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Releases

Labour Force Survey, April 2012 Employment increased by 58,000 in April, mostly in full-time work. This was the second consecutive month of notable gains after four months of little change. With more people searching for work, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 7.3%. Wholesale Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2011 10

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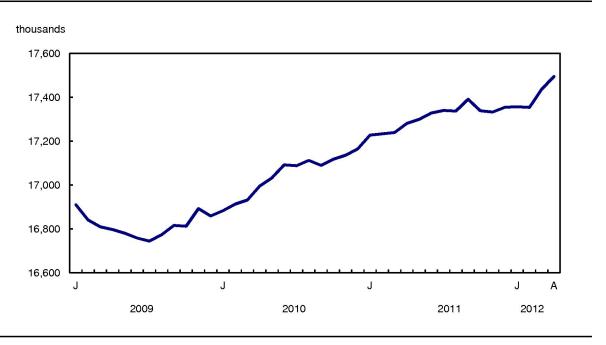
Releases

Labour Force Survey, April 2012

Employment increased by 58,000 in April, mostly in full-time work. This was the second consecutive month of notable gains after four months of little change. With more people searching for work, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 7.3%.

Compared with 12 months earlier, employment was up 1.2% or 214,000. All of the growth over the 12 months was in full-time work, up 217,000 (+1.6%), while part-time employment was unchanged. The total number of hours worked rose 1.5% over the same period.

Chart 1 Employment



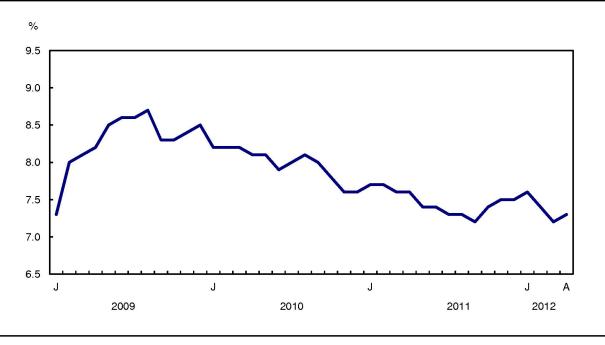
The employment gain in April was primarily in the goods sector, with increases in construction, manufacturing, natural resources and agriculture. Among service industries, education employment increased, while public administration declined.

Employment increased in Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island. There was little change in the other three provinces.

In April, employment rose among people aged 25 to 54 and those aged 55 and over, while there was little change among youths.

Employment increased in April only among private sector employees. Compared with 12 months earlier, the number of private sector employees was up 2.3%, while public sector and self-employment were little changed.

Chart 2 Unemployment rate



Employment up in goods-producing industries

In April, construction employment was up 25,000. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry rose 3.5%, with notable growth since January.

Employment in manufacturing increased 24,000 in April, continuing an upward trend that started in December 2011. These recent gains offset declines in previous months, leaving employment in manufacturing little changed from 12 months earlier.

There was an employment gain of 17,000 in educational services. Education employment in April 2012 was similar to that of 12 months earlier.

Natural resources employment continued on an upward trend that started in September 2011, with gains of 11,000 in April. This industry remained the fastest growing of all industries, posting year-over-year employment growth of 12.5%.

Agriculture employment increased by 10,000 in April. Employment in this industry was little changed over the past two years.

Following little change from April 2011 to March 2012, employment in public administration declined by 32,000 in April.

Gains in most provinces

In Quebec, employment increased for the second consecutive month, up 23,000 in April, and the unemployment rate was 8.0%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was little changed.

Continuing an upward trend that began in February 2011, employment in British Columbia increased by 20,000 in April. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment growth was 2.1%, the third-highest of all provinces. Since the unemployment rate peaked at 8.7% in February 2011, it has gradually declined to 6.2% in April.

Following four months of little change, employment in Alberta increased by 11,000 in April, and the unemployment rate declined 0.4 percentage points to 4.9%. Employment in the province increased 3.9% over the previous 12 months, the fastest growth of all provinces.

Employment in Saskatchewan increased by 6,800 in April, following three months of little change. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment grew 2.3%, the second-highest growth rate among the provinces.

Employment increased by 4,500 in New Brunswick, but was little changed from 12 months earlier.

Employment also increased in Newfoundland and Labrador, up 3,900 in April. Employment has been on an upward trend since October 2011, after declining over the previous five months, leaving the number of employed in the province unchanged over the 12-month period.

Employment in Ontario was little changed in April, but with more people searching for work, the unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 7.8%. While employment was up compared with 12 months earlier, it was entirely the result of notable gains in March.

Employment up among people aged 25 and over

Following five months of little change, employment increased by 33,000 among people aged 25 to 54. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment for this age group was up 0.5%, with gains among both men and women.

Employment among those aged 55 and over continued on an upward trend, up 26,000 in April. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment among men and women of this age group increased 5.5%, partly the result of population aging.

Following a gain in March, employment for youths in April was little changed, and their unemployment rate remained at 13.9%. Youth employment has been little changed since July 2009.

Canada-United States comparison

The number of employed as a percentage of the working-age population in Canada, that is the employment rate—when adjusted to U.S. concepts—was markedly lower than that of the United States from the early 1990s until 2002. Since 2002, the adjusted employment rate in Canada has been higher, with the gap between the two countries widening since late 2006.

In April, the employment rate was 62.6% in Canada when adjusted to U.S. concepts. This was 4.2 percentage points higher than the comparable rate of 58.4% in the United States. The gap in the employment rates between the two countries has been around 4 percentage points since June 2010.

From the early 1980s until 2008, the adjusted Canadian unemployment rate was higher than the rate in the United States. However, since that time, the Canadian rate has been lower, with a gap of around 2.5 percentage points since late 2009.

In April, the adjusted unemployment rate in Canada was 6.4%, compared with 8.1% in the United States, for a gap of 1.7 percentage points. The gap has narrowed slightly in recent months, mainly as a result of a decline in the number of people actively searching for work in the United States.

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).

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends.

Table 1
Labour force characteristics by age and sex – Seasonally adjusted

| | March 2012 | April 2012 | March to April 2012 | April 2011 to April 2012 | March to April 2012 | April 2011 to April 2012 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | thousands (except rates) | | change in thousands (except rates) | | % change | |
| Both sexes, 15 years and over | - Inododindo (ox | | | | 70 0110 | |
| Population | 28,208.1 | 28,242.0 | 33.9 | 327.2 | 0.1 | 1.2 |
| Labour force | 18,792.8 | 18,865.3 | 72.5 | 166.2 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| Employment | 17,436.5 | 17,494.7 | 58.2 | 213.8 | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Full-time | 14,128.0 | 14,171.9 | 43.9 | 217.3 | 0.3 | 1.6 |
| Part-time | 3,308.5 | 3,322.8 | 14.3 | -3.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Unemployment | 1,356.2 | 1,370.6 | 14.3 | -3.4 -47.6 | 1.1 | -3.4 |
| Participation rate | 66.6 | 66.8 | 0.2 | -0.2 | | _ |
| Unemployment rate | 7.2 | 7.3 | 0.2 | -0.2 -0.3 | | |
| | 7.2 61.8 | 7.3 61.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | | |
| Employment rate Part-time rate | 19.0 | 19.0 | 0.1 | -0.2 | | |
| Youths, 15 to 24 years | 19.0 | 19.0 | 0.0 | -0.2 | | |
| | 4,456.7 | 4,457.2 | 0.5 | -1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Population Labour force | 2,843.3 | 2,842.2 | -1.1 | -33.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 -1.2 |
| | 2,643.3 2,448.3 | 2,448.0 | -0.3 | -33.2 -17.2 | 0.0 | -1.2 -0.7 |
| Employment Full-time | 2,446.3 1,302.0 | , | -0.3 -10.3 | -17.2 0.8 | -0.8 | -0.7 0.1 |
| | | 1,291.7 | | -17.9 | | -1.5 |
| Part-time | 1,146.3 | 1,156.4 394.2 | 10.1 -0.8 | - | 0.9 | - |
| Unemployment | 395.0 | | | -16.0 | -0.2 | -3.9 |
| Participation rate | 63.8 | 63.8 | 0.0 | -0.7 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 13.9 | 13.9 | 0.0 | -0.4 | | |
| Employment rate | 54.9 | 54.9 | 0.0 | -0.4 | | |
| Part-time rate | 46.8 | 47.2 | 0.4 | -0.4 | | |
| Men, 25 years and over | 44 000 0 | 44 000 4 | 40.0 | 400.7 | 0.4 | 4.4 |
| Population | 11,622.2 | 11,639.1 | 16.9 | 163.7 | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| Labour force | 8,460.2 | 8,495.0 | 34.8 | 111.2 | 0.4 | 1.3 |
| Employment | 7,927.9 | 7,954.6 | 26.7 | 120.4 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| Full-time | 7,305.2 | 7,343.1 | 37.9 | 135.2 | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| Part-time | 622.6 | 611.5 | -11.1 | -14.8 | -1.8 | -2.4 |
| Unemployment | 532.3 | 540.3 | 8.0 | -9.4 | 1.5 | -1.7 |
| Participation rate | 72.8 | 73.0 | 0.2 | -0.1 | ••• | ••• |
| Unemployment rate | 6.3 | 6.4 | 0.1 | -0.2 | ••• | |
| Employment rate | 68.2 | 68.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 | ••• | |
| Part-time rate | 7.9 | 7.7 | -0.2 | -0.3 | | |
| Women, 25 years and over | 10.100.0 | 40 445 7 | 40.5 | 4040 | 0.4 | |
| Population | 12,129.2 | 12,145.7 | 16.5 | 164.8 | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| Labour force | 7,489.3 | 7,528.1 | 38.8 | 88.3 | 0.5 | 1.2 |
| Employment | 7,060.4 | 7,092.0 | 31.6 | 110.5 | 0.4 | 1.6 |
| Full-time | 5,520.8 | 5,537.1 | 16.3 | 81.2 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| Part-time | 1,539.6 | 1,554.9 | 15.3 | 29.3 | 1.0 | 1.9 |
| Unemployment | 428.9 | 436.1 | 7.2 | -22.2 | 1.7 | -4.8 |
| Participation rate | 61.7 | 62.0 | 0.3 | -0.1 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 5.7 | 5.8 | 0.1 | -0.4 | | |
| Employment rate | 58.2 | 58.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | | |
| Part-time rate | 21.8 | 21.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | | |

... not applicable

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Table 2 Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹) – Seasonally adjusted

| | March 2012 | April 2012 | March to April 2012 | April 2011 to April 2012 | March to April 2012 | April 2011 to April 2012 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | thousar | nds | change in t | housands | % cha | ange |
| Class of worker | | | | | | |
| Employees | 14,767.5 | 14,834.1 | 66.6 | 237.8 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| Self-employed | 2,669.0 | 2,660.6 | -8.4 | -24.0 | -0.3 | -0.9 |
| Public/private sector employees | | | | | | |
| Public | 3,582.4 | 3,563.2 | -19.2 | -12.5 | -0.5 | -0.3 |
| Private | 11,185.1 | 11,270.9 | 85.8 | 250.3 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| All industries | 17,436.5 | 17,494.7 | 58.2 | 213.8 | 0.3 | 1.2 |
| Goods-producing sector | 3,845.9 | 3,915.9 | 70.0 | 91.9 | 1.8 | 2.4 |
| Agriculture | 300.3 | 310.5 | 10.2 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 1.4 |
| Natural resources ² | 372.1 | 383.1 | 11.0 | 42.7 | 3.0 | 12.5 |
| Utilities | 137.4 | 137.7 | 0.3 | -1.4 | 0.2 | -1.0 |
| Construction | 1,273.9 | 1,298.5 | 24.6 | 43.6 | 1.9 | 3.5 |
| Manufacturing | 1,762.3 | 1,786.1 | 23.8 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 0.1 |
| Services-producing sector | 13,590.6 | 13,578.8 | -11.8 | 121.9 | -0.1 | 0.9 |
| Trade | 2,625.9 | 2,607.5 | -18.4 | -29.7 | -0.7 | -1.1 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 841.5 | 853.5 | 12.0 | 15.1 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and | | | | | | |
| leasing | 1,073.6 | 1,083.8 | 10.2 | -10.9 | 1.0 | -1.0 |
| Professional, scientific and | | | | | | |
| technical services | 1,313.7 | 1,311.3 | -2.4 | 13.4 | -0.2 | 1.0 |
| Business, building and other | | | | | | |
| support services | 683.9 | 681.2 | -2.7 | 3.9 | -0.4 | 0.6 |
| Educational services | 1,235.3 | 1,252.1 | 16.8 | 18.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Health care and social assistance | 2,112.1 | 2,110.4 | -1.7 | 31.8 | -0.1 | 1.5 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 824.8 | 816.3 | -8.5 | 33.6 | -1.0 | 4.3 |
| Accommodation and food services | 1,105.7 | 1,110.8 | 5.1 | 24.9 | 0.5 | 2.3 |
| Other services | 796.7 | 806.9 | 10.2 | 45.6 | 1.3 | 6.0 |
| Public administration | 977.4 | 945.0 | -32.4 | -24.3 | -3.3 | -2.5 |

North American Industry Classification System.
 Also referred to as forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas.
 Note(s): Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Table 3 Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

| | March 2012 | April 2012 | March to April 2012 | April 2011 to April 2012 | March to April 2012 | April 2011 to April 2012 |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | thousands (ex | cept rates) | change in t | housands | % cha | · |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | • | <u> </u> | | | | |
| Population | 428.5 | 428.0 | -0.5 | -1.1 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| Labour force | 262.3 | 264.5 | 2.2 | 3.8 | 0.8 | 1.5 |
| Employment | 228.1 | 232.0 | 3.9 | 0.7 | 1.7 | 0.3 |
| Full-time | 196.6 | 201.9 | 5.3 | 4.1 | 2.7 | 2.1 |
| Part-time | 31.5 | 30.1 | -1.4 | -3.4 | -4.4 | -10.1 |
| Unemployment | 34.2 | 32.5 | -1.7 | 3.1 | -5.0 | 10.5 |
| Participation rate | 61.2 | 61.8 | 0.6 | 1.0 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 13.0 | 12.3 | -0.7 | 1.0 | | |
| Employment rate | 53.2 | 54.2 | 1.0 | 0.3 | | |
| Prince Edward Island | | *= | | | | |
| Population | 120.3 | 120.5 | 0.2 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| Labour force | 81.1 | 82.0 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.7 |
| Employment | 72.0 | 73.0 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.1 |
| Full-time | 58.8 | 60.0 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 1.2 |
| Part-time | 13.2 | 12.9 | -0.3 | 0.7 | -2.3 | 5.7 |
| Unemployment | 9.2 | 9.0 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -2.2 | -1.1 |
| Participation rate | 67.4 | 68.0 | 0.6 | 0.2 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 11.3 | 11.0 | -0.3 | -0.3 | | |
| | 59.9 | 60.6 | -0.3 0.7 | -0.3 0.4 | | |
| Employment rate | 59.9 | 0.00 | 0.7 | 0.4 | | |
| Nova Scotia | 770.0 | 700.0 | 0.4 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Population | 779.9 | 780.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Labour force | 498.0 | 499.2 | 1.2 | 7.1 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| Employment | 456.6 | 454.5 | -2.1 | 7.3 | -0.5 | 1.6 |
| Full-time | 368.9 | 369.9 | 1.0 | 11.3 | 0.3 | 3.2 |
| Part-time | 87.7 | 84.6 | -3.1 | -3.9 | -3.5 | -4.4 |
| Unemployment | 41.4 | 44.7 | 3.3 | -0.2 | 8.0 | -0.4 |
| Participation rate | 63.9 | 64.0 | 0.1 | 0.8 | ••• | |
| Unemployment rate | 8.3 | 9.0 | 0.7 | -0.1 | ••• | |
| Employment rate | 58.5 | 58.3 | -0.2 | 0.9 | | |
| New Brunswick | | | | | | |
| Population | 620.4 | 620.4 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Labour force | 386.5 | 389.4 | 2.9 | -1.8 | 0.8 | -0.5 |
| Employment | 346.9 | 351.4 | 4.5 | -0.9 | 1.3 | -0.3 |
| Full-time | 293.8 | 298.2 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 1.5 | 1.2 |
| Part-time | 53.1 | 53.2 | 0.1 | -4.3 | 0.2 | -7.5 |
| Unemployment | 39.6 | 38.0 | -1.6 | -0.9 | -4.0 | -2.3 |
| Participation rate | 62.3 | 62.8 | 0.5 | -0.4 | ••• | |
| Unemployment rate | 10.2 | 9.8 | -0.4 | -0.1 | ••• | |
| Employment rate | 55.9 | 56.6 | 0.7 | -0.3 | ••• | |
| Quebec | | | | | | |
| Population | 6,618.4 | 6,624.1 | 5.7 | 62.8 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Labour force | 4,289.7 | 4,319.0 | 29.3 | 30.3 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Employment | 3,952.1 | 3,975.4 | 23.3 | 20.9 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Full-time | 3,204.2 | 3,195.2 | -9.0 | -3.2 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| Part-time | 747.9 | 780.2 | 32.3 | 24.1 | 4.3 | 3.2 |
| Unemployment | 337.5 | 343.6 | 6.1 | 9.4 | 1.8 | 2.8 |
| Participation rate | 64.8 | 65.2 | 0.4 | -0.2 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 7.9 | 8.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | | |
| Employment rate | 59.7 | 60.0 | 0.3 | -0.3 | | |
| Ontario | | | | | | |
| Population | 11,027.1 | 11,041.9 | 14.8 | 147.1 | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| Labour force | 7,329.6 | 7,354.8 | 25.2 | 33.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Employment | 6,788.2 | 6,780.5 | -7.7 | 37.5 | -0.1 | 0.6 |
| Full-time | 5,484.2 | 5,507.3 | 23.1 | 43.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| Part-time | 1,304.0 | 1,273.2 | -30.8 | -6.0 | -2.4 | -0.5 |
| Unemployment | 541.5 | 574.3 | 32.8 | -4.2 | 6.1 | -0.7 |
| Participation rate | 66.5 | 66.6 | 0.1 | -4.2 -0.6 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 7.4 | 7.8 | 0.1 | -0.6 -0.1 | | |
| Employment rate | 61.6 | 61.4 | -0.2 | -0.1 -0.5 | | |
| Linpoyinent rate | 01.0 | 01.4 | -0.2 | -0.5 | | |

Table 3 - continued Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

| | March 2012 | April 2012 | March to April 2012 | April 2011 to April 2012 | March to April 2012 | April 2011 to April 2012 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Manitoba | | | | | | |
| Population | 960.6 | 961.7 | 1.1 | 11.0 | 0.1 | 1.2 |
| Labour force | 666.7 | 664.7 | -2.0 | 6.8 | -0.3 | 1.0 |
| Employment | 631.4 | 629.6 | -1.8 | 6.1 | -0.3 | 1.0 |
| Full-time | 508.9 | 507.5 | -1.4 | 3.4 | -0.3 | 0.7 |
| Part-time | 122.5 | 122.0 | -0.5 | 2.6 | -0.4 | 2.2 |
| Unemployment | 35.2 | 35.1 | -0.1 | 0.7 | -0.3 | 2.0 |
| Participation rate | 69.4 | 69.1 | -0.3 | -0.1 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 5.3 | 5.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 | | |
| Employment rate | 65.7 | 65.5 | -0.2 | -0.1 | | |
| Saskatchewan | | | | | | |
| Population | 806.6 | 807.7 | 1.1 | 10.0 | 0.1 | 1.3 |
| Labour force | 556.4 | 564.0 | 7.6 | 12.2 | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| Employment | 529.7 | 536.5 | 6.8 | 12.1 | 1.3 | 2.3 |
| Full-time | 438.2 | 444.4 | 6.2 | 16.9 | 1.4 | 4.0 |
| Part-time | 91.5 | 92.0 | 0.5 | -4.8 | 0.5 | -5.0 |
| Unemployment | 26.6 | 27.6 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 3.8 | 0.7 |
| Participation rate | 69.0 | 69.8 | 0.8 | 0.6 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 4.8 | 4.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 | | |
| Employment rate | 65.7 | 66.4 | 0.7 | 0.7 | | |
| Alberta | 33 | | 0 | · · · | | |
| Population | 3,042.4 | 3,050.5 | 8.1 | 56.5 | 0.3 | 1.9 |
| Labour force | 2,250.6 | 2,254.6 | 4.0 | 62.5 | 0.2 | 2.9 |
| Employment | 2,132.3 | 2,143.0 | 10.7 | 79.9 | 0.5 | 3.9 |
| Full-time | 1,783.0 | 1,779.2 | -3.8 | 67.6 | -0.2 | 3.9 |
| Part-time | 349.3 | 363.8 | 14.5 | 12.3 | 4.2 | 3.5 |
| Unemployment | 118.2 | 111.6 | -6.6 | -17.4 | -5.6 | -13.5 |
| Participation rate | 74.0 | 73.9 | -0.1 | 0.7 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 5.3 | 4.9 | -0.4 | -1.0 | | |
| Employment rate | 70.1 | 70.3 | 0.2 | 1.4 | | |
| British Columbia | 7 0.1 | 70.0 | 0.2 | | ••• | ••• |
| Population | 3,803.9 | 3,807.2 | 3.3 | 36.7 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Labour force | 2,471.8 | 2,473.1 | 1.3 | 10.5 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Employment | 2,299.1 | 2,318.8 | 19.7 | 48.7 | 0.9 | 2.1 |
| Full-time | 1,791.4 | 1,808.1 | 16.7 | 69.4 | 0.9 | 4.0 |
| Part-time | 507.7 | 510.7 | 3.0 | -20.7 | 0.6 | -3.9 |
| Unemployment | 172.7 | 154.3 | -18.4 | -38.2 | -10.7 | -19.8 |
| Participation rate | 65.0 | 65.0 | 0.0 | -0.3 | | |
| Unemployment rate | 7.0 | 6.2 | -0.8 | -0.3 -1.6 | | |
| Employment rate | 60.4 | 60.9 | 0.5 | 0.7 | | |

... not applicable
Note(s): Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0063, 282-0069 to 282-0095 and 282-0100 to 282-0121.

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 April 21. From the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Labour*.

Data tables are also now available online. From the Subject module of our website, choose Labour.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on June 8.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118; jason.gilmore@statcan.gc.ca) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Wholesale Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2011

The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) declined 0.8% in the fourth quarter, marking the first quarter-over-quarter decline of the WSPI since the first quarter of 2011.

Wholesalers of petroleum products (-13.9%) posted the largest margin decline in the fourth quarter. Margins also declined for wholesalers of motor vehicles and parts (-1.9%), food, beverage and tobacco products (-0.7%) and machinery, equipment and supplies (-0.5%).

Wholesalers of farm products (+2.0%) posted the largest quarterly margin increase, followed by building materials and supplies (+1.7%), miscellaneous products (+0.7%) and personal and household goods (+0.3%).

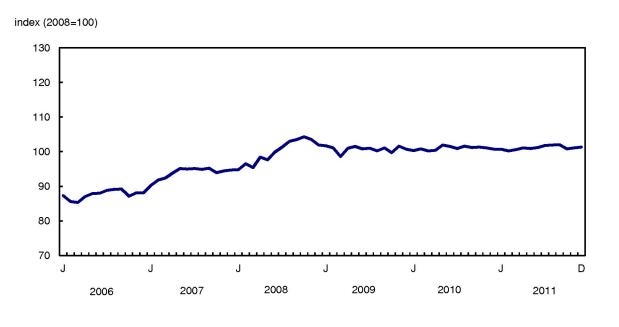
Compared with the same quarter in 2010, the WSPI advanced 0.1% in the fourth quarter. Farm products (+14.0%) continued to report the largest year-over-year margin increase, coinciding with a 12.0% rise in the Farm Product Price Index between the fourth quarter of 2010 and the fourth quarter of 2011.

Year over year, margin increases were also recorded by wholesalers of miscellaneous products (+7.0%) and personal and household goods (+0.9%).

In the fourth quarter, wholesalers of petroleum products (-7.7%) posted their fourth consecutive quarter of year-over-year margin declines.

Year-over-year margin decreases were also recorded by wholesalers of motor vehicles and parts (-1.5%), machinery, equipment and supplies (-1.4%), building material and supplies (-1.3%) and food, beverage and tobacco products (-1.1%).

Chart 1
Services Producer Price Index: Wholesale services



Note to readers

Data for the most recent quarter are preliminary. The previous quarter of the series is subject to revision. The series is also subject to an annual revision released with second quarter data of the following reference year. The indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

The Wholesale Services Price Index (WSPI) is part of the Services Producer Price Index program at Statistics Canada. The WSPI is not a wholesale selling price index. The index represents the change in the price of the wholesale service. The price of the wholesale service is defined as the margin price, which is the difference between the average purchase price and the average selling price of the wholesale product being priced.

Table 1
Services Producer Price Index: Wholesale services – Not seasonally adjusted

| | Relative importance ¹ | Fourth quarter 2010 | Third quarter 2011 ^r | Fourth quarter 2011 ^p | Third quarter to fourth quarter 2011 | Fourth quarter 2010 to fourth quarter 2011 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | % | | (2008=100) | | % ch | ange |
| Services Producer Price Index: | | | | | | |
| Wholesale services | 100.00 | 101.0 | 101.9 | 101.1 | -0.8 | 0.1 |
| Farm products | 2.58 | 79.4 | 88.7 | 90.5 | 2.0 | 14.0 |
| Petroleum products | 4.94 | 74.3 | 79.7 | 68.6 | -13.9 | -7.7 |
| Food, beverage and tobacco | 14.90 | 111.8 | 111.4 | 110.6 | -0.7 | -1.1 |
| Personal and household goods | 16.60 | 101.6 | 102.2 | 102.5 | 0.3 | 0.9 |
| Motor vehicles and parts | 9.92 | 108.2 | 108.7 | 106.6 | -1.9 | -1.5 |
| Building material and supplies | 13.88 | 97.5 | 94.6 | 96.2 | 1.7 | -1.3 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 21.67 | 103.8 | 102.8 | 102.3 | -0.5 | -1.4 |
| Miscellaneous | 11.02 | 102.8 | 109.2 | 110.0 | 0.7 | 7.0 |

^r revised

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 332-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5106.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

^p preliminary

^{1.} The relative importance is based on the weight that each three-digit North American Industry Classification System contributes to the overall Wholesale Services Price Index. The total does not equal 100 as the Wholesale Agents and Brokers group was not surveyed and data are imputed.

Sawmills, February 2012

Lumber production by sawmills increased 4.6% from January to 4 675.9 thousand cubic meters in February. Compared with February 2011, lumber production increased 8.6%.

In February, sawmills shipped 4 424.6 thousand cubic meters of lumber, a 6.5% increase from January.

Note to readers

In January 2012, a number of changes were made to the sampling and estimation methods for the Monthly Sawmills Survey. CANSIM table 303-0009 has been terminated. Starting with January 2012, data are now available in CANSIM tables 303-0064 and 303-0065. Historically revised data based on the new methodology are also available in CANSIM table 303-0064 from January 2003 to December 2011.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 303-0064 and 303-0065.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2134.

The February 2012 issue of *Sawmills*, Vol. 66, no. 2 (35-003-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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New products and studies

New products

Sawmills, February 2012, Vol. 66, no. 2 Catalogue number 35-003-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Labour Force Information, April 15 to 21, 2012 Catalogue number 71-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Labour Force Survey Microdata File, April 2012 Catalogue number 71M0001X (CD-ROM, free)

Release dates: May 14 to 18, 2012

(Release dates are subject to change.)

| Release date | Title | Reference period |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| 16 | Health Reports | May 2012 |
| 16 | Monthly Survey of Manufacturing | March 2012 |
| 17 | Canada's international transactions in securities | March 2012 |
| 17 | Wholesale trade | March 2012 |
| 17 | Travel between Canada and other countries | March 2012 |
| 18 | Consumer Price Index | April 2012 |

See also the release dates for major economic indicators for the rest of the year.



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