

Employment Insurance, April 2012

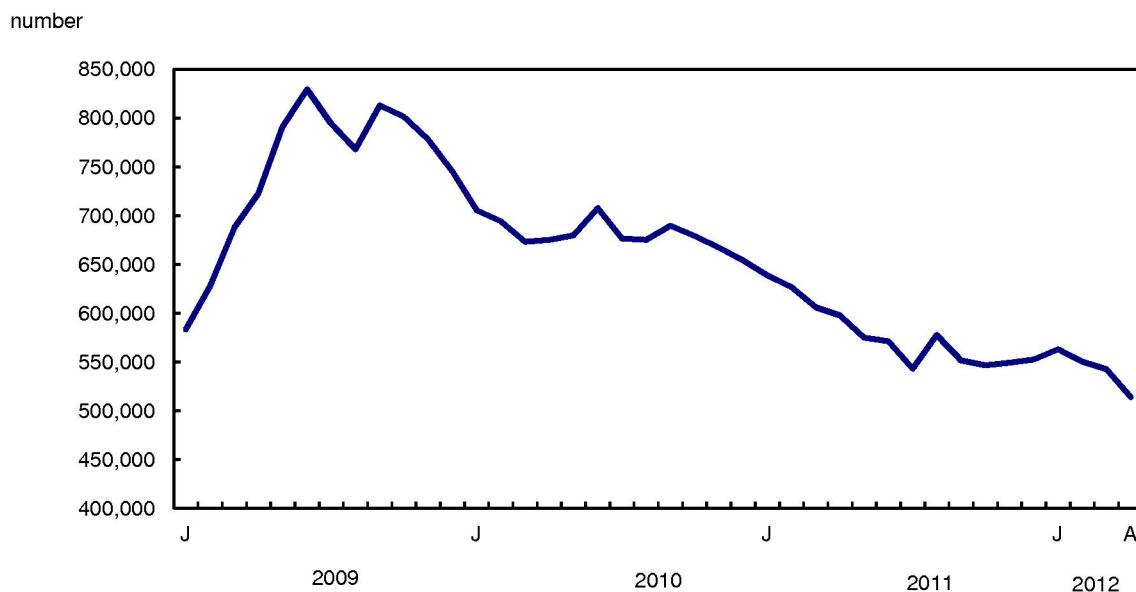
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, June 21, 2012

The number of people receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits decreased for the third consecutive month in April, down 28,600 (-5.3%) to 513,700.

The number of beneficiaries decreased in nine provinces, with the largest percentage declines occurring in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Chart 1

Third consecutive monthly decline in the number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries in April



Claims unchanged in April

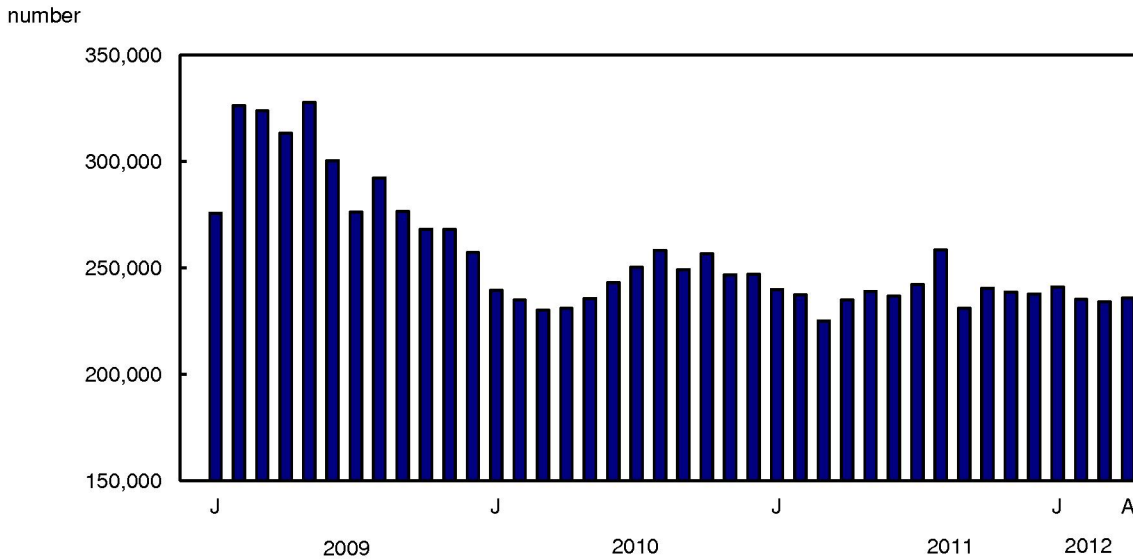
To receive EI benefits, individuals must first submit a claim. The number of claims provides an indication of the number of people who could become beneficiaries.

Nationally, the number of initial and renewal claims was essentially unchanged in April at 235,700. The number has remained relatively stable since September 2011.

Claims increased in Nova Scotia (+7.4%), Prince Edward Island (+7.0%), Saskatchewan (+5.8%) and British Columbia (+4.5%). They declined 1.3% in Quebec and there was little change in all other provinces.



Chart 2
Number of claims unchanged in April



Beneficiaries down in nine provinces

The number of beneficiaries decreased in nine provinces in April. The largest percentage declines occurred in Quebec (-7.0%), Ontario (-6.7%), Alberta (-6.7%) and Saskatchewan (-6.4%).

There were also declines in British Columbia (-5.1%) and Manitoba (-4.4%). The number of people receiving benefits edged down in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador. There was no change in Prince Edward Island.

Continued year-over-year declines in most large centres

Large centres are those with a population of 10,000 or more. Monthly EI data by sub-provincial region are not seasonally adjusted and are therefore compared on a year-over-year basis.

Between April 2011 and April 2012, the number of people receiving regular EI benefits decreased in 137 of the 143 large centres.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the number of beneficiaries declined in all five large centres during the 12-month period. In St. John's, the number fell 21.1% to 3,900, continuing a two-year-long downward trend.

The two large centres in Prince Edward Island had fewer beneficiaries for the 11th consecutive month. The largest percentage decline occurred in Charlottetown, where the number of beneficiaries fell 20.1%. It was the biggest decrease since the beginning of the downward trend in July 2011.

All five large centres in Nova Scotia had fewer beneficiaries in the 12 months to April. The largest decline occurred in Halifax, where the number of people receiving benefits fell 16.4% to 5,000. This continued a two-year-long downward trend.

In New Brunswick, five of the six large centres had fewer beneficiaries in the 12-month period. The largest decline was in Saint John, where the number fell 12.4% to 2,500. There were fewer beneficiaries in Fredericton for the second consecutive month.

Of the 33 large centres in Quebec, 31 had fewer beneficiaries between April 2011 and April 2012. The largest percentage decreases were in Rouyn-Noranda, Rivière-du-Loup and Sherbrooke. In Montréal, the number of people receiving benefits fell 15.5% to 54,400, continuing a downward trend that started in March 2010.

All 41 large centres in Ontario had fewer beneficiaries. The largest percentage declines were in Chatham-Kent, Hamilton and Windsor. In Toronto, the number of beneficiaries fell 21.6% to 57,100, continuing a two-year-long downward trend.

In Manitoba, the number of people receiving regular benefits decreased in all four large centres in the 12 months to April. In Winnipeg, the number of beneficiaries declined 10.9% to 6,000, the 20th consecutive month of year-over-year declines.

There were fewer beneficiaries in seven of the eight large centres in Saskatchewan, with the largest percentage decline in Moose Jaw. In Regina, the number of beneficiaries fell 18.5% to 1,000, continuing the downward trend that began in the summer of 2010. In Saskatoon, 1,700 people received benefits, down 11.3%, continuing the downward trend that started 17 months earlier.

All 12 large centres in Alberta had fewer beneficiaries for the eighth consecutive month. The largest percentage decreases were in Brooks, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. In Edmonton, the number of beneficiaries fell 40.8% to 7,600, the largest decline since the beginning of the downward trend in April 2010. In Calgary, 7,800 people received benefits, a 35.8% decrease. This continued a two-year period of declines.

In British Columbia, the number of beneficiaries decreased in 24 of the 25 large centres. The largest declines occurred in Squamish, Penticton, Vernon, Kamloops, Kelowna, Vancouver and Victoria. In Vancouver, 22,500 people received benefits in April, down 21.4% from April 2011. This continued a series of declines that began almost two years earlier. In Victoria, 2,800 people received regular benefits, down 20.9%.

Demographic groups

EI data by sex and age are not seasonally adjusted and are therefore compared on a year-over-year basis.

Between April 2011 and April 2012, the number of men receiving regular benefits fell 16.4% to 366,800, continuing a series of declines that started in March 2010. The number of beneficiaries fell 19.0% among men under 25 years of age and 17.0% among those aged 25 to 54. For men aged 55 and over, the number of people receiving benefits declined 13.1%.

A total of 195,500 women received regular benefits, down 15.0% from 12 months earlier. Among women under 25 years of age, the number of beneficiaries fell 17.1%, while for those aged 25 to 54, the number fell 15.5%. For women 55 and over, the decline was 12.4%.

Note to readers

The change in the number of regular Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries reflects various situations, including people becoming beneficiaries, people going back to work, and people exhausting their regular benefits.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified.

EI statistics are produced from administrative data sources provided by Service Canada and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. These statistics may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act or administrative procedures. The number of regular beneficiaries and the number of claims received for March and April are preliminary. In this release, large centres correspond to those with a population of 10,000 or more.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all people who received EI benefits from April 15 to 21. This period coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits, and should not be confused with data coming from the LFS, which provides information on 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 is not insured. Other unemployed people have contributed to the program but do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as workers who left their job voluntarily or those who did not accumulate enough hours of work to receive benefits.

Table 1
Employment Insurance: Statistics by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2012 ^P	April 2012 ^P	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	number		change in number		% change	
Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits						
Canada	542,380	513,740	-28,640	-83,660	-5.3	-14.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	34,220	33,660	-560	-2,160	-1.6	-6.0
Prince Edward Island	8,210	8,200	-10	-420	-0.1	-4.9
Nova Scotia	30,930	30,060	-870	-2,260	-2.8	-7.0
New Brunswick	32,840	32,130	-710	-1,890	-2.2	-5.6
Quebec	163,520	152,090	-11,430	-22,580	-7.0	-12.9
Ontario	159,880	149,230	-10,650	-32,800	-6.7	-18.0
Manitoba	13,200	12,620	-580	-910	-4.4	-6.7
Saskatchewan	9,850	9,220	-630	-1,630	-6.4	-15.0
Alberta	26,390	24,630	-1,760	-12,850	-6.7	-34.3
British Columbia	59,000	56,000	-3,000	-11,110	-5.1	-16.6
Yukon	940	960	20	0	2.1	0.0
Northwest Territories	800	830	30	-70	3.8	-7.8
Nunavut	440	440	0	-90	0.0	-17.0
Initial and renewal claims received						
Canada	234,110	235,680	1,570	690	0.7	0.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,380	9,680	300	400	3.2	4.3
Prince Edward Island	2,560	2,740	180	90	7.0	3.4
Nova Scotia	9,890	10,620	730	510	7.4	5.0
New Brunswick	10,680	10,910	230	170	2.2	1.6
Quebec	70,020	69,090	-930	1,240	-1.3	1.8
Ontario	74,090	74,340	250	1,860	0.3	2.6
Manitoba	7,720	7,780	60	280	0.8	3.7
Saskatchewan	5,860	6,200	340	320	5.8	5.4
Alberta	16,620	17,050	430	-1,240	2.6	-6.8
British Columbia	26,180	27,360	1,180	-200	4.5	-0.7
Yukon	340	320	-20	-10	-5.9	-3.0
Northwest Territories	320	320	0	-20	0.0	-5.9
Nunavut	180	240	60	50	33.3	26.3

^P preliminary

Note(s): The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.

Table 2
Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by age group, sex and province and territory – Not seasonally adjusted

	April 2011	April 2012 ^P	April 2011 to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	number		change in number	% change
Canada				
Both sexes	668,800	562,310	-106,490	-15.9
Under 25 years	71,200	58,030	-13,170	-18.5
25 to 54 years	454,900	379,950	-74,950	-16.5
55 years and over	142,700	124,340	-18,360	-12.9
Men	438,900	366,820	-72,080	-16.4
Under 25 years	53,690	43,510	-10,180	-19.0
25 to 54 years	291,220	241,640	-49,580	-17.0
55 years and over	93,990	81,680	-12,310	-13.1
Women	229,900	195,490	-34,410	-15.0
Under 25 years	17,510	14,520	-2,990	-17.1
25 to 54 years	163,680	138,310	-25,370	-15.5
55 years and over	48,710	42,660	-6,050	-12.4
Newfoundland and Labrador				
Both sexes	42,010	38,500	-3,510	-8.4
Under 25 years	3,990	3,440	-550	-13.8
25 to 54 years	27,210	24,330	-2,880	-10.6
55 years and over	10,820	10,730	-90	-0.8
Men	26,260	23,370	-2,890	-11.0
Women	15,760	15,130	-630	-4.0
Prince Edward Island				
Both sexes	11,060	10,450	-610	-5.5
Under 25 years	1,160	1,120	-40	-3.4
25 to 54 years	6,980	6,430	-550	-7.9
55 years and over	2,920	2,900	-20	-0.7
Men	6,930	6,460	-470	-6.8
Women	4,130	3,990	-140	-3.4
Nova Scotia				
Both sexes	36,240	32,970	-3,270	-9.0
Under 25 years	4,220	3,710	-510	-12.1
25 to 54 years	23,880	21,490	-2,390	-10.0
55 years and over	8,150	7,770	-380	-4.7
Men	23,330	21,290	-2,040	-8.7
Women	12,910	11,680	-1,230	-9.5
New Brunswick				
Both sexes	41,510	38,710	-2,800	-6.7
Under 25 years	4,030	3,700	-330	-8.2
25 to 54 years	27,270	25,000	-2,270	-8.3
55 years and over	10,220	10,010	-210	-2.1
Men	28,430	26,110	-2,320	-8.2
Women	13,090	12,600	-490	-3.7
Quebec				
Both sexes	199,690	172,360	-27,330	-13.7
Under 25 years	21,990	18,810	-3,180	-14.5
25 to 54 years	133,340	114,070	-19,270	-14.5
55 years and over	44,360	39,480	-4,880	-11.0
Men	136,650	117,570	-19,080	-14.0
Women	63,040	54,790	-8,250	-13.1
Ontario				
Both sexes	195,020	157,690	-37,330	-19.1
Under 25 years	20,240	15,750	-4,490	-22.2
25 to 54 years	137,730	112,250	-25,480	-18.5
55 years and over	37,050	29,690	-7,360	-19.9
Men	125,200	100,370	-24,830	-19.8
Women	69,820	57,320	-12,500	-17.9

Table 2 - continued
Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by age group, sex and province and territory – Not seasonally adjusted

	April 2011	April 2012 ^P	April 2011 to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
Manitoba				
Both sexes	14,620	13,290	-1,330	-9.1
Under 25 years	1,860	1,690	-170	-9.1
25 to 54 years	9,960	8,990	-970	-9.7
55 years and over	2,800	2,610	-190	-6.8
Men	10,300	9,490	-810	-7.9
Women	4,320	3,800	-520	-12.0
Saskatchewan				
Both sexes	12,150	10,140	-2,010	-16.5
Under 25 years	1,410	1,100	-310	-22.0
25 to 54 years	7,980	6,590	-1,390	-17.4
55 years and over	2,760	2,450	-310	-11.2
Men	8,630	7,110	-1,520	-17.6
Women	3,520	3,030	-490	-13.9
Alberta				
Both sexes	41,430	26,480	-14,950	-36.1
Under 25 years	4,350	2,580	-1,770	-40.7
25 to 54 years	28,900	18,620	-10,280	-35.6
55 years and over	8,170	5,280	-2,890	-35.4
Men	27,030	16,930	-10,100	-37.4
Women	14,400	9,560	-4,840	-33.6
British Columbia				
Both sexes	72,140	59,010	-13,130	-18.2
Under 25 years	7,670	5,870	-1,800	-23.5
25 to 54 years	49,520	40,230	-9,290	-18.8
55 years and over	14,950	12,920	-2,030	-13.6
Men	44,210	36,320	-7,890	-17.8
Women	27,930	22,690	-5,240	-18.8
Yukon				
Both sexes	1,210	1,220	10	0.8
Under 25 years	120	110	-10	-8.3
25 to 54 years	810	800	-10	-1.2
55 years and over	290	310	20	6.9
Men	760	780	20	2.6
Women	450	430	-20	-4.4
Northwest Territories				
Both sexes	970	910	-60	-6.2
Under 25 years	100	90	-10	-10.0
25 to 54 years	730	680	-50	-6.8
55 years and over	140	140	0	0.0
Men	660	640	-20	-3.0
Women	310	270	-40	-12.9
Nunavut				
Both sexes	560	480	-80	-14.3
Under 25 years	70	50	-20	-28.6
25 to 54 years	440	380	-60	-13.6
55 years and over	60	40	-20	-33.3
Men	420	340	-80	-19.0
Women	140	140	0	0.0

^P preliminary

Note(s): The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.

Table 3
Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by census metropolitan area¹ – Not seasonally adjusted

	April 2011	April 2012 ^P	April 2011 to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	number		change in number	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador				
St. John's	4,970	3,920	-1,050	-21.1
Nova Scotia				
Halifax	5,980	5,000	-980	-16.4
New Brunswick				
Saint John	2,900	2,540	-360	-12.4
Quebec				
Saguenay	4,800	3,830	-970	-20.2
Québec	10,750	8,910	-1,840	-17.1
Sherbrooke	3,260	2,520	-740	-22.7
Trois-Rivières	4,250	3,710	-540	-12.7
Montréal	64,360	54,360	-10,000	-15.5
Ottawa–Gatineau, Gatineau part	3,780	3,410	-370	-9.8
Ontario				
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	7,310	6,340	-970	-13.3
Kingston	1,570	1,420	-150	-9.6
Oshawa	4,890	3,990	-900	-18.4
Toronto	72,910	57,140	-15,770	-21.6
Hamilton	9,050	6,430	-2,620	-29.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	7,990	6,400	-1,590	-19.9
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	6,250	4,950	-1,300	-20.8
London	6,510	5,810	-700	-10.8
Windsor	5,840	4,180	-1,660	-28.4
Greater Sudbury	2,680	2,190	-490	-18.3
Thunder Bay	1,780	1,550	-230	-12.9
Manitoba				
Winnipeg	6,700	5,970	-730	-10.9
Saskatchewan				
Regina	1,240	1,010	-230	-18.5
Saskatoon	1,940	1,720	-220	-11.3
Alberta				
Calgary	12,150	7,800	-4,350	-35.8
Edmonton	12,760	7,550	-5,210	-40.8
British Columbia				
Abbotsford–Mission	3,310	3,050	-260	-7.9
Vancouver	28,650	22,510	-6,140	-21.4
Victoria	3,490	2,760	-730	-20.9

^P preliminary

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

Note(s): The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0004, 276-0006, 276-0009 and 276-0011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

[Data tables](#) are also now available online. From the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*, choose *Subject*, then *Labour*.

Data on Employment Insurance for May will be released on July 19.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.