

Payroll employment, earnings and hours, and job vacancies, July 2021

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Payroll employment rose by 324,800 (+2.0%) in July. The increase was driven mainly by gains in the services-producing sector in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

In June, following the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, most jurisdictions began to substantially ease public health restrictions affecting indoor and outdoor dining, recreation and cultural activities, retail shopping, and personal care services. By July, this easing was largely complete in most jurisdictions.

Hourly paid employees drive payroll employment increase in July

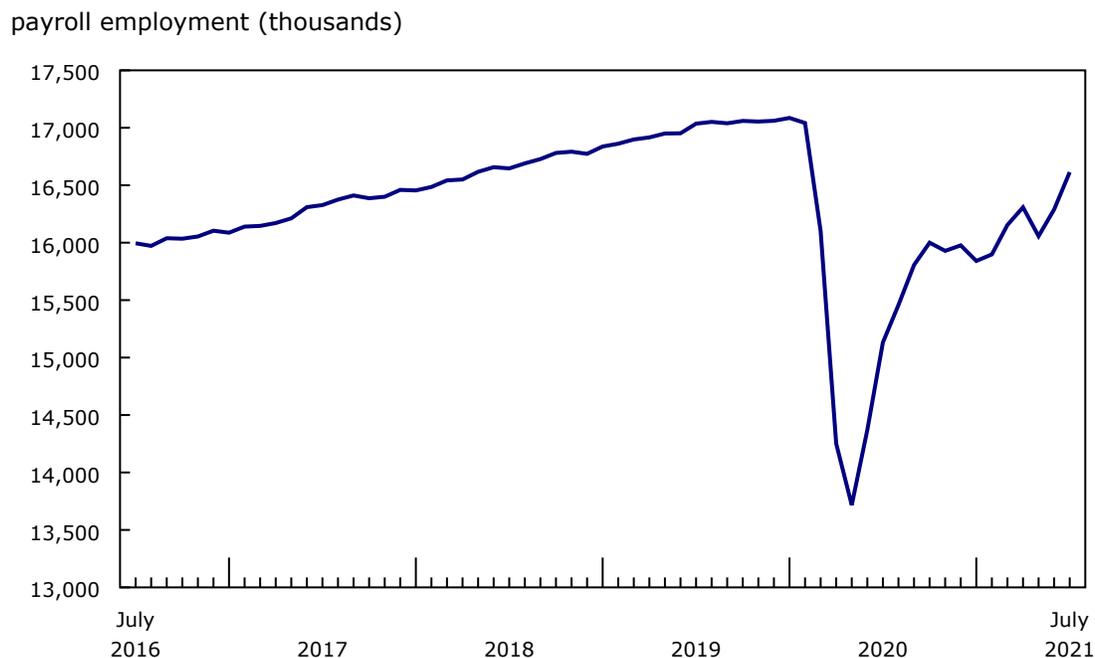
Payroll employment—or the number of employees receiving pay or benefits from their employer—increased by 324,800 (+2.0%) in July, the largest monthly increase since September 2020. Compared with February 2020, payroll employment was down by 427,800 (-2.5%) in July 2021. Hourly-paid payroll employment was 2.0% below the February 2020 level, while salary-paid payroll employment was little changed.

Payroll employment was up in nine provinces in July, with Ontario (+183,800; +3.0%) and Alberta (+46,300; +2.4%) seeing the largest increases. Despite these monthly gains, payroll employment remained further from its pre-COVID February 2020 level in Ontario (-255,300; -3.8%) and Alberta (-63,300; -3.2%) than in all other provinces. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island were the lone provinces where payroll employment had surpassed its pre-COVID payroll employment level.

July payroll employment gains were driven by the services-producing sector in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, as indoor capacity restrictions were eased in Ontario, and lifted in Alberta and British Columbia. Gains were concentrated among hourly paid employees (+301,000; +3.2%), which accounted for more than 90% of the July increase. Nearly half of the employment gain in the month was in accommodation and food services, and retail trade—two sectors with high concentrations of hourly paid employees.



Chart 1
Payroll employment increases in July at fastest rate since September 2020



Source(s): Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (2612), table 14-10-0220-01.

Payroll employment continues to increase in services-producing sectors as public health measures ease

As public health measures were eased in many jurisdictions, payroll employment increased by 315,800 (+2.4%) in services-producing sectors.

Payroll employment increased by 95,400 (+9.9%) in accommodation and food services in July, with almost half of the increase occurring in Ontario. Nationally, the majority of the gains were in the food services and drinking places subsector (+81,400; +9.7%). Despite the increase in the month, payroll employment in accommodation and food services was 20.8% below its pre-COVID level.

Payroll employment in retail trade increased by 46,600 (+2.4%) in July, with two-fifths of the increase occurring in the clothing and clothing accessories (+19,400; +11.4%) subsector.

In the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, payroll employment increased (+30,000; +15.5%) in July, but was 29.2% below its pre-COVID level. Nearly all the gains in the month were in the amusement, gambling and recreation industries subsector (+26,400; +19.4%).

Second consecutive increase in the goods-producing sector

There was a small increase in payroll employment in the goods-producing sector in July (+4,600; +0.2%), as a gain in manufacturing (+8,700; +0.6%) was offset by small declines in construction (-2,700; -0.3%) and forestry, logging and support (-400; -1.1%). This was the second consecutive monthly increase in payroll employment in the goods-producing sector, bringing it to within 1.8% of its pre-COVID level.

Average weekly earnings increase in July

Despite employment gains being concentrated in industries typically associated with lower-wage jobs, average weekly earnings rose 1.0% in July to \$1,133. Gains were observed in British Columbia (+2.4% to \$1,143), Alberta (+2.1% to \$1,240), Ontario (+1.3% to \$1,167) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.3% to \$1,104). Average weekly earnings decreased in New Brunswick (-1.6% to \$999) and Quebec (-0.7% to \$1,054).

In general, changes in average weekly earnings are the result of a number of factors, including wage growth; changes in the composition of employment by industry, occupation and level of job experience; and average hours worked per week.

Average hours worked little changed in July

Average hours worked were little changed in July, at 33.5 hours per week. Hourly paid employees worked an average of 31.2 hours per week, 1.6% above the February 2020 level, while salaried employees worked an average of 37.2 hours per week, 1.1% higher than in February 2020.

Job vacancies remain high entering July

At the start of July, Canadian employers were actively recruiting for an estimated 805,500 job vacancies, similar to the level in June (796,900). The job vacancy rate, which measures vacant positions as a proportion of all positions (vacant and occupied), was 4.8% in July. Since October 2020, the job vacancy rate had ranged from 3.0% in December 2020 to 4.9% in June 2021 (data from the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey are unadjusted for seasonality).

The accommodation and food services sector had more vacancies at the start of July (132,800) than any other sector and accounted for one-sixth of all job vacancies. This sector also had the highest job vacancy rate (11.6%) as job vacancies reached an all-time high, while employment entering July remained below its pre-COVID level.

Retail trade had the second largest number of job vacancies in July (101,300) and the job vacancy rate was 4.9%, its highest level since October 2020.

There were 97,800 job vacancies in the health care and social assistance sector in July, fewer than in each of the previous three months. The job vacancy rate in the sector was 4.3%.

Quebec (5.7%) and British Columbia (5.6%) had the highest job vacancy rates among the provinces in July. The job vacancy rate was lowest in Manitoba (2.9%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (3.0%).

Preliminary June estimates released on August 26 have been revised and released as final. All references to June estimates refer to the final values.

Looking ahead: Further loosening and removal of public health measures

By August, most jurisdictions in Canada were in the final or near-final stages of their public health reopening plans. In addition, for the first time since March 2020, on August 9, 2021, fully vaccinated non-essential travellers from the United States were permitted to enter Canada without needing to quarantine, expanding potential clientele for businesses in tourist areas. August data for the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours and the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey—to be released on October 28—will provide detailed information on sectors and subsectors that may have benefitted from this further loosening of public health measures.

Sustainable Development Goals

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

The Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours is an example of how Statistics Canada supports reporting on the global sustainable development goals. This release will be used to measure the following goals:



Note to readers

Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours

The key objective of the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH) is to provide a monthly portrait of the level of earnings, employment and hours worked, by detailed industry, at the national, provincial and territorial levels.

Payroll employment, as measured by the SEPH, refers to the number of employees receiving pay or benefits (employment income) during a given month. The survey excludes the self-employed, owners and partners of unincorporated businesses and professional practices, and employees in the agricultural sector.

SEPH estimates are produced by integrating information from three sources: a census of approximately 1 million payroll deduction records provided by the Canada Revenue Agency; the Business Payrolls Survey, which collects data from a sample of 15,000 establishments; and administrative records of federal, provincial and territorial public administration employment, provided by these levels of government.

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 records and are not subject to sampling variability.

With each release of SEPH data, data for the preceding month are revised. Users are encouraged to use the most up-to-date data available for each month.

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), the unemployed and those not in the labour force. This survey is the official source for the unemployment rate, and it collects data on the sociodemographic characteristics of all those in the labour market.

As a result of conceptual and methodological differences, estimates of changes from the SEPH and the LFS differ occasionally. However, the trends in the data are similar. For a more in-depth discussion of the conceptual differences between employment measures from the LFS and the SEPH, refer to Section 8 of the Guide to the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours ([72-203-G](#)).

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitate comparisons because the effects of seasonal variations are removed. 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 and for the "other employees" category, which includes piece-rate and commission-only employees.

Unless otherwise specified, 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 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.

Job Vacancy and Wage Survey

Beginning with the release of October 2020 data, preliminary monthly estimates from the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (JVWS) are published on a monthly basis. These estimates provide more timely information on the number of job vacancies and the job vacancy rate by province and by industrial sector.

JVWS collection is done on a quarterly basis. The quarterly sample of business locations is allocated to the three collection months of the quarter, approximately balanced by province and by industrial sector across each of the three months. This allows both quarterly and monthly estimates to be produced.

The JVWS also provides comprehensive quarterly data on job vacancies by industrial sector and detailed occupation for Canada and the provinces, territories and economic regions; offered hourly wages; and job vacancy characteristics. Quarterly data for the second and third quarters of 2020 are unavailable because survey operations were temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. More information about the concepts and use of data from the JVWS is available in the Guide to the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (75-514-G).

Preliminary monthly estimates are produced for job vacancies, job vacancy rates and payroll employment using available responses from business locations sampled in the corresponding reference month. The reference period for the JVWS is the first day of the respective month.

These preliminary monthly estimates are revised and finalized when the corresponding quarterly estimates are released or shortly thereafter. Users are encouraged to use the most up-to-date data available for each month.

JVWS estimates are not seasonally adjusted. Therefore, month-to-month and quarter-to-quarter comparisons should be interpreted with caution as they may reflect seasonal movements.

While JVWS employment is calibrated to the SEPH, SEPH payroll employment and JVWS preliminary monthly employment figures may differ because of calibration grouping and differences in scope and reference period.

Real-time data tables

Real-time data tables 14-10-0357-01, 14-10-0358-01, 14-10-0331-01 and 14-10-0332-01 will be updated on October 18.

Next release

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours, and job vacancies for August will be released on October 28, 2021.

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

	July 2020	June 2021 ^r	July 2021 ^p	June to July 2021	July 2020 to July 2021	June to July 2021	July 2020 to July 2021
	current dollars			change in current dollars		% change	
Sector aggregate¹	1,113.42	1,122.38	1,133.18	10.80	19.76	1.0	1.8
Forestry, logging and support	1,149.92	1,256.06	1,202.55	-53.51	52.63	-4.3	4.6
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	2,098.30	2,161.18	2,217.42	56.24	119.12	2.6	5.7
Utilities	1,726.23	1,923.26	1,911.01	-12.25	184.78	-0.6	10.7
Construction	1,325.27	1,369.53	1,388.24	18.71	62.97	1.4	4.8
Manufacturing	1,162.34	1,191.62	1,188.66	-2.96	26.32	-0.2	2.3
Wholesale trade	1,341.08	1,360.80	1,367.80	7.00	26.72	0.5	2.0
Retail trade	649.32	643.45	643.11	-0.34	-6.21	-0.1	-1.0
Transportation and warehousing	1,171.61	1,136.72	1,180.72	44.00	9.11	3.9	0.8
Information and cultural industries	1,403.97	1,631.11	1,611.46	-19.65	207.49	-1.2	14.8
Finance and insurance	1,484.45	1,446.92	1,444.16	-2.76	-40.29	-0.2	-2.7
Real estate and rental and leasing	1,208.26	1,190.80	1,188.52	-2.28	-19.74	-0.2	-1.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,491.75	1,496.79	1,539.28	42.49	47.53	2.8	3.2
Management of companies and enterprises	1,572.30	1,580.94	1,544.28	-36.66	-28.02	-2.3	-1.8
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	909.18	956.69	941.73	-14.96	32.55	-1.6	3.6
Educational services	1,155.24	1,147.10	1,172.61	25.51	17.37	2.2	1.5
Health care and social assistance	1,003.69	994.24	1,011.65	17.41	7.96	1.8	0.8
Arts, entertainment and recreation	743.54	722.00	711.68	-10.32	-31.86	-1.4	-4.3
Accommodation and food services	449.90	451.27	467.68	16.41	17.78	3.6	4.0
Other services (excluding public administration)	916.76	961.79	967.45	5.66	50.69	0.6	5.5
Public administration	1,429.50	1,434.35	1,437.86	3.51	8.36	0.2	0.6
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,120.66	1,089.32	1,104.00	14.68	-16.66	1.3	-1.5
Prince Edward Island	963.49	972.56	966.55	-6.01	3.06	-0.6	0.3
Nova Scotia	954.03	991.71	984.56	-7.15	30.53	-0.7	3.2
New Brunswick	1,001.52	1,015.49	999.30	-16.19	-2.22	-1.6	-0.2
Quebec	1,048.46	1,061.92	1,054.36	-7.56	5.90	-0.7	0.6
Ontario	1,154.72	1,152.80	1,167.25	14.45	12.53	1.3	1.1
Manitoba	1,003.99	1,025.54	1,020.91	-4.63	16.92	-0.5	1.7
Saskatchewan	1,081.86	1,099.41	1,109.32	9.91	27.46	0.9	2.5
Alberta	1,207.22	1,214.68	1,239.78	25.10	32.56	2.1	2.7
British Columbia	1,095.17	1,116.76	1,143.06	26.30	47.89	2.4	4.4
Yukon	1,237.70	1,274.21	1,286.01	11.80	48.31	0.9	3.9
Northwest Territories	1,528.88	1,504.54	1,573.19	68.65	44.31	4.6	2.9
Nunavut	1,464.94	1,481.83	1,504.89	23.06	39.95	1.6	2.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Sector breakdown is based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System Version 3.0.

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

Source(s): Table 14-10-0223-01.

Table 2
Number of employees – Seasonally adjusted

	July 2020	June 2021 ^r	July 2021 ^p	June to July 2021	July 2020 to July 2021	June to July 2021	July 2020 to July 2021
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Sector aggregate¹	15,132.0	16,289.1	16,613.9	324.8	1,481.9	2.0	9.8
Forestry, logging and support	35.5	38.4	38.0	-0.4	2.5	-1.1	6.9
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	181.7	191.5	190.4	-1.1	8.7	-0.6	4.8
Utilities	122.5	123.9	124.1	0.2	1.5	0.1	1.2
Construction	938.4	1,051.1	1,048.4	-2.7	110.0	-0.3	11.7
Manufacturing	1,436.9	1,505.3	1,514.0	8.7	77.2	0.6	5.4
Wholesale trade	758.4	786.1	789.5	3.4	31.1	0.4	4.1
Retail trade	1,828.2	1,932.7	1,979.3	46.6	151.1	2.4	8.3
Transportation and warehousing	716.2	763.8	772.3	8.5	56.1	1.1	7.8
Information and cultural industries	312.5	349.5	355.1	5.6	42.6	1.6	13.6
Finance and insurance	727.7	764.5	769.2	4.7	41.6	0.6	5.7
Real estate and rental and leasing	238.6	256.5	261.3	4.8	22.6	1.9	9.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	928.7	1,044.5	1,058.9	14.3	130.2	1.4	14.0
Management of companies and enterprises	106.0	118.6	121.1	2.4	15.1	2.0	14.3
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	728.8	797.8	802.1	4.3	73.3	0.5	10.1
Educational services	1,254.4	1,313.0	1,353.4	40.3	99.0	3.1	7.9
Health care and social assistance	1,977.3	2,154.1	2,169.6	15.5	192.3	0.7	9.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	177.9	192.9	222.9	30.0	44.9	15.5	25.2
Accommodation and food services	878.6	967.0	1,062.3	95.4	183.8	9.9	20.9
Other services (excluding public administration)	456.3	471.4	502.9	31.5	46.5	6.7	10.2
Public administration	1,070.6	1,177.4	1,185.9	8.5	115.3	0.7	10.8
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	191.9	211.4	209.4	-2.1	17.5	-1.0	9.1
Prince Edward Island	62.8	68.7	72.9	4.2	10.1	6.1	16.0
Nova Scotia	383.1	409.4	416.1	6.7	33.0	1.6	8.6
New Brunswick	307.1	329.1	331.5	2.4	24.4	0.7	8.0
Quebec	3,477.2	3,763.0	3,791.8	28.8	314.6	0.8	9.0
Ontario	5,806.8	6,212.2	6,396.0	183.8	589.2	3.0	10.1
Manitoba	557.9	586.5	602.4	15.9	44.5	2.7	8.0
Saskatchewan	436.5	469.1	474.7	5.7	38.2	1.2	8.8
Alberta	1,765.7	1,892.9	1,939.2	46.3	173.5	2.4	9.8
British Columbia	2,082.0	2,279.5	2,312.2	32.7	230.2	1.4	11.1
Yukon	19.9	22.3	22.5	0.2	2.6	0.8	13.2
Northwest Territories	23.0	25.9	25.8	-0.1	2.9	-0.4	12.4
Nunavut	18.3	19.2	19.5	0.3	1.2	1.7	6.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Sector breakdown is based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System Version 3.0.

Source(s): Table 14-10-0223-01.

Table 3
Job vacancies and job vacancy rate, unadjusted for seasonality¹

	July 2021 ^P Payroll employment ²	July 2021 ^P Job vacancies	July 2021 ^P Job vacancy rate
	thousands		%
Sector aggregate³	15,842.0	805.5	4.8
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	269.7	14.0	4.9
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	190.6	8.3	4.2
Utilities	125.4	2.1	1.6
Construction	1,105.1	68.5	5.8
Manufacturing	1,529.7	79.6	4.9
Wholesale trade	790.8	27.4	3.3
Retail trade	1,952.0	101.3	4.9
Transportation and warehousing	772.4	33.6	4.2
Information and cultural industries	350.8	11.3	3.1
Finance and insurance	768.2	42.0	5.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	263.3	7.6 ^E	2.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,059.6	51.2	4.6
Management of companies and enterprises	120.1	5.2	4.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	810.9	55.6	6.4
Educational services	1,351.8	16.8	1.2
Health care and social assistance	2,167.7	97.8	4.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	218.3	10.9	4.8
Accommodation and food services	1,008.4	132.8	11.6
Other services (excluding public administration)	481.5	30.3	5.9
Public administration ⁴	505.7	9.4	1.8
Provinces and territories			
Newfoundland and Labrador	193.6	6.1	3.0
Prince Edward Island	69.0	2.7	3.7
Nova Scotia	408.2	15.5	3.7
New Brunswick	319.5	13.0	3.9
Quebec	3,689.8	221.4	5.7
Ontario	6,003.5	299.3	4.7
Manitoba	591.3	17.9	2.9
Saskatchewan	464.1	19.5	4.0
Alberta	1,849.4	75.3	3.9
British Columbia	2,200.6	131.8	5.6
Yukon	18.4	1.3 ^E	6.5 ^E
Northwest Territories	20.8	1.3	5.9
Nunavut	13.8	F	F

^P preliminary

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

1. Estimates are preliminary before the associated quarterly data are released.

2. Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (JVWS) employment estimates may differ from Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours employment estimates because of calibration grouping and differences in scope and reference period. Additionally, JVWS data are not seasonally adjusted.

3. Sector breakdown is based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System Version 3.0.

4. Excluding provincial, territorial and federal public administration, as well as international and other extraterritorial public administration.

Source(s): Tables [14-10-0371-01](#) and [14-10-0372-01](#).

Available tables: [14-10-0201-01](#), [14-10-0203-01](#), [14-10-0205-01](#), [14-10-0209-01](#), [14-10-0211-01](#), [14-10-0213-01](#), [14-10-0214-01](#), [14-10-0216-01](#), [14-10-0218-01](#), [14-10-0220-01](#) to [14-10-0223-01](#) , [14-10-0255-01](#), [14-10-0371-01](#) and [14-10-0372-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2612](#) and [5217](#).

More information about the concepts and use of the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours is available in the *Guide to the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours* ([72-203-G](#)).

The product "[Earnings and payroll employment in brief: Interactive app](#)" ([14200001](#)) is now available. This interactive data visualization application provides a comprehensive picture of the Canadian labour market using the most recent data from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours. The estimates are seasonally adjusted and available by province and largest industrial sector. Historical estimates going back 10 years are also included. The interactive application allows users to quickly and easily explore and personalize the information presented. Combine multiple provinces and industrial sectors to create your own labour market domains of interest.

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).