

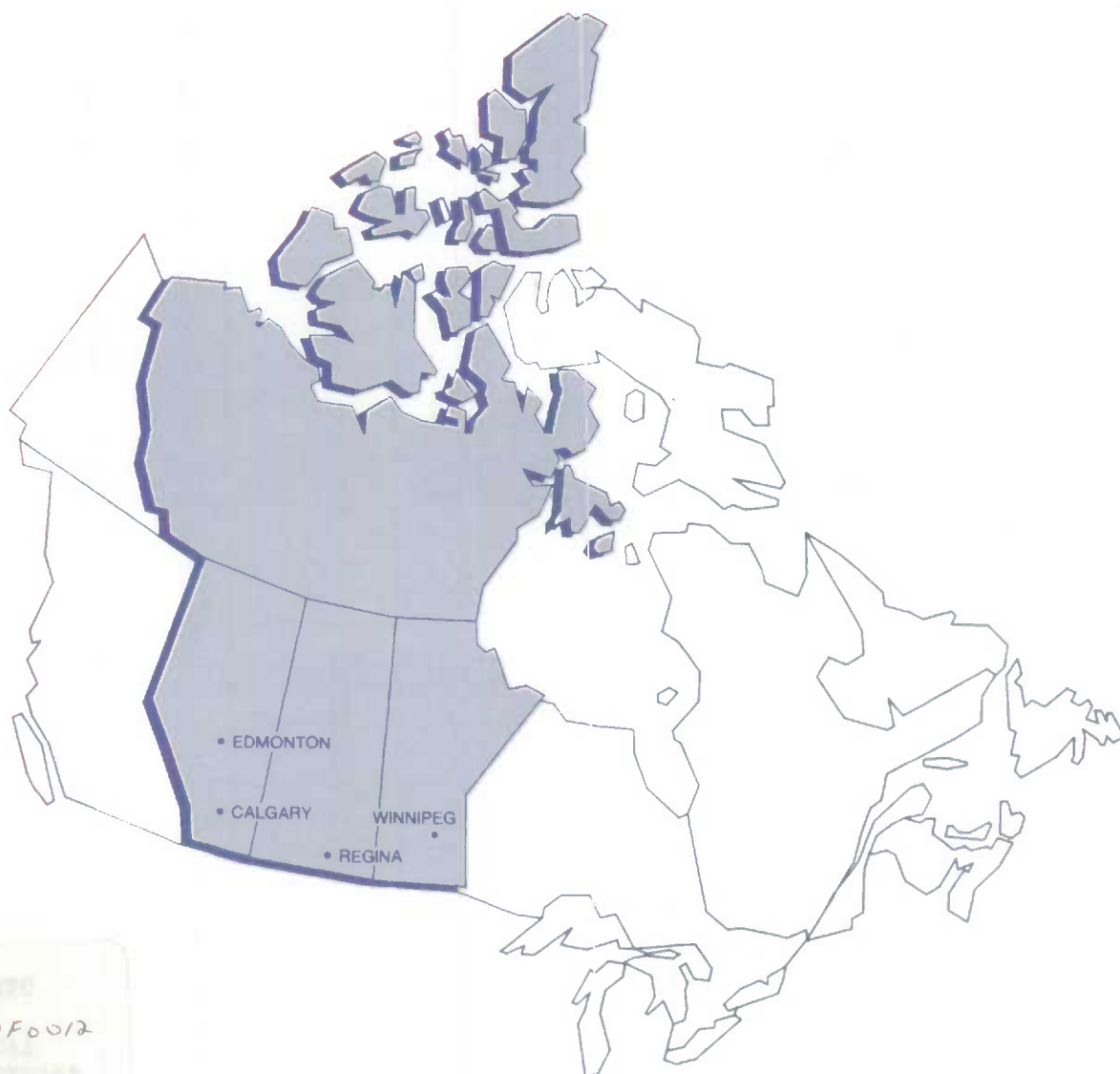
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Prairie Update

Economic indicator
report

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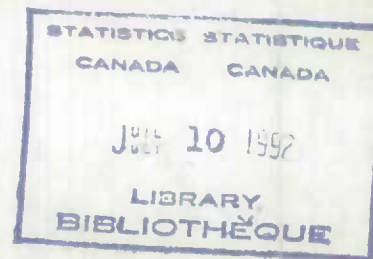
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P R A I R I E U P D A T E

Economic Indicator Report

March 1991

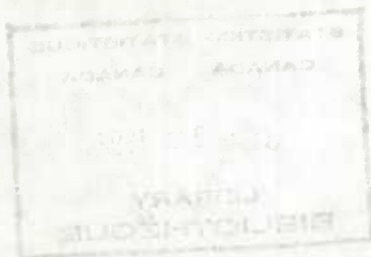
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Source: Statistics Canada. Prepared using CANSIM (Statistics
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COST: \$50.00 per year



PRAIRIE HIGHLIGHTS

ALBERTA

The unemployment rate in Edmonton for February 1991 was 8.8%, down from 9.9% in January 1991, but still slightly higher than the 8.3% rate of February 1990. Calgary, however, has seen an increase in its unemployment rate, from 8.9% in January 1991 to 9.0% in February of the same year. This is also a significant increase from the 7.1% of February 1990. The Alberta unemployment rate was 8.2% versus 7.3% in the previous year.

The All-Items Consumer Price Index for Edmonton rose 6.5% over the last year to 122.5 as of February 1991. Calgary's current All-items Index is 122.9, up 6.8% over the past 12 months. These increases represent a slight drop from the 7.9% and 8.2% seen in Edmonton and Calgary in January of 1991.

The January New Housing Price Index for Edmonton increased 9.8% over the past 12 months, bringing the index to 140.7. Calgary's January index stands at 133.2, with an increase of only 0.9% over the last year.

Alberta retail sales for the year 1990 have reached a total of \$19,713,000,000.00, topping the 1989 total of \$17,106,208,000.00 by 15.2%. Alberta ranked fourth following Ontario (\$72.7 billion), Quebec (\$47.6 billion) and British Columbia (\$25.0 billion).

SASKATCHEWAN

Between January and February, the All-items Index of the Consumer Price Index fell by 0.5% in Regina. The largest downward impact originated in the Transportation Index, where lower prices for gasoline were noted. Lower prices were also noted for fresh fruit, cereal and bakery products, and sugar. Since February 1990, this index has risen 4.8%, the second lowest increase of all the major cities in Canada. Toronto was the lowest at 4.4%.

In Saskatoon, their index fell by 0.4% between January and February. Lower prices were observed for fresh fruit, beef, chicken, and bakery products. Since February 1990, the All-items Index has risen by 5.4%.

The All-items Index for Saskatchewan in February was 124.0 based on 1986 = 100. Between January and February, the index declined by 0.4%. The increase between February 1990 and 1991 was 5.0%.

MANITOBA

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Manitoba climbed in February to 8.5%, up from 7.8% last month; resuming the trend of increasing levels of unemployment exhibited in the last 3 months of 1990. On an unadjusted basis, employment in the province dropped to 483,000, down 1,000 from last month and 11,000 less than last February. Surprisingly, the services sector is bearing the employment loss over the year as employment has dropped by 11,000 jobs while the goods producing sector is employing the same number of workers. Manufacturing employment, however, continued to fall, dropping to 53,000. Nationally, employment is down 332,000 persons from last February.

The Consumer Price Index in Winnipeg fell by 0.2% on a monthly basis and dropped to 6.1% on an annual basis in February from 6.8% last month. The largest downward contribution came from transportation, where lower prices for gasoline more than offset higher fares for local transit. The food index registered a slight decline due to lower prices for fresh fruit, sugar, bakery products, beef and pork. Further downward pressure resulted from lower prices for personal care supplies, cigarettes and served alcoholic beverages. Moderating the impact of these declines were advances in the clothing and housing components. The rise in the latter was mainly due to higher prices for household furnishing and equipment, and increased charges for rented and owned accommodation. Price increases for packaged holiday trips were also registered.

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
LABOUR FORCE ('000)						
Canada.....	91-Feb	13471.	13407.	0.5	13419.	0.4
Manitoba.....	91-Feb	534.	530.	0.8	536.	-0.4
Winnipeg.....	91-Feb	333.	332.	0.3	335.	-0.6
Saskatchewan.....	91-Feb	474.	475.	-0.2	470.	0.9
Regina.....	91-Feb	96.	97.	-1.0	94.	2.1
Saskatoon.....	91-Feb	92.	90.	2.2	92.	0.0
Alberta.....	91-Feb	1327.	1325.	0.3	1304.	1.9
Edmonton.....	91-Feb	403.	391.	2.3	396.	1.0
Calgary.....	91-Feb	392.	396.	-1.0	382.	2.6
EMPLOYED ('000)						
Canada.....	91-Feb	11956.	11952.	0.0	12288.	-2.7
Manitoba.....	91-Feb	483.	484.	-0.2	494.	-2.2
Winnipeg.....	91-Feb	299.	301.	-0.7	308.	-2.9
Saskatchewan.....	91-Feb	432.	435.	-0.7	432.	0.0
Regina.....	91-Feb	89.	89.	0.0	85.	4.7
Saskatoon.....	91-Feb	79.	79.	0.0	84.	-6.0
Alberta.....	91-Feb	1220.	1209.	0.9	1209.	0.9
Edmonton.....	91-Feb	345.	352.	3.7	363.	0.6
Calgary.....	91-Feb	356.	361.	-1.4	355.	0.3
UNEMPLOYED ('000)						
Canada.....	91-Feb	1515.	1455.	4.1	1131.	34.0
Manitoba.....	91-Feb	51.	46.	10.9	43.	18.6
Winnipeg.....	91-Feb	34.	31.	9.7	27.	25.9
Saskatchewan.....	91-Feb	42.	40.	5.0	38.	10.5
Regina.....	91-Feb	7.	8.	-12.5	9.	-22.2
Saskatoon.....	91-Feb	13.	11.	18.2	8.	62.5
Alberta.....	91-Feb	109.	116.	-6.0	95.	14.7
Edmonton.....	91-Feb	35.	39.	-10.3	33.	6.1
Calgary.....	91-Feb	35.	35.	0.0	27.	29.6
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)						
Canada.....	91-Feb	11.2	10.9		8.4	
Manitoba.....	91-Feb	9.5	8.7		7.9	
Winnipeg.....	91-Feb	10.1	9.3		8.1	
Saskatchewan.....	91-Feb	8.9	8.4		8.1	
Regina.....	91-Feb	7.4	7.8		10.0	
Saskatoon.....	91-Feb	14.1	12.3		8.7	
Alberta.....	91-Feb	8.2	8.7		7.3	
Edmonton.....	91-Feb	8.8	9.9		8.3	
Calgary.....	91-Feb	9.0	8.9		7.1	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%) (Seasonally Adjusted)						
Canada.....	91-Feb	10.2	9.7		7.6	
Manitoba.....	91-Feb	8.5	7.8		7.0	
Saskatchewan.....	91-Feb	7.6	7.0		6.9	
Alberta.....	91-Feb	7.6	7.9		6.7	

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
PARTICIPATION RATE (%)						
Canada.....	91-Feb	65.3	65.1		66.1	
Manitoba.....	91-Feb	66.1	65.7		66.7	
Winnipeg.....	91-Feb	67.0	66.9		68.0	
Saskatchewan.....	91-Feb	65.8	65.9		64.9	
Regina.....	91-Feb	69.0	69.5		67.8	
Saskatoon.....	91-Feb	66.0	64.4		66.6	
Alberta.....	91-Feb	71.5	71.4		71.5	
Edmonton.....	91-Feb	70.9	69.4		71.4	
Calgary.....	91-Feb	72.8	73.8		73.1	

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

(All Employees, incl.
overtime)

INDUSTRIAL AGGREGATE (\$)

Canada.....	90-Dec	523.41	523.12	0.06	496.59	5.40
Manitoba.....	90-Dec	466.24	464.88	0.29	454.90	2.49
Saskatchewan.....	90-Dec	457.42	454.67	0.60	433.30	5.57
Alberta.....	90-Dec	514.80	516.01	-0.23	490.68	4.92

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

ALL-ITEMS (1986=100)

Canada.....	91-Feb	125.0	125.0	0.0	117.7	6.2
Manitoba.....	91-Feb	124.1	124.2	-0.1	117.0	6.1
Saskatchewan.....	91-Feb	124.0	124.5	-0.4	118.1	5.0
Alberta.....	91-Feb	122.7	123.9	-1.0	115.2	6.5
Winnipeg.....	91-Feb	124.1	124.3	-0.2	117.0	6.1
Regina.....	91-Feb	123.4	124.0	-0.5	117.7	4.8
Saskatoon.....	91-Feb	124.0	124.5	-0.4	117.7	5.4
Edmonton.....	91-Feb	122.5	123.9	-1.1	115.0	6.5
Calgary.....	91-Feb	122.9	123.9	-0.8	115.1	6.8

FOOD

Canada.....	91-Feb	120.9	120.9	0.0	115.1	5.0
Winnipeg.....	91-Feb	122.7	123.0	-0.2	116.5	5.3
Regina.....	91-Feb	125.0	125.3	-0.2	116.8	7.0
Saskatoon.....	91-Feb	124.4	124.9	-0.4	116.7	6.6
Edmonton.....	91-Feb	119.0	119.7	-0.6	111.7	6.5
Calgary.....	91-Feb	120.5	119.8	0.6	110.4	9.1

NEW HOUSING PRICE INDEX

(1986=100)

Canada.....	91-Jan	133.4	136.1	-2.0	146.2	-8.8
Winnipeg.....	91-Jan	108.6	108.9	-0.3	107.0	1.5
Regina.....	91-Jan	109.6	109.3	0.3	107.5	2.0
Saskatoon.....	91-Jan	107.3	107.7	-0.4	107.2	0.1
Edmonton.....	91-Jan	140.7	140.1	0.4	128.2	9.8
Calgary.....	91-Jan	133.2	133.2	0.0	132.0	0.9

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG, YTD over same period last yr.
MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS (\$'000)						
Canada.....	91-Jan	22006147.	22546280.	-2.6	22006147.	-2.4
Manitoba.....	91-Jan	510590.	565420.	-9.7	510590.	-9.7
Saskatchewan.....	91-Jan	316705.	269202.	-17.6	316705.	17.6
Alberta.....	91-Jan	1637778.	1492615.	# 9.7	1637778.	9.7
RETAIL SALES (millions \$)						
Department Store						
Type Merchandise (Raw)						
All Stores						
Canada.....	90-Dec	9134.	8877.	2.9	68398.	2.0
Manitoba.....	90-Dec	324.	313.	3.5	2375.	1.2
Saskatchewan.....	90-Dec	271.	261.	3.8	2079.	2.9
Alberta.....	90-Dec	1003.	962.	4.3	7698.	6.4
RETAIL SALES (millions \$)						
Canada, Total, All Stores(Raw).....	90-Dec	19516.	19713.	-1.0	194730.	1.0
Supermarkets and Grocery stores.....	90-Dec	3744.	3836.	-2.4	42126.	2.6
All other food stores.....	90-Dec	371.	375.	-1.1	3588.	4.3
Drugs and medicine.....	90-Dec	1035.	944.	9.6	9687.	11.5
Men's clothing stores.....	90-Dec	366.	356.	2.8	2206.	-0.3
Women's clothing stores.....	90-Dec	537.	517.	3.9	4132.	5.5
Other clothing stores.....	90-Dec	643.	626.	2.7	4490.	-1.9
Household furnitures and appl.....	90-Dec	1143.	1050.	8.9	9180.	-3.3
Recreational and motor veh.....	90-Dec	2477.	2862.	-13.5	41958.	-4.9
Gasoline service stations.....	90-Dec	1292.	1220.	5.9	14565.	5.0
General merchandise stores.....	90-Dec	2999.	2909.	3.1	20872.	1.5
Manitoba, Total, All Stores.....	90-Dec	709.	719.	-1.4	6986.	2.4
Saskatchewan, Total, All Stores.....	90-Dec	633.	612.	3.4	6351.	2.6
Alberta, Total, All Stores.....	90-Dec	2002.	1970.	1.6	19713.	2.4
BUILDING PERMITS (\$'000)						
Manitoba-Total.....	90-Dec	24745.	32158.	-23.1	731541.	-12.6
Man Residential Total.....	90-Dec	8136.	17253.	-52.8	344012.	-12.7
Man Non-Residential Total.....	90-Dec	16609.	14905.	11.4	387529.	-12.5
Winnipeg.....	90-Dec	21509.	27870.	-22.8	480575.	-27.2
Saskatchewan-Total.....	90-Dec	9776.	24052.	-59.4	453897.	-9.7
Sask Residential Total.....	90-Dec	2428.	3178.	-23.6	123496.	-14.6
Sask Non-Residential Total.....	90-Dec	7348.	20874.	-64.8	330401.	-7.7
Regina.....	90-Dec	2920.	15074.	-80.6	111995.	-24.0
Saskatoon.....	90-Dec	4604.	4039.	14.0	180819.	-20.0
Alberta-Total.....	90-Dec	158792.	164573.	-3.5	2991058.	16.9
Alta Residential Total.....	90-Dec	52307.	100957.	-48.2	1657206.	24.0
Alta Non-Residential Total.....	90-Dec	106485.	63616.	67.4	1333852.	9.2
Edmonton.....	90-Dec	56358.	49317.	14.3	958965.	6.7
Calgary.....	90-Dec	43164.	75356.	-42.7	1069940.	7.9

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG, YTD over same period last yr.
HOUSING STARTS (#)						
Canada (centres 10,000+).....	91-Jan	5402.	13063.	-58.6	5402.	-58.6
Manitoba (centres 10,000+).....	91-Jan	58.	260.	-77.7	58.	-77.7
Winnipeg.....	91-Jan	48.	251.	-80.9	48.	-80.9
Saskatchewan (centres 10,000+)..	91-Jan	27.	46.	-41.3	27.	-41.3
Alberta (centres 10,000+).....	91-Jan	400.	1198.	-66.6	400.	-66.6
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION (MWH)						
TOTAL ENERGY GENERATION						
Manitoba.....	90-Dec	2032067.	1852059.	9.7	20149242.	7.5
Saskatchewan.....	90-Dec	1292074.	1323042.	-2.3	13540023.	0.3
Alberta.....	90-Dec	4091811.	3901702.	4.9	42874401.	-1.1
TOTAL HYDRO GENERATION						
Manitoba.....	90-Dec	1954857.	1732540.	12.8	19746872.	7.9
Saskatchewan.....	90-Dec	294135.	314146.	-6.4	4220227.	49.0
Alberta.....	90-Dec	126396.	124214.	1.8	2059850.	28.9

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS						
(All Employees, incl. overtime)						
INDUSTRIAL AGGREGATE (\$)						
Northwest Territories...	90-Dec	733.64	735.89	-0.31	667.13	9.97
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX						
ALL-ITEMS (1986=100)						
Yellowknife.....	91-Feb	121.8	121.7	0.1	113.9	6.9
FOOD						
Yellowknife.....	91-Feb	116.5	116.0	0.4	110.7	5.2

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG, YTD over same period last yr.
RETAIL SALES (millions \$)						
Department Store						
Type Merchandise (Raw)						
All stores						
Northwest Territories.....	90-Dec	21.	22.	-4.5	194.	1.0
RETAIL SALES (millions \$(Raw)						
Northwest Territories						
Total, All Stores.....	90-Dec	31.	32.	-3.1	311.	3.3
BUILDING PERMITS (\$'000)						
Northwest Territories-Total....	90-Dec	1890.	570.	231.6	59794.	-13.0
M.W.T. Residential Total....	90-Dec	796.	474.	67.9	23061.	-26.5
M.W.T. Non-Residential Total	90-Dec	1094.	96.	1039.6	36733.	-1.6
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION (MWH)						
TOTAL ENERGY GENERATION						
Northwest Territories.....	90-Dec	47003.	46664.	0.7	471674.	0.4
TOTAL HYDRO GENERATION						
Northwest Territories.....	90-Dec	23867.	23978.	-0.5	257185.	-0.9

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March 1991

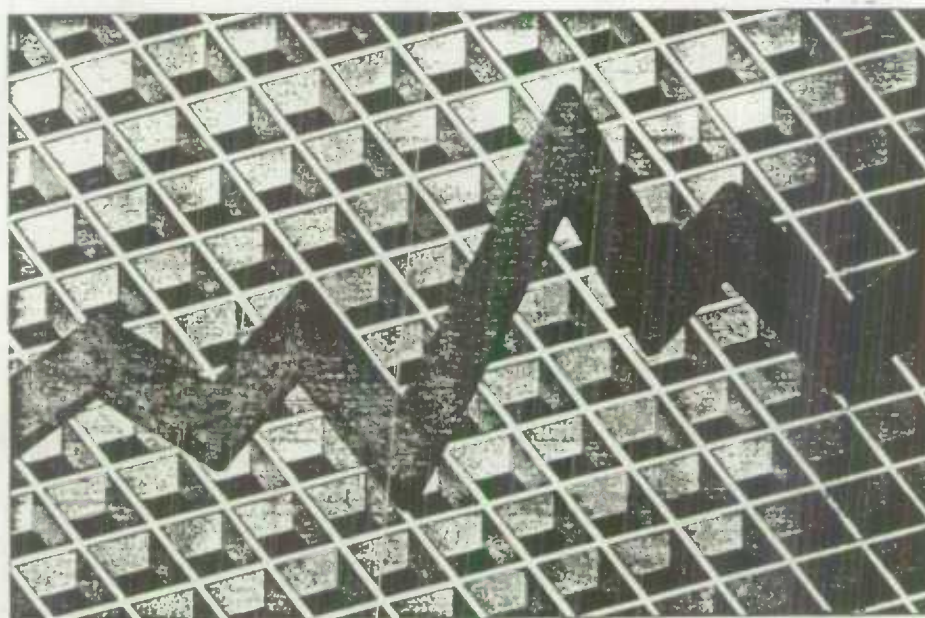
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DEFINITIONS

Labour Force - that portion of the civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the reference week were employed or unemployed

Employed - persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all or had a job but were not at work due to: (1) own illness or disability (2) personal or family responsibilities (3) bad weather (4) labour dispute (5) vacation (6) other reason not specified above (excluding persons on layoff and persons whose job attachment was to a job to start at a definite date in the future)

Unemployed - persons who, during the reference week, were without work and were available for work, had been on layoff, or had a new job to start in four weeks or less from the reference week

Unemployment Rate - represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a per cent of the labour force

Participation Rate - represents the labour force expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over

Employment/Population Ratio - represents the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over

SA (Seasonally Adjusted) - A seasonally adjusted series is one from which seasonal movements have been eliminated. Seasonal movements are defined as those which are caused by regular annual events such as climate, crop cycles, holidays and vacation periods. It should be noted that the seasonally-adjusted series contains irregular as well as longer-term cyclical fluctuations.

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