

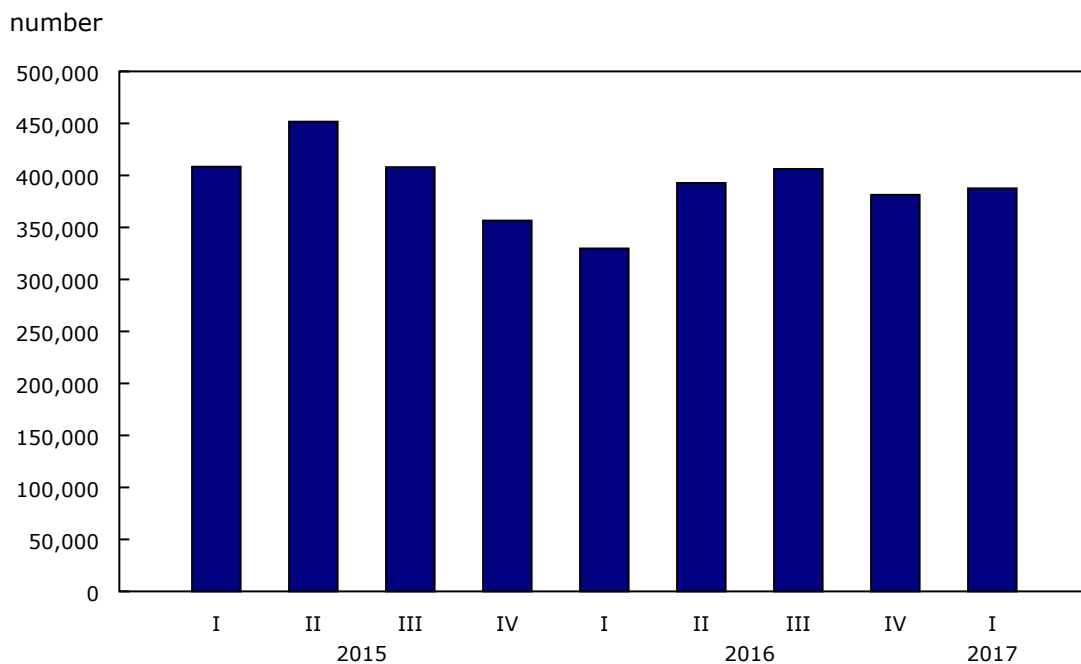
# Job vacancies, first quarter 2017

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Job vacancies rose by 58,000 (+17.5%) from the first quarter of 2016 to 388,000 in the first quarter of 2017. Over that same period, the job vacancy rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 2.5%. This was the second consecutive year-over-year increase in the number of vacancies and the job vacancy rate. All comparisons are on a year-over-year basis, unless otherwise specified.

The job vacancy rate refers to the share of jobs that are unfilled out of all available payroll jobs. It represents the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of labour demand; that is, the sum of all occupied and vacant jobs.

**Chart 1**  
Number of job vacancies, first quarter of 2015 to first quarter of 2017, Canada



**Note(s):** The estimate of the number of job vacancies for the first quarter of 2015 is "E — Use with caution".  
**Source(s):** CANSIM tables [285-0001](#), [285-0002](#), [285-0003](#) and [285-0004](#).

Compared with the fourth quarter of 2016, the number of job vacancies (unadjusted for seasonality) in the first quarter of 2017 was little changed in Canada, while the job vacancy rate rose 0.1 percentage points. By comparison, both the number of job vacancies (-7.5%) and the job vacancy rate (-0.2 percentage points) fell from the fourth quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2016.

## Job vacancies rise in six provinces, including a first-time increase in Alberta

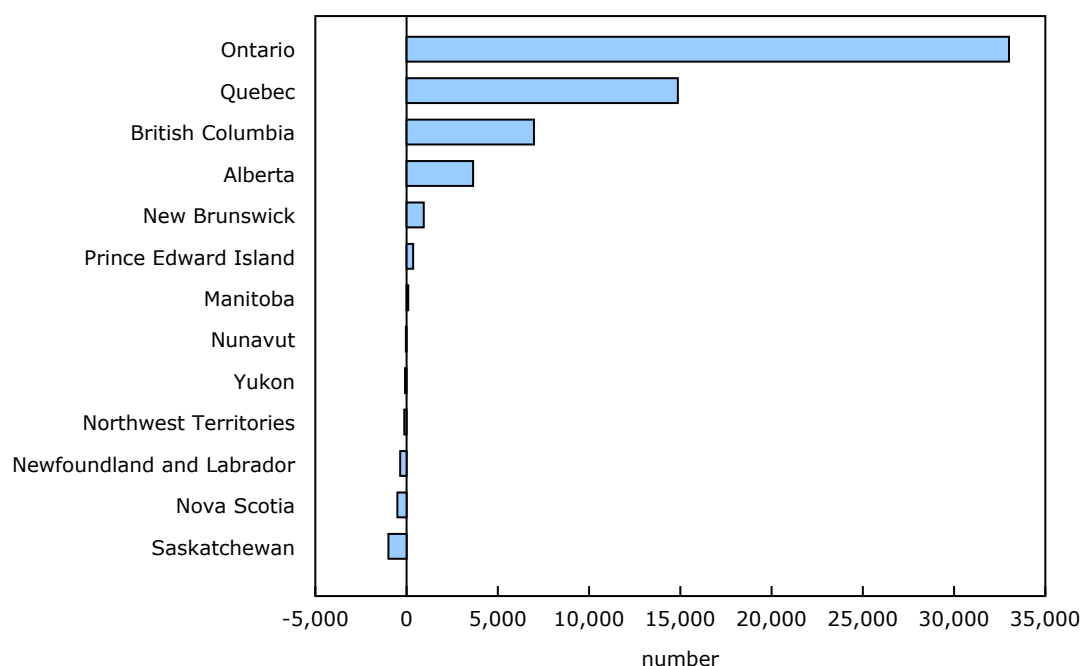
The number of job vacancies rose in six provinces, led by Ontario and Quebec. Job vacancies decreased in Saskatchewan as well as in Newfoundland and Labrador, and were little changed in Nova Scotia and Manitoba. In the territories, job vacancies fell in the Northwest Territories and Yukon, and were little changed in Nunavut.



Job vacancies in Ontario were up 33,000 (+23.9%) to 171,000, a third consecutive year-over-year increase in the province. The job vacancy rate in Ontario rose 0.5 percentage points to 2.8%, with notable vacancy increases in the economic regions of Toronto and Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula. Compared with the previous year, job vacancies for both full-time (+27,000) and part-time (+5,600) work rose in Ontario.

In Quebec, the number of job vacancies rose by 15,000 (+28.1%) to 68,000, with increases observed throughout the province. Most of the growth was for full-time work and permanent positions. Compared with one year ago, the job vacancy rate in Quebec rose 0.4 percentage points to 2.0%. The number of employees grew 1.9% over the same period, compared with a national rate of 1.5%. According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the unemployment rate decreased from 7.5% in 2016 to 6.3%.

**Chart 2**  
**Change in the number of job vacancies between the first quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017, by province and territory**



Source(s): CANSIM tables [285-0001](#), [285-0002](#), [285-0003](#) and [285-0004](#).

Job vacancies in British Columbia rose by 7,000 (+11.4%) to 68,000 in the first quarter and the job vacancy rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 3.2%. British Columbia has had the highest job vacancy rate among the provinces since the third quarter of 2015. Growth in job vacancies was concentrated in Lower Mainland–Southwest, which accounted for about 81% of the rise in vacancies in the province. More than 90% of the increase in job vacancies was for full-time positions.

Job vacancies in Alberta rose by 3,600 (+9.3%) to 43,000, and the job vacancy rate was up 0.2 percentage points to 2.2%. This was the first year-over-year increase for Alberta in the number of job vacancies and the job vacancy rate since the first quarter of 2015, when data were first collected. Increases in vacancies for full-time positions accounted for 59% of the year-over-year rise in total job vacancies. Recent data from the LFS point to improved labour market conditions in Alberta. Following notable declines from the fall of 2015 to the summer of 2016, employment has increased while the unemployment rate has trended downward since November 2016.

New Brunswick employers reported 5,700 job vacancies in the first quarter, 900 (+19.7%) more than the previous year. The additional job vacancies were concentrated in full-time and permanent positions. Over this period, the job vacancy rate in the province was up 0.3 percentage points to 2.0%.

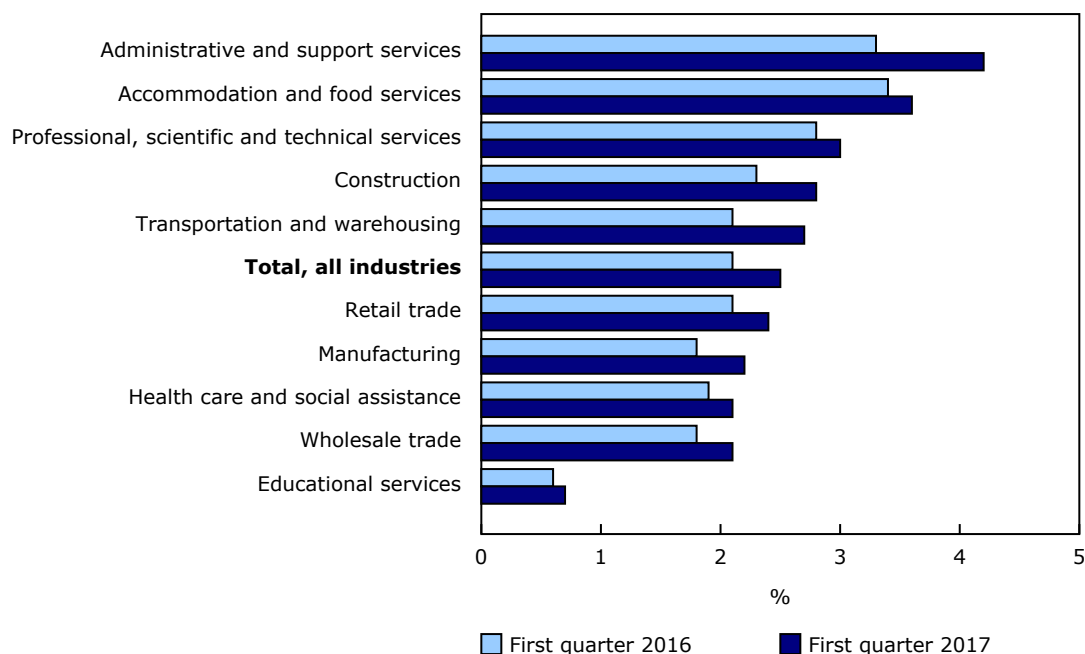
In contrast, year-over-year declines in the number of job vacancies in Saskatchewan continued in the first quarter, with vacancies decreasing by 1,000 (-10.5%) to 8,500. Notable declines were recorded in retail trade as well as in accommodation and food services. However, job vacancies rose in several sectors, including mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, and manufacturing. In the first quarter, the vacancy rate was down to 1.8% from 2.0% one year earlier.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, job vacancies were down by 400 (-10.3%) to 3,100 in the first quarter. The decrease in vacancies was concentrated in Avalon Peninsula. Compared with one year earlier, the job vacancy rate in Newfoundland and Labrador was down 0.2 percentage points to 1.5%, the lowest rate in the country.

### Increase in the number of vacancies and the job vacancy rate in the 10 largest industrial sectors

On a year-over-year basis, the number of job vacancies and the job vacancy rate in the first quarter were up in the 10 largest industrial sectors. Within these large sectors, the biggest increases in the job vacancy rate were in administrative and support services (up 0.9 percentage points to 4.2%); transportation and warehousing (up 0.6 percentage points to 2.7%); and construction (up 0.5 percentage points to 2.8%).

**Chart 3**  
Job vacancy rate in the 10 largest industrial sectors, first quarter 2016 and first quarter 2017



Source(s): CANSIM table 285-0002.

Most of the smaller sectors (in terms of employment) also registered increases in the number of vacancies and their job vacancy rates. For example, the job vacancy rate in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting rose to 5.3% in the first quarter, up from 3.9% the previous year. The rate in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction also

increased, rising 1.1 percentage points to 1.9%. This was the second consecutive year-over-year increase in the job vacancy rate for this sector. Alberta accounted for 56% of the net increase in vacancies in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.

Within mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, the rise in job vacancies was mainly the result of increases in support activities for mining, and oil and gas extraction (+1,400) as well as mining and quarrying (except oil and gas) (+700). The number of job vacancies and the job vacancy rate were also up in oil and gas extraction, but to a lesser extent.

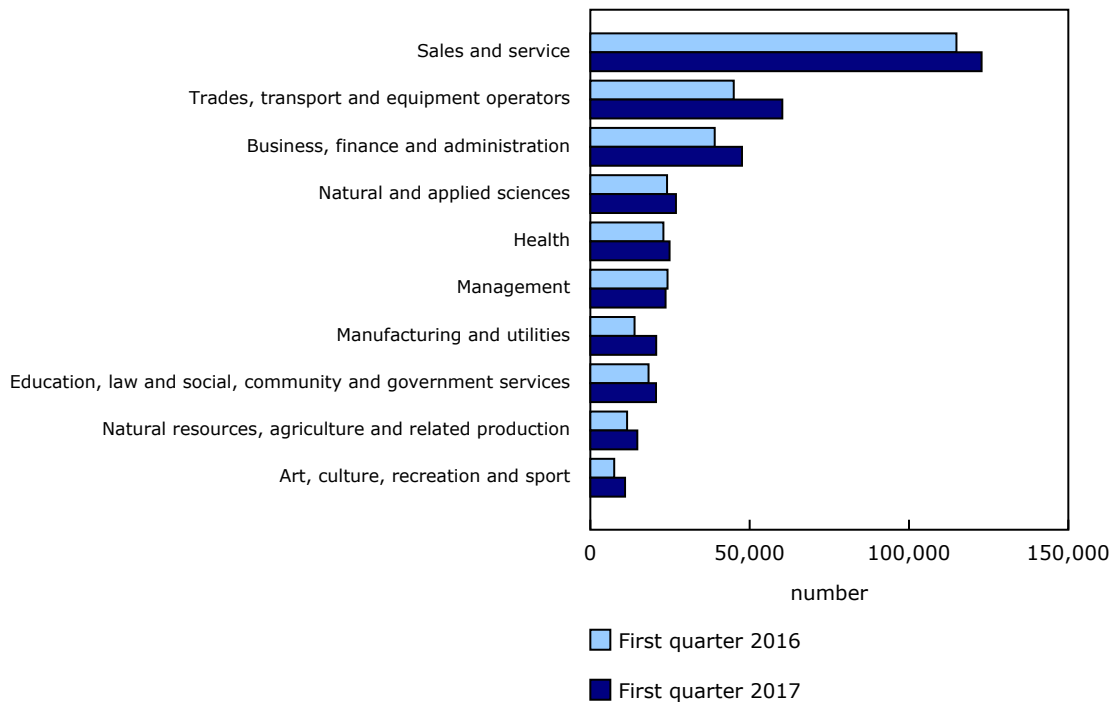
These increases were likely interrelated, with an increase in overall job vacancies (+1,000) observed in three detailed occupation groups related to mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction: mine service workers and operators in oil and gas drilling; underground miners, oil and gas drillers; and contractors and supervisors in mining, oil and gas.

### Widespread increases in job vacancies across broad occupational categories

The number of job vacancies was up in 9 of the 10 broad occupational categories in the first quarter. The exception was management occupations, where vacancies were little changed compared with the same quarter in 2016. The largest increases in job vacancies were in trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (+15,000); and business, finance and administration occupations (+8,600).

Ontario (+6,500), Quebec (+3,600) and Alberta (+3,300) had the largest increases in trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations. These three provinces also contributed the most to the rise in job vacancies in business, finance and administration occupations.

**Chart 4**  
**Number of job vacancies by broad occupational group (one-digit NOC<sup>1</sup>), first quarter 2016 and first quarter 2017**



1. Broad occupational category of the 2016 National Occupational Classification.

Source(s): CANSIM tables 285-0003 and 285-0004.

Within trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, notable year-over-year increases were observed for motor vehicle and transit drivers (+3,400) and longshore workers and material handlers (+1,700). General office workers (+1,300) and human resources and business service professionals (+1,300) had among the largest increases within business, finance and administration occupations.

## The average offered hourly wage increases in six provinces

Nationally, the average offered hourly wage was up \$0.55 or 2.8% to \$20.40 in the first quarter, compared with \$19.85 during the same month one year earlier.

Changes in the average offered hourly wage can reflect a variety of factors, including wage growth and changes in the composition of job vacancies by occupation, by sector and between part- and full-time positions.

The average offered hourly wage rose in six provinces, with New Brunswick registering the largest year-over-year growth. The offered wage fell in three provinces, including Quebec, where a 44% increase in the number of job vacancies in retail trade (a sector with relatively low wages) contributed to the decrease in the provincial offered wage.



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### A look at job vacancies in the 1970s

From 1971 to 1978, Statistics Canada produced quarterly data on job vacancies classified by occupation and sector. The data were collected through the Job Vacancy Survey, which was developed on behalf of the Department of Manpower and Immigration, to meet the need for "current information on the regional and occupational demand for labor [sic]".

A comparison of job vacancy data from the 1970s with more recent data shows that the proportion of vacancies for jobs related to the goods-producing sector has declined over the last 40 years. As the Canadian economy has shifted towards a service-based economy, the proportion of the goods-producing sector in both employment and job vacancies has decreased notably.

In the first quarter of 1977, the Job Vacancy Survey estimated that full-time vacancies in manufacturing represented about 27% of total job vacancies. In contrast, in the first quarter of 2017, job vacancies in this sector represented about 9% of total vacancies according to the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (JVWS). Similarly, the Job Vacancy Survey estimated that about 6% of full-time job vacancies in the first quarter of 1977 were in the primary sector, which in that survey was comprised of mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction as well as forestry. Now, about 1% of job vacancies are in this sector, according to the JVWS.

**Note:** The public administration sector was excluded from both surveys, due to differences in coverage.

**Sources:** Table 5, *Quarterly report on job vacancies* (First quarter 1977); Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (5217); Ostry, Sylvia and Sunter, A. B., "Definitional and Design Aspects of the Canadian Job Vacancy Survey." *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. 65(1970), 1059-1070.

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### **Note to readers**

The Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (JVWS) provides comprehensive data on job vacancies and wages by industrial sector and detailed occupations for Canada, the provinces, territories and economic regions. Job vacancy and offered wage data are released quarterly while data on average hourly wages paid are released annually.

With the July release of job vacancy data for the first quarter of 2017, the quarterly data were revised back to the beginning of the series. As part of the revision, the estimates were calibrated on the revised employment totals from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours first released on March 31 and the occupational classification was updated to the 2016 National Occupational Classification (NOC).

JVWS data are not seasonally adjusted. Therefore, quarter-to-quarter comparisons should be interpreted with caution as they may reflect seasonal movements.

This analysis focuses on differences between estimates that are statistically significant at the 68% confidence level.

Quarterly data from the Labour Force Survey mentioned in this release are calculated as three-month moving averages centered on the second month of the quarter, unless otherwise specified.

Summary statistics related to the job vacancy time series from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours are available in [CANSIM](#).

The NOC is a four-tiered hierarchical structure of occupational groups with successive levels of disaggregation. The structure is as follows: 1) 10 broad occupational categories, also referred to as one-digit NOC; 2) 40 major groups, also referred to as two-digit NOC; 3) 140 minor groups, also referred to as three-digit NOC; and 4) 500 unit groups, also referred to as four-digit NOC.

Industrial sectors are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2012. The NAICS has 20 industrial sectors at the two-digit level.

#### **Data quality of the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey**

The target population of the survey includes all business locations in Canada, with the exclusion of those primarily involved in religious organizations and private households. While federal, provincial and territorial administrations are also excluded from the survey for now, they will be phased in later.

#### **Next release**

Job vacancy data from the JVWS for the second quarter of 2017 will be released October 12.

**Table 1**  
**Change in the number of job vacancies and the job vacancy rate between the fourth quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016, and between the fourth quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017**

	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate
Fourth quarter 2015	356,520	2.3
First quarter 2016	329,710	2.1
change	-26,810	-0.2
% change	-7.5	...
Fourth quarter 2016	381,270	2.4
First quarter 2017	387,505	2.5
change	6,235	0.1
% change	1.6	...

... not applicable

Source(s): CANSIM tables [285-0001](#), [285-0002](#), [285-0003](#), and [285-0004](#).

**Table 2**  
**Average offered hourly wage for vacant positions by province and territory, first quarter 2016 and first quarter 2017**

	First quarter 2016	First quarter 2017	First quarter 2016 to first quarter 2017	First quarter 2016 to first quarter 2017
	current dollars		change	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>19.85</b>	<b>20.40</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	20.70	21.30	0.60	2.9
Prince Edward Island	16.95	15.30	-1.65	-9.7
Nova Scotia	17.85	17.20	-0.65	-3.6
New Brunswick	15.80	17.10	1.30	8.2
Quebec	20.50	19.60	-0.90	-4.4
Ontario	20.20	20.70	0.50	2.5
Manitoba	18.60	19.55	0.95	5.1
Saskatchewan	19.25	20.70	1.45	7.5
Alberta	19.95	21.40	1.45	7.3
British Columbia	19.20	20.45	1.25	6.5
Yukon	18.15	21.55	3.40	18.7
Northwest Territories	25.10	30.50	5.40	21.5
Nunavut	27.90	30.50	2.60	9.3

Source(s): CANSIM tables [285-0001](#), [285-0002](#), [285-0003](#), and [285-0004](#).

**Available in CANSIM: tables [285-0001](#) to [285-0004](#).**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5217](#).**

More information about the concepts and use of data from the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey is available online in the *Guide to the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (75-514-G)*.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Myriam Hazel (613-219-4345; [myriam.hazel@canada.ca](mailto:myriam.hazel@canada.ca)) or Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; [statcan.labour-travail.statcan@canada.ca](mailto:statcan.labour-travail.statcan@canada.ca)), Labour Statistics Division.