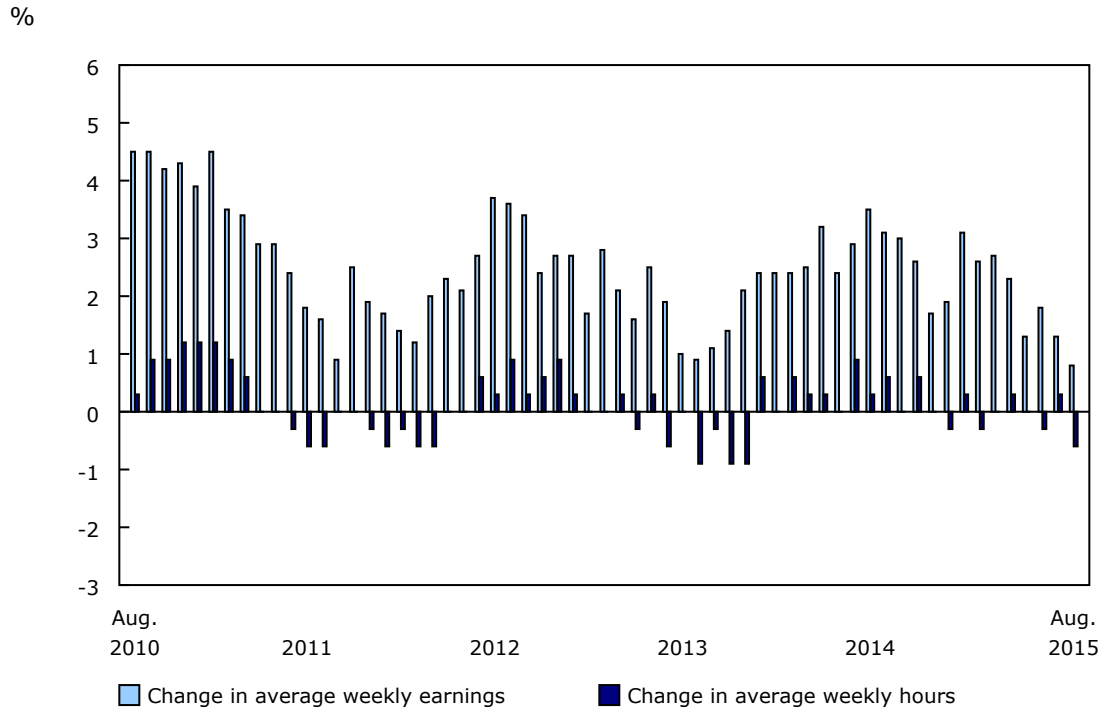


Payroll employment, earnings and hours, August 2015

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, October 29, 2015

Average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees were \$947 in August, down 0.7% from the previous month. Compared with 12 months earlier, weekly earnings increased by 0.8%.

Chart 1
Year-over-year change in average weekly earnings and average weekly hours



Source(s): CANSIM table [281-0063](#).

The increase in weekly earnings compared with August 2014 reflected a number of factors, including wage growth, changes in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and level of job experience, as well as average hours worked per week.

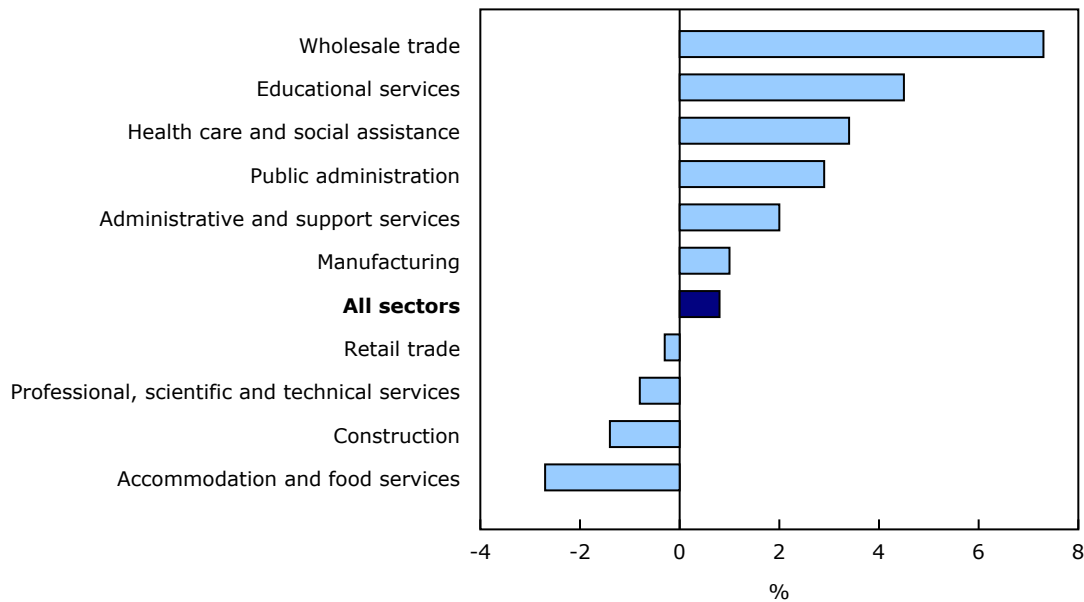
Non-farm payroll employees worked an average of 32.8 hours per week in August, down from 33.1 hours in July and also down from the August 2014 average of 33.0 hours.

Average weekly earnings by sector

In the 12 months to August, average weekly earnings growth outpaced the national average in 5 of the 10 largest industrial sectors, led by wholesale trade and educational services. At the same time, earnings declined in construction as well as accommodation and food services, and were little changed in manufacturing, retail trade as well as professional, scientific and technical services.



Chart 2
Year-over-year change in average weekly earnings in the 10 largest sectors, August 2015



Source(s): CANSIM table [281-0047](#).

On a year-over-year basis, earnings in wholesale trade increased 7.3% to \$1,165, partly due to the fact that earnings in this sector were at a relatively low point in August 2014. Growth was widespread, with increases in the machinery, equipment and supplies wholesalers subsector contributing the most to the rise in average earnings.

Earnings in educational services were up 4.5% to \$1,042 compared with August 2014. Most of this growth was in elementary and secondary schools as well as universities.

In health care and social assistance, average weekly earnings rose 3.4% to \$868. The increase was mainly driven by earnings and employment growth in two of the highest earning industries in the sector: offices of physicians and general medical and surgical hospitals.

In construction, earnings fell 1.4% to \$1,205 in the 12 months to August. The declines were spread across several industries, most notably in utility system construction, which is the highest earning industry in the sector.

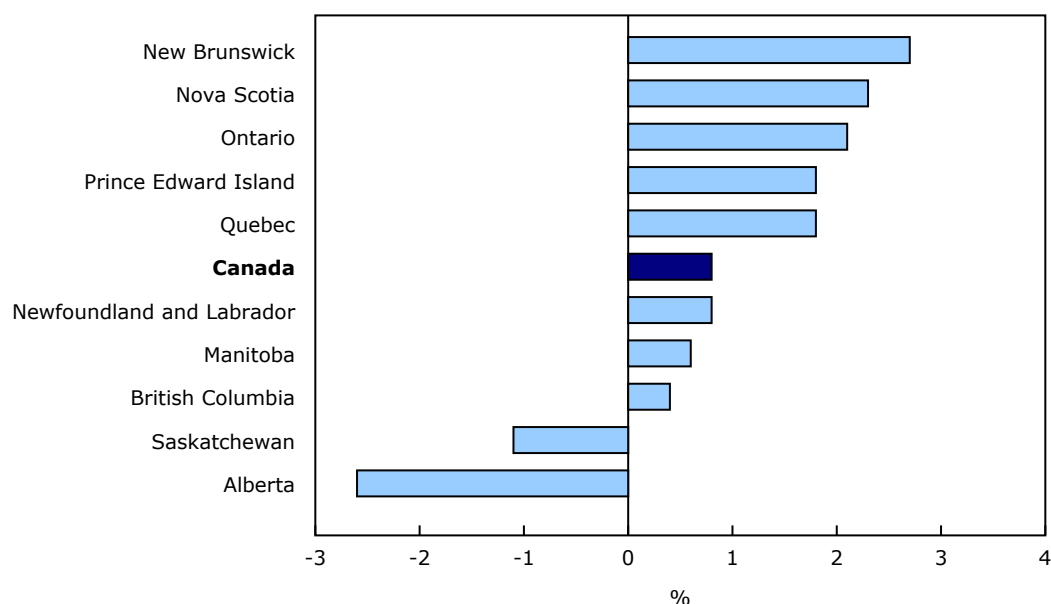
Average weekly earnings in accommodation and food services were down 2.7% to \$364, mostly the result of declines in full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places. Prior to the decline in August, earnings in this sector had trended up throughout the spring and summer.

Among the smaller industrial sectors, earnings in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector fell 9.5% to \$1,905 in the 12 months to August. Declines in this sector pulled down the national average.

Average weekly earnings by province

Year over year, average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees increased in five provinces in August. Over the same period, earnings declined in Alberta and Saskatchewan, while they were virtually unchanged in Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and British Columbia.

Chart 3
Year-over-year growth in average weekly earnings by province, August 2015



Source(s): CANSIM table [281-0049](#).

Average weekly earnings in New Brunswick increased 2.7% to \$854 in the 12 months to August. Earnings growth was driven by construction, transportation and warehousing as well as educational services. Most of the year-over-year growth occurred prior to April.

Compared with August 2014, earnings in Nova Scotia were up 2.3% to \$841. Earnings growth was led by educational services, administrative and support services as well as construction.

In Ontario, average weekly earnings increased 2.1% to \$962. Gains were spread across most industries, led by wholesale trade as well as information and cultural industries.

Earnings in Alberta declined 2.6% to \$1,129 in the 12 months to August; the declines were spread across several industries. Earnings and employment decreases in two high-earning industries had the greatest contribution: mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction as well as construction. The average hours worked per week in Alberta also declined over the period, falling 2.0% to 34.2.

Non-farm payroll employment by sector

The number of non-farm payroll jobs declined by 58,600 in August, after little change in July. Declines in August were widespread, with the biggest losses in educational services, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, wholesale trade as well as retail trade. Provincially, the largest declines were in Alberta and Ontario.

The employment decline in August lowered the year-over-year growth rate to 0.3% (+52,700). In the 12 months to August, the rate of employment growth was highest in arts, entertainment and recreation (+4.5%), accommodation and food services (+2.1%) as well as health care and social assistance (+1.4%). At the same time, employment declined in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (-11.1%).

Note to readers

The Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH) is produced by a combination of a census of payroll deductions, provided by the Canada Revenue Agency, and the Business Payrolls Survey, which collects data from a sample of 15,000 establishments. The key objective of SEPH is to provide a monthly portrait of the level of earnings, and the number of jobs and hours worked by detailed industry at the national, provincial and territorial level.

Estimates of average weekly earnings and hours worked are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. This analysis focuses on differences between estimates that are statistically significant at the 68% confidence level. Payroll employment estimates are based on a census of administrative data and are not subject to sampling variability.

Statistics Canada also produces employment estimates from its Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is a monthly household survey, the main objective of which is to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive groups: the employed (including the self-employed), unemployed and not in the labour force. This survey is the official source for the unemployment rate and collects data on the socio-demographic characteristics of all those in the labour market.

As a result of conceptual and methodological differences, estimates of changes from SEPH and LFS do differ from time to time. However, the trends in the data are quite similar.

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitate comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

Non-farm payroll employment data are for all hourly and salaried employees, as well as the "other employees" category, which includes piece-rate and commission-only employees.

Average weekly hours data are for hourly and salaried employees only and exclude businesses that could not be classified to a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.

All earnings data include overtime pay and exclude businesses that could not be classified to a NAICS code. Earnings data are based on gross taxable payroll before source deductions. Average weekly earnings are derived by dividing total weekly earnings by the number of employees.

With each release, data for the current reference month are subject to revision. Data have been revised for the previous month. Users are encouraged to request and use the most up-to-date data for each month.

Real-time CANSIM tables

Updated CANSIM tables 281-8023, 281-8026, 281-8047 and 281-8063 will be available on November 13. For more information, consult the document [Real-time CANSIM tables](#).

Next release

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for September will be released on November 26.

Table 1
Average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2014	July 2015 ^r	August 2015 ^p	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015
	current dollars			change in current dollars		% change	
Sector aggregate¹	939.54	953.57	947.12	-6.45	7.58	-0.7	0.8
Forestry, logging and support	1,039.45	1,059.03	1,048.65	-10.38	9.20	-1.0	0.9
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	2,104.79	1,945.01	1,905.09	-39.92	-199.70	-2.1	-9.5
Utilities	1,810.29	1,776.74	1,782.73	5.99	-27.56	0.3	-1.5
Construction	1,221.65	1,216.70	1,204.53	-12.17	-17.12	-1.0	-1.4
Manufacturing	1,051.66	1,091.04	1,061.82	-29.22	10.16	-2.7	1.0
Wholesale trade	1,085.65	1,190.91	1,165.21	-25.70	79.56	-2.2	7.3
Retail trade	553.84	555.08	552.06	-3.02	-1.78	-0.5	-0.3
Transportation and warehousing	1,006.93	1,045.03	1,030.78	-14.25	23.85	-1.4	2.4
Information and cultural industries	1,163.22	1,224.85	1,228.24	3.39	65.02	0.3	5.6
Finance and insurance	1,180.04	1,194.52	1,208.87	14.35	28.83	1.2	2.4
Real estate and rental and leasing	929.87	913.16	915.63	2.47	-14.24	0.3	-1.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,309.97	1,342.27	1,299.63	-42.64	-10.34	-3.2	-0.8
Management of companies and enterprises	1,353.61	1,468.19	1,432.72	-35.47	79.11	-2.4	5.8
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	739.23	779.46	753.81	-25.65	14.58	-3.3	2.0
Educational services	996.56	982.07	1,041.55	59.48	44.99	6.1	4.5
Health care and social assistance	839.57	869.42	868.18	-1.24	28.61	-0.1	3.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	588.32	561.98	564.13	2.15	-24.19	0.4	-4.1
Accommodation and food services	374.31	382.61	364.16	-18.45	-10.15	-4.8	-2.7
Other services (excluding public administration)	765.56	778.54	763.77	-14.77	-1.79	-1.9	-0.2
Public administration	1,194.74	1,233.21	1,229.19	-4.02	34.45	-0.3	2.9
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	985.76	1,012.03	993.18	-18.85	7.42	-1.9	0.8
Prince Edward Island	780.49	795.30	794.42	-0.88	13.93	-0.1	1.8
Nova Scotia	822.24	832.20	841.46	9.26	19.22	1.1	2.3
New Brunswick	831.83	856.02	854.20	-1.82	22.37	-0.2	2.7
Quebec	843.54	881.28	859.05	-22.23	15.51	-2.5	1.8
Ontario	941.68	967.84	961.57	-6.27	19.89	-0.6	2.1
Manitoba	872.63	885.87	877.85	-8.02	5.22	-0.9	0.6
Saskatchewan	984.13	964.36	972.98	8.62	-11.15	0.9	-1.1
Alberta	1,158.56	1,137.31	1,128.63	-8.68	-29.93	-0.8	-2.6
British Columbia	900.50	914.13	904.14	-9.99	3.64	-1.1	0.4
Yukon	1,028.71	1,039.85	1,039.95	0.10	11.24	0.0	1.1
Northwest Territories	1,402.67	1,431.56	1,392.66	-38.90	-10.01	-2.7	-0.7
Nunavut	1,253.30	1,258.56	1,227.30	-31.26	-26.00	-2.5	-2.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Sector breakdown is based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System.

Note(s): Earnings data are based on gross payroll before source deductions.

Source(s): CANSIM table [281-0063](#).

Table 2
Number of employees – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2014	July 2015 ^r	August 2015 ^p	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015
	thousands		change in thousands		% change		
Sector aggregate¹	15,631.4	15,742.6	15,684.1	-58.6	52.7	-0.4	0.3
Forestry, logging and support	38.7	40.1	39.5	-0.6	0.8	-1.4	2.1
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	233.8	211.5	207.8	-3.6	-26.0	-1.7	-11.1
Utilities	116.4	114.2	115.0	0.8	-1.4	0.7	-1.2
Construction	980.5	977.3	974.9	-2.4	-5.6	-0.2	-0.6
Manufacturing	1,487.2	1,490.6	1,484.2	-6.4	-3.0	-0.4	-0.2
Wholesale trade	780.6	783.9	778.0	-5.9	-2.6	-0.8	-0.3
Retail trade	1,941.0	1,941.6	1,935.8	-5.8	-5.2	-0.3	-0.3
Transportation and warehousing	730.3	734.2	727.2	-6.9	-3.1	-0.9	-0.4
Information and cultural industries	316.9	319.5	318.7	-0.8	1.7	-0.3	0.5
Finance and insurance	707.8	711.4	711.1	-0.3	3.3	0.0	0.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	283.3	287.2	285.3	-1.8	2.1	-0.6	0.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	849.6	852.1	853.5	1.4	3.9	0.2	0.5
Management of companies and enterprises	101.9	99.9	99.5	-0.3	-2.4	-0.3	-2.4
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	781.8	781.5	778.2	-3.3	-3.5	-0.4	-0.4
Educational services	1,218.3	1,232.5	1,214.3	-18.3	-4.0	-1.5	-0.3
Health care and social assistance	1,783.4	1,806.7	1,808.8	2.1	25.4	0.1	1.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	257.9	268.9	269.4	0.5	11.5	0.2	4.5
Accommodation and food services	1,210.6	1,235.6	1,236.3	0.6	25.7	0.1	2.1
Other services (excluding public administration)	548.2	549.4	543.5	-5.9	-4.7	-1.1	-0.9
Public administration	1,042.3	1,040.3	1,037.6	-2.7	-4.6	-0.3	-0.4
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	219.0	222.5	221.3	-1.2	2.3	-0.5	1.1
Prince Edward Island	62.3	62.8	62.5	-0.3	0.2	-0.5	0.3
Nova Scotia	401.4	406.0	400.2	-5.8	-1.3	-1.4	-0.3
New Brunswick	301.7	301.4	298.9	-2.5	-2.9	-0.8	-1.0
Quebec	3,485.7	3,475.8	3,472.7	-3.1	-13.0	-0.1	-0.4
Ontario	5,937.4	6,051.7	6,036.1	-15.6	98.7	-0.3	1.7
Manitoba	580.5	582.7	581.5	-1.2	0.9	-0.2	0.2
Saskatchewan	486.9	483.4	480.2	-3.2	-6.8	-0.7	-1.4
Alberta	2,066.2	2,034.2	2,013.4	-20.9	-52.8	-1.0	-2.6
British Columbia	2,026.9	2,060.4	2,056.1	-4.3	29.2	-0.2	1.4
Yukon	21.2	20.2	19.9	-0.3	-1.2	-1.5	-5.9
Northwest Territories	27.4	27.4	27.1	-0.3	-0.3	-1.0	-1.0
Nunavut	14.8	14.3	14.4	0.1	-0.4	0.8	-2.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Sector breakdown is based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System.

Source(s): CANSIM table [281-0063](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [281-0023](#), [281-0026](#), [281-0029](#), [281-0032](#), [281-0035](#), [281-0037](#), [281-0039](#), [281-0047 to 281-0049](#), [281-0063](#), [284-0001](#) and [284-0003](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2612](#) and [5202](#).

A [summary table](#) is available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website. Under *Summary tables*, choose *Subject* then *Labour*.

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

More information about the concepts and use of the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours is available online in the *Guide to the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (72-203-G)*, from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Andrew Fields (613-951-3551; andrew.fields@canada.ca), Labour Statistics Division.