Employment Insurance, April 2023

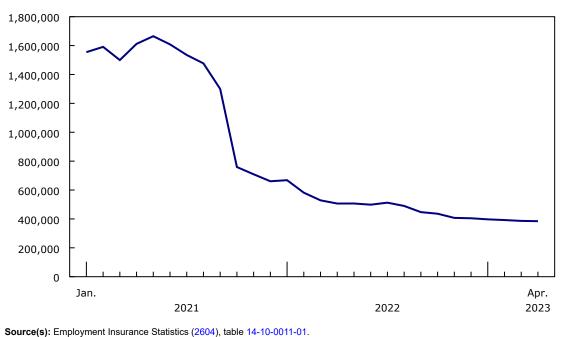
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in The Daily, Thursday, June 22, 2023

In April, 384,000 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, little changed from 386,000 in March. Since November 2022, the number of regular EI beneficiaries has varied little, remaining at or near record lows (outside of the period when the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit was in place from March to September 2020).

According to the Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate held steady at 5.0% in April 2023, unchanged since December 2022.

In general, variations in the number of 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 The number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries was little changed in April



number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries

The number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries decreases in five provinces

In April, the number of regular EI recipients decreased in five provinces. The largest proportional decline was in New Brunswick (-3.8%; -1,000), continuing its downward trend that started in August 2022.

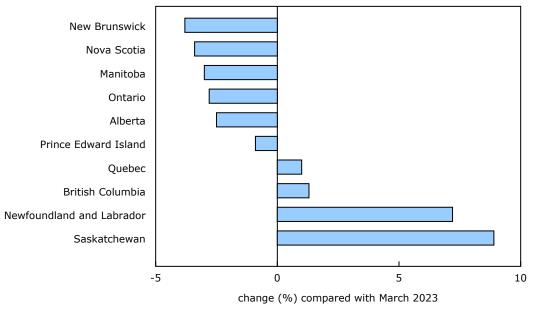
The number of regular EI beneficiaries also fell in Nova Scotia (-3.4%; -700), Manitoba (-3.0%; -400), Ontario (-2.8%; -3,200) and Alberta (-2.5%; -1,000) in April 2023. In contrast, the number of regular EI recipients increased in Saskatchewan (+8.9%; +1,100), Newfoundland and Labrador (+7.2%; +2,100) and British Columbia (+1.3%; +500). There was little change in the number of regular EI beneficiaries in Quebec and Prince Edward Island.





The Windsor (-41.7%; -3,200) census metropolitan area (CMA) posted the largest proportional decrease in regular EI recipients in April, mostly offsetting the increase of 4,200 recipients in February. Meanwhile, the largest proportional increases in April were in the Saskatoon (+20.2%; +500) and St. John's (+15.2%; +500) CMAs.

Chart 2 Declines in regular Employment Insurance recipients in five provinces



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

Fewer core-aged men collected regular Employment Insurance benefits in April

The number of men receiving regular EI benefits decreased by 3,000 (-1.3%) in April, reflecting declines among men aged 25 to 54 years (-3.2%; -4,600). This was the fourth consecutive monthly decrease in the number of men collecting regular EI benefits, continuing a downward trend that began in August 2022. At the same time, the number of men aged 55 years and older receiving regular EI benefits rose 1.7% (+1,200) in April 2023, the first increase since July 2022.

In April 2023, there was little change in the number of core-aged women or women aged 55 years and older receiving regular EI benefits. The largest increases in the number of women receiving regular EI benefits were in Saskatchewan (+28.7%; +1,200) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+11.1%; +1,400), but these were offset by declines in several other provinces.

The number of young people aged 15 to 24 years receiving regular EI benefits rose 3.0% (+1,000) in April, the first increase since May 2021. This increase was notable among both young women (+5.7%; +600) and young men (+1.8%; +400).

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 data to conform to the 2021 National Occupational Classification (NOC) standard. This will result in Employment Insurance Statistics occupation categories aligning with the 2021 Census of Population and Labour Force Survey NOC 2021 categories. The release of revised data is planned for later this year. 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

El 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.

El statistics indicate the number of people who received El 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 April 9 to 15, 2023. 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 May will be released on July 20.

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

	April 2022	March 2023 ^p	April 2023 ^p	March to April 2023	April 2022 to April 2023	March to April 2023	April 2022 to April 2023
			2023				
Canada	number		char	ge	% cha	ange	
Canada Both sexes	506,460	386,250	384,380	-1,870	-122,080	-0.5	-24.1
15 to 24 years	60,900	34,400	35,430	1,030	-25,470	3.0	-41.8
25 to 54 years	295,870	241,280	236,900	-4,380	-58,970	-1.8	-19.9
55 years and over	149,690	110,570	112,050	1,480	-37,640	1.3	-25.
Men	285,490	236,770	233,750	-3,020	-51,740	-1.3	-18.1
15 to 24 years	35,920	23,700	24,120	420	-11,800	1.8	-32.9
25 to 54 years	164,680	144,840	140,210	-4,630	-24,470	-3.2	-14.
55 years and over	84,880	68,240	69,420	1,180	-15,460	1.7	-18.2
Women	220,970	149,480	150,630	1,150	-70,340	0.8	-31.
15 to 24 years	24,970	10,700	11,310	610	-13,660	5.7	-54.
25 to 54 years	131,190	96,440	96,690	250	-34,500	0.3	-26.3
55 years and over	64,800	42,330	42,630	300	-22,170	0.7	-34.2
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	37,340	29,340	31,450	2,110	-5,890	7.2	-15.8
15 to 24 years	3,840	2,440	2,500	60	-1,340	2.5	-34.9
25 to 54 years	18,380	14,610	15,500	890	-2,880	6.1	-15.
55 years and over	15,120	12,290	13,450	1,160	-1,670	9.4	-11.(
Men	20,770	17,060	17,810	750	-2,960	4.4	-14.3
Women	16,570	12,280	13,640	1,360	-2,930	11.1	-17.3
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	8,930	6,640	6,580	-60	-2,350	-0.9	-26.3
15 to 24 years	2,200	1,020	1,140	120	-1,060	11.8	-48.2
25 to 54 years	3,920	3,320	3,160	-160	-760	-4.8	-19.4
55 years and over	2,820	2,300	2,280	-20	-540	-0.9	-19.1
Men	4,660	4,060	3,960	-100	-700	-2.5	-15.0
Women	4,270	2,580	2,620	40	-1,650	1.6	-38.0
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	27,690	21,550	20,820	-730	-6,870	-3.4	-24.
15 to 24 years	3,450	2,010	1,990	-20	-1,460	-1.0	-42.3
25 to 54 years	15,400	12,580	11,950	-630	-3,450	-5.0	-22.4
55 years and over	8,840	6,960	6,880	-80	-1,960	-1.1	-22.2
Men Women	16,280 11,410	13,910 7,640	13,370 7,450	-540 -190	-2,910 -3,960	-3.9 -2.5	-17.9 -34.7
less Deve esticle		,	,				
Vew Brunswick Both sexes	36,080	24,920	23,970	-950	-12,110	-3.8	-33.0
15 to 24 years	8,470	2,050	1,960	-90	-6,510	-4.4	-76.9
25 to 54 years	16,340	13,510	12,760	-750	-3,580	-5.6	-21.9
55 years and over	11,260	9,360	9,250	-110	-2,010	-1.2	-17.9
Men	19,750	16,190	15,820	-370	-3,930	-2.3	-19.9
Women	16,320	8,730	8,150	-580	-8,170	-6.6	-50.1
Quebec							
Both sexes	122,380	84,950	85,770	820	-36,610	1.0	-29.
15 to 24 years	10,970	5,910	6,250	340	-4,720	5.8	-43.0
25 to 54 years	70,230	51,460	50,760	-700	-19,470	-1.4	-27.
55 years and over	41,170	27,580	28,760	1,180	-12,410	4.3	-30.1
Men	72,650	54,370	54,380	10	-18,270	0.0	-25.
Women	49,720	30,580	31,400	820	-18,320	2.7	-36.8
Ontario							
Both sexes	135,890	113,670	110,480	-3,190	-25,410	-2.8	-18.3
15 to 24 years	15,680	10,850	10,960	110	-4,720	1.0	-30.
25 to 54 years	84,610	75,230	73,030	-2,200	-11,580	-2.9	-13.
55 years and over	35,600	27,590	26,480	-1,110	-9,120	-4.0	-25.
Men	74,510	65,930	63,430	-2,500	-11,080	-3.8	-14.
Women	61,380	47,740	47,050	-690	-14,330	-1.4	-23.3

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

	April	March	April	March to April	April 2022 to	March to April	April 2022 t
	2022	2023 ^p	2023 ^p	2023	April 2023	2023	April 202
/anitoba							
Both sexes	19,280	13,010	12,620	-390	-6,660	-3.0	-34.
15 to 24 years	3,110	1,650	1,810	160	-1,300	9.7	-41.
25 to 54 years	12,050	8,610	8,080	-530	-3,970	-6.2	-32.
55 years and over	4,120	2,750	2,730	-20	-1,390	-0.7	-33.
Men	11,360	8,220	8,090	-130	-3,270	-1.6	-28.
Women	7,920	4,800	4,530	-270	-3,390	-5.6	-42.
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	16,380	11.930	12,990	1,060	-3,390	8.9	-20.
15 to 24 years	2,250	1,400	1,380	-20	-870	-1.4	-38.
25 to 54 years	9,990	7,480	8,170	690	-1,820	9.2	-18.
55 years and over	4,150	3,060	3,450	390	-700	12.7	-16.
Men	9,790	7,710	7,560	-150	-2,230	-1.9	-22.
Women	6,590	4,220	5,430	1,210	-1,160	28.7	-17.
B							
Alberta	FF 440	20 500		000	40.000		~~
Both sexes	55,410	39,560	38,580	-980	-16,830	-2.5	-30.
15 to 24 years	6,470	3,790	3,930	140	-2,540	3.7	-39.
25 to 54 years	35,630	27,060	26,040	-1,020	-9,590	-3.8	-26.
55 years and over	13,300	8,710	8,610	-100	-4,690	-1.1	-35.
Men	31,340	25,240	24,610	-630	-6,730	-2.5	-21.
Women	24,070	14,330	13,970	-360	-10,100	-2.5	-42.
ritish Columbia							
Both sexes	44,770	38,160	38,640	480	-6,130	1.3	-13.
15 to 24 years	4,170	3,060	3,280	220	-890	7.2	-21.
25 to 54 years	27,750	25,600	25,650	50	-2,100	0.2	-7.
55 years and over	12,850	9,490	9,700	210	-3,150	2.2	-24.
Men	23,040	22,510	23,150	640	110	2.8	0.
Women	21,730	15,650	15,490	-160	-6,240	-1.0	-28.
ukon							
Both sexes	670	470	470	0	-200	0.0	-29.
	80	20	20	0	- 200 -60	0.0	- 29. -75.
15 to 24 years	410	310	320	10	-80 -90	3.2	-22.
25 to 54 years 55 years and over	180	140	130	-10	-90 -50	-7.1	-22. -27.
Men	410	290	320	-10 30	-50 -90	10.3	-27. - 22.
Women	260	170	150	-20	-110	-11.8	-22.
women	200	170	150	-20	-110	-11.0	-42.
orthwest Territories							
Both sexes	680	390	380	-10	-300	-2.6	-44.
15 to 24 years	90	20	30	10	-60	50.0	-66.
25 to 54 years	470	280	270	-10	-200	-3.6	-42.
55 years and over	130	80	80	0	-50	0.0	-38.
Men	380	250	230	-20	-150	-8.0	-39.
Women	300	140	140	0	-160	0.0	-53.
unavut							
Both sexes	610	390	400	10	-210	2.6	-34.
15 to 24 years	80	40	40	0	-40	0.0	-50.
25 to 54 years	460	300	300	0	-40	0.0	-34.
55 years and over	400	50	60	10	-10	20.0	-14.
Men	340	250	260	10 10	-10 -80	20.0 4.0	-23.
							-23. -48.
Women	270	140	140	0	-130	0.0	-

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.

	April 2022	March 2023 ^p	April 2023 ^p	March to April 2023	April 2022 to April 2023	March to April 2023	April 2022 to April 2023	
	number			cha	nge	% change		
Canada	232,790	251,770	253,440	1,670	20,650	0.7	8.9	
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,130	8,380	8,560	180	430	2.1	5.3	
Prince Edward Island	2,610	2,680	2,680	0	70	0.0	2.7	
Nova Scotia	9,180	9,740	9,810	70	630	0.7	6.9	
New Brunswick	9,380	10,480	10,200	-280	820	-2.7	8.7	
Quebec	60,550	66,070	64,470	-1,600	3,920	-2.4	6.5	
Ontario	77,000	83,320	85,400	2,080	8,400	2.5	10.9	
Manitoba	8,740	9,120	9,330	210	590	2.3	6.8	
Saskatchewan	6,580	6,920	7,100	180	520	2.6	7.9	
Alberta	22,160	24,500	25,260	760	3,100	3.1	14.0	
British Columbia	27,530	29,590	29,660	70	2,130	0.2	7.7	
Yukon	300	310	300	-10	0	-3.2	0.0	
Northwest Territories	320	270	270	0	-50	0.0	-15.6	
Nunavut	200	210	230	20	30	9.5	15.0	

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

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

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

	April 2022	March 2023 ^p	April 2023 ^p	March to April 2023	April 2022 to April 2023	March to April 2023	April 2022 to April 2023
		number		cha	nge	% ch	ange
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	5,420	3,290	3,790	500	-1,630	15.2	-30.1
St. John's	5,420	3,290	3,790	500	-1,630	15.2	-30.1
Census agglomerations	4,930	3,970	4,100	130	-830	3.3	-16.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and							
census agglomerations	26,990	22,080	23,560	1,480	-3,430	6.7	-12.7
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	4,270	2,650	2,750	100	-1,520	3.8	-35.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	4,660	3,990	3,830	-160	-830	-4.0	-17.8
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	5,770	3,860	3,890	30	-1,880	0.8	-32.6
Halifax	5,770	3,860	3,890	30	-1,880	0.8	-32.6
Census agglomerations	9,020	6,900	6,710	-190	-2,310	-2.8	-25.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and	- ,	-,	-, -		,		
census agglomerations	12,910	10,790	10,220	-570	-2,690	-5.3	-20.8
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	7,520	4,220	4,050	-170	-3,470	-4.0	-46.1
Moncton	4,070	2,170	2,030	-140	-2,040	-6.5	-50.1
Saint John	3,450	2,050	2,020	-30	-1,430	-1.5	-41.4
Census agglomerations Outside census metropolitan areas and	8,180	4,790	4,710	-80	-3,470	-1.7	-42.4
census agglomerations	20,370	15,900	15,210	-690	-5,160	-4.3	-25.3
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	66,630	43,490	45,930	2,440	-20,700	5.6	-31.1
Montréal	47,180	29,890	32,860	2,970	-14,320	9.9	-30.4
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	3,080	2,370	2,270	-100	-810	-4.2	-26.3
Québec	8,480	5,760	5,550	-210	-2,930	-3.6	-34.6
Saguenay	2,890	2,140	1,950	-190	-940	-8.9	-32.5
Sherbrooke Traia Dividence	2,680	1,860	1,860	0 -30	-820 -880	0.0	-30.6
Trois-Rivières Census agglomerations	2,320 15,260	1,470 10,560	1,440 10,370	-30 -190	-880 -4,890	-2.0 -1.8	-37.9 -32.0
Outside census metropolitan areas and	13,200	10,500	10,570	-150	-4,030	-1.0	-52.0
census agglomerations	40,490	30,900	29,480	-1,420	-11,010	-4.6	-27.2
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	105,330	86,680	85,170	-1,510	-20,160	-1.7	-19.1
Barrie	2,240	2,040	1,970	-70	-270	-3.4	-12.1
Belleville	1,310	1,060	1,020	-40	-290	-3.8	-22.1
Brantford	1,710	1,410	1,370	-40 0	-340	-2.8	-19.9
Greater Sudbury Guelph	2,240 1,210	1,610 1,020	1,610 990	-30	-630 -220	0.0 -2.9	-28.1 -18.2
Hamilton	6,480	5,060	4,900	-160	-1,580	-2.5	-24.4
Kingston	1,750	1,310	1,270	-40	-480	-3.1	-27.4
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	4,810	4,420	4,270	-150	-540	-3.4	-11.2
London	5,430	4,830	4,950	120	-480	2.5	-8.8
Oshawa	4,000	3,190	3,170	-20	-830	-0.6	-20.8
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	7,340	6,530	6,360	-170	-980	-2.6	-13.4
Peterborough St. Catharings, Niagara	1,140	900	880 3,700	-20 -140	-260 1 830	-2.2 -3.6	-22.8
St. Catharines–Niagara Thunder Bay	5,530 1,510	3,840 1,100	3,700 1,030	-140 -70	-1,830 -480	-3.6 -6.4	-33.1 -31.8
Toronto	53,630	40,780	43,260	2,480	-10,370	6.1	-19.3
Windsor	4,990	7,570	4,410	-3,160	-580	-41.7	-11.6
Census agglomerations	13,540	12,090	11,400	-690	-2,140	-5.7	-15.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	17,020	14,900	13,910	-990	-3,110	-6.6	-18.3
	,020	,000	,		0,110	0.0	
Manitoba Census metropolitan areas	9,920	6,180	6,020	-160	-3,900	-2.6	-39.3
Winnipeg	9,920	6,180	6,020	-160	-3,900	-2.6	-39.3
Census agglomerations	1,520	1,070	1,060	-10	-460	-0.9	-30.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and		, in the second s	•				
census agglomerations	7,840	5,760	5,550	-210	-2,290	-3.6	-29.2

Table 3 - continued

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

	April	March	April	March to	April 2022 to	March to	April 2022 to
	2022	2023 ^p	2023 ^p	April 2023	April 2023	April 2023	April 2023
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	5,580	4,030	4,640	610	-940	15.1	-16.8
Regina	2,120	1,600	1,720	120	-400	7.5	-18.9
Saskatoon	3,460	2,430	2,920	490	-540	20.2	-15.6
Census agglomerations	2,770	2,000	2,340	340	-430	17.0	-15.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and							
census agglomerations	8,030	5,900	6,010	110	-2,020	1.9	-25.2
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	38,140	27,110	26,350	-760	-11,790	-2.8	-30.9
Calgary	16,740	12,370	12,050	-320	-4,690	-2.6	-28.0
Edmonton	20,330	13,860	13,390	-470	-6,940	-3.4	-34.1
Lethbridge	1,070	880	920	40	-150	4.5	-14.0
Census agglomerations	7,140	5,360	5,380	20	-1,760	0.4	-24.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and							
census agglomerations	10,130	7,090	6,840	-250	-3,290	-3.5	-32.5
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	25,550	23,120	23,000	-120	-2,550	-0.5	-10.0
Abbotsford–Mission	2,170	1,710	1,840	130	-330	7.6	-15.2
Kelowna	2,220	1,870	1,810	-60	-410	-3.2	-18.5
Vancouver	18,790	17,710	17,460	-250	-1,330	-1.4	-7.1
Victoria	2,370	1,830	1,880	50	-490	2.7	-20.7
Census agglomerations	10,660	8,230	8,590	360	-2,070	4.4	-19.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and	,				,		
census agglomerations	8,560	6,810	7,050	240	-1,510	3.5	-17.6

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).