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Job vacancies, three-month average ending in March 2014 2

Canadian businesses reported 206,000 job vacancies in March, down 17,000 compared with 12 months earlier. For every job vacancy, there were 6.8 unemployed people, up from 6.3 in March 2013, the result of fewer job vacancies.

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Releases

Job vacancies, three-month average ending in March 2014

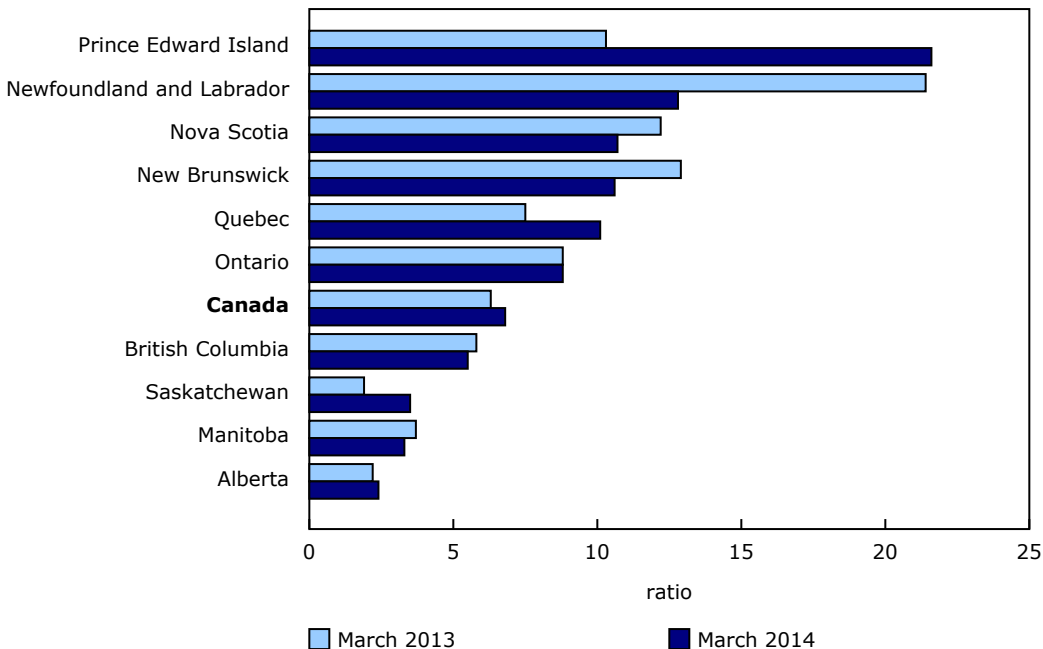
Canadian businesses reported 206,000 job vacancies in March, down 17,000 compared with 12 months earlier. For every job vacancy, there were 6.8 unemployed people, up from 6.3 in March 2013, the result of fewer job vacancies.

Unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio increases in Quebec and Saskatchewan

In Quebec, there were 10.1 unemployed people for every job vacancy, up from 7.5 in March 2013, as there were fewer job vacancies in the province.

Chart 1

Unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, all unemployed, by province, three-month average, March 2013 and March 2014



Saskatchewan's unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio rose from 1.9 to 3.5, as the number of job vacancies fell and the number of unemployed increased.

The highest ratio in March was in Prince Edward Island, at 21.6 unemployed people for every job vacancy, up from 10.3 a year earlier (see "data quality" in the note to readers). This was all a result of fewer job vacancies over this period, as the number of unemployed people was unchanged.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the ratio fell from 21.4 unemployed people for every job vacancy in March 2013 to 12.8 in March 2014, all a result of more job vacancies.

In the remaining provinces, the unemployment-to-job vacancy ratios were little changed compared with March 2013.

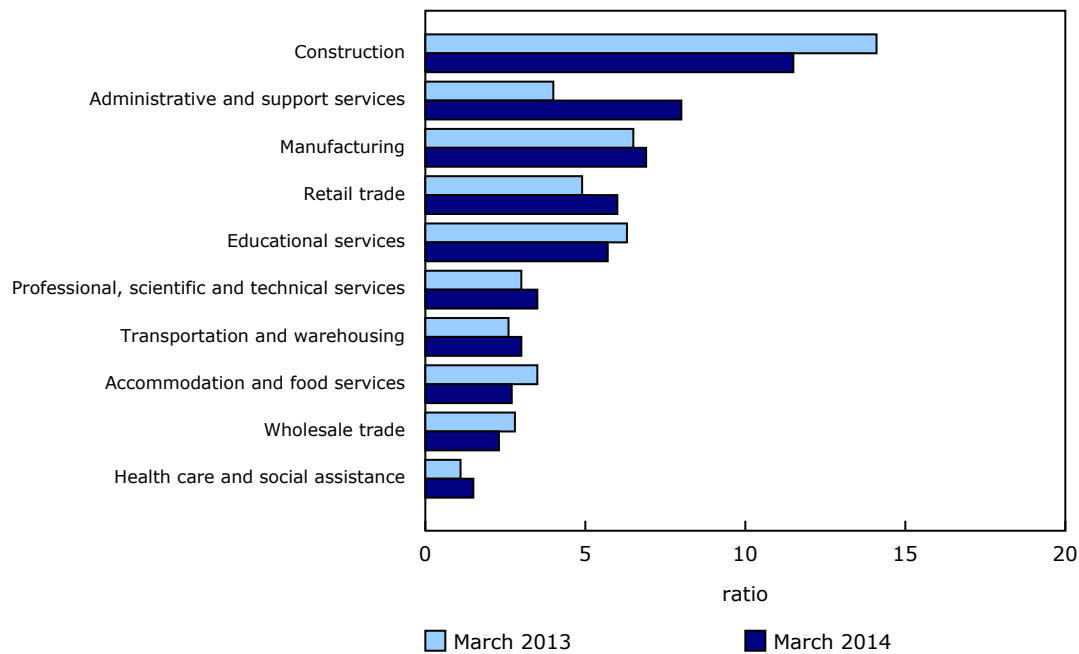
Ratio by industrial sector

Analysis of the ratio of unemployed people to job vacancies by industrial sector is limited to those who last worked within the past 12 months, as unemployment data by sector are only available for these individuals.

Among the largest industrial sectors, construction had the highest number of unemployed people for every vacancy, at 11.5 in March. This was little changed from March 2013, as both job vacancies and unemployment in this sector increased at a similar pace over this 12-month period. Since unemployment patterns in this sector are seasonal, the ratio tends to be highest in the winter months and lowest in the summer.

Chart 2

Unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, by largest industrial sector, unemployed people who last worked within the past 12 months, three-month average, March 2013 and March 2014



Administrative and support services had a ratio of 8.0 unemployed people for every vacant job in March, up from 4.0 recorded 12 months earlier, as the number of job vacancies in this sector fell.

The unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio in health care and social assistance grew from 1.1 to 1.5 in the 12 months to March, the lowest ratio of all industrial sectors. The increase in the ratio was all the result of fewer job vacancies.

The ratio for accommodation and food services was 2.7 in March, down from 3.5 a year earlier. The decline in the ratio was due to more vacancies in this sector.

Among the smaller industrial sectors, two had a notable decline. Over the 12-month period, the ratio in arts, entertainment and recreation fell from 6.6 to 4.9, and the ratio in finance and insurance declined from 2.2 to 1.6. These decreases were the result of fewer unemployed in each sector.

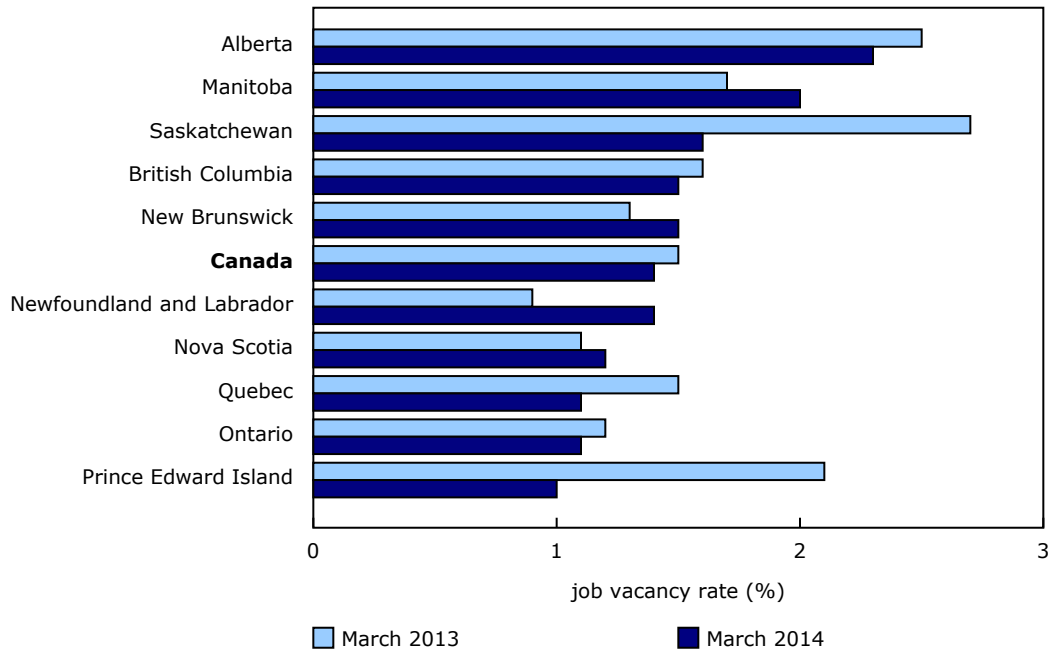
There was little change in the ratio among all other industrial sectors.

Job vacancy rates

Data from this survey are also used to calculate the job vacancy rate, which is defined as the number of vacant positions divided by total labour demand, that is, occupied positions plus vacant positions. It corresponds to the share of jobs that are unfilled out of all payroll jobs available. Higher job vacancy rates are often associated with periods of economic growth, while lower rates may be associated with periods of slower growth or economic contraction.

In March, the national job vacancy rate among Canadian businesses was 1.4%, down from 1.5% recorded 12 months earlier.

Chart 3
Job vacancy rate, by province, three-month average, March 2013 and March 2014



Provincially, the job vacancy rate changed in four provinces in the 12 months to March.

In Prince Edward Island, the rate declined from 2.1% in March 2013 to 1.0% in March 2014, while in Saskatchewan the rate fell from 2.7% to 1.6% and in Quebec, it decreased from 1.5% to 1.1%. Over the same period, the rate in Newfoundland and Labrador increased from 0.9% to 1.4%.

Job vacancy rates by sector

Compared with March 2013, the job vacancy rate declined in two industrial sectors, increased in four and was little changed in the others.

The job vacancy rate in health care and social assistance fell from 2.1% to 1.6% in the 12 months to March, with 29,000 vacancies in March 2014.

Administrative and support services had a rate of 1.0% in March, down from 2.2% a year earlier. The sector had 7,800 job vacancies in March.

In accommodation and food services, the job vacancy rate grew from 2.2% to 2.7% over the 12-month period, and the sector had 31,000 job vacancies in March. The rate also grew in utilities, construction as well as in regional and Aboriginal public administration.

Note to readers

Estimates of job vacancies are collected through the monthly Business Payrolls Survey (BPS). Starting with the January 2011 reference month, two questions were added to the BPS, which is the survey portion of the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours. These questions were: Did you have any vacant positions on the last business day of the month, and how many?

The target population is similar to the BPS and comprises all employers in Canada, except those primarily involved in: agriculture; fishing and trapping; private household services; religious organizations; and the military personnel of the defense services. Unlike the BPS, federal, provincial and territorial public administration subsectors are also excluded.

With each release, estimates for the current reference month are subject to revision. Estimates for the previous month have been revised. Users are encouraged to request and use the most up-to-date estimates for each month.

Data quality

Job vacancy and unemployment estimates are based on samples, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for geographic areas and industries with smaller numbers of vacancies or smaller unemployed populations are subject to greater sampling variability.

To address sampling variability, only differences between estimates that are statistically significant at the 68% confidence interval are discussed in this analysis.

Job vacancy, labour demand and unemployment estimates and their accompanying rates are not seasonally adjusted and should only be compared on a year-over-year basis. Given this is a new data series, trends are not yet available and, therefore, data should be interpreted with caution.

All estimates are based on three-month moving averages. For example, estimates for the current month are based on an average of the estimates from the current month and the previous two months.

Definitions

Job vacancy / vacant position: *A position is considered "vacant" if it meets all three of the following conditions: a specific position exists; work could start within 30 days; and the employer is actively seeking employees from outside the organization to fill the position.*

Labour demand: *Total labour demand is the sum of met (total payroll employment) and unmet (vacant positions) labour demand.*

Largest industrial sectors: *The sectors with the largest levels of payroll employment for which we have publishable job vacancy data.*

Job vacancy rate: *The number of vacant positions divided by total labour demand, that is, occupied positions plus vacant positions.*

Unemployment-to-job vacancies ratios

All unemployed: *The unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio for all unemployed is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed, regardless of their previous work experience, using Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, by the number of vacant positions. This ratio reflects how many unemployed individuals are available for each vacant position and is a measure of the overall labour market tightness.*

By sector: *For each sector, the ratio is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed who last worked in that sector in the previous 12 months, using LFS data, by the number of vacant positions in the same sector. This excludes new entrants to the labour market as well as unemployed people who had not worked during the previous 12 months. Unemployment data by sector are known only for those who worked within the previous 12 months.*

Use of estimates for the last sector worked does not imply that these unemployed individuals continued to look for work in that sector. This ratio reflects how many unemployed individuals who last worked in that sector are available for each vacant position in the sector. It is a measure of the labour market tightness within that sector.

Table 1
Number of unemployed, number of job vacancies, and unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, by province and territory

	Three-month average ending in March 2013			Three-month average ending in March 2014			March 2013 to March 2014		
	Number of unem- ployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemploy- ment-to- job vacancies	Number of unem- ployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemploy- ment-to- job vacancies	Number of unem- ployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemploy- ment-to- job vacancies
	thousands		ratio	thousands		ratio	change in thousands		change
Canada	1,414.2	222.9	6.3	1,398.6	206.2	6.8	-15.6	-16.7	0.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	35.0	1.6	21.4	34.4	2.7	12.8	-0.6	1.1	-8.6
Prince Edward Island	11.6	1.1	10.3	11.6	0.5	21.6	0.0	-0.6	11.3
Nova Scotia	51.2	4.2	12.2	47.4	4.4	10.7	-3.8	0.2	-1.5
New Brunswick	46.2	3.6	12.9	42.0	4.0	10.6	-4.2	0.4	-2.3
Quebec	358.3	47.9	7.5	373.0	37.1	10.1	14.7	-10.8	2.6
Ontario	575.2	65.3	8.8	557.1	63.4	8.8	-18.1	-1.9	0.0
Manitoba	33.8	9.2	3.7	36.8	11.1	3.3	3.0	1.9	-0.4
Saskatchewan	22.5	12.0	1.9	24.7	7.0	3.5	2.2	-5.0	1.6
Alberta	105.7	47.6	2.2	109.0	46.3	2.4	3.3	-1.3	0.2
British Columbia	169.9	29.4	5.8	157.8	28.8	5.5	-12.1	-0.6	-0.3
Yukon	1.5	0.3	5.1	1.2	0.3	3.9	-0.3	0.0	-1.2
Northwest Territories	1.9	0.5	3.5	1.9	0.5	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.3
Nunavut	1.6	F	F	1.8	0.1	19.1	0.2	F	F

F too unreliable to be published

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 284-0003. The number of unemployed and ratio include all unemployed individuals, regardless of previous work experience.

Table 2
Number of unemployed, number of job vacancies, and unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, by sector

	Three-month average ending in March 2013			Three-month average ending in March 2014			March 2013 to March 2014		
	Number of unem- ployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemploy- ment-to- job vacancies	Number of unem- ployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemploy- ment-to- job vacancies	Number of unem- ployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemploy- ment-to- job vacancies
	thousands		ratio	thousands		ratio	change in thousands		change
All unemployed¹	1,414.2	222.9	6.3	1,398.6	206.2	6.8	-15.6	-16.7	0.5
Unemployed, all sectors, worked within past 12 months	883.6	222.9	4.0	874.6	206.2	4.2	-9.0	-16.7	0.2
Forestry, logging and support	12.5	F	F	10.3	F	F	-2.2	F	F
Mining and quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	18.4	F	F	15.4	F	F	-3.0	F	F
Utilities	3.4	0.8	F	1.5	1.6	F	-1.9	0.8	F
Construction	151.7	10.7	14.1	172.6	15.0	11.5	20.9	4.3	-2.6
Manufacturing	111.8	17.3	6.5	110.1	16.0	6.9	-1.7	-1.3	0.4
Wholesale trade	25.9	9.3	2.8	18.9	8.3	2.3	-7.0	-1.0	-0.5
Retail trade	116.1	23.5	4.9	116.0	19.3	6.0	-0.1	-4.2	1.1
Transportation and warehousing	40.5	15.5	2.6	41.3	13.8	3.0	0.8	-1.7	0.4
Information and cultural industries	15.8	5.9	2.7	21.3	6.5	3.3	5.5	0.6	0.6
Finance and insurance	18.2	8.1	2.2	12.7	7.9	1.6	-5.5	-0.2	-0.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	10.0	3.3	3.0	13.8	F	F	3.8	F	F
Professional, scientific and technical services	52.0	17.4	3.0	55.6	15.9	3.5	3.6	-1.5	0.5
Management of companies and enterprises	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	66.7	16.8	4.0	63.0	7.8	8.0	-3.7	-9.0	4.0
Educational services	31.7	5.0	6.3	27.3	4.8	5.7	-4.4	-0.2	-0.6
Health care and social assistance	42.2	37.0	1.1	42.6	28.7	1.5	0.4	-8.3	0.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	41.8	6.3	6.6	26.8	5.5	4.9	-15.0	-0.8	-1.7
Accommodation and food services	87.0	24.9	3.5	85.3	31.2	2.7	-1.7	6.3	-0.8
Other services (excluding public administration)	28.2	10.1	2.8	27.3	10.4	2.6	-0.9	0.3	-0.2
Public administration ²	9.7	5.2	1.9	12.4	6.6	1.9	2.7	1.4	0.0

F too unreliable to be published

1. For all unemployed, the number of unemployed and ratio include all unemployed individuals, regardless of previous work experience.

2. Does not include federal, provincial or territorial public administration.

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 284-0003. The number of unemployed and ratio for 'Unemployed, all sectors, worked in past 12 months' and by sector include only those who last worked within the previous 12 months.

Table 3
Number of job vacancies and job vacancy rate, by province and territory

	Three-month average ending in March 2013		Three-month average ending in March 2014		March 2013 to March 2014		
	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate	Number of job vacancies	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate
	thousands	%	thousands	%	change in thousands	% change	change in percentage points
Canada	222.9	1.5	206.2	1.4	-16.7	-7.5	-0.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.6	0.9	2.7	1.4	1.1	68.8	0.5
Prince Edward Island	1.1	2.1	0.5	1.0	-0.6	-54.5	-1.1
Nova Scotia	4.2	1.1	4.4	1.2	0.2	4.8	0.1
New Brunswick	3.6	1.3	4.0	1.5	0.4	11.1	0.2
Quebec	47.9	1.5	37.1	1.1	-10.8	-22.5	-0.4
Ontario	65.3	1.2	63.4	1.1	-1.9	-2.9	-0.1
Manitoba	9.2	1.7	11.1	2.0	1.9	20.7	0.3
Saskatchewan	12.0	2.7	7.0	1.6	-5.0	-41.7	-1.1
Alberta	47.6	2.5	46.3	2.3	-1.3	-2.7	-0.2
British Columbia	29.4	1.6	28.8	1.5	-0.6	-2.0	-0.1
Yukon	0.3	1.9	0.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Northwest Territories	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2
Nunavut	F	1.1	0.1	1.0	F	F	-0.1

F too unreliable to be published

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 284-0001.

Table 4
Number of job vacancies and job vacancy rate, by sector

	Three-month average ending in March 2013		Three-month average ending in March 2014		March 2013 to March 2014		
	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate	Number of job vacancies	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate
	thousands	%	thousands	%	change in thousands	% change	change in percentage points
Sector aggregate	222.9	1.5	206.2	1.4	-16.7	-7.5	-0.1
Forestry, logging and support	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Mining and quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	F	1.8	F	F	F	F	F
Utilities	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.3	0.8	100.0	0.7
Construction	10.7	1.3	15.0	1.7	4.3	40.2	0.4
Manufacturing	17.3	1.2	16.0	1.1	-1.3	-7.5	-0.1
Wholesale trade	9.3	1.2	8.3	1.1	-1.0	-10.8	-0.1
Retail trade	23.5	1.2	19.3	1.0	-4.2	-17.9	-0.2
Transportation and warehousing	15.5	2.2	13.8	1.9	-1.7	-11.0	-0.3
Information and cultural industries	5.9	1.8	6.5	2.0	0.6	10.2	0.2
Finance and insurance	8.1	1.1	7.9	1.1	-0.2	-2.5	0.0
Real estate and rental and leasing	3.3	1.3	F	F	F	F	F
Professional, scientific and technical services	17.4	2.1	15.9	1.9	-1.5	-8.6	-0.2
Management of companies and enterprises	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	16.8	2.2	7.8	1.0	-9.0	-53.6	-1.2
Educational services	5.0	0.4	4.8	0.4	-0.2	-4.0	0.0
Health care and social assistance	37.0	2.1	28.7	1.6	-8.3	-22.4	-0.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	6.3	2.7	5.5	2.3	-0.8	-12.7	-0.4
Accommodation and food services	24.9	2.2	31.2	2.7	6.3	25.3	0.5
Other services (excluding public administration)	10.1	1.9	10.4	1.9	0.3	3.0	0.0
Public administration ¹	5.2	1.1	6.6	1.4	1.4	26.9	0.3

F too unreliable to be published

1. Does not include federal, provincial or territorial public administration.

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 284-0001.

Available in CANSIM: tables 284-0001 and 284-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5202.

Job vacancies data for April will be released on July 22.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Emmanuelle Bourbeau (613-951-3007; emmanuelle.bourbeau@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Study: Mixed unions in Canada, 2011

As Canada's population is becoming increasingly diverse, more people are forming a conjugal union with someone from a different ethnocultural background.

Data from the 2011 National Household Survey show that about 360,045 couples were in mixed unions, that is, relationships where one spouse or partner is a member of a visible minority while the other is not, or where the spouses or partners are from different visible minority groups.

The proportion of couples in mixed unions increased over a 20-year period, from 2.6% of all couples in 1991 to 3.1% in 2001 and 4.6% a decade later in 2011.

Most mixed unions involved partners who were born in different countries, with one spouse or partner born in Canada and the other born outside Canada (49.2%). About one in five (19.4%) were mixed unions where both were foreign-born, but from different countries.

Over half (52.8%) of mixed unions involved partners from the same broad religious group, that is, both partners reported Christian affiliation or both partners were Muslim for example. Just over one fifth (20.4%) of mixed unions involved both partners who reported no religious affiliation. Over one quarter (26.8%) of all mixed unions did not have the same religious affiliation, compared with 9.8% of all couples in Canada.

Note to readers

*This release is based on a short analytical paper "Mixed unions in Canada," now available in the publication *National Household Survey in Brief Series* (99-010-X2011003).*

This study used data from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) to examine conjugal unions in which the couples were different in visible minority status. The [National Household Survey User Guide](#) and a series of [reference guides](#) provide information about the NHS.

*A **couple** refers to two persons in a marital or common-law relationship who are living in the same dwelling. It includes both opposite-sex and same-sex couples.*

*The Employment Equity Act defines **visible minorities** as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.*

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5178.

The article "Mixed unions in Canada," in the publication *National Household Survey in Brief Series* (99-010-X2011003), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

More analysis on the immigration and ethnocultural diversity topic are also available in the report *Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada* (99-010-X2011001) and in the *National Household Survey in Brief Series* (99-010-X2011003): "Obtaining Canadian citizenship" and "Generation status: Canadian-born children of immigrants."

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Survey of Innovation and Business Strategy, 2012

Obstacles to innovation in Canada

"Uncertainty and risk" was the most common obstacle to innovation in 2012, with 22.4% of enterprises facing this barrier according to the Survey of Innovation and Business Strategy. Provincially, 25.9% of enterprises in Ontario and 25.1% of enterprises in Quebec encountered this obstacle to innovation.

"Lack of skills within the enterprise" (17.9%) was the second most frequent obstacle to innovation in 2012. Among industries, manufacturing firms (25.2%) were the most likely to face this barrier, while 18.6% of enterprises in surveyed services industries encountered similar constraints.

The third most common obstacle to innovation was "internal financing," with 15.6% of enterprises identifying this barrier in 2012, down from 22.8% in 2009. In terms of firm size, medium-sized (19.7%) enterprises were the most likely to face this obstacle in 2012.

Innovation in Canada: Data availability

Data on innovation from the Survey of Innovation and Business Strategy, first released in [The Daily](#) on February 14, 2014, are now available in CANSIM for 2009 and 2012. Tables on the use of advanced technology, process innovation, organizational innovation, product innovation, marketing innovation, the use of government support programs for innovation and obstacles to innovation are available by region, enterprise size and all surveyed industries.

Available in CANSIM: tables 358-0237 to 358-0270.

Tables 358-0237 and 358-0238: The use of advanced technology.

Tables 358-0239 to 358-0245: Process innovation.

Tables 358-0246 to 358-0249: Organizational innovation.

Tables 358-0250 to 358-0260: Product innovation.

Tables 358-0261 to 358-0265: Marketing innovation.

Tables 358-0266 and 358-0267: The use of government support programs for innovation.

Tables 358-0268 to 358-0270: Obstacles to innovation.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5171.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Earl (613-951-2880) or Marc Nadeau (613-951-3692), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers, April 2014

Data from the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for April.

Available in CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A [data table](#) is also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Canada's population estimates: Census families, July 1, 2013

Estimates of the number of census families as of July 1, 2013, for Canada, the provinces and territories are now available. These estimates are distributed by family structure (husband-wife or lone-parent). Data for the years 2006 to 2012 have been revised.

Note to readers

Estimates by size, age group of children and sex of parent in lone-parent families are available on request.

These estimates are based on the 2006 Census counts adjusted for census net undercoverage.

Available in CANSIM: table 051-0055.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3606.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

National Household Survey: Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity: "National Household Survey in Brief Series", National Household Survey year 2011
Catalogue number 99-010-X2011003 (HTML | PDF)

New studies

Mixed unions in Canada

National Household Survey: Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity: "National Household Survey in Brief Series"



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