

Employment Insurance, August 2023

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There were 448,000 Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in August, up 9,100 (+2.1%) from a month earlier. This was the fourth consecutive increase in the number of regular EI recipients. Despite successive increases, the total number of regular EI beneficiaries in August remained below levels seen in August 2022 (-42,000; -8.5%).

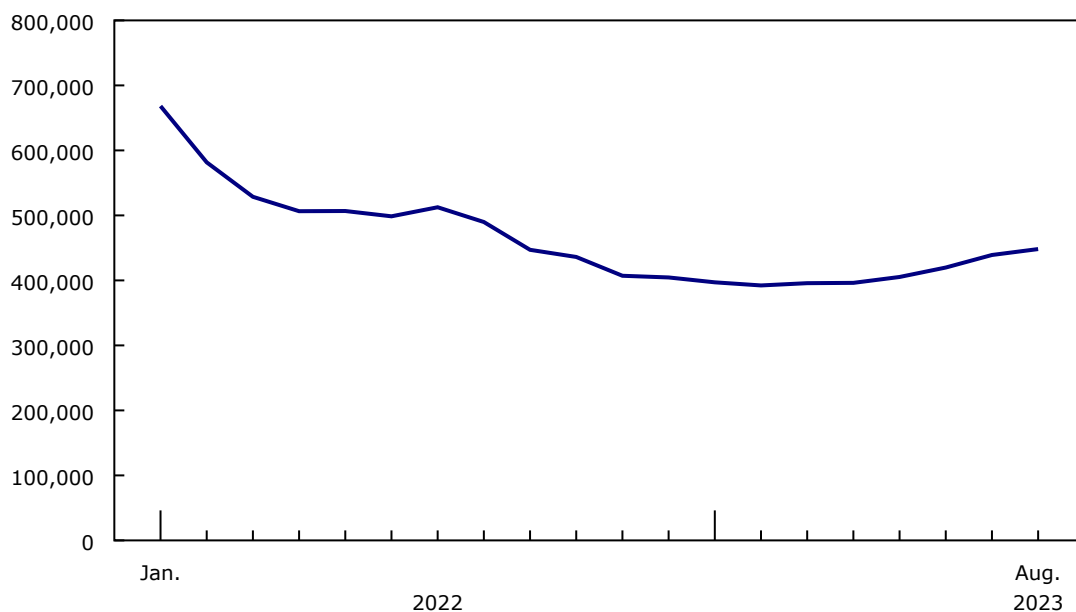
According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5% in August, following three consecutive monthly increases.

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 from April to August

number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries



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

The number of regular Employment Insurance recipients increases in six provinces

The number of regular EI beneficiaries rose in six provinces in August. British Columbia (+13.4%; +5,700) posted the largest proportional increase, followed by Manitoba (+7.6%; +1,100), Alberta (+5.2%; +2,300), New Brunswick (+5.1%; +1,400), Saskatchewan (+2.3%; +300) and Ontario (+1.7%; +2,100). In contrast, there were fewer regular EI beneficiaries in Quebec (-2.3%; -2,700) and little change in the remaining provinces.

In British Columbia, the number of regular EI recipients rose for the third consecutive month in August (+13.4%; +5,700). This monthly increase was the largest recorded in the province since April 2021. Across Canada, the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) with the largest proportional increases in regular EI recipients in August 2023 were in British Columbia and included Victoria (+18.1%; +400), Abbotsford–Mission (+12.6%; +200) and Vancouver (+12.0%; +2,400).



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Canada

Following three consecutive monthly increases, Quebec saw a decrease in the number of regular EI recipients (-2.3%; -2,700) in August. This was the first decrease recorded in the province since March 2023. In August, the decline in the number of male regular EI recipients (-7.4%; -5,900) was tempered by an increase among their female counterparts (+8.7%; +3,200). Despite the decline in August, the number of regular EI recipients in Quebec remained higher than in January (+26.6%; +24,000).

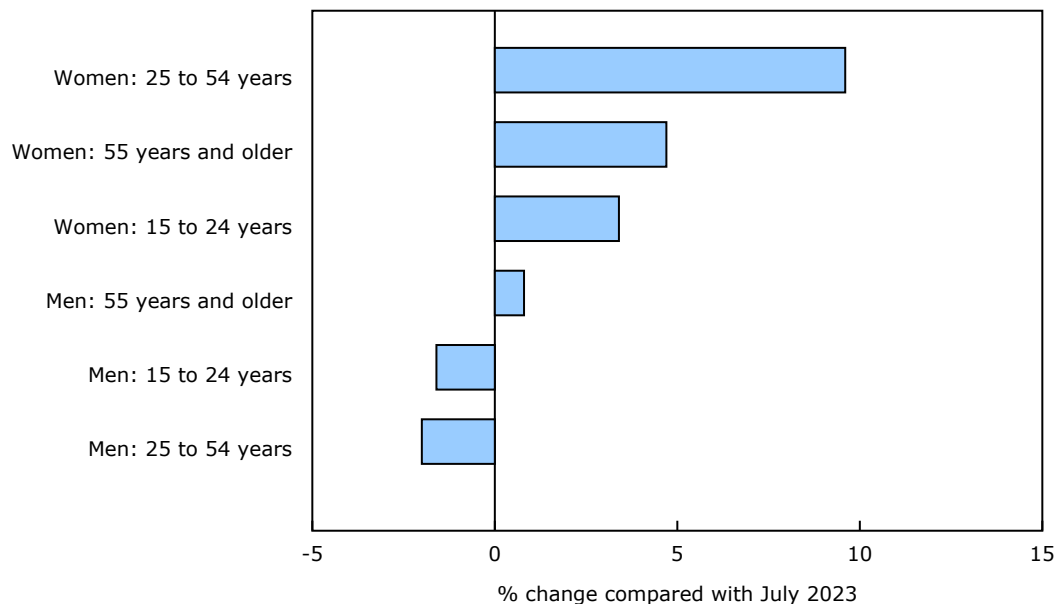
More core-aged women, fewer core-aged men receive regular Employment Insurance benefits

In August, the largest increase in the number of regular EI recipients was recorded among core-aged women (aged 25 to 54) (+9,700; +9.6%). Increases among women aged 55 and older (+2,200; +4.7%) and young women aged 15 to 24 (+500; +3.4%) were smaller.

Following three consecutive monthly increases, the number of men collecting regular EI benefits fell in August (-3,300; -1.2%), the first decline since February. The largest month-to-month decline in August was seen among core-aged men (aged 25 to 54) (-3,400; -2.0%), while among young men (aged 15 to 24) the number of regular EI recipients was down by 500 (-1.6%). There was little change in the number of regular EI recipients among older men (aged 55 and older).

The number of regular EI recipients has generally trended up in recent months. Increases have been observed for both men and women, and across all age groups. In August, the number of women receiving regular EI benefits was up by 23,000 (+15.5%) compared with April, while it was up by 29,000 (+11.6%) among men over that same period.

Chart 2
The number of people receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits increases the most among core-aged women in August



Note(s): Change statistically significant in all demographic groups except men aged 55 years and older.
Source(s): 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 August 13 to 19, 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 September will be released on November 16.

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

	August 2022	July 2023 ^P	August 2023 ^P	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023
	number		change		% change		
Canada							
Both sexes	489,830	439,090	448,190	9,100	-41,640	2.1	-8.5
15 to 24 years	50,160	44,560	44,520	-40	-5,640	-0.1	-11.2
25 to 54 years	298,090	274,050	280,430	6,380	-17,660	2.3	-5.9
55 years and over	141,580	120,470	123,250	2,780	-18,330	2.3	-12.9
Men	293,630	277,660	274,390	-3,270	-19,240	-1.2	-6.6
15 to 24 years	34,350	31,240	30,740	-500	-3,610	-1.6	-10.5
25 to 54 years	174,360	172,370	169,000	-3,370	-5,360	-2.0	-3.1
55 years and over	84,920	74,060	74,650	590	-10,270	0.8	-12.1
Women	196,200	161,420	173,800	12,380	-22,400	7.7	-11.4
15 to 24 years	15,810	13,330	13,780	450	-2,030	3.4	-12.8
25 to 54 years	123,730	101,690	111,430	9,740	-12,300	9.6	-9.9
55 years and over	56,660	46,410	48,590	2,180	-8,070	4.7	-14.2
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	33,790	28,240	28,210	-30	-5,580	-0.1	-16.5
15 to 24 years	2,930	2,410	2,370	-40	-560	-1.7	-19.1
25 to 54 years	17,360	14,250	14,360	110	-3,000	0.8	-17.3
55 years and over	13,510	11,570	11,490	-80	-2,020	-0.7	-15.0
Men	20,100	16,860	16,820	-40	-3,280	-0.2	-16.3
Women	13,690	11,370	11,400	30	-2,290	0.3	-16.7
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	8,360	6,710	6,660	-50	-1,700	-0.7	-20.3
15 to 24 years	1,580	1,240	1,200	-40	-380	-3.2	-24.1
25 to 54 years	3,870	3,300	3,250	-50	-620	-1.5	-16.0
55 years and over	2,920	2,170	2,210	40	-710	1.8	-24.3
Men	4,710	3,880	3,800	-80	-910	-2.1	-19.3
Women	3,650	2,820	2,860	40	-790	1.4	-21.6
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	26,050	21,540	21,650	110	-4,400	0.5	-16.9
15 to 24 years	3,020	2,230	2,320	90	-700	4.0	-23.2
25 to 54 years	14,840	12,390	12,460	70	-2,380	0.6	-16.0
55 years and over	8,200	6,920	6,870	-50	-1,330	-0.7	-16.2
Men	16,290	13,590	13,490	-100	-2,800	-0.7	-17.2
Women	9,760	7,950	8,160	210	-1,600	2.6	-16.4
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	34,340	27,190	28,590	1,400	-5,750	5.1	-16.7
15 to 24 years	5,870	3,640	4,020	380	-1,850	10.4	-31.5
25 to 54 years	16,580	14,000	14,570	570	-2,010	4.1	-12.1
55 years and over	11,890	9,550	10,000	450	-1,890	4.7	-15.9
Men	21,300	17,010	17,500	490	-3,800	2.9	-17.8
Women	13,040	10,180	11,090	910	-1,950	8.9	-15.0
Quebec							
Both sexes	122,130	116,420	113,690	-2,730	-8,440	-2.3	-6.9
15 to 24 years	9,730	9,570	8,920	-650	-810	-6.8	-8.3
25 to 54 years	72,510	71,290	69,310	-1,980	-3,200	-2.8	-4.4
55 years and over	39,900	35,560	35,470	-90	-4,430	-0.3	-11.1
Men	77,430	80,000	74,090	-5,910	-3,340	-7.4	-4.3
Women	44,710	36,420	39,600	3,180	-5,110	8.7	-11.4
Ontario							
Both sexes	132,500	120,060	122,120	2,060	-10,380	1.7	-7.8
15 to 24 years	12,180	12,120	11,880	-240	-300	-2.0	-2.5
25 to 54 years	86,880	79,770	81,670	1,900	-5,210	2.4	-6.0
55 years and over	33,440	28,170	28,570	400	-4,870	1.4	-14.6
Men	78,160	73,820	73,170	-650	-4,990	-0.9	-6.4
Women	54,340	46,240	48,960	2,720	-5,380	5.9	-9.9

Table 1 - continued

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

	August 2022	July 2023 ^P	August 2023 ^P	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023
Manitoba							
Both sexes	18,680	14,690	15,800	1,110	-2,880	7.6	-15.4
15 to 24 years	2,850	2,250	2,410	160	-440	7.1	-15.4
25 to 54 years	11,920	9,240	10,070	830	-1,850	9.0	-15.5
55 years and over	3,910	3,210	3,320	110	-590	3.4	-15.1
Men	11,280	9,310	9,610	300	-1,670	3.2	-14.8
Women	7,410	5,390	6,200	810	-1,210	15.0	-16.3
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	15,390	13,360	13,670	310	-1,720	2.3	-11.2
15 to 24 years	2,000	1,700	1,710	10	-290	0.6	-14.5
25 to 54 years	9,680	8,340	8,570	230	-1,110	2.8	-11.5
55 years and over	3,710	3,320	3,390	70	-320	2.1	-8.6
Men	9,850	8,690	8,760	70	-1,090	0.8	-11.1
Women	5,540	4,670	4,910	240	-630	5.1	-11.4
Alberta							
Both sexes	50,330	44,800	47,110	2,310	-3,220	5.2	-6.4
15 to 24 years	5,850	5,340	5,490	150	-360	2.8	-6.2
25 to 54 years	32,970	30,000	31,540	1,540	-1,430	5.1	-4.3
55 years and over	11,510	9,450	10,080	630	-1,430	6.7	-12.4
Men	28,650	27,490	28,690	1,200	40	4.4	0.1
Women	21,680	17,310	18,420	1,110	-3,260	6.4	-15.0
British Columbia							
Both sexes	45,750	42,370	48,030	5,660	2,280	13.4	5.0
15 to 24 years	3,940	3,760	3,990	230	50	6.1	1.3
25 to 54 years	29,740	28,780	32,730	3,950	2,990	13.7	10.1
55 years and over	12,070	9,830	11,320	1,490	-750	15.2	-6.2
Men	24,470	25,020	26,930	1,910	2,460	7.6	10.1
Women	21,280	17,350	21,100	3,750	-180	21.6	-0.8
Yukon							
Both sexes	640	610	600	-10	-40	-1.6	-6.3
15 to 24 years	60	70	70	0	10	0.0	16.7
25 to 54 years	420	380	370	-10	-50	-2.6	-11.9
55 years and over	150	160	160	0	10	0.0	6.7
Men	410	420	400	-20	-10	-4.8	-2.4
Women	230	190	200	10	-30	5.3	-13.0
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	610	480	540	60	-70	12.5	-11.5
15 to 24 years	60	30	30	0	-30	0.0	-50.0
25 to 54 years	400	330	370	40	-30	12.1	-7.5
55 years and over	150	130	140	10	-10	7.7	-6.7
Men	390	330	370	40	-20	12.1	-5.1
Women	220	160	170	10	-50	6.3	-22.7
Nunavut							
Both sexes	450	450	470	20	20	4.4	4.4
15 to 24 years	40	40	50	10	10	25.0	25.0
25 to 54 years	360	350	360	10	0	2.9	0.0
55 years and over	50	60	50	-10	0	-16.7	0.0
Men	260	270	280	10	20	3.7	7.7
Women	200	180	180	0	-20	0.0	-10.0

^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.

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

	August 2022	July 2023 ^P	August 2023 ^P	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023
	number		change		% change		
Canada	248,960	262,360	259,110	-3,250	10,150	-1.2	4.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,740	9,010	8,560	-450	-180	-5.0	-2.1
Prince Edward Island	2,680	2,600	2,580	-20	-100	-0.8	-3.7
Nova Scotia	10,030	9,650	9,680	30	-350	0.3	-3.5
New Brunswick	9,450	9,210	9,300	90	-150	1.0	-1.6
Quebec	65,040	69,290	67,220	-2,070	2,180	-3.0	3.4
Ontario	80,210	85,300	84,810	-490	4,600	-0.6	5.7
Manitoba	8,980	10,530	9,200	-1,330	220	-12.6	2.4
Saskatchewan	6,880	7,030	6,980	-50	100	-0.7	1.5
Alberta	27,960	27,160	28,620	1,460	660	5.4	2.4
British Columbia	28,060	31,640	30,700	-940	2,640	-3.0	9.4
Yukon	320	310	290	-20	-30	-6.5	-9.4
Northwest Territories	270	260	760	500	490	192.3	181.5
Nunavut	200	220	210	-10	10	-4.5	5.0

^P preliminary

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

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

	August 2022	July 2023 ^P	August 2023 ^P	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023
	number		change		% change		
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	4,650	3,690	3,650	-40	-1,000	-1.1	-21.5
St. John's	4,650	3,690	3,650	-40	-1,000	-1.1	-21.5
Census agglomerations	4,490	3,770	3,870	100	-620	2.7	-13.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	24,650	20,770	20,690	-80	-3,960	-0.4	-16.1
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	3,770	2,940	2,960	20	-810	0.7	-21.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	4,590	3,770	3,710	-60	-880	-1.6	-19.2
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	4,630	4,180	4,300	120	-330	2.9	-7.1
Halifax	4,630	4,180	4,300	120	-330	2.9	-7.1
Census agglomerations	8,300	6,680	6,700	20	-1,600	0.3	-19.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	13,120	10,680	10,660	-20	-2,460	-0.2	-18.8
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	6,010	4,910	5,110	200	-900	4.1	-15.0
Moncton	3,080	2,490	2,620	130	-460	5.2	-14.9
Saint John	2,920	2,420	2,500	80	-420	3.3	-14.4
Census agglomerations	6,940	5,530	5,880	350	-1,060	6.3	-15.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	21,390	16,740	17,600	860	-3,790	5.1	-17.7
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	65,620	63,890	62,370	-1,520	-3,250	-2.4	-5.0
Montréal	46,050	45,470	44,500	-970	-1,550	-2.1	-3.4
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	3,540	3,150	3,120	-30	-420	-1.0	-11.9
Québec	8,100	7,570	7,560	-10	-540	-0.1	-6.7
Saguenay	2,770	2,480	2,320	-160	-450	-6.5	-16.2
Sherbrooke	2,840	2,830	2,710	-120	-130	-4.2	-4.6
Trois-Rivières	2,320	2,390	2,150	-240	-170	-10.0	-7.3
Census agglomerations	15,440	14,240	14,130	-110	-1,310	-0.8	-8.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	41,070	38,290	37,190	-1,100	-3,880	-2.9	-9.4
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	98,840	91,930	94,260	2,330	-4,580	2.5	-4.6
Barrie	2,140	2,010	1,940	-70	-200	-3.5	-9.3
Belleville	1,280	1,100	1,060	-40	-220	-3.6	-17.2
Brantford	1,440	1,510	1,440	-70	0	-4.6	0.0
Greater Sudbury	2,120	1,710	1,770	60	-350	3.5	-16.5
Guelph	1,080	1,130	1,130	0	50	0.0	4.6
Hamilton	6,240	6,170	6,080	-90	-160	-1.5	-2.6
Kingston	1,460	1,290	1,410	120	-50	9.3	-3.4
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	4,180	4,540	4,430	-110	250	-2.4	6.0
London	5,970	5,140	4,930	-210	-1,040	-4.1	-17.4
Oshawa	3,920	3,250	3,510	260	-410	8.0	-10.5
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	6,070	6,620	6,460	-160	390	-2.4	6.4
Peterborough	1,060	1,000	1,000	0	-60	0.0	-5.7
St. Catharines–Niagara	5,180	4,170	4,200	30	-980	0.7	-18.9
Thunder Bay	1,480	1,180	1,210	30	-270	2.5	-18.2
Toronto	47,820	47,310	50,210	2,900	2,390	6.1	5.0
Windsor	7,400	3,800	3,470	-330	-3,930	-8.7	-53.1
Census agglomerations	14,520	12,630	12,290	-340	-2,230	-2.7	-15.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	19,140	15,490	15,570	80	-3,570	0.5	-18.7
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	9,500	7,470	7,870	400	-1,630	5.4	-17.2
Winnipeg	9,500	7,470	7,870	400	-1,630	5.4	-17.2
Census agglomerations	1,650	1,260	1,410	150	-240	11.9	-14.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,530	5,970	6,520	550	-1,010	9.2	-13.4

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

	August 2022	July 2023 ^P	August 2023 ^P	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023	July to August 2023	August 2022 to August 2023
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	5,560	4,880	4,970	90	-590	1.8	-10.6
Regina	2,280	1,980	2,030	50	-250	2.5	-11.0
Saskatoon	3,290	2,900	2,940	40	-350	1.4	-10.6
Census agglomerations	2,690	2,280	2,370	90	-320	3.9	-11.9
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,140	6,190	6,330	140	-810	2.3	-11.3
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	33,900	30,330	32,370	2,040	-1,530	6.7	-4.5
Calgary	15,160	13,930	14,860	930	-300	6.7	-2.0
Edmonton	17,550	15,260	16,390	1,130	-1,160	7.4	-6.6
Lethbridge	1,190	1,140	1,110	-30	-80	-2.6	-6.7
Census agglomerations	7,000	6,310	6,470	160	-530	2.5	-7.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	9,430	8,160	8,260	100	-1,170	1.2	-12.4
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	26,100	25,750	28,960	3,210	2,860	12.5	11.0
Abbotsford–Mission	2,410	1,820	2,050	230	-360	12.6	-14.9
Kelowna	2,280	1,890	2,100	210	-180	11.1	-7.9
Vancouver	18,710	19,830	22,200	2,370	3,490	12.0	18.7
Victoria	2,700	2,210	2,610	400	-90	18.1	-3.3
Census agglomerations	11,270	9,350	10,740	1,390	-530	14.9	-4.7
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,380	7,260	8,330	1,070	-50	14.7	-0.6

^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).