

Latest release from the Labour Force Survey

Released at 7:00 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, April 9, 2009

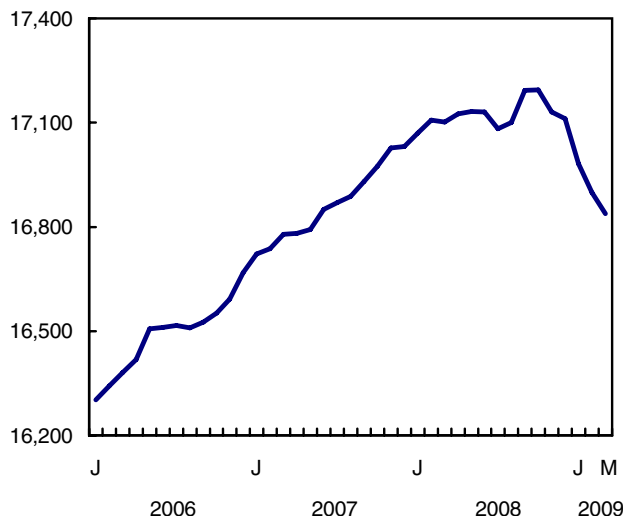
Labour Force Survey

March 2009

Employment declined by 61,000 in March, all in full-time work. This decrease pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 8.0%, the highest rate in seven years.

Employment

thousands



Since peaking in October 2008, employment has fallen each month, with net losses totalling 357,000 (-2.1%). In percentage terms, this is the largest decline over a five-month period since the 1982 recession.

Since October, full-time employment has declined by 2.8% (-387,000) while part-time has edged up 0.9% (+30,000).

Losses in March were widespread across a number of industries, most notably in manufacturing; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing; construction; and natural resources. These losses were only partially offset by gains in "other services"; and business, building and other support services.

Employment fell in several provinces in March, with the largest declines in British Columbia (-23,000),

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-XWE, free).

Changes in average hourly wages are affected by shifts in the composition of the Canadian labour force. For example, a drop in employment in low-wage occupations or industries will contribute to an increase in the national average hourly wage.

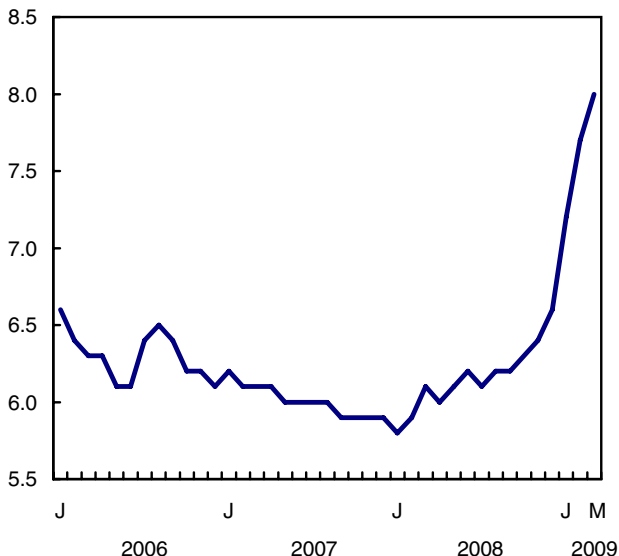
Alberta (-15,000) and Ontario (-11,000). Since October, these three provinces also had the fastest rate of employment decreases.

March's employment losses were spread among core-aged men (25 to 54), youths (15 to 24), and women 55 and over. Since the start of the downturn in October, employment has fallen by 3.1% for core-aged men, the largest five-month loss in 33 years.

In March, the increase in average hourly wages was 4.3% compared with 12 months earlier.

Unemployment rate

%



Manufacturing continues to lose ground

Employment declines were concentrated in the goods-producing sector in March, with large losses in manufacturing, construction and natural resources.

Employment in manufacturing fell by 34,000 in March. Of the major industry groups, manufacturing has lost the most workers since October (-134,000, or -6.8%). These losses were concentrated in the manufacturing of fabricated and primary metal; motor vehicle, body, and parts; and wood products.

Construction employment also declined in March, down 18,000, the third notable decrease in four months. In percentage terms, this industry had the fastest employment growth from January to October 2008, and has since experienced the steepest decline. Employment in this industry has decreased by 99,000 (-7.9%) since October 2008, led by losses in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. These provinces also had the largest drops in both housing starts and building permits in the most recent year-over-year estimates.

For the second month in a row, employment in natural resources declined, down 11,000 in March. This was led by losses in Alberta, mostly in mining, oil and gas extraction.

In the services sector, employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing fell by 20,000 in March. Another service industry posting a drop was accommodation and food services (-15,000). These declines were offset by increases in "other services" (+23,000) and business, building and other support services (+13,000) in March.

In March, all of the employment losses were among private sector employees (-68,000). Since October, employment among private (-2.5%) and public sector employees (-2.3%) has contracted, while self-employment has changed little (-0.1%).

Employment down in several provinces

British Columbia's employment fell by 23,000 in March. This brings total employment losses to 69,000 (-3.0%) since October 2008, largely driven by decreases in construction and manufacturing. Over the same period, British Columbia has seen its unemployment rate climb 2.2 percentage points to 7.4% in March.

Following a large decline in February, employment in Alberta fell a further 15,000 in March, pushing the unemployment rate up to 5.8%. Since October, employment losses have totalled 48,000 (-2.4%), mainly in the goods-producing sector.

Manitoba's employment also fell in March (-4,000), bringing the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 5.1%.

In March, employment in Saskatchewan declined by 3,000. Despite the loss in March, employment in this province is unchanged compared with October 2008. The unemployment rate, at 4.7% in March, has increased by 0.8 percentage points since October.

Despite increases in their unemployment rates, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta continue to have the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Employment in Ontario edged down by 11,000 in March. Since October, declines have totalled 171,000 (-2.5%), mostly in full-time work. Although the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.7% in March, it has risen 2.0 percentage points since October, an increase similar to that of British Columbia and Alberta.

In Quebec, although employment was little changed in March, the unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 8.3%, as more people entered the labour market. Employment has decreased by 55,000 (-1.4%) since October, and the unemployment rate has increased by 1.1 percentage points.

The only other province with a notable employment decline in March was Nova Scotia, down 3,000.

Losses persist among men aged 25 to 54 and youths

In March, employment fell by 26,000 among men aged 25 to 54, while their unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points, to 7.7%. Since the start of the downturn in October, the unemployment rate for this group has increased by 2.2 percentage points, while employment has declined by 197,000, the largest five-month loss in 33 years. In contrast, there have been fewer employment losses (-39,000) among women aged 25 to 54 years since October, and their unemployment rate has increased by 1.0 percentage point, to 5.7%.

Young people aged 15 to 24 years also experienced employment losses in March (-19,000). This pushed their unemployment rate up to 14.8%, the highest in 11 years. Since October, employment for this age group has declined by 122,000 and their unemployment rate has increased by 2.6 percentage points.

Following an increase in February, employment fell by 13,000 for women aged 55 and over in March. This has been the only demographic group posting an employment increase (+9,000) since the slowdown began in October 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free), is now available online for the week ending March 21. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review, 2008* (71F0004XCB, \$209), is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on May 8.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact, Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243; danielle.zietsma@statcan.gc.ca) or Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; jeannine.usalcas@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

□

Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	February 2009	March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes 15+						
Population	27,161.2	27,187.6	26.4	384.2	0.1	1.4
Labour force	18,315.2	18,294.7	-20.5	90.1	-0.1	0.5
Employment	16,899.4	16,838.1	-61.3	-264.0	-0.4	-1.5
Full-time	13,696.9	13,617.4	-79.5	-373.7	-0.6	-2.7
Part-time	3,202.5	3,220.7	18.2	109.7	0.6	3.5
Unemployment	1,415.9	1,456.6	40.7	354.1	2.9	32.1
Participation rate	67.4	67.3	-0.1	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.7	8.0	0.3	1.9	...	...
Employment rate	62.2	61.9	-0.3	-1.9	...	...
Part-time rate	19.0	19.1	0.1	0.9	...	...
Youths 15 to 24						
Population	4,387.4	4,388.8	1.4	19.0	0.0	0.4
Labour force	2,911.8	2,909.0	-2.8	-32.1	-0.1	-1.1
Employment	2,496.9	2,478.3	-18.6	-138.8	-0.7	-5.3
Full-time	1,360.7	1,337.1	-23.6	-105.7	-1.7	-7.3
Part-time	1,136.2	1,141.2	5.0	-33.0	0.4	-2.8
Unemployment	414.9	430.6	15.7	106.6	3.8	32.9
Participation rate	66.4	66.3	-0.1	-1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	14.2	14.8	0.6	3.8	...	...
Employment rate	56.9	56.5	-0.4	-3.4	...	...
Part-time rate	45.5	46.0	0.5	1.1	...	...
Men 25+						
Population	11,132.7	11,145.1	12.4	183.6	0.1	1.7
Labour force	8,158.7	8,146.1	-12.6	2.7	-0.2	0.0
Employment	7,563.0	7,535.4	-27.6	-179.6	-0.4	-2.3
Full-time	6,986.1	6,957.4	-28.7	-259.4	-0.4	-3.6
Part-time	576.9	577.9	1.0	79.6	0.2	16.0
Unemployment	595.7	610.7	15.0	182.3	2.5	42.6
Participation rate	73.3	73.1	-0.2	-1.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.3	7.5	0.2	2.2	...	...
Employment rate	67.9	67.6	-0.3	-2.8	...	...
Part-time rate	7.6	7.7	0.1	1.2	...	...
Women 25+						
Population	11,641.1	11,653.6	12.5	181.5	0.1	1.6
Labour force	7,244.7	7,239.6	-5.1	119.6	-0.1	1.7
Employment	6,839.5	6,824.4	-15.1	54.4	-0.2	0.8
Full-time	5,350.1	5,322.9	-27.2	-8.6	-0.5	-0.2
Part-time	1,489.4	1,501.5	12.1	63.0	0.8	4.4
Unemployment	405.2	415.2	10.0	65.1	2.5	18.6
Participation rate	62.2	62.1	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.7	0.1	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	58.6	-0.2	-0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	21.8	22.0	0.2	0.8	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

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

	February 2009	March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,254.7	14,188.3	-66.4	-302.4	-0.5	-2.1
Self-employed	2,644.6	2,649.8	5.2	38.4	0.2	1.5
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,380.5	3,381.8	1.3	-27.6	0.0	-0.8
Private	10,874.3	10,806.5	-67.8	-274.8	-0.6	-2.5
All industries	16,899.4	16,838.1	-61.3	-264.0	-0.4	-1.5
Goods-producing sector	3,845.3	3,782.7	-62.6	-226.8	-1.6	-5.7
Agriculture	324.5	319.3	-5.2	-16.8	-1.6	-5.0
Natural resources	333.4	322.9	-10.5	-15.2	-3.1	-4.5
Utilities	143.1	148.7	5.6	-2.2	3.9	-1.5
Construction	1,169.9	1,151.7	-18.2	-64.8	-1.6	-5.3
Manufacturing	1,874.3	1,840.1	-34.2	-127.8	-1.8	-6.5
Service-producing sector	13,054.1	13,055.4	1.3	-37.2	0.0	-0.3
Trade	2,635.9	2,629.9	-6.0	-61.1	-0.2	-2.3
Transportation and warehousing	841.0	843.1	2.1	-18.7	0.2	-2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,094.7	1,074.9	-19.8	2.0	-1.8	0.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,179.5	1,186.0	6.5	-9.0	0.6	-0.8
Business, building and other support services	657.0	670.4	13.4	-46.1	2.0	-6.4
Educational services	1,163.8	1,173.8	10.0	-16.6	0.9	-1.4
Health care and social assistance	1,955.7	1,952.4	-3.3	71.1	-0.2	3.8
Information, culture and recreation	752.8	747.3	-5.5	-10.7	-0.7	-1.4
Accommodation and food services	1,083.8	1,068.6	-15.2	8.7	-1.4	0.8
Other services	760.2	783.6	23.4	42.2	3.1	5.7
Public administration	929.6	925.4	-4.2	0.8	-0.5	0.1

1. North American Industrial Classification System.

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

Labour force characteristics by province

	February 2009	March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	427.9	428.0	0.1	2.6	0.0	0.6
Labour force	253.3	254.3	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.4
Employment	215.0	217.0	2.0	-4.0	0.9	-1.8
Full-time	183.6	185.2	1.6	-2.2	0.9	-1.2
Part-time	31.4	31.8	0.4	-1.8	1.3	-5.4
Unemployment	38.3	37.3	-1.0	5.1	-2.6	15.8
Participation rate	59.2	59.4	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	15.1	14.7	-0.4	2.0	...	...
Employment rate	50.2	50.7	0.5	-1.3	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	115.3	115.4	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.4
Labour force	78.2	77.6	-0.6	-1.7	-0.8	-2.1
Employment	68.6	68.7	0.1	-2.3	0.1	-3.2
Full-time	58.3	58.4	0.1	-0.6	0.2	-1.0
Part-time	10.3	10.3	0.0	-1.7	0.0	-14.2
Unemployment	9.6	8.9	-0.7	0.6	-7.3	7.2
Participation rate	67.8	67.2	-0.6	-2.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.3	11.5	-0.8	1.0	...	...
Employment rate	59.5	59.5	0.0	-2.9	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	771.4	771.6	0.2	4.6	0.0	0.6
Labour force	500.4	497.7	-2.7	9.9	-0.5	2.0
Employment	456.4	453.4	-3.0	3.6	-0.7	0.8
Full-time	372.3	370.4	-1.9	4.0	-0.5	1.1
Part-time	84.1	82.9	-1.2	-0.5	-1.4	-0.6
Unemployment	44.0	44.3	0.3	6.3	0.7	16.6
Participation rate	64.9	64.5	-0.4	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.8	8.9	0.1	1.1	...	...
Employment rate	59.2	58.8	-0.4	0.2	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	620.4	620.5	0.1	3.9	0.0	0.6
Labour force	400.6	403.1	2.5	3.0	0.6	0.7
Employment	365.3	364.7	-0.6	-1.2	-0.2	-0.3
Full-time	310.6	306.0	-4.6	-3.3	-1.5	-1.1
Part-time	54.6	58.7	4.1	2.2	7.5	3.9
Unemployment	35.4	38.4	3.0	4.1	8.5	12.0
Participation rate	64.6	65.0	0.4	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.8	9.5	0.7	0.9	...	...
Employment rate	58.9	58.8	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,411.2	6,416.1	4.9	62.6	0.1	1.0
Labour force	4,169.3	4,181.7	12.4	-5.6	0.3	-0.1
Employment	3,840.1	3,835.5	-4.6	-46.3	-0.1	-1.2
Full-time	3,114.2	3,110.2	-4.0	-50.0	-0.1	-1.6
Part-time	725.9	725.2	-0.7	3.6	-0.1	0.5
Unemployment	329.2	346.3	17.1	40.9	5.2	13.4
Participation rate	65.0	65.2	0.2	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.9	8.3	0.4	1.0	...	...
Employment rate	59.9	59.8	-0.1	-1.3	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics by province

	February 2009	March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,604.6	10,614.3	9.7	154.4	0.1	1.5
Labour force	7,185.6	7,168.4	-17.2	29.5	-0.2	0.4
Employment	6,558.9	6,548.1	-10.8	-134.6	-0.2	-2.0
Full-time	5,316.7	5,277.1	-39.6	-180.8	-0.7	-3.3
Part-time	1,242.2	1,271.0	28.8	46.2	2.3	3.8
Unemployment	626.7	620.4	-6.3	164.2	-1.0	36.0
Participation rate	67.8	67.5	-0.3	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.7	8.7	0.0	2.3	...	...
Employment rate	61.8	61.7	-0.1	-2.2	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	916.8	918.0	1.2	12.1	0.1	1.3
Labour force	638.4	636.0	-2.4	4.6	-0.4	0.7
Employment	607.9	603.7	-4.2	-0.2	-0.7	0.0
Full-time	494.2	495.4	1.2	1.5	0.2	0.3
Part-time	113.7	108.3	-5.4	-1.7	-4.7	-1.5
Unemployment	30.5	32.3	1.8	4.8	5.9	17.5
Participation rate	69.6	69.3	-0.3	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.8	5.1	0.3	0.7	...	...
Employment rate	66.3	65.8	-0.5	-0.9	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	775.6	776.3	0.7	14.1	0.1	1.8
Labour force	548.3	545.4	-2.9	15.0	-0.5	2.8
Employment	522.5	519.8	-2.7	11.7	-0.5	2.3
Full-time	424.2	421.4	-2.8	3.0	-0.7	0.7
Part-time	98.3	98.5	0.2	8.8	0.2	9.8
Unemployment	25.8	25.6	-0.2	3.4	-0.8	15.3
Participation rate	70.7	70.3	-0.4	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.5	...	...
Employment rate	67.4	67.0	-0.4	0.3	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,836.1	2,841.7	5.6	62.5	0.2	2.2
Labour force	2,116.5	2,110.1	-6.4	37.5	-0.3	1.8
Employment	2,002.1	1,987.2	-14.9	-14.0	-0.7	-0.7
Full-time	1,652.6	1,632.9	-19.7	-59.8	-1.2	-3.5
Part-time	349.5	354.3	4.8	45.8	1.4	14.8
Unemployment	114.5	123.0	8.5	51.6	7.4	72.3
Participation rate	74.6	74.3	-0.3	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.8	0.4	2.4	...	...
Employment rate	70.6	69.9	-0.7	-2.1	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,681.8	3,685.8	4.0	65.9	0.1	1.8
Labour force	2,424.4	2,420.2	-4.2	-3.4	-0.2	-0.1
Employment	2,262.7	2,240.1	-22.6	-76.6	-1.0	-3.3
Full-time	1,769.9	1,760.0	-9.9	-85.3	-0.6	-4.6
Part-time	492.9	480.1	-12.8	8.6	-2.6	1.8
Unemployment	161.7	180.1	18.4	73.3	11.4	68.6
Participation rate	65.8	65.7	-0.1	-1.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.7	7.4	0.7	3.0	...	...
Employment rate	61.5	60.8	-0.7	-3.2	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.