Employment Insurance, November 2020

*Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in The Daily, Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Statistics for November on Employment Insurance (EI) reflect labour market conditions as of the week of November 8 to 14.

In September and October, many provinces implemented targeted public health measures in response to a rise in COVID-19 cases. In early November, restrictions related to indoor dining and fitness facilities were eased in Ontario, while new measures were adopted in Manitoba, affecting restaurants, recreation facilities and retail businesses. Much of Quebec was faced with the ongoing closure of indoor dining and many recreational and cultural facilities.

Regular EI beneficiaries down slightly from record number in October

In November, 1.3 million Canadians received regular EI benefits, down 3.4% from a record 1.4 million in October. According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), a total of 1.7 million Canadians were unemployed during the week of November 8 to 14. The vast majority of the unemployed (1.5 million) were looking for work, while 253,000 still had a connection to a job, either because they were on temporary layoff or had arrangements to begin a new job in the near future.

Infographic 1 – Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries down slightly from record number in October
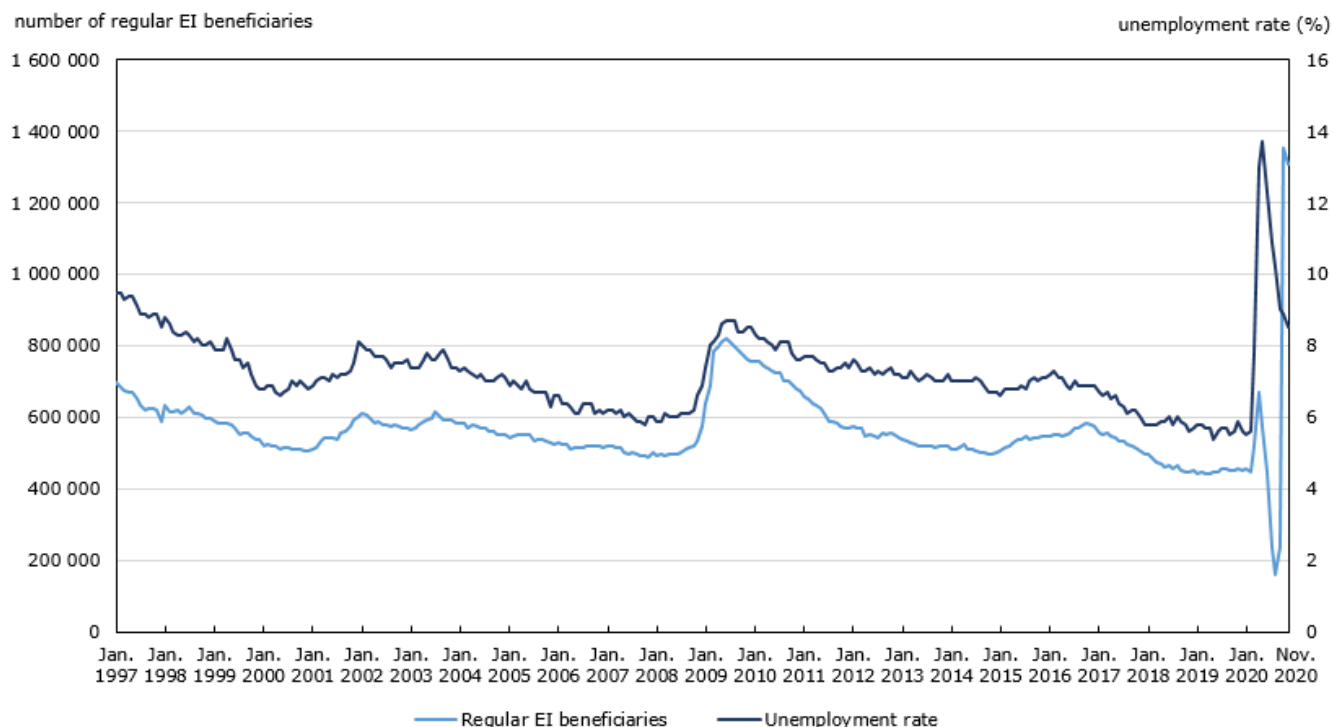
Source(s): Employment Insurance Statistics (2604), table 14-10-0011-01; Labour Force Survey (3701), table 14-10-0287-01.

More than 1 in 10 regular EI beneficiaries qualified for EI as a result of the new rules

In November, 12.4% of all regular EI beneficiaries qualified for EI as a result of temporary changes to eligibility rules introduced to the EI program in September 2020, up from 11.2% in October (not seasonally adjusted). The proportion of regular EI beneficiaries qualifying under the new rules increased in every province, led by Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.5 percentage points) and Prince Edward Island (+2.1 percentage points).

Chart 1
The proportion of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries qualifying under the new rules increases in every province (not seasonally adjusted)
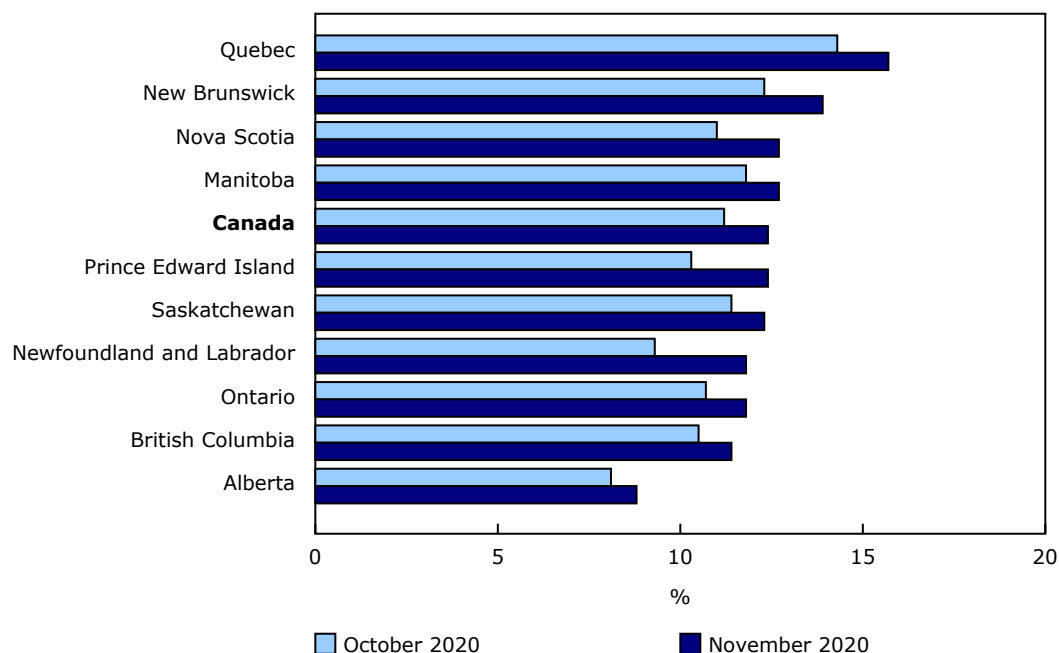
Source(s): Employment Insurance Statistics (2604), custom tabulation.

The number of regular EI beneficiaries decreases in seven provinces

The number of regular EI beneficiaries declined in seven provinces in November, led by British Columbia (-20,000; -11.3%) and Alberta (-19,000; -9.4%). According to the LFS, employment grew by 24,000 (+1.0%) in British Columbia in November, while it was little changed in Alberta. At the same time, Ontario (+4,100; +0.9%), Quebec (+5,400; +1.9%) and Manitoba (+3,800; +9.6%) recorded increases in the number of EI recipients. Results from the November LFS indicate that, amidst tightening of public health measures, employment growth continued to slow in Central Canada, while employment declined in Manitoba.

On a regional basis, the number of EI beneficiaries decreased proportionally more in census agglomerations (CAs) (-16,000; -9.3%) and in regions outside census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and CAs (-17,000; -6.6%) than in CMAs (-14,000; -1.5%).

Accommodation and food services account for largest share of regular EI beneficiaries

In November, 75.3% of regular EI recipients last worked in the services-producing sector, compared with 59.5% in the same month a year ago (not seasonally adjusted). The industry hardest hit by public health measures—accommodation and food services—accounted for 18.5% of regular EI beneficiaries in November, up from 7.0% in November 2019. November LFS results showed a second consecutive monthly decline in employment in accommodation and food services, and employment in this industry remained farthest from pre-COVID February levels.

Chart 2
Largest proportion of regular EI beneficiaries in accommodation and food services (not seasonally adjusted)

proportion of regular EI beneficiaries (%)

□ November 2019   ■ November 2020

Source(s): Employment Insurance (EI) Statistics (2604), custom tabulation.

Number of regular EI beneficiaries decreases significantly more among women than men
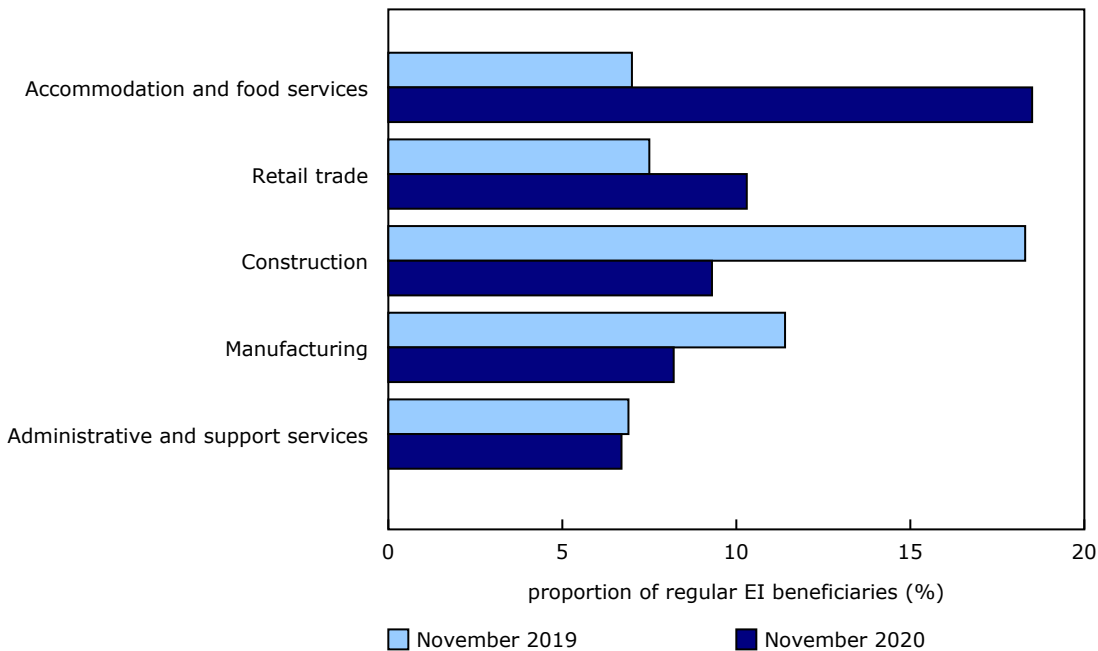
The number of women receiving regular EI benefits fell by 38,000 (-5.7%) in November—a decrease that is almost five times greater than the decline among men (-8,000; -1.2%). The decrease in the number of regular EI recipients among women was driven by those aged 25 to 54 years (-16,000; -4.0%) and those aged 55 years and older (-16,000; -8.8%). Women accounted for 48.7% of all regular EI beneficiaries in November, a proportion that is notably higher than that of 37.3% recorded in February 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Male youth (aged 15 to 24) were the only age group to show an increase in the number of regular EI recipients in November (+2,000; +2.4%).

Looking ahead

In November, a little more than 8 in 10 (82.3%) regular EI recipients had also been EI recipients the previous month. This contrasts with November 2019, when 6 in 10 (60.7%) regular beneficiaries had received EI the month prior. According to the LFS, approximately 6 in 10 unemployed in October remained unemployed in November and one-quarter (25.6%) of all unemployed in November had been continuously out of work for 27 weeks or more.

Going forward, EI statistics will continue to contribute to a better understanding of the ability of workers to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, as additional public health measures are being implemented in the second wave of the pandemic.

Table 1
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by province and territory, sex and age group – Seasonally adjusted

	November 2019	October 2020[p]	November 2020[p]	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020
	number			change		% change	
Canada							
Both sexes	**455,670**	**1,353,720**	**1,307,170**	**-46,550**	**851,500**	**-3.4**	**186.9**
15 to 24 years	44,010	177,230	173,310	-3,920	129,300	-2.2	293.8
25 to 54 years	285,100	825,060	799,880	-25,180	514,780	-3.1	180.6
55 years and over	126,570	351,430	333,970	-17,460	207,400	-5.0	163.9
Men	**289,810**	**679,410**	**671,100**	**-8,310**	**381,290**	**-1.2**	**131.6**
15 to 24 years	31,850	92,790	95,020	2,230	63,170	2.4	198.3
25 to 54 years	178,590	411,820	403,110	-8,710	224,520	-2.1	125.7
55 years and over	79,380	174,800	172,970	-1,830	93,590	-1.0	117.9
Women	**165,860**	**674,320**	**636,070**	**-38,250**	**470,210**	**-5.7**	**283.5**
15 to 24 years	12,160	84,440	78,290	-6,150	66,130	-7.3	543.8
25 to 54 years	106,510	413,240	396,780	-16,460	290,270	-4.0	272.5
55 years and over	47,190	176,630	161,010	-15,620	113,820	-8.8	241.2
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	**32,830**	**45,880**	**43,540**	**-2,340**	**10,710**	**-5.1**	**32.6**
15 to 24 years	2,950	4,920	4,870	-50	1,920	-1.0	65.1
25 to 54 years	17,850	25,890	23,890	-2,000	6,040	-7.7	33.8
55 years and over	12,030	15,070	14,780	-290	2,750	-1.9	22.9
Men	**20,070**	**27,040**	**25,980**	**-1,060**	**5,910**	**-3.9**	**29.4**
Women	**12,760**	**18,840**	**17,550**	**-1,290**	**4,790**	**-6.8**	**37.5**
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	**7,910**	**11,550**	**10,160**	**-1,390**	**2,250**	**-12.0**	**28.4**
15 to 24 years	1,540	1,900	1,840	-60	300	-3.2	19.5
25 to 54 years	3,890	6,040	5,090	-950	1,200	-15.7	30.8
55 years and over	2,480	3,610	3,220	-390	740	-10.8	29.8
Men	**4,660**	**6,500**	**5,900**	**-600**	**1,240**	**-9.2**	**26.6**
Women	**3,250**	**5,050**	**4,260**	**-790**	**1,010**	**-15.6**	**31.1**
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	**26,030**	**50,420**	**44,480**	**-5,940**	**18,450**	**-11.8**	**70.9**
15 to 24 years	2,920	5,430	4,940	-490	2,020	-9.0	69.2
25 to 54 years	15,210	30,340	26,710	-3,630	11,500	-12.0	75.6
55 years and over	7,900	14,640	12,840	-1,800	4,940	-12.3	62.5
Men	**16,840**	**27,490**	**25,720**	**-1,770**	**8,880**	**-6.4**	**52.7**
Women	**9,200**	**22,930**	**18,760**	**-4,170**	**9,560**	**-18.2**	**103.9**
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	**31,010**	**51,880**	**46,110**	**-5,770**	**15,100**	**-11.1**	**48.7**
15 to 24 years	5,090	7,730	7,600	-130	2,510	-1.7	49.3
25 to 54 years	16,020	28,580	24,700	-3,880	8,680	-13.6	54.2
55 years and over	9,900	15,570	13,810	-1,760	3,910	-11.3	39.5
Men	**19,850**	**29,970**	**26,870**	**-3,100**	**7,020**	**-10.3**	**35.4**
Women	**11,160**	**21,910**	**19,250**	**-2,660**	**8,090**	**-12.1**	**72.5**
Quebec							
Both sexes	**108,380**	**282,980**	**288,350**	**5,370**	**179,970**	**1.9**	**166.1**
15 to 24 years	8,120	37,360	38,400	1,040	30,280	2.8	372.9
25 to 54 years	67,110	154,810	163,880	9,070	96,770	5.9	144.2
55 years and over	33,140	90,800	86,080	-4,720	52,940	-5.2	159.7
Men	**71,470**	**155,110**	**161,450**	**6,340**	**89,980**	**4.1**	**125.9**
Women	**36,910**	**127,870**	**126,900**	**-970**	**89,990**	**-0.8**	**243.8**
Ontario							
Both sexes	**122,430**	**447,010**	**451,100**	**4,090**	**328,670**	**0.9**	**268.5**
15 to 24 years	10,060	57,880	58,840	960	48,780	1.7	484.9
25 to 54 years	81,540	283,520	285,540	2,020	204,000	0.7	250.2
55 years and over	30,830	105,610	106,720	1,110	75,890	1.1	246.2
Men	**73,310**	**193,120**	**200,300**	**7,180**	**126,990**	**3.7**	**173.2**
Women	**49,120**	**253,890**	**250,790**	**-3,100**	**201,670**	**-1.2**	**410.6**

Table 1 - continued
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by province and territory, sex and age group – Seasonally adjusted

	November 2019	October 2020[p]	November 2020[p]	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020
Manitoba							
Both sexes	**15,370**	**38,940**	**42,690**	**3,750**	**27,320**	**9.6**	**177.7**
15 to 24 years	2,150	5,850	7,270	1,420	5,120	24.3	238.1
25 to 54 years	9,900	25,120	26,390	1,270	16,490	5.1	166.6
55 years and over	3,310	7,980	9,030	1,050	5,720	13.2	172.8
Men	**10,300**	**20,500**	**22,270**	**1,770**	**11,970**	**8.6**	**116.2**
Women	**5,070**	**18,450**	**20,420**	**1,970**	**15,350**	**10.7**	**302.8**
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	**16,140**	**41,650**	**36,090**	**-5,560**	**19,950**	**-13.3**	**123.6**
15 to 24 years	1,970	5,390	4,840	-550	2,870	-10.2	145.7
25 to 54 years	10,420	27,700	23,170	-4,530	12,750	-16.4	122.4
55 years and over	3,750	8,560	8,080	-480	4,330	-5.6	115.5
Men	**11,550**	**24,250**	**21,090**	**-3,160**	**9,540**	**-13.0**	**82.6**
Women	**4,590**	**17,400**	**14,990**	**-2,410**	**10,400**	**-13.9**	**226.6**
Alberta							
Both sexes	**50,560**	**203,200**	**184,120**	**-19,080**	**133,560**	**-9.4**	**264.2**
15 to 24 years	5,080	27,170	23,990	-3,180	18,910	-11.7	372.2
25 to 54 years	34,330	129,800	119,630	-10,170	85,300	-7.8	248.5
55 years and over	11,150	46,220	40,510	-5,710	29,360	-12.4	263.3
Men	**33,730**	**105,890**	**100,100**	**-5,790**	**66,370**	**-5.5**	**196.8**
Women	**16,830**	**97,310**	**84,020**	**-13,290**	**67,190**	**-13.7**	**399.2**
British Columbia							
Both sexes	**42,200**	**175,210**	**155,470**	**-19,740**	**113,270**	**-11.3**	**268.4**
15 to 24 years	3,840	23,030	20,070	-2,960	16,230	-12.9	422.7
25 to 54 years	26,860	109,840	97,520	-12,320	70,660	-11.2	263.1
55 years and over	11,500	42,340	37,880	-4,460	26,380	-10.5	229.4
Men	**26,190**	**86,580**	**78,430**	**-8,150**	**52,240**	**-9.4**	**199.5**
Women	**16,010**	**88,630**	**77,050**	**-11,580**	**61,040**	**-13.1**	**381.3**
Yukon							
Both sexes	**600**	**1,210**	**1,260**	**50**	**660**	**4.1**	**110.0**
15 to 24 years	60	120	140	20	80	16.7	133.3
25 to 54 years	380	800	810	10	430	1.3	113.2
55 years and over	150	290	320	30	170	10.3	113.3
Men	**390**	**740**	**790**	**50**	**400**	**6.8**	**102.6**
Women	**200**	**470**	**470**	**0**	**270**	**0.0**	**135.0**
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	**720**	**1,460**	**1,420**	**-40**	**700**	**-2.7**	**97.2**
15 to 24 years	60	140	150	10	90	7.1	150.0
25 to 54 years	510	1,000	960	-40	450	-4.0	88.2
55 years and over	150	320	320	0	170	0.0	113.3
Men	**490**	**890**	**870**	**-20**	**380**	**-2.2**	**77.6**
Women	**230**	**570**	**560**	**-10**	**330**	**-1.8**	**143.5**
Nunavut							
Both sexes	**470**	**710**	**690**	**-20**	**220**	**-2.8**	**46.8**
15 to 24 years	50	90	90	0	40	0.0	80.0
25 to 54 years	360	540	520	-20	160	-3.7	44.4
55 years and over	70	80	80	0	10	0.0	14.3
Men	**320**	**450**	**430**	**-20**	**110**	**-4.4**	**34.4**
Women	**150**	**270**	**250**	**-20**	**100**	**-7.4**	**66.7**

[p] preliminary
1. Includes people who receive regular income benefits, whether or not they participate in one of three employment benefit programs, namely the Skills Development Program, the Job Creation Partnerships Program and the Self-employment Program.
Source(s): Table **14-10-0011-01** (formerly CANSIM table 276-0022).

Table 2
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by census metropolitan category[2] – Seasonally adjusted

	November 2019	October 2020[p]	November 2020[p]	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020
	number			change		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	**4,240**	**10,960**	**10,200**	**-760**	**5,960**	**-6.9**	**140.6**
St. John's	4,240	10,960	10,200	-760	5,960	-6.9	140.6
Census agglomerations	**4,370**	**5,910**	**5,680**	**-230**	**1,310**	**-3.9**	**30.0**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**24,230**	**29,010**	**27,650**	**-1,360**	**3,420**	**-4.7**	**14.1**
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	**3,480**	**5,920**	**5,180**	**-740**	**1,700**	**-12.5**	**48.9**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**4,430**	**5,630**	**4,970**	**-660**	**540**	**-11.7**	**12.2**
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	**4,800**	**17,430**	**15,290**	**-2,140**	**10,490**	**-12.3**	**218.5**
Halifax	4,800	17,430	15,290	-2,140	10,490	-12.3	218.5
Census agglomerations	**8,570**	**14,230**	**12,390**	**-1,840**	**3,820**	**-12.9**	**44.6**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**12,670**	**18,760**	**16,800**	**-1,960**	**4,130**	**-10.4**	**32.6**
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	**5,280**	**14,430**	**13,190**	**-1,240**	**7,910**	**-8.6**	**149.8**
Moncton	2,690	8,640	7,490	-1,150	4,800	-13.3	178.4
Saint John	2,590	5,790	5,700	-90	3,110	-1.6	120.1
Census agglomerations	**6,550**	**11,690**	**10,480**	**-1,210**	**3,930**	**-10.4**	**60.0**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**19,190**	**25,750**	**22,440**	**-3,310**	**3,250**	**-12.9**	**16.9**
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	**56,610**	**187,130**	**197,260**	**10,130**	**140,650**	**5.4**	**248.5**
Montréal	39,400	132,430	141,870	9,440	102,470	7.1	260.1
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	2,780	8,970	9,780	810	7,000	9.0	251.8
Québec	7,110	30,310	28,960	-1,350	21,850	-4.5	307.3
Saguenay	2,740	5,690	6,070	380	3,330	6.7	121.5
Sherbrooke	2,500	4,750	5,160	410	2,660	8.6	106.4
Trois-Rivières	2,090	4,980	5,430	450	3,340	9.0	159.8
Census agglomerations	**13,710**	**29,410**	**29,040**	**-370**	**15,330**	**-1.3**	**111.8**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**38,060**	**66,440**	**62,060**	**-4,380**	**24,000**	**-6.6**	**63.1**
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	**89,890**	**381,130**	**388,540**	**7,410**	**298,650**	**1.9**	**332.2**
Barrie	2,050	8,330	7,720	-610	5,670	-7.3	276.6
Belleville	1,210	3,700	3,510	-190	2,300	-5.1	190.1
Brantford	1,570	3,790	3,890	100	2,320	2.6	147.8
Greater Sudbury	2,320	5,250	5,040	-210	2,720	-4.0	117.2
Guelph	1,170	3,940	4,190	250	3,020	6.3	258.1
Hamilton	5,910	24,280	24,560	280	18,650	1.2	315.6
Kingston	1,600	3,730	3,870	140	2,270	3.8	141.9
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	4,530	15,740	16,150	410	11,620	2.6	256.5
London	4,350	14,370	15,080	710	10,730	4.9	246.7
Oshawa	3,690	14,160	14,690	530	11,000	3.7	298.1
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	5,740	22,340	23,200	860	17,460	3.8	304.2
Peterborough	1,160	3,830	3,440	-390	2,280	-10.2	196.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	4,430	16,300	17,120	820	12,690	5.0	286.5
Thunder Bay	1,510	3,010	3,150	140	1,640	4.7	108.6
Toronto	45,150	220,490	229,230	8,740	184,080	4.0	407.7
Windsor	3,490	17,860	13,700	-4,160	10,210	-23.3	292.6
Census agglomerations	**13,700**	**34,980**	**31,580**	**-3,400**	**17,880**	**-9.7**	**130.5**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**18,840**	**30,910**	**30,970**	**60**	**12,130**	**0.2**	**64.4**
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	**7,320**	**24,740**	**28,510**	**3,770**	**21,190**	**15.2**	**289.5**
Winnipeg	7,320	24,740	28,510	3,770	21,190	15.2	289.5
Census agglomerations	**1,370**	**3,760**	**3,540**	**-220**	**2,170**	**-5.9**	**158.4**

Table 2 - continued
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by census metropolitan category[2] – Seasonally adjusted

	November 2019	October 2020[p]	November 2020[p]	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020	October to November 2020	November 2019 to November 2020
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**6,680**	**10,450**	**10,640**	**190**	**3,960**	**1.8**	**59.3**
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	**5,770**	**21,910**	**17,740**	**-4,170**	**11,970**	**-19.0**	**207.5**
Regina	2,120	9,050	7,380	-1,670	5,260	-18.5	248.1
Saskatoon	3,650	12,860	10,360	-2,500	6,710	-19.4	183.8
Census agglomerations	**2,890**	**7,120**	**6,670**	**-450**	**3,780**	**-6.3**	**130.8**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**7,470**	**12,620**	**11,680**	**-940**	**4,210**	**-7.4**	**56.4**
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	**34,120**	**147,220**	**134,410**	**-12,810**	**100,290**	**-8.7**	**293.9**
Calgary	15,680	76,740	68,380	-8,360	52,700	-10.9	336.1
Edmonton	17,320	66,030	62,340	-3,690	45,020	-5.6	259.9
Lethbridge	1,120	4,440	3,690	-750	2,570	-16.9	229.5
Census agglomerations	**6,940**	**27,910**	**24,340**	**-3,570**	**17,400**	**-12.8**	**250.7**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**9,490**	**28,080**	**25,370**	**-2,710**	**15,880**	**-9.7**	**167.3**
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	**20,660**	**120,780**	**106,960**	**-13,820**	**86,300**	**-11.4**	**417.7**
Abbotsford–Mission	1,820	4,700	3,880	-820	2,060	-17.4	113.2
Kelowna	2,200	8,520	7,350	-1,170	5,150	-13.7	234.1
Vancouver	14,450	96,630	86,060	-10,570	71,610	-10.9	495.6
Victoria	2,190	10,930	9,670	-1,260	7,480	-11.5	341.6
Census agglomerations	**11,980**	**33,890**	**29,560**	**-4,330**	**17,580**	**-12.8**	**146.7**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**9,560**	**20,540**	**18,950**	**-1,590**	**9,390**	**-7.7**	**98.2**

p preliminary
1. Includes people who receive regular income benefits, whether or not they participate in one of three employment benefit programs, namely the Skills Development Program, the Job Creation Partnerships Program and the Self-employment Program.
2. 2016 Standard Geographical Classification.
Source(s): Table **14-10-0322-01**.

<div style="background-color:#d9ead3;">

Sustainable Development Goals

On January 1, 2016, the world officially began implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—the United Nations' transformative plan of action that addresses urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The plan is based on 17 specific sustainable development goals.

Employment Insurance statistics are an example of how Statistics Canada supports the reporting on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. This release will be used in helping to measure the following goal:

</div>

Note to readers

Employment Insurance in the context of broader COVID-19 benefit programs

No methodological changes were made to the Employment Insurance Statistics (EIS) program over the COVID-19 period. EIS reflect the Employment Insurance program for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) reference week in each month.

Data for the November 2020 reference period and onward consist of individuals who obtained EI benefits, and exclude beneficiaries of the Canada Recovery Benefits (Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB), and Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)).

Concepts and methodology

The analysis presented here focuses on people who received regular EI benefits related to job loss. Claims data pertain to initial and renewal claims received for any type of EI benefits, including special benefits.

EI statistics are produced from administrative data sources provided by Service Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada. These statistics may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act or administrative procedures.

Regular EI benefits are paid to eligible individuals who lose their jobs and who are available for and able to work, but cannot find a job. To receive EI benefits, individuals must first submit a claim.

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits, and should not be confused with LFS data, which provide estimates of the total number of unemployed people. There is always a certain proportion of unemployed people who do not qualify for benefits. Some unemployed people have not contributed to the program because they have not worked in the past 12 months or their employment was not insured. Other unemployed people have contributed to the program but do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as workers who left their jobs voluntarily or those who did not accumulate enough hours of work to receive benefits.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise specified. Values for all series from March to November 2020 have been treated as outliers in the determination of a seasonal pattern for seasonal adjustment. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions.

Numbers in the Daily text are rounded to the nearest thousand.

The number of regular EI beneficiaries and the number of claims received for the current month and the previous month are subject to revision.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all people who received regular EI benefits from November 8 to 14. This period coincides with the reference week of the LFS. However, claims data are for the entire month.

New indicators introduced in October 2020

1. Beneficiaries who qualified for EI under the new EI rules introduced in September 2020

Temporary changes to the EI program that provided all new regular EI beneficiaries with a one-time credit of 300 insurable hours were introduced on September 27, 2020. In addition, the unemployment rate used to calculate their eligibility and entitlement weeks was 13.1%, unless their region's unemployment rate was higher.

This supplementary indicator presents the number of individuals that only qualified for EI as a result of these program changes.

2. Beneficiaries who have not made a previous paid claim within the last five years

The indicator of whether a beneficiary has made a previous paid claim in the past five years is based only on claims for EI. Whether or not the beneficiary received CERB payments between March and September 2020 is not used in the calculation of this indicator.

3. EI beneficiaries by industry

The industry of EI beneficiaries is determined through the integration of EI and Record of Employment (ROE) administrative data. For beneficiaries with more than one record of employment in the past 52 weeks, the records with the greatest number of hours are used. If no industry information can be found, industry information is deemed "Not classified" for the beneficiary.

Geographical definitions

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centered on a population centre. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000. A CA must have a population of at least 10,000. See Standard Geographical Classification 2016 – definitions for more information.

Data availability

A number of CODR data tables published on the Statistics Canada website remain suspended with the release of the November 2020 data.

14-10-0336 and 14-10-0337: remain suspended, as of the December 2019 reference period, due to occupational coding issues from the source data file. Work is on-going to identify a solution and continue publication of the tables.

14-10-0004, 14-10-0005, 14-10-0007, and 14-10-0008: remain suspended, as of the March 2020 reference period, due to a source data file containing records for CERB claimants and beneficiaries that could not be identified and excluded through processing.

14-10-0009: for the March to September reference periods, sub-aggregates of the parent "regular benefits" benefit type have been suppressed due to data quality.

Next release

Data on EI for December 2020 will be released on February 18, 2021.

Available tables: 14-10-0006-01, 14-10-0009-01 to 14-10-0011-01 , 14-10-0137-01, 14-10-0322-01, 14-10-0323-01, 14-10-0343-01, 14-10-0344-01 and 14-10-0346-01.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

More information about the concepts and use of Employment Insurance statistics is available in the *Guide to Employment Insurance Statistics* (**73-506-G**).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca**).