

Latest release from the Labour Force Survey

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

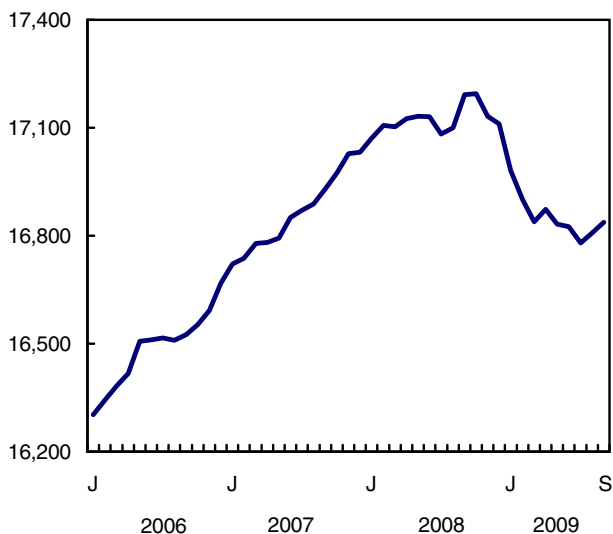
Labour Force Survey

September 2009

Employment increased for the second consecutive month, up 31,000 in September, driven by large full-time gains. The unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 8.4%, the first monthly decline since the beginning of the labour market downturn in the fall of 2008.

Employment

thousands



September's full-time increase of 92,000, the largest since May 2006, was partially offset by part-time losses of 61,000. The increase in full-time work was mainly among youths and women aged 25 and over and in Ontario.

Despite September's gains, full-time employment has fallen by 395,000 or 2.8% since the employment peak in October 2008.

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).

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.

Construction, manufacturing and educational services saw employment increases in September, while there were declines in transportation and warehousing.

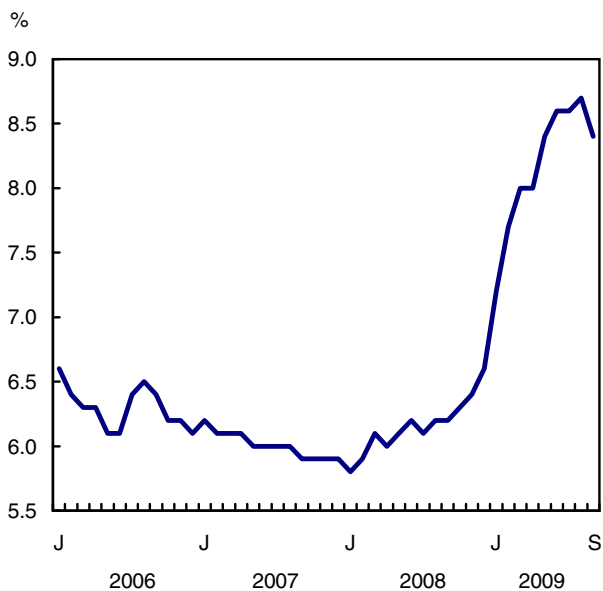
British Columbia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island were the only provinces with notable employment gains in September. In Ontario, employment rose slightly as large full-time gains were dampened by losses in part time.

Since the peak in October 2008, employment has fallen by 2.1% (-357,000), with the bulk of the decline occurring between October 2008 and March 2009. Since then, the trend in employment has levelled, with the number employed almost the same in September as it was in March.

Canadians have been working more hours since April 2009. While the number of actual hours worked decreased 4.2% from October 2008 to April 2009, since then, there has been an increase in hours worked of 2.0%. In contrast, employment edged down 0.2% from April to September.

The increase in average hourly wages slowed to 2.5% compared with September 2008. This was the lowest year-over-year growth in two and a half years.

Unemployment rate



Manufacturing and construction up in September

Manufacturing employment increased by 26,000 in September, the first notable increase since February 2009. Employment in this industry had the sharpest rate of decline since the start of the labour market downturn in the fall of 2008, down 10.6% (-210,000).

Following an increase the previous month, employment in construction rose again in September (+25,000). Both housing starts and building permits have increased from April to August 2009. Despite these recent increases, employment in this industry has fallen by 6.7% (-84,000) since October 2008.

There was an employment gain of 18,000 in educational services in September. Since October 2008, employment in this industry has declined by 1.6% (-20,000).

Employment in transportation and warehousing decreased by 21,000 in September, continuing the downward trend since the fall of 2008. Employment has fallen by 8.4% or 73,000 since October, mostly in truck transportation in Ontario and Quebec.

In September, public sector employment increased by 36,000, leaving employment in this sector down 0.8% since October 2008. Employment among private sector employees edged down in September, while there was a small increase among the self employed. Most of the employment declines since October have been among private sector employees (-3.6%), while the number of self employed has increased by 2.9%.

Largest gain in British Columbia

By province, the most notable employment gain in September was in British Columbia, up 14,000. Although down 1.7% since October 2008, employment in this province has been increasing since March 2009 (+1.3% or +30,000). The unemployment rate, at 7.4%, declined by 0.4 percentage points in September.

In Ontario, a large full-time increase (+62,000) was dampened by a loss in part time (-49,000), leaving employment up only slightly in September. The unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage points to 9.2%.

September marks the third consecutive month of small employment increases in Ontario, totalling 39,000. Despite this increase, Ontario has suffered the fastest rate of employment losses since October (-2.9%), mostly in full time and in manufacturing, construction and a number of service industries.

Employment also increased in New Brunswick in September, up 2,900, bringing the unemployment rate down 1.2 percentage points, to 8.1%.

Quebec's employment level was little changed in September for the second consecutive month. The unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage points to 8.8%, as fewer people participated in the labour market. Since October, employment in this province has fallen by 1.6%, less than the national average of 2.1%.

More women working in September

September's overall employment gains were among women aged 25 and over (+41,000), while employment fell for men aged 25 to 54 (-17,000). Among youths, increases in full-time work (+58,000) were offset by part-time losses (-54,000).

Since October, the majority of employment losses were among men aged 25 to 54 (-211,000) and youths (-205,000). In recent months, employment declines have stabilized for core-age men, leaving employment down 0.2% since March. For youths, employment continued to decline throughout the summer months, with employment losses of 3.4% since March 2009.

Quarterly update on territories

The Labour Force Survey also collects labour market information about the territories. These data are not included in the national estimates, but are published separately and in the form of three-month moving averages. Information in this release is based on data that are not seasonally adjusted and therefore comparisons should only be made on a year-over-year basis.

Compared with the third quarter of 2008, employment was down in the Northwest Territories in the third quarter of 2009 (-2,200), pushing the unemployment rate up 2.6 percentage points to 7.6%. Over the same period, the employment rate (the proportion of the working-age population who are employed) fell by 7.0 percentage points to 65.1%, the lowest since the start of the series in 2001.

Employment in the Yukon edged down in the third quarter of 2009, bringing the employment rate to 70.2%, a decline of 3.3 percentage points from the same quarter of the previous year. The unemployment rate was 5.6%, the lowest of the three territories.

In Nunavut, over the same period, employment declines brought the employment rate down 1.3 percentage points to 53.1%. In the third quarter of 2009, the unemployment rate stood at 14.4%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0100.

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 September 19. 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* (71F0004X, \$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 November 6.

For general 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 Judy Hosein (613-951-5704; judy.hosein@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

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Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	August 2009	September 2009	August to September 2009	September 2008 to September 2009	August to September 2009	September 2008 to September 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over						
Population	27,358.4	27,401.5	43.1	388.7	0.2	1.4
Labour force	18,412.3	18,387.8	-24.5	65.8	-0.1	0.4
Employment	16,807.4	16,838.0	30.6	-354.4	0.2	-2.1
Full-time	13,518.0	13,609.6	91.6	-358.4	0.7	-2.6
Part-time	3,289.4	3,228.4	-61.0	4.0	-1.9	0.1
Unemployment	1,604.9	1,549.7	-55.2	420.1	-3.4	37.2
Participation rate	67.3	67.1	-0.2	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.7	8.4	-0.3	2.2	...	...
Employment rate	61.4	61.4	0.0	-2.2	...	...
Part-time rate	19.6	19.2	-0.4	0.4	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years						
Population	4,396.8	4,398.4	1.6	18.3	0.0	0.4
Labour force	2,858.3	2,821.8	-36.5	-141.8	-1.3	-4.8
Employment	2,391.0	2,395.2	4.2	-240.3	0.2	-9.1
Full-time	1,213.3	1,271.1	57.8	-153.1	4.8	-10.7
Part-time	1,177.7	1,124.1	-53.6	-87.2	-4.6	-7.2
Unemployment	467.3	426.6	-40.7	98.5	-8.7	30.0
Participation rate	65.0	64.2	-0.8	-3.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	16.3	15.1	-1.2	4.0	...	...
Employment rate	54.4	54.5	0.1	-5.7	...	...
Part-time rate	49.3	46.9	-2.4	0.9	...	...
Men, 25 years and over						
Population	11,228.2	11,249.6	21.4	188.1	0.2	1.7
Labour force	8,272.1	8,244.1	-28.0	65.0	-0.3	0.8
Employment	7,576.8	7,561.9	-14.9	-164.8	-0.2	-2.1
Full-time	7,000.3	6,967.7	-32.6	-211.1	-0.5	-2.9
Part-time	576.5	594.2	17.7	46.4	3.1	8.5
Unemployment	695.3	682.2	-13.1	229.8	-1.9	50.8
Participation rate	73.7	73.3	-0.4	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.4	8.3	-0.1	2.8	...	...
Employment rate	67.5	67.2	-0.3	-2.7	...	...
Part-time rate	7.6	7.9	0.3	0.8	...	...
Women, 25 years and over						
Population	11,733.4	11,753.5	20.1	182.4	0.2	1.6
Labour force	7,281.9	7,321.8	39.9	142.5	0.5	2.0
Employment	6,839.6	6,880.9	41.3	50.6	0.6	0.7
Full-time	5,304.5	5,370.8	66.3	5.8	1.2	0.1
Part-time	1,535.1	1,510.1	-25.0	44.8	-1.6	3.1
Unemployment	442.3	440.9	-1.4	91.8	-0.3	26.3
Participation rate	62.1	62.3	0.2	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.0	-0.1	1.1	...	...
Employment rate	58.3	58.5	0.2	-0.5	...	...
Part-time rate	22.4	21.9	-0.5	0.4	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

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

	August 2009	September 2009	August to September 2009	September 2008 to September 2009	August to September 2009	September 2008 to September 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,091.2	14,110.5	19.3	-432.4	0.1	-3.0
Self-employed	2,716.2	2,727.5	11.3	78.0	0.4	2.9
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,396.6	3,433.0	36.4	-2.1	1.1	-0.1
Private	10,694.6	10,677.5	-17.1	-430.3	-0.2	-3.9
All industries	16,807.4	16,838.0	30.6	-354.4	0.2	-2.1
Goods-producing sector	3,668.4	3,714.6	46.2	-353.0	1.3	-8.7
Agriculture	320.0	319.5	-0.5	-8.4	-0.2	-2.6
Natural resources	319.3	313.0	-6.3	-30.6	-2.0	-8.9
Utilities	148.0	150.3	2.3	-1.2	1.6	-0.8
Construction	1,142.2	1,166.8	24.6	-93.1	2.2	-7.4
Manufacturing	1,738.9	1,765.0	26.1	-219.7	1.5	-11.1
Services-producing sector	13,139.0	13,123.4	-15.6	-1.4	-0.1	0.0
Trade	2,660.9	2,662.9	2.0	-6.5	0.1	-0.2
Transportation and warehousing	819.0	797.7	-21.3	-74.1	-2.6	-8.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,110.3	1,121.1	10.8	46.1	1.0	4.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,212.9	1,199.8	-13.1	1.2	-1.1	0.1
Business, building and other support services	649.9	645.8	-4.1	-29.3	-0.6	-4.3
Educational services	1,170.5	1,188.4	17.9	-11.4	1.5	-1.0
Health care and social assistance	1,940.9	1,946.8	5.9	21.5	0.3	1.1
Information, culture and recreation	795.4	791.5	-3.9	42.2	-0.5	5.6
Accommodation and food services	1,044.6	1,032.0	-12.6	-56.2	-1.2	-5.2
Other services	800.2	805.4	5.2	44.6	0.6	5.9
Public administration	934.3	932.0	-2.3	20.4	-0.2	2.2

1. North American Industry Classification System.

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

Labour force characteristics by province

	August 2009	September 2009	August to September 2009	September 2008 to September 2009	August to September 2009	September 2008 to September 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	429.2	429.7	0.5	2.9	0.1	0.7
Labour force	254.7	255.9	1.2	5.3	0.5	2.1
Employment	215.1	216.6	1.5	-0.2	0.7	-0.1
Full-time	189.1	184.9	-4.2	-3.1	-2.2	-1.6
Part-time	25.9	31.7	5.8	2.9	22.4	10.1
Unemployment	39.7	39.2	-0.5	5.4	-1.3	16.0
Participation rate	59.3	59.6	0.3	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	15.6	15.3	-0.3	1.8	...	...
Employment rate	50.1	50.4	0.3	-0.4	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	116.4	116.4	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.0
Labour force	79.4	78.9	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6
Employment	68.5	69.6	1.1	-0.8	1.6	-1.1
Full-time	55.5	57.5	2.0	-1.2	3.6	-2.0
Part-time	13.0	12.1	-0.9	0.4	-6.9	3.4
Unemployment	10.9	9.3	-1.6	0.3	-14.7	3.3
Participation rate	68.2	67.8	-0.4	-1.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.7	11.8	-1.9	0.5	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	59.8	1.0	-1.3	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	772.8	773.3	0.5	3.3	0.1	0.4
Labour force	500.5	499.6	-0.9	5.3	-0.2	1.1
Employment	453.2	452.1	-1.1	-4.3	-0.2	-0.9
Full-time	371.2	368.8	-2.4	-4.4	-0.6	-1.2
Part-time	82.1	83.3	1.2	0.1	1.5	0.1
Unemployment	47.3	47.5	0.2	9.6	0.4	25.3
Participation rate	64.8	64.6	-0.2	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.5	9.5	0.0	1.8	...	...
Employment rate	58.6	58.5	-0.1	-0.8	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	621.8	622.2	0.4	3.2	0.1	0.5
Labour force	402.4	400.1	-2.3	0.8	-0.6	0.2
Employment	364.9	367.8	2.9	0.8	0.8	0.2
Full-time	306.8	309.6	2.8	1.9	0.9	0.6
Part-time	58.1	58.2	0.1	-1.1	0.2	-1.9
Unemployment	37.5	32.3	-5.2	0.0	-13.9	0.0
Participation rate	64.7	64.3	-0.4	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.3	8.1	-1.2	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	58.7	59.1	0.4	-0.2	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,444.3	6,451.9	7.6	66.5	0.1	1.0
Labour force	4,212.8	4,196.7	-16.1	4.4	-0.4	0.1
Employment	3,830.2	3,826.7	-3.5	-60.3	-0.1	-1.6
Full-time	3,099.3	3,107.6	8.3	-42.4	0.3	-1.3
Part-time	730.9	719.1	-11.8	-17.9	-1.6	-2.4
Unemployment	382.6	370.0	-12.6	64.8	-3.3	21.2
Participation rate	65.4	65.0	-0.4	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.1	8.8	-0.3	1.5	...	...
Employment rate	59.4	59.3	-0.1	-1.6	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics by province

	August 2009	September 2009	August to September 2009	September 2008 to September 2009	August to September 2009	September 2008 to September 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,677.4	10,695.3	17.9	148.6	0.2	1.4
Labour force	7,186.0	7,182.5	-3.5	-13.2	0.0	-0.2
Employment	6,512.5	6,525.1	12.6	-205.2	0.2	-3.0
Full-time	5,204.0	5,265.5	61.5	-178.2	1.2	-3.3
Part-time	1,308.5	1,259.6	-48.9	-27.0	-3.7	-2.1
Unemployment	673.5	657.4	-16.1	192.0	-2.4	41.3
Participation rate	67.3	67.2	-0.1	-1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.4	9.2	-0.2	2.7	...	...
Employment rate	61.0	61.0	0.0	-2.8	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	925.0	926.1	1.1	13.8	0.1	1.5
Labour force	648.5	643.2	-5.3	7.1	-0.8	1.1
Employment	611.3	608.9	-2.4	1.7	-0.4	0.3
Full-time	489.6	489.1	-0.5	-0.2	-0.1	0.0
Part-time	121.7	119.8	-1.9	1.9	-1.6	1.6
Unemployment	37.2	34.3	-2.9	5.5	-7.8	19.1
Participation rate	70.1	69.5	-0.6	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.7	5.3	-0.4	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	66.1	65.7	-0.4	-0.9	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	781.0	782.1	1.1	11.4	0.1	1.5
Labour force	544.2	544.3	0.1	3.2	0.0	0.6
Employment	516.9	519.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.1
Full-time	415.0	421.8	6.8	-4.3	1.6	-1.0
Part-time	101.9	97.2	-4.7	3.8	-4.6	4.1
Unemployment	27.3	25.3	-2.0	3.7	-7.3	17.1
Participation rate	69.7	69.6	-0.1	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.6	-0.4	0.6	...	...
Employment rate	66.2	66.4	0.2	-1.0	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,876.0	2,882.2	6.2	74.0	0.2	2.6
Labour force	2,136.8	2,134.0	-2.8	32.1	-0.1	1.5
Employment	1,979.1	1,982.1	3.0	-39.6	0.2	-2.0
Full-time	1,613.2	1,627.9	14.7	-59.5	0.9	-3.5
Part-time	365.9	354.2	-11.7	19.9	-3.2	6.0
Unemployment	157.7	151.9	-5.8	71.7	-3.7	89.4
Participation rate	74.3	74.0	-0.3	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.1	-0.3	3.3	...	...
Employment rate	68.8	68.8	0.0	-3.2	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,714.5	3,722.6	8.1	64.0	0.2	1.7
Labour force	2,447.0	2,452.7	5.7	21.5	0.2	0.9
Employment	2,255.7	2,270.1	14.4	-45.9	0.6	-2.0
Full-time	1,774.8	1,777.0	2.2	-67.5	0.1	-3.7
Part-time	480.8	493.1	12.3	21.7	2.6	4.6
Unemployment	191.3	182.6	-8.7	67.3	-4.5	58.4
Participation rate	65.9	65.9	0.0	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.4	-0.4	2.7	...	...
Employment rate	60.7	61.0	0.3	-2.3	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.