

Labour Force Survey, March 2018

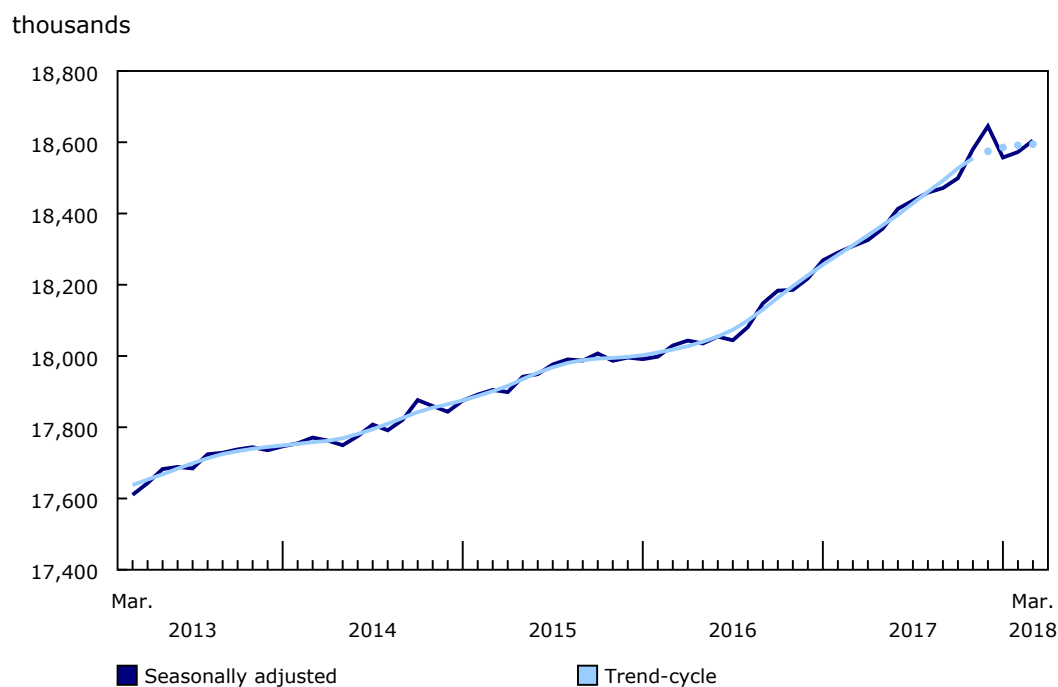
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, April 6, 2018

Employment increased by 32,000 in March, driven by full-time gains. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8%.

In the first quarter of 2018, employment edged down (-40,000 or -0.2%), as a result of a decrease in January. Over the longer term, employment has been on an upward trend since the second half of 2016.

On a year-over-year basis, total employment rose by 296,000 (+1.6%), with the number of full-time workers increasing by 335,000 (+2.3%). Over the same period, total hours worked grew by 2.2%.

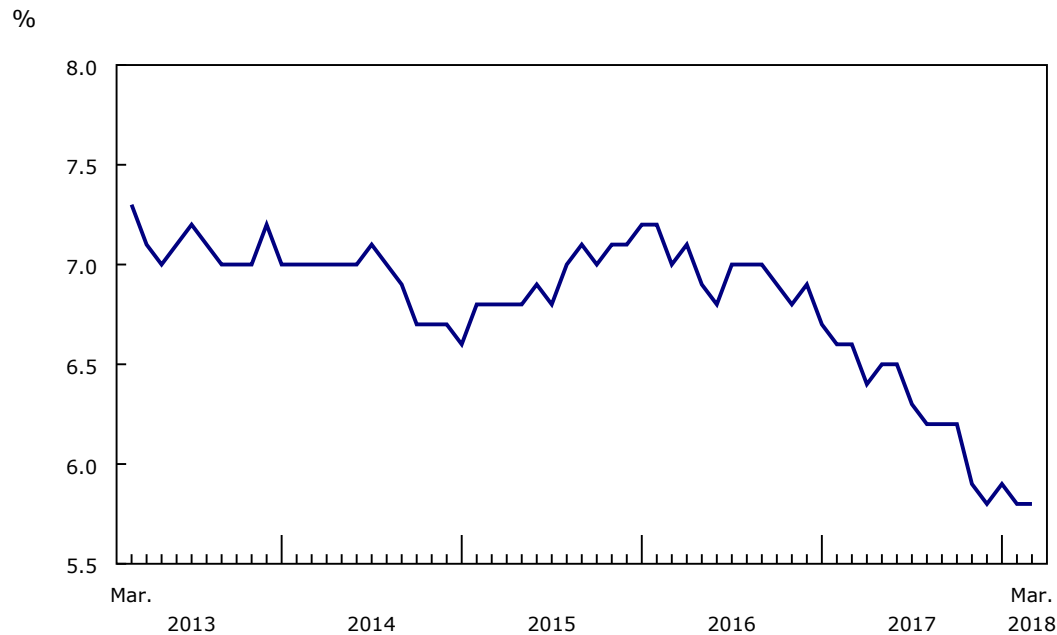
Chart 1 Employment



Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).



Chart 2 Unemployment rate



Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

Highlights

In March, among the core-aged population (25 to 54 years old), employment increased for women and decreased for men. At the same time, employment was up for youth aged 15 to 24, and was little changed for people 55 years and older.

Employment was up in Quebec and Saskatchewan, while there was little change in the other provinces.

There were more people working in construction, public administration and agriculture.

The number of public sector employees edged up, while the number of private sector employees and self-employed held steady.

Demographic overview

For core-aged women, employment increased by 26,000 in March, while their unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to 4.7%. On a year-over-year basis, employment for women in this age group rose by 31,000 (+0.5%).

Among men in the core age group, employment fell by 22,000. Their unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9% as fewer of them participated in the labour market. On a year-over-year basis, employment for core-aged men increased by 50,000 (+0.8%).

Employment for youth aged 15 to 24 rose by 18,000 in March. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment for this group increased by 34,000 (+1.4%), while their unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points to 10.9%.

For people 55 and older, employment was little changed and their unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 5.3%. On a year-over-year basis, employment for this group grew by 180,000 or 4.7%, outpacing their population growth rate of 2.9%.

Provincial summary

In Quebec, employment rose by 16,000 in March, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.6%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment grew by 85,000 (+2.0%). Over the same period, full-time employment trended up, rising by 150,000 or 4.5%.

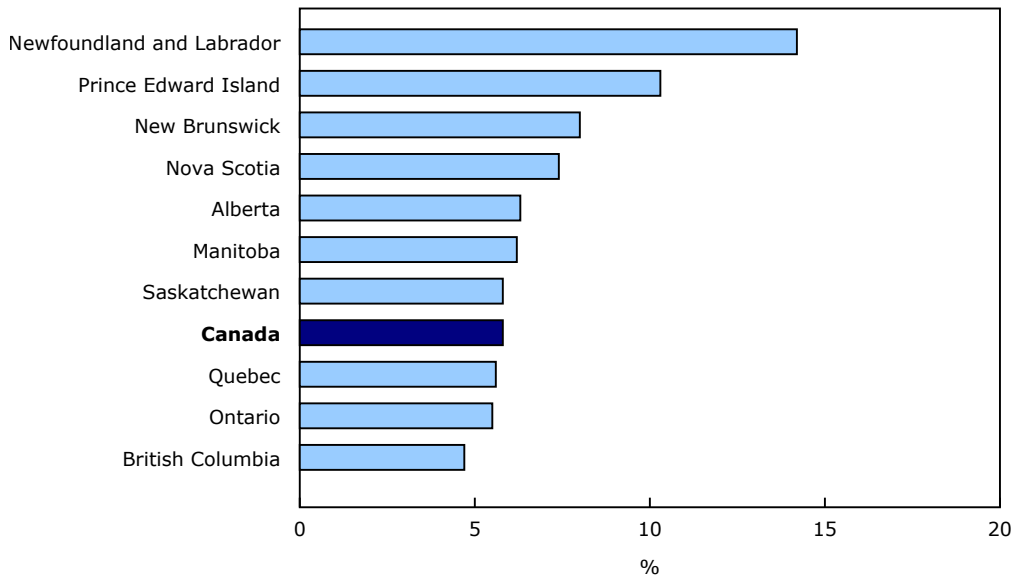
In Saskatchewan, employment rose by 4,200 in March, and the unemployment rate was little changed at 5.8%. On a year-over-year basis, employment for the province was virtually unchanged. Employment in Saskatchewan has been relatively flat since the spring of 2016.

Employment in Alberta was little changed in March. On a year-over-year basis, employment rose by 41,000 (+1.8%), and the unemployment rate declined 2.0 percentage points to 6.3%. The unemployment rate in Alberta has been on a strong downward trend since its peak of 9.0% in the fall of 2016.

Employment in British Columbia held steady in March, and has been relatively unchanged since the summer of 2017. On a year-over-year basis, employment grew by 33,000 or 1.3%, lower than the average year-over-year growth rate of 3.7% throughout 2017. British Columbia continued to have the lowest unemployment rate among the provinces at 4.7% in March.

In Ontario, employment was virtually unchanged in March and the unemployment rate remained at 5.5%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province grew by 130,000 (+1.8%), mostly in full-time work (+118,000 or +2.0%).

Chart 3
Unemployment rate by province, March 2018



Source(s): CANSIM table 282-0087.

Industry perspective

Employment in construction increased by 18,000 in March. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry grew by 54,000 (+3.8%), mostly driven by gains in the second half of 2017.

There were 12,000 more people working in public administration in March. On a year-over-year basis, employment was virtually unchanged.

In agriculture, employment rose by 8,100 in March. On a year-over-year basis, employment was flat.

On a year-over-year basis, the fastest pace of employment growth was in transportation and warehousing (+6.1% or +56,000).

The number of employees edged up in the public sector in March, while it was little changed in the private sector. On a year-over-year basis, the number of employees increased in both the public (+123,000 or +3.3%) and private (+77,000 or +0.6%) sectors.

Self-employment was little changed in March. Compared with 12 months earlier, the number of self-employed workers increased by 97,000 (+3.5%).

Quarterly update for the territories

In the first quarter of 2018, employment in Nunavut fell by 700 compared with the fourth quarter of 2017, and the unemployment rate was relatively unchanged at 12.6%.

Employment in Yukon was virtually unchanged in the first quarter of 2018, and the unemployment rate was 2.7%.

In the Northwest Territories, employment held steady and the unemployment rate increased 1.7 percentage points to 8.8%.

Sustainable Development Goals

On January 1, 2016, the world officially began implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)—the United Nations' transformative plan of action that addresses urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The plan is based on 17 specific sustainable development goals.

The Labour Force Survey is an example of how Statistics Canada supports the reporting on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. This release will be used in helping to measure the following goals:



Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for March are for the week of March 11 to 17.

The LFS estimates are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. As a result, monthly estimates will show more variability than trends observed over longer time periods. For more information, see ["Interpreting Monthly Changes in Employment from the Labour Force Survey."](#) Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries also have more variability. For an explanation of the 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).

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

The LFS estimates are the first in a series of labour market indicators released by Statistics Canada, which includes indicators from programs such as the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH), Employment Insurance Statistics, and the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey. For more information on the conceptual differences between employment measures from the LFS and SEPH, refer to section 8 of the Guide to the Labour Force Survey (71-543-G).

The **employment rate** is the number of employed people as a percentage of the population aged 15 and older. The rate for a particular group (for example, youths aged 15 to 24) is the number employed in that group as a percentage of the population for that group.

The **unemployment rate** is the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed).

The **participation rate** is the number of employed and unemployed people as a percentage of the population.

Full-time employment consists of persons who usually work 30 hours or more per week at their main or only job.

Part-time employment consists of persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week at their main or only job.

In general, month-to-month or year-to-year changes in the number of people employed in an age group reflect the net effect of two factors: (1) the number of people who changed employment status between reference periods; and (2) the number of employed people who entered or left the age group (including through aging, death or migration) between reference periods.

Seasonal adjustment

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted estimates, which facilitate comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

Chart 1 shows trend-cycle data on employment. These data represent a smoothed version of the seasonally adjusted time series, which provides information on longer-term movements, including changes in direction underlying the series. These data are available in CANSIM table [282-0087](#) for the national level employment series. For more information, see the [StatCan Blog](#) and [Trend-cycle estimates – Frequently asked questions](#).

Next release

The next release of the LFS will be on May 11.

Table 1
Labour force characteristics by age group and sex – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2018	March 2018	Standard error ¹	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over							
Population	30,121.8	30,154.8	...	33.0	362.9	0.1	1.2
Labour force	19,716.8	19,746.9	29.6	30.1	138.5	0.2	0.7
Employment	18,572.5	18,604.8	29.5	32.3	296.2	0.2	1.6
Full-time	15,084.4	15,152.7	41.0	68.3	335.2	0.5	2.3
Part-time	3,488.1	3,452.2	37.7	-35.9	-38.9	-1.0	-1.1
Unemployment	1,144.3	1,142.1	25.3	-2.2	-157.7	-0.2	-12.1
Participation rate	65.5	65.5	0.1	0.0	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.8	5.8	0.1	0.0	-0.8	...	...
Employment rate	61.7	61.7	0.1	0.0	0.2	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years							
Population	4,345.8	4,346.6	...	0.8	-10.3	0.0	-0.2
Labour force	2,761.0	2,775.1	17.4	14.1	-11.4	0.5	-0.4
Employment	2,455.1	2,472.8	16.7	17.7	34.2	0.7	1.4
Full-time	1,264.1	1,292.5	19.8	28.4	36.3	2.2	2.9
Part-time	1,191.0	1,180.3	20.7	-10.7	-2.1	-0.9	-0.2
Unemployment	305.9	302.3	14.3	-3.6	-45.6	-1.2	-13.1
Participation rate	63.5	63.8	0.4	0.3	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.1	10.9	0.5	-0.2	-1.6	...	...
Employment rate	56.5	56.9	0.4	0.4	0.9	...	...
Men, 25 years and over							
Population	12,611.0	12,627.4	...	16.4	186.0	0.1	1.5
Labour force	8,946.3	8,963.3	15.8	17.0	66.0	0.2	0.7
Employment	8,491.7	8,504.6	16.7	12.9	139.0	0.2	1.7
Full-time	7,827.9	7,843.1	23.2	15.2	207.5	0.2	2.7
Part-time	663.9	661.5	19.2	-2.4	-68.5	-0.4	-9.4
Unemployment	454.6	458.7	14.6	4.1	-73.0	0.9	-13.7
Participation rate	70.9	71.0	0.1	0.1	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.1	5.1	0.2	0.0	-0.9	...	...
Employment rate	67.3	67.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	...	...
Women, 25 years and over							
Population	13,165.0	13,180.8	...	15.8	187.1	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,009.4	8,008.5	16.8	-0.9	84.0	0.0	1.1
Employment	7,625.7	7,627.5	16.6	1.8	123.1	0.0	1.6
Full-time	5,992.4	6,017.1	26.7	24.7	91.5	0.4	1.5
Part-time	1,633.2	1,610.4	25.1	-22.8	31.6	-1.4	2.0
Unemployment	383.8	381.0	13.9	-2.8	-39.1	-0.7	-9.3
Participation rate	60.8	60.8	0.1	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.8	4.8	0.2	0.0	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	57.9	57.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	...	...

... not applicable

1. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the "Data Quality" section of the *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)* publication for further explanations.

Note(s): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

Table 2
Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹) – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2018	March 2018	Standard error ²	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker							
Employees	15,726.8	15,739.3	35.7	12.5	199.5	0.1	1.3
Self-employed	2,845.7	2,865.5	25.3	19.8	96.7	0.7	3.5
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,768.1	3,787.7	20.4	19.6	122.5	0.5	3.3
Private	11,958.7	11,951.7	36.2	-7.0	77.1	-0.1	0.6
All industries	18,572.5	18,604.8	29.5	32.3	296.2	0.2	1.6
Goods-producing sector	3,932.7	3,954.4	16.5	21.7	114.9	0.6	3.0
Agriculture	272.2	280.3	5.4	8.1	3.7	3.0	1.3
Natural resources ³	338.6	339.4	5.0	0.8	14.0	0.2	4.3
Utilities	134.3	137.2	2.3	2.9	2.7	2.2	2.0
Construction	1,433.9	1,452.2	11.1	18.3	53.5	1.3	3.8
Manufacturing	1,753.7	1,745.4	10.9	-8.3	41.2	-0.5	2.4
Services-producing sector	14,639.8	14,650.4	28.1	10.6	181.3	0.1	1.3
Trade	2,817.9	2,812.0	15.1	-5.9	15.1	-0.2	0.5
Transportation and warehousing	977.5	976.9	8.4	-0.6	55.9	-0.1	6.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,166.0	1,165.7	8.9	-0.3	-4.6	0.0	-0.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,434.9	1,438.7	11.1	3.8	21.6	0.3	1.5
Business, building and other support services	766.3	763.8	10.2	-2.5	-15.0	-0.3	-1.9
Educational services	1,299.8	1,308.2	10.6	8.4	36.7	0.6	2.9
Health care and social assistance	2,394.8	2,400.1	10.9	5.3	39.6	0.2	1.7
Information, culture and recreation	790.7	782.0	10.5	-8.7	-11.1	-1.1	-1.4
Accommodation and food services	1,222.3	1,224.5	11.7	2.2	15.8	0.2	1.3
Other services	811.6	808.7	8.4	-2.9	25.1	-0.4	3.2
Public administration	958.0	969.9	7.1	11.9	2.1	1.2	0.2

1. North American Industry Classification System.

2. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the "Data Quality" section of the *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)* publication for further explanations.

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

Note(s): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [282-0088](#) and [282-0089](#).

Table 3
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2018	March 2018	Standard error ¹	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Population	444.7	444.5	...	-0.2	-1.1	0.0	-0.2
Labour force	260.3	260.6	2.0	0.3	-4.3	0.1	-1.6
Employment	223.9	223.5	2.0	-0.4	-2.0	-0.2	-0.9
Full-time	190.1	191.0	2.5	0.9	-0.8	0.5	-0.4
Part-time	33.8	32.5	1.9	-1.3	-1.2	-3.8	-3.6
Unemployment	36.4	37.1	2.0	0.7	-2.3	1.9	-5.8
Participation rate	58.5	58.6	0.4	0.1	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	14.0	14.2	0.7	0.2	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	50.3	50.3	0.5	0.0	-0.3	...	...
Prince Edward Island							
Population	124.7	124.8	...	0.1	1.8	0.1	1.5
Labour force	83.8	83.8	0.6	0.0	2.7	0.0	3.3
Employment	75.4	75.2	0.6	-0.2	2.2	-0.3	3.0
Full-time	62.8	62.5	0.8	-0.3	0.4	-0.5	0.6
Part-time	12.6	12.7	0.7	0.1	1.7	0.8	15.5
Unemployment	8.5	8.6	0.6	0.1	0.5	1.2	6.2
Participation rate	67.2	67.1	0.5	-0.1	1.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.1	10.3	0.7	0.2	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	60.5	60.3	0.5	-0.2	1.0	...	...
Nova Scotia							
Population	796.2	796.6	...	0.4	5.8	0.1	0.7
Labour force	495.3	491.4	2.7	-3.9	-0.4	-0.8	-0.1
Employment	456.3	455.0	2.7	-1.3	5.3	-0.3	1.2
Full-time	375.5	375.1	3.6	-0.4	11.4	-0.1	3.1
Part-time	80.8	79.9	3.3	-0.9	-6.1	-1.1	-7.1
Unemployment	39.0	36.4	2.5	-2.6	-5.6	-6.7	-13.3
Participation rate	62.2	61.7	0.3	-0.5	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.9	7.4	0.5	-0.5	-1.1	...	...
Employment rate	57.3	57.1	0.3	-0.2	0.2	...	...
New Brunswick							
Population	626.1	626.5	...	0.4	2.4	0.1	0.4
Labour force	387.7	384.8	2.2	-2.9	-1.2	-0.7	-0.3
Employment	355.8	354.0	2.2	-1.8	0.0	-0.5	0.0
Full-time	305.2	302.5	2.8	-2.7	0.5	-0.9	0.2
Part-time	50.6	51.5	2.3	0.9	-0.5	1.8	-1.0
Unemployment	31.9	30.8	1.9	-1.1	-1.2	-3.4	-3.8
Participation rate	61.9	61.4	0.3	-0.5	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.2	8.0	0.5	-0.2	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	56.8	56.5	0.4	-0.3	-0.2	...	...
Quebec							
Population	6,960.3	6,964.8	...	4.5	49.1	0.1	0.7
Labour force	4,517.5	4,531.1	15.2	13.6	54.8	0.3	1.2
Employment	4,263.6	4,279.6	15.5	16.0	85.0	0.4	2.0
Full-time	3,486.4	3,515.0	20.6	28.6	149.9	0.8	4.5
Part-time	777.1	764.6	19.2	-12.5	-65.0	-1.6	-7.8
Unemployment	253.9	251.5	12.9	-2.4	-30.1	-0.9	-10.7
Participation rate	64.9	65.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.6	0.3	0.0	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	61.3	61.4	0.2	0.1	0.7	...	...

Table 3 - continued
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2018	March 2018	Standard error ¹	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018
Ontario							
Population	11,809.7	11,827.4	...	17.7	199.0	0.1	1.7
Labour force	7,603.1	7,619.2	20.1	16.1	70.9	0.2	0.9
Employment	7,188.6	7,199.2	19.6	10.6	129.6	0.1	1.8
Full-time	5,857.4	5,873.7	27.5	16.3	117.8	0.3	2.0
Part-time	1,331.2	1,325.5	25.7	-5.7	11.9	-0.4	0.9
Unemployment	414.5	420.0	16.8	5.5	-58.8	1.3	-12.3
Participation rate	64.4	64.4	0.2	0.0	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.5	0.2	0.0	-0.8	...	...
Employment rate	60.9	60.9	0.2	0.0	0.1	...	...
Manitoba							
Population	1,020.4	1,021.5	...	1.1	12.7	0.1	1.3
Labour force	682.2	685.8	2.6	3.6	7.7	0.5	1.1
Employment	642.2	643.1	2.6	0.9	2.2	0.1	0.3
Full-time	512.5	512.5	3.6	0.0	-7.5	0.0	-1.4
Part-time	129.7	130.6	3.3	0.9	9.7	0.7	8.0
Unemployment	40.1	42.6	2.1	2.5	5.4	6.2	14.5
Participation rate	66.9	67.1	0.3	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.9	6.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	...	...
Employment rate	62.9	63.0	0.3	0.1	-0.5	...	...
Saskatchewan							
Population	881.6	882.6	...	1.0	8.3	0.1	0.9
Labour force	600.1	606.1	2.5	6.0	-0.5	1.0	-0.1
Employment	566.5	570.7	2.5	4.2	0.9	0.7	0.2
Full-time	465.3	467.4	3.4	2.1	-1.8	0.5	-0.4
Part-time	101.2	103.3	3.2	2.1	2.7	2.1	2.7
Unemployment	33.6	35.4	2.1	1.8	-1.3	5.4	-3.5
Participation rate	68.1	68.7	0.3	0.6	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.8	0.3	0.2	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	64.3	64.7	0.3	0.4	-0.5	...	...
Alberta							
Population	3,450.5	3,453.8	...	3.3	36.2	0.1	1.1
Labour force	2,482.1	2,481.6	9.8	-0.5	-8.6	0.0	-0.3
Employment	2,316.8	2,325.1	10.1	8.3	40.5	0.4	1.8
Full-time	1,906.8	1,906.8	13.9	0.0	46.4	0.0	2.5
Part-time	410.0	418.3	12.9	8.3	-6.0	2.0	-1.4
Unemployment	165.3	156.5	9.0	-8.8	-49.1	-5.3	-23.9
Participation rate	71.9	71.9	0.3	0.0	-1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.7	6.3	0.4	-0.4	-2.0	...	...
Employment rate	67.1	67.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	...	...
British Columbia							
Population	4,007.6	4,012.3	...	4.7	48.6	0.1	1.2
Labour force	2,604.7	2,602.6	10.4	-2.1	17.5	-0.1	0.7
Employment	2,483.4	2,479.5	10.4	-3.9	32.7	-0.2	1.3
Full-time	1,922.3	1,946.1	15.7	23.8	18.8	1.2	1.0
Part-time	561.1	533.4	14.6	-27.7	13.9	-4.9	2.7
Unemployment	121.2	123.1	8.2	1.9	-15.2	1.6	-11.0
Participation rate	65.0	64.9	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.7	4.7	0.3	0.0	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	62.0	61.8	0.3	-0.2	0.1	...	...

... not applicable

1. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the "Data Quality" section of the *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)* publication for further explanations.

Note(s): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [282-0001](#), [282-0003](#), [282-0005 to 282-0007](#), [282-0011](#), [282-0013](#), [282-0015](#), [282-0017](#), [282-0019](#), [282-0021](#), [282-0027](#), [282-0032](#), [282-0035](#), [282-0037](#), [282-0041](#), [282-0047](#), [282-0049](#), [282-0071](#), [282-0073](#), [282-0075](#), [282-0077](#), [282-0079](#), [282-0083](#), [282-0085](#), [282-0087 to 282-0089](#), [282-0092](#), [282-0094](#), [282-0100](#), [282-0101](#), [282-0103](#), [282-0105](#), [282-0107](#), [282-0122](#), [282-0124](#), [282-0128](#), [282-0130](#), [282-0135 to 282-0137](#), [282-0139](#), [282-0141](#), [282-0143](#), [282-0145](#), [282-0147](#), [282-0149](#), [282-0151](#), [282-0153](#), [282-0155](#), [282-0156](#), [282-0158](#), [282-0160](#), [282-0162](#), [282-0167](#), [282-0168](#), [282-0200](#), [282-0204](#), [282-0208](#), [282-0210](#), [282-0212](#), [282-0214](#), [282-0216](#) and [282-0218](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3701](#).

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* ([71-001-X](#)), is now available for the week ending March 17.

More information about the concepts and use of the Labour Force Survey is available online in the *Guide to the Labour Force Survey* ([71-543-G](#)).

The updated *Labour Market Indicators* dashboard ([71-607-X2017001](#)) is available. This interactive dashboard provides easy, customizable access to key labour market indicators. Users can now configure an interactive map and chart showing labour force characteristics at the national, provincial or census metropolitan area level.

The product *Labour Market Indicators, by province, territory and economic region, unadjusted for seasonality* ([71-607-X2017002](#)) is also available. This dynamic web application provides access to Statistics Canada's labour market indicators for Canada, by province, territory and economic region, and allows users to view a snapshot of key labour market indicators, observe geographical rankings for each indicator using an interactive map and table, and easily copy data into other programs.

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

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