

Job Vacancy and Wage Survey, first quarter 2015

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, August 13, 2015

There were almost 400,000 job vacancies in Canada and the job vacancy rate was 2.6% in the first quarter—as indicated by a new survey conducted in early 2015.

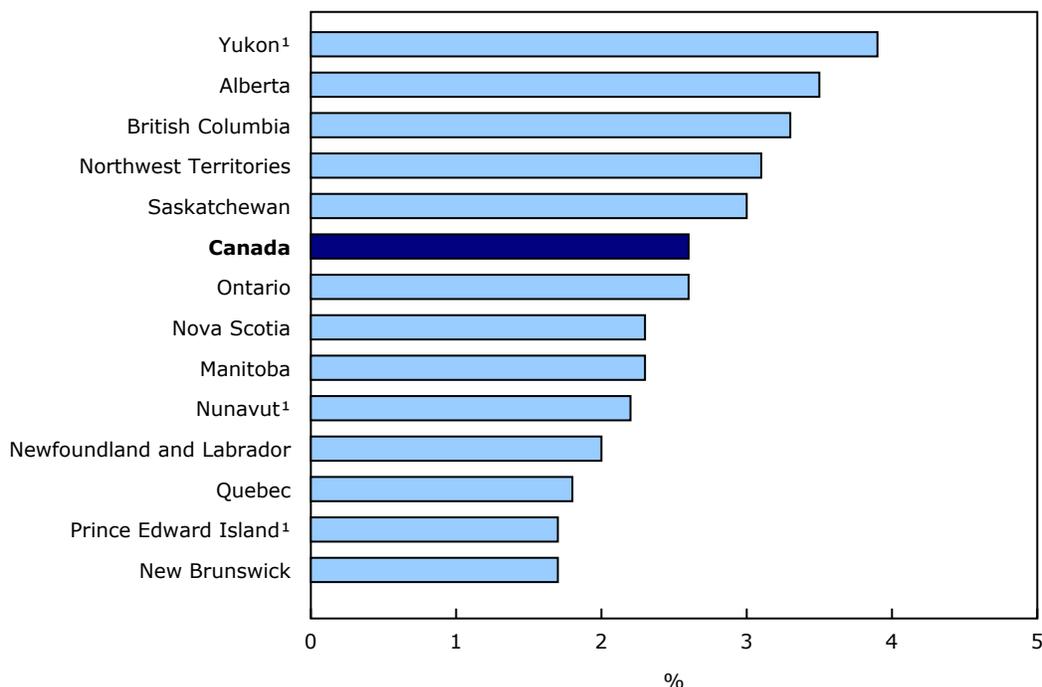
This is the first release of the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (JVWS). This release draws on data from the job vacancy component of this survey, with information on job vacancies by occupation, province, territory and economic region. (See the note to readers for information about this new survey and how it was conducted).

Job vacancy rates across Canada

In general, Western Canada had higher job vacancy rates than did Central and Eastern Canada. Yukon (3.9%), Alberta (3.5%), and British Columbia (3.3%) had the highest job vacancy rates, while New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (both at 1.7%) had the lowest rates for the first quarter.

The job vacancy rate refers to the share of jobs that are unfilled out of all payroll jobs available. It represents the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of labour demand; that is, the sum of all occupied and vacant jobs.

Chart 1
Job vacancy rate by province and territory, first quarter 2015



1. The data quality indicator for this province or territory is E — use with caution.
Source(s): Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (5217).

Among the 76 economic regions in Canada, the 10 economic regions with the highest job vacancy rates were in the western provinces or in Yukon. Looking at the 10 economic regions with the lowest job vacancy rates, 7 were in Quebec.

There were exceptions to this general tendency. There were some economic regions in the western provinces that had job vacancy rates below the national average. For example, Nechako in British Columbia and Red Deer in Alberta each had a job vacancy rate of 2.3%. Conversely, the economic region of Nord-du-Québec, at 3.0%, had a job vacancy rate above the national average.

Provincial and territorial job vacancies

In line with the size of its labour market, Ontario had the largest number of job vacancies with 153,000 in the first quarter, followed by Alberta with 74,000. While Alberta accounted for 13.5% of national payroll employment, it had 18.4% of all job vacancies in Canada.

At the economic region level, 6 of the 10 regions with the highest number of job vacancies were in Ontario and Alberta while the other 4 were in Quebec and British Columbia.

Job vacancies by occupation

Nationally, among the 40 major occupational groups (two-digit National Occupational Classification [NOC]), the 10 groups with the most job vacancies represented about 56% of all job vacancies.

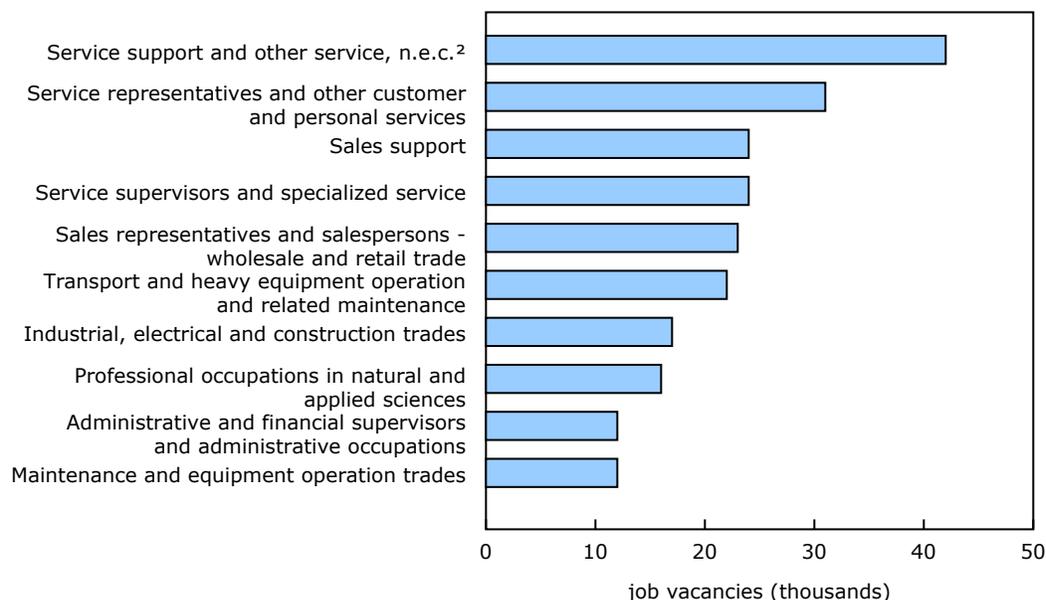
Service support and other service occupations had the most job vacancies (42,000). This occupational group includes occupations such as food counter attendants, operators and attendants in amusement, recreation and sport as well as specialized cleaners.

Service representatives and other customer and personal services occupations had the second highest number of job vacancies with 31,000.

In the first quarter, the two major occupational groups related to the trades that had among the highest number of job vacancies were industrial, electrical and construction trades (17,000) and maintenance and equipment operation trades (12,000).

Chart 2

The 10 major occupational groups (two-digit NOC¹) with the highest number of job vacancies, first quarter 2015



1. Major group level of the National Occupational Classification (2011).

2. The 'n.e.c.' abbreviation stands for 'not elsewhere classified.'

Source(s): Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (5217).

Provincially, job vacancies in manufacturing tended to be concentrated in Ontario. For example, 62% of the job vacancies for assemblers in manufacturing were in this province.

As part of its mandate to provide detailed and comprehensive job vacancy information, the JWWS has job vacancy data by specific occupation. The most detailed level of occupational grouping is the unit group (or four-digit NOC).

In the first quarter, 7 of the 10 occupations (four-digit NOC) with the most job vacancies were related to retail trade or accommodation and food services. The remaining 3 were transport truck drivers, registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses as well as general farm workers.

Full-time and part-time job vacancies

Nationally, about 72% of job vacancies were for full-time work in the first quarter. Full-time jobs are defined as those requiring 30 or more hours of work per week.

Management occupations (96%) and natural and applied sciences and related occupations (95%) were among the broad occupational categories that had the largest share of full-time job vacancies. In contrast, health occupations (45%) and sales and service occupations (54%) were among the broad occupational groups with the lowest share of full-time job vacancies.

Job vacancies by duration

As part of this survey, employers are asked how long they have been trying to fill their job vacancies. Job vacancies are broken down into three categories of vacancy duration: those unfilled after less than a month of recruitment efforts; those unfilled after one to three months; and those unfilled after more than three months or for which employers are constantly recruiting.

Nationally, health occupations, followed by trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, and then natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations, had the highest share of job vacancies that had not been filled after more than three months of recruitment efforts or had vacancies for which employers were constantly recruiting.

In contrast, business, finance and administration occupations, management occupations as well as occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport had the lowest share of job vacancies that had not been filled after more than three months of recruitment efforts or had vacancies for which employers were constantly recruiting.

Longer job vacancy durations are sometimes used as an indicator that the labour market is tighter in an area, as it suggests employers are finding it more difficult to fill job vacancies.

Note to readers

The Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (JVWS) is a new quarterly survey that provides comprehensive information on job vacancies by industry sector, detailed occupations and skill level required for Canada, the provinces, territories and economic regions. With its broader scope and greater detail, the JVWS is Statistics Canada's foremost source of current and comprehensive information on job vacancies in Canada.

The JVWS, sponsored by Employment and Social Development Canada, is the largest survey on job vacancies ever conducted by Statistics Canada. It responds to key labour market information needs by providing critical data on current and emerging labour market demand. Results will support decision making by job seekers, students, employers and policy makers.

Data collection began in February 2015. Annual wage and employment data by occupation will be collected in the wage component of the survey starting in 2016.

Information on job vacancies

Since 2011, summary estimates of job vacancy rates have been provided monthly through two questions on the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH). This information has provided a useful time series dating from January 2011 on labour shortages at the national, provincial and territorial levels. Going forward, these summary estimates will be published with the monthly release of the SEPH to allow data users to continue to monitor the SEPH job vacancy time series.

Due to differences in methodology and survey design, the vacancy rates from the SEPH and the JVWS will be different and not fully comparable. The following are the key methodological differences:

- The JVWS quarterly sample includes 100,000 business locations, compared with a monthly sample of 15,000 from the survey component of the SEPH.
- The JVWS covers the entire agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector, whereas the SEPH covers select subsectors of this industry group.
- In the JVWS, the sampling unit is the location, while it is the establishment in the SEPH. For example, the JVWS surveys individual stores or restaurants, whereas the SEPH generally surveys the head offices of large retailers or restaurant chains.
- JVWS respondents tend to be responsible for human resources with a good understanding of both current and emerging job vacancies, while the SEPH respondents are often responsible for the company payroll.
- JVWS respondents are asked to report jobs that are vacant on the first day of the month as well as those that will become vacant during the month. In contrast, the two questions on job vacancies in the SEPH refer to jobs that are vacant on the last day of the month.

Given the methodological differences noted above and the fact that the JVWS is designed specifically to collect comprehensive and detailed information on current and emerging job vacancies, the JVWS will generally produce higher job vacancy numbers than the SEPH.

Users who wish to look at summary information over time are advised to use the SEPH job vacancy statistics available in [CANSIM](#).

Data quality of the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey

The target population of the survey includes all business locations in Canada, except for those primarily involved in religious organizations and private households. Federal, provincial and territorial administrations are also excluded from the survey for now; however, they will be phased in at a later date.

This first release is based on a smaller sample (67,000 locations) since the first quarter covered two months of collection (February and March 2015). Imputation and estimation strategies were applied to compensate for the missing month of January 2015. Job vacancy and labour demand estimates and their accompanying rates are not seasonally adjusted. Data for subsequent quarters will be based on the full sample and as such, will have lower sampling variability. Users can expect to see improved data quality in estimates in future releases compared with the data from this first release.

Next release

Job vacancy data from the JVWS for the second quarter will be released in November.

Table 1
Job vacancies and payroll employment by province and territory, first quarter 2015

	Job vacancies		Payroll employment	
	number	%		%
Canada	399,900	100.0		100.0
Ontario	152,900	38.2		38.3
Alberta	73,700	18.4		13.5
British Columbia	66,200	16.6		13.1
Quebec	60,100	15.0		22.0
Saskatchewan	14,200	3.6		3.1
Manitoba	13,000	3.3		3.7
Nova Scotia	8,800	2.2		2.5
New Brunswick	4,800	1.2		1.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,900	1.0		1.3
Prince Edward Island	1,000 ^E	0.3 ^E		0.4
Northwest Territories	700	0.2		0.1
Yukon	600 ^E	0.2 ^E		0.1
Nunavut	200 ^E	0.1 ^E		0.1

^E use with caution

Source(s): Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (5217).

Table 2
The 10 economic regions with the highest job vacancy rates, first quarter 2015

	Job vacancy rate
	%
Swift Current–Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan	5.9 ^E
Banff–Jasper–Rocky Mountain House, Alberta	5.3
Athabasca–Grande Prairie–Peace River, Alberta	5.3 ^E
Thompson–Okanagan, British Columbia	4.4
Yorkton–Melville, Saskatchewan	4.0 ^E
Yukon, Yukon	3.9 ^E
Cariboo, British Columbia	3.9 ^E
Edmonton, Alberta	3.8
Kootenay, British Columbia	3.7
Northeast, British Columbia	3.6 ^E

^E use with caution

Note(s): Data for subsequent quarters will be based on the full sample and, as such, will have lower sampling variability. Users can expect to see improved data quality in estimates in future releases compared to the data from this first release.

Source(s): Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (5217).

Table 3
The 10 occupations (four-digit NOC¹) with the highest number of job vacancies, first quarter 2015

	Job vacancies number
Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related support occupations	20,000
Retail salespersons	19,900
Transport truck drivers	13,100
Cooks	11,800
Cashiers	11,600
Store shelf stockers, clerks and order fillers	10,800
Food and beverage servers	10,100
Other customer and information services representatives	7,800
Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses	7,500
General farm workers	6,300 ^E

^E use with caution

1. Unit group level of the National Occupational Classification (2011).

Source(s): Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (5217).

Table 4
Number of job vacancies by broad occupational category (one-digit NOC¹) and duration of job vacancy, first quarter 2015

	Duration of job vacancy		
	Less than a month	Between one and three months	More than three months or constantly recruiting
	%		
All occupations	49	22	30
Management	45	31	24
Business, finance and administration	61	24	16
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	43	29	28
Health	35	18	47
Education, law and social, community and government services	52	18	31
Art, culture, recreation and sport	56	20 ^E	25 ^E
Sales and service	53	20	27
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	39	21	39
Natural resources, agriculture and related production	43	21 ^E	36
Manufacturing and utilities	49	22	30

^E use with caution

1. Broad occupational category level of the National Occupational Classification (2011).

Source(s): Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (5217).

Available in CANSIM: tables [284-0001](#) and [284-0003](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [5202](#) and [5217](#).

Job vacancy data from the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (survey number [5217](#)) for the first quarter are now available upon request. CANSIM tables will be made available in a future release.

More information about the concepts and use of data from the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey is available online in the *Guide to the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey* ([75-514-G](#)) from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Job Vacancy Statistics (survey number [5202](#)) from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours for May are now available in CANSIM.

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 Elton Cryderman (613-951-4317; elton.cryderman@statcan.gc.ca) or Quy Do (613-697-9023; quy.do@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.