

Employment Insurance, December 2022

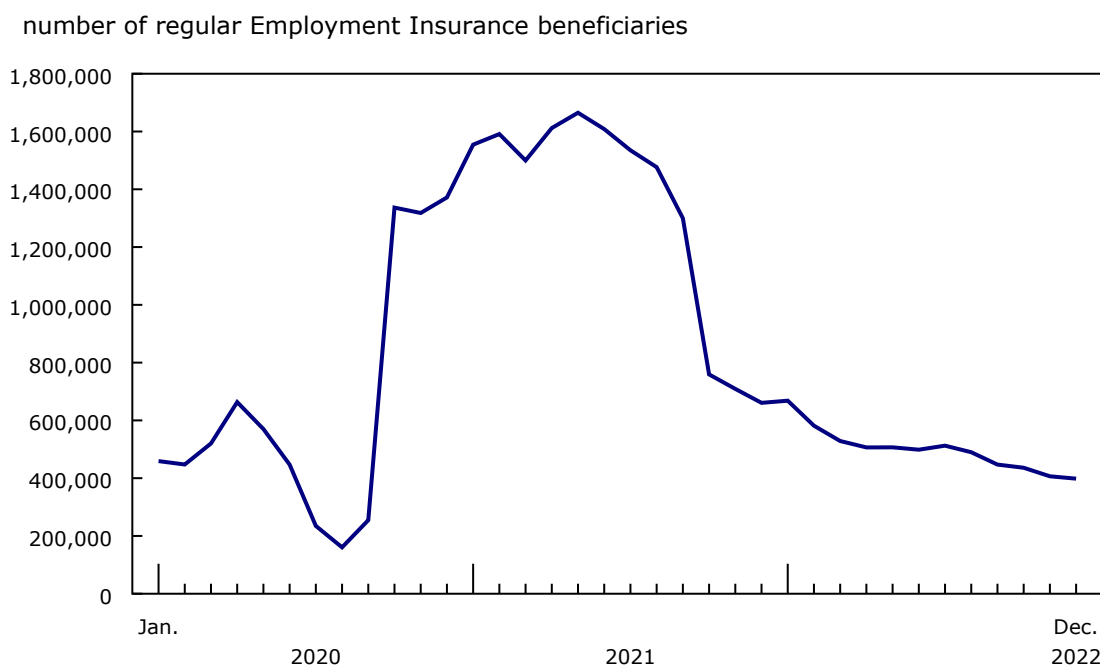
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, February 16, 2023

The number of Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in December fell by 8,100 (-2.0%) to 398,000, continuing the downward trend in the number of regular EI beneficiaries observed since July 2022.

According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage points to 5.0% in December, just above the record low of 4.9% observed in June and July.

In general, variations in the number of EI beneficiaries can reflect changes in the circumstances of different groups, including those becoming beneficiaries, those going back to work, those exhausting their regular benefits and those no longer receiving benefits for other reasons.

Chart 1 Fewer regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries in December



Source(s): Employment Insurance Statistics (2604), table 14-10-0011-01.

The number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries decreases in six provinces

Compared with November, the number of people receiving regular EI benefits fell in six provinces in December. For the second consecutive month, Ontario (-3.8%; -4,300) had the largest proportional decrease and accounted for over half of the decrease in December. Other notable proportional declines occurred in Saskatchewan (-3.2%; -400), Alberta (-2.8%; -1,200) and Quebec (-2.2%; -2,000). In contrast, the number of regular EI beneficiaries in December increased slightly in Prince Edward Island (+1.8%; +100) and British Columbia (+1.6%; +700) and were little changed in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The census metropolitan areas (CMAs) of Trois-Rivières (-15.1%; -300), Saint John (-9.8%; -200) and Windsor (-6.9%; -300) posted the largest proportional decreases in regular EI recipients. Conversely, the number of beneficiaries increased in the CMA of Vancouver (+4.8%; +800), which accounted for the entire increase in British Columbia.



Fewer core-aged people collect regular Employment Insurance benefits in December

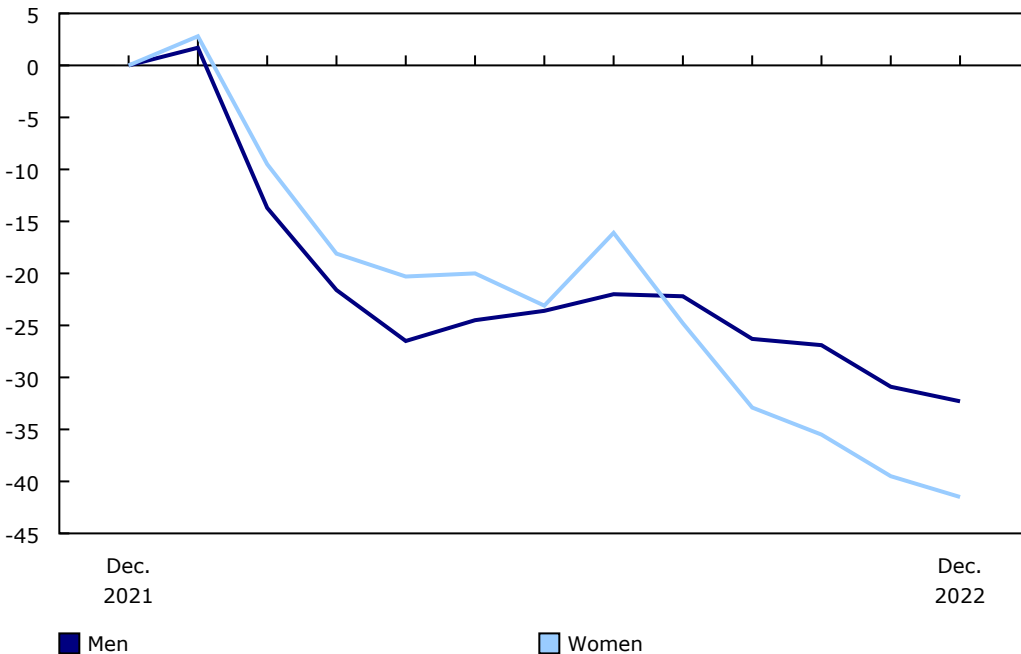
The number of people aged 25 to 54 years receiving regular EI benefits fell by 6,400 (-2.5%) in December, split evenly between men and women. This decrease accounted for over three-quarters of the total decline in the number of beneficiaries.

The number of core-aged men and women receiving regular EI benefits trended downward since July 2022, though this decline was more pronounced for women. This steady decline contributed to the 41.5% decrease in the number of core-aged women receiving regular EI benefits in December compared with December 2021. The number of core-aged men receiving regular EI benefits fell by 32.3% during the same period.

Fewer young men aged 15 to 24 years (-5.1%; -1,400) collected regular EI benefits in December for the seventh month in a row. Little changed in the number of young women receiving benefits after 10 months of decline. The number of people aged 55 years and older receiving regular EI benefits also was little changed.

Chart 2 Number of core-aged regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries down since December 2021

change (%) since December 2021



Source(s): Employment Insurance Statistics (2604), table 14-10-0011-01.

Number of people collecting Employment Insurance sickness benefits below December 2019 levels

In addition to information on the number of people collecting regular EI benefits, the Employment Insurance Statistics program also includes data on the number of people collecting special EI benefits, such as maternity benefits, parental benefits, fishing benefits and sickness benefits.

In December, 71,000 people collected EI sickness benefits, which was lower than the average of 81,000 recipients in the month of December from 2017 to 2019 (not seasonally adjusted). EI sickness benefits provide financial assistance to people whose weekly earnings have decreased by more than 40% due to medical reasons and who have accumulated enough insurable hours. In December, the LFS reported that 8.2% of employees were absent due to illness or disability, which was higher than the pre-COVID-19 pandemic average of 6.9% recorded in the month of December from 2017 to 2019 (not seasonally adjusted).

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.

Employment Insurance statistics are an example of how Statistics Canada supports reporting on global sustainable development goals. This release will be used to help measure the following goal:



Note to readers

Availability of data by occupation

Statistics Canada is currently revising the Employment Insurance Statistics (EIS) data to conform to the 2021 National Occupational Classification (NOC) standard. This will result in EIS occupation categories aligning with the 2021 Census of Population and Labour Force Survey NOC 2021 categories. The release of revised data is planned for June 2023. Until then, information on Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries by occupation, including tables 14-10-0336-01 and 14-10-0337-01, will not be available.

Concepts and methodology

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.

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits and should not be confused with Labour Force Survey (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. To model the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, values for all series from March 2020 to November 2021 have been treated with a combination of level shifts and outliers to determine a seasonal pattern for seasonal adjustment. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

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

The **number of beneficiaries** is all people who received regular EI benefits from December 4 to 10, 2022. This period coincides with the reference week of the LFS.

A **census metropolitan area (CMA)** and a **census agglomeration (CA)** are formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred 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.

Next release

Data on EI for January 2023 will be released on March 23, 2023.

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

	December 2021	November 2022 ^P	December 2022 ^P	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022
	number			change		% change	
Canada							
Both sexes	660,730	406,490	398,370	-8,120	-262,360	-2.0	-39.7
15 to 24 years	89,710	38,360	36,950	-1,410	-52,760	-3.7	-58.8
25 to 54 years	388,720	254,450	248,090	-6,360	-140,630	-2.5	-36.2
55 years and over	182,310	113,680	113,320	-360	-68,990	-0.3	-37.8
Men	384,580	254,290	249,810	-4,480	-134,770	-1.8	-35.0
15 to 24 years	53,910	27,630	26,220	-1,410	-27,690	-5.1	-51.4
25 to 54 years	224,080	154,850	151,800	-3,050	-72,280	-2.0	-32.3
55 years and over	106,580	71,820	71,800	-20	-34,780	-0.0	-32.6
Women	276,150	152,200	148,560	-3,640	-127,590	-2.4	-46.2
15 to 24 years	35,790	10,730	10,740	10	-25,050	0.1	-70.0
25 to 54 years	164,630	99,600	96,290	-3,310	-68,340	-3.3	-41.5
55 years and over	75,720	41,870	41,530	-340	-34,190	-0.8	-45.2
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	39,170	30,490	29,940	-550	-9,230	-1.8	-23.6
15 to 24 years	5,020	2,810	2,730	-80	-2,290	-2.8	-45.6
25 to 54 years	18,930	15,390	14,880	-510	-4,050	-3.3	-21.4
55 years and over	15,220	12,290	12,320	30	-2,900	0.2	-19.1
Men	22,280	18,110	17,910	-200	-4,370	-1.1	-19.6
Women	16,890	12,380	12,030	-350	-4,860	-2.8	-28.8
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	9,410	7,780	7,920	140	-1,490	1.8	-15.8
15 to 24 years	2,030	1,750	1,750	0	-280	0.0	-13.8
25 to 54 years	4,400	3,740	3,710	-30	-690	-0.8	-15.7
55 years and over	2,990	2,300	2,460	160	-530	7.0	-17.7
Men	5,500	4,600	4,660	60	-840	1.3	-15.3
Women	3,920	3,190	3,250	60	-670	1.9	-17.1
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	34,100	22,420	22,260	-160	-11,840	-0.7	-34.7
15 to 24 years	4,620	2,230	2,230	0	-2,390	0.0	-51.7
25 to 54 years	19,120	12,810	12,820	10	-6,300	0.1	-32.9
55 years and over	10,360	7,380	7,210	-170	-3,150	-2.3	-30.4
Men	20,250	14,500	14,360	-140	-5,890	-1.0	-29.1
Women	13,860	7,930	7,900	-30	-5,960	-0.4	-43.0
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	40,130	26,350	26,170	-180	-13,960	-0.7	-34.8
15 to 24 years	8,050	2,270	2,230	-40	-5,820	-1.8	-72.3
25 to 54 years	19,450	14,330	14,250	-80	-5,200	-0.6	-26.7
55 years and over	12,630	9,740	9,690	-50	-2,940	-0.5	-23.3
Men	23,570	17,400	17,060	-340	-6,510	-2.0	-27.6
Women	16,560	8,940	9,110	170	-7,450	1.9	-45.0
Quebec							
Both sexes	159,370	89,980	87,970	-2,010	-71,400	-2.2	-44.8
15 to 24 years	17,210	6,620	6,240	-380	-10,970	-5.7	-63.7
25 to 54 years	91,630	54,720	52,720	-2,000	-38,910	-3.7	-42.5
55 years and over	50,530	28,640	29,010	370	-21,520	1.3	-42.6
Men	94,970	58,870	58,370	-500	-36,600	-0.8	-38.5
Women	64,390	31,110	29,600	-1,510	-34,790	-4.9	-54.0
Ontario							
Both sexes	191,430	112,900	108,600	-4,300	-82,830	-3.8	-43.3
15 to 24 years	27,250	10,550	9,760	-790	-17,490	-7.5	-64.2
25 to 54 years	118,020	76,650	73,910	-2,740	-44,110	-3.6	-37.4
55 years and over	46,160	25,690	24,930	-760	-21,230	-3.0	-46.0
Men	107,180	69,200	65,310	-3,890	-41,870	-5.6	-39.1
Women	84,250	43,700	43,290	-410	-40,960	-0.9	-48.6

Table 1 - continued

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

	December 2021	November 2022 ^P	December 2022 ^P	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022
Manitoba							
Both sexes	22,440	15,580	15,390	-190	-7,050	-1.2	-31.4
15 to 24 years	3,930	2,160	2,190	30	-1,740	1.4	-44.3
25 to 54 years	13,610	9,980	9,830	-150	-3,780	-1.5	-27.8
55 years and over	4,900	3,430	3,380	-50	-1,520	-1.5	-31.0
Men	13,780	9,660	9,810	150	-3,970	1.6	-28.8
Women	8,660	5,930	5,580	-350	-3,080	-5.9	-35.6
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	20,120	13,710	13,270	-440	-6,850	-3.2	-34.0
15 to 24 years	3,010	1,660	1,620	-40	-1,390	-2.4	-46.2
25 to 54 years	12,500	8,750	8,420	-330	-4,080	-3.8	-32.6
55 years and over	4,610	3,300	3,220	-80	-1,390	-2.4	-30.2
Men	12,440	9,160	8,830	-330	-3,610	-3.6	-29.0
Women	7,680	4,550	4,440	-110	-3,240	-2.4	-42.2
Alberta							
Both sexes	74,250	44,200	42,980	-1,220	-31,270	-2.8	-42.1
15 to 24 years	10,010	4,570	4,470	-100	-5,540	-2.2	-55.3
25 to 54 years	47,400	29,490	28,520	-970	-18,880	-3.3	-39.8
55 years and over	16,830	10,140	9,990	-150	-6,840	-1.5	-40.6
Men	44,110	28,070	27,770	-300	-16,340	-1.1	-37.0
Women	30,140	16,130	15,210	-920	-14,930	-5.7	-49.5
British Columbia							
Both sexes	67,430	40,960	41,630	670	-25,800	1.6	-38.3
15 to 24 years	8,220	3,520	3,500	-20	-4,720	-0.6	-57.4
25 to 54 years	41,730	27,100	27,480	380	-14,250	1.4	-34.1
55 years and over	17,480	10,340	10,650	310	-6,830	3.0	-39.1
Men	38,720	23,440	24,320	880	-14,400	3.8	-37.2
Women	28,710	17,520	17,320	-200	-11,390	-1.1	-39.7
Yukon							
Both sexes	830	510	480	-30	-350	-5.9	-42.2
15 to 24 years	80	60	40	-20	-40	-33.3	-50.0
25 to 54 years	530	320	290	-30	-240	-9.4	-45.3
55 years and over	220	130	150	20	-70	15.4	-31.8
Men	510	340	310	-30	-200	-8.8	-39.2
Women	320	180	170	-10	-150	-5.6	-46.9
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	1,020	480	460	-20	-560	-4.2	-54.9
15 to 24 years	120	30	30	0	-90	0.0	-75.0
25 to 54 years	670	340	320	-20	-350	-5.9	-52.2
55 years and over	230	100	110	10	-120	10.0	-52.2
Men	650	320	320	0	-330	0.0	-50.8
Women	370	150	140	-10	-230	-6.7	-62.2
Nunavut							
Both sexes	680	420	420	0	-260	0.0	-38.2
15 to 24 years	90	50	50	0	-40	0.0	-44.4
25 to 54 years	500	320	330	10	-170	3.1	-34.0
55 years and over	90	50	40	-10	-50	-20.0	-55.6
Men	410	250	260	10	-150	4.0	-36.6
Women	270	160	160	0	-110	0.0	-40.7

^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.

Table 2
Initial and renewal claims received, by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2021	November 2022 ^P	December 2022 ^P	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022
	number			change		% change	
Canada	347,240	230,090	244,250	14,160	-102,990	6.2	-29.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,270	8,310	8,300	-10	-970	-0.1	-10.5
Prince Edward Island	3,350	2,420	2,570	150	-780	6.2	-23.3
Nova Scotia	11,180	7,970	7,980	10	-3,200	0.1	-28.6
New Brunswick	12,110	9,880	9,860	-20	-2,250	-0.2	-18.6
Quebec	116,420	59,780	61,050	1,270	-55,370	2.1	-47.6
Ontario	104,310	74,520	77,470	2,950	-26,840	4.0	-25.7
Manitoba	10,930	8,440	8,900	460	-2,030	5.5	-18.6
Saskatchewan	8,430	6,520	6,830	310	-1,600	4.8	-19.0
Alberta	34,310	25,870	28,360	2,490	-5,950	9.6	-17.3
British Columbia	35,890	25,490	32,080	6,590	-3,810	25.9	-10.6
Yukon	330	270	250	-20	-80	-7.4	-24.2
Northwest Territories	340	270	270	0	-70	0.0	-20.6
Nunavut	230	200	180	-20	-50	-10.0	-21.7

^P preliminary

Source(s): Table 14-10-0005-01.

Table 3
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits,¹ by census metropolitan category² – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2021	November 2022 ^P	December 2022 ^P	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022
	number			change		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	7,040	3,550	3,310	-240	-3,730	-6.8	-53.0
St. John's	7,040	3,550	3,310	-240	-3,730	-6.8	-53.0
Census agglomerations	5,210	4,110	4,060	-50	-1,150	-1.2	-22.1
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	26,930	22,840	22,570	-270	-4,360	-1.2	-16.2
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	4,600	3,520	3,510	-10	-1,090	-0.3	-23.7
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	4,810	4,270	4,400	130	-410	3.0	-8.5
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	8,080	3,990	4,030	40	-4,050	1.0	-50.1
Halifax	8,080	3,990	4,030	40	-4,050	1.0	-50.1
Census agglomerations	10,440	7,260	7,250	-10	-3,190	-0.1	-30.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	15,580	11,170	10,990	-180	-4,590	-1.6	-29.5
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	8,990	4,540	4,190	-350	-4,800	-7.7	-53.4
Moncton	4,810	2,290	2,160	-130	-2,650	-5.7	-55.1
Saint John	4,170	2,250	2,030	-220	-2,140	-9.8	-51.3
Census agglomerations	8,960	5,480	5,120	-360	-3,840	-6.6	-42.9
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	22,180	16,330	16,870	540	-5,310	3.3	-23.9
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	92,810	48,080	46,390	-1,690	-46,420	-3.5	-50.0
Montréal	66,460	33,920	32,930	-990	-33,530	-2.9	-50.5
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	4,600	2,340	2,250	-90	-2,350	-3.8	-51.1
Québec	10,950	5,630	5,460	-170	-5,490	-3.0	-50.1
Saguenay	3,890	2,170	2,140	-30	-1,750	-1.4	-45.0
Sherbrooke	3,700	2,110	1,980	-130	-1,720	-6.2	-46.5
Trois-Rivières	3,210	1,920	1,630	-290	-1,580	-15.1	-49.2
Census agglomerations	19,480	11,290	11,040	-250	-8,440	-2.2	-43.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	47,080	30,610	30,530	-80	-16,550	-0.3	-35.2
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	146,770	84,210	80,620	-3,590	-66,150	-4.3	-45.1
Barrie	3,370	1,750	1,830	80	-1,540	4.6	-45.7
Bellefonte	1,940	1,200	1,150	-50	-790	-4.2	-40.7
Brantford	2,320	1,200	1,250	50	-1,070	4.2	-46.1
Greater Sudbury	3,150	1,840	1,720	-120	-1,430	-6.5	-45.4
Guelph	1,780	1,050	1,020	-30	-760	-2.9	-42.7
Hamilton	9,540	5,650	5,420	-230	-4,120	-4.1	-43.2
Kingston	2,300	1,250	1,160	-90	-1,140	-7.2	-49.6
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	7,400	3,790	3,750	-40	-3,650	-1.1	-49.3
London	7,780	4,980	4,870	-110	-2,910	-2.2	-37.4
Oshawa	5,500	3,450	3,300	-150	-2,200	-4.3	-40.0
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	10,990	5,560	5,750	190	-5,240	3.4	-47.7
Peterborough	1,750	960	950	-10	-800	-1.0	-45.7
St. Catharines–Niagara	7,090	4,070	3,850	-220	-3,240	-5.4	-45.7
Thunder Bay	2,130	1,350	1,260	-90	-870	-6.7	-40.8
Toronto	74,040	42,060	39,580	-2,480	-34,460	-5.9	-46.5
Windsor	5,690	4,040	3,760	-280	-1,930	-6.9	-33.9
Census agglomerations	20,430	12,430	12,230	-200	-8,200	-1.6	-40.1
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	24,230	16,270	15,750	-520	-8,480	-3.2	-35.0
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	12,030	7,640	7,500	-140	-4,530	-1.8	-37.7
Winnipeg	12,030	7,640	7,500	-140	-4,530	-1.8	-37.7
Census agglomerations	1,790	1,210	1,130	-80	-660	-6.6	-36.9

Table 3 - continued

Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits,¹ by census metropolitan category² – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2021	November 2022 ^P	December 2022 ^P	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022	November to December 2022	December 2021 to December 2022
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,620	6,730	6,760	30	-1,860	0.4	-21.6
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	7,900	4,470	4,520	50	-3,380	1.1	-42.8
Regina	3,410	1,830	1,800	-30	-1,610	-1.6	-47.2
Saskatoon	4,490	2,650	2,720	70	-1,770	2.6	-39.4
Census agglomerations	3,310	2,360	2,250	-110	-1,060	-4.7	-32.0
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,910	6,880	6,500	-380	-2,410	-5.5	-27.0
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	51,960	30,320	29,400	-920	-22,560	-3.0	-43.4
Calgary	24,560	13,920	13,710	-210	-10,850	-1.5	-44.2
Edmonton	25,920	15,460	14,780	-680	-11,140	-4.4	-43.0
Lethbridge	1,490	940	910	-30	-580	-3.2	-38.9
Census agglomerations	9,780	6,000	5,840	-160	-3,940	-2.7	-40.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	12,500	7,870	7,740	-130	-4,760	-1.7	-38.1
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	38,810	23,440	24,320	880	-14,490	3.8	-37.3
Abbotsford–Mission	3,110	1,960	1,940	-20	-1,170	-1.0	-37.6
Kelowna	3,480	2,230	2,310	80	-1,170	3.6	-33.6
Vancouver	28,410	17,190	18,020	830	-10,390	4.8	-36.6
Victoria	3,810	2,060	2,050	-10	-1,760	-0.5	-46.2
Census agglomerations	15,800	9,860	9,970	110	-5,830	1.1	-36.9
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	12,820	7,660	7,340	-320	-5,480	-4.2	-42.7

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.

2. 2016 Standard Geographical Classification.

Source(s): Table 14-10-0322-01.

Available tables: [14-10-0004-01](#) 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; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).