



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, April 7, 2006

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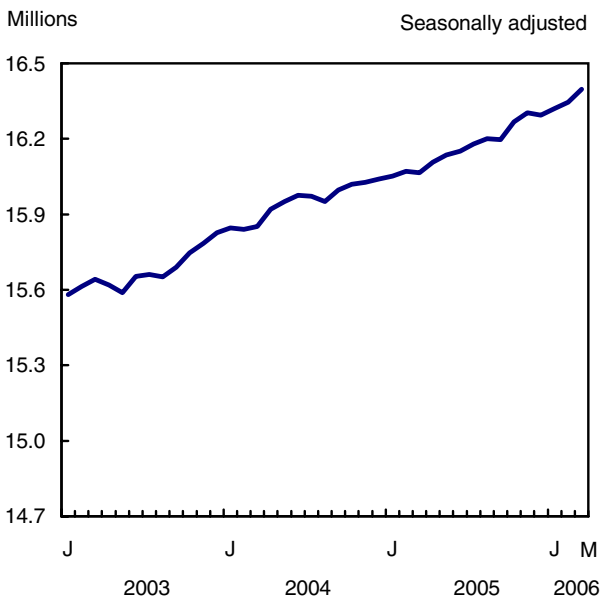
Labour Force Survey

March 2006

Employment increased by 51,000 in March, bringing total gains from 12 months ago to 330,000 or 2.1%. The unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage points to 6.3%, a 32-year low.

The employment increase in March pushed the Canadian employment rate up 0.1 percentage points to a record 62.9%. The employment rate is the share of the working age population that is employed.

Employment



Canada has traditionally had higher employment rates than most other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). However, with stronger employment growth in this country, the rate in Canada has pulled further ahead of the OECD average in recent years. Canadians aged 16 and over have been more likely than Americans to be employed since November 2002.

Most of the employment gain in March was the result of an upswing of 44,000 in full-time work. This continues the long-term trend toward full-time employment growth in this country. Despite monthly fluctuations, part-time

Comparing current LFS estimates to those prior to 1976

In recent months, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been reporting very low unemployment rates. The rates have been so low that some LFS users want to understand the historical context in which these rates are presented. Caution must be stressed when comparing recent LFS employment and unemployment estimates to those prior to 1976 — when the questionnaire underwent significant changes.

The 1976 LFS questionnaire introduced direct questioning to determine labour market status. This replaced the "main activity" style of information previously recorded. In 1975, both the new and old questionnaires were run in parallel. An analysis of the impact on employment and unemployment estimates showed that the new questionnaire measured more employment, especially among youths and women. It also picked up more unemployment, most notably among women.

At the time of the conversion to the new questionnaire, a historical series was created by adjusting pre-1976 estimates of employment and unemployment using factors determined from the parallel run. Ratios were applied to the 1966 to 1975 data to make them more (but not strictly) comparable to the new estimates. Although these adjusted 1966 to 1975 data are available, users should still be cautious when comparing the two periods because of the different questionnaires used to measure employment and unemployment. Approaching 1966, further caution should be used.

employment has remained around the same level for the last three years.

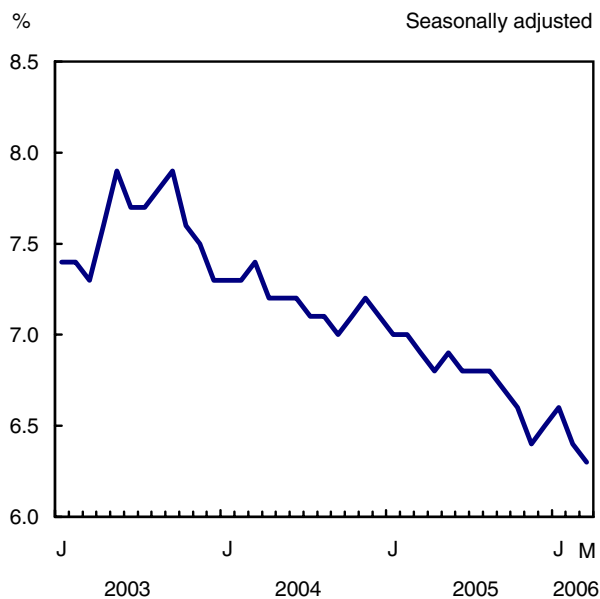
The youth labour market continues to gain strength. The employment increase in March among young people aged 15 to 24 years brings total gains since September 2005 to an impressive 4.1%. The March employment gain among youth was primarily in Ontario.

Ontario posted the bulk of the employment gains in March, following little growth over the previous four months. Despite continued declines in manufacturing over the past 12 months, employment growth has been strong in construction as well as in several service industries.

Employment also increased in British Columbia, bringing the unemployment rate to 4.4%, breaking the 30-year low set the previous month.

As the labour market tightens, wages continue to rise. The average hourly wage in March was up 3.5% from 12 months ago, well in excess of the most recent 2.2% increase in the Consumer Price Index. Hourly wage rate growth continues to be highest in Alberta at 7.0%.

Unemployment rate



Large gains in Ontario

Employment in Ontario increased by 31,000 in March, primarily driven by gains among youth (+22,000) and mostly full time. The March increase in youth full-time employment in Ontario was concentrated among 18 to 24 year-olds. The strike action that temporarily closed Ontario college facilities may have given many youths more time to work at a paid job.

The March employment gain in Ontario brings employment growth for the last 12 months to 115,000 (+1.8%). Despite a large decline in manufacturing, strength in construction and a number of service-based industries provided overall employment gains for this province. For example, there have been gains of 44,000 in educational services and 30,000 in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing since March 2005.

There were also employment gains in British Columbia (+13,000) in March. This brought the unemployment rate to another record low, as it declined 0.4 percentage points to 4.4%. Over the past year, British Columbia has recorded the fastest rate of employment growth of all provinces at 4.0% (+85,000), with gains primarily in retail and wholesale trade; information, culture and recreation, and construction.

As the economy continues to boom in Alberta, employment edged up in March, bringing gains in the past year to 65,000 (+3.7%). Over the last 12 months, employment gains were in construction; professional, scientific and technical services; public administration as well as natural resources.

There were also a few provinces with declines in March. Employment in Newfoundland and Labrador declined by 3,000 in March, following little growth over the last year. The unemployment rate increased 0.6 percentage points to 15.7% in March.

Although employment in Manitoba declined (-3,000) in March, it was still up 7,000 (+1.2%) compared to one year ago. During this time, much of the employment growth has been concentrated in trade as well as transportation and warehousing.

Employment also declined in Prince Edward Island (-1,000), bringing the unemployment rate to 12.0% in March, a 1.1 percentage point increase.

Youth employment gaining momentum

Employment among young people aged 15 to 24 years increased by 33,000 in March, continuing the upward trend that began in the fall of 2005. The increase in March brings total employment gains for youths up 4.5% (+110,000) over the last 12 months. The youth unemployment rate was at 11.5% in March, among the lowest rates in the last 15 years.

The youth employment increase in March was primarily full time and among 18 to 24 year-olds. Although the majority of the employment gains for youths were in Ontario (+22,000), there were also more young people employed in Quebec (+10,000).

In March, women aged 25 and over also experienced employment increases (+21,000). For adult men, full-time gains offset part-time losses, leaving employment little changed in March. Employment gains in the last year for adult women (+1.9% or +120,000) were somewhat higher than those of adult men (+1.4% or +101,000).

The number of employees increased by 87,000 in March, offsetting losses of 36,000 self-employed. Over the last 12 months, the number of employees has increased by 318,000 (+2.3%), mostly in the private sector.

Growth widespread across several sectors

Employment in information, culture and recreation increased by 17,000 in March, mainly in Ontario and British Columbia. Despite this increase, employment in this sector remains at similar levels to a year ago.

There were more people working in health care and social assistance (+17,000) in March. Over the past year, there has been an increase in hospital employment, offsetting declines in other parts of the sector.

There were 15,000 more employed in "other services" in March. This sector includes industries such

as repair and maintenance services, and personal, laundry and private household services. With this increase, employment is back to levels recorded three years ago.

Employment increased by 14,000 in business, building and other support services in March. This brings employment gains for this industry to 32,000 (+5.0%) from one year earlier.

Transportation and warehousing employment increased by 12,000 in March. This sector has picked up strength in the last year (+5.0%), due to gains in transit and ground passenger transportation as well as postal services.

Employment in natural resources continued to climb, with a gain of 10,000 in March. Employment in this sector is up by 26,000 compared to a year ago, primarily the result of strength in the oil and gas sector in Alberta.

Manufacturing employment continued to decline in March (-12,000). Since the end of 2002, employment in manufacturing has fallen by 8.2%, with 189,000 fewer people working in this industry. Although a large decline, it is not as severe as the previous manufacturing contraction over the same span of time during the early 1990s, when employment fell by 15.1% (-320,000).

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 March 18 (71-001-XIE, \$9/\$84). See *How to order products*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The 2005 *Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM* (71F0004XCB, \$209) is now available.

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, May 5.

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

	February 2006	March 2006	February to March 2006	March 2005 to March 2006	February to March 2006	March 2005 to March 2006
seasonally adjusted						
	'000			% change		
All industries	16,345.7	16,396.2	50.5	330.3	0.3	2.1
Goods-producing sector	4,002.0	3,992.5	-9.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.0
Agriculture	351.8	348.9	-2.9	15.7	-0.8	4.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	313.5	323.4	9.9	25.7	3.2	8.6
Utilities	121.6	116.3	-5.3	-9.3	-4.4	-7.4
Construction	1,071.1	1,071.9	0.8	84.8	0.1	8.6
Manufacturing	2,144.0	2,132.0	-12.0	-117.1	-0.6	-5.2
Services-producing sector	12,343.7	12,403.7	60.0	330.5	0.5	2.7
Trade	2,635.7	2,626.1	-9.6	61.1	-0.4	2.4
Transportation and warehousing	799.3	811.2	11.9	38.9	1.5	5.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,016.2	1,023.8	7.6	27.3	0.7	2.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,082.5	1,086.5	4.0	66.8	0.4	6.6
Business, building and other support services	654.0	667.8	13.8	31.8	2.1	5.0
Educational services	1,164.7	1,155.5	-9.2	70.8	-0.8	6.5
Health care and social assistance	1,730.4	1,747.2	16.8	8.7	1.0	0.5
Information, culture and recreation	733.4	750.4	17.0	6.0	2.3	0.8
Accommodation and food services	999.9	987.7	-12.2	-1.4	-1.2	-0.1
Other services	698.1	713.3	15.2	20.1	2.2	2.9
Public administration	829.7	834.2	4.5	0.4	0.5	0.0
Class of worker						
Public sector employees	3,180.8	3,195.4	14.6	91.5	0.5	2.9
Private sector	13,164.9	13,200.8	35.9	238.7	0.3	1.8
Private employees	10,615.7	10,687.8	72.1	226.5	0.7	2.2
Self-employed	2,549.2	2,513.0	-36.2	12.2	-1.4	0.5

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

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	March 2005	March 2006	March 2005 to March 2006	March 2005	March 2006	March 2005 to March 2006
unadjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	17,035.4	17,270.2	1.4	66.3	66.2	-0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	242.4	240.4	-0.8	56.3	56.1	-0.2
Prince Edward Island	73.2	74.7	2.0	65.7	66.7	1.0
Nova Scotia	474.0	471.1	-0.6	62.4	61.8	-0.6
New Brunswick	373.2	382.5	2.5	61.2	62.6	1.4
Quebec	3,975.6	4,039.6	1.6	64.5	64.8	0.3
Ontario	6,737.5	6,804.3	1.0	67.3	66.8	-0.5
Manitoba	602.9	601.4	-0.2	68.0	67.5	-0.5
Saskatchewan	507.5	502.3	-1.0	67.8	67.2	-0.6
Alberta	1,819.5	1,885.8	3.6	71.7	72.2	0.5
British Columbia	2,229.5	2,267.9	1.7	65.0	64.9	-0.1
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	15,779.8	16,106.7	2.1	61.4	61.8	0.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	201.5	198.5	-1.5	46.8	46.3	-0.5
Prince Edward Island	63.7	63.2	-0.8	57.2	56.4	-0.8
Nova Scotia	427.6	428.7	0.3	56.3	56.2	-0.1
New Brunswick	333.6	343.4	2.9	54.7	56.2	1.5
Quebec	3,620.5	3,675.3	1.5	58.8	59.0	0.2
Ontario	6,247.3	6,359.6	1.8	62.4	62.4	0.0
Manitoba	569.6	574.2	0.8	64.2	64.5	0.3
Saskatchewan	479.6	474.4	-1.1	64.1	63.5	-0.6
Alberta	1,755.7	1,824.4	3.9	69.2	69.9	0.7
British Columbia	2,080.6	2,164.9	4.1	60.7	62.0	1.3
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,255.6	1,163.4	-7.3	7.4	6.7	-0.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	40.9	41.9	2.4	16.9	17.4	0.5
Prince Edward Island	9.5	11.5	21.1	13.0	15.4	2.4
Nova Scotia	46.4	42.4	-8.6	9.8	9.0	-0.8
New Brunswick	39.6	39.2	-1.0	10.6	10.2	-0.4
Quebec	355.1	364.3	2.6	8.9	9.0	0.1
Ontario	490.2	444.7	-9.3	7.3	6.5	-0.8
Manitoba	33.3	27.2	-18.3	5.5	4.5	-1.0
Saskatchewan	28.0	28.0	0.0	5.5	5.6	0.1
Alberta	63.8	61.4	-3.8	3.5	3.3	-0.2
British Columbia	149.0	102.9	-30.9	6.7	4.5	-2.2

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by type of work, age and sex

	March 2006	February to March 2006	March to March 2006	March 2006	February to March 2006	March to March 2006	March 2006	February to March 2006	March to March 2006
	seasonally adjusted								
	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	'000								
Employment	16,396.2	50.5	330.3	8,714.0	23.2	175.2	7,682.3	27.4	155.2
Full-time	13,386.8	44.0	311.9	7,749.7	31.1	149.3	5,637.0	12.8	162.5
Part-time	3,009.5	6.6	18.4	964.2	-7.9	25.8	2,045.2	14.4	-7.5
15-24	2,559.0	32.8	109.7	1,304.1	26.7	74.6	1,254.8	6.0	35.0
25 and over	13,837.3	17.8	220.6	7,409.8	-3.6	100.5	6,427.5	21.4	120.1
25-54	11,546.9	0.4	99.9	6,110.0	-0.4	57.2	5,436.9	0.8	42.6
55 and over	2,290.4	17.4	120.8	1,299.9	-3.1	43.4	990.5	20.5	77.4

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over

	February 2006	March 2006	February to March 2006	February 2006	March 2006	February to March 2006
seasonally adjusted						
	Labour force			Participation rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	17,455.5	17,507.5	0.3	67.0	67.2	0.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	253.5	251.6	-0.7	59.1	58.7	-0.4
Prince Edward Island	77.4	77.3	-0.1	69.1	69.0	-0.1
Nova Scotia	482.2	481.0	-0.2	63.2	63.1	-0.1
New Brunswick	396.5	396.1	-0.1	64.9	64.8	-0.1
Quebec	4,085.4	4,099.8	0.4	65.6	65.8	0.2
Ontario	6,858.6	6,886.0	0.4	67.4	67.6	0.2
Manitoba	612.9	608.4	-0.7	68.9	68.3	-0.6
Saskatchewan	509.2	510.2	0.2	68.1	68.3	0.2
Alberta	1,894.6	1,906.4	0.6	72.8	73.0	0.2
British Columbia	2,285.1	2,290.8	0.2	65.5	65.6	0.1
	Employment			Employment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	16,345.7	16,396.2	0.3	62.8	62.9	0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	215.2	211.9	-1.5	50.2	49.4	-0.8
Prince Edward Island	69.0	67.9	-1.6	61.6	60.6	-1.0
Nova Scotia	441.7	443.7	0.5	57.9	58.2	0.3
New Brunswick	359.2	359.6	0.1	58.8	58.8	0.0
Quebec	3,749.4	3,752.9	0.1	60.2	60.2	0.0
Ontario	6,431.8	6,463.0	0.5	63.2	63.5	0.3
Manitoba	586.1	583.0	-0.5	65.8	65.5	-0.3
Saskatchewan	482.2	483.2	0.2	64.5	64.7	0.2
Alberta	1,835.3	1,841.9	0.4	70.5	70.6	0.1
British Columbia	2,175.9	2,189.0	0.6	62.4	62.7	0.3
	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	'000		% change	%		change
Canada	1,109.8	1,111.3	0.1	6.4	6.3	-0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	38.4	39.6	3.1	15.1	15.7	0.6
Prince Edward Island	8.4	9.3	10.7	10.9	12.0	1.1
Nova Scotia	40.5	37.3	-7.9	8.4	7.8	-0.6
New Brunswick	37.3	36.5	-2.1	9.4	9.2	-0.2
Quebec	336.0	347.0	3.3	8.2	8.5	0.3
Ontario	426.9	423.0	-0.9	6.2	6.1	-0.1
Manitoba	26.8	25.3	-5.6	4.4	4.2	-0.2
Saskatchewan	27.0	26.9	-0.4	5.3	5.3	0.0
Alberta	59.3	64.5	8.8	3.1	3.4	0.3
British Columbia	109.2	101.8	-6.8	4.8	4.4	-0.4

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.



Domestic travel

First quarter 2005 (preliminary)

Canadian residents made 43.2 million visits in the country during the first quarter of 2005. About 20.3 million visits were to see friends or relatives, while more than 15.6 million were made for pleasure. Together, these two categories accounted for 83.2% of all visits in Canada. Of the remaining visits, 2.2 million were for business reasons and 5.1 million for other reasons such as bringing someone to the airport.

In the first three months of 2005, the majority of visits made by Canadians in Canada were same-day, accounting for 63.5% of the total. Overnight visits reached 15.8 million.

For overnight visits, Canadian residents spent 40.8 million nights away from home. Of these nights, 66.4% were spent in private homes, while 18.1% were spent in hotels and motels.

These results represent some of the preliminary estimates of domestic travel for the first quarter of 2005 that are now available from the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada.

Note: In order to be considered a domestic visit, visits have to originate and take place in Canada, end during the reference period, be less than 365 days/nights in duration, and be outside of the respondent's "usual" environment.

Since the beginning of 2005, a new survey called the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada (TSRC) has been conducted monthly to measure domestic travel in Canada. Featuring several definitional changes and a new questionnaire, this new survey provides estimates of domestic travel that are more in line with the international guidelines recommended by the United Nations. Up to the fourth quarter of 2004, estimates on domestic travel were provided by the Canadian Travel Survey (CTS). Please note that the TSRC estimates cannot be compared with those from the CTS. A document entitled "Communications for the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada," which explains the differences between these two surveys, is available upon request.

For general information or to obtain data, contact Client Services (613-951-9169; 1-800-307-3382; fax:

613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; gervliz@statcan.ca), Culture Tourism, and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending April 1, 2006 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 1 totalled 325 236 metric tonnes, up 9.2% from 297 845 tonnes a week earlier and up 1.1% from 321 827 tonnes in the same week of 2005.

The year-to-date total as of April 1 was 3 886 722 tonnes, down 4.5% from 4 069 754 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. ■

Production of eggs and poultry

February 2006 (preliminary)

Egg production was estimated at 45.8 million dozen in February, up 3.5% from February 2005.

Poultry meat production reached 86.0 million kilograms in February, up 0.2% from February 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3424, 3425 and 5039.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca) or Barbara Bowen (613-951-3716; barbara.bowen@statcan.ca), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Building Permits, February 2006, Vol. 50, no. 2
Catalogue number **64-001-XIE** (\$15/\$156).

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

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

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the availability of taking urban transit; Canadians are riding it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 60 trips 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 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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The Daily, April 7, 2006

Release dates: April 10 to 13, 2006

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
11	Investment in non-residential building construction	First quarter 2006
11	Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey	Annual 2005 and fourth Quarter
11	New Housing Price Index	February 2006
12	Canadian international merchandise trade	February 2006
13	Canadian Economic Observer	April 2006
13	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	February 2006
