

Labour Force Survey, December 2015

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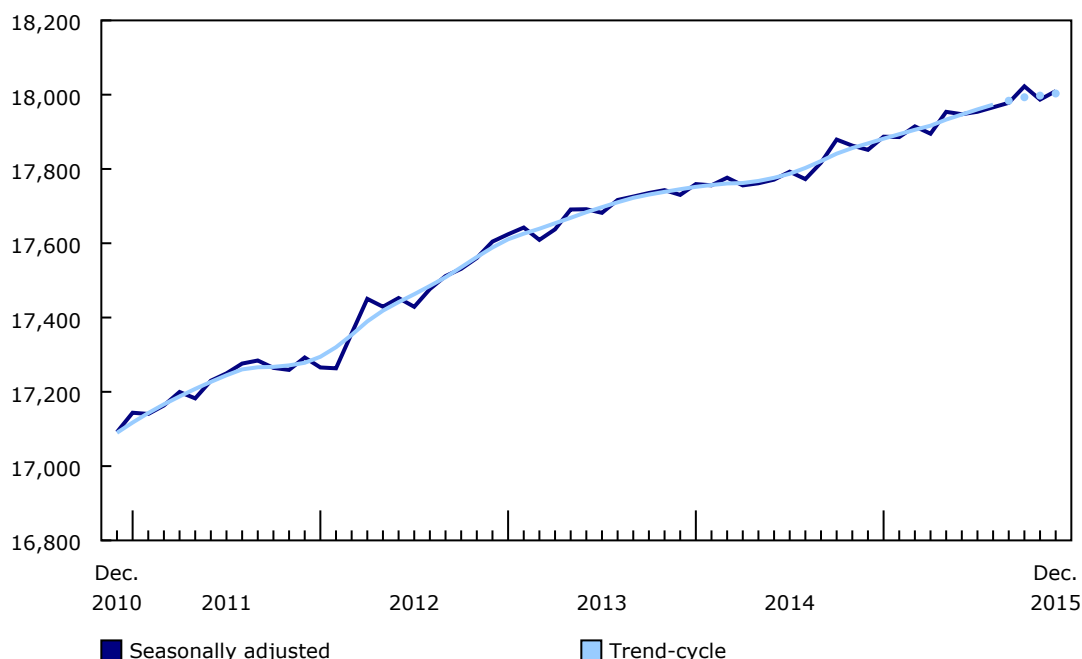
Employment edged up 23,000 (+0.1%) in December and the unemployment rate was 7.1%, unchanged from the previous month.

Following employment growth of 0.4% in the first quarter of 2015, the pace of growth slowed to 0.2% for each of the subsequent three quarters.

In the 12 months to December, employment gains totalled 158,000 or 0.9%, slightly above the growth rate of 0.7% in both 2013 and 2014. A year-end review for 2015 is presented in a separate section below.

Chart 1 Employment

thousands



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

In December, employment increased among people aged 55 and older and was little changed for the other demographic groups.

Provincially, employment rose only in Ontario, while it declined in Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Prince Edward Island.

There were more people employed in health care and social assistance, educational services, and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing. At the same time, employment declined in accommodation and food services as well as agriculture.

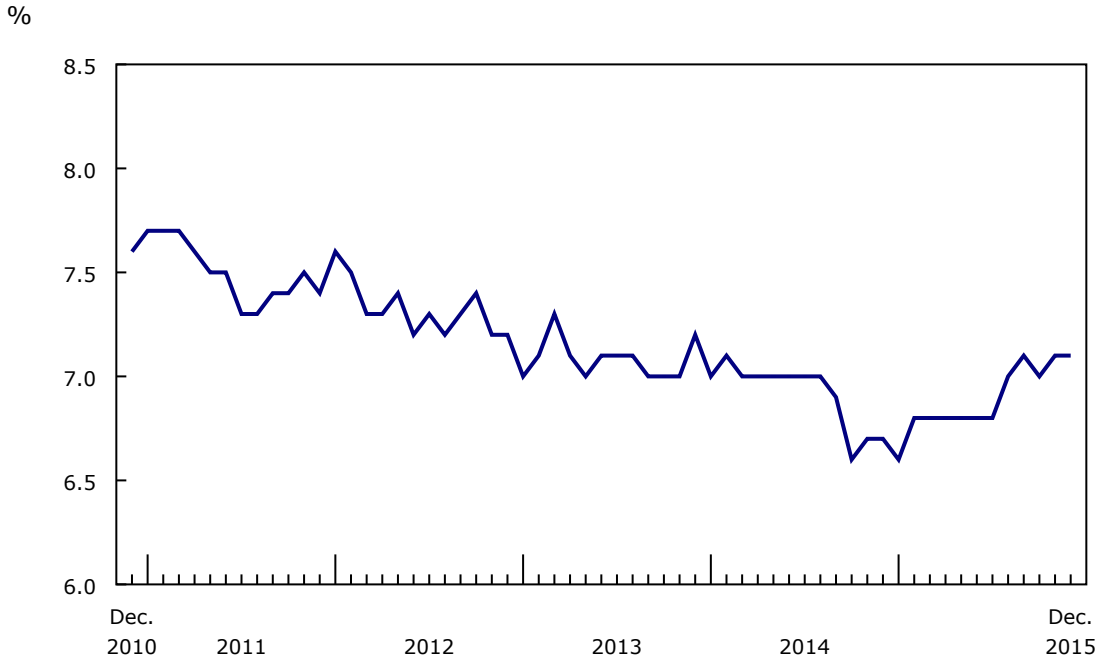
The number of self-employed increased in December, while there was little change among public and private sector employees.



Statistics Canada
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Canada

**Chart 2
Unemployment rate**



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

Employment gains continue among people aged 55 and older

In December, employment rose by 29,000 among people aged 55 and older, and their unemployment rate edged down to 5.8%.

Despite little employment change among people aged 25 to 54, their unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 6.3% as more of them searched for work.

Employment was also little changed among youths aged 15 to 24 and their unemployment rate was 13.0% in December.

Employment up in Ontario

Ontario was the lone province with employment growth in December, up 35,000. This lowered the unemployment rate in the province by 0.2 percentage points to 6.7%.

In December, employment in Saskatchewan was down 4,600 and the unemployment rate held steady at 5.5%, as fewer people participated in the labour market.

In Nova Scotia, there were 3,000 fewer people employed. However, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.6% as fewer Nova Scotians participated in the labour market.

Employment in Newfoundland and Labrador declined by 2,700. The unemployment rate increased 1.4 percentage points to 14.4%, the highest rate in the province since December 2010.

In Quebec, employment was little changed for the fifth consecutive month in December. However, the unemployment rate was up 0.3 percentage points to 7.8% as more people searched for work.

Industry perspective

In December, employment increased by 17,000 in health care and social assistance, 15,000 in educational services and 10,000 in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing.

Conversely, employment declined by 14,000 in accommodation and food services and 7,900 in agriculture.

In December, the number of self-employed increased by 40,000, while the number of private and public sector employees was little changed.

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.

Employment was little changed in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut between the third and the fourth quarter of 2015.

Over this period, the unemployment rate was unchanged for both Yukon (5.3%) and Nunavut (17.2%). In the Northwest Territories, the unemployment rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to 9.9% in the fourth quarter as more people searched for work.

Year-end review, 2015

The following analysis focuses on changes from December 2014 to December 2015.

Employment gains totalled 158,000 or 0.9% in 2015, slightly above the growth rate of 0.7% over the same period in 2013 and 2014.

Full-time employment rose by 151,000 or 1.0% in 2015, while part-time work was little changed. During the same period, the number of hours worked increased by 1.0%.

In the 12 months to December, the unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 7.1%. This increase was attributable to more people searching for work (+110,000). Over the same period, the participation rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 65.9%, while the employment rate was little changed at 61.2%.

Fastest employment growth in British Columbia in 2015

Provincially, the fastest employment growth in 2015 was in British Columbia, up 2.3% (+52,000). Employment in the province has been on an upward trend since April. Despite this increase, the unemployment rate rose 1.2 percentage points to 6.7% as more people searched for work.

In Ontario, employment increased 1.2% (+81,000) in 2015, as gains in full-time work (+143,000) were partly offset by losses in part time. The unemployment rate was little changed at 6.7% as more people participated in the labour market.

Employment in Quebec also increased 1.2% (+48,000), all in full-time work and driven by gains in the first four months of the year. The unemployment rate was little changed at 7.8%, the result of more people looking for work.

In Alberta, overall employment was little changed as declines in full-time employment were offset by gains in part-time work. The number of hours worked fell by 4.3% in 2015 compared with 2014. Over the same period, the unemployment rate rose from 4.7% to 7.0%, as more people were searching for work (+58,000). The last time the unemployment rate in Alberta was above 7.0% was in April 2010.

Newfoundland and Labrador was the lone province with a decline in employment in 2015, down 1.8% (-4,300), as losses in full-time work were only partly offset by gains in part time. The unemployment rate increased 2.6 percentage points to 14.4%.

Service sector leads employment growth

In 2015, employment in professional, scientific and technical services grew by 5.2%, following little change in 2014.

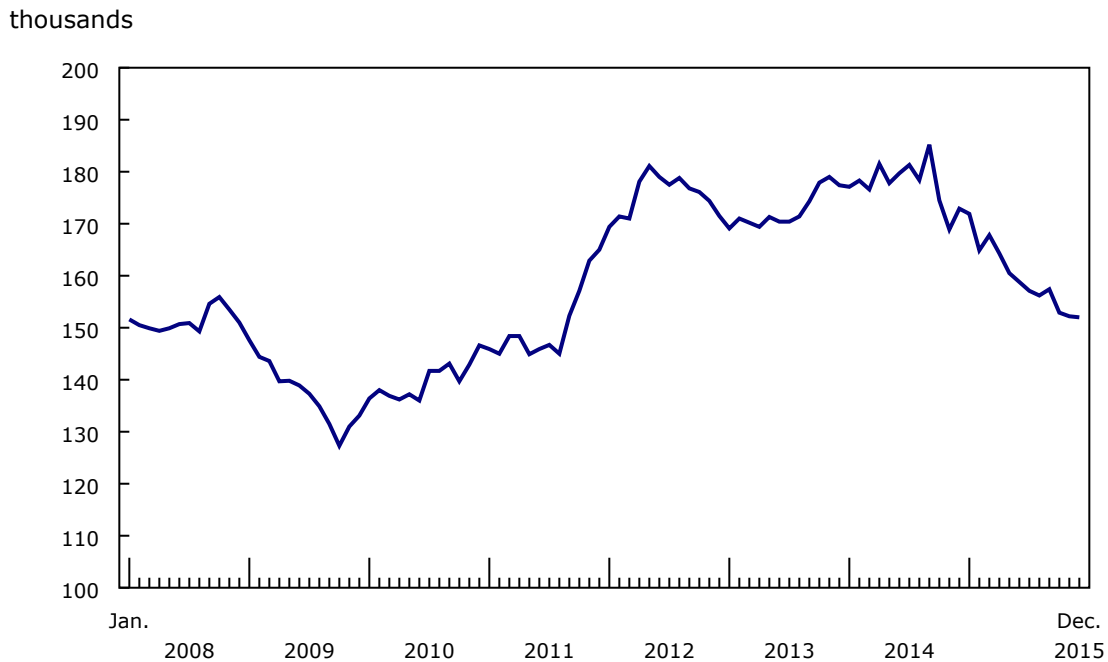
There were also more people employed in health care and social assistance (+3.8%) in 2015, continuing a long-term upward trend. The bulk of the employment increase in 2015 was in hospitals.

Employment in manufacturing rose by 2.1% in 2015, the first increase since 2012. The employment gains in 2015 were spread across several manufacturing industries, and mostly in British Columbia.

Employment in natural resources fell 6.8%. Most of this decline was in Alberta. However, there were also smaller declines in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Nova Scotia. At the national level, the largest declines were in the support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction.

In accommodation and food services, employment declined by 2.3%, mostly in Alberta and British Columbia.

Chart 3 Employment in natural resources¹ in Alberta



1. Includes forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, as well as oil and gas extraction.
Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0088](#).

In 2015, self-employment rose by 92,000 (+3.4%), with increases across a number of industries in the service sector. The number of public sector employees increased by 41,000 (+1.1%), driven by gains in health care and social assistance and, to a lesser extent, in public administration. At the same time, the number of private sector employees was little changed.

Demographic highlights

Among the major demographic groups, only men and women aged 55 and older recorded employment growth in 2015, up 6.3% (+220,000). Over the same period, their population rose by 310,000. The participation rate for this group increased 1.2 percentage points to 37.8%, as growth in labour market participation outpaced population growth over the period. The unemployment rate for this group was little changed at 5.8%.

In the 12 months to December, employment was little changed among people aged 25 to 54, as was their population. However, their unemployment rate increased 0.8 percentage points to 6.3% as more of them searched for work.

Employment among youths aged 15 to 24 fell 1.9% (-48,000), while their population declined by 43,000. Despite the decline in employment, their unemployment rate was little changed at 13.0%, as fewer youths participated in the labour market.

Upcoming revisions

A standard revision to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) data will be released on January 26 and 27.

Occupation data estimates will be reclassified to the 2011 National Occupational Classification from the 2006 National Occupational Classification for Statistics.

New CANSIM tables will be created for all occupation-related series and will be available from the start of each respective series. A list of the [occupation tables](#) is now available.

At the same time, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2012 will replace the NAICS 2007. This change will not affect the CANSIM tables for the LFS as there were only minor changes at the four-digit level.

In addition to updating the classification systems, the LFS seasonally adjusted estimates will be revised back to January 2013 using the latest seasonal factors. The revised estimates will be available in CANSIM on January 26.

Note to readers

The LFS estimates for December are for the week of December 6 to 12.

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 the article "[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 of 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](#).

Chart 1 shows trend-cycle data on employment. These data represent a smoothed version of the seasonally adjusted time series, which provides information on longer-term movements, including changes in direction underlying the series. These data are available in CANSIM table [282-0087](#) for the Canada-level employment series. For more information, see the [StatCan Blog](#) and [Trend-cycle estimates – Frequently asked questions](#).

Next release

The next release of the LFS will be on February 5.

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

	November 2015	December 2015	Standard error ¹	November to December 2015	December 2014 to December 2015	November to December 2015	December 2014 to December 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over							
Population	29,401.2	29,419.0	...	17.8	302.4	0.1	1.0
Labour force	19,351.7	19,396.0	29.2	44.3	268.3	0.2	1.4
Employment	17,986.8	18,009.6	29.1	22.8	158.1	0.1	0.9
Full-time	14,623.4	14,617.0	41.8	-6.4	151.0	0.0	1.0
Part-time	3,363.4	3,392.6	38.4	29.2	7.1	0.9	0.2
Unemployment	1,364.8	1,386.4	24.9	21.6	110.2	1.6	8.6
Participation rate	65.8	65.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.1	7.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	61.2	61.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	18.7	18.8	0.2	0.1	-0.1	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years							
Population	4,416.6	4,412.0	...	-4.6	-43.0	-0.1	-1.0
Labour force	2,810.5	2,807.1	17.1	-3.4	-68.7	-0.1	-2.4
Employment	2,452.9	2,441.2	16.0	-11.7	-47.7	-0.5	-1.9
Full-time	1,295.2	1,288.1	19.8	-7.1	-1.4	-0.5	-0.1
Part-time	1,157.6	1,153.2	20.9	-4.4	-46.1	-0.4	-3.8
Unemployment	357.6	365.8	14.8	8.2	-21.2	2.3	-5.5
Participation rate	63.6	63.6	0.4	0.0	-1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.7	13.0	0.5	0.3	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	55.5	55.3	0.4	-0.2	-0.6	...	...
Part-time rate	47.2	47.2	0.8	0.0	-0.9	...	...
Men, 25 years and over							
Population	12,221.8	12,232.6	...	10.8	171.0	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,790.6	8,812.4	15.8	21.8	180.7	0.2	2.1
Employment	8,223.0	8,228.2	16.9	5.2	84.7	0.1	1.0
Full-time	7,567.9	7,577.0	23.1	9.1	74.8	0.1	1.0
Part-time	655.1	651.2	18.9	-3.9	9.9	-0.6	1.5
Unemployment	567.6	584.2	14.8	16.6	96.0	2.9	19.7
Participation rate	71.9	72.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.5	6.6	0.2	0.1	0.9	...	...
Employment rate	67.3	67.3	0.1	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	8.0	7.9	0.2	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Women, 25 years and over							
Population	12,762.7	12,774.4	...	11.7	174.5	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,750.6	7,776.6	16.4	26.0	156.4	0.3	2.1
Employment	7,311.0	7,340.2	16.4	29.2	121.0	0.4	1.7
Full-time	5,760.3	5,752.0	27.4	-8.3	77.8	-0.1	1.4
Part-time	1,550.7	1,588.2	25.9	37.5	43.3	2.4	2.8
Unemployment	439.6	436.4	13.1	-3.2	35.4	-0.7	8.8
Participation rate	60.7	60.9	0.1	0.2	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.7	5.6	0.2	-0.1	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	57.3	57.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	21.2	21.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	...	...

... 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

	November 2015	December 2015	Standard error ²	November to December 2015	December 2014 to December 2015	November to December 2015	December 2014 to December 2015
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker							
Employees	15,210.4	15,192.9	35.6	-17.5	66.6	-0.1	0.4
Self-employed	2,776.4	2,816.7	25.3	40.3	91.5	1.5	3.4
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,610.6	3,602.2	20.7	-8.4	40.8	-0.2	1.1
Private	11,599.8	11,590.8	36.0	-9.0	25.9	-0.1	0.2
All industries	17,986.8	18,009.6	29.1	22.8	158.1	0.1	0.9
Goods-producing sector	3,887.3	3,887.0	16.7	-0.3	-20.5	0.0	-0.5
Agriculture	305.4	297.5	5.8	-7.9	-5.8	-2.6	-1.9
Natural resources ³	348.1	351.9	5.5	3.8	-25.6	1.1	-6.8
Utilities	131.9	132.3	2.4	0.4	-6.0	0.3	-4.3
Construction	1,372.3	1,369.5	11.4	-2.8	-19.0	-0.2	-1.4
Manufacturing	1,729.7	1,735.8	10.7	6.1	35.9	0.4	2.1
Services-producing sector	14,099.5	14,122.6	27.5	23.1	178.7	0.2	1.3
Trade	2,732.4	2,723.8	14.3	-8.6	8.3	-0.3	0.3
Transportation and warehousing	910.9	909.6	8.2	-1.3	5.4	-0.1	0.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,098.1	1,108.4	8.6	10.3	14.6	0.9	1.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,388.3	1,397.3	10.6	9.0	68.5	0.6	5.2
Business, building and other support services	767.5	760.4	9.9	-7.1	9.2	-0.9	1.2
Educational services	1,255.2	1,270.6	10.4	15.4	14.2	1.2	1.1
Health care and social assistance	2,314.9	2,331.4	10.8	16.5	86.2	0.7	3.8
Information, culture and recreation	755.2	751.4	9.7	-3.8	-8.7	-0.5	-1.1
Accommodation and food services	1,202.6	1,188.2	11.6	-14.4	-28.0	-1.2	-2.3
Other services	760.1	761.9	8.3	1.8	-0.7	0.2	-0.1
Public administration	914.4	919.7	6.9	5.3	9.6	0.6	1.1

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, and 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**

	November 2015	December 2015	Standard error ¹	November to December 2015	December 2014 to December 2015	November to December 2015	December 2014 to December 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Population	442.9	443.0	...	0.1	-0.3	0.0	-0.1
Labour force	270.7	272.1	2.0	1.4	3.4	0.5	1.3
Employment	235.5	232.8	2.1	-2.7	-4.3	-1.1	-1.8
Full-time	200.5	195.0	2.7	-5.5	-8.6	-2.7	-4.2
Part-time	35.0	37.8	2.1	2.8	4.3	8.0	12.8
Unemployment	35.2	39.3	2.0	4.1	7.7	11.6	24.4
Participation rate	61.1	61.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.0	14.4	0.7	1.4	2.6	...	...
Employment rate	53.2	52.6	0.5	-0.6	-0.9	...	...
Prince Edward Island							
Population	121.1	121.2	...	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.4
Labour force	81.9	80.7	0.6	-1.2	-1.5	-1.5	-1.8
Employment	73.5	72.9	0.6	-0.6	-0.2	-0.8	-0.3
Full-time	61.3	60.8	0.9	-0.5	-1.2	-0.8	-1.9
Part-time	12.2	12.1	0.7	-0.1	1.0	-0.8	9.0
Unemployment	8.5	7.8	0.6	-0.7	-1.3	-8.2	-14.3
Participation rate	67.6	66.6	0.5	-1.0	-1.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.4	9.7	0.7	-0.7	-1.4	...	...
Employment rate	60.7	60.1	0.5	-0.6	-0.5	...	...
Nova Scotia							
Population	786.8	787.0	...	0.2	2.9	0.0	0.4
Labour force	491.2	488.0	2.6	-3.2	-4.1	-0.7	-0.8
Employment	448.8	445.8	2.7	-3.0	-5.2	-0.7	-1.2
Full-time	374.2	368.4	3.8	-5.8	-0.6	-1.5	-0.2
Part-time	74.6	77.4	3.3	2.8	-4.6	3.8	-5.6
Unemployment	42.4	42.2	2.4	-0.2	1.1	-0.5	2.7
Participation rate	62.4	62.0	0.3	-0.4	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.6	8.6	0.5	0.0	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	57.0	56.6	0.3	-0.4	-0.9	...	...
New Brunswick							
Population	621.8	621.9	...	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Labour force	385.8	387.2	2.2	1.4	-3.0	0.4	-0.8
Employment	352.5	352.8	2.3	0.3	1.6	0.1	0.5
Full-time	299.7	301.3	3.1	1.6	5.8	0.5	2.0
Part-time	52.7	51.4	2.7	-1.3	-4.3	-2.5	-7.7
Unemployment	33.4	34.5	2.1	1.1	-4.5	3.3	-11.5
Participation rate	62.0	62.3	0.4	0.3	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.7	8.9	0.5	0.2	-1.1	...	...
Employment rate	56.7	56.7	0.4	0.0	0.2	...	...
Quebec							
Population	6,859.4	6,862.2	...	2.8	39.9	0.0	0.6
Labour force	4,427.1	4,458.7	14.8	31.6	69.2	0.7	1.6
Employment	4,096.7	4,109.4	14.8	12.7	48.3	0.3	1.2
Full-time	3,320.2	3,310.5	21.4	-9.7	48.8	-0.3	1.5
Part-time	776.5	798.9	19.6	22.4	-0.5	2.9	-0.1
Unemployment	330.5	349.3	13.2	18.8	20.9	5.7	6.4
Participation rate	64.5	65.0	0.2	0.5	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	59.7	59.9	0.2	0.2	0.4	...	...

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

	November 2015	December 2015	Standard error ¹	November to December 2015	December 2014 to December 2015	November to December 2015	December 2014 to December 2015
Ontario							
Population	11,436.0	11,444.5	...	8.5	124.1	0.1	1.1
Labour force	7,444.8	7,465.8	19.7	21.0	58.6	0.3	0.8
Employment	6,930.8	6,965.7	19.6	34.9	80.7	0.5	1.2
Full-time	5,640.4	5,682.6	28.3	42.2	142.5	0.7	2.6
Part-time	1,290.4	1,283.1	25.6	-7.3	-61.8	-0.6	-4.6
Unemployment	513.9	500.2	16.9	-13.7	-22.0	-2.7	-4.2
Participation rate	65.1	65.2	0.2	0.1	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	6.7	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	60.6	60.9	0.2	0.3	0.1	...	...
Manitoba							
Population	991.5	991.9	...	0.4	10.4	0.0	1.1
Labour force	677.4	674.1	2.5	-3.3	4.1	-0.5	0.6
Employment	636.4	634.0	2.5	-2.4	0.2	-0.4	0.0
Full-time	510.6	506.6	3.8	-4.0	-8.3	-0.8	-1.6
Part-time	125.8	127.4	3.6	1.6	8.5	1.3	7.1
Unemployment	41.0	40.1	2.1	-0.9	3.9	-2.2	10.8
Participation rate	68.3	68.0	0.3	-0.3	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.1	5.9	0.3	-0.2	0.5	...	...
Employment rate	64.2	63.9	0.3	-0.3	-0.7	...	...
Saskatchewan							
Population	864.6	865.0	...	0.4	8.0	0.0	0.9
Labour force	613.3	608.4	2.6	-4.9	11.1	-0.8	1.9
Employment	579.7	575.1	2.7	-4.6	0.1	-0.8	0.0
Full-time	474.3	479.1	3.7	4.8	-0.6	1.0	-0.1
Part-time	105.4	96.0	3.4	-9.4	0.7	-8.9	0.7
Unemployment	33.6	33.3	2.0	-0.3	11.0	-0.9	49.3
Participation rate	70.9	70.3	0.3	-0.6	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.5	0.3	0.0	1.8	...	...
Employment rate	67.0	66.5	0.3	-0.5	-0.6	...	...
Alberta							
Population	3,377.0	3,379.0	...	2.0	61.8	0.1	1.9
Labour force	2,461.0	2,457.0	10.0	-4.0	43.6	-0.2	1.8
Employment	2,289.5	2,285.6	10.2	-3.9	-14.6	-0.2	-0.6
Full-time	1,903.5	1,880.3	14.2	-23.2	-44.0	-1.2	-2.3
Part-time	386.0	405.4	12.7	19.4	29.5	5.0	7.8
Unemployment	171.5	171.3	7.9	-0.2	58.1	-0.1	51.3
Participation rate	72.9	72.7	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.0	7.0	0.3	0.0	2.3	...	...
Employment rate	67.8	67.6	0.3	-0.2	-1.7	...	...
British Columbia							
Population	3,899.9	3,903.2	...	3.3	54.8	0.1	1.4
Labour force	2,498.4	2,504.1	10.1	5.7	87.0	0.2	3.6
Employment	2,343.4	2,335.5	10.1	-7.9	51.6	-0.3	2.3
Full-time	1,838.7	1,832.5	14.9	-6.2	17.4	-0.3	1.0
Part-time	504.7	503.1	14.4	-1.6	34.3	-0.3	7.3
Unemployment	154.9	168.6	8.2	13.7	35.4	8.8	26.6
Participation rate	64.1	64.2	0.3	0.1	1.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.7	0.3	0.5	1.2	...	...
Employment rate	60.1	59.8	0.3	-0.3	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](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [279-0029 to 279-0039](#), [282-0001 to 282-0028](#), [282-0031 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 282-0233](#).

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 December 12. 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*.

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