



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Employment increased by an estimated 25,000 in February as a large gain in part time more than offset losses in full time. At the same time, the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 6.4%, matching the 30-year low set in November 2005.

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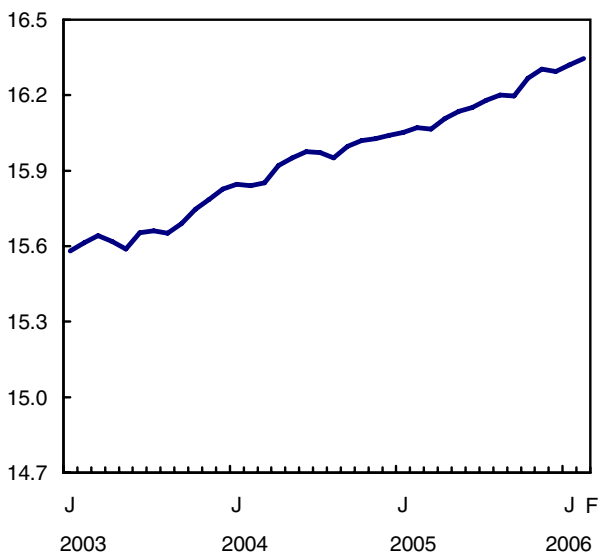
Labour Force Survey

February 2006

Employment increased by an estimated 25,000 in February as a large gain in part time more than offset losses in full time. At the same time, the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 6.4%, matching the 30-year low set in November 2005.

Employment

Millions Seasonally adjusted



Over the last year, employment has increased by 275,000 (+1.7%), almost half of which has been in British Columbia and Alberta.

In February, Alberta registered its second largest monthly employment gain, causing the unemployment rate to fall to 3.1%, the lowest rate in three decades. February's increases were driven by hiring in the service industries. Wages in the province continued to rise as employers competed for scarce labour.

The unemployment rate also fell in Ontario in February, dropping 0.3 percentage points to 6.2%. While it was added employment that caused Alberta's unemployment rate to fall, in Ontario, it was the result of fewer people looking for work.

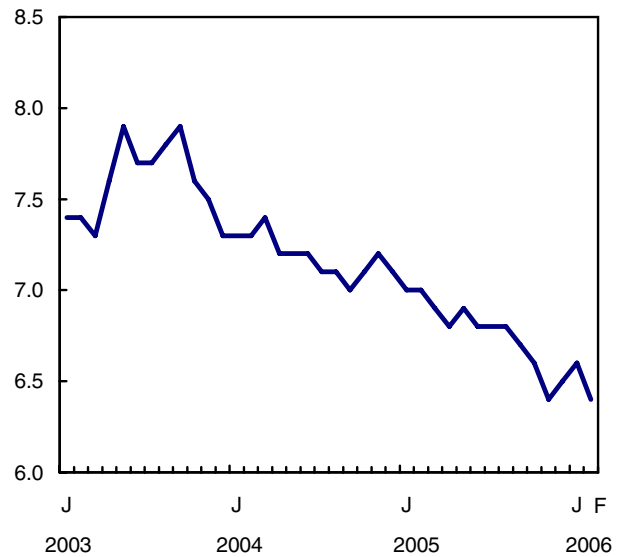
The decline in labour force participation in Ontario also affected the national participation rate, which fell in February by 0.2 percentage points to 67.0%. The rate

has been on a downward trend since June 2004 when it peaked at 67.7%.

The unemployment rate in British Columbia dropped 0.3 percentage points in February to 4.8%, the lowest rate in the last three decades. Much of the downward trend in the province's unemployment rate is due to a strengthened labour market in the Vancouver area.

Unemployment rate

% Seasonally adjusted



The West continues to boom

Employment increased by 25,000 in Alberta in February, driven by gains in business, building and other support services, trade, public administration and "other services." Youths received the lion's share of February's added employment, with an increase of 15,000. The unemployment rate in the province dropped as a result of the employment increase, which fell to 3.1%, a record-low for the province.

Alberta's red hot economy also spurred hourly wage growth of 6.1% over the past 12 months. This is well ahead of the 3.3% hourly wage growth at the Canada-level and the most recent year-over-year increase of 2.8% in the national Consumer Price Index.

In both British Columbia and Alberta, employment has grown by 3.5% in the last year, double the national rate of employment growth.

Although employment decreased by 17,000 in February in Ontario, the unemployment rate fell to 6.2%, mainly due to a large drop in the number of youths looking for work. Employment in manufacturing edged up in February, following large losses in January.

Manufacturing employment in Ontario has declined by 81,000 since the end of 2002. However, as the manufacturing industry adjusts to a rise in the Canadian dollar and other factors, other industries in the provincial economy have added workers at a steady clip. Over the previous 12 months, for example, education was up 13.2%, while construction employment was 11.8% higher. Overall, employment in Ontario in February was 88,000 (+1.4%) above the same month a year earlier.

In February, employment in Newfoundland and Labrador increased by 6,000, pushing the unemployment rate down by 1.4 percentage points to 15.1%. The largest increases in employment came from hiring in natural resources and professional, scientific and technical services. With the increase in February, employment is up 0.8% from 12 months ago.

Youth labour market gaining strength

Despite little employment growth throughout 2004 and the first three quarters of 2005, the youth job market has strengthened in the last five months. In February, youth employment was up 14,000, bringing gains since September 2005 to 67,000 (+2.7%). The youth unemployment rate declined by 1.0 percentage point to 11.4% in February.

Employment among adult women (aged 25 and over) was unchanged in February, as an increase in part-time employment offset a similar decrease in full time. Despite February's part-time gain, employment growth among adult women over the last year has been driven by strength in full time.

More hiring in trade

Employment in trade increased by 25,000 in February, buoyed by hiring in the wholesaling of machinery and equipment as well as personal and household goods. Overall, employment in trade has increased 3.0% from a year ago.

Construction employment was up 14,000 in February, continuing its upward trend. Compared to a year ago, employment in the industry has grown by 8.9% (+87,000).

Nationally, manufacturing employment was little changed in February. Although there have been major declines since the end of 2002 (-177,000 or -7.6%), this pales in comparison to the severe contraction (-329,000 or -15.3%) experienced over the same span of time during the early 1990s.

Employment in public administration fell by 20,000 in February, almost entirely at the federal level and across most provinces. Employment in the industry had increased as a result of temporary hiring for the most recent federal election.

Natural resources employment fell by 8,000 in February, driven entirely by declines in mining. Nevertheless, employment in the industry is still 3.3% above its level from a year ago, due to strength from oil and gas in Alberta.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

Available at 7:00 a.m. on our Web site. From the home page, choose *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Labour Force Survey*.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information*, is available today for the week ending February 18 (71-001-XIE, \$9/\$84). LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The 2005 *Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM* (71F0004XCB, \$209) is also now available. See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also available in the *Canadian Statistics* module of our Web site.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on Friday, April 7.

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 Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243), Labour Statistics Division.

□

Employment by type of work, age and sex, seasonally adjusted

	February 2006	January to February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006	February 2006	January to February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006	February 2006	January to February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006
seasonally adjusted									
	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	'000								
Employment	16,345.7	24.7	275.1	8,690.8	27.8	151.9	7,654.9	-3.1	123.2
Full-time	13,342.8	-31.6	241.0	7,718.6	4.2	105.9	5,624.2	-35.8	135.1
Part-time	3,002.9	56.3	34.1	972.1	23.5	45.9	2,030.8	32.8	-11.8
15-24	2,526.2	13.9	55.3	1,277.4	15.8	37.3	1,248.8	-1.9	18.0
25 and over	13,819.5	10.8	219.7	7,413.4	12.0	114.6	6,406.1	-1.2	105.1
25-54	11,546.5	-17.7	109.7	6,110.4	6.6	72.6	5,436.1	-24.3	37.1
55 and over	2,273.0	28.6	110.0	1,303.0	5.4	42.0	970.0	23.2	68.1

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	January 2006	February 2006	January to February 2006	January 2006	February 2006	January to February 2006
seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	17,473.5	17,455.5	-0.1	67.2	67.0	-0.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	250.8	253.5	1.1	58.5	59.1	0.6
Prince Edward Island	77.0	77.4	0.5	68.8	69.1	0.3
Nova Scotia	480.4	482.2	0.4	63.0	63.2	0.2
New Brunswick	393.6	396.5	0.7	64.4	64.9	0.5
Quebec	4,092.1	4,085.4	-0.2	65.8	65.6	-0.2
Ontario	6,897.4	6,858.6	-0.6	67.8	67.4	-0.4
Manitoba	612.9	612.9	0.0	68.9	68.9	0.0
Saskatchewan	509.3	509.2	0.0	68.1	68.1	0.0
Alberta	1,875.5	1,894.6	1.0	72.2	72.8	0.6
British Columbia	2,284.5	2,285.1	0.0	65.6	65.5	-0.1
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	16,321.0	16,345.7	0.2	62.7	62.8	0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	209.3	215.2	2.8	48.8	50.2	1.4
Prince Edward Island	68.7	69.0	0.4	61.4	61.6	0.2
Nova Scotia	442.8	441.7	-0.2	58.1	57.9	-0.2
New Brunswick	358.7	359.2	0.1	58.7	58.8	0.1
Quebec	3,746.3	3,749.4	0.1	60.2	60.2	0.0
Ontario	6,449.0	6,431.8	-0.3	63.4	63.2	-0.2
Manitoba	586.3	586.1	0.0	65.9	65.8	-0.1
Saskatchewan	482.9	482.2	-0.1	64.6	64.5	-0.1
Alberta	1,810.2	1,835.3	1.4	69.7	70.5	0.8
British Columbia	2,166.9	2,175.9	0.4	62.2	62.4	0.2
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,152.5	1,109.8	-3.7	6.6	6.4	-0.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	41.5	38.4	-7.5	16.5	15.1	-1.4
Prince Edward Island	8.3	8.4	1.2	10.8	10.9	0.1
Nova Scotia	37.6	40.5	7.7	7.8	8.4	0.6
New Brunswick	34.9	37.3	6.9	8.9	9.4	0.5
Quebec	345.7	336.0	-2.8	8.4	8.2	-0.2
Ontario	448.4	426.9	-4.8	6.5	6.2	-0.3
Manitoba	26.6	26.8	0.8	4.3	4.4	0.1
Saskatchewan	26.4	27.0	2.3	5.2	5.3	0.1
Alberta	65.4	59.3	-9.3	3.5	3.1	-0.4
British Columbia	117.6	109.2	-7.1	5.1	4.8	-0.3

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	February 2005	February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006	February 2005	February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006
unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	17,042.3	17,200.6	0.9	66.4	66.0	-0.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	238.2	239.8	0.7	55.4	55.9	0.5
Prince Edward Island	72.8	73.8	1.4	65.4	65.9	0.5
Nova Scotia	476.1	468.1	-1.7	62.7	61.4	-1.3
New Brunswick	372.9	383.0	2.7	61.2	62.6	1.4
Quebec	3,979.7	4,027.5	1.2	64.7	64.7	0.0
Ontario	6,726.9	6,769.1	0.6	67.3	66.5	-0.8
Manitoba	606.4	605.7	-0.1	68.4	68.0	-0.4
Saskatchewan	503.8	500.9	-0.6	67.4	67.0	-0.4
Alberta	1,824.4	1,872.4	2.6	72.0	71.9	-0.1
British Columbia	2,241.2	2,260.2	0.8	65.5	64.8	-0.7
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,769.2	16,041.7	1.7	61.5	61.6	0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	197.2	199.9	1.4	45.8	46.6	0.8
Prince Edward Island	63.3	63.6	0.5	56.9	56.8	-0.1
Nova Scotia	425.3	423.7	-0.4	56.0	55.6	-0.4
New Brunswick	333.6	342.4	2.6	54.8	56.0	1.2
Quebec	3,622.4	3,667.5	1.2	58.9	58.9	0.0
Ontario	6,259.3	6,340.6	1.3	62.6	62.3	-0.3
Manitoba	573.6	577.6	0.7	64.7	64.9	0.2
Saskatchewan	476.3	471.9	-0.9	63.7	63.1	-0.6
Alberta	1,748.6	1,812.8	3.7	69.0	69.6	0.6
British Columbia	2,069.8	2,141.7	3.5	60.5	61.4	0.9
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,273.1	1,158.9	-9.0	7.5	6.7	-0.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	41.0	40.0	-2.4	17.2	16.7	-0.5
Prince Edward Island	9.5	10.3	8.4	13.0	14.0	1.0
Nova Scotia	50.8	44.4	-12.6	10.7	9.5	-1.2
New Brunswick	39.4	40.6	3.0	10.6	10.6	0.0
Quebec	357.2	360.0	0.8	9.0	8.9	-0.1
Ontario	467.6	428.4	-8.4	7.0	6.3	-0.7
Manitoba	32.9	28.2	-14.3	5.4	4.7	-0.7
Saskatchewan	27.5	29.0	5.5	5.5	5.8	0.3
Alberta	75.8	59.6	-21.4	4.2	3.2	-1.0
British Columbia	171.4	118.5	-30.9	7.6	5.2	-2.4

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by industry (based on NAICS) and class of worker for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	January 2006	February 2006	January to February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006	January to February 2006	February 2005 to February 2006
	seasonally adjusted					
	'000			%		
All industries	16,321.0	16,345.7	24.7	275.1	0.2	1.7
Goods-producing sector	3,971.5	4,002.0	30.5	18.1	0.8	0.5
Agriculture	341.1	351.8	10.7	26.3	3.1	8.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	321.0	313.5	-7.5	10.0	-2.3	3.3
Utilities	121.2	121.6	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.7
Construction	1,057.1	1,071.1	14.0	87.3	1.3	8.9
Manufacturing	2,131.2	2,144.0	12.8	-106.3	0.6	-4.7
Services-producing sector	12,349.5	12,343.7	-5.8	257.0	0.0	2.1
Trade	2,610.6	2,635.7	25.1	77.3	1.0	3.0
Transportation and warehousing	801.4	799.3	-2.1	14.7	-0.3	1.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,007.0	1,016.2	9.2	26.3	0.9	2.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,087.2	1,082.5	-4.7	47.5	-0.4	4.6
Business, building and other support services	673.2	654.0	-19.2	15.2	-2.9	2.4
Educational services	1,154.8	1,164.7	9.9	89.9	0.9	8.4
Health care and social assistance	1,723.4	1,730.4	7.0	-3.5	0.4	-0.2
Information, culture and recreation	743.7	733.4	-10.3	-5.4	-1.4	-0.7
Accommodation and food services	1,014.0	999.9	-14.1	-9.8	-1.4	-1.0
Other services	684.3	698.1	13.8	-4.2	2.0	-0.6
Public administration	850.0	829.7	-20.3	8.9	-2.4	1.1
Class of worker						
Public sector employees	3,201.5	3,180.8	-20.7	88.8	-0.6	2.9
Private sector	13,119.5	13,164.9	45.4	186.3	0.3	1.4
Private employees	10,575.0	10,615.7	40.7	138.7	0.4	1.3
Self-employed	2,544.5	2,549.2	4.7	47.6	0.2	1.9

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



Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost

Fourth quarter and annual 2005

This release was removed from our Web site and replaced by a new release published in *The Daily* on April 26, 2006. Estimates of labour productivity growth in the business sector between 2004 and 2005 have been adjusted upward relative to the estimates which were originally published on March 10. The

new statistics incorporate corrections to the estimates of hours worked in 2005. The estimates originally published on March 10, 2006 did not properly account for the calendar differences between 2004 and 2005, in particular the fact that 2004 had two more working days than 2005.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John R. Baldwin (613-951-8588; fax: 613-951-3292), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending March 4, 2006 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 4 totalled 315 437 metric tonnes, up 2.1% from 309 048 tonnes a week earlier and up 6.5% from 296 213 tonnes in the same week of 2005.

The year-to-date total as of March 4 was 2 664 199 tonnes, down 5.9% from 2 831 780 tonnes in the same period of 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Business Dynamics in Canada

1991 to 2003

The publication *Business Dynamics in Canada, 2003* (61-534-XIE, free), now available, was created using data from the Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program (LEAP) file.

It contains summary tables with information on various aspects of business. These include business creation (births or entry); business destruction (deaths or exits); distribution of firm and employment by size knowledge-based industry and geography; survival rates of firms by knowledge-based industry; and average size of business by knowledge-based industry and by size of firm.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lyne Lafrance (613-951-1804), Analytical Studies Branch. ■

New products

Canada at a Glance, 2006
Catalogue number 12-581-XIE
(free).

Business Dynamics in Canada, 2003
Catalogue number 61-534-XIE
(free).

Labour Force Information, Week ending
February 18, 2006
Catalogue number 71-001-XIE (\$9/\$84).

General Social Survey on Victimization, Cycle 18:
Personal Safety and Perceptions of the Criminal
Justice System in the Territories, 2004
Catalogue number 85-568-XIE
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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
MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 201 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was modestly weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, Apr. 1997** 12

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 **Statistics Canada** 

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release dates: March 13 to 17, 2006

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
13	Industrial capacity utilization rates	Fourth quarter 2005
13	Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing	2004
14	Feeding the dragon: Canadian exporters profit from a booming China	1998 to 2004
14	New motor vehicle sales	January 2006
15	Canada's international investment position	Fourth quarter 2005
15	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	January 2006
16	Consumer Price Index	February 2006
17	National balance sheet accounts	Fourth quarter 2005
17	Wholesale trade	January 2006
