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Releases

Releases

Employment Insurance, March 2015

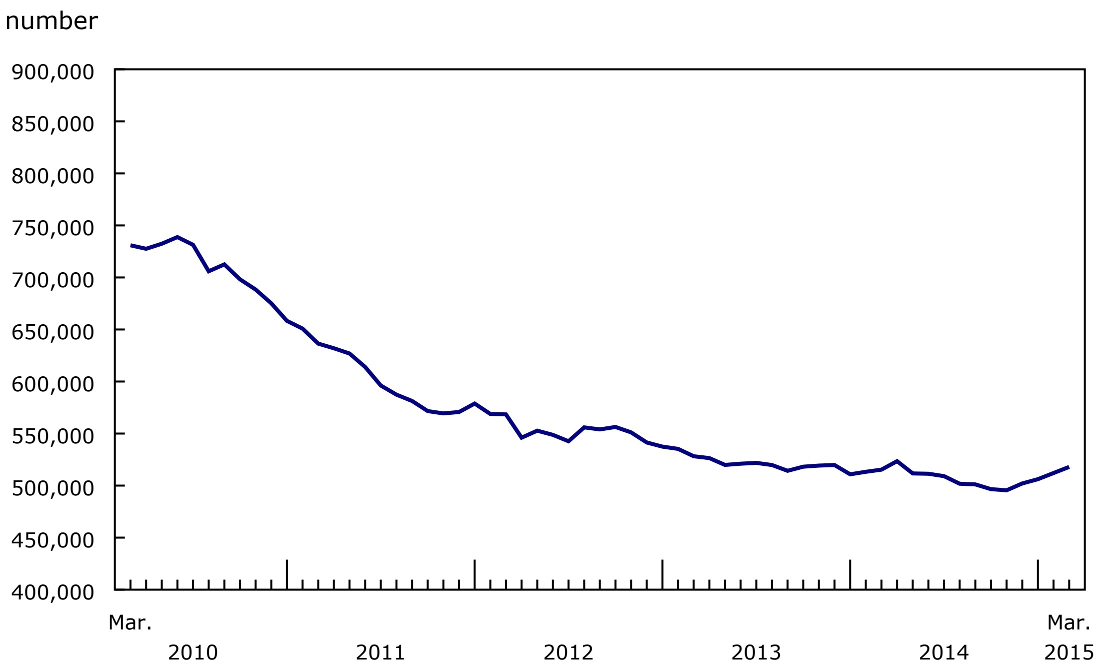
In March, 517,900 people received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, up 5,900 or 1.1% from February. Compared with March 2014, the number of EI beneficiaries rose slightly (+2,600), the first year-over-year increase since February 2010.

For the third consecutive month, Alberta led all provinces in terms of growth in the number of beneficiaries, with an 8.9% increase in March. Notable increases also occurred in Saskatchewan (+3.8%), Nova Scotia (+2.8%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.2%) and Manitoba (+2.0%).

Slight increases were recorded in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, while there were fewer beneficiaries in Quebec, and little change in New Brunswick and Ontario.

The change in the number of regular EI beneficiaries reflects various situations, including people becoming beneficiaries, people going back to work and people no longer receiving regular benefits.

Chart 1
Number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries



Source(s): CANSIM table 276-0022.

Provincial and metropolitan area overview

In Alberta, the number of people receiving benefits rose 8.9% in March to 38,800. This was the fifth consecutive monthly increase and the second largest for the province since June 2009. The most notable increases occurred among beneficiaries whose last occupation was in processing, manufacturing and utilities (+21.6%), natural and applied sciences (+19.7%) or primary industry (+18.9%).

In March, the number of beneficiaries rose for the fifth consecutive month in both Calgary (+7.8%) and Edmonton (+5.5%). In the rest of Alberta, the number of beneficiaries was up 13.3%.

In Saskatchewan, the number of people receiving EI benefits increased for the fourth consecutive month, up 3.8% to 12,300 in March. The largest increase was among beneficiaries whose last occupation was in primary industry (+9.9%). Increases were widespread throughout the province, except Regina, where there was virtually no change.

In Nova Scotia, 28,400 people received regular EI benefits in March, up 2.8% from February and the fourth consecutive monthly increase. Both census agglomerations (CAs) as well as areas outside the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and the CAs showed increases (+3.9% and +2.3% respectively). In Halifax, the number of EI recipients rose 2.6%.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, more people received benefits in March compared with February, up 2.2% to 32,900—continuing an upward trend that began last November. In the metropolitan area of St. John's, the number of people receiving benefits increased 5.6% in March.

In Manitoba, the number of beneficiaries rose 2.0% in March to 13,900. There were more people receiving benefits in Winnipeg (+2.9%) and in the CAs (+2.2%), while there was little change elsewhere in the province.

The number of beneficiaries edged up 1.7% in British Columbia, 1.5% in Prince Edward Island, and 1.0% in Ontario. Quebec, on the other hand, posted a small decline (-1.5%), while New Brunswick showed little change in March.

In British Columbia, the largest change in the number of beneficiaries occurred in the areas outside of the province's CMAs and CAs (+4.1%).

Among the 15 metropolitan areas in Ontario, Windsor recorded the largest increase in the number of beneficiaries (+86.4% or +3,600). The increase in Windsor was concentrated among EI beneficiaries whose most recent occupation was in processing, manufacturing and utilities.

In Quebec, two of the six metropolitan areas recorded declines—Trois-Rivières (-6.3%) and Sherbrooke (-4.0%)—while there were slight decreases in the CAs and in the areas outside of the CMAs and CAs.

While the number of beneficiaries was little changed in the province of New Brunswick as a whole, it increased 3.1% in the metropolitan area of Saint John.

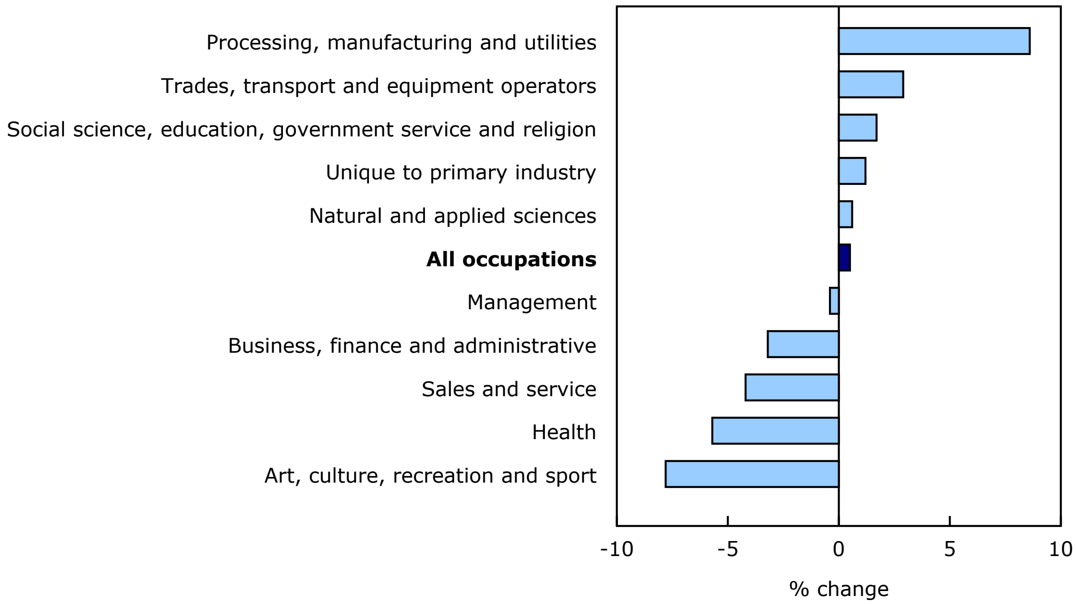
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries by occupation

The number of EI beneficiaries increased slightly in March from 12 months earlier, although this was the first year-over-year increase in four years.

Looking at EI recipients according to their last occupation, there were increases in processing, manufacturing and utilities (+8.6%), and in trades, transport and equipment operators (+2.9%).

At the same time, there were fewer beneficiaries in a number of other occupations, mainly among those whose last job was in art, culture, recreation and sport (-7.8%) or in health (-5.7%).

Chart 2
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries by occupation, percentage change, March 2014 to March 2015



Source(s): CANSIM table 276-0041.

Employment Insurance beneficiaries in major demographic groups

From February to March, there was a slight increase in the number of EI beneficiaries among both men and women aged 15 to 24, as well as among women aged 55 and older. There was little change in the other demographic groups.

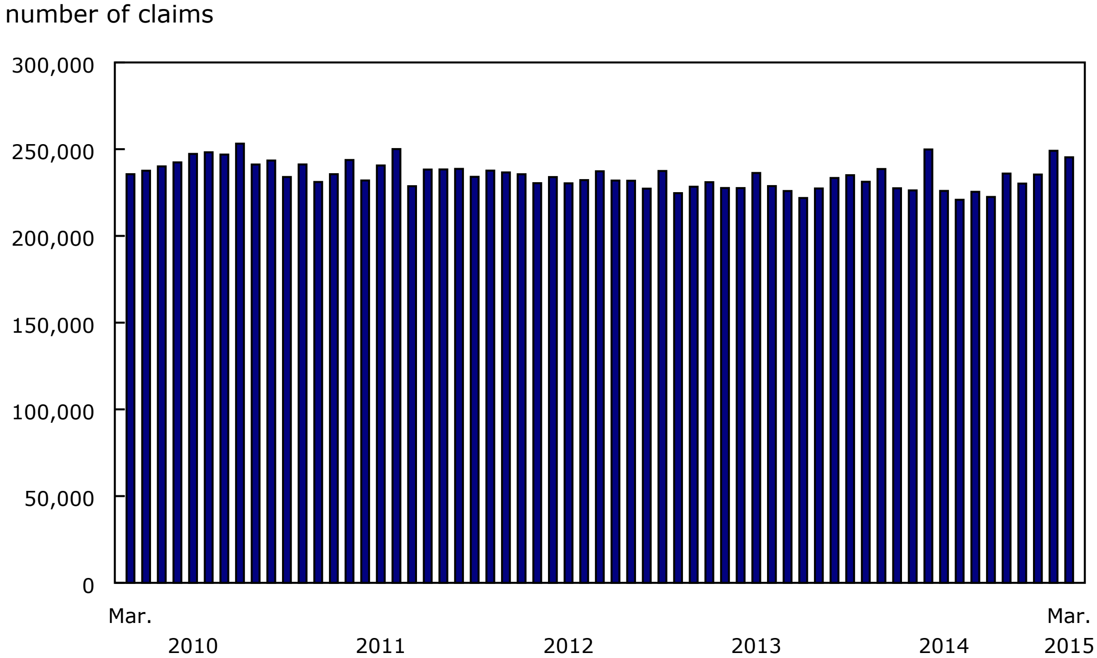
On a year-over-year basis, the number of beneficiaries increased both for women aged 55 and older (+4.8%) and for their male counterparts (+3.6%). In contrast, there were fewer beneficiaries among women aged 25 to 54 and 15 to 24 (-2.7% and -1.7% respectively).

Employment Insurance claims

Following two consecutive monthly increases, the number of EI claims edged down 1.5% in March. The number of claims provides an indication of the number of people who could become beneficiaries.

Provincially, claims declined in Manitoba (-5.0%), Ontario (-4.3%) and Quebec (-1.5%), while they increased in Saskatchewan (+3.4%) and British Columbia (+2.2%). There was no or little change in the other provinces.

Chart 3
Employment Insurance claims



Source(s): CANSIM table 276-0004.

Note to readers

Regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits are available to eligible individuals who lose their jobs and who are available for and able to work, but cannot find a job. To receive EI benefits, individuals must first submit a claim. The number of claims provides an indication of the number of people who could become beneficiaries.

There is always a certain proportion of unemployed people who do not qualify for benefits. Some unemployed people have not contributed to the program because they have not worked in the past 12 months or their employment is not insured. Other unemployed people have contributed to the program but do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as workers who left their job voluntarily or those who did not accumulate enough hours of work to receive benefits.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted. For information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions.

EI statistics are produced from administrative data sources provided by Service Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada. These statistics may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act or administrative procedures.

The number of regular EI beneficiaries and the number of claims received for the current and previous month are subject to revision.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all people who received EI benefits from March 15 to 21. This period coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, initial and renewal claims data are for the entire month.

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits, and should not be confused with LFS data, which provide information on the total number of unemployed people.

Geographical definitions

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre. A CMA, also referred to as a 'metropolitan area' in this release, must have a total population of at least 100,000. A CA must have a population of at least 10,000. See Standard Geographical Classification 2011 – Definitions for more information.

Table 1
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by province and territory, sex and age – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2014	February 2015^p	March 2015^p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	number			change		% change	
Canada							
Both sexes	**515,320**	**512,070**	**517,940**	**5,870**	**2,620**	**1.1**	**0.5**
15 to 24 years	49,680	48,720	49,600	880	-80	1.8	-0.2
25 to 54 years	347,920	342,340	345,830	3,490	-2,090	1.0	-0.6
55 years and over	117,720	121,010	122,510	1,500	4,790	1.2	4.1
Men	**321,730**	**322,370**	**326,080**	**3,710**	**4,350**	**1.2**	**1.4**
15 to 24 years	37,000	36,460	37,140	680	140	1.9	0.4
25 to 54 years	211,390	210,610	212,960	2,350	1,570	1.1	0.7
55 years and over	73,340	75,300	75,980	680	2,640	0.9	3.6
Women	**193,590**	**189,700**	**191,860**	**2,160**	**-1,730**	**1.1**	**-0.9**
15 to 24 years	12,680	12,260	12,460	200	-220	1.6	-1.7
25 to 54 years	136,530	131,730	132,860	1,130	-3,670	0.9	-2.7
55 years and over	44,380	45,710	46,530	820	2,150	1.8	4.8
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	**32,420**	**32,150**	**32,860**	**710**	**440**	**2.2**	**1.4**
15 to 24 years	2,760	2,830	2,910	80	150	2.8	5.4
25 to 54 years	19,900	19,370	19,770	400	-130	2.1	-0.7
55 years and over	9,760	9,950	10,170	220	410	2.2	4.2
Men	**19,640**	**19,380**	**19,850**	**470**	**210**	**2.4**	**1.1**
Women	**12,780**	**12,770**	**13,010**	**240**	**230**	**1.9**	**1.8**
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	**7,320**	**7,510**	**7,620**	**110**	**300**	**1.5**	**4.1**
15 to 24 years	790	850	850	0	60	0.0	7.6
25 to 54 years	4,470	4,450	4,510	60	40	1.3	0.9
55 years and over	2,070	2,210	2,260	50	190	2.3	9.2
Men	**4,450**	**4,570**	**4,650**	**80**	**200**	**1.8**	**4.5**
Women	**2,870**	**2,930**	**2,970**	**40**	**100**	**1.4**	**3.5**
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	**26,760**	**27,580**	**28,360**	**780**	**1,600**	**2.8**	**6.0**
15 to 24 years	2,510	2,690	2,790	100	280	3.7	11.2
25 to 54 years	17,470	17,740	18,190	450	720	2.5	4.1
55 years and over	6,780	7,150	7,380	230	600	3.2	8.8
Men	**17,110**	**17,960**	**18,560**	**600**	**1,450**	**3.3**	**8.5**
Women	**9,650**	**9,630**	**9,800**	**170**	**150**	**1.8**	**1.6**
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	**32,080**	**32,280**	**32,520**	**240**	**440**	**0.7**	**1.4**
15 to 24 years	3,440	3,450	3,500	50	60	1.4	1.7
25 to 54 years	19,940	19,800	19,870	70	-70	0.4	-0.4
55 years and over	8,700	9,030	9,150	120	450	1.3	5.2
Men	**20,580**	**21,110**	**21,380**	**270**	**800**	**1.3**	**3.9**
Women	**11,510**	**11,180**	**11,140**	**-40**	**-370**	**-0.4**	**-3.2**
Quebec							
Both sexes	**152,310**	**154,280**	**151,990**	**-2,290**	**-320**	**-1.5**	**-0.2**
15 to 24 years	15,060	14,080	14,070	-10	-990	-0.1	-6.6
25 to 54 years	101,400	102,260	100,080	-2,180	-1,320	-2.1	-1.3
55 years and over	35,860	37,930	37,840	-90	1,980	-0.2	5.5
Men	**99,440**	**100,410**	**98,200**	**-2,210**	**-1,240**	**-2.2**	**-1.2**
Women	**52,870**	**53,860**	**53,780**	**-80**	**910**	**-0.1**	**1.7**
Ontario							
Both sexes	**154,930**	**145,540**	**146,970**	**1,430**	**-7,960**	**1.0**	**-5.1**
15 to 24 years	13,430	12,720	12,840	120	-590	0.9	-4.4
25 to 54 years	109,520	101,980	102,960	980	-6,560	1.0	-6.0
55 years and over	31,980	30,850	31,180	330	-800	1.1	-2.5
Men	**92,920**	**87,440**	**88,210**	**770**	**-4,710**	**0.9**	**-5.1**
Women	**62,010**	**58,100**	**58,760**	**660**	**-3,250**	**1.1**	**-5.2**

Table 1 - continued
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by province and territory, sex and age – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2014	February 2015p	March 2015p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
Manitoba							
Both sexes	**13,490**	**13,650**	**13,920**	**270**	**430**	**2.0**	**3.2**
15 to 24 years	1,810	1,840	1,910	70	100	3.8	5.5
25 to 54 years	9,250	9,340	9,490	150	240	1.6	2.6
55 years and over	2,440	2,470	2,520	50	80	2.0	3.3
Men	**8,770**	**9,120**	**9,350**	**230**	**580**	**2.5**	**6.6**
Women	**4,720**	**4,530**	**4,560**	**30**	**-160**	**0.7**	**-3.4**
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	**10,990**	**11,800**	**12,250**	**450**	**1,260**	**3.8**	**11.5**
15 to 24 years	1,410	1,520	1,620	100	210	6.6	14.9
25 to 54 years	7,300	7,710	8,030	320	730	4.2	10.0
55 years and over	2,280	2,570	2,600	30	320	1.2	14.0
Men	**7,350**	**7,860**	**8,300**	**440**	**950**	**5.6**	**12.9**
Women	**3,640**	**3,950**	**3,950**	**0**	**310**	**0.0**	**8.5**
Alberta							
Both sexes	**31,080**	**35,570**	**38,750**	**3,180**	**7,670**	**8.9**	**24.7**
15 to 24 years	3,560	4,090	4,390	300	830	7.3	23.3
25 to 54 years	21,840	24,860	27,430	2,570	5,590	10.3	25.6
55 years and over	5,680	6,620	6,930	310	1,250	4.7	22.0
Men	**19,330**	**23,310**	**25,750**	**2,440**	**6,420**	**10.5**	**33.2**
Women	**11,750**	**12,260**	**13,010**	**750**	**1,260**	**6.1**	**10.7**
British Columbia							
Both sexes	**51,200**	**48,660**	**49,510**	**850**	**-1,690**	**1.7**	**-3.3**
15 to 24 years	4,670	4,330	4,410	80	-260	1.8	-5.6
25 to 54 years	34,840	32,630	33,190	560	-1,650	1.7	-4.7
55 years and over	11,680	11,690	11,900	210	220	1.8	1.9
Men	**30,380**	**29,310**	**29,850**	**540**	**-530**	**1.8**	**-1.7**
Women	**20,810**	**19,340**	**19,660**	**320**	**-1,150**	**1.7**	**-5.5**
Yukon							
Both sexes	**940**	**910**	**880**	**-30**	**-60**	**-3.3**	**-6.4**
15 to 24 years	110	110	110	0	0	0.0	0.0
25 to 54 years	620	580	560	-20	-60	-3.4	-9.7
55 years and over	220	220	220	0	0	0.0	0.0
Men	**610**	**570**	**550**	**-20**	**-60**	**-3.5**	**-9.8**
Women	**330**	**340**	**330**	**-10**	**0**	**-2.9**	**0.0**
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	**790**	**740**	**770**	**30**	**-20**	**4.1**	**-2.5**
15 to 24 years	60	60	60	0	0	0.0	0.0
25 to 54 years	590	560	590	30	0	5.4	0.0
55 years and over	130	120	120	0	-10	0.0	-7.7
Men	**500**	**480**	**500**	**20**	**0**	**4.2**	**0.0**
Women	**290**	**260**	**270**	**10**	**-20**	**3.8**	**-6.9**
Nunavut							
Both sexes	**490**	**360**	**350**	**-10**	**-140**	**-2.8**	**-28.6**
15 to 24 years	40	40	40	0	0	0.0	0.0
25 to 54 years	410	270	270	0	-140	0.0	-34.1
55 years and over	50	50	40	-10	-10	-20.0	-20.0
Men	**330**	**230**	**220**	**-10**	**-110**	**-4.3**	**-33.3**
Women	**160**	**130**	**130**	**0**	**-30**	**0.0**	**-18.8**

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1. Includes people who receive regular income benefits whether or not they participate in one of three employment benefit programs, namely the Skills Development Program, Job Creation Partnerships Program and Self-employment Program.

Source(s): CANSIM table 276-0022.

Table 2
Initial and renewal claims received, by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2014	February 2015[p]	March 2015[p]	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	number			change		% change	
Canada	**238,560**	**249,070**	**245,320**	**-3,750**	**6,760**	**-1.5**	**2.8**
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,750	9,100	9,170	70	420	0.8	4.8
Prince Edward Island	2,290	2,630	2,630	0	340	0.0	14.8
Nova Scotia	9,030	9,530	9,560	30	530	0.3	5.9
New Brunswick	9,390	10,070	9,990	-80	600	-0.8	6.4
Quebec	68,630	68,390	67,350	-1,040	-1,280	-1.5	-1.9
Ontario	80,820	77,150	73,870	-3,280	-6,950	-4.3	-8.6
Manitoba	6,860	7,960	7,560	-400	700	-5.0	10.2
Saskatchewan	6,020	6,700	6,930	230	910	3.4	15.1
Alberta	19,660	29,660	29,800	140	10,140	0.5	51.6
British Columbia	26,230	26,930	27,510	580	1,280	2.2	4.9
Yukon	310	370	330	-40	20	-10.8	6.5
Northwest Territories	280	280	300	20	20	7.1	7.1
Nunavut	190	170	190	20	0	11.8	0.0

p preliminary
Source(s): CANSIM table **276-0004**.

Table 3
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by census metropolitan category[2] – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2014	February 2015p	March 2015p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	number			change		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	**3,940**	**3,960**	**4,180**	**220**	**240**	**5.6**	**6.1**
St. John's	3,940	3,960	4,180	220	240	5.6	6.1
Census agglomerations	**3,240**	**3,290**	**3,310**	**20**	**70**	**0.6**	**2.2**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**25,240**	**24,900**	**25,370**	**470**	**130**	**1.9**	**0.5**
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	**3,040**	**3,050**	**3,080**	**30**	**40**	**1.0**	**1.3**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**4,280**	**4,460**	**4,540**	**80**	**260**	**1.8**	**6.1**
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	**5,100**	**4,950**	**5,080**	**130**	**-20**	**2.6**	**-0.4**
Halifax	5,100	4,950	5,080	130	-20	2.6	-0.4
Census agglomerations	**8,500**	**8,890**	**9,240**	**350**	**740**	**3.9**	**8.7**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**13,160**	**13,740**	**14,050**	**310**	**890**	**2.3**	**6.8**
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	**5,190**	**5,530**	**5,650**	**120**	**460**	**2.2**	**8.9**
Moncton	2,990	2,990	3,030	40	40	1.3	1.3
Saint John	2,200	2,540	2,620	80	420	3.1	19.1
Census agglomerations	**6,650**	**6,650**	**6,700**	**50**	**50**	**0.8**	**0.8**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**20,250**	**20,110**	**20,170**	**60**	**-80**	**0.3**	**-0.4**
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	**79,290**	**81,710**	**80,560**	**-1,150**	**1,270**	**-1.4**	**1.6**
Montréal	55,040	56,730	55,920	-810	880	-1.4	1.6
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	3,600	4,000	4,000	0	400	0.0	11.1
Québec	9,790	9,950	9,890	-60	100	-0.6	1.0
Saguenay	4,330	4,620	4,660	40	330	0.9	7.6
Sherbrooke	3,370	3,540	3,400	-140	30	-4.0	0.9
Trois-Rivières	3,160	2,870	2,690	-180	-470	-6.3	-14.9
Census agglomerations	**21,840**	**21,960**	**21,650**	**-310**	**-190**	**-1.4**	**-0.9**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**51,170**	**50,610**	**49,780**	**-830**	**-1,390**	**-1.6**	**-2.7**
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	**113,670**	**106,380**	**108,300**	**1,920**	**-5,370**	**1.8**	**-4.7**
Barrie	2,500	2,420	2,410	-10	-90	-0.4	-3.6
Brantford	1,980	1,870	1,940	70	-40	3.7	-2.0
Greater Sudbury	2,610	2,280	2,250	-30	-360	-1.3	-13.8
Guelph	1,340	1,180	1,130	-50	-210	-4.2	-15.7
Hamilton	7,230	6,790	6,730	-60	-500	-0.9	-6.9
Kingston	1,660	1,610	1,600	-10	-60	-0.6	-3.6
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	5,650	4,930	4,750	-180	-900	-3.7	-15.9
London	5,790	5,330	5,340	10	-450	0.2	-7.8
Oshawa	4,440	4,030	4,010	-20	-430	-0.5	-9.7
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	7,190	7,450	7,240	-210	50	-2.8	0.7
Peterborough	1,560	1,450	1,420	-30	-140	-2.1	-9.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	5,880	5,210	5,010	-200	-870	-3.8	-14.8
Thunder Bay	1,830	1,690	1,510	-180	-320	-10.7	-17.5
Toronto	59,730	55,940	55,140	-800	-4,590	-1.4	-7.7
Windsor	4,280	4,200	7,830	3,630	3,550	86.4	82.9
Census agglomerations	**17,890**	**16,820**	**16,570**	**-250**	**-1,320**	**-1.5**	**-7.4**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**23,370**	**22,340**	**22,090**	**-250**	**-1,280**	**-1.1**	**-5.5**

Table 3 - continued
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by census metropolitan category[2] – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2014	February 2015p	March 2015p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	**7,100**	**7,160**	**7,370**	**210**	**270**	**2.9**	**3.8**
Winnipeg	7,100	7,160	7,370	210	270	2.9	3.8
Census agglomerations	**880**	**910**	**930**	**20**	**50**	**2.2**	**5.7**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**5,510**	**5,580**	**5,610**	**30**	**100**	**0.5**	**1.8**
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	**3,610**	**3,770**	**3,890**	**120**	**280**	**3.2**	**7.8**
Regina	1,440	1,470	1,480	10	40	0.7	2.8
Saskatoon	2,170	2,300	2,410	110	240	4.8	11.1
Census agglomerations	**1,900**	**2,210**	**2,310**	**100**	**410**	**4.5**	**21.6**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**5,480**	**5,820**	**6,060**	**240**	**580**	**4.1**	**10.6**
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	**21,000**	**23,160**	**24,690**	**1,530**	**3,690**	**6.6**	**17.6**
Calgary	10,280	11,130	12,000	870	1,720	7.8	16.7
Edmonton	10,710	12,030	12,690	660	1,980	5.5	18.5
Census agglomerations	**4,800**	**5,910**	**6,680**	**770**	**1,880**	**13.0**	**39.2**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**5,280**	**6,500**	**7,390**	**890**	**2,110**	**13.7**	**40.0**
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	**29,130**	**26,220**	**26,290**	**70**	**-2,840**	**0.3**	**-9.7**
Abbotsford–Mission	2,700	2,590	2,690	100	-10	3.9	-0.4
Kelowna	2,260	2,430	2,460	30	200	1.2	8.8
Vancouver	21,360	18,660	18,580	-80	-2,780	-0.4	-13.0
Victoria	2,810	2,550	2,560	10	-250	0.4	-8.9
Census agglomerations	**12,540**	**12,590**	**12,970**	**380**	**430**	**3.0**	**3.4**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**9,520**	**9,850**	**10,250**	**400**	**730**	**4.1**	**7.7**

p preliminary
1. Includes people who receive regular income benefits whether or not they participate in one of three employment benefit programs, namely the Skills Development Program, Job Creation Partnerships Program and Self-employment Program.
2. 2011 Standard Geographical Classification.

Source(s): CANSIM table **276-0034**.

Table 4
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by occupation,[2] Canada – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2014	February 2015p	March 2015p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	number			change		% change	
All occupations	**515,320**	**512,070**	**517,940**	**5,870**	**2,620**	**1.1**	**0.5**
Management occupations	**31,530**	**31,030**	**31,410**	**380**	**-120**	**1.2**	**-0.4**
Senior management occupations	2,800	2,710	2,860	150	60	5.5	2.1
Other management occupations	28,730	28,310	28,550	240	-180	0.8	-0.6
Business, finance and administrative occupations	**64,420**	**61,940**	**62,360**	**420**	**-2,060**	**0.7**	**-3.2**
Professional occupations in business and finance	5,090	4,670	4,750	80	-340	1.7	-6.7
Financial, secretarial and administrative occupations	17,300	16,830	16,970	140	-330	0.8	-1.9
Clerical occupations, including supervisors	42,030	40,440	40,640	200	-1,390	0.5	-3.3
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	**27,930**	**27,860**	**28,100**	**240**	**170**	**0.9**	**0.6**
Health occupations	**7,910**	**7,520**	**7,460**	**-60**	**-450**	**-0.8**	**-5.7**
Professional occupations in health, nurse supervisors and registered nurses	1,310	1,260	1,270	10	-40	0.8	-3.1
Technical, assisting and related occupations in health	6,600	6,260	6,200	-60	-400	-1.0	-6.1
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	**28,780**	**28,770**	**29,260**	**490**	**480**	**1.7**	**1.7**
Occupations in social science, government service and religion	15,400	15,320	15,600	280	200	1.8	1.3
Teachers and professors	13,380	13,450	13,660	210	280	1.6	2.1
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	**9,890**	**9,140**	**9,120**	**-20**	**-770**	**-0.2**	**-7.8**
Sales and service occupations	**91,300**	**87,760**	**87,510**	**-250**	**-3,790**	**-0.3**	**-4.2**
Wholesale, insurance, real estate sales specialists, and retail, wholesale and grain buyers	5,160	4,900	4,890	-10	-270	-0.2	-5.2
Retail salespersons, sales clerks, cashiers, including retail trade supervisors	17,000	15,590	15,400	-190	-1,600	-1.2	-9.4
Chefs and cooks, and occupations in food and beverage service, including supervisors	17,630	16,740	16,640	-100	-990	-0.6	-5.6
Occupations in protective services	4,910	4,700	4,670	-30	-240	-0.6	-4.9
Childcare and home support workers	15,380	15,540	15,790	250	410	1.6	2.7
Sales and service occupations (not elsewhere classified), including occupations in travel and accommodation, attendants in recreation and sport as well as supervisors	31,230	30,300	30,140	-160	-1,090	-0.5	-3.5
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	**170,420**	**174,900**	**175,410**	**510**	**4,990**	**0.3**	**2.9**
Contractors and supervisors in trades and transportation	6,650	7,030	6,970	-60	320	-0.9	4.8
Construction trades	36,470	37,440	37,570	130	1,100	0.3	3.0
Other trades occupations	38,960	40,150	40,800	650	1,840	1.6	4.7
Transport and equipment operators	39,670	40,900	40,780	-120	1,110	-0.3	2.8
Trades helpers, construction and transportation labourers and related occupations	48,680	49,390	49,300	-90	620	-0.2	1.3
Occupations unique to primary industry	**36,020**	**36,370**	**36,440**	**70**	**420**	**0.2**	**1.2**
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	**46,030**	**46,020**	**50,000**	**3,980**	**3,970**	**8.6**	**8.6**
Machine operators and assemblers in manufacturing, including supervisors	21,940	22,420	25,940	3,520	4,000	15.7	18.2
Labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities	24,090	23,600	24,060	460	-30	1.9	-0.1

p preliminary
1. Includes people who receive regular income benefits whether or not they participate in one of three employment benefit programs, namely the Skills Development Program, Job Creation Partnerships Program and Self-employment Program.
2. 2006 National Occupational Classification – Statistics.

Source(s): CANSIM table 276-0041.

Available in CANSIM: tables 276-0003, 276-0004, 276-0011, 276-0017, 276-0018, 276-0020 to 276-0022, 276-0033 to 276-0035, 276-0040 and 276-0041.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for April will be released on June 18.

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 Lahouaria Yssaad (613-951-0627; **lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.gc.ca**), Labour Statistics Division.

Natural gas sales, March 2015

Natural gas sales totalled 9.6 billion cubic metres in March, down 3.7% from March 2014.

The volume of sales to the residential (-10.5%) and commercial (-7.9%) sectors was down, while the industrial sector was up 1.5% compared with the same month a year earlier.

Total sales in March were 9.2% lower compared with the previous month.

Note to readers

Data for January and February 2015 have been revised.

Table 1
Natural gas sales

	March 2014	February 2015	March 2015p	February to March 2015	March 2014 to March 2015
	thousands of cubic metres			% change	
Total sales	**9 969 373**	**10 577 477**	**9 601 947**	**-9.2**	**-3.7**
Residential[1]	2 731 894	3 006 204	2 443 782	-18.7	-10.5
Commercial[2]	1 986 468	2 190 533	1 828 650	-16.5	-7.9
Industrial[3] and direct sales[4]	5 251 011	5 380 740	5 329 515	-1.0	1.5

p preliminary
1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating and cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.
2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.
3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.
4. Represents direct, non-utility sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

Source(s): Survey on Gas Utilities/Transportation and Distribution Systems (**2149**).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

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**).

Investment in new housing construction, March 2015

Investment in new housing construction increased 4.2% to $3.5 billion in March compared with the same month a year earlier.

Investment rose in all dwelling types with apartment and apartment-condominium buildings accounting for much of the national advance.

Investment in apartment and apartment-condominium buildings rose 7.5% to $1.2 billion, while spending on single-family homes increased 1.5% to $1.8 billion.

Investment in row house construction advanced 7.7% to $351 million and spending on semi-detached dwellings rose 5.1% to $193 million.

Provincially, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario recorded the largest year-over-year increases.

In Alberta, total investment in new residential construction increased 15.0% to $937 million. In British Columbia, spending was up 13.3% to $643 million, while in Ontario, investment rose 2.4% to $1.1 billion.

Conversely, Quebec posted the largest decline, with total investment falling 9.3% to $481 million. Lower spending in single-family dwellings was mostly responsible for the decrease, down 19.0% to $154 million.

Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador posted the second and third largest declines. In Saskatchewan, total investment declined 11.5% to $112 million and in Newfoundland and Labrador, total spending fell 25.1% to $36 million.

Note to readers

Data on investment in new housing construction (including single-family dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing, apartments and condominiums) are not seasonally adjusted and all comparisons in this release are between March 2014 and March 2015.

Data in CANSIM are available at the national and provincial levels, in both current and constant dollars (base year 2007).

Unless otherwise specified, the highlights refer to current dollars and are ranked in terms of dollar change rather than percentage change.

Estimates for investment in new housing construction from January 2014 to February 2015 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: table 026-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

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 Mariane Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520; **mariane.bien-aime@statcan.gc.ca**), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Civil aviation operating statistics, March 2015

The two major Canadian air carriers flew 4.2 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in March, up 14.2% from the same month in 2014. On average, each passenger travelled 2 704 kilometres, up 1.4% compared with March 2014.

Both Air Canada and WestJet increased their passenger capacity and traffic in March. Capacity grew 15.1% on a year-over-year basis to 13.5 billion available seat-kilometres, as international growth (+18.4%) for scheduled services outstripped domestic growth (+7.1%). Traffic totalled 11.2 billion passenger-kilometres, up 15.7%.

The volume of turbo fuel consumed totalled 438.2 million litres, up 7.4% from the same month a year earlier.

Note to readers

Data for Air Canada rouge, which began operations on July 1, 2013, were included in the March 2015 data for Air Canada, but were not included in the March 2014 data for Air Canada.

Data in this monthly release are not seasonally adjusted.

Available in CANSIM: tables 401-0001 and 401-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5026.

A summary 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**).

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports, March 2015

Aircraft take-offs and landings at Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations increased 4.9% in March from the same month a year earlier. These 91 airports reported 451,891 movements during the month. The 430,840 aircraft movements reported by 92 airports in March 2014 represented the lowest level for a month of March since 1985.

Increases in both itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) and local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) contributed to the overall gain. Itinerant movements rose 3.7% to 315,026, while local movements grew 7.6% to 136,865.

Prince Rupert Airport in British Columbia, while still open, lost its status as a flight service station effective July 24, 2014. This airport had accounted for 228 movements in March 2014.

Note to readers

Data for March 2014 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: tables 401-0007 to 401-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

Additional analytical information is now available in "Monthly Aircraft Movements: Major airports – NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations," as part of the service bulletin *Aviation* (**51-004-X**), from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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**).

Air fares, first quarter 2014

Domestic and international air fares combined averaged $242.30 in the first quarter of 2014, down 2.7% from the same quarter of 2013. This marked the second decline following two consecutive year-over-year quarterly advances. The average domestic fare was $179.10, down 7.9% from the same quarter a year earlier, while the average international fare rose 1.1% to $307.20.

Average domestic fares decreased in all 10 selected Canadian cities of enplanement, with Saskatoon (-11.3%), Halifax (-11.1%), Ottawa (-10.7%) and Regina (-10.5%) recording the largest decreases.

In the first quarter of 2014, the average domestic fare in Toronto ($207.40) remained the highest among the major cities, as it has since the second quarter of 2010. Vancouver ($193.30) and Winnipeg ($187.40) also reported average domestic air fares above the national average.

Note to readers

Average air fares are calculated for each flight stage. When the passenger boards the aircraft at one airport and departs the aircraft at another airport, this is considered a flight stage. Average air fares are base fares and they do not include the Goods and Services Tax, air transportation taxes or user fees such as airport improvement fees or fuel surcharges.

The Fare Basis Survey covers Air Canada (including Air Canada rouge beginning in July 2013), Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners, Air Transat and WestJet.

The data in this quarterly release are not seasonally adjusted.

Table 1
Average domestic air fares for 10 major Canadian cities

	First quarter 2013	First quarter 2014	First quarter 2013 to first quarter 2014
	dollars		% change
Canada	**194.40**	**179.10**	**-7.9**
Calgary	182.40	167.40	-8.2
Edmonton	181.40	168.20	-7.3
Halifax	200.40	178.10	-11.1
Montréal	182.40	174.60	-4.3
Ottawa	186.40	166.40	-10.7
Regina	176.30	157.80	-10.5
Saskatoon	182.20	161.70	-11.3
Toronto	222.20	207.40	-6.7
Vancouver	207.10	193.30	-6.7
Winnipeg	201.50	187.40	-7.0

Note(s):
The air carriers included are the Canadian Level I carriers operating scheduled services (Air Canada, including Air Canada rouge beginning in July 2013; Jazz; Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners; Air Transat and WestJet).
All estimates shown above have a coefficient of variation of less than 10% and can be considered reliable from a sampling point of view.
Source(s): CANSIM table **401-0003**.

Available in CANSIM: tables 401-0003, 401-0041 and 401-0042.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2708.

Summary tables are also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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New products and studies

New products

Aviation: "Monthly Aircraft Movements: Major airports – NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations", March 2015, Vol. 47, no. 7
Catalogue number **51-004-X2015007** (HTML)

Wholesale Trade, March 2015, Vol. 78, no. 3
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