

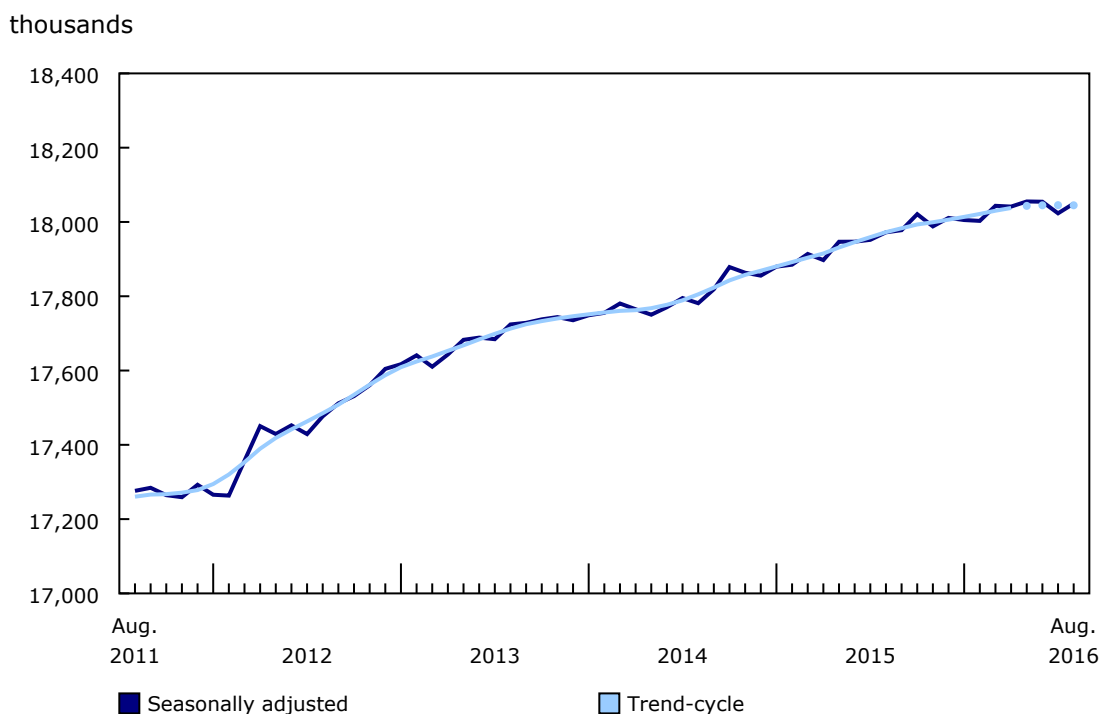
Labour Force Survey, August 2016

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, September 9, 2016

Following a decline in July, employment edged up in August (+26,000 or +0.1%). The unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 7.0%, as more people participated in the labour market.

Compared with 12 months earlier, employment increased by 77,000 (+0.4%), with all of the gains in part-time work. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked fell slightly (-0.4%).

Chart 1 Employment



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

In August, employment increased among youths aged 15 to 24 and people aged 55 and older. At the same time, employment was down among those aged 25 to 54.

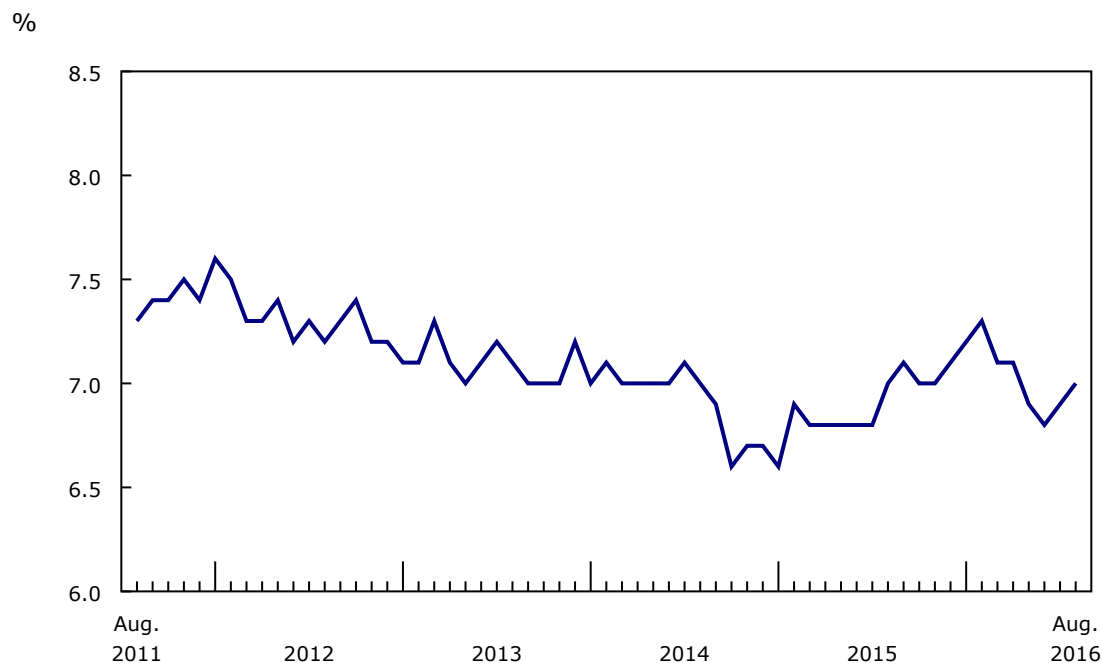
Employment rose in Quebec and in Newfoundland and Labrador, while it declined in New Brunswick. There was little change in the other provinces.

There were more people working in public administration and fewer people working in professional, scientific and technical services.

Public sector employment increased in August, while self-employment fell and the number of private sector employees was little changed.



Chart 2 Unemployment rate



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

Employment up for youths and people 55 and older

In August, employment increased by 22,000 among youths aged 15 to 24. However, the unemployment rate was little changed at 13.2%, as more youths participated in the labour market. On a year-over-year basis, employment for this group was down 48,000 (-1.9%), and their population was also down by 48,000 (-1.1%).

For people aged 55 and older, employment rose by 29,000 in August with increases among both men and women. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.0%, as more people in this age group participated in the labour market. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment among people aged 55 and older was up by 133,000 (+3.7%), and their population increased by 315,000 (+3.1%).

Employment among people aged 25 to 54 decreased by 25,000 in August. Among men, employment edged down, and their unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 6.6%. For women, employment was little changed, and their unemployment rate was 5.2%. On a year-over-year basis, employment for people aged 25 to 54 was virtually unchanged and their population increased by 51,000 (+0.3%).

Provincial summary

In Quebec, employment rose by 22,000 in August, and the unemployment rate was little changed at 7.1%, as more people participated in the labour market. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was up 34,000 (+0.8%).

In Newfoundland and Labrador, employment increased by 4,000 in August, and the unemployment rate edged down to 12.3%. Despite the increase in August, there was little employment change on a year-over-year basis.

Employment in New Brunswick declined by 3,000 in August, and the unemployment rate was 9.4%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in New Brunswick was essentially unchanged.

Employment in Ontario was little changed on both a monthly and year-over-year basis. However, in August, the unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 6.7%, as more people searched for work.

In British Columbia, employment was virtually unchanged in August. The unemployment rate was also little changed at 5.5% and remained the lowest among the provinces. On a year-over-year basis, employment in British Columbia increased by 73,000 or 3.1%, the highest growth rate among the provinces.

Industry perspective

In August, employment in public administration increased by 16,000. Despite an overall increase, there were employment declines among survey interviewers and statistical clerks, an occupational group that corresponds with activities related to the 2016 Census. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in public administration was virtually unchanged.

Employment declined by 23,000 in professional, scientific and technical services. Employment in this industry was little changed on a year-over-year basis.

Public sector employment increased by 57,000 in August, offsetting declines observed in July. Compared with 12 months earlier, public sector employment was virtually unchanged. The public sector includes all employees in public administration, most employees in utilities, and some employees in education, health care and social assistance, transportation and warehousing, and other industries.

Self-employment fell by 39,000 in August and was little changed on a year-over-year basis.

The number of employees in the private sector was little changed compared with the previous month, while it increased by 97,000 (+0.8%) compared with 12 months earlier.

Summer employment for students

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects labour market data about youths aged 15 to 24 who attended school full time in March, and who intend to return full time in the fall. Published data are not seasonally adjusted; therefore, comparisons can only be made on a year-over-year basis.

For students aged 15 to 24, the average employment rate for the summer (that is, from May to August) was 48.8%, similar to the rate of 49.1% observed in 2015.

The average employment rate for students aged 20 to 24 was 64.9% in the summer of 2016 (compared with 66.0% in 2015); for students 17 to 19 it was 55.1% (compared with 54.5%); and for those aged 15 and 16 it was 24.7% (compared with 25.2%).

The average unemployment rate over the summer for students aged 20 to 24 was 10.2%, virtually unchanged from the rate of 10.1% observed for 2015. At the same time, the unemployment rate was 15.3% for those aged 17 to 19 (compared with 17.3% in 2015), and 28.1% for those aged 15 and 16 (compared with 29.7%).

Canada–United States comparison

Adjusted to the concepts used in the United States, the unemployment rate in Canada was 5.9% in August compared with 4.9% in the United States. On a year-over-year basis, the unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in Canada, while it declined slightly in the United States (-0.2 percentage points).

The labour force participation rate in Canada (adjusted to US concepts) was 65.4% in August, compared with 62.8% in the United States. The participation rate in Canada declined 0.4 percentage points over the past 12 months, while it increased slightly in the United States (+0.2 percentage points).

In August, the US-adjusted employment rate in Canada stood at 61.5% compared with 59.7% in the United States. On a year-over-year basis, the employment rate declined by 0.4 percentage points in Canada while it increased by 0.3 percentage points in the United States.

For further information on Canada–US comparisons, see "[Measuring Employment and Unemployment in Canada and the United States – A comparison.](#)"

Note to readers

Collection resumes in Fort McMurray

As a result of the wildfire affecting northern Alberta, Labour Force Survey (LFS) data for the census agglomeration of Wood Buffalo, which includes Fort McMurray, were not collected from May to July 2016. Collection resumed in Wood Buffalo with the August LFS and data for this area are reflected in the national and Alberta estimates published this month. Separate estimates for the economic region of Wood Buffalo–Cold Lake, which are published as three-month moving averages, are not available for June, July or August 2016.

The LFS estimates for August are for the week of August 14 to 20.

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 LFS estimates are the first in a series of labour market indicators released by Statistics Canada, which includes indicators from programs such as the Survey of Payroll Employment, Earnings and Hours (SEPH), Employment Insurance Statistics, and the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey. For more information on the conceptual differences between employment measures from the LFS and SEPH, refer to [section 8](#) of the Guide to the Labour Force Survey (71-543-G).

The **employment rate** is the number of employed people as a percentage of the population aged 15 and older. 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.

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 national 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 October 7.

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

	July 2016	August 2016	Standard error ¹	July to August 2016	August 2015 to August 2016	July to August 2016	August 2015 to August 2016
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over							
Population	29,610.0	29,639.0	...	29.0	317.5	0.1	1.1
Labour force	19,368.0	19,410.7	30.3	42.7	85.0	0.2	0.4
Employment	18,023.3	18,049.5	29.9	26.2	77.4	0.1	0.4
Full-time	14,553.5	14,605.7	41.1	52.2	-35.7	0.4	-0.2
Part-time	3,469.8	3,443.8	38.2	-26.0	113.1	-0.7	3.4
Unemployment	1,344.8	1,361.1	25.3	16.3	7.5	1.2	0.6
Participation rate	65.4	65.5	0.1	0.1	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	7.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	60.9	60.9	0.1	0.0	-0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	19.3	19.1	0.2	-0.2	0.5	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years							
Population	4,387.0	4,380.4	...	-6.6	-48.4	-0.2	-1.1
Labour force	2,762.0	2,783.5	17.5	21.5	-54.2	0.8	-1.9
Employment	2,394.3	2,416.4	16.3	22.1	-48.0	0.9	-1.9
Full-time	1,234.7	1,249.8	20.4	15.1	-28.3	1.2	-2.2
Part-time	1,159.7	1,166.7	21.1	7.0	-19.6	0.6	-1.7
Unemployment	367.7	367.0	14.7	-0.7	-6.2	-0.2	-1.7
Participation rate	63.0	63.5	0.4	0.5	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.3	13.2	0.5	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	54.6	55.2	0.4	0.6	-0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	48.4	48.3	0.8	-0.2	0.1	...	...
Men, 25 years and over							
Population	12,337.8	12,355.2	...	17.4	178.1	0.1	1.5
Labour force	8,778.1	8,797.3	15.8	19.2	26.6	0.2	0.3
Employment	8,221.5	8,219.2	16.8	-2.3	6.3	0.0	0.1
Full-time	7,537.6	7,525.8	23.0	-11.8	-68.4	-0.2	-0.9
Part-time	683.9	693.4	18.4	9.5	74.7	1.4	12.1
Unemployment	556.5	578.2	15.1	21.7	20.4	3.9	3.7
Participation rate	71.1	71.2	0.1	0.1	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	66.6	66.5	0.1	-0.1	-0.9	...	...
Part-time rate	8.3	8.4	0.2	0.1	0.9	...	...
Women, 25 years and over							
Population	12,885.3	12,903.4	...	18.1	187.8	0.1	1.5
Labour force	7,828.0	7,829.9	17.4	1.9	112.6	0.0	1.5
Employment	7,407.4	7,413.9	17.0	6.5	119.1	0.1	1.6
Full-time	5,781.2	5,830.2	26.4	49.0	61.1	0.8	1.1
Part-time	1,626.3	1,583.7	25.1	-42.6	58.0	-2.6	3.8
Unemployment	420.5	416.0	13.9	-4.5	-6.5	-1.1	-1.5
Participation rate	60.8	60.7	0.1	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.3	0.2	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	57.5	57.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	22.0	21.4	0.3	-0.6	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](#).

Table 2
Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹) – Seasonally adjusted

	July 2016	August 2016	Standard error ²	July to August 2016	August 2015 to August 2016	July to August 2016	August 2015 to August 2016
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker							
Employees	15,246.6	15,312.0	36.7	65.4	91.2	0.4	0.6
Self-employed	2,776.7	2,737.6	26.5	-39.1	-13.8	-1.4	-0.5
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,566.7	3,623.7	21.0	57.0	-5.5	1.6	-0.2
Private	11,679.9	11,688.2	36.8	8.3	96.7	0.1	0.8
All industries	18,023.3	18,049.5	29.9	26.2	77.4	0.1	0.4
Goods-producing sector	3,800.8	3,811.6	16.9	10.8	-43.9	0.3	-1.1
Agriculture	295.0	292.0	5.6	-3.0	2.9	-1.0	1.0
Natural resources ³	313.1	317.5	5.3	4.4	-39.6	1.4	-11.1
Utilities	136.3	135.3	2.8	-1.0	-4.6	-0.7	-3.3
Construction	1,367.7	1,375.1	11.6	7.4	14.7	0.5	1.1
Manufacturing	1,688.8	1,691.7	11.0	2.9	-17.3	0.2	-1.0
Services-producing sector	14,222.5	14,237.9	28.5	15.4	121.3	0.1	0.9
Trade	2,730.3	2,741.6	15.2	11.3	2.2	0.4	0.1
Transportation and warehousing	912.7	912.0	8.3	-0.7	-10.7	-0.1	-1.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,125.2	1,123.9	8.7	-1.3	15.3	-0.1	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,400.2	1,377.1	11.3	-23.1	6.5	-1.6	0.5
Business, building and other support services	774.4	765.6	10.5	-8.8	5.9	-1.1	0.8
Educational services	1,258.4	1,251.2	10.5	-7.2	-50.1	-0.6	-3.8
Health care and social assistance	2,352.5	2,360.6	11.5	8.1	61.7	0.3	2.7
Information, culture and recreation	777.0	786.6	10.2	9.6	47.4	1.2	6.4
Accommodation and food services	1,223.4	1,228.5	11.8	5.1	23.8	0.4	2.0
Other services	765.7	771.8	8.2	6.1	15.5	0.8	2.0
Public administration	902.6	918.9	7.5	16.3	3.6	1.8	0.4

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

	July 2016	August 2016	Standard error ¹	July to August 2016	August 2015 to August 2016	July to August 2016	August 2015 to August 2016
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Population	444.6	444.6	...	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.5
Labour force	266.0	269.1	2.1	3.1	-1.9	1.2	-0.7
Employment	232.0	235.9	2.1	3.9	-3.3	1.7	-1.4
Full-time	197.3	197.6	2.6	0.3	-6.1	0.2	-3.0
Part-time	34.8	38.3	2.1	3.5	2.8	10.1	7.9
Unemployment	34.0	33.2	2.1	-0.8	1.4	-2.4	4.4
Participation rate	59.8	60.5	0.5	0.7	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.8	12.3	0.7	-0.5	0.6	...	...
Employment rate	52.2	53.1	0.5	0.9	-1.0	...	...
Prince Edward Island							
Population	122.1	122.1	...	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.8
Labour force	79.0	81.0	0.6	2.0	0.1	2.5	0.1
Employment	71.4	71.2	0.7	-0.2	-1.1	-0.3	-1.5
Full-time	59.2	58.5	0.8	-0.7	-1.3	-1.2	-2.2
Part-time	12.2	12.7	0.7	0.5	0.2	4.1	1.6
Unemployment	7.6	9.8	0.6	2.2	1.3	28.9	15.3
Participation rate	64.7	66.3	0.5	1.6	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.6	12.1	0.7	2.5	1.6	...	...
Employment rate	58.5	58.3	0.5	-0.2	-1.4	...	...
Nova Scotia							
Population	788.9	789.3	...	0.4	3.2	0.1	0.4
Labour force	486.1	486.6	2.6	0.5	-2.5	0.1	-0.5
Employment	445.3	445.2	2.7	-0.1	-2.9	0.0	-0.6
Full-time	361.1	365.0	3.6	3.9	-5.8	1.1	-1.6
Part-time	84.2	80.2	3.2	-4.0	2.9	-4.8	3.8
Unemployment	40.8	41.4	2.4	0.6	0.3	1.5	0.7
Participation rate	61.6	61.6	0.3	0.0	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.4	8.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	56.4	56.4	0.3	0.0	-0.6	...	...
New Brunswick							
Population	623.6	623.6	...	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.3
Labour force	392.7	388.1	2.2	-4.6	-0.8	-1.2	-0.2
Employment	354.6	351.6	2.3	-3.0	0.9	-0.8	0.3
Full-time	300.2	294.7	2.8	-5.5	-1.5	-1.8	-0.5
Part-time	54.4	57.0	2.4	2.6	2.6	4.8	4.8
Unemployment	38.1	36.5	2.1	-1.6	-1.8	-4.2	-4.7
Participation rate	63.0	62.2	0.3	-0.8	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.7	9.4	0.5	-0.3	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	56.9	56.4	0.4	-0.5	0.0	...	...
Quebec							
Population	6,892.2	6,896.9	...	4.7	48.3	0.1	0.7
Labour force	4,417.7	4,443.0	15.8	25.3	-6.8	0.6	-0.2
Employment	4,106.8	4,128.7	16.1	21.9	33.6	0.5	0.8
Full-time	3,318.0	3,325.1	21.8	7.1	31.2	0.2	0.9
Part-time	788.7	803.5	19.8	14.8	2.3	1.9	0.3
Unemployment	310.9	314.3	13.9	3.4	-40.4	1.1	-11.4
Participation rate	64.1	64.4	0.2	0.3	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.0	7.1	0.3	0.1	-0.9	...	...
Employment rate	59.6	59.9	0.2	0.3	0.1	...	...

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

	July 2016	August 2016	Standard error ¹	July to August 2016	August 2015 to August 2016	July to August 2016	August 2015 to August 2016
Ontario							
Population	11,531.4	11,545.9	...	14.5	144.8	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,447.0	7,477.4	20.5	30.4	29.1	0.4	0.4
Employment	6,966.6	6,977.1	19.5	10.5	37.2	0.2	0.5
Full-time	5,663.6	5,672.2	26.9	8.6	0.8	0.2	0.0
Part-time	1,303.1	1,304.8	25.5	1.7	36.4	0.1	2.9
Unemployment	480.3	500.3	16.7	20.0	-8.2	4.2	-1.6
Participation rate	64.6	64.8	0.2	0.2	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.7	0.2	0.3	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	60.4	60.4	0.2	0.0	-0.5	...	...
Manitoba							
Population	1,000.1	1,001.3	...	1.2	12.8	0.1	1.3
Labour force	678.0	674.0	2.6	-4.0	0.3	-0.6	0.0
Employment	636.3	633.9	2.6	-2.4	-1.7	-0.4	-0.3
Full-time	515.2	511.9	3.6	-3.3	0.0	-0.6	0.0
Part-time	121.1	122.0	3.3	0.9	-1.7	0.7	-1.4
Unemployment	41.7	40.1	2.1	-1.6	2.0	-3.8	5.2
Participation rate	67.8	67.3	0.3	-0.5	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.2	5.9	0.3	-0.3	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	63.6	63.3	0.3	-0.3	-1.0	...	...
Saskatchewan							
Population	869.7	870.7	...	1.0	7.9	0.1	0.9
Labour force	607.5	607.4	2.6	-0.1	4.8	0.0	0.8
Employment	569.4	569.0	2.6	-0.4	-4.5	-0.1	-0.8
Full-time	464.8	462.7	3.5	-2.1	-4.6	-0.5	-1.0
Part-time	104.6	106.3	3.2	1.7	0.1	1.6	0.1
Unemployment	38.1	38.5	2.2	0.4	9.4	1.0	32.3
Participation rate	69.9	69.8	0.3	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.3	0.3	0.0	1.5	...	...
Employment rate	65.5	65.3	0.3	-0.2	-1.2	...	...
Alberta							
Population	3,402.8	3,405.2	...	2.4	40.1	0.1	1.2
Labour force	2,459.0	2,457.8	9.6	-1.2	2.7	0.0	0.1
Employment	2,248.2	2,250.9	9.7	2.7	-53.4	0.1	-2.3
Full-time	1,814.8	1,836.3	13.6	21.5	-90.9	1.2	-4.7
Part-time	433.3	414.6	12.6	-18.7	37.5	-4.3	9.9
Unemployment	210.8	206.9	8.2	-3.9	56.1	-1.9	37.2
Participation rate	72.3	72.2	0.3	-0.1	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.6	8.4	0.3	-0.2	2.3	...	...
Employment rate	66.1	66.1	0.3	0.0	-2.4	...	...
British Columbia							
Population	3,934.6	3,939.5	...	4.9	55.4	0.1	1.4
Labour force	2,535.0	2,526.2	10.8	-8.8	60.0	-0.3	2.4
Employment	2,392.7	2,386.1	10.7	-6.6	72.6	-0.3	3.1
Full-time	1,859.3	1,881.7	15.1	22.4	42.6	1.2	2.3
Part-time	533.4	504.4	14.4	-29.0	30.0	-5.4	6.3
Unemployment	142.3	140.1	8.9	-2.2	-12.6	-1.5	-8.3
Participation rate	64.4	64.1	0.3	-0.3	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.5	0.3	-0.1	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	60.8	60.6	0.3	-0.2	1.0	...	...

... 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](#), [282-0003](#), [282-0005 to 282-0007](#), [282-0011](#), [282-0013](#), [282-0015](#), [282-0017](#), [282-0019](#), [282-0021](#), [282-0027](#), [282-0032](#), [282-0035](#), [282-0037](#), [282-0041](#), [282-0047](#), [282-0049](#), [282-0071](#), [282-0073](#), [282-0075](#), [282-0077](#), [282-0079](#), [282-0083](#), [282-0085](#), [282-0087 to 282-0089](#), [282-0092](#), [282-0094](#), [282-0100](#), [282-0101](#), [282-0103](#), [282-0105](#), [282-0107](#), [282-0122](#), [282-0124](#), [282-0128](#), [282-0130](#), [282-0135 to 282-0137](#), [282-0139](#), [282-0141](#), [282-0143](#), [282-0145](#), [282-0147](#), [282-0149](#), [282-0151](#), [282-0153](#), [282-0155](#), [282-0156](#), [282-0158](#), [282-0160](#), [282-0162](#), [282-0167](#), [282-0168](#), [282-0200](#), [282-0204](#), [282-0208](#), [282-0210](#), [282-0212](#), [282-0214](#), [282-0216](#) and [282-0218](#).

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 August 20. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Labour*.

More information about the concepts and use of the Labour Force Survey is available online in the *Guide to the Labour Force Survey* ([71-543-G](#)), from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*.

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