

Employment Insurance, February 2023

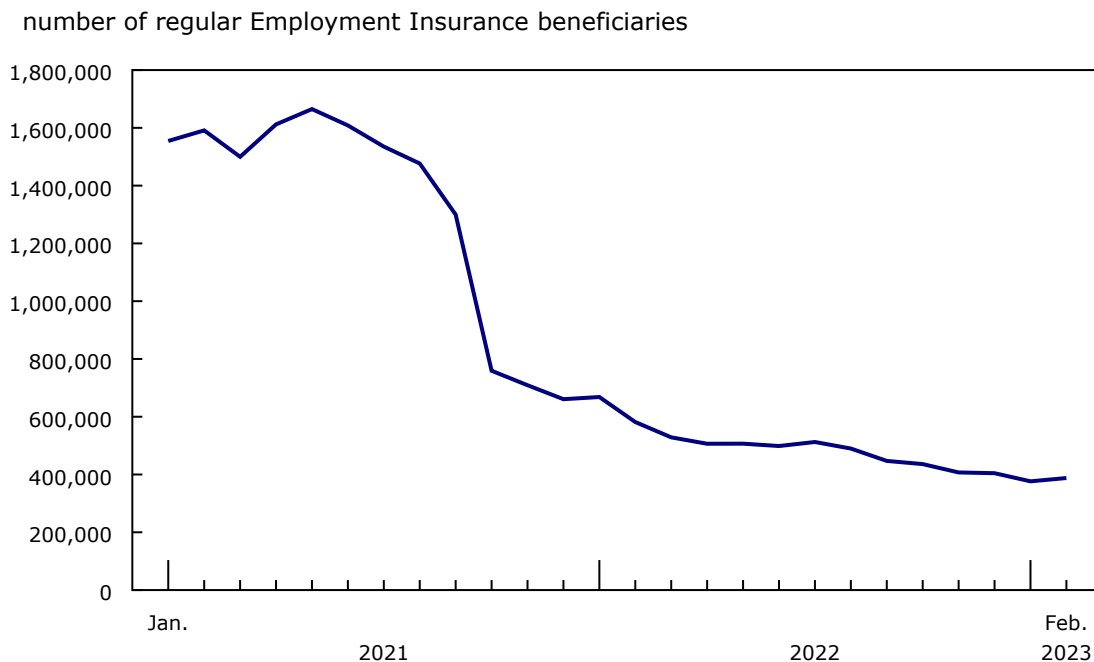
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, April 20, 2023

In February, 388,000 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, up by 11,000 (+3.0%) from January. This was the first monthly increase since July 2022. Despite the increase, the number of regular EI recipients in February 2023 was the second lowest on record (outside of the period when the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit was in place from March to September 2020), following the record low of January 2023.

According to the Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate held steady at 5.0% in February, just shy of the record-low 4.9% observed in June and July of 2022.

In general, variations in the number of beneficiaries can reflect several changes in circumstances, including those becoming beneficiaries, those going back to work, those exhausting their regular benefits, and those no longer receiving benefits for other reasons. It is also possible to work part-time while receiving EI benefits ([Working While on Claim](#)). In February, most (89.3%) regular EI recipients had no declared earnings, up slightly from a year earlier (87.7%).

Chart 1 First increase in the number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries since July 2022



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

More people collecting regular Employment Insurance benefits in Ontario

The monthly increase in the number of people receiving regular EI benefits at the national level was driven by gains in Ontario (+14.8%; +15,000). This was the first increase in Ontario since October 2022. The increase in regular EI recipients was spread across the province, with the largest proportional increases in the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) of Windsor (+136.7%; +3,800), Hamilton (+42.7%; +1,800) and Oshawa (+24.1%; +600). On a year-over-year basis, the number of regular EI recipients in Ontario was lower than in February 2022 (-29.6%; -48,000).



In Newfoundland and Labrador, the number of regular EI beneficiaries increased slightly (+1.9%; +600) in February, the first increase since June 2021.

In contrast, the number of regular EI beneficiaries decreased in five provinces, with the largest proportional decreases in Prince Edward Island (-7.2%; -500), Manitoba (-3.9%; -500), and Alberta (-3.3%; -1,400). The largest proportional declines were in the CMAs of Winnipeg (-4.9%; -300) and Calgary (-4.1%; -500).

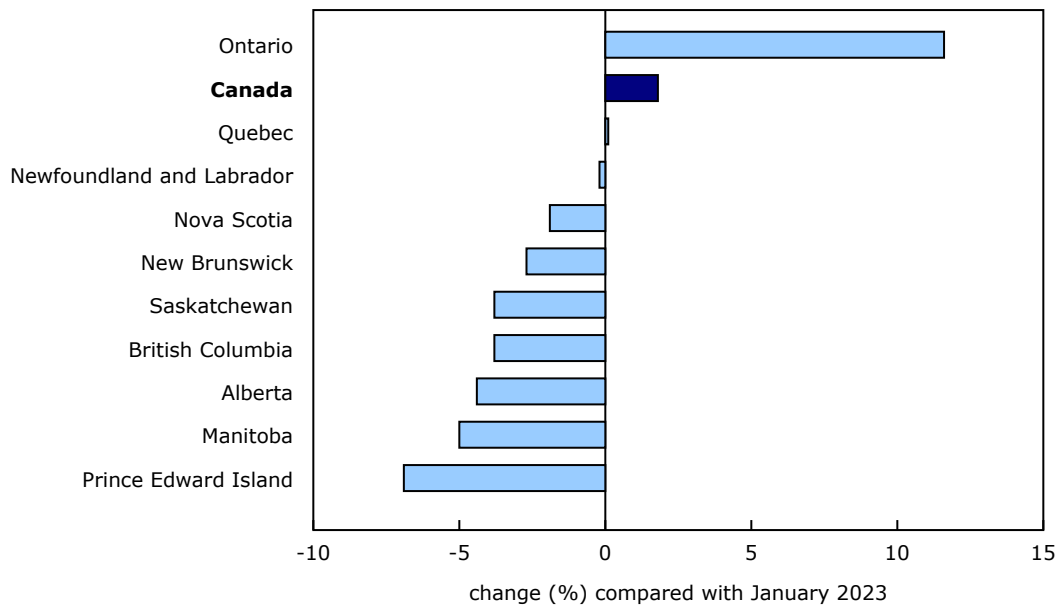
The number of regular Employment Insurance recipients increases across all age groups

Following declines in January, the number of people receiving regular EI benefits increased across all age groups in February. The number of beneficiaries grew for men (+3.0%; +7,100) and women (+3.0%; +4,300). Men comprised 62.7% of people collecting regular EI benefits in February.

Youth aged 15 to 24 years old had the largest proportional increase in the number of EI beneficiaries (+11.3%; +3,300) in February, partially offsetting a decrease in January. Year-over-year, young women (-68.4%; -21,000) and young men (-46.6%; -20,000) had larger proportional declines in their number of regular EI beneficiaries compared with other age groups.

The number of core-aged (25 to 54 years) people receiving regular EI benefits rose 1.8% (+4,200) in February. In this age group, an increase in the number of beneficiaries in Ontario was partially offset by declines in other provinces. Among people aged 55 years and older, the number of regular EI beneficiaries rose in February (+3.5%; +3,900).

Chart 2
Among core-aged people, the increase in regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries was concentrated in Ontario



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 February 12 to 18, 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 March 2023 will be released on May 18, 2023.

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

	February 2022	January 2023 ^P	February 2023 ^P	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023
	number		change		% change		
Canada							
Both sexes	581,630	376,420	387,780	11,360	-193,850	3.0	-33.3
15 to 24 years	72,800	29,030	32,320	3,290	-40,480	11.3	-55.6
25 to 54 years	342,360	235,510	239,680	4,170	-102,680	1.8	-30.0
55 years and over	166,470	111,880	115,780	3,900	-50,690	3.5	-30.4
Men	332,460	235,920	243,030	7,110	-89,430	3.0	-26.9
15 to 24 years	42,660	20,990	22,800	1,810	-19,860	8.6	-46.6
25 to 54 years	193,400	144,760	147,300	2,540	-46,100	1.8	-23.8
55 years and over	96,400	70,170	72,930	2,760	-23,470	3.9	-24.3
Women	249,180	140,500	144,750	4,250	-104,430	3.0	-41.9
15 to 24 years	30,140	8,040	9,510	1,470	-20,630	18.3	-68.4
25 to 54 years	148,960	90,740	92,390	1,650	-56,570	1.8	-38.0
55 years and over	70,070	41,720	42,850	1,130	-27,220	2.7	-38.8
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	37,490	29,090	29,640	550	-7,850	1.9	-20.9
15 to 24 years	4,150	2,250	2,430	180	-1,720	8.0	-41.4
25 to 54 years	18,470	14,560	14,530	-30	-3,940	-0.2	-21.3
55 years and over	14,880	12,270	12,680	410	-2,200	3.3	-14.8
Men	21,410	17,690	17,850	160	-3,560	0.9	-16.6
Women	16,080	11,400	11,790	390	-4,290	3.4	-26.7
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	9,190	7,260	6,740	-520	-2,450	-7.2	-26.7
15 to 24 years	2,100	1,120	980	-140	-1,120	-12.5	-53.3
25 to 54 years	4,200	3,630	3,380	-250	-820	-6.9	-19.5
55 years and over	2,890	2,510	2,380	-130	-510	-5.2	-17.6
Men	5,190	4,500	4,180	-320	-1,010	-7.1	-19.5
Women	4,000	2,760	2,570	-190	-1,430	-6.9	-35.8
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	32,300	22,430	22,340	-90	-9,960	-0.4	-30.8
15 to 24 years	4,070	1,960	2,100	140	-1,970	7.1	-48.4
25 to 54 years	18,160	13,280	13,030	-250	-5,130	-1.9	-28.2
55 years and over	10,070	7,180	7,210	30	-2,860	0.4	-28.4
Men	19,040	14,780	14,550	-230	-4,490	-1.6	-23.6
Women	13,260	7,650	7,790	140	-5,470	1.8	-41.3
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	37,790	25,780	25,380	-400	-12,410	-1.6	-32.8
15 to 24 years	7,860	1,980	2,040	60	-5,820	3.0	-74.0
25 to 54 years	18,060	13,970	13,590	-380	-4,470	-2.7	-24.8
55 years and over	11,870	9,830	9,760	-70	-2,110	-0.7	-17.8
Men	21,690	17,180	16,860	-320	-4,830	-1.9	-22.3
Women	16,100	8,590	8,520	-70	-7,580	-0.8	-47.1
Quebec							
Both sexes	141,630	81,580	81,560	-20	-60,070	-0.0	-42.4
15 to 24 years	13,760	3,950	4,920	970	-8,840	24.6	-64.2
25 to 54 years	81,650	47,940	47,980	40	-33,670	0.1	-41.2
55 years and over	46,220	29,690	28,660	-1,030	-17,560	-3.5	-38.0
Men	82,910	52,350	53,570	1,220	-29,340	2.3	-35.4
Women	58,720	29,230	27,990	-1,240	-30,730	-4.2	-52.3
Ontario							
Both sexes	162,760	99,890	114,660	14,770	-48,100	14.8	-29.6
15 to 24 years	20,400	8,290	9,530	1,240	-10,870	15.0	-53.3
25 to 54 years	101,430	68,380	76,340	7,960	-25,090	11.6	-24.7
55 years and over	40,930	23,220	28,800	5,580	-12,130	24.0	-29.6
Men	89,630	59,480	67,940	8,460	-21,690	14.2	-24.2
Women	73,130	40,400	46,720	6,320	-26,410	15.6	-36.1

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

	February 2022	January 2023 ^P	February 2023 ^P	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023
Manitoba							
Both sexes	20,520	13,650	13,120	-530	-7,400	-3.9	-36.1
15 to 24 years	3,480	1,660	1,710	50	-1,770	3.0	-50.9
25 to 54 years	12,700	9,040	8,590	-450	-4,110	-5.0	-32.4
55 years and over	4,340	2,960	2,830	-130	-1,510	-4.4	-34.8
Men	12,470	8,930	8,550	-380	-3,920	-4.3	-31.4
Women	8,050	4,720	4,580	-140	-3,470	-3.0	-43.1
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	17,590	12,370	12,290	-80	-5,300	-0.6	-30.1
15 to 24 years	2,620	1,220	1,410	190	-1,210	15.6	-46.2
25 to 54 years	10,640	7,980	7,680	-300	-2,960	-3.8	-27.8
55 years and over	4,330	3,170	3,200	30	-1,130	0.9	-26.1
Men	10,940	8,190	8,170	-20	-2,770	-0.2	-25.3
Women	6,650	4,180	4,120	-60	-2,530	-1.4	-38.0
Alberta							
Both sexes	63,510	41,220	39,840	-1,380	-23,670	-3.3	-37.3
15 to 24 years	7,950	3,560	3,830	270	-4,120	7.6	-51.8
25 to 54 years	40,560	27,970	26,750	-1,220	-13,810	-4.4	-34.0
55 years and over	14,990	9,690	9,260	-430	-5,730	-4.4	-38.2
Men	36,660	27,160	25,980	-1,180	-10,680	-4.3	-29.1
Women	26,850	14,050	13,860	-190	-12,990	-1.4	-48.4
British Columbia							
Both sexes	56,310	40,790	39,710	-1,080	-16,600	-2.6	-29.5
15 to 24 years	6,110	2,830	3,140	310	-2,970	11.0	-48.6
25 to 54 years	34,760	27,090	26,050	-1,040	-8,710	-3.8	-25.1
55 years and over	15,440	10,870	10,510	-360	-4,930	-3.3	-31.9
Men	31,030	24,110	23,770	-340	-7,260	-1.4	-23.4
Women	25,280	16,680	15,930	-750	-9,350	-4.5	-37.0
Yukon							
Both sexes	750	460	450	-10	-300	-2.2	-40.0
15 to 24 years	70	10	10	0	-60	0.0	-85.7
25 to 54 years	470	300	300	0	-170	0.0	-36.2
55 years and over	200	150	150	0	-50	0.0	-25.0
Men	450	290	270	-20	-180	-6.9	-40.0
Women	300	170	180	10	-120	5.9	-40.0
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	850	410	420	10	-430	2.4	-50.6
15 to 24 years	100	30	30	0	-70	0.0	-70.0
25 to 54 years	570	290	290	0	-280	0.0	-49.1
55 years and over	170	90	90	0	-80	0.0	-47.1
Men	500	270	270	0	-230	0.0	-46.0
Women	350	140	150	10	-200	7.1	-57.1
Nunavut							
Both sexes	650	410	410	0	-240	0.0	-36.9
15 to 24 years	90	40	40	0	-50	0.0	-55.6
25 to 54 years	480	310	310	0	-170	0.0	-35.4
55 years and over	80	60	60	0	-20	0.0	-25.0
Men	380	270	270	0	-110	0.0	-28.9
Women	270	140	140	0	-130	0.0	-48.1

^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

	February 2022	January 2023 ^P	February 2023 ^P	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023
	number		change		% change		
Canada	250,840	255,240	245,040	-10,200	-5,800	-4.0	-2.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,200	8,450	8,590	140	-610	1.7	-6.6
Prince Edward Island	2,700	2,760	2,700	-60	0	-2.2	0.0
Nova Scotia	9,630	9,780	9,530	-250	-100	-2.6	-1.0
New Brunswick	11,580	11,760	10,110	-1,650	-1,470	-14.0	-12.7
Quebec	64,120	78,750	63,780	-14,970	-340	-19.0	-0.5
Ontario	83,850	78,350	81,730	3,380	-2,120	4.3	-2.5
Manitoba	8,770	9,440	8,760	-680	-10	-7.2	-0.1
Saskatchewan	6,660	6,340	6,670	330	10	5.2	0.2
Alberta	25,090	22,490	24,220	1,730	-870	7.7	-3.5
British Columbia	28,190	26,260	28,000	1,740	-190	6.6	-0.7
Yukon	310	320	310	-10	0	-3.1	0.0
Northwest Territories	320	260	300	40	-20	15.4	-6.3
Nunavut	230	200	190	-10	-40	-5.0	-17.4

^P preliminary

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

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

	February 2022	January 2023 ^P	February 2023 ^P	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023
	number		change		% change		
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	6,160	3,160	3,330	170	-2,830	5.4	-45.9
St. John's	6,160	3,160	3,330	170	-2,830	5.4	-45.9
Census agglomerations	4,930	3,940	3,980	40	-950	1.0	-19.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	26,410	22,000	22,330	330	-4,080	1.5	-15.4
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	4,570	2,980	2,640	-340	-1,930	-11.4	-42.2
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	4,620	4,280	4,100	-180	-520	-4.2	-11.3
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	7,410	4,000	3,930	-70	-3,480	-1.8	-47.0
Halifax	7,410	4,000	3,930	-70	-3,480	-1.8	-47.0
Census agglomerations	9,810	7,360	7,350	-10	-2,460	-0.1	-25.1
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	15,080	11,070	11,060	-10	-4,020	-0.1	-26.7
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	8,160	4,160	4,140	-20	-4,020	-0.5	-49.3
Moncton	4,370	2,160	2,180	20	-2,190	0.9	-50.1
Saint John	3,790	2,000	1,960	-40	-1,830	-2.0	-48.3
Census agglomerations	8,530	4,980	4,750	-230	-3,780	-4.6	-44.3
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	21,100	16,640	16,500	-140	-4,600	-0.8	-21.8
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	81,440	41,670	42,010	340	-39,430	0.8	-48.4
Montréal	58,240	29,540	29,240	-300	-29,000	-1.0	-49.8
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	4,610	2,240	2,260	20	-2,350	0.9	-51.0
Québec	9,300	4,420	5,080	660	-4,220	14.9	-45.4
Saguenay	3,310	2,050	2,070	20	-1,240	1.0	-37.5
Sherbrooke	3,120	1,900	1,870	-30	-1,250	-1.6	-40.1
Trois-Rivières	2,860	1,520	1,490	-30	-1,370	-2.0	-47.9
Census agglomerations	17,160	10,230	10,230	0	-6,930	0.0	-40.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	43,030	29,680	29,320	-360	-13,710	-1.2	-31.9
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	126,520	74,940	86,660	11,720	-39,860	15.6	-31.5
Barrie	2,720	1,680	2,040	360	-680	21.4	-25.0
Belleville	1,630	990	1,060	70	-570	7.1	-35.0
Brantford	1,890	1,150	1,390	240	-500	20.9	-26.5
Greater Sudbury	2,790	1,440	1,610	170	-1,180	11.8	-42.3
Guelph	1,360	860	930	70	-430	8.1	-31.6
Hamilton	7,820	4,310	6,150	1,840	-1,670	42.7	-21.4
Kingston	2,070	1,150	1,230	80	-840	7.0	-40.6
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	5,780	3,860	4,400	540	-1,380	14.0	-23.9
London	5,920	4,310	4,610	300	-1,310	7.0	-22.1
Oshawa	4,940	2,660	3,300	640	-1,640	24.1	-33.2
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	10,140	5,880	6,690	810	-3,450	13.8	-34.0
Peterborough	1,460	850	970	120	-490	14.1	-33.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	7,100	3,760	4,020	260	-3,080	6.9	-43.4
Thunder Bay	1,830	1,040	1,170	130	-660	12.5	-36.1
Toronto	63,240	38,170	40,430	2,260	-22,810	5.9	-36.1
Windsor	5,850	2,810	6,650	3,840	800	136.7	13.7
Census agglomerations	16,280	11,190	12,590	1,400	-3,690	12.5	-22.7
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	19,950	13,760	15,410	1,650	-4,540	12.0	-22.8
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	10,810	6,540	6,220	-320	-4,590	-4.9	-42.5
Winnipeg	10,810	6,540	6,220	-320	-4,590	-4.9	-42.5
Census agglomerations	1,620	1,090	1,060	-30	-560	-2.8	-34.6

Table 3 - continued

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

	February 2022	January 2023 ^P	February 2023 ^P	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023	January to February 2023	February 2022 to February 2023
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,090	6,030	5,840	-190	-2,250	-3.2	-27.8
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	6,390	4,170	4,120	-50	-2,270	-1.2	-35.5
Regina	2,520	1,630	1,600	-30	-920	-1.8	-36.5
Saskatoon	3,870	2,540	2,520	-20	-1,350	-0.8	-34.9
Census agglomerations	2,850	2,050	2,020	-30	-830	-1.5	-29.1
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	8,360	6,150	6,140	-10	-2,220	-0.2	-26.6
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	43,910	28,010	27,150	-860	-16,760	-3.1	-38.2
Calgary	19,640	12,860	12,330	-530	-7,310	-4.1	-37.2
Edmonton	23,040	14,240	13,930	-310	-9,110	-2.2	-39.5
Lethbridge	1,240	910	900	-10	-340	-1.1	-27.4
Census agglomerations	8,310	5,690	5,470	-220	-2,840	-3.9	-34.2
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	11,290	7,510	7,210	-300	-4,080	-4.0	-36.1
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	32,740	24,050	23,610	-440	-9,130	-1.8	-27.9
Abbotsford–Mission	2,640	1,750	1,740	-10	-900	-0.6	-34.1
Kelowna	2,780	2,230	2,160	-70	-620	-3.1	-22.3
Vancouver	24,380	18,210	17,750	-460	-6,630	-2.5	-27.2
Victoria	2,940	1,860	1,960	100	-980	5.4	-33.3
Census agglomerations	13,170	9,300	8,900	-400	-4,270	-4.3	-32.4
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	10,390	7,440	7,200	-240	-3,190	-3.2	-30.7

^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).