

Employment Insurance, July 2023

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The number of Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits increased by 25,000 (+6.0%) to 438,000 in July. This was the third consecutive monthly increase and the largest increase since May 2021. From April to July 2023, the number of Canadians receiving regular EI benefits has increased by 10.5% (+42,000).

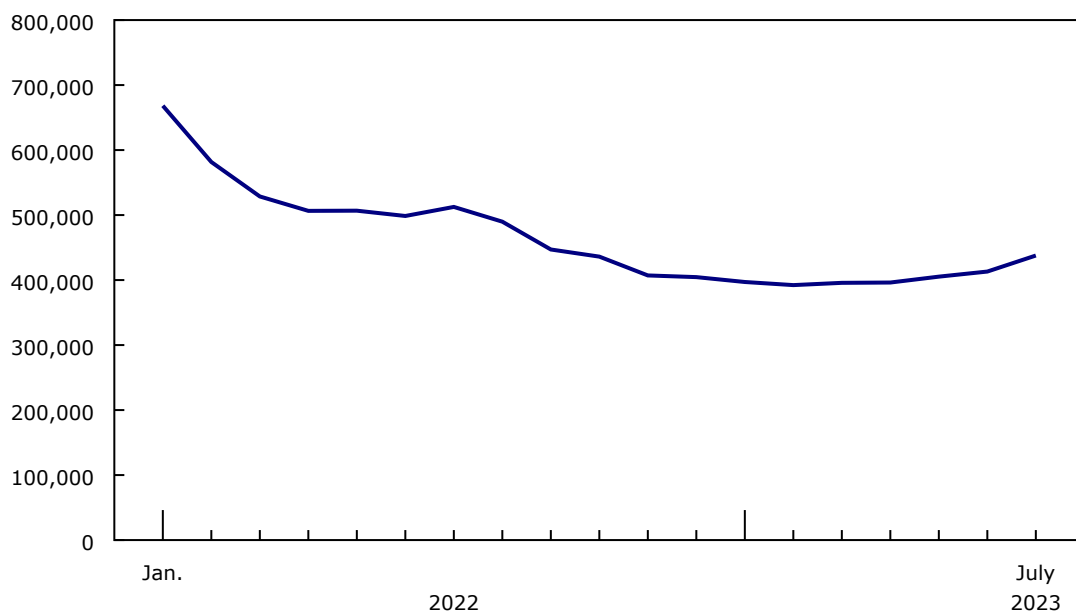
According to the Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate increased 0.1 percentage points to 5.5% in July, marking the third consecutive monthly increase.

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

Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries increase for a third consecutive month in July

number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries



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

Increase in the number of people collecting regular Employment Insurance benefits in seven provinces

The number of regular EI beneficiaries increased in seven provinces in July, led by New Brunswick (+19.4%; +4,500), Manitoba (+14.9%; +2,000), Prince Edward Island (+13.9%; +900) and Quebec (+13.5%; +14,000). Meanwhile, the number of people collecting regular EI benefits fell in Ontario (-3.0%; -3,600) and was little changed in Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan.

In July, New Brunswick saw its first increase in the number of regular EI beneficiaries since a year earlier. Likewise, Prince Edward Island recorded its first increase since December 2022 and Nova Scotia recorded its first increase since January 2023. In these three provinces, the number of regular EI recipients had generally trended downwards over the past year, before increasing in July.



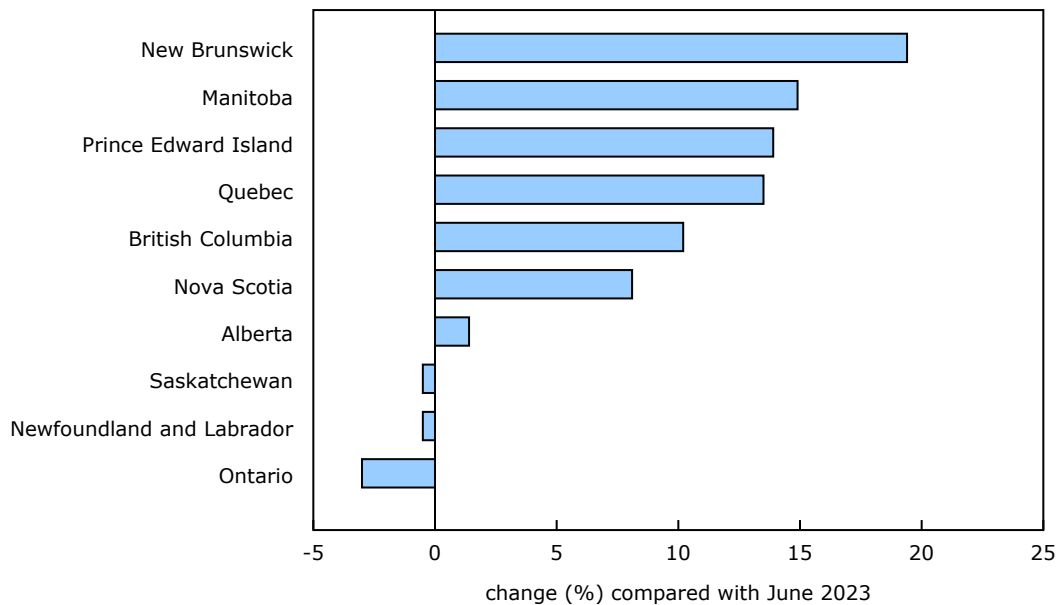
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For a third consecutive month, the number of regular EI recipients increased in Quebec (+13.5%; +14,000) in July, bringing the cumulative increase since April to 30,000 regular EI beneficiaries.

Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs), the largest proportional increases in regular EI beneficiaries were in the CMAs of Moncton (+32.4%; +700), Trois-Rivières (+29.7%; +500) and Saint John (+29.4%; +600). Conversely, the largest proportional decreases in the number of beneficiaries were in the CMAs of Oshawa (-9.8%; -300) and Greater Sudbury (-6.3%; -500).

Chart 2
Regular Employment Insurance recipients rise in seven provinces in July



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

Increases in regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries in July concentrated among core-aged men aged 25 to 54 and women aged 55 and older

The number of people collecting regular EI benefits increased among both men (+5.4%; +14,000) and women (+6.9%; +10,000) in July. The number of male regular EI beneficiaries has steadily increased since April (+13.3%; +33,000). Among women, July saw the first monthly increase in the number of regular EI beneficiaries since February.

The number of core-aged (25 to 54 years) male regular EI beneficiaries increased by 6.0% (+9,800) in July, with a faster pace of growth in Manitoba, New Brunswick and Quebec, compared with the other provinces. This contributed to 68.0% of the monthly increase among men. The number of people collecting regular EI benefits rose by 6.4% (+1,900) among young men aged 15 to 24 years, while it increased by 3.8% (+2,700) among men aged 55 years and older.

In July, 67.4% of the monthly increase for women collecting regular EI benefits was among those aged 55 years and older (+17.3%; +7,000), with gains recorded in all provinces. The number of regular EI recipients rose among core-aged women (+2.9%; +2,800) and women aged 15 to 24 (+4.5%; +500).

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 July 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 August will be released on October 19.

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

	July 2022	June 2023 ^P	July 2023 ^P	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023
	number		change		% change		
Canada							
Both sexes	512,520	413,090	437,750	24,660	-74,770	6.0	-14.6
15 to 24 years	52,520	41,470	43,880	2,410	-8,640	5.8	-16.5
25 to 54 years	312,970	259,320	271,900	12,580	-41,070	4.9	-13.1
55 years and over	147,030	112,300	121,970	9,670	-25,060	8.6	-17.0
Men	296,330	264,040	278,370	14,330	-17,960	5.4	-6.1
15 to 24 years	34,880	29,440	31,310	1,870	-3,570	6.4	-10.2
25 to 54 years	174,890	162,500	172,250	9,750	-2,640	6.0	-1.5
55 years and over	86,550	72,100	74,820	2,720	-11,730	3.8	-13.6
Women	216,190	149,050	159,380	10,330	-56,810	6.9	-26.3
15 to 24 years	17,640	12,030	12,570	540	-5,070	4.5	-28.7
25 to 54 years	138,070	96,820	99,650	2,830	-38,420	2.9	-27.8
55 years and over	60,480	40,200	47,160	6,960	-13,320	17.3	-22.0
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	35,600	28,250	28,110	-140	-7,490	-0.5	-21.0
15 to 24 years	3,150	2,380	2,330	-50	-820	-2.1	-26.0
25 to 54 years	18,340	14,100	14,130	30	-4,210	0.2	-23.0
55 years and over	14,110	11,770	11,640	-130	-2,470	-1.1	-17.5
Men	20,520	17,270	16,950	-320	-3,570	-1.9	-17.4
Women	15,070	10,980	11,160	180	-3,910	1.6	-25.9
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	8,640	6,200	7,060	860	-1,580	13.9	-18.3
15 to 24 years	1,450	1,090	1,280	190	-170	17.4	-11.7
25 to 54 years	4,240	2,990	3,480	490	-760	16.4	-17.9
55 years and over	2,950	2,120	2,290	170	-660	8.0	-22.4
Men	4,700	3,840	4,160	320	-540	8.3	-11.5
Women	3,940	2,360	2,900	540	-1,040	22.9	-26.4
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	27,670	20,130	21,770	1,640	-5,900	8.1	-21.3
15 to 24 years	3,300	2,090	2,290	200	-1,010	9.6	-30.6
25 to 54 years	16,090	11,630	12,460	830	-3,630	7.1	-22.6
55 years and over	8,290	6,410	7,020	610	-1,270	9.5	-15.3
Men	16,820	13,360	13,730	370	-3,090	2.8	-18.4
Women	10,850	6,770	8,040	1,270	-2,810	18.8	-25.9
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	36,580	23,430	27,970	4,540	-8,610	19.4	-23.5
15 to 24 years	6,270	2,540	3,150	610	-3,120	24.0	-49.8
25 to 54 years	18,360	12,410	14,670	2,260	-3,690	18.2	-20.1
55 years and over	11,950	8,480	10,140	1,660	-1,810	19.6	-15.1
Men	21,930	15,640	17,860	2,220	-4,070	14.2	-18.6
Women	14,650	7,790	10,110	2,320	-4,540	29.8	-31.0
Quebec							
Both sexes	134,780	102,730	116,550	13,820	-18,230	13.5	-13.5
15 to 24 years	10,980	8,250	9,590	1,340	-1,390	16.2	-12.7
25 to 54 years	80,030	62,810	70,860	8,050	-9,170	12.8	-11.5
55 years and over	43,770	31,670	36,110	4,440	-7,660	14.0	-17.5
Men	81,780	69,590	79,900	10,310	-1,880	14.8	-2.3
Women	53,000	33,140	36,660	3,520	-16,340	10.6	-30.8
Ontario							
Both sexes	136,500	121,070	117,480	-3,590	-19,020	-3.0	-13.9
15 to 24 years	12,560	12,240	11,940	-300	-620	-2.5	-4.9
25 to 54 years	88,380	81,790	77,830	-3,960	-10,550	-4.8	-11.9
55 years and over	35,560	27,040	27,710	670	-7,850	2.5	-22.1
Men	77,370	73,500	73,000	-500	-4,370	-0.7	-5.6
Women	59,130	47,560	44,480	-3,080	-14,650	-6.5	-24.8

Table 1 - continued

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

	July 2022	June 2023 ^P	July 2023 ^P	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023
Manitoba							
Both sexes	18,720	13,450	15,460	2,010	-3,260	14.9	-17.4
15 to 24 years	2,960	2,110	2,340	230	-620	10.9	-20.9
25 to 54 years	12,020	8,390	9,720	1,330	-2,300	15.9	-19.1
55 years and over	3,750	2,950	3,400	450	-350	15.3	-9.3
Men	11,110	8,760	9,860	1,100	-1,250	12.6	-11.3
Women	7,610	4,700	5,600	900	-2,010	19.1	-26.4
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	16,000	13,200	13,130	-70	-2,870	-0.5	-17.9
15 to 24 years	2,120	1,690	1,680	-10	-440	-0.6	-20.8
25 to 54 years	10,130	8,410	8,200	-210	-1,930	-2.5	-19.1
55 years and over	3,740	3,100	3,250	150	-490	4.8	-13.1
Men	9,900	9,220	8,490	-730	-1,410	-7.9	-14.2
Women	6,090	3,980	4,650	670	-1,440	16.8	-23.6
Alberta							
Both sexes	50,610	42,580	43,170	590	-7,440	1.4	-14.7
15 to 24 years	5,670	5,220	5,100	-120	-570	-2.3	-10.1
25 to 54 years	34,040	28,620	28,620	0	-5,420	0.0	-15.9
55 years and over	10,900	8,740	9,440	700	-1,460	8.0	-13.4
Men	27,790	27,450	26,670	-780	-1,120	-2.8	-4.0
Women	22,830	15,130	16,500	1,370	-6,330	9.1	-27.7
British Columbia							
Both sexes	44,840	39,370	43,370	4,000	-1,470	10.2	-3.3
15 to 24 years	3,810	3,590	3,880	290	70	8.1	1.8
25 to 54 years	29,530	26,240	29,240	3,000	-290	11.4	-1.0
55 years and over	11,500	9,540	10,250	710	-1,250	7.4	-10.9
Men	23,040	23,750	25,740	1,990	2,700	8.4	11.7
Women	21,800	15,620	17,630	2,010	-4,170	12.9	-19.1
Yukon							
Both sexes	660	580	620	40	-40	6.9	-6.1
15 to 24 years	60	60	70	10	10	16.7	16.7
25 to 54 years	450	380	390	10	-60	2.6	-13.3
55 years and over	150	130	160	30	10	23.1	6.7
Men	390	410	420	10	30	2.4	7.7
Women	270	170	190	20	-80	11.8	-29.6
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	670	410	480	70	-190	17.1	-28.4
15 to 24 years	80	30	30	0	-50	0.0	-62.5
25 to 54 years	440	280	320	40	-120	14.3	-27.3
55 years and over	140	110	120	10	-20	9.1	-14.3
Men	420	270	320	50	-100	18.5	-23.8
Women	250	140	160	20	-90	14.3	-36.0
Nunavut							
Both sexes	510	430	450	20	-60	4.7	-11.8
15 to 24 years	50	50	40	-10	-10	-20.0	-20.0
25 to 54 years	390	320	350	30	-40	9.4	-10.3
55 years and over	60	60	60	0	0	0.0	0.0
Men	290	260	270	10	-20	3.8	-6.9
Women	220	170	180	10	-40	5.9	-18.2

^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.

Source(s): Table 14-10-0011-01.

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

	July 2022	June 2023 ^P	July 2023 ^P	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023
	number			change		% change	
Canada	255,920	273,780	261,520	-12,260	5,600	-4.5	2.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,580	9,290	9,060	-230	480	-2.5	5.6
Prince Edward Island	2,680	2,760	2,610	-150	-70	-5.4	-2.6
Nova Scotia	9,540	9,460	9,640	180	100	1.9	1.0
New Brunswick	10,850	12,050	9,310	-2,740	-1,540	-22.7	-14.2
Quebec	68,350	71,930	68,960	-2,970	610	-4.1	0.9
Ontario	80,010	86,270	85,190	-1,080	5,180	-1.3	6.5
Manitoba	9,200	9,160	10,530	1,370	1,330	15.0	14.5
Saskatchewan	6,920	7,250	7,020	-230	100	-3.2	1.4
Alberta	31,030	34,870	26,600	-8,270	-4,430	-23.7	-14.3
British Columbia	27,810	29,680	31,660	1,980	3,850	6.7	13.8
Yukon	300	350	310	-40	10	-11.4	3.3
Northwest Territories	280	280	260	-20	-20	-7.1	-7.1
Nunavut	220	270	220	-50	0	-18.5	0.0

^P preliminary

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

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

	July 2022	June 2023 ^P	July 2023 ^P	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023
	number		change		% change		
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	5,000	3,600	3,770	170	-1,230	4.7	-24.6
St. John's	5,000	3,600	3,770	170	-1,230	4.7	-24.6
Census agglomerations	4,600	3,750	3,700	-50	-900	-1.3	-19.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	26,000	20,900	20,630	-270	-5,370	-1.3	-20.7
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	3,930	2,720	3,050	330	-880	12.1	-22.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	4,710	3,480	4,010	530	-700	15.2	-14.9
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	5,080	4,030	4,210	180	-870	4.5	-17.1
Halifax	5,080	4,030	4,210	180	-870	4.5	-17.1
Census agglomerations	8,730	5,990	6,550	560	-2,180	9.3	-25.0
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	13,860	10,110	11,020	910	-2,840	9.0	-20.5
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	6,770	4,020	5,250	1,230	-1,520	30.6	-22.5
Moncton	3,600	2,040	2,700	660	-900	32.4	-25.0
Saint John	3,170	1,970	2,550	580	-620	29.4	-19.6
Census agglomerations	7,650	4,800	5,630	830	-2,020	17.3	-26.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	22,170	14,620	17,090	2,470	-5,080	16.9	-22.9
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	73,870	54,750	64,070	9,320	-9,800	17.0	-13.3
Montréal	52,110	38,870	45,980	7,110	-6,130	18.3	-11.8
Ottawa-Gatineau (Quebec part)	3,760	2,720	3,050	330	-710	12.1	-18.9
Québec	8,600	6,760	7,290	530	-1,310	7.8	-15.2
Saguenay	3,350	2,290	2,450	160	-900	7.0	-26.9
Sherbrooke	3,300	2,300	2,930	630	-370	27.4	-11.2
Trois-Rivières	2,740	1,820	2,360	540	-380	29.7	-13.9
Census agglomerations	16,790	12,680	13,870	1,190	-2,920	9.4	-17.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	44,120	35,300	38,610	3,310	-5,510	9.4	-12.5
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	102,710	92,130	89,990	-2,140	-12,720	-2.3	-12.4
Barrie	2,180	2,050	1,970	-80	-210	-3.9	-9.6
Belleville	1,260	1,160	1,070	-90	-190	-7.8	-15.1
Brantford	1,540	1,510	1,490	-20	-50	-1.3	-3.2
Greater Sudbury	2,160	1,750	1,640	-110	-520	-6.3	-24.1
Guelph	1,090	1,120	1,100	-20	10	-1.8	0.9
Hamilton	6,570	6,130	6,000	-130	-570	-2.1	-8.7
Kingston	1,530	1,350	1,280	-70	-250	-5.2	-16.3
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	4,430	4,570	4,420	-150	-10	-3.3	-0.2
London	6,250	4,900	5,040	140	-1,210	2.9	-19.4
Oshawa	3,460	3,480	3,140	-340	-320	-9.8	-9.2
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part)	6,590	6,580	6,340	-240	-250	-3.6	-3.8
Peterborough	1,090	1,010	970	-40	-120	-4.0	-11.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	5,170	4,190	4,040	-150	-1,130	-3.6	-21.9
Thunder Bay	1,470	1,180	1,120	-60	-350	-5.1	-23.8
Toronto	49,670	47,310	46,610	-700	-3,060	-1.5	-6.2
Windsor	8,250	3,830	3,750	-80	-4,500	-2.1	-54.5
Census agglomerations	14,450	12,640	12,350	-290	-2,100	-2.3	-14.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	19,330	16,290	15,140	-1,150	-4,190	-7.1	-21.7
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	9,460	6,560	7,840	1,280	-1,620	19.5	-17.1
Winnipeg	9,460	6,560	7,840	1,280	-1,620	19.5	-17.1
Census agglomerations	1,770	1,120	1,430	310	-340	27.7	-19.2
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,490	5,770	6,190	420	-1,300	7.3	-17.4

Table 3 - continued

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

	July 2022	June 2023 ^P	July 2023 ^P	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023	June to July 2023	July 2022 to July 2023
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	5,610	4,380	4,970	590	-640	13.5	-11.4
Regina	2,200	1,670	1,930	260	-270	15.6	-12.3
Saskatoon	3,410	2,710	3,040	330	-370	12.2	-10.9
Census agglomerations	2,720	2,340	2,190	-150	-530	-6.4	-19.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,660	6,480	5,970	-510	-1,690	-7.9	-22.1
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	34,210	29,540	29,250	-290	-4,960	-1.0	-14.5
Calgary	15,480	13,430	13,440	10	-2,040	0.1	-13.2
Edmonton	17,590	15,150	14,670	-480	-2,920	-3.2	-16.6
Lethbridge	1,140	960	1,130	170	-10	17.7	-0.9
Census agglomerations	7,090	5,540	6,100	560	-990	10.1	-14.0
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	9,310	7,510	7,820	310	-1,490	4.1	-16.0
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	25,600	23,450	25,950	2,500	350	10.7	1.4
Abbotsford–Mission	2,340	1,700	1,870	170	-470	10.0	-20.1
Kelowna	2,220	1,680	1,870	190	-350	11.3	-15.8
Vancouver	18,570	18,130	19,970	1,840	1,400	10.1	7.5
Victoria	2,470	1,940	2,240	300	-230	15.5	-9.3
Census agglomerations	11,040	8,690	9,820	1,130	-1,220	13.0	-11.1
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,200	7,240	7,600	360	-600	5.0	-7.3

^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).