

Employment Insurance, November 2023

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There were 460,000 Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in November, up 7,900 (+1.7%) from October. The increase was primarily observed among core-aged men aged 25 to 54 (+6,000; +3.4%). On a year-over-year basis, the total number of regular EI beneficiaries increased by 53,000 (+13.1%).

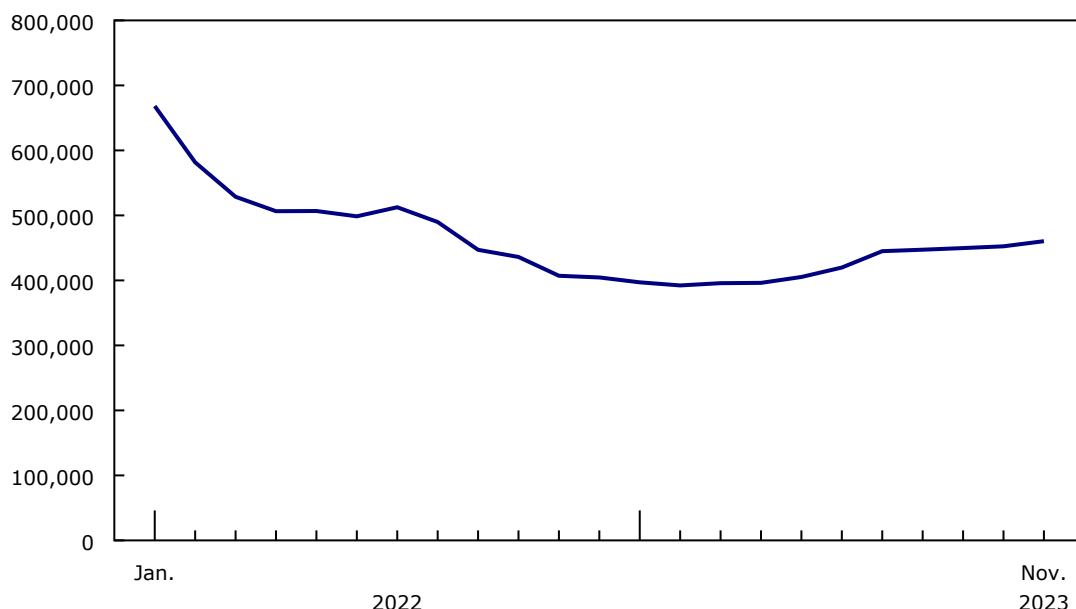
Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) show that the unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 5.8% in November, bringing the cumulative increase since April 2023 to 0.8 percentage points.

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 up slightly since July 2023

number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries



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

More core-aged men receive regular Employment Insurance benefits

The number of core-aged men (aged 25 to 54) receiving regular EI benefits increased in six of the last seven months and was up by 6,000 (+3.4%) in November. On a year-over-year basis, the number of core-aged men receiving regular EI benefits rose by 32,000 (+21.3%).

In November, there were also more young men aged 15 to 24 (+500; +1.5%) receiving regular benefits, the second increase in three months. In the 12 months to November 2023, the number of young men receiving regular EI benefits increased by 2,600 (+8.9%).



The number of regular EI beneficiaries increased among women aged 55 and older in November (+700; +1.3%), marking the fourth increase in five months. On a year-over-year basis, the number of women in this age group receiving benefits increased by 4,800 (+10.8%).

The number of regular Employment Insurance recipients increases in five provinces

The number of regular EI beneficiaries rose in five provinces in November. Manitoba (+8.3%; +1,300) posted the largest proportional increase, followed by Alberta (+3.8%; +1,800), Ontario (+3.0%; +4,000), Prince Edward Island (+2.8%; +200), and British Columbia (+1.0%; +500). There was little change in the other provinces.

There were more EI recipients in Manitoba in November (+1,300; +8.3%), following a decline in September and a slight increase in October. The increase in November was among core-aged men (aged 25 to 54) (+900; +14.0%) and among men aged 55 and older (+300; +15.4%).

After two months of little change, the number of regular EI beneficiaries in Alberta rose by 1,800 (+3.8%) in November, the first notable increase since August. Increases in November were primarily among men aged 55 and older (+900; +14.3%) and core-aged men (+800; +4.0%). There were also more core-aged women receiving regular EI benefits (+300; +2.8%). The Edmonton census metropolitan area (CMA) recorded an increase in EI recipients in November (+1,100; +6.9%).

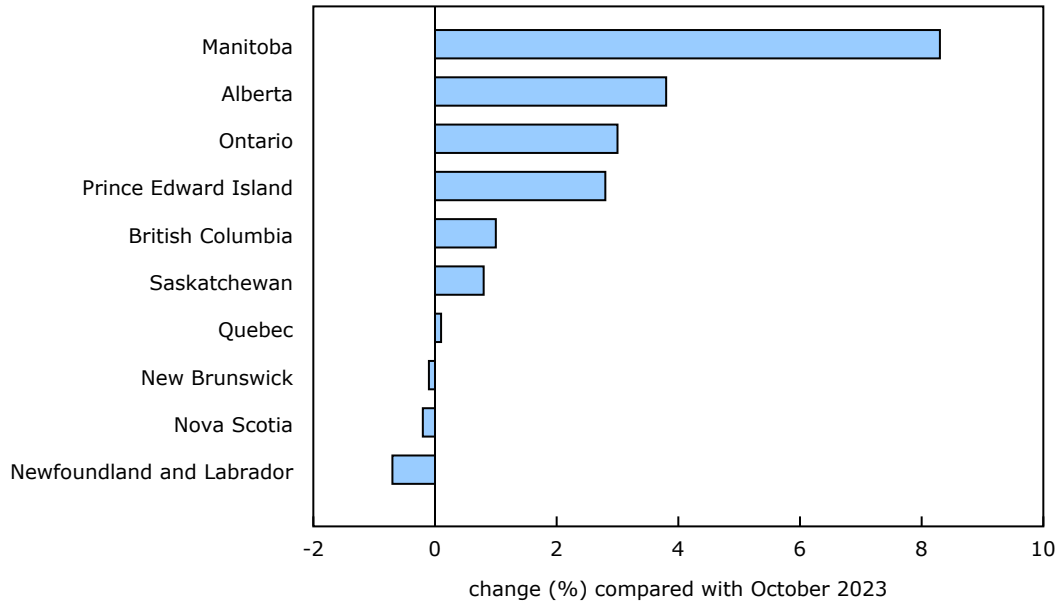
In Ontario, the number of regular EI recipients rose by 4,000 (+3.0%) in November, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. The increase in November was primarily among core-aged men (+2,900; +5.5%). According to the Labour Force Survey, employment in Ontario was little changed for a fifth consecutive month in November. The unemployment rate in the province stood at 6.1% in November and was up 1.2 percentage points from April. The Toronto CMA saw the number of EI recipients increase by 2,900 (+5.4%) in November, while the CMA of Windsor posted a decline of 2,500 (-34.2%), partly offsetting an increase the month before.

Following little change in August and September, Prince Edward Island posted an increase in the number of EI recipients in October (+1.6%; +100) and November (+2.8%; +200). The increase in November was among core-aged men (+8.7%; +200) and men aged 55 and older (+7.4%; +100).

British Columbia saw more regular EI recipients (+1.0%; +500) in November, the smallest of six consecutive monthly increases. According to the LFS, the unemployment rate in British Columbia was 5.3% in November, little changed from October, but up 1.2 percentage points from December 2022 when it reached a low of 4.1%. Increases in regular EI recipients in November 2023 were mainly among core-aged men (+3.5%; +700) and young men aged 15 to 24 (+3.8%; +100). In contrast, the number of core-aged women receiving regular EI benefits fell by 300 (-1.8%) in November.

Chart 2

Number of regular Employment Insurance recipients rises notably in five provinces in November



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:



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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 in 2024. 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 November 5 to 11, 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 December 2023 will be released on February 22, 2024.

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

	November 2022	October 2023 ^P	November 2023 ^P	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
	number			change		% change	
Canada							
Both sexes	407,120	452,440	460,320	7,880	53,200	1.7	13.1
15 to 24 years	39,780	42,650	43,140	490	3,360	1.1	8.4
25 to 54 years	250,370	285,200	291,280	6,080	40,910	2.1	16.3
55 years and over	116,970	124,580	125,900	1,320	8,930	1.1	7.6
Men	251,830	283,480	290,580	7,100	38,750	2.5	15.4
15 to 24 years	28,760	30,850	31,320	470	2,560	1.5	8.9
25 to 54 years	150,690	176,800	182,760	5,960	32,070	3.4	21.3
55 years and over	72,380	75,830	76,500	670	4,120	0.9	5.7
Women	155,290	168,950	169,740	790	14,450	0.5	9.3
15 to 24 years	11,020	11,800	11,830	30	810	0.3	7.4
25 to 54 years	99,680	108,400	108,510	110	8,830	0.1	8.9
55 years and over	44,600	48,750	49,400	650	4,800	1.3	10.8
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	30,170	29,430	29,210	-220	-960	-0.7	-3.2
15 to 24 years	2,870	2,550	2,570	20	-300	0.8	-10.5
25 to 54 years	14,990	14,640	14,410	-230	-580	-1.6	-3.9
55 years and over	12,320	12,240	12,230	-10	-90	-0.1	-0.7
Men	17,810	17,710	17,560	-150	-250	-0.8	-1.4
Women	12,360	11,720	11,650	-70	-710	-0.6	-5.7
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	7,840	6,860	7,050	190	-790	2.8	-10.1
15 to 24 years	1,810	1,230	1,210	-20	-600	-1.6	-33.1
25 to 54 years	3,650	3,300	3,430	130	-220	3.9	-6.0
55 years and over	2,380	2,320	2,410	90	30	3.9	1.3
Men	4,600	4,060	4,340	280	-260	6.9	-5.7
Women	3,240	2,790	2,710	-80	-530	-2.9	-16.4
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	22,650	21,280	21,240	-40	-1,410	-0.2	-6.2
15 to 24 years	2,350	2,090	2,100	10	-250	0.5	-10.6
25 to 54 years	12,790	12,230	12,170	-60	-620	-0.5	-4.8
55 years and over	7,510	6,960	6,970	10	-540	0.1	-7.2
Men	14,510	13,700	13,800	100	-710	0.7	-4.9
Women	8,130	7,580	7,440	-140	-690	-1.8	-8.5
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	26,700	23,640	23,620	-20	-3,080	-0.1	-11.5
15 to 24 years	2,610	1,620	1,820	200	-790	12.3	-30.3
25 to 54 years	14,190	13,060	12,940	-120	-1,250	-0.9	-8.8
55 years and over	9,890	8,950	8,850	-100	-1,040	-1.1	-10.5
Men	17,320	15,650	15,810	160	-1,510	1.0	-8.7
Women	9,380	7,990	7,810	-180	-1,570	-2.3	-16.7
Quebec							
Both sexes	96,990	105,360	105,460	100	8,470	0.1	8.7
15 to 24 years	7,250	7,700	7,740	40	490	0.5	6.8
25 to 54 years	57,190	64,280	64,760	480	7,570	0.7	13.2
55 years and over	32,540	33,390	32,960	-430	420	-1.3	1.3
Men	62,440	69,310	69,160	-150	6,720	-0.2	10.8
Women	34,560	36,060	36,300	240	1,740	0.7	5.0
Ontario							
Both sexes	106,060	134,720	138,720	4,000	32,660	3.0	30.8
15 to 24 years	10,120	12,930	13,220	290	3,100	2.2	30.6
25 to 54 years	71,560	90,610	94,000	3,390	22,440	3.7	31.4
55 years and over	24,390	31,180	31,510	330	7,120	1.1	29.2
Men	63,770	80,360	83,530	3,170	19,760	3.9	31.0
Women	42,290	54,360	55,200	840	12,910	1.5	30.5

Table 1 - continued

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

	November 2022	October 2023 ^P	November 2023 ^P	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
Manitoba							
Both sexes	14,950	15,400	16,680	1,280	1,730	8.3	11.6
15 to 24 years	2,230	2,290	2,330	40	100	1.7	4.5
25 to 54 years	9,560	9,770	10,640	870	1,080	8.9	11.3
55 years and over	3,150	3,340	3,720	380	570	11.4	18.1
Men	9,330	9,870	11,100	1,230	1,770	12.5	19.0
Women	5,620	5,530	5,580	50	-40	0.9	-0.7
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	13,210	13,790	13,900	110	690	0.8	5.2
15 to 24 years	1,680	1,700	1,720	20	40	1.2	2.4
25 to 54 years	8,300	8,860	8,760	-100	460	-1.1	5.5
55 years and over	3,240	3,230	3,420	190	180	5.9	5.6
Men	8,750	9,090	9,180	90	430	1.0	4.9
Women	4,450	4,700	4,730	30	280	0.6	6.3
Alberta							
Both sexes	44,960	47,530	49,340	1,810	4,380	3.8	9.7
15 to 24 years	4,860	5,660	5,410	-250	550	-4.4	11.3
25 to 54 years	29,630	32,020	33,170	1,150	3,540	3.6	11.9
55 years and over	10,480	9,860	10,760	900	280	9.1	2.7
Men	28,330	31,350	32,900	1,550	4,570	4.9	16.1
Women	16,640	16,190	16,440	250	-200	1.5	-1.2
British Columbia							
Both sexes	41,350	51,720	52,220	500	10,870	1.0	26.3
15 to 24 years	3,750	4,640	4,750	110	1,000	2.4	26.7
25 to 54 years	26,970	34,500	34,950	450	7,980	1.3	29.6
55 years and over	10,630	12,590	12,510	-80	1,880	-0.6	17.7
Men	23,590	30,750	31,490	740	7,900	2.4	33.5
Women	17,760	20,970	20,730	-240	2,970	-1.1	16.7
Yukon							
Both sexes	530	570	580	10	50	1.8	9.4
15 to 24 years	60	60	50	-10	-10	-16.7	-16.7
25 to 54 years	320	360	370	10	50	2.8	15.6
55 years and over	140	150	160	10	20	6.7	14.3
Men	340	400	390	-10	50	-2.5	14.7
Women	190	170	190	20	0	11.8	0.0
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	480	570	590	20	110	3.5	22.9
15 to 24 years	30	40	50	10	20	25.0	66.7
25 to 54 years	350	400	400	0	50	0.0	14.3
55 years and over	100	130	140	10	40	7.7	40.0
Men	330	370	370	0	40	0.0	12.1
Women	150	210	210	0	60	0.0	40.0
Nunavut							
Both sexes	430	420	410	-10	-20	-2.4	-4.7
15 to 24 years	50	40	40	0	-10	0.0	-20.0
25 to 54 years	320	320	310	-10	-10	-3.1	-3.1
55 years and over	50	60	60	0	10	0.0	20.0
Men	260	250	250	0	-10	0.0	-3.8
Women	170	170	160	-10	-10	-5.9	-5.9

^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.

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

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

	November 2022	October 2023 ^P	November 2023 ^P	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
	number			change		% change	
Canada	229,330	255,790	257,920	2,130	28,590	0.8	12.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,310	8,570	8,520	-50	210	-0.6	2.5
Prince Edward Island	2,470	2,510	2,450	-60	-20	-2.4	-0.8
Nova Scotia	7,910	9,110	8,980	-130	1,070	-1.4	13.5
New Brunswick	9,630	9,250	9,260	10	-370	0.1	-3.8
Quebec	59,830	63,360	66,150	2,790	6,320	4.4	10.6
Ontario	74,520	87,770	87,390	-380	12,870	-0.4	17.3
Manitoba	8,500	9,370	9,740	370	1,240	3.9	14.6
Saskatchewan	6,480	7,170	6,920	-250	440	-3.5	6.8
Alberta	25,100	28,170	27,830	-340	2,730	-1.2	10.9
British Columbia	25,690	29,580	29,710	130	4,020	0.4	15.6
Yukon	270	270	270	0	0	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	260	260	280	20	20	7.7	7.7
Nunavut	200	210	200	-10	0	-4.8	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

	November 2022	October 2023 ^P	November 2023 ^P	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
	number		change		% change		
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	3,550	3,780	3,710	-70	160	-1.9	4.5
St. John's	3,550	3,780	3,710	-70	160	-1.9	4.5
Census agglomerations	4,070	3,870	3,870	0	-200	0.0	-4.9
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	22,550	21,770	21,630	-140	-920	-0.6	-4.1
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	3,560	2,910	2,970	60	-590	2.1	-16.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	4,280	3,950	4,080	130	-200	3.3	-4.7
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	4,030	4,410	4,410	0	380	0.0	9.4
Halifax	4,030	4,410	4,410	0	380	0.0	9.4
Census agglomerations	7,360	6,490	6,490	0	-870	0.0	-11.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	11,260	10,370	10,340	-30	-920	-0.3	-8.2
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	4,580	4,380	4,060	-320	-520	-7.3	-11.4
Moncton	2,330	2,230	2,100	-130	-230	-5.8	-9.9
Saint John	2,250	2,150	1,960	-190	-290	-8.8	-12.9
Census agglomerations	5,490	4,810	4,610	-200	-880	-4.2	-16.0
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	16,630	14,450	14,950	500	-1,680	3.5	-10.1
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	50,370	59,330	59,550	220	9,180	0.4	18.2
Montréal	34,920	42,600	42,760	160	7,840	0.4	22.5
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	2,590	2,840	2,850	10	260	0.4	10.0
Québec	6,160	6,990	7,020	30	860	0.4	14.0
Saguenay	2,370	2,290	2,330	40	-40	1.7	-1.7
Sherbrooke	2,300	2,530	2,580	50	280	2.0	12.2
Trois-Rivières	2,040	2,070	2,020	-50	-20	-2.4	-1.0
Census agglomerations	12,490	12,410	12,400	-10	-90	-0.1	-0.7
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	34,130	33,620	33,510	-110	-620	-0.3	-1.8
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	79,210	104,950	107,510	2,560	28,300	2.4	35.7
Barrie	1,720	2,170	2,260	90	540	4.1	31.4
Belleville	1,090	1,110	1,160	50	70	4.5	6.4
Brantford	1,180	1,640	1,720	80	540	4.9	45.8
Greater Sudbury	1,710	1,910	1,930	20	220	1.0	12.9
Guelph	970	1,250	1,540	290	570	23.2	58.8
Hamilton	4,830	6,540	6,690	150	1,860	2.3	38.5
Kingston	1,180	1,280	1,410	130	230	10.2	19.5
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	3,610	5,010	5,220	210	1,610	4.2	44.6
London	4,640	4,940	5,400	460	760	9.3	16.4
Oshawa	3,170	3,760	3,910	150	740	4.0	23.3
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	5,490	7,260	7,570	310	2,080	4.3	37.9
Peterborough	900	1,050	1,050	0	150	0.0	16.7
St. Catharines–Niagara	4,100	4,670	4,830	160	730	3.4	17.8
Thunder Bay	1,240	1,270	1,320	50	80	3.9	6.5
Toronto	39,760	53,840	56,730	2,890	16,970	5.4	42.7
Windsor	3,610	7,260	4,780	-2,480	1,170	-34.2	32.4
Census agglomerations	11,740	12,910	13,660	750	1,920	5.8	16.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	15,120	16,860	17,560	700	2,440	4.2	16.1
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	7,320	7,730	8,520	790	1,200	10.2	16.4
Winnipeg	7,320	7,730	8,520	790	1,200	10.2	16.4
Census agglomerations	1,170	1,300	1,370	70	200	5.4	17.1

Table 3 - continued

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

	November 2022	October 2023 ^P	November 2023 ^P	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	6,460	6,370	6,780	410	320	6.4	5.0
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	4,400	4,710	5,080	370	680	7.9	15.5
Regina	1,740	2,080	2,110	30	370	1.4	21.3
Saskatoon	2,660	2,630	2,970	340	310	12.9	11.7
Census agglomerations	2,270	2,390	2,300	-90	30	-3.8	1.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	6,540	6,690	6,520	-170	-20	-2.5	-0.3
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	30,850	32,780	33,780	1,000	2,930	3.1	9.5
Calgary	14,280	15,840	15,740	-100	1,460	-0.6	10.2
Edmonton	15,620	15,980	17,080	1,100	1,460	6.9	9.3
Lethbridge	940	960	960	0	20	0.0	2.1
Census agglomerations	6,120	6,600	6,850	250	730	3.8	11.9
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,000	8,160	8,700	540	700	6.6	8.8
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	23,780	32,140	32,360	220	8,580	0.7	36.1
Abbotsford–Mission	1,810	1,990	1,960	-30	150	-1.5	8.3
Kelowna	2,200	2,360	2,400	40	200	1.7	9.1
Vancouver	17,710	25,350	25,480	130	7,770	0.5	43.9
Victoria	2,060	2,430	2,520	90	460	3.7	22.3
Census agglomerations	9,850	10,830	10,980	150	1,130	1.4	11.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,710	8,750	8,880	130	1,170	1.5	15.2

^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.

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).