



The Daily

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Labour Force Survey: Western Canada's off-reserve Aboriginal population, 2

April 2004 to March 2005

Labour market conditions have improved for off-reserve Aboriginal people in western Canada. However, gaps still persist between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population, according to new data from the Labour Force Survey.

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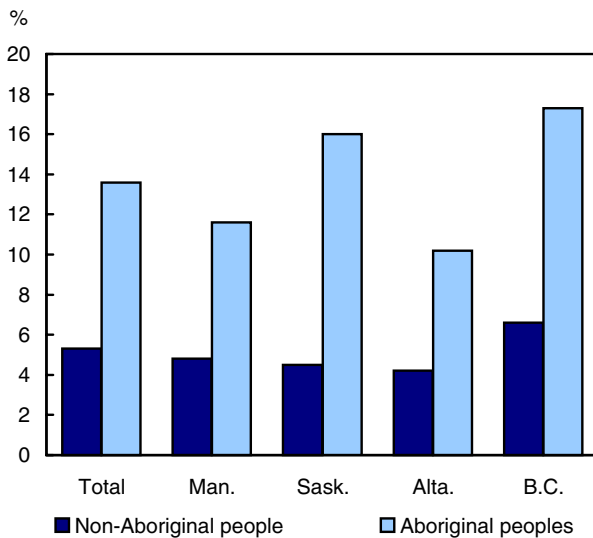
Releases

Labour Force Survey: Western Canada's off-reserve Aboriginal population

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Unemployment rates, off-reserve Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people in Western Canada



During the 12 months ending in March 2005, unemployment rates for Aboriginal people residing in the West were 2.5 times higher than for non-Aboriginal people, on average. Additionally, the transition into the labour market was particularly difficult for Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24.

On the other hand, there were a number of positive findings. For example, Métis had relative success in the labour market, with employment rates similar to those of non-Aboriginal people. Moreover, a robust Alberta

Note to readers

Beginning in August 2002 at the request of the Alberta government, Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) added questions that made it possible for Aboriginal people living off-reserve to identify themselves as North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.

These questions were subsequently added to the LFS in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in April 2004.

As a result, for the first time ever, the LFS is now announcing details about labour market conditions for off-reserve Aboriginal people in the four western-most provinces. Such data were previously available only from the census.

This report uses the new LFS data and data from the 2001 Census of Population to analyze the labour market conditions of this population on a province-by-province basis. Effective immediately, key employment data on Aboriginal people living off-reserve will be available on a monthly basis.

economy produced strong labour market outcomes for Aboriginal people. Finally, completion of postsecondary education was particularly important for Aboriginal people since it dramatically increased their chance of obtaining employment.

Improvements for Aboriginal people in recent years

On the whole, off-reserve Aboriginal people in western Canada did not have as much success in the labour market in 2004/05 as non-Aboriginal people.

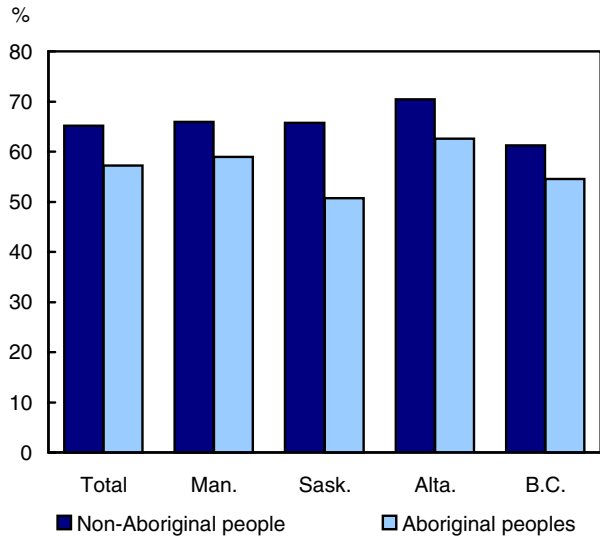
Gaps between the employment and unemployment rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people remained. However, they are shrinking as a result of key improvements in the labour market performance of Aboriginal people.

Employment rates have risen in recent years, while unemployment rates have declined.

In fact, the share of off-reserve Aboriginal people in the West who had a job increased from 54.2% in 2001 to 57.2% in 2005. Still, this was well below the proportion of 65.2% among non-Aboriginal persons.

At the same time, the unemployment rate for these Aboriginal people fell from 16.7% in 2001 to 13.6% in 2005. However, this was more than double the rate of 5.3% among non-Aboriginal people.

Employment rates, off-reserve Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people in Western Canada



Métis and North American Indians had very different labour market experiences, and Métis were much more likely to be employed than North American Indians.

In 2005, the employment rate for Métis was 63.7%, compared with 50.1% for North American Indians. Similarly, the unemployment rate was 10.5% for Métis, and 17.7% for North American Indians.

Aboriginal peoples in Alberta fared better

While Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan had the most difficulty finding employment, Alberta's economic prosperity benefited the Aboriginal population along with the non-Aboriginal population.

Off-reserve Aboriginal peoples in Alberta had the highest employment rate (62.6%) and the lowest unemployment rate (10.2%) compared with the other western provinces. In fact, their employment rate was similar to the Canadian average in 2005 of 62.7%.

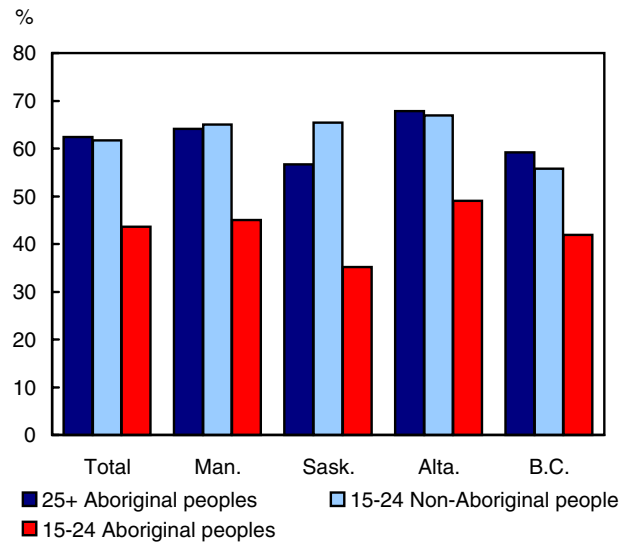
In contrast, Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan faced greater hardship in the labour market. Not only was their employment rate the lowest of all the western provinces at 50.7%, but their unemployment rate was very high at 16.0%.

Aboriginal youth: Tough times in the job market

Aboriginal youth, a growing group, struggled to obtain employment in western Canada.

While the situation improved for Aboriginal youths in the labour market between 1996 and 2005, this group made few gains since 2001.

Off-reserve employment rates in Western Canada, youths (15 to 24) and adults (25+)

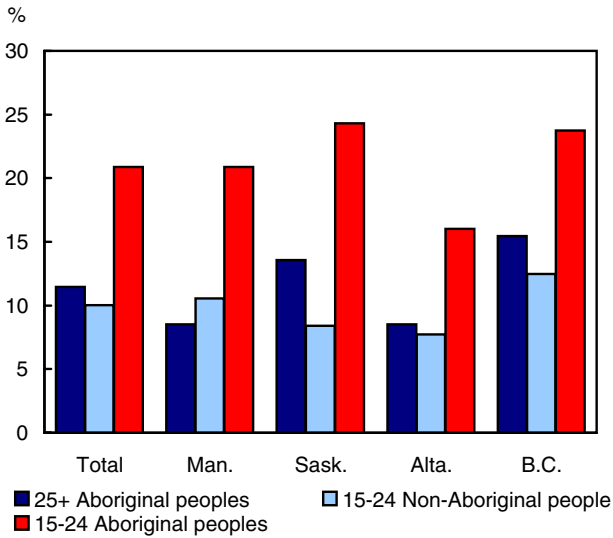


In 2005, Aboriginal youths in western Canada had particular difficulty in the labour market, experiencing an employment rate of 43.6% compared with 61.7% for non-Aboriginal youths.

The unemployment rate for Aboriginal youth was more than double that of non-Aboriginal youth — 20.8% compared with 10.0%.

Of the four western provinces, Saskatchewan had the lowest employment rate (35.2%) and the highest unemployment rate (24.7%) among Aboriginal youth. In contrast, Aboriginal youth in Alberta fared better than those in other provinces.

Off-reserve unemployment rates in Western Canada, youths (15 to 24) and adults (25+)



The employment rate for Aboriginal people aged 25 to 64 who had finished postsecondary education was 82.5% in western Canada, just shy of the 83.5% for non-Aboriginal persons.

In Saskatchewan, the difference was greater. Just over six percentage points separated the non-Aboriginal rate of 86.1% from the Aboriginal rate of 80.0%. Both British Columbia and Manitoba showed differences of less than three percentage points.

Education also considerably narrowed the gap in unemployment rates. For postsecondary-educated Aboriginal people, the unemployment rate was 6.9% compared with 3.9% for non-Aboriginal people.

In comparison, the unemployment rate for all levels of education was 4.4% for non-Aboriginal people aged 25 to 64 and 11.5% for Aboriginal people.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

The report *Aboriginal Peoples in Western Canada: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (71-587-XIE, free)* is now available. From the *Our products and services* page under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free then Labour*.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243) or Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325), Labour Statistics Division.

Education: Levelling the playing field

While many Aboriginal people in western Canada had a harder time in the labour market than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, those who had completed some form of postsecondary education, such as trade school, college or university, did not.

Selected off-reserve labour force characteristics, April 2004 to March 2005

Identity	Total western provinces	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
%					
Employment rate					
Non-aboriginal	65.2	65.9	65.7	70.4	61.2
Aboriginal	57.2	58.9	50.7	62.6	54.5
North-American Indian	50.1	48.6	42.1	57.4	49.8
Metis	63.7	65.6	57.9	66.4	62.5
Unemployment rate					
Non-aboriginal	5.3	4.8	4.5	4.2	6.6
Aboriginal	13.6	11.6	16.0	10.2	17.3
North-American Indian	17.7	14.9	21.0	12.9	20.9
Metis	10.5	10.0	12.6	8.6	12.2
Participation rate					
Non-aboriginal	68.9	69.2	68.7	73.5	65.5
Aboriginal	66.2	66.6	60.3	69.7	65.9
North-American Indian	60.9	57.0	53.3	65.8	62.9
Metis	71.2	72.9	66.2	72.7	71.2

Flows and stocks of fixed residential capital

2004 (revised)

The revised annual fixed residential capital flows and stocks series at the provincial level for 2004 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 030-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5016.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

New products

Aboriginal Peoples Living Off-Reserve in Western Canada: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, April 2004 to March 2005
Catalogue number 71-587-XIE
 (free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 100 on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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