

Employment Insurance, April 2024

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In April, 456,000 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, down 2.8% (-13,000) from March. Prior to the decline in April, the number of regular EI recipients had trended higher from February to December 2023 (+78,000; +19.8%) and held relatively steady in the early months of 2024.

On a year-over-year basis, the number of regular EI beneficiaries was up by 60,000 (+15.1%) in April 2024.

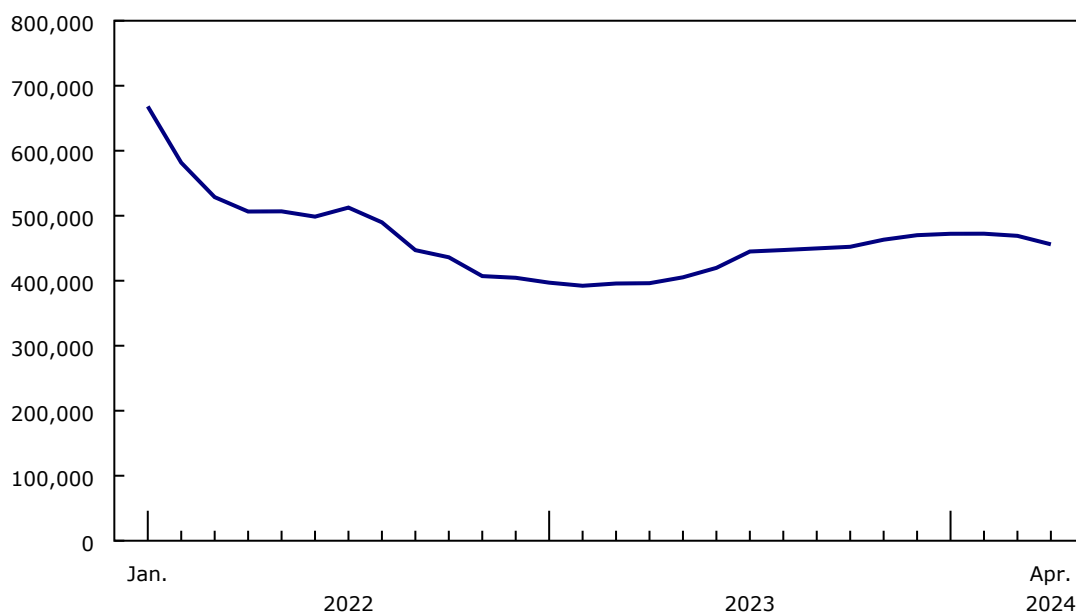
Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) show that employment grew 0.4% (+90,000) in April. The unemployment rate, while unchanged in the month (6.1%), increased 1.0 percentage points compared with 12 months earlier.

In general, variations in the number of 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

After holding relatively steady in recent months, the number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries declines in April

number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries



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

Fewer men receive regular Employment Insurance benefits in April

The number of regular EI beneficiaries among core-aged men (25 to 54 years old) fell by 6,900 (-3.8%) in April, the largest decline for this group since February 2023. Men aged 55 and older (-3,900; -4.9%) as well as young men aged 15 to 24 (-1,100; -3.5%) also posted declines in April 2024. For men aged 55 and older, the decline was the second in three months, while for younger men, the decrease in April was the second consecutive decline.

The number of regular EI beneficiaries among women aged 15 to 24 edged down 1.4% (-200) in April, while there was little change among core-aged women as well as women aged 55 and older.



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While declines were observed in April, there were more regular EI beneficiaries on a year-over-year basis among all major demographic groups.

Compared with April 2023, the number of regular EI beneficiaries increased by 27,000 (+17.8%) among core-aged men and by 17,000 (+18.1%) among core-aged women.

On a year-over-year basis, there were also more men (+5,600; +8.2%) and women (+4,100; +9.7%) aged 55 and older receiving regular EI benefits in April. Likewise, more young men (+4,200; +15.9%) and young women (+1,600; +14.2%) received regular EI benefits in April 2024 compared with April 2023.

Coinciding with the year-over-year increase in regular EI recipients, data from the LFS show that the unemployment rate rose for all major demographic groups in the 12 months to April 2024, with youth increasing the most, up 2.9 percentage points to 12.8%. Over the same period, the unemployment rate increased 0.7 percentage points for both core-aged recipients (to 5.1%) and those aged 55 and older (to 4.7%).

Fewer regular Employment Insurance recipients in most provinces in April

The number of regular EI beneficiaries fell in seven provinces in April. Nova Scotia (-15.8%; -3,500) posted the largest proportional decrease, followed by Saskatchewan (-9.7%; -1,400), New Brunswick (-7.2%; -1,800), Quebec (-3.8%; -3,900), Alberta (-3.5%; -1,900), Prince Edward Island (-2.4%; -200) and Manitoba (-1.8%; -300). There was little change in the remaining provinces.

In Nova Scotia, the number of regular EI recipients decreased by 15.8% (-3,500) in April, following a smaller decline the previous month (-1.7%; -400). Declines in April were mostly among core-aged (-2,000; -15.2%) and older (-1,200; -17.3%) recipients. On a year-over-year basis, there were 2,200 (-10.3%) fewer regular EI recipients in the province.

Saskatchewan also posted fewer EI recipients receiving regular benefits, down 9.7% (-1,400) in April, following a smaller decline (-1.2%; -200) in March.

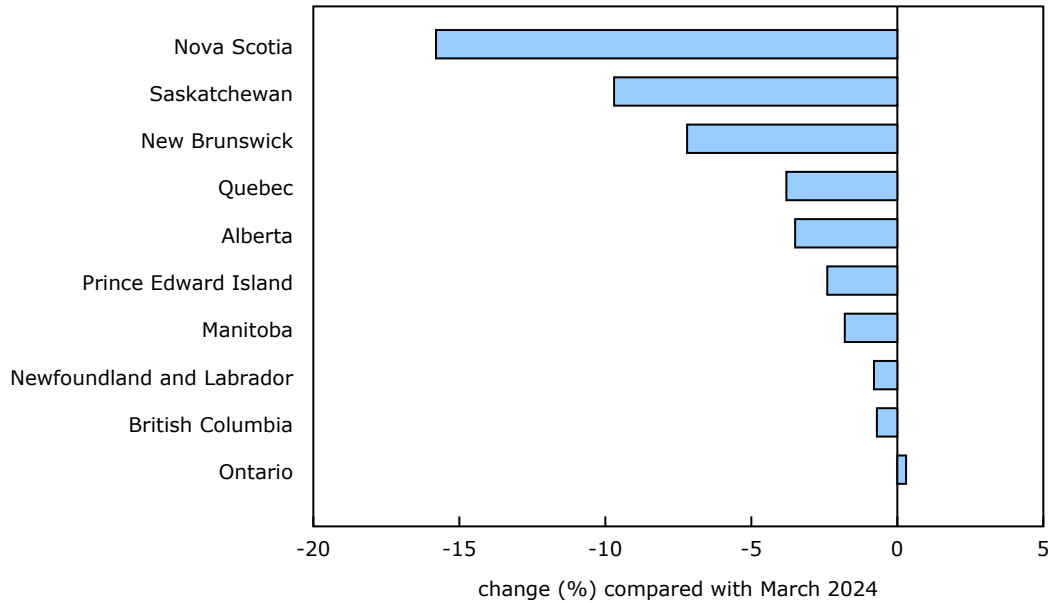
The number of regular EI beneficiaries fell 7.2% (-1,800) in New Brunswick, the largest decrease in the province since September 2023. Compared with April 2023, there were 1,600 (-6.4%) fewer New Brunswickers receiving regular EI benefits in April 2024.

In Quebec, the number of regular EI recipients fell 3.8% (-3,900) in April, the largest of three consecutive declines. The largest decreases in the month were among core-aged men (-1,900; -4.8%) and older men (-1,400; -6.4%). In the 12 months to April, the number of regular EI recipients increased by 13,000 (+14.7%). Data from the LFS showed that the unemployment rate in the province increased 0.9 percentage points to 5.1% over the period.

Fewer Albertans (-3.5%; -1,900) received regular EI benefits in April, the second consecutive monthly decline. Declines in the month were mostly among core-aged men (-1,100; -4.8%). Prior to the recent decrease, the number of regular EI recipients in the province trended up from April 2023 to January 2024 (+14,000; +34.1%). Data from the LFS show that, in the 12 months to April 2024, more people in the province were searching for work and the unemployment rate was up 1.1 percentage points to 7.0%.

In April, the smallest proportional decreases in regular EI recipients were recorded in Prince Edward Island (-2.4%; -200)—the third consecutive monthly decrease in that province—and in Manitoba (-1.8%; -300), following little change there in the three previous months.

Chart 2
Regular Employment Insurance recipients decrease in most provinces in April, led by Nova Scotia



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

Revisions to Employment Insurance statistics

With the July 18, 2024, release of May data, the seasonally adjusted series of Employment Insurance statistics will be revised back to January 2000 to reflect the most recent seasonal factors as well as the 2021 Standard Geographical Classification. Also, data for Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries by occupation conforming to the 2021 National Occupational Classification will be available from January 2008 onwards.

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 April 14 to 20, 2024. 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 May will be released on July 18.

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

	April 2023	March 2024 ^P	April 2024 ^P	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
	number		change		% change		
Canada							
Both sexes	396,210	469,060	455,990	-13,070	59,780	-2.8	15.1
15 to 24 years	37,710	44,830	43,520	-1,310	5,810	-2.9	15.4
25 to 54 years	247,060	298,930	291,310	-7,620	44,250	-2.5	17.9
55 years and over	111,440	125,300	121,160	-4,140	9,720	-3.3	8.7
Men	245,790	294,280	282,380	-11,900	36,590	-4.0	14.9
15 to 24 years	26,330	31,640	30,520	-1,120	4,190	-3.5	15.9
25 to 54 years	150,320	183,990	177,080	-6,910	26,760	-3.8	17.8
55 years and over	69,140	78,660	74,780	-3,880	5,640	-4.9	8.2
Women	150,420	174,770	173,610	-1,160	23,190	-0.7	15.4
15 to 24 years	11,380	13,190	13,000	-190	1,620	-1.4	14.2
25 to 54 years	96,740	114,940	114,230	-710	17,490	-0.6	18.1
55 years and over	42,290	46,640	46,380	-260	4,090	-0.6	9.7
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	30,250	28,570	28,350	-220	-1,900	-0.8	-6.3
15 to 24 years	2,360	2,420	2,320	-100	-40	-4.1	-1.7
25 to 54 years	15,360	14,250	14,100	-150	-1,260	-1.1	-8.2
55 years and over	12,530	11,900	11,930	30	-600	0.3	-4.8
Men	17,680	17,530	17,290	-240	-390	-1.4	-2.2
Women	12,560	11,040	11,060	20	-1,500	0.2	-11.9
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	6,500	7,010	6,840	-170	340	-2.4	5.2
15 to 24 years	1,050	1,220	1,240	20	190	1.6	18.1
25 to 54 years	3,250	3,450	3,330	-120	80	-3.5	2.5
55 years and over	2,200	2,340	2,270	-70	70	-3.0	3.2
Men	4,010	4,190	4,070	-120	60	-2.9	1.5
Women	2,490	2,820	2,760	-60	270	-2.1	10.8
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	20,890	22,240	18,730	-3,510	-2,160	-15.8	-10.3
15 to 24 years	2,010	2,140	1,830	-310	-180	-14.5	-9.0
25 to 54 years	12,260	13,040	11,060	-1,980	-1,200	-15.2	-9.8
55 years and over	6,630	7,060	5,840	-1,220	-790	-17.3	-11.9
Men	13,710	14,500	11,910	-2,590	-1,800	-17.9	-13.1
Women	7,180	7,740	6,820	-920	-360	-11.9	-5.0
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	24,210	24,420	22,650	-1,770	-1,560	-7.2	-6.4
15 to 24 years	2,160	2,220	2,180	-40	20	-1.8	0.9
25 to 54 years	13,160	13,140	12,140	-1,000	-1,020	-7.6	-7.8
55 years and over	8,890	9,060	8,330	-730	-560	-8.1	-6.3
Men	16,200	16,250	14,780	-1,470	-1,420	-9.0	-8.8
Women	8,010	8,170	7,880	-290	-130	-3.5	-1.6
Quebec							
Both sexes	86,570	103,230	99,310	-3,920	12,740	-3.8	14.7
15 to 24 years	6,750	7,850	7,650	-200	900	-2.5	13.3
25 to 54 years	51,200	63,320	61,060	-2,260	9,860	-3.6	19.3
55 years and over	28,620	32,060	30,600	-1,460	1,980	-4.6	6.9
Men	55,960	67,070	63,580	-3,490	7,620	-5.2	13.6
Women	30,620	36,170	35,740	-430	5,120	-1.2	16.7
Ontario							
Both sexes	118,530	147,910	148,400	490	29,870	0.3	25.2
15 to 24 years	11,970	14,430	14,380	-50	2,410	-0.3	20.1
25 to 54 years	78,490	100,080	100,500	420	22,010	0.4	28.0
55 years and over	28,070	33,400	33,510	110	5,440	0.3	19.4
Men	69,630	87,580	87,210	-370	17,580	-0.4	25.2
Women	48,900	60,320	61,180	860	12,280	1.4	25.1

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

	April 2023	March 2024 ^P	April 2024 ^P	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
Manitoba							
Both sexes	13,500	16,670	16,370	-300	2,870	-1.8	21.3
15 to 24 years	2,000	2,340	2,240	-100	240	-4.3	12.0
25 to 54 years	8,760	10,800	10,670	-130	1,910	-1.2	21.8
55 years and over	2,740	3,530	3,460	-70	720	-2.0	26.3
Men	8,820	10,800	10,500	-300	1,680	-2.8	19.0
Women	4,680	5,870	5,880	10	1,200	0.2	25.6
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	12,910	14,370	12,980	-1,390	70	-9.7	0.5
15 to 24 years	1,450	1,870	1,690	-180	240	-9.6	16.6
25 to 54 years	8,320	9,160	8,380	-780	60	-8.5	0.7
55 years and over	3,140	3,350	2,900	-450	-240	-13.4	-7.6
Men	7,780	9,560	8,710	-850	930	-8.9	12.0
Women	5,130	4,820	4,260	-560	-870	-11.6	-17.0
Alberta							
Both sexes	40,510	53,250	51,360	-1,890	10,850	-3.5	26.8
15 to 24 years	4,290	5,560	5,340	-220	1,050	-4.0	24.5
25 to 54 years	27,610	36,570	35,370	-1,200	7,760	-3.3	28.1
55 years and over	8,610	11,120	10,650	-470	2,040	-4.2	23.7
Men	26,410	35,160	33,420	-1,740	7,010	-4.9	26.5
Women	14,100	18,100	17,940	-160	3,840	-0.9	27.2
British Columbia							
Both sexes	39,740	47,770	47,420	-350	7,680	-0.7	19.3
15 to 24 years	3,430	4,390	4,260	-130	830	-3.0	24.2
25 to 54 years	26,750	32,490	32,080	-410	5,330	-1.3	19.9
55 years and over	9,560	10,890	11,080	190	1,520	1.7	15.9
Men	23,910	29,420	28,700	-720	4,790	-2.4	20.0
Women	15,840	18,360	18,720	360	2,880	2.0	18.2
Yukon							
Both sexes	500	600	590	-10	90	-1.7	18.0
15 to 24 years	20	60	40	-20	20	-33.3	100.0
25 to 54 years	340	380	390	10	50	2.6	14.7
55 years and over	130	160	160	0	30	0.0	23.1
Men	340	390	380	-10	40	-2.6	11.8
Women	160	210	210	0	50	0.0	31.3
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	390	640	610	-30	220	-4.7	56.4
15 to 24 years	30	50	50	0	20	0.0	66.7
25 to 54 years	280	450	440	-10	160	-2.2	57.1
55 years and over	80	130	130	0	50	0.0	62.5
Men	250	440	430	-10	180	-2.3	72.0
Women	140	190	180	-10	40	-5.3	28.6
Nunavut							
Both sexes	410	410	400	-10	-10	-2.4	-2.4
15 to 24 years	40	40	40	0	0	0.0	0.0
25 to 54 years	310	310	300	-10	-10	-3.2	-3.2
55 years and over	50	60	50	-10	0	-16.7	0.0
Men	270	260	250	-10	-20	-3.8	-7.4
Women	140	150	140	-10	0	-6.7	0.0

^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

	April 2023	March 2024 ^P	April 2024 ^P	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
	number			change		% change	
Canada	252,830	259,330	262,600	3,270	9,770	1.3	3.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,690	8,080	8,850	770	160	9.5	1.8
Prince Edward Island	2,680	2,590	2,600	10	-80	0.4	-3.0
Nova Scotia	9,720	9,620	9,100	-520	-620	-5.4	-6.4
New Brunswick	9,860	10,250	9,830	-420	-30	-4.1	-0.3
Quebec	64,130	71,330	66,910	-4,420	2,780	-6.2	4.3
Ontario	85,470	85,910	89,490	3,580	4,020	4.2	4.7
Manitoba	9,310	8,730	9,520	790	210	9.0	2.3
Saskatchewan	7,140	6,760	7,290	530	150	7.8	2.1
Alberta	25,230	25,840	28,420	2,580	3,190	10.0	12.6
British Columbia	29,620	29,260	29,610	350	-10	1.2	-0.0
Yukon	300	330	330	0	30	0.0	10.0
Northwest Territories	270	250	260	10	-10	4.0	-3.7
Nunavut	230	190	180	-10	-50	-5.3	-21.7

^P preliminary

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

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

	April 2023	March 2024 ^P	April 2024 ^P	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
	number		change		% change		
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	3,660	3,650	3,770	120	110	3.3	3.0
St. John's	3,660	3,650	3,770	120	110	3.3	3.0
Census agglomerations	3,910	3,860	3,700	-160	-210	-4.1	-5.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	22,680	21,060	20,880	-180	-1,800	-0.9	-7.9
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	2,750	3,090	3,010	-80	260	-2.6	9.5
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	3,750	3,930	3,830	-100	80	-2.5	2.1
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	3,950	4,920	4,040	-880	90	-17.9	2.3
Halifax	3,950	4,920	4,040	-880	90	-17.9	2.3
Census agglomerations	6,500	6,810	5,540	-1,270	-960	-18.6	-14.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	10,440	10,520	9,160	-1,360	-1,280	-12.9	-12.3
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	4,200	4,490	4,170	-320	-30	-7.1	-0.7
Moncton	2,130	2,460	2,330	-130	200	-5.3	9.4
Saint John	2,060	2,030	1,840	-190	-220	-9.4	-10.7
Census agglomerations	4,810	4,650	4,370	-280	-440	-6.0	-9.1
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	15,200	15,280	14,120	-1,160	-1,080	-7.6	-7.1
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	46,470	58,400	56,630	-1,770	10,160	-3.0	21.9
Montréal	32,890	41,990	40,960	-1,030	8,070	-2.5	24.5
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	2,340	2,850	2,730	-120	390	-4.2	16.7
Québec	5,810	7,060	6,690	-370	880	-5.2	15.1
Saguenay	2,030	2,250	2,250	0	220	0.0	10.8
Sherbrooke	1,920	2,460	2,330	-130	410	-5.3	21.4
Trois-Rivières	1,470	1,790	1,660	-130	190	-7.3	12.9
Census agglomerations	10,510	12,290	11,600	-690	1,090	-5.6	10.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	29,600	32,550	31,090	-1,460	1,490	-4.5	5.0
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	90,520	116,440	118,000	1,560	27,480	1.3	30.4
Barrie	2,120	2,530	2,480	-50	360	-2.0	17.0
Belleville	1,120	1,240	1,260	20	140	1.6	12.5
Brantford	1,470	1,710	1,740	30	270	1.8	18.4
Greater Sudbury	1,750	2,000	2,040	40	290	2.0	16.6
Guelph	1,080	1,460	1,540	80	460	5.5	42.6
Hamilton	5,670	7,240	7,310	70	1,640	1.0	28.9
Kingston	1,400	1,370	1,540	170	140	12.4	10.0
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	4,640	6,300	6,370	70	1,730	1.1	37.3
London	5,280	5,560	5,340	-220	60	-4.0	1.1
Oshawa	3,460	4,450	4,530	80	1,070	1.8	30.9
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	6,790	8,140	8,030	-110	1,240	-1.4	18.3
Peterborough	990	1,160	1,170	10	180	0.9	18.2
St. Catharines–Niagara	3,980	5,500	5,430	-70	1,450	-1.3	36.4
Thunder Bay	1,130	1,340	1,320	-20	190	-1.5	16.8
Toronto	45,860	62,590	64,090	1,500	18,230	2.4	39.8
Windsor	3,750	3,850	3,820	-30	70	-0.8	1.9
Census agglomerations	12,390	13,660	13,450	-210	1,060	-1.5	8.6
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	15,620	17,810	16,950	-860	1,330	-4.8	8.5
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	6,570	8,450	8,440	-10	1,870	-0.1	28.5
Winnipeg	6,570	8,450	8,440	-10	1,870	-0.1	28.5
Census agglomerations	1,110	1,530	1,440	-90	330	-5.9	29.7
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	5,820	6,690	6,490	-200	670	-3.0	11.5

Table 3 - continued

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

	April 2023	March 2024 ^P	April 2024 ^P	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	4,590	5,220	4,760	-460	170	-8.8	3.7
Regina	1,740	2,070	1,860	-210	120	-10.1	6.9
Saskatoon	2,850	3,150	2,900	-250	50	-7.9	1.8
Census agglomerations	2,350	2,360	2,130	-230	-220	-9.7	-9.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	5,970	6,800	6,090	-710	120	-10.4	2.0
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	27,430	36,730	35,840	-890	8,410	-2.4	30.7
Calgary	12,770	16,540	16,100	-440	3,330	-2.7	26.1
Edmonton	13,670	19,200	18,800	-400	5,130	-2.1	37.5
Lethbridge	980	980	940	-40	-40	-4.1	-4.1
Census agglomerations	5,670	7,360	7,020	-340	1,350	-4.6	23.8
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,410	9,160	8,500	-660	1,090	-7.2	14.7
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	23,550	28,320	28,440	120	4,890	0.4	20.8
Abbotsford–Mission	1,840	1,930	2,040	110	200	5.7	10.9
Kelowna	1,830	2,450	2,460	10	630	0.4	34.4
Vancouver	17,940	21,540	21,500	-40	3,560	-0.2	19.8
Victoria	1,930	2,410	2,450	40	520	1.7	26.9
Census agglomerations	8,830	11,120	10,830	-290	2,000	-2.6	22.7
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	7,370	8,330	8,150	-180	780	-2.2	10.6

^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).