1	-2.5	-4.1	-3.0	-4.8
Unemployment	45.8	44.8	2.4	-1.0	0.5	-2.2	1.1
Participation rate	62.7	62.2	0.3	-0.5	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.3	9.2	0.5	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	56.9	56.5	0.3	-0.4	-0.5	...	...
New Brunswick							
Population	622.3	622.3	...	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1
Labour force	394.5	393.6	2.3	-0.9	-1.3	-0.2	-0.3
Employment	354.5	354.5	2.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.4
Full-time	297.9	301.0	3.0	3.1	3.9	1.0	1.3
Part-time	56.6	53.5	2.5	-3.1	-2.5	-5.5	-4.5
Unemployment	40.0	39.1	2.1	-0.9	-2.6	-2.2	-6.2
Participation rate	63.4	63.2	0.4	-0.2	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.1	9.9	0.5	-0.2	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	57.0	57.0	0.4	0.0	0.2	...	...
Quebec							
Population	6,830.3	6,833.8	...	3.5	43.3	0.1	0.6
Labour force	4,431.2	4,441.4	14.7	10.2	60.1	0.2	1.4
Employment	4,099.2	4,110.9	14.5	11.7	68.7	0.3	1.7
Full-time	3,270.9	3,309.5	19.9	38.6	57.8	1.2	1.8
Part-time	828.3	801.4	18.3	-26.9	10.9	-3.2	1.4
Unemployment	332.0	330.5	13.0	-1.5	-8.5	-0.5	-2.5
Participation rate	64.9	65.0	0.2	0.1	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.4	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	60.0	60.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	...	...

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

	March 2015	April 2015	Standard error ¹	March to April 2015	April 2014 to April 2015	March to April 2015	April 2014 to April 2015
Ontario							
Population	11,347.5	11,356.6	...	9.1	112.8	0.1	1.0
Labour force	7,411.8	7,391.4	20.0	-20.4	-29.3	-0.3	-0.4
Employment	6,902.1	6,887.8	19.2	-14.3	11.5	-0.2	0.2
Full-time	5,551.4	5,581.7	26.6	30.3	25.5	0.5	0.5
Part-time	1,350.6	1,306.2	24.3	-44.4	-13.9	-3.3	-1.1
Unemployment	509.8	503.5	16.9	-6.3	-40.9	-1.2	-7.5
Participation rate	65.3	65.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	6.8	0.2	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	60.8	60.7	0.2	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Manitoba							
Population	984.0	985.0	...	1.0	11.3	0.1	1.2
Labour force	677.3	675.6	2.6	-1.7	16.7	-0.3	2.5
Employment	640.7	638.6	2.6	-2.1	18.1	-0.3	2.9
Full-time	521.3	520.2	3.7	-1.1	23.1	-0.2	4.6
Part-time	119.4	118.4	3.5	-1.0	-5.0	-0.8	-4.1
Unemployment	36.6	37.0	2.1	0.4	-1.4	1.1	-3.6
Participation rate	68.8	68.6	0.3	-0.2	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.5	0.3	0.1	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	65.1	64.8	0.3	-0.3	1.1	...	...
Saskatchewan							
Population	859.0	859.7	...	0.7	9.9	0.1	1.2
Labour force	599.1	601.3	2.6	2.2	13.1	0.4	2.2
Employment	572.9	575.4	2.6	2.5	7.8	0.4	1.4
Full-time	478.3	479.3	3.5	1.0	14.7	0.2	3.2
Part-time	94.6	96.0	3.3	1.4	-6.9	1.5	-6.7
Unemployment	26.1	26.0	1.8	-0.1	5.4	-0.4	26.2
Participation rate	69.7	69.9	0.3	0.2	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.3	0.3	-0.1	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	66.7	66.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	...	...
Alberta							
Population	3,332.6	3,338.5	...	5.9	73.3	0.2	2.2
Labour force	2,434.1	2,448.3	9.5	14.2	68.3	0.6	2.9
Employment	2,301.4	2,313.9	10.1	12.5	53.3	0.5	2.4
Full-time	1,909.1	1,901.5	13.3	-7.6	30.1	-0.4	1.6
Part-time	392.3	412.4	12.0	20.1	23.1	5.1	5.9
Unemployment	132.7	134.4	7.6	1.7	15.0	1.3	12.6
Participation rate	73.0	73.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.5	0.3	0.0	0.5	...	...
Employment rate	69.1	69.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	...	...
British Columbia							
Population	3,859.3	3,863.9	...	4.6	42.9	0.1	1.1
Labour force	2,430.5	2,412.5	10.1	-18.0	-12.0	-0.7	-0.5
Employment	2,289.3	2,260.6	9.9	-28.7	-17.2	-1.3	-0.8
Full-time	1,805.7	1,788.2	14.1	-17.5	8.6	-1.0	0.5
Part-time	483.6	472.3	13.4	-11.3	-25.9	-2.3	-5.2
Unemployment	141.2	152.0	7.9	10.8	5.3	7.6	3.6
Participation rate	63.0	62.4	0.3	-0.6	-1.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.8	6.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	59.3	58.5	0.3	-0.8	-1.1	...	...

... 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](#).

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 April 18. 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 June 5.

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

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