

Employment Insurance, June 2023

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In June, 410,000 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, up 7,300 (+1.8%) from a month earlier. Quebec (+8,800), Alberta (+1,200) and Saskatchewan (+300) accounted for all of the national net monthly increase. Despite successive increases in May and June, the number of regular EI beneficiaries in June remained far below levels seen in June 2022 (-17.8%; -89,000).

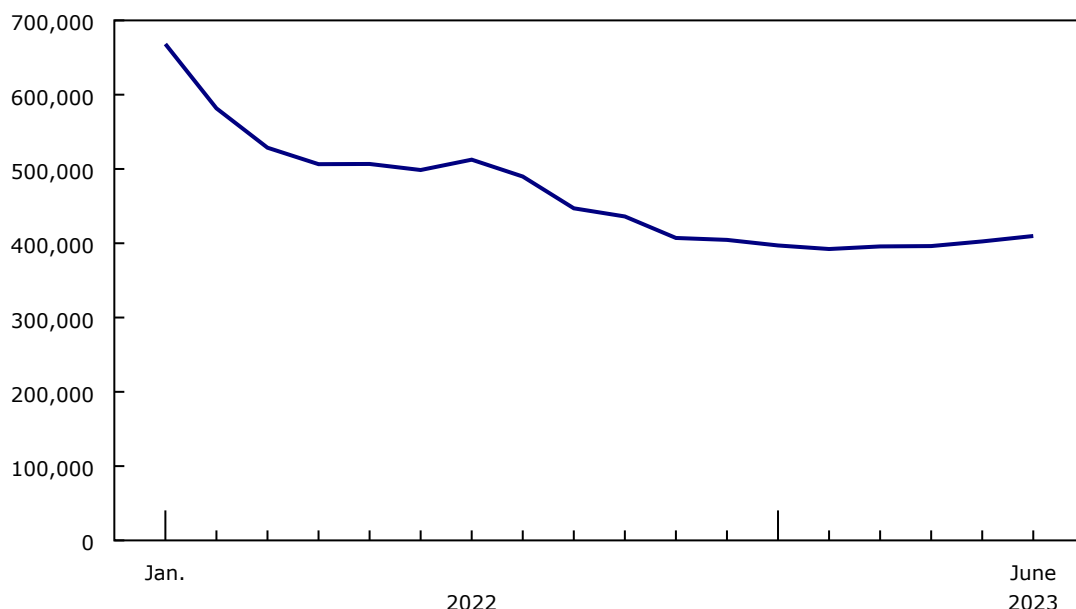
According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the unemployment rate in Canada rose to 5.4% (+0.2 percentage points) in June 2023, bringing it to its highest level since February 2022 (when it was also 5.4%).

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

Upward trend in the number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries continues in June

number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries



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

More people collecting regular Employment Insurance benefits in Quebec

The largest proportional increase in EI beneficiaries occurred in Quebec (+9.4%; +8,800) in June, for a second consecutive month. The increase in regular EI recipients was spread across the province, but the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) of Trois-Rivières (+9.9%; +200) and Montréal (+8.1%; +3,000) were the CMAs where the largest proportional increases were observed.

The number of EI beneficiaries was also up in Alberta (+2.8%; +1,200) and Saskatchewan (+2.3%; +300). The CMA of Edmonton (+16.8%; +2,300) posted the largest proportional increase in regular EI beneficiaries among all CMAs in June, accounting for the entire net increase in Alberta.



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In contrast, Newfoundland and Labrador posted the largest proportional decrease (-4.7%; -1,400) in the month, followed by Nova Scotia (-1.4%; -300) and Ontario (-1.3%; -1,500).

There was little change in the number of people receiving regular EI benefits in British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

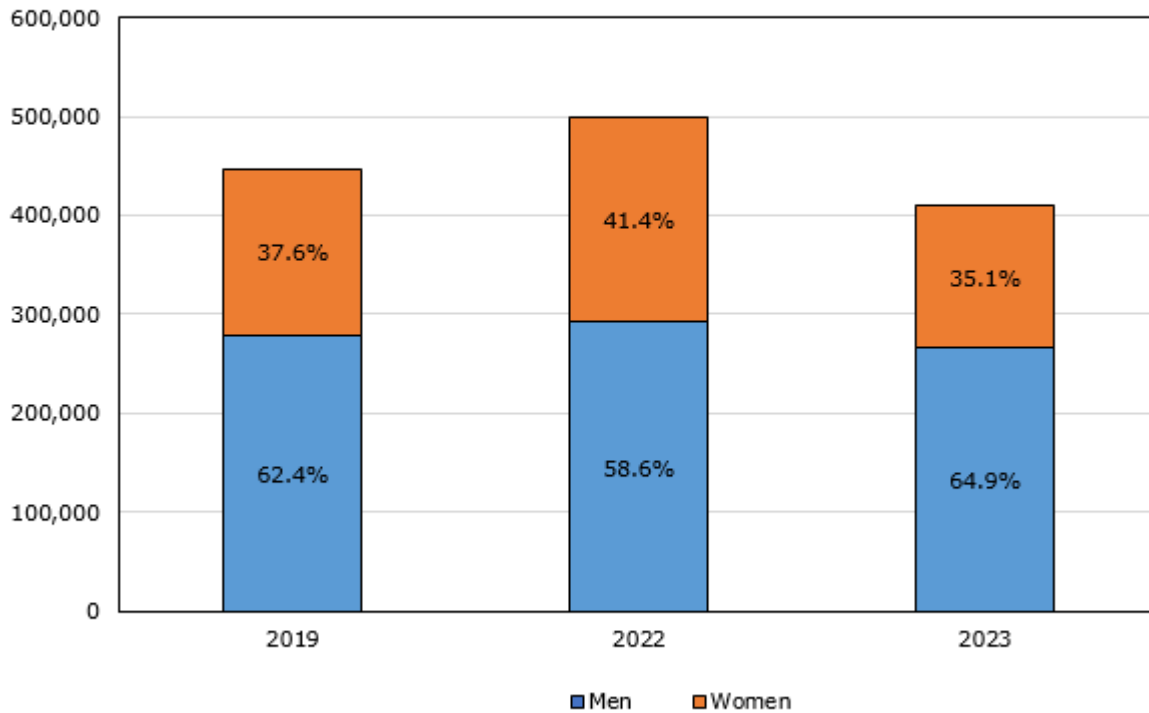
Increase in regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries concentrated among men

The number of men receiving regular EI benefits continued to increase across all age groups in June. From May to June, the largest proportional increase was seen among core-aged men aged 25 to 54 (+6.3%; +9,700), followed by men aged 55 years and older (+3.8%; +2,700), and male youth aged 15 to 24 years (+2.2%; +600). Men accounted for the majority of EI beneficiaries in June (64.9%), up 6.3 percentage points compared with 12 months earlier. The proportion of men receiving regular EI benefits in June exceeded its pre-COVID-19 pandemic average of 62.2% in the month of June from 2017 to 2019.

The number of women receiving regular EI benefits decreased in June 2023 by 3.8% (-5,700), following little change a month earlier. Core-aged women aged 25 to 54 had the largest proportional decrease in the number of EI beneficiaries (-3.9%; -3,800) in June, fully offsetting cumulative increases of 1,400 from January to May in this age group. The number of women aged 55 years and older receiving regular EI benefits fell by 1,600 (-3.8%) in June. In addition, fewer young women aged 15 to 24 (-3.4%; -400) collected regular EI benefits in June, the first monthly decline since February.

Infographic 1 – Proportion of men collecting regular Employment Insurance benefits exceeded its pre-pandemic level in June

number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries in June



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

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 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

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 June 11 to 17, 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 July will be released on September 21.

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

	June 2022	May 2023 ^P	June 2023 ^P	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023
	number		change		% change		
Canada							
Both sexes	498,590	402,470	409,770	7,300	-88,820	1.8	-17.8
15 to 24 years	55,590	40,160	40,410	250	-15,180	0.6	-27.3
25 to 54 years	297,670	250,620	256,560	5,940	-41,110	2.4	-13.8
55 years and over	145,330	111,690	112,810	1,120	-32,520	1.0	-22.4
Men	291,950	253,030	266,050	13,020	-25,900	5.1	-8.9
15 to 24 years	36,230	28,860	29,490	630	-6,740	2.2	-18.6
25 to 54 years	171,090	154,170	163,870	9,700	-7,220	6.3	-4.2
55 years and over	84,630	70,000	72,690	2,690	-11,940	3.8	-14.1
Women	206,640	149,440	143,720	-5,720	-62,920	-3.8	-30.4
15 to 24 years	19,360	11,300	10,920	-380	-8,440	-3.4	-43.6
25 to 54 years	126,580	96,450	92,690	-3,760	-33,890	-3.9	-26.8
55 years and over	60,700	41,690	40,110	-1,580	-20,590	-3.8	-33.9
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	36,450	29,570	28,180	-1,390	-8,270	-4.7	-22.7
15 to 24 years	3,660	2,310	2,330	20	-1,330	0.9	-36.3
25 to 54 years	18,010	14,330	14,000	-330	-4,010	-2.3	-22.3
55 years and over	14,780	12,920	11,840	-1,080	-2,940	-8.4	-19.9
Men	20,850	17,560	17,360	-200	-3,490	-1.1	-16.7
Women	15,600	12,010	10,810	-1,200	-4,790	-10.0	-30.7
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	9,030	6,210	6,160	-50	-2,870	-0.8	-31.8
15 to 24 years	1,650	940	950	10	-700	1.1	-42.4
25 to 54 years	4,260	3,090	3,020	-70	-1,240	-2.3	-29.1
55 years and over	3,130	2,180	2,190	10	-940	0.5	-30.0
Men	4,880	3,840	3,820	-20	-1,060	-0.5	-21.7
Women	4,150	2,370	2,340	-30	-1,810	-1.3	-43.6
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	27,920	20,440	20,160	-280	-7,760	-1.4	-27.8
15 to 24 years	3,400	2,120	2,080	-40	-1,320	-1.9	-38.8
25 to 54 years	15,680	11,680	11,560	-120	-4,120	-1.0	-26.3
55 years and over	8,850	6,630	6,520	-110	-2,330	-1.7	-26.3
Men	16,790	13,380	13,500	120	-3,290	0.9	-19.6
Women	11,130	7,060	6,660	-400	-4,470	-5.7	-40.2
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	36,120	23,580	23,520	-60	-12,600	-0.3	-34.9
15 to 24 years	6,740	2,460	2,520	60	-4,220	2.4	-62.6
25 to 54 years	17,270	12,400	12,350	-50	-4,920	-0.4	-28.5
55 years and over	12,120	8,720	8,650	-70	-3,470	-0.8	-28.6
Men	21,240	15,690	15,850	160	-5,390	1.0	-25.4
Women	14,880	7,880	7,670	-210	-7,210	-2.7	-48.5
Quebec							
Both sexes	121,780	94,060	102,860	8,800	-18,920	9.4	-15.5
15 to 24 years	10,430	7,610	8,030	420	-2,400	5.5	-23.0
25 to 54 years	71,490	57,550	62,860	5,310	-8,630	9.2	-12.1
55 years and over	39,860	28,900	31,970	3,070	-7,890	10.6	-19.8
Men	75,570	63,030	70,940	7,910	-4,630	12.5	-6.1
Women	46,210	31,030	31,920	890	-14,290	2.9	-30.9
Ontario							
Both sexes	136,350	118,550	117,040	-1,510	-19,310	-1.3	-14.2
15 to 24 years	13,930	12,190	11,680	-510	-2,250	-4.2	-16.2
25 to 54 years	88,130	78,610	79,170	560	-8,960	0.7	-10.2
55 years and over	34,290	27,750	26,190	-1,560	-8,100	-5.6	-23.6
Men	78,240	70,260	72,340	2,080	-5,900	3.0	-7.5
Women	58,110	48,280	44,700	-3,580	-13,410	-7.4	-23.1

Table 1 - continued

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

	June 2022	May 2023 ^P	June 2023 ^P	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023
Manitoba							
Both sexes	17,500	13,700	13,640	-60	-3,860	-0.4	-22.1
15 to 24 years	2,980	2,130	2,140	10	-840	0.5	-28.2
25 to 54 years	10,790	8,610	8,530	-80	-2,260	-0.9	-20.9
55 years and over	3,730	2,970	2,970	0	-760	0.0	-20.4
Men	10,590	8,840	8,970	130	-1,620	1.5	-15.3
Women	6,910	4,860	4,670	-190	-2,240	-3.9	-32.4
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	16,180	12,800	13,100	300	-3,080	2.3	-19.0
15 to 24 years	2,340	1,640	1,660	20	-680	1.2	-29.1
25 to 54 years	9,860	8,140	8,310	170	-1,550	2.1	-15.7
55 years and over	3,990	3,010	3,140	130	-850	4.3	-21.3
Men	10,300	8,790	9,270	480	-1,030	5.5	-10.0
Women	5,880	4,010	3,830	-180	-2,050	-4.5	-34.9
Alberta							
Both sexes	52,320	40,910	42,060	1,150	-10,260	2.8	-19.6
15 to 24 years	6,250	4,830	5,140	310	-1,110	6.4	-17.8
25 to 54 years	34,100	27,710	28,060	350	-6,040	1.3	-17.7
55 years and over	11,970	8,370	8,850	480	-3,120	5.7	-26.1
Men	29,800	26,230	27,650	1,420	-2,150	5.4	-7.2
Women	22,530	14,680	14,410	-270	-8,120	-1.8	-36.0
British Columbia							
Both sexes	42,690	40,210	40,430	220	-2,260	0.5	-5.3
15 to 24 years	3,970	3,680	3,620	-60	-350	-1.6	-8.8
25 to 54 years	26,570	26,740	26,820	80	250	0.3	0.9
55 years and over	12,150	9,790	9,990	200	-2,160	2.0	-17.8
Men	22,390	23,880	24,690	810	2,300	3.4	10.3
Women	20,300	16,330	15,740	-590	-4,560	-3.6	-22.5
Yukon							
Both sexes	630	540	560	20	-70	3.7	-11.1
15 to 24 years	70	50	60	10	-10	20.0	-14.3
25 to 54 years	400	360	370	10	-30	2.8	-7.5
55 years and over	160	130	130	0	-30	0.0	-18.8
Men	390	370	400	30	10	8.1	2.6
Women	240	170	160	-10	-80	-5.9	-33.3
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	680	400	410	10	-270	2.5	-39.7
15 to 24 years	80	30	30	0	-50	0.0	-62.5
25 to 54 years	450	270	280	10	-170	3.7	-37.8
55 years and over	140	100	110	10	-30	10.0	-21.4
Men	410	250	280	30	-130	12.0	-31.7
Women	260	150	130	-20	-130	-13.3	-50.0
Nunavut							
Both sexes	520	400	420	20	-100	5.0	-19.2
15 to 24 years	60	50	50	0	-10	0.0	-16.7
25 to 54 years	400	300	310	10	-90	3.3	-22.5
55 years and over	60	60	60	0	0	0.0	0.0
Men	290	270	260	-10	-30	-3.7	-10.3
Women	230	140	160	20	-70	14.3	-30.4

^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

	June 2022	May 2023 ^P	June 2023 ^P	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023
	number			change		% change	
Canada	235,500	241,520	279,090	37,570	43,590	15.6	18.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,610	5,890	9,240	3,350	630	56.9	7.3
Prince Edward Island	2,640	2,620	2,780	160	140	6.1	5.3
Nova Scotia	8,020	9,460	9,450	-10	1,430	-0.1	17.8
New Brunswick	9,360	9,480	12,050	2,570	2,690	27.1	28.7
Quebec	60,680	63,080	79,180	16,100	18,500	25.5	30.5
Ontario	75,820	80,460	86,040	5,580	10,220	6.9	13.5
Manitoba	8,460	8,880	9,160	280	700	3.2	8.3
Saskatchewan	6,220	7,040	7,240	200	1,020	2.8	16.4
Alberta	26,660	24,520	33,570	9,050	6,910	36.9	25.9
British Columbia	28,070	29,170	29,310	140	1,240	0.5	4.4
Yukon	300	300	350	50	50	16.7	16.7
Northwest Territories	320	270	280	10	-40	3.7	-12.5
Nunavut	230	200	270	70	40	35.0	17.4

^P preliminary

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

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

	June 2022	May 2023 ^P	June 2023 ^P	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023
	number		change		% change		
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	5,040	3,270	3,620	350	-1,420	10.7	-28.2
St. John's	5,040	3,270	3,620	350	-1,420	10.7	-28.2
Census agglomerations	4,770	3,770	3,730	-40	-1,040	-1.1	-21.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	26,640	22,530	20,830	-1,700	-5,810	-7.5	-21.8
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	4,060	2,800	2,680	-120	-1,380	-4.3	-34.0
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	4,970	3,420	3,480	60	-1,490	1.8	-30.0
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	5,220	3,910	4,030	120	-1,190	3.1	-22.8
Halifax	5,220	3,910	4,030	120	-1,190	3.1	-22.8
Census agglomerations	8,630	6,250	6,030	-220	-2,600	-3.5	-30.1
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	14,070	10,270	10,100	-170	-3,970	-1.7	-28.2
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	6,600	4,080	4,110	30	-2,490	0.7	-37.7
Moncton	3,620	2,060	2,090	30	-1,530	1.5	-42.3
Saint John	2,980	2,010	2,010	0	-970	0.0	-32.6
Census agglomerations	7,570	4,750	4,890	140	-2,680	2.9	-35.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	21,960	14,750	14,520	-230	-7,440	-1.6	-33.9
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	64,940	51,900	55,550	3,650	-9,390	7.0	-14.5
Montréal	45,220	37,050	40,060	3,010	-5,160	8.1	-11.4
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	3,150	2,520	2,630	110	-520	4.4	-16.5
Québec	8,370	6,400	6,570	170	-1,800	2.7	-21.5
Saguenay	2,990	2,180	2,250	70	-740	3.2	-24.7
Sherbrooke	2,810	2,140	2,260	120	-550	5.6	-19.6
Trois-Rivières	2,390	1,620	1,780	160	-610	9.9	-25.5
Census agglomerations	15,330	11,410	12,340	930	-2,990	8.2	-19.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	41,510	30,750	34,970	4,220	-6,540	13.7	-15.8
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	101,980	89,840	88,730	-1,110	-13,250	-1.2	-13.0
Barrie	2,280	2,040	2,000	-40	-280	-2.0	-12.3
Bellefleur	1,300	1,140	1,140	0	-160	0.0	-12.3
Brantford	1,640	1,400	1,490	90	-150	6.4	-9.1
Greater Sudbury	2,180	1,710	1,720	10	-460	0.6	-21.1
Guelph	1,110	1,080	1,080	0	-30	0.0	-2.7
Hamilton	6,460	5,770	5,760	-10	-700	-0.2	-10.8
Kingston	1,640	1,350	1,320	-30	-320	-2.2	-19.5
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	4,680	4,580	4,430	-150	-250	-3.3	-5.3
London	5,780	4,900	4,760	-140	-1,020	-2.9	-17.6
Oshawa	3,860	3,450	3,420	-30	-440	-0.9	-11.4
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	6,690	6,590	6,440	-150	-250	-2.3	-3.7
Peterborough	1,120	1,000	980	-20	-140	-2.0	-12.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	5,360	3,960	4,350	390	-1,010	9.8	-18.8
Thunder Bay	1,470	1,150	1,160	10	-310	0.9	-21.1
Toronto	51,820	45,700	44,970	-730	-6,850	-1.6	-13.2
Windsor	4,600	4,020	3,710	-310	-890	-7.7	-19.3
Census agglomerations	14,440	12,480	12,280	-200	-2,160	-1.6	-15.0
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	19,940	16,230	16,030	-200	-3,910	-1.2	-19.6
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	8,470	6,740	6,680	-60	-1,790	-0.9	-21.1
Winnipeg	8,470	6,740	6,680	-60	-1,790	-0.9	-21.1
Census agglomerations	1,500	1,110	1,130	20	-370	1.8	-24.7
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,530	5,850	5,830	-20	-1,700	-0.3	-22.6

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

	June 2022	May 2023 ^P	June 2023 ^P	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023	May to June 2023	June 2022 to June 2023
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	4,990	4,220	4,320	100	-670	2.4	-13.4
Regina	1,920	1,690	1,730	40	-190	2.4	-9.9
Saskatoon	3,060	2,540	2,600	60	-460	2.4	-15.0
Census agglomerations	2,870	2,230	2,340	110	-530	4.9	-18.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,320	6,350	6,430	80	-1,890	1.3	-22.7
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	35,740	27,680	28,980	1,300	-6,760	4.7	-18.9
Calgary	16,040	13,170	12,260	-910	-3,780	-6.9	-23.6
Edmonton	18,610	13,480	15,740	2,260	-2,870	16.8	-15.4
Lethbridge	1,090	1,030	970	-60	-120	-5.8	-11.0
Census agglomerations	6,770	5,470	5,530	60	-1,240	1.1	-18.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	9,820	7,760	7,550	-210	-2,270	-2.7	-23.1
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	23,830	23,570	23,450	-120	-380	-0.5	-1.6
Abbotsford–Mission	2,280	1,840	1,770	-70	-510	-3.8	-22.4
Kelowna	1,970	1,770	1,690	-80	-280	-4.5	-14.2
Vancouver	17,400	17,990	17,980	-10	580	-0.1	3.3
Victoria	2,180	1,970	2,010	40	-170	2.0	-7.8
Census agglomerations	10,460	9,010	9,230	220	-1,230	2.4	-11.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,400	7,630	7,740	110	-660	1.4	-7.9

^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).