

Latest release from the Labour Force Survey

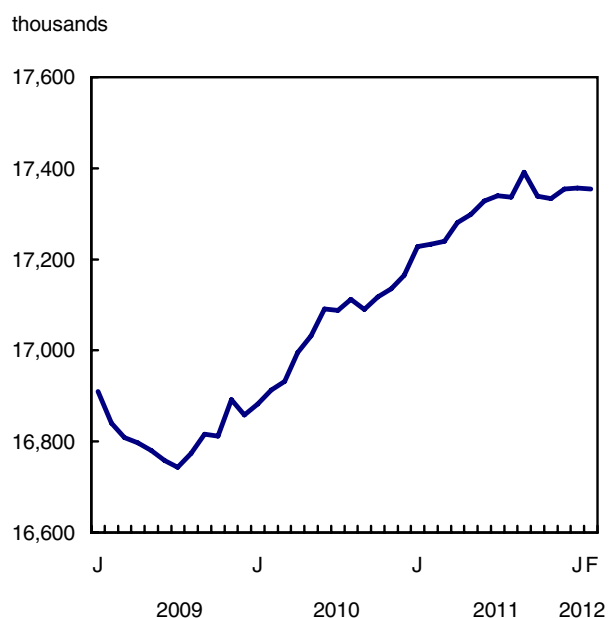
Released at 7:00 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, March 9, 2012

Labour Force Survey

February 2012

Employment was unchanged in February. A decline in the number of people searching for work pushed the unemployment rate down 0.2 percentage points to 7.4%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment was up by 121,000 (+0.7%), with the bulk of the increase occurring in the first half of the period.

Employment



There was little change in full-time and part-time employment in February. Compared with 12 months earlier, the number of full-time workers was up 1.5% (+204,000), while part-time employment declined 2.5% (-83,000). At the same time, the total number of hours

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates, and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication Labour Force Information (71-001-X, free).

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends.

Statistics Canada is moving to one release time, 8:30 a.m., for all data releases in *The Daily*. This will mean a change in the release time for the LFS, which is currently 7:00 a.m. This change will be implemented with the release of LFS data on April 5, 2012.

worked grew 1.7%, with all of the increase occurring in the first half of the period.

Employment for the month declined in retail and wholesale trade; transportation and warehousing; health care and social assistance; and public administration. These declines were offset by increases in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing; educational services; and business, building and other support services.

Provincially, there was little employment change in February, with the exception of a decline in New Brunswick.

Employment in February fell among youths aged 15 to 24, while it increased among people aged 55 and over. For those aged 25 to 54, employment was unchanged.

Employment was little changed among employees and the self-employed. Compared with 12 months earlier, all of the growth was among private sector employees (+1.4%), while both self-employment (-0.7%) and public sector employment (-0.5%) were down slightly.

Unemployment rate



Industry perspective

Employment in retail and wholesale trade fell by 37,000 in February. The trend in this industry has been relatively flat over the past three years, with employment fluctuating between 2.6 million and 2.7 million over the period.

The number of people working in transportation and warehousing declined by 22,000, bringing employment in this industry down to a level similar to that of 12 months earlier.

Health care and social assistance also posted a decline in employment, down 22,000, leaving employment in this industry at its level of 12 months earlier.

Employment in public administration declined by 15,000 in February. As a result, employment in this industry was down 1.3% (-12,000) compared with 12 months earlier.

Employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing increased by 41,000, offsetting half of the declines that occurred over the previous five months. The number of people working in this industry was 1.2% (-13,000) below the level recorded 12 months earlier.

Employment in educational services increased 17,000 in February, bringing employment growth in this industry to 2.7% (+34,000) over the previous 12 months.

The number of people working in business, building and other support services rose by 16,000 in February. With this increase, employment in the industry was 1.7% (+12,000) higher than 12 months earlier.

Employment in natural resources edged up in February, bringing growth over the past 12 months to 10.2% (+34,000), the highest rate of all industries.

There was little change in construction and manufacturing employment in February. Over the past 12 months, employment in construction increased by 26,000 (+2.1%), while in manufacturing, it declined by 41,000 (-2.3%).

Provincial summary

Employment in New Brunswick declined by 2,600 in February, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.6 percentage points to 10.1%. As a result of this decline, employment in the province was similar to its level of 12 months earlier.

While employment in Ontario was little changed in February, the unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points to 7.6%, the result of a decline in the number of people seeking work. Over the past 12 months, employment in Ontario has risen 0.8% (+54,000), with the growth occurring entirely in the first half of the period.

Employment in Quebec was unchanged in February, as was the unemployment rate, which stood at 8.4%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was down 1.2% (-49,000).

The number of people working in Alberta was little changed in February, and the unemployment rate was 5.0%, one of the lowest in the country. Over the past 12 months, employment in the province was up 2.8% (+58,000), the highest growth rate of all provinces.

Declines among youths and gains among people 55 and over

Employment among youths aged 15 to 24 fell for the fifth consecutive month, down 27,000 in February, and their unemployment rate was 14.7%. Compared with February 2011, youth employment was down 69,000 (-2.8%). With fewer youths participating in the labour market, their participation rate in February was 63.3%, down from the most recent peak of 68.1% in September 2008.

Among people aged 55 and over, employment rose by 24,000 in February, with most of the increase among men. Over the past 12 months, employment for this age group has grown 4.0%, the highest rate of growth among all demographic groups, and mostly because of population aging.

For people aged 25 to 54, employment was unchanged in February. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment for this group was up 0.6% (+67,000)

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0063, 282-0069 to 282-0095 and 282-0100 to 282-0121.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-X, free), is now available online for the week ending February 18. From the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Labour*.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *Subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on April 5.

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

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lahouaria Yssaad (613-951-0627; lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.gc.ca) or Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118; jason.gilmore@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

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Labour force characteristics by age and sex – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2012	February 2012	January to February 2012	February 2011 to February 2012	January to February 2012	February 2011 to February 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over						
Population	28,156.4	28,180.9	24.5	314.4	0.1	1.1
Labour force	18,778.2	18,740.3	-37.9	69.7	-0.2	0.4
Employment	17,357.0	17,354.2	-2.8	120.5	0.0	0.7
Full-time	14,048.9	14,058.0	9.1	203.8	0.1	1.5
Part-time	3,308.1	3,296.1	-12.0	-83.4	-0.4	-2.5
Unemployment	1,421.2	1,386.2	-35.0	-50.7	-2.5	-3.5
Participation rate	66.7	66.5	-0.2	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.6	7.4	-0.2	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	61.6	61.6	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	19.1	19.0	-0.1	-0.6	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years						
Population	4,457.0	4,456.2	-0.8	-2.6	0.0	-0.1
Labour force	2,847.8	2,822.8	-25.0	-67.2	-0.9	-2.3
Employment	2,435.9	2,409.1	-26.8	-68.7	-1.1	-2.8
Full-time	1,270.0	1,268.8	-1.2	-20.1	-0.1	-1.6
Part-time	1,165.9	1,140.3	-25.6	-48.6	-2.2	-4.1
Unemployment	411.9	413.7	1.8	1.5	0.4	0.4
Participation rate	63.9	63.3	-0.6	-1.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	14.5	14.7	0.2	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	54.7	54.1	-0.6	-1.5	...	...
Part-time rate	47.9	47.3	-0.6	-0.7	...	...
Men, 25 years and over						
Population	11,596.5	11,609.3	12.8	158.2	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,431.8	8,429.3	-2.5	79.3	0.0	0.9
Employment	7,873.7	7,899.5	25.8	111.3	0.3	1.4
Full-time	7,261.9	7,281.3	19.4	122.5	0.3	1.7
Part-time	611.9	618.2	6.3	-11.2	1.0	-1.8
Unemployment	558.1	529.8	-28.3	-31.9	-5.1	-5.7
Participation rate	72.7	72.6	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.6	6.3	-0.3	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	67.9	68.0	0.1	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	7.8	7.8	0.0	-0.3	...	...
Women, 25 years and over						
Population	12,102.9	12,115.4	12.5	158.9	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,498.6	7,488.2	-10.4	57.5	-0.1	0.8
Employment	7,047.3	7,045.6	-1.7	77.9	0.0	1.1
Full-time	5,517.0	5,508.0	-9.0	101.4	-0.2	1.9
Part-time	1,530.3	1,537.6	7.3	-23.5	0.5	-1.5
Unemployment	451.3	442.6	-8.7	-20.3	-1.9	-4.4
Participation rate	62.0	61.8	-0.2	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	5.9	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	58.2	58.2	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	21.7	21.8	0.1	-0.6	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS)¹ – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2012	February 2012	January to February 2012	February 2011 to February 2012	January to February 2012	February 2011 to February 2012
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,719.0	14,703.9	-15.1	138.5	-0.1	1.0
Self-employed	2,637.9	2,650.2	12.3	-18.2	0.5	-0.7
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,574.9	3,561.5	-13.4	-18.8	-0.4	-0.5
Private	11,144.2	11,142.5	-1.7	157.4	0.0	1.4
All industries	17,357.0	17,354.2	-2.8	120.5	0.0	0.7
Goods-producing sector	3,803.2	3,821.0	17.8	2.2	0.5	0.1
Agriculture	308.8	303.5	-5.3	-7.7	-1.7	-2.5
Natural resources ²	359.2	366.0	6.8	33.8	1.9	10.2
Utilities	140.2	135.8	-4.4	-8.7	-3.1	-6.0
Construction	1,251.2	1,265.2	14.0	25.9	1.1	2.1
Manufacturing	1,743.7	1,750.5	6.8	-41.1	0.4	-2.3
Services-producing sector	13,553.8	13,533.1	-20.7	118.2	-0.2	0.9
Trade	2,674.1	2,636.7	-37.4	-34.1	-1.4	-1.3
Transportation and warehousing	852.7	830.8	-21.9	-0.8	-2.6	-0.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,029.1	1,070.3	41.2	-13.2	4.0	-1.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,307.5	1,303.2	-4.3	16.1	-0.3	1.3
Business, building and other support services	667.8	683.6	15.8	11.6	2.4	1.7
Educational services	1,243.1	1,259.9	16.8	33.7	1.4	2.7
Health care and social assistance	2,102.3	2,080.6	-21.7	-4.9	-1.0	-0.2
Information, culture and recreation	791.4	796.5	5.1	11.9	0.6	1.5
Accommodation and food services	1,112.3	1,110.7	-1.6	60.8	-0.1	5.8
Other services	796.4	798.4	2.0	49.2	0.3	6.6
Public administration	977.1	962.4	-14.7	-12.2	-1.5	-1.3

1. North American Industry Classification System.

2. Also referred to as forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas.

Note: Related CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2012	February 2012	January to February 2012	February 2011 to February 2012	January to February 2012	February 2011 to February 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	428.5	428.6	0.1	-0.6	0.0	-0.1
Labour force	262.5	262.7	0.2	3.2	0.1	1.2
Employment	226.9	228.8	1.9	1.7	0.8	0.7
Full-time	197.2	198.1	0.9	2.9	0.5	1.5
Part-time	29.7	30.7	1.0	-1.2	3.4	-3.8
Unemployment	35.5	33.9	-1.6	1.5	-4.5	4.6
Participation rate	61.3	61.3	0.0	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.5	12.9	-0.6	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	53.0	53.4	0.4	0.5	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	120.0	120.1	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.4
Labour force	82.5	80.9	-1.6	1.2	-1.9	1.5
Employment	72.4	72.2	-0.2	1.7	-0.3	2.4
Full-time	60.3	60.1	-0.2	0.8	-0.3	1.3
Part-time	12.1	12.1	0.0	0.9	0.0	8.0
Unemployment	10.1	8.7	-1.4	-0.5	-13.9	-5.4
Participation rate	68.8	67.4	-1.4	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.2	10.8	-1.4	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	60.3	60.1	-0.2	0.6	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	779.6	779.8	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.1
Labour force	499.3	500.4	1.1	1.4	0.2	0.3
Employment	457.5	459.5	2.0	7.5	0.4	1.7
Full-time	370.1	367.0	-3.1	-2.7	-0.8	-0.7
Part-time	87.4	92.5	5.1	10.2	5.8	12.4
Unemployment	41.8	40.9	-0.9	-6.0	-2.2	-12.8
Participation rate	64.0	64.2	0.2	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.4	8.2	-0.2	-1.2	...	...
Employment rate	58.7	58.9	0.2	0.9	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	620.4	620.5	0.1	1.8	0.0	0.3
Labour force	392.6	392.3	-0.3	1.0	-0.1	0.3
Employment	355.2	352.6	-2.6	-0.4	-0.7	-0.1
Full-time	297.7	296.6	-1.1	1.3	-0.4	0.4
Part-time	57.5	55.9	-1.6	-1.7	-2.8	-3.0
Unemployment	37.4	39.7	2.3	1.3	6.1	3.4
Participation rate	63.3	63.2	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.5	10.1	0.6	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	57.3	56.8	-0.5	-0.3	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,610.1	6,614.2	4.1	63.7	0.1	1.0
Labour force	4,273.8	4,274.1	0.3	-16.9	0.0	-0.4
Employment	3,915.5	3,915.7	0.2	-48.9	0.0	-1.2
Full-time	3,164.8	3,180.3	15.5	8.5	0.5	0.3
Part-time	750.8	735.3	-15.5	-57.4	-2.1	-7.2
Unemployment	358.3	358.4	0.1	32.0	0.0	9.8
Participation rate	64.7	64.6	-0.1	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.4	8.4	0.0	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	59.2	59.2	0.0	-1.3	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2012	February 2012	January to February 2012	February 2011 to February 2012	January to February 2012	February 2011 to February 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Ontario						
Population	11,003.7	11,014.9	11.2	141.0	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,339.4	7,298.9	-40.5	32.3	-0.6	0.4
Employment	6,746.0	6,742.1	-3.9	53.6	-0.1	0.8
Full-time	5,441.7	5,436.3	-5.4	39.8	-0.1	0.7
Part-time	1,304.3	1,305.8	1.5	13.9	0.1	1.1
Unemployment	593.4	556.8	-36.6	-21.3	-6.2	-3.7
Participation rate	66.7	66.3	-0.4	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.1	7.6	-0.5	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	61.3	61.2	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	958.8	959.6	0.8	10.5	0.1	1.1
Labour force	662.7	662.6	-0.1	3.0	0.0	0.5
Employment	626.8	625.3	-1.5	0.6	-0.2	0.1
Full-time	504.4	502.3	-2.1	1.5	-0.4	0.3
Part-time	122.3	123.0	0.7	-0.8	0.6	-0.6
Unemployment	35.9	37.4	1.5	2.4	4.2	6.9
Participation rate	69.1	69.0	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.6	0.2	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	65.4	65.2	-0.2	-0.6	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	805.0	805.8	0.8	9.1	0.1	1.1
Labour force	557.3	557.1	-0.2	3.2	0.0	0.6
Employment	529.8	529.4	-0.4	6.3	-0.1	1.2
Full-time	435.1	436.2	1.1	4.3	0.3	1.0
Part-time	94.7	93.2	-1.5	2.0	-1.6	2.2
Unemployment	27.6	27.7	0.1	-3.1	0.4	-10.1
Participation rate	69.2	69.1	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.0	5.0	0.0	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	65.8	65.7	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Alberta						
Population	3,032.9	3,037.1	4.2	49.9	0.1	1.7
Labour force	2,246.0	2,239.0	-7.0	44.4	-0.3	2.0
Employment	2,135.1	2,127.9	-7.2	58.4	-0.3	2.8
Full-time	1,799.0	1,780.8	-18.2	89.2	-1.0	5.3
Part-time	336.1	347.1	11.0	-30.8	3.3	-8.2
Unemployment	110.9	111.1	0.2	-14.1	0.2	-11.3
Participation rate	74.1	73.7	-0.4	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	5.0	0.1	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	70.4	70.1	-0.3	0.8	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,797.5	3,800.4	2.9	36.6	0.1	1.0
Labour force	2,462.1	2,472.4	10.3	-3.1	0.4	-0.1
Employment	2,291.7	2,300.8	9.1	39.9	0.4	1.8
Full-time	1,778.7	1,800.3	21.6	58.4	1.2	3.4
Part-time	513.1	500.5	-12.6	-18.4	-2.5	-3.5
Unemployment	170.4	171.5	1.1	-43.1	0.6	-20.1
Participation rate	64.8	65.1	0.3	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.9	6.9	0.0	-1.8	...	...
Employment rate	60.3	60.5	0.2	0.4	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.