

Employment Insurance, September 2023

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

The number of Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits was little changed in September (-0.9%; -4,000) and stood at 437,000. This followed three consecutive monthly increases ending in July and a slight decline in August. Compared with September 2022, the number of regular EI beneficiaries fell by 10,000 (-2.3%).

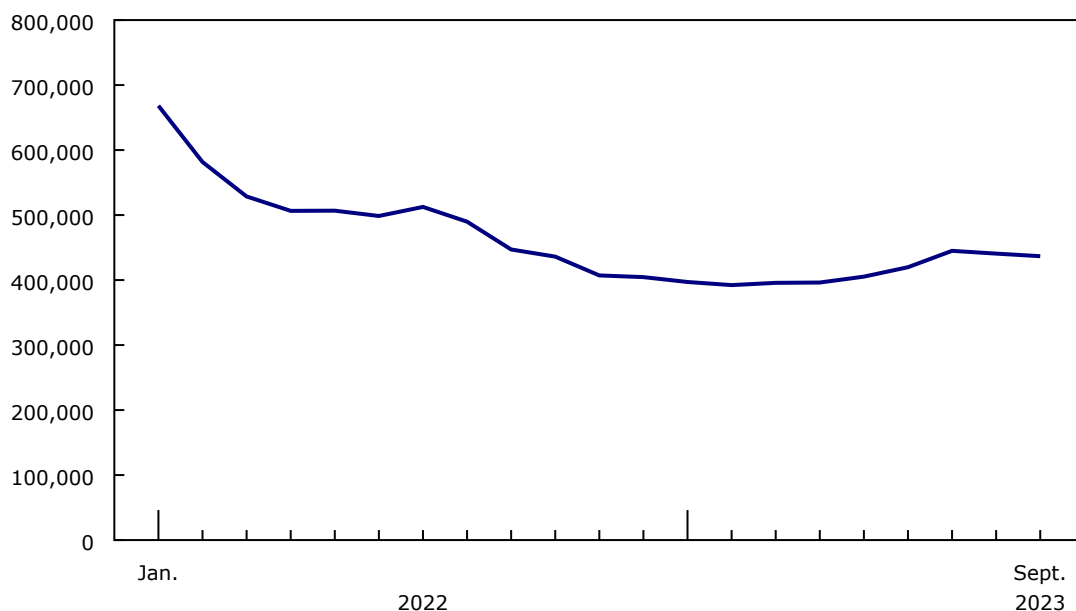
According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the unemployment rate was unchanged in September and stood at 5.5% for the third consecutive month, following an increase of 0.5 percentage points from April to July.

In general, variations in the number of regular 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

The number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries dips slightly since July 2023

number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries



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

Fewer regular Employment Insurance recipients in New Brunswick and Manitoba, but more in British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador

The number of regular EI beneficiaries fell in New Brunswick (-17.0%; -4,800) and Manitoba (-6.1%; -1,000), while there were increases in British Columbia (+5.3%; +2,500) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.9%; +500). There was little change in the other provinces.

In New Brunswick, the number of regular EI recipients decreased (-17.0%; -4,800), following increases in July (+16.4%; +3,900) and August (+3.5%; +1,000). Declines in September were among women and men in all major age groups. In the Moncton census metropolitan area (CMA), the number of regular EI beneficiaries decreased by 21.6% (-600) and in the Saint John CMA, it fell by 11.8% (-300).



Manitoba also posted a decline in the number of beneficiaries (-6.1%; -1,000) in September, with fewer core-aged (aged 25 to 54) men and women as well as fewer young women (aged 15 to 24) receiving regular EI benefits.

British Columbia saw more regular EI recipients (+5.3%; +2,500) in September, up for the fourth consecutive month. According to the LFS, British Columbia's unemployment rate began to trend up in December 2022. It was 5.4% in September 2023, up 1.3 percentage points since December 2022. The increase in regular EI recipients in September 2023 was among men in all major age groups—and in particular, among core-aged men (+11.6%; +2,000). In the CMA of Vancouver, the number of regular EI recipients increased by 10.0% (+2,200).

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the number of regular EI beneficiaries increased 1.9% (+500) in September, following little change in July and no change in August. Increases in September were mostly among young men (+15.8%; +300) and women aged 55 and older (+3.9%; +200) and were in areas outside the St. John's CMA and outside census agglomerations.

Coinciding with evacuation orders decreed by territorial authorities as a result of wildfires, the number of regular EI recipients in the Northwest Territories in September totalled 700 people, up 33.3% (+200) from August and from September 2022. In the capital city of Yellowknife, the number of regular EI beneficiaries increased by 92.3% (+100) from August to September 2023 and by 66.7% (+100) compared with September 2022.

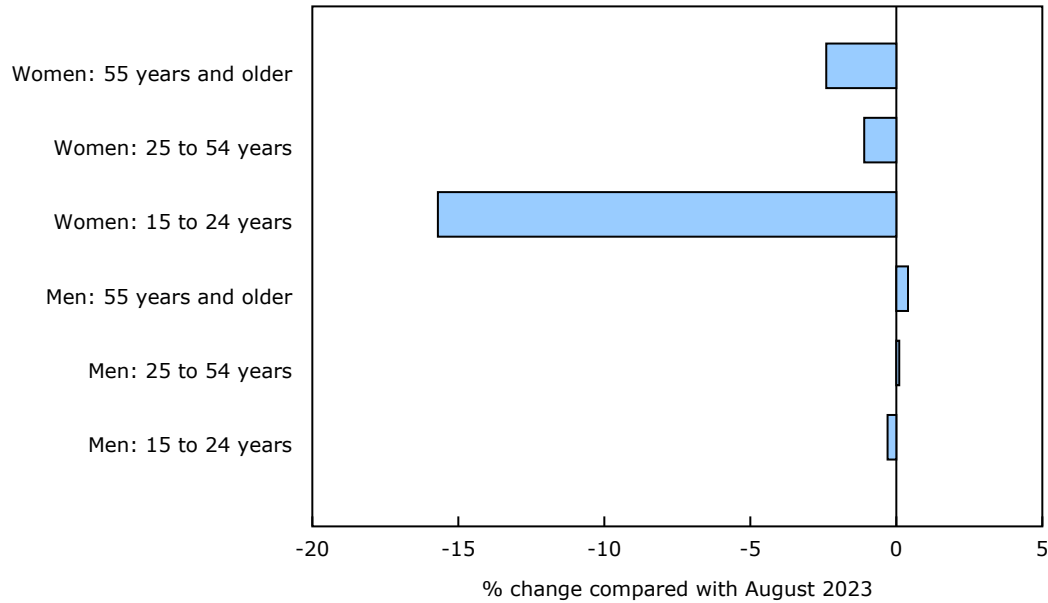
Fewer young women receive regular Employment Insurance benefits

In September, fewer women received regular EI benefits (-2.6%; -4,400), especially young women aged 15 to 24 (-15.7%; -2,100). Coinciding with the LFS, the unemployment rate of young women (9.6%) in September was lower than the recent highs of 10.5% in June and 10.3% in July. The number of regular EI beneficiaries in September also fell among women aged 55 and older (-2.4%; -1,200) and among core-aged women (-1.1%; -1,200;).

There was little change in the number of regular EI beneficiaries among men in all major age groups in September.

Chart 2

The number of people receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits decreases the most among young women in September



Note(s): Change statistically significant only for women in all demographic groups.
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 September 10 to 16, 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 October will be released on December 20.

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

	September 2022	August 2023 ^P	September 2023 ^P	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023
	number			change		% change	
Canada							
Both sexes	447,040	440,690	436,720	-3,970	-10,320	-0.9	-2.3
15 to 24 years	43,730	44,090	41,920	-2,170	-1,810	-4.9	-4.1
25 to 54 years	275,510	273,780	272,850	-930	-2,660	-0.3	-1.0
55 years and over	127,800	122,820	121,940	-880	-5,860	-0.7	-4.6
Men	275,620	272,670	273,140	470	-2,480	0.2	-0.9
15 to 24 years	31,360	30,820	30,730	-90	-630	-0.3	-2.0
25 to 54 years	165,070	167,450	167,690	240	2,620	0.1	1.6
55 years and over	79,190	74,410	74,720	310	-4,470	0.4	-5.6
Women	171,420	168,020	163,580	-4,440	-7,840	-2.6	-4.6
15 to 24 years	12,370	13,270	11,190	-2,080	-1,180	-15.7	-9.5
25 to 54 years	110,440	106,330	105,160	-1,170	-5,280	-1.1	-4.8
55 years and over	48,610	48,410	47,230	-1,180	-1,380	-2.4	-2.8
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	32,520	28,530	29,060	530	-3,460	1.9	-10.6
15 to 24 years	3,000	2,420	2,620	200	-380	8.3	-12.7
25 to 54 years	16,920	14,380	14,430	50	-2,490	0.3	-14.7
55 years and over	12,600	11,730	12,020	290	-580	2.5	-4.6
Men	19,450	17,100	17,490	390	-1,960	2.3	-10.1
Women	13,070	11,430	11,570	140	-1,500	1.2	-11.5
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	8,570	6,630	6,560	-70	-2,010	-1.1	-23.5
15 to 24 years	1,830	1,230	1,110	-120	-720	-9.8	-39.3
25 to 54 years	3,990	3,210	3,200	-10	-790	-0.3	-19.8
55 years and over	2,750	2,200	2,240	40	-510	1.8	-18.5
Men	5,000	3,840	3,870	30	-1,130	0.8	-22.6
Women	3,570	2,790	2,690	-100	-880	-3.6	-24.6
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	24,140	21,560	21,420	-140	-2,720	-0.6	-11.3
15 to 24 years	2,410	2,310	2,050	-260	-360	-11.3	-14.9
25 to 54 years	14,030	12,400	12,390	-10	-1,640	-0.1	-11.7
55 years and over	7,700	6,850	6,970	120	-730	1.8	-9.5
Men	15,110	13,660	13,660	0	-1,450	0.0	-9.6
Women	9,030	7,900	7,760	-140	-1,270	-1.8	-14.1
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	28,710	28,440	23,610	-4,830	-5,100	-17.0	-17.8
15 to 24 years	2,390	3,330	1,320	-2,010	-1,070	-60.4	-44.8
25 to 54 years	15,290	14,800	12,920	-1,880	-2,370	-12.7	-15.5
55 years and over	11,030	10,310	9,370	-940	-1,660	-9.1	-15.0
Men	18,020	18,120	15,390	-2,730	-2,630	-15.1	-14.6
Women	10,690	10,320	8,220	-2,100	-2,470	-20.3	-23.1
Quebec							
Both sexes	109,940	105,880	105,490	-390	-4,450	-0.4	-4.0
15 to 24 years	8,720	8,340	8,150	-190	-570	-2.3	-6.5
25 to 54 years	65,910	63,830	63,880	50	-2,030	0.1	-3.1
55 years and over	35,300	33,710	33,460	-250	-1,840	-0.7	-5.2
Men	71,510	69,740	69,850	110	-1,660	0.2	-2.3
Women	38,420	36,140	35,650	-490	-2,770	-1.4	-7.2
Ontario							
Both sexes	120,050	122,750	122,310	-440	2,260	-0.4	1.9
15 to 24 years	11,170	12,320	12,160	-160	990	-1.3	8.9
25 to 54 years	78,790	81,600	80,590	-1,010	1,800	-1.2	2.3
55 years and over	30,080	28,830	29,560	730	-520	2.5	-1.7
Men	72,460	73,950	72,550	-1,400	90	-1.9	0.1
Women	47,590	48,800	49,760	960	2,170	2.0	4.6

Table 1 - continued

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

	September 2022	August 2023 ^P	September 2023 ^P	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023
Manitoba							
Both sexes	16,360	15,920	14,950	-970	-1,410	-6.1	-8.6
15 to 24 years	2,500	2,480	2,300	-180	-200	-7.3	-8.0
25 to 54 years	10,370	10,100	9,430	-670	-940	-6.6	-9.1
55 years and over	3,490	3,340	3,210	-130	-280	-3.9	-8.0
Men	10,050	9,820	9,420	-400	-630	-4.1	-6.3
Women	6,320	6,100	5,520	-580	-800	-9.5	-12.7
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	14,780	13,770	13,850	80	-930	0.6	-6.3
15 to 24 years	1,960	1,730	1,760	30	-200	1.7	-10.2
25 to 54 years	9,460	8,680	8,800	120	-660	1.4	-7.0
55 years and over	3,360	3,360	3,290	-70	-70	-2.1	-2.1
Men	9,890	8,820	9,310	490	-580	5.6	-5.9
Women	4,890	4,950	4,540	-410	-350	-8.3	-7.2
Alberta							
Both sexes	47,810	47,110	46,840	-270	-970	-0.6	-2.0
15 to 24 years	5,690	5,640	5,620	-20	-70	-0.4	-1.2
25 to 54 years	31,830	30,950	31,860	910	30	2.9	0.1
55 years and over	10,290	10,510	9,350	-1,160	-940	-11.0	-9.1
Men	29,110	29,260	30,200	940	1,090	3.2	3.7
Women	18,710	17,840	16,640	-1,200	-2,070	-6.7	-11.1
British Columbia							
Both sexes	41,980	47,460	49,970	2,510	7,990	5.3	19.0
15 to 24 years	3,860	4,070	4,570	500	710	12.3	18.4
25 to 54 years	27,340	31,970	33,470	1,500	6,130	4.7	22.4
55 years and over	10,780	11,430	11,930	500	1,150	4.4	10.7
Men	23,760	26,810	29,810	3,000	6,050	11.2	25.5
Women	18,220	20,650	20,160	-490	1,940	-2.4	10.6
Yukon							
Both sexes	610	600	590	-10	-20	-1.7	-3.3
15 to 24 years	70	70	60	-10	-10	-14.3	-14.3
25 to 54 years	400	370	360	-10	-40	-2.7	-10.0
55 years and over	140	160	160	0	20	0.0	14.3
Men	390	400	410	10	20	2.5	5.1
Women	230	200	180	-20	-50	-10.0	-21.7
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	540	540	720	180	180	33.3	33.3
15 to 24 years	40	30	60	30	20	100.0	50.0
25 to 54 years	380	370	480	110	100	29.7	26.3
55 years and over	110	140	170	30	60	21.4	54.5
Men	340	370	440	70	100	18.9	29.4
Women	200	170	280	110	80	64.7	40.0
Nunavut							
Both sexes	420	460	440	-20	20	-4.3	4.8
15 to 24 years	50	50	50	0	0	0.0	0.0
25 to 54 years	330	360	340	-20	10	-5.6	3.0
55 years and over	50	50	50	0	0	0.0	0.0
Men	240	280	270	-10	30	-3.6	12.5
Women	190	180	170	-10	-20	-5.6	-10.5

^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

	September 2022	August 2023 ^P	September 2023 ^P	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023
	number			change		% change	
Canada	239,470	258,110	254,610	-3,500	15,140	-1.4	6.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,630	8,540	8,540	0	-90	0.0	-1.0
Prince Edward Island	3,060	2,550	2,570	20	-490	0.8	-16.0
Nova Scotia	9,590	9,620	9,170	-450	-420	-4.7	-4.4
New Brunswick	7,210	8,910	8,360	-550	1,150	-6.2	16.0
Quebec	64,420	67,070	67,930	860	3,510	1.3	5.4
Ontario	81,030	84,920	85,240	320	4,210	0.4	5.2
Manitoba	8,740	9,210	9,140	-70	400	-0.8	4.6
Saskatchewan	6,400	6,990	6,880	-110	480	-1.6	7.5
Alberta	24,000	28,360	26,400	-1,960	2,400	-6.9	10.0
British Columbia	25,670	30,490	29,360	-1,130	3,690	-3.7	14.4
Yukon	200	290	190	-100	-10	-34.5	-5.0
Northwest Territories	200	760	420	-340	220	-44.7	110.0
Nunavut	190	210	200	-10	10	-4.8	5.3

^P preliminary

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

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

	September 2022	August 2023 ^P	September 2023 ^P	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023
	number		change		% change		
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	4,200	3,690	3,760	70	-440	1.9	-10.5
St. John's	4,200	3,690	3,760	70	-440	1.9	-10.5
Census agglomerations	4,350	3,880	3,860	-20	-490	-0.5	-11.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	23,960	20,960	21,440	480	-2,520	2.3	-10.5
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	3,980	2,950	2,870	-80	-1,110	-2.7	-27.9
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	4,600	3,680	3,690	10	-910	0.3	-19.8
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	4,350	4,320	4,350	30	0	0.7	0.0
Halifax	4,350	4,320	4,350	30	0	0.7	0.0
Census agglomerations	7,730	6,570	6,520	-50	-1,210	-0.8	-15.7
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	12,060	10,670	10,540	-130	-1,520	-1.2	-12.6
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	4,890	5,180	4,300	-880	-590	-17.0	-12.1
Moncton	2,430	2,730	2,140	-590	-290	-21.6	-11.9
Saint John	2,460	2,450	2,160	-290	-300	-11.8	-12.2
Census agglomerations	5,850	5,790	4,680	-1,110	-1,170	-19.2	-20.0
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	17,970	17,470	14,620	-2,850	-3,350	-16.3	-18.6
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	58,000	58,300	58,460	160	460	0.3	0.8
Montréal	40,350	41,620	41,860	240	1,510	0.6	3.7
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	2,900	2,890	2,840	-50	-60	-1.7	-2.1
Québec	7,200	7,040	6,940	-100	-260	-1.4	-3.6
Saguenay	2,670	2,200	2,270	70	-400	3.2	-15.0
Sherbrooke	2,610	2,540	2,520	-20	-90	-0.8	-3.4
Trois-Rivières	2,250	2,010	2,040	30	-210	1.5	-9.3
Census agglomerations	14,050	13,090	12,860	-230	-1,190	-1.8	-8.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	37,880	34,490	34,180	-310	-3,700	-0.9	-9.8
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	90,210	94,540	94,320	-220	4,110	-0.2	4.6
Barrie	1,870	1,960	1,930	-30	60	-1.5	3.2
Bellefleur	1,160	1,070	1,060	-10	-100	-0.9	-8.6
Brantford	1,280	1,460	1,450	-10	170	-0.7	13.3
Greater Sudbury	1,940	1,790	1,770	-20	-170	-1.1	-8.8
Guelph	1,070	1,140	1,130	-10	60	-0.9	5.6
Hamilton	6,620	6,150	6,130	-20	-490	-0.3	-7.4
Kingston	1,290	1,370	1,340	-30	50	-2.2	3.9
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	3,790	4,510	4,550	40	760	0.9	20.1
London	5,180	4,950	4,780	-170	-400	-3.4	-7.7
Oshawa	3,550	3,560	3,540	-20	-10	-0.6	-0.3
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	5,490	6,600	6,730	130	1,240	2.0	22.6
Peterborough	970	1,000	980	-20	10	-2.0	1.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	4,640	4,250	4,220	-30	-420	-0.7	-9.1
Thunder Bay	1,370	1,210	1,190	-20	-180	-1.7	-13.1
Toronto	43,090	49,690	49,910	220	6,820	0.4	15.8
Windsor	6,900	3,820	3,630	-190	-3,270	-5.0	-47.4
Census agglomerations	12,930	12,290	12,080	-210	-850	-1.7	-6.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	16,910	15,920	15,920	0	-990	0.0	-5.9
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	8,160	7,970	7,450	-520	-710	-6.5	-8.7
Winnipeg	8,160	7,970	7,450	-520	-710	-6.5	-8.7
Census agglomerations	1,370	1,410	1,290	-120	-80	-8.5	-5.8

Table 3 - continued

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

	September 2022	August 2023 ^P	September 2023 ^P	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023	August to September 2023	September 2022 to September 2023
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	6,830	6,540	6,210	-330	-620	-5.0	-9.1
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	4,660	5,080	4,590	-490	-70	-9.6	-1.5
Regina	1,960	1,990	1,880	-110	-80	-5.5	-4.1
Saskatoon	2,690	3,090	2,710	-380	20	-12.3	0.7
Census agglomerations	2,610	2,360	2,420	60	-190	2.5	-7.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,510	6,330	6,840	510	-670	8.1	-8.9
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	33,000	32,140	32,610	470	-390	1.5	-1.2
Calgary	14,780	14,650	15,160	510	380	3.5	2.6
Edmonton	17,260	16,300	16,500	200	-760	1.2	-4.4
Lethbridge	970	1,180	950	-230	-20	-19.5	-2.1
Census agglomerations	6,320	6,520	6,370	-150	50	-2.3	0.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,490	8,450	7,860	-590	-630	-7.0	-7.4
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	23,870	28,780	31,080	2,300	7,210	8.0	30.2
Abbotsford–Mission	2,110	2,010	2,090	80	-20	4.0	-0.9
Kelowna	1,930	2,080	2,190	110	260	5.3	13.5
Vancouver	17,650	22,290	24,520	2,230	6,870	10.0	38.9
Victoria	2,170	2,400	2,280	-120	110	-5.0	5.1
Census agglomerations	10,080	10,540	10,420	-120	340	-1.1	3.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,030	8,150	8,460	310	430	3.8	5.4

^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.

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).