

Latest release from the Labour Force Survey

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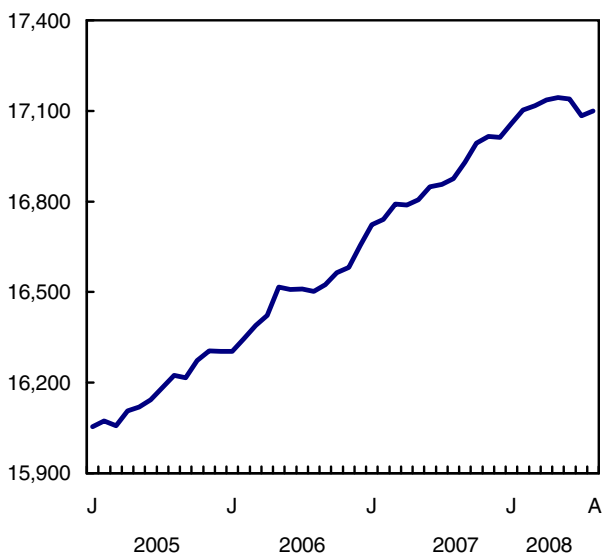
Labour Force Survey

August 2008

Following a decline in July, employment edged up by 15,000 in August. The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.1%. Since the start of the year, employment has increased by 87,000 (+0.5%), a much smaller increase compared to the 221,000 (+1.3%) of the first eight months of 2007.

Employment

thousands



Employment gains in August were all in full-time work. So far in 2008, increases have been a mix of both full- and part-time employment compared with mostly full-time growth during the same period of 2007.

In August, there were employment gains in Saskatchewan and Ontario, partially offset by losses in Nova Scotia and Manitoba. Employment was virtually unchanged in the other provinces. For the first eight months of 2008, employment gains have been in Ontario and the western provinces.

Note to readers

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) collects labour market information about young people aged 15 to 24 who were attending school full time in March and intend to return to school in the fall. The published estimates are not seasonally adjusted, therefore, comparisons can only be made on a year-over-year basis.

Please note that Table 1 in the publication Labour Force Information has been extended to include labour force characteristics for men and women aged 25 to 54 years and 55 years and over at the Canada level.

The 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).

In August, employment increased in educational services; construction; utilities; and accommodation and food services. These gains were partially offset by decreases in health care and social assistance; agriculture and public administration.

There was a slight increase in manufacturing employment in August. So far this year, this industry has declined by 14,000 (-0.7%), a smaller decrease compared with the same period in 2007 (-76,000 or -3.6%).

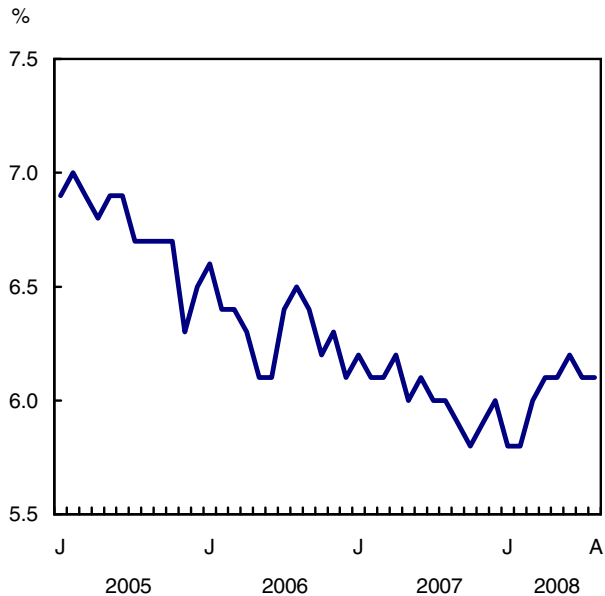
August's employment gains were mostly among private sector employees (+41,000), while there were fewer employees in the public sector (-24,000). Since the beginning of 2008, employment growth has been primarily among employees in the private sector, in contrast to strength in the public sector and in self-employment over the same period of 2007.

Most of the employment increases in August were among men and women aged 25 to 54 years, countered by declines among older women. In the first eight months of 2008, employment growth was stronger for older workers than core-aged workers and youth.

The year-over-year hourly wage growth for August was 3.8%, lower than the 4.9% increase observed at the start of 2008. August's average hourly wage growth,

however, was slightly above the most recent increase of 3.4% in the Consumer Price Index.

Unemployment rate



Construction leading the way so far in 2008

Employment in construction was up by 19,000 in August, continuing the strength seen over the past few years. August's gains bring employment in this industry up 86,000 (+7.4%) over the first eight months of 2008, making it the fastest growing industry. Most of the increases have been in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. According to the most recent Building Permits Survey, the value of building permits has increased in 2008, with all of the growth in non-residential construction.

Accommodation and food services added 16,000 workers in August. This industry is up by 60,000 (+5.7%) so far this year, the second fastest growing industry in 2008, with most of the increases in food services and drinking places. Ontario and the western provinces had the most notable increases in this industry so far this year.

Education employment increased by 30,000 in August, following a decline of a similar magnitude the previous month. This leaves employment in this industry up 1.8% from 12 months ago.

Employment declined by 22,000 in health care and social assistance in August, mostly in Ontario and Alberta. Despite this decline, employment remains at a level similar to that at the start of 2008.

Agriculture employment was down 18,000 in August, primarily in Ontario, Quebec and Alberta. Since the most

recent peak of July 2005, employment in this industry has declined by 52,000 (-14.1%).

Employment gains in Saskatchewan and Ontario

In August, employment in Saskatchewan increased by 6,000. Employment gains so far this year have mainly been in mining, oil and gas; construction; and health care and social assistance.

Following two months of declines, Ontario's employment level was up 14,000 in August, as large full-time gains were partially offset by part-time losses. The unemployment rate edged down to 6.3% in August. So far in 2008, employment in Ontario has increased by 0.8%, all in part time. Increases in construction and several service industries were dampened by declines in information, culture and recreation; manufacturing and trade over the year.

While Quebec's employment was little changed in August, the unemployment rate increased to 7.7%, a result of more people entering the labour force in search of work. So far this year, employment is down 0.6%, with declines in agriculture and several services industries.

There were employment declines in Nova Scotia and Manitoba in August, each with losses of 4,000. Manitoba's employment is up 1.2% so far this year while the employment level in Nova Scotia remains the same as in December 2007.

Student labour market similar to last summer

The 2008 summer job market for students was among the best since the early 1990s. The average employment rate for students this summer (from May to August) was 54.6%, similar to that of the summer of 2007. At the same time, the average unemployment rate was 13.6%, similar to the previous summer.

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 August 16. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review, 2007* (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 October 10.

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, Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca) or Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; jeannine.usalcas@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	July 2008	August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes 15+						
Population	26,942.8	26,974.3	31.5	374.5	0.1	1.4
Labour force	18,189.4	18,211.9	22.5	255.1	0.1	1.4
Employment	17,084.2	17,099.4	15.2	224.2	0.1	1.3
Full-time	13,950.9	13,967.0	16.1	142.8	0.1	1.0
Part-time	3,133.3	3,132.4	-0.9	81.4	0.0	2.7
Unemployment	1,105.2	1,112.5	7.3	30.9	0.7	2.9
Participation rate	67.5	67.5	0.0	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.1	0.0	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	63.4	63.4	0.0	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	18.3	18.3	0.0	0.2	...	...
Youths 15 to 24						
Population	4,376.9	4,378.5	1.6	21.7	0.0	0.5
Labour force	2,914.0	2,918.5	4.5	12.0	0.2	0.4
Employment	2,593.3	2,598.2	4.9	7.1	0.2	0.3
Full-time	1,419.0	1,431.1	12.1	-16.2	0.9	-1.1
Part-time	1,174.3	1,167.0	-7.3	23.2	-0.6	2.0
Unemployment	320.7	320.3	-0.4	4.9	-0.1	1.6
Participation rate	66.6	66.7	0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.0	11.0	0.0	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	59.2	59.3	0.1	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	45.3	44.9	-0.4	0.8	...	...
Men 25+						
Population	11,028.1	11,043.0	14.9	177.3	0.1	1.6
Labour force	8,122.8	8,141.1	18.3	154.5	0.2	1.9
Employment	7,682.2	7,707.4	25.2	137.7	0.3	1.8
Full-time	7,158.5	7,181.5	23.0	97.5	0.3	1.4
Part-time	523.7	525.9	2.2	40.2	0.4	8.3
Unemployment	440.6	433.7	-6.9	16.8	-1.6	4.0
Participation rate	73.7	73.7	0.0	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.3	-0.1	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	69.7	69.8	0.1	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	6.8	6.8	0.0	0.4	...	...
Women 25+						
Population	11,537.9	11,552.9	15.0	175.6	0.1	1.5
Labour force	7,152.6	7,152.3	-0.3	88.6	0.0	1.3
Employment	6,808.6	6,793.8	-14.8	79.4	-0.2	1.2
Full-time	5,373.4	5,354.3	-19.1	61.4	-0.4	1.2
Part-time	1,435.3	1,439.4	4.1	17.8	0.3	1.3
Unemployment	344.0	358.5	14.5	9.2	4.2	2.6
Participation rate	62.0	61.9	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.8	5.0	0.2	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	59.0	58.8	-0.2	-0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	21.1	21.2	0.1	0.0	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹)

	July 2008	August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,462.4	14,479.4	17.0	245.0	0.1	1.7
Self-employed	2,621.8	2,620.0	-1.8	-20.8	-0.1	-0.8
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,438.1	3,414.2	-23.9	127.4	-0.7	3.9
Private	11,024.3	11,065.2	40.9	117.6	0.4	1.1
All industries	17,084.2	17,099.4	15.2	224.2	0.1	1.3
Goods-producing sector	4,015.5	4,030.3	14.8	22.9	0.4	0.6
Agriculture	331.7	313.9	-17.8	-24.6	-5.4	-7.3
Natural resources	341.5	337.4	-4.1	5.1	-1.2	1.5
Utilities	156.3	160.8	4.5	11.1	2.9	7.4
Construction	1,231.3	1,249.8	18.5	98.7	1.5	8.6
Manufacturing	1,954.7	1,968.5	13.8	-67.3	0.7	-3.3
Service-producing sector	13,068.7	13,069.1	0.4	201.3	0.0	1.6
Trade	2,675.5	2,674.7	-0.8	-29.6	0.0	-1.1
Transportation and warehousing	852.8	856.1	3.3	54.1	0.4	6.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,070.5	1,076.4	5.9	22.1	0.6	2.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,205.1	1,198.1	-7.0	55.8	-0.6	4.9
Business, building and other support services	663.2	655.9	-7.3	-60.6	-1.1	-8.5
Educational services	1,165.7	1,195.7	30.0	20.8	2.6	1.8
Health care and social assistance	1,904.5	1,882.8	-21.7	35.4	-1.1	1.9
Information, culture and recreation	762.8	758.1	-4.7	-13.9	-0.6	-1.8
Accommodation and food services	1,093.1	1,109.0	15.9	32.5	1.5	3.0
Other services	743.3	743.5	0.2	29.8	0.0	4.2
Public administration	932.1	918.7	-13.4	54.7	-1.4	6.3

1. North American Industrial Classification System.

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

Labour force characteristics by province

	July 2008	August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	426.2	426.3	0.1	3.1	0.0	0.7
Labour force	253.0	254.3	1.3	2.8	0.5	1.1
Employment	219.3	219.3	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.1
Full-time	191.4	191.2	-0.2	2.2	-0.1	1.2
Part-time	27.9	28.1	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.0
Unemployment	33.7	35.0	1.3	0.5	3.9	1.4
Participation rate	59.4	59.7	0.3	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.3	13.8	0.5	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	51.5	51.4	-0.1	0.1	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	114.6	114.8	0.2	1.3	0.2	1.1
Labour force	78.1	78.7	0.6	1.7	0.8	2.2
Employment	69.8	70.4	0.6	1.4	0.9	2.0
Full-time	58.8	60.0	1.2	2.5	2.0	4.3
Part-time	11.0	10.4	-0.6	-1.1	-5.5	-9.6
Unemployment	8.3	8.2	-0.1	0.2	-1.2	2.5
Participation rate	68.2	68.6	0.4	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.6	10.4	-0.2	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	60.9	61.3	0.4	0.5	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	768.9	769.5	0.6	5.0	0.1	0.7
Labour force	488.4	491.4	3.0	5.3	0.6	1.1
Employment	455.6	451.9	-3.7	9.1	-0.8	2.1
Full-time	372.7	375.6	2.9	16.6	0.8	4.6
Part-time	82.9	76.4	-6.5	-7.4	-7.8	-8.8
Unemployment	32.8	39.5	6.7	-3.7	20.4	-8.6
Participation rate	63.5	63.9	0.4	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.7	8.0	1.3	-0.9	...	...
Employment rate	59.3	58.7	-0.6	0.8	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	618.3	618.6	0.3	5.1	0.0	0.8
Labour force	400.3	400.0	-0.3	5.8	-0.1	1.5
Employment	364.9	366.5	1.6	3.2	0.4	0.9
Full-time	307.3	307.9	0.6	1.7	0.2	0.6
Part-time	57.6	58.6	1.0	1.5	1.7	2.6
Unemployment	35.4	33.5	-1.9	2.6	-5.4	8.4
Participation rate	64.7	64.7	0.0	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.8	8.4	-0.4	0.6	...	...
Employment rate	59.0	59.2	0.2	0.0	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,374.3	6,379.5	5.2	57.8	0.1	0.9
Labour force	4,164.5	4,179.6	15.1	21.9	0.4	0.5
Employment	3,855.3	3,859.1	3.8	-1.2	0.1	0.0
Full-time	3,150.8	3,144.5	-6.3	1.1	-0.2	0.0
Part-time	704.5	714.6	10.1	-2.3	1.4	-0.3
Unemployment	309.2	320.4	11.2	23.0	3.6	7.7
Participation rate	65.3	65.5	0.2	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.7	0.3	0.5	...	...
Employment rate	60.5	60.5	0.0	-0.6	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics by province

	July 2008	August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,516.8	10,529.9	13.1	151.5	0.1	1.5
Labour force	7,124.7	7,132.6	7.9	88.4	0.1	1.3
Employment	6,668.8	6,682.8	14.0	88.5	0.2	1.3
Full-time	5,394.9	5,433.5	38.6	31.6	0.7	0.6
Part-time	1,273.9	1,249.3	-24.6	56.8	-1.9	4.8
Unemployment	455.9	449.9	-6.0	0.0	-1.3	0.0
Participation rate	67.7	67.7	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.3	-0.1	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	63.4	63.5	0.1	0.0	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	910.5	911.3	0.8	11.3	0.1	1.3
Labour force	633.4	630.6	-2.8	8.1	-0.4	1.3
Employment	609.6	606.0	-3.6	9.4	-0.6	1.6
Full-time	494.0	491.4	-2.6	8.7	-0.5	1.8
Part-time	115.6	114.6	-1.0	0.8	-0.9	0.7
Unemployment	23.8	24.7	0.9	-1.2	3.8	-4.6
Participation rate	69.6	69.2	-0.4	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.8	3.9	0.1	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	67.0	66.5	-0.5	0.2	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	768.0	769.2	1.2	17.1	0.2	2.3
Labour force	528.9	535.4	6.5	13.7	1.2	2.6
Employment	505.4	511.5	6.1	14.8	1.2	3.0
Full-time	418.5	419.3	0.8	11.8	0.2	2.9
Part-time	86.9	92.2	5.3	2.9	6.1	3.2
Unemployment	23.5	23.9	0.4	-1.0	1.7	-4.0
Participation rate	68.9	69.6	0.7	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.5	0.1	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	65.8	66.5	0.7	0.5	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,800.0	2,803.7	3.7	49.2	0.1	1.8
Labour force	2,086.0	2,080.0	-6.0	39.4	-0.3	1.9
Employment	2,010.9	2,006.7	-4.2	38.7	-0.2	2.0
Full-time	1,688.3	1,689.0	0.7	28.3	0.0	1.7
Part-time	322.6	317.7	-4.9	10.4	-1.5	3.4
Unemployment	75.1	73.3	-1.8	0.7	-2.4	1.0
Participation rate	74.5	74.2	-0.3	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.6	3.5	-0.1	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	71.8	71.6	-0.2	0.2	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,645.3	3,651.5	6.2	73.1	0.2	2.0
Labour force	2,432.1	2,429.3	-2.8	67.9	-0.1	2.9
Employment	2,324.6	2,325.1	0.5	58.0	0.0	2.6
Full-time	1,874.2	1,854.6	-19.6	38.2	-1.0	2.1
Part-time	450.3	470.5	20.2	19.8	4.5	4.4
Unemployment	107.5	104.2	-3.3	9.9	-3.1	10.5
Participation rate	66.7	66.5	-0.2	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.3	-0.1	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	63.8	63.7	-0.1	0.3	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.