

The Daily

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Employment increased by 59,000 in May, driven by gains in the number of private sector employees. The number of people participating in the labour market also rose in May, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged at 6.8% for the fourth consecutive month.

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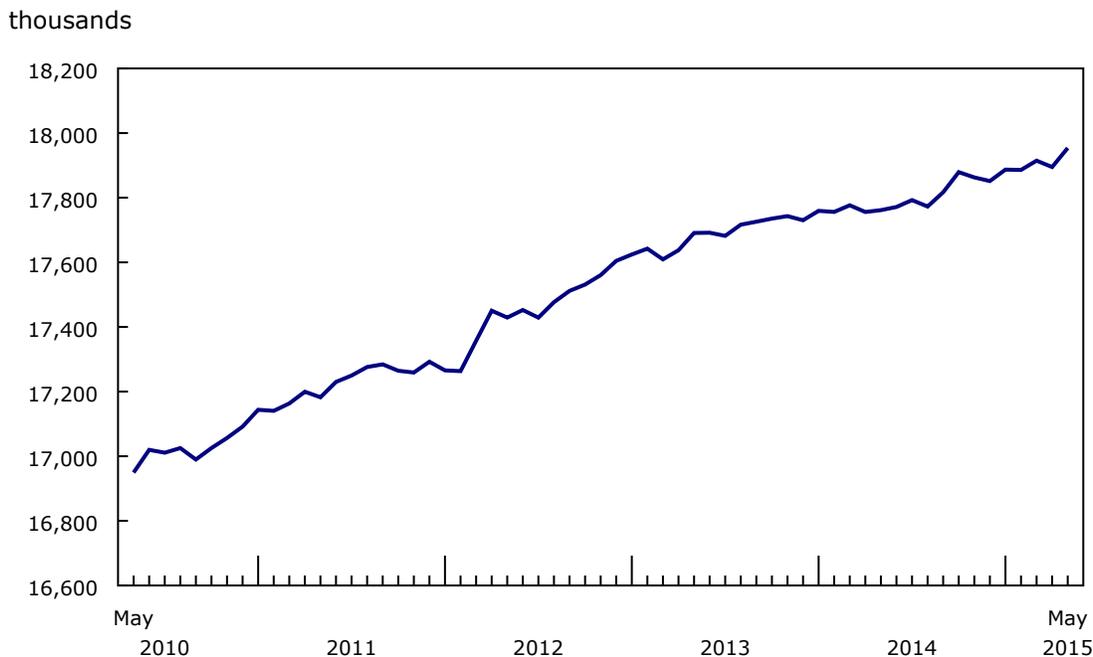
Labour Force Survey, May 2015

Employment increased by 59,000 in May, driven by gains in the number of private sector employees. The number of people participating in the labour market also rose in May, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged at 6.8% for the fourth consecutive month.

Since the beginning of 2015, employment gains have averaged 20,500 per month.

In the 12 months to May, employment increased by 192,000 (+1.1%), the result of more full-time work. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked grew by 1.2%.

Chart 1 Employment



Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

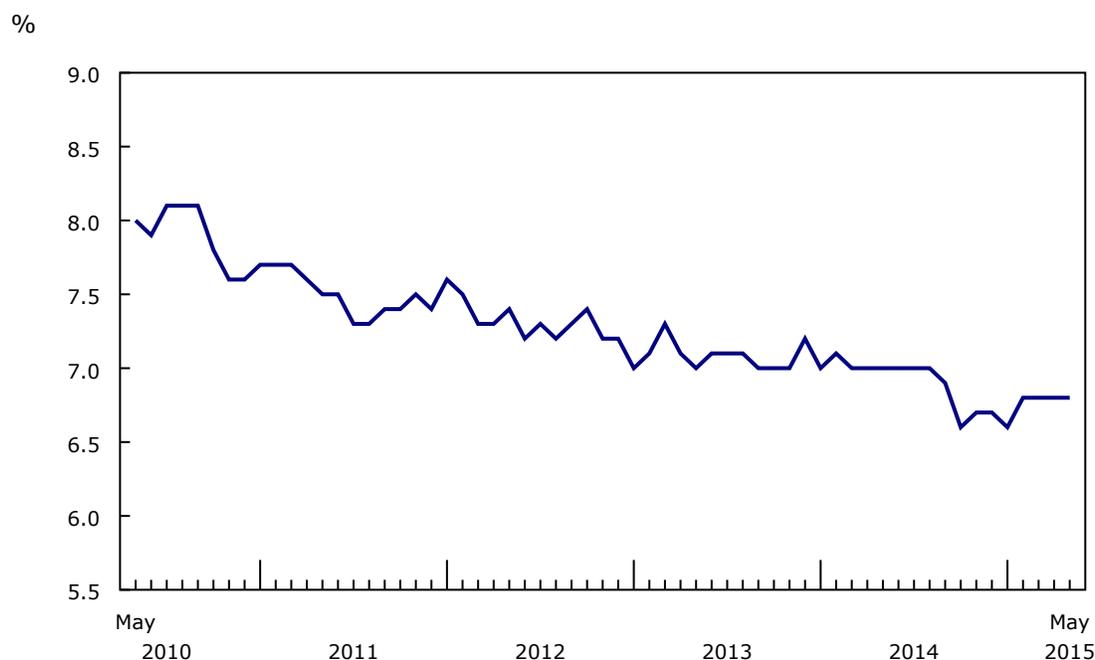
Employment gains in May were highest among men aged 25 to 54, followed by men aged 55 and older. However, there was little change among the other demographic groups.

Provincially, employment increased in Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, while it declined in Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and New Brunswick.

In May, there were more people working in manufacturing as well as in health care and social assistance. Additionally, employment rose in retail and wholesale trade; business, building and other support services; as well as in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing. In contrast, there were fewer workers in public administration and agriculture.

The number of private sector employees increased in May, while there was little change in self-employment. At the same time, public sector employment edged down.

Chart 2 Unemployment rate



Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

Employment up for men aged 25 and older

For men aged 25 to 54, employment increased by 20,000 and their unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.0%, as their participation in the labour market also increased. In the 12 months to May, employment rose by 48,000 (+0.8%) for this group.

In comparison, employment in May was little changed for women aged 25 to 54 and the unemployment rate held steady at 5.2%. On a year-over-year basis, employment gains for this group totalled 46,000 (+0.8%).

For men aged 55 and older, employment rose by 14,000. However, their unemployment rate increased 0.5 percentage points to 6.4% as more of them searched for work. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment for this group increased by 68,000 (+3.6%), mostly a result of population aging.

For women aged 55 and older, employment was little changed in May and compared with 12 months earlier. However, their unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points to 4.9% in May, as fewer women aged 55 and older searched for work.

Employment among youths aged 15 to 24 was also little changed both in May and on a year-over-year basis. Their unemployment rate was 13.2% in May.

Employment gains in Ontario and British Columbia

In Ontario, employment rose by 44,000 in May, pushing the unemployment rate down 0.3 percentage points to 6.5%. This employment increase accounted for most of the 53,000 (+0.8%) year-over-year gains for the province.

In May, employment increased by 31,000 in British Columbia, mostly in part-time work. This follows a similar-sized decrease in April, which was mainly in full-time employment. The unemployment rate was virtually unchanged at 6.1% in May, as more people participated in the labour market. In the 12 months to May, employment in the province was little changed.

In Nova Scotia, employment rose by 3,700 in May and the unemployment rate was 8.8%. Prior to this increase, employment in the province had been trending downward since January.

Employment in Newfoundland and Labrador fell by 4,300 in May, and the unemployment rate increased 1.2 percentage points to 13.8%. Employment in the province has been on a downward trend since November.

In Manitoba, 3,200 fewer people worked in May and the unemployment rate was 5.7%. Despite this employment decline, Manitoba had the highest rate of growth among all provinces in the 12 months to May, up 2.3% or 14,000.

There were 2,800 fewer people employed in New Brunswick in May and the unemployment rate was 9.6%. On a year-over-year basis, employment in the province was unchanged.

In May, employment was little changed in Alberta. The unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 5.8%, the highest rate since January 2011. On a year-over-year basis, employment gains totalled 38,000 (+1.7%). However, there has been little employment growth in the province since the start of 2015.

Employment in Quebec was virtually unchanged in May and the unemployment rate was 7.6%. However, compared with May 2014, employment in the province increased by 70,000 (+1.7%), with most of the growth in the first four months of 2015.

Industry perspective

Manufacturing employment increased for a second consecutive month, up 22,000 in May. These recent increases brought employment in the industry to a level similar to that of May 2014.

The number of workers in health care and social assistance rose by 21,000 in May. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the industry increased by 75,000 (+3.4%), one of the strongest growth rates among all industries.

There were 17,000 more people employed in retail and wholesale trade in May. On a year-over-year basis, however, employment in the industry was little changed as gains in wholesale trade were offset by declines in retail.

In business, building and other support services, employment rose for the second consecutive month, up 13,000 in May. These recent increases contributed to the year-over-year gain of 29,000 (+3.9%).

Employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing increased by 13,000 in May, bringing employment up 34,000 (+3.2%) over the past 12 months.

In public administration, employment declined by 12,000 in May, continuing the downward trend that began last fall. Compared with May 2014, employment in this industry was down 25,000 (-2.7%).

Employment also decreased in agriculture (-6,600), contributing to the year-over-year decline of 19,000 (-6.1%).

The number of private sector employees increased by 57,000 in May, while there was little change in self-employment. At the same time, public sector employment edged down.

In the 12 months to May, the number of private sector employees rose by 118,000 (+1.0%) and public sector employment increased by 42,000 (+1.2%). Over the same period, self-employment was little changed.

Summer employment for students

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects labour market data about youths aged 15 to 24 who were attending school full time in March and who intend to return to school full time in the fall. The May survey results provide the first indicators of the summer job market, especially for students aged 20 to 24, as many students aged 15 to 19 are still in school. The data for June, July and August will provide further insight into the summer job market. The published data are not seasonally adjusted and, therefore, comparisons can only be made from one year to another.

The employment rate among returning students aged 20 to 24, that is, the number of employed as a percentage of their population, was 59.0% in May, little changed from a year earlier. The unemployment rate for this group of students was 15.1% in May, up 1.5 percentage points from May 2014.

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for May are for the week of May 10 to 16.

The LFS estimates are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. As a result, monthly estimates will show more variability than trends observed over longer time periods. For more information, see "Interpreting Monthly Changes in Employment from the Labour Force Survey." Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries also 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).

This analysis focuses on differences between estimates that are statistically significant at the 68% confidence level.

The **employment rate** is the number of employed persons as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The rate for a particular group (for example, youths aged 15 to 24) is the number employed in that group as a percentage of the population for that group.

The **unemployment rate** is the number unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed).

The **participation rate** is the number of employed and unemployed as a percentage of the population. For more detailed information, see the Guide to the Labour Force Survey (71-543-G).

Seasonal adjustment

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted estimates, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

Sample redesign

Every 10 years, the LFS undergoes a sample redesign to reflect changes in population and labour market characteristics, as well as new definitions of geographical boundaries. The redesigned sample was introduced starting in January 2015 and will be fully implemented by June 2015.

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

	April 2015	May 2015	Standard error ¹	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over							
Population	29,208.2	29,232.1	...	23.9	292.1	0.1	1.0
Labour force	19,205.1	19,261.3	29.0	56.2	167.7	0.3	0.9
Employment	17,894.9	17,953.8	28.7	58.9	192.3	0.3	1.1
Full-time	14,506.9	14,537.8	39.2	30.9	233.0	0.2	1.6
Part-time	3,388.1	3,416.0	36.1	27.9	-40.7	0.8	-1.2
Unemployment	1,310.2	1,307.6	24.6	-2.6	-24.4	-0.2	-1.8
Participation rate	65.8	65.9	0.1	0.1	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.8	6.8	0.1	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	61.3	61.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	18.9	19.0	0.2	0.1	-0.4	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years							
Population	4,441.0	4,438.0	...	-3.0	-42.7	-0.1	-1.0
Labour force	2,875.8	2,877.2	16.9	1.4	4.1	0.0	0.1
Employment	2,485.8	2,497.7	15.6	11.9	11.5	0.5	0.5
Full-time	1,299.0	1,294.1	18.8	-4.9	26.4	-0.4	2.1
Part-time	1,186.8	1,203.5	19.8	16.7	-15.0	1.4	-1.2
Unemployment	390.0	379.5	14.5	-10.5	-7.3	-2.7	-1.9
Participation rate	64.8	64.8	0.4	0.0	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.6	13.2	0.5	-0.4	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	56.0	56.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	...	...
Part-time rate	47.7	48.2	0.7	0.4	-0.8	...	...
Men, 25 years and over							
Population	12,113.6	12,127.2	...	13.6	163.5	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,650.9	8,701.0	15.3	50.1	122.4	0.6	1.4
Employment	8,135.8	8,169.5	16.5	33.7	116.1	0.4	1.4
Full-time	7,502.9	7,540.9	21.9	38.0	136.4	0.5	1.8
Part-time	632.9	628.6	17.9	-4.3	-20.3	-0.7	-3.1
Unemployment	515.2	531.5	14.3	16.3	6.4	3.2	1.2
Participation rate	71.4	71.7	0.1	0.3	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	67.2	67.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	7.8	7.7	0.2	-0.1	-0.4	...	...
Women, 25 years and over							
Population	12,653.5	12,666.9	...	13.4	171.4	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,678.4	7,683.1	16.5	4.7	41.2	0.1	0.5
Employment	7,273.4	7,286.6	16.0	13.2	64.7	0.2	0.9
Full-time	5,705.0	5,702.7	24.9	-2.3	70.2	0.0	1.2
Part-time	1,568.4	1,583.9	23.7	15.5	-5.5	1.0	-0.3
Unemployment	405.0	396.5	13.2	-8.5	-23.5	-2.1	-5.6
Participation rate	60.7	60.7	0.1	0.0	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	57.5	57.5	0.1	0.0	-0.3	...	...
Part-time rate	21.6	21.7	0.3	0.2	-0.3	...	...

... not applicable

1. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the section "About the Labour Force Survey" at the end of the publication *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)* for further explanations.

Note(s): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

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

	April 2015	May 2015	Standard error ²	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker							
Employees	15,166.1	15,203.8	34.8	37.7	159.7	0.2	1.1
Self-employed	2,728.8	2,749.9	24.8	21.1	32.5	0.8	1.2
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,585.6	3,566.5	19.6	-19.1	41.6	-0.5	1.2
Private	11,580.5	11,637.3	34.8	56.8	118.0	0.5	1.0
All industries	17,894.9	17,953.8	28.7	58.9	192.3	0.3	1.1
Goods-producing sector	3,861.1	3,871.3	16.2	10.2	8.0	0.3	0.2
Agriculture	299.1	292.5	5.7	-6.6	-19.1	-2.2	-6.1
Natural resources ³	357.2	354.8	5.5	-2.4	-8.4	-0.7	-2.3
Utilities	137.9	140.3	2.4	2.4	3.2	1.7	2.3
Construction	1,368.2	1,363.5	10.9	-4.7	14.9	-0.3	1.1
Manufacturing	1,698.7	1,720.2	10.3	21.5	17.3	1.3	1.0
Services-producing sector	14,033.9	14,082.5	27.2	48.6	184.3	0.3	1.3
Trade	2,723.0	2,739.8	14.2	16.8	11.7	0.6	0.4
Transportation and warehousing	923.4	924.2	7.7	0.8	23.7	0.1	2.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,099.1	1,111.8	8.1	12.7	34.4	1.2	3.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,349.8	1,353.9	10.5	4.1	24.0	0.3	1.8
Business, building and other support services	756.7	769.6	9.6	12.9	29.2	1.7	3.9
Educational services	1,287.7	1,283.5	10.3	-4.2	51.3	-0.3	4.2
Health care and social assistance	2,268.9	2,289.6	10.5	20.7	75.3	0.9	3.4
Information, culture and recreation	741.9	742.5	9.5	0.6	-31.4	0.1	-4.1
Accommodation and food services	1,223.3	1,222.8	11.2	-0.5	27.8	0.0	2.3
Other services	766.2	762.8	8.1	-3.4	-36.7	-0.4	-4.6
Public administration	893.9	881.9	6.9	-12.0	-24.9	-1.3	-2.7

1. North American Industry Classification System.

2. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the section "About the Labour Force Survey" at the end of the publication *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)* for further explanations.

3. Also referred to as forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction.

Note(s): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [282-0088](#) and [282-0089](#).

Table 3
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	April 2015	May 2015	Standard error ¹	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Population	443.1	443.0	...	-0.1	-0.8	0.0	-0.2
Labour force	271.3	270.0	1.9	-1.3	0.9	-0.5	0.3
Employment	237.1	232.8	2.1	-4.3	-2.3	-1.8	-1.0
Full-time	203.9	199.8	2.5	-4.1	2.4	-2.0	1.2
Part-time	33.2	33.0	2.0	-0.2	-4.7	-0.6	-12.5
Unemployment	34.2	37.2	1.9	3.0	3.3	8.8	9.7
Participation rate	61.2	60.9	0.4	-0.3	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.6	13.8	0.7	1.2	1.2	...	...
Employment rate	53.5	52.6	0.5	-0.9	-0.4	...	...
Prince Edward Island							
Population	120.8	120.8	...	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Labour force	81.8	81.5	0.6	-0.3	-2.6	-0.4	-3.1
Employment	73.2	72.5	0.7	-0.7	-1.2	-1.0	-1.6
Full-time	60.4	59.7	0.9	-0.7	-1.9	-1.2	-3.1
Part-time	12.8	12.8	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	5.8
Unemployment	8.6	9.0	0.6	0.4	-1.3	4.7	-12.6
Participation rate	67.7	67.5	0.5	-0.2	-2.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.5	11.0	0.7	0.5	-1.2	...	...
Employment rate	60.6	60.0	0.5	-0.6	-1.1	...	...
Nova Scotia							
Population	784.4	784.7	...	0.3	2.2	0.0	0.3
Labour force	487.8	489.7	2.6	1.9	-0.1	0.4	0.0
Employment	443.0	446.7	2.6	3.7	1.6	0.8	0.4
Full-time	361.1	363.7	3.5	2.6	7.3	0.7	2.0
Part-time	81.9	83.0	3.1	1.1	-5.7	1.3	-6.4
Unemployment	44.8	43.0	2.4	-1.8	-1.7	-4.0	-3.8
Participation rate	62.2	62.4	0.3	0.2	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.2	8.8	0.5	-0.4	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	56.5	56.9	0.3	0.4	0.0	...	...
New Brunswick							
Population	622.3	622.0	...	-0.3	0.4	0.0	0.1
Labour force	393.6	389.0	2.3	-4.6	-3.1	-1.2	-0.8
Employment	354.5	351.7	2.4	-2.8	-0.2	-0.8	-0.1
Full-time	301.0	295.7	3.0	-5.3	-0.6	-1.8	-0.2
Part-time	53.5	56.0	2.5	2.5	0.3	4.7	0.5
Unemployment	39.1	37.3	2.1	-1.8	-2.9	-4.6	-7.2
Participation rate	63.2	62.5	0.4	-0.7	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.9	9.6	0.5	-0.3	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	57.0	56.5	0.4	-0.5	-0.1	...	...
Quebec							
Population	6,833.8	6,837.1	...	3.3	42.2	0.0	0.6
Labour force	4,441.4	4,448.6	14.7	7.2	63.9	0.2	1.5
Employment	4,110.9	4,108.8	14.5	-2.1	70.2	-0.1	1.7
Full-time	3,309.5	3,293.7	19.9	-15.8	69.7	-0.5	2.2
Part-time	801.4	815.1	18.3	13.7	0.5	1.7	0.1
Unemployment	330.5	339.8	13.0	9.3	-6.3	2.8	-1.8
Participation rate	65.0	65.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.6	0.3	0.2	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	60.2	60.1	0.2	-0.1	0.7	...	...

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

	April 2015	May 2015	Standard error ¹	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
Ontario							
Population	11,356.6	11,364.9	...	8.3	112.1	0.1	1.0
Labour force	7,391.4	7,415.3	20.0	23.9	1.5	0.3	0.0
Employment	6,887.8	6,931.7	19.2	43.9	53.0	0.6	0.8
Full-time	5,581.7	5,612.8	26.6	31.1	78.7	0.6	1.4
Part-time	1,306.2	1,318.9	24.3	12.7	-25.6	1.0	-1.9
Unemployment	503.5	483.6	16.9	-19.9	-51.6	-4.0	-9.6
Participation rate	65.1	65.2	0.2	0.1	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.8	6.5	0.2	-0.3	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	60.7	61.0	0.2	0.3	-0.1	...	...
Manitoba							
Population	985.0	985.6	...	0.6	10.7	0.1	1.1
Labour force	675.6	674.0	2.6	-1.6	16.7	-0.2	2.5
Employment	638.6	635.4	2.6	-3.2	14.2	-0.5	2.3
Full-time	520.2	514.2	3.7	-6.0	16.1	-1.2	3.2
Part-time	118.4	121.2	3.5	2.8	-1.8	2.4	-1.5
Unemployment	37.0	38.6	2.1	1.6	2.5	4.3	6.9
Participation rate	68.6	68.4	0.3	-0.2	1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	64.8	64.5	0.3	-0.3	0.8	...	...
Saskatchewan							
Population	859.7	860.2	...	0.5	9.3	0.1	1.1
Labour force	601.3	605.3	2.6	4.0	11.9	0.7	2.0
Employment	575.4	575.4	2.6	0.0	5.6	0.0	1.0
Full-time	479.3	478.7	3.5	-0.6	6.0	-0.1	1.3
Part-time	96.0	96.8	3.3	0.8	-0.3	0.8	-0.3
Unemployment	26.0	29.9	1.8	3.9	6.3	15.0	26.7
Participation rate	69.9	70.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.9	0.3	0.6	0.9	...	...
Employment rate	66.9	66.9	0.3	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Alberta							
Population	3,338.5	3,345.4	...	6.9	71.8	0.2	2.2
Labour force	2,448.3	2,448.5	9.5	0.2	67.9	0.0	2.9
Employment	2,313.9	2,307.5	10.1	-6.4	38.4	-0.3	1.7
Full-time	1,901.5	1,921.7	13.3	20.2	32.5	1.1	1.7
Part-time	412.4	385.8	12.0	-26.6	5.9	-6.5	1.6
Unemployment	134.4	141.1	7.6	6.7	29.5	5.0	26.4
Participation rate	73.3	73.2	0.3	-0.1	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.8	0.3	0.3	1.1	...	...
Employment rate	69.3	69.0	0.3	-0.3	-0.3	...	...
British Columbia							
Population	3,863.9	3,868.4	...	4.5	44.0	0.1	1.2
Labour force	2,412.5	2,439.4	10.1	26.9	10.7	1.1	0.4
Employment	2,260.6	2,291.2	9.9	30.6	12.9	1.4	0.6
Full-time	1,788.2	1,797.8	14.1	9.6	22.9	0.5	1.3
Part-time	472.3	493.4	13.4	21.1	-10.0	4.5	-2.0
Unemployment	152.0	148.2	7.9	-3.8	-2.2	-2.5	-1.5
Participation rate	62.4	63.1	0.3	0.7	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.1	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	58.5	59.2	0.3	0.7	-0.4	...	...

... not applicable

1. Average standard error for change in two consecutive months. See "Sampling variability of estimates" in the section "About the Labour Force Survey" at the end of the publication *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)* for further explanations.

Note(s): The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM table [282-0087](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [282-0001 to 282-0042](#), [282-0047 to 282-0051](#), [282-0069 to 282-0089](#), [282-0092 to 282-0095](#), [282-0100 to 282-0108](#), [282-0122 to 282-0140](#) and [282-0200 to 282-0225](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3701](#).

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information (71-001-X)*, is now available for the week ending May 16. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects* then *Labour*.

[Summary tables](#) are now available online. From the *Browse by subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on July 10.

An updated issue of the *Guide to the Labour Force Survey (71-543-G)* is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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 Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca) or Lahouaria Yssaad (613-951-0627; lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

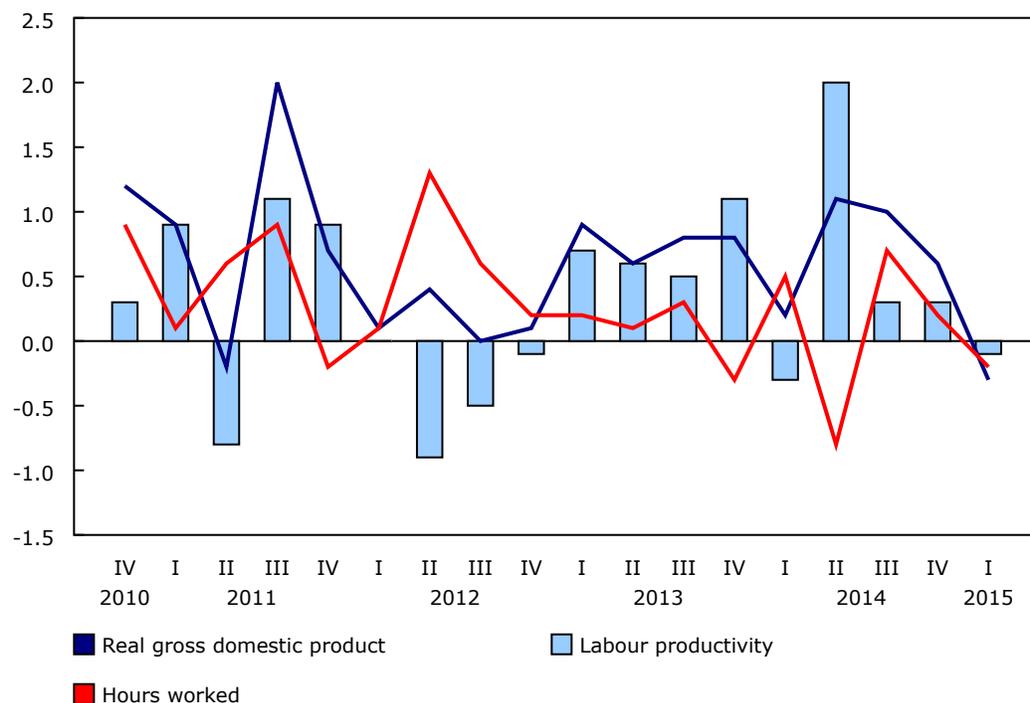
Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, first quarter 2015

Labour productivity of Canadian businesses edged down 0.1% in the first quarter, following gains of 0.3% in each of the previous two quarters. This was the first decline in a year.

In the first quarter, the real output of businesses declined for the first time since 2011. There was also a decrease in the number of hours worked.

Chart 1
Labour productivity of Canadian businesses edges down, after three quarters of growth

quarterly % change



Source(s): CANSIM table [383-0008](#).

Real gross domestic product (GDP) of businesses fell 0.3% in the first quarter, the first decline since the second quarter of 2011. The decrease was mainly attributable to goods-producing businesses, which saw production decline following six consecutive quarterly increases. Production in service-producing businesses was unchanged following three quarters of growth.

Hours worked in the business sector were down 0.2% in the first quarter, following gains in the previous two quarters. Hours worked in goods-producing businesses decreased 1.1% in the first quarter, with most major industry sectors posting significant declines, particularly mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction. In contrast, the number of hours worked in service-producing businesses rose 0.2% during the quarter.

In the first quarter, the 0.2% decline in productivity in service-producing businesses was partly offset by a 0.1% increase in productivity in goods-producing businesses.

Real estate services, wholesale trade as well as accommodation and food services posted the largest decreases in productivity. Construction and manufacturing also saw declines. Productivity was essentially unchanged in retail trade, transportation and warehousing as well as finance and insurance. During the first quarter, productivity increased in agriculture and forestry, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, utilities as well as arts, entertainment and recreation.

In the United States, the labour productivity of businesses fell 0.8% in the first quarter, following a 0.6% decline the previous quarter. This was the first time since 2006 that American productivity declined in two consecutive quarters. In the first quarter, the real GDP of American businesses was down 0.3% following a 0.7% increase in the previous quarter, while hours worked rose 0.5% following a notable 1.3% gain the previous quarter.

For Canadian businesses, labour cost per unit of output increased 1.2% in the first quarter, following little change in the previous three quarters.

The growth of average compensation per hour worked, which was 0.3% in the fourth quarter of 2014, accelerated to 1.1% in the first quarter of 2015.

In the first quarter, growth in hourly compensation increased at a similar pace for both goods- (+1.1%) and service-producing businesses (+1.2%). Hourly compensation was up for all major industrial sectors during the quarter.

In American dollars, the unit labour costs for Canadian businesses fell 7.4% in the first quarter, following a 4.2% decline in the previous quarter. The average value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar decreased 8.5% during the quarter, a rate of depreciation more than twice that of the previous quarter.

By comparison, the unit labour costs of American businesses rose 1.6% following a 1.3% gain in the previous quarter.

Note to readers

Revisions

With this release on labour productivity and related measures, data were revised back to the first quarter of 2014 at the aggregate and industry levels.

Productivity measure

The term "productivity" in this release refers to labour productivity. For the purposes of this analysis, labour productivity and related variables cover the business sector only.

Labour productivity is a measure of real gross domestic product (GDP) per hour worked.

Unit labour cost is defined as the cost of workers' wages and benefits per unit of real GDP.

All the growth rates reported in this release are rounded to one decimal place. They are calculated with index numbers rounded to three decimal places, which are now available on CANSIM.

Table 1
Business sector: Labour productivity and related variables for Canada and the United States¹ –
Seasonally adjusted

	First quarter 2013	Second quarter 2013	Third quarter 2013	Fourth quarter 2013	First quarter 2014	Second quarter 2014	Third quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2014	First quarter 2015
% change from previous quarter									
Canada									
Labour productivity	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.1	-0.3	2.0	0.3	0.3	-0.1
Real gross domestic product (GDP)	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.2	1.1	1.0	0.6	-0.3
Hours worked	0.2	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.5	-0.8	0.7	0.2	-0.2
Hourly compensation	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.5	0.2	2.0	0.5	0.3	1.1
Unit labour cost	-0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.2	-0.1	1.2
Exchange rate ²	-1.8	-1.4	-1.4	-1.0	-4.9	1.2	0.1	-4.0	-8.5
Unit labour cost in US dollars	-2.0	-1.3	-1.3	-0.7	-4.4	1.2	0.3	-4.2	-7.4
United States³									
Labour productivity	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.7	-1.3	0.7	0.8	-0.6	-0.8
Real GDP	0.8	0.5	1.4	1.1	-0.8	1.4	1.6	0.7	-0.3
Hours worked	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.5
Hourly compensation	-1.5	1.1	0.0	0.4	1.6	-0.3	0.5	0.8	0.8
Unit labour cost	-2.0	0.8	-0.8	-0.3	3.0	-1.0	-0.3	1.3	1.6
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Second quarter 2014	Third quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2014	First quarter 2015
% change from the previous year					% change from same quarter of previous year				
Canada									
Labour productivity	1.8	1.4	0.0	1.1	2.7	3.3	3.1	2.3	2.5
Real GDP	3.8	3.3	1.9	2.2	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.9	2.4
Hours worked	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.1	0.1	-0.4	-0.0	0.5	-0.1
Hourly compensation	1.5	3.5	3.0	2.4	3.7	4.4	4.3	3.1	3.9
Unit labour cost	-0.4	2.1	3.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.7	1.4
Exchange rate ²	10.3	4.1	-1.0	-3.0	-6.7	-6.1	-4.7	-7.6	-11.0
Unit labour cost in US dollars	10.0	6.3	2.0	-1.7	-5.8	-5.1	-3.5	-6.9	-9.8
United States³									
Labour productivity	3.3	0.1	0.9	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.9	-0.4	0.2
Real GDP	3.2	2.1	3.1	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.3	2.8	3.3
Hours worked	-0.1	2.0	2.2	1.5	2.4	2.2	2.3	3.2	3.2
Hourly compensation	1.8	2.2	2.8	1.3	2.4	1.7	2.2	2.6	1.8
Unit labour cost	-1.4	2.1	1.9	0.2	1.9	0.8	1.3	3.0	1.6

1. Calculations of growth rates are based on index numbers rounded to three decimal places.

2. The exchange rate corresponds to the Canadian dollar value expressed in US dollars.

3. US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Productivity and costs: First quarter 2015 published in NEWS, June 4. As a result of rounding, the annual growth rates presented in this table can sometimes differ slightly from the annual rates published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source(s): CANSIM table [383-0008](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [383-0008](#) and [383-0012](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5042](#).

The [System of macroeconomic accounts](#) module, accessible from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structure.

Links to other releases from the national accounts can be found in the first quarter 2015 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 14, no. 1 ([13-010-X](#)). This publication will be updated on June 12, at the time of the release of the national balance sheet and financial flow accounts.

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost data for the second quarter will be released on September 4.

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).

Farm product prices, April 2015

Prices received by farmers in April for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The April Manitoba feeder cattle price was \$242.77 per hundredweight, up 2.8% from March and up 44.5% from April 2014 when the price was \$168.06.

The Ontario soybeans price in April was \$440.04 per tonne, down 1.2% from March and down 21.3% from April 2014 when the price was \$559.39.

Note to readers

Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Prices for over 35 commodities are available by province, with some series going back 35 years. Prices data are extracted from administrative files and derived from Statistics Canada surveys.

Available in CANSIM: table [002-0043](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3436](#).

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

The Business and Community Newsletter

Catalogue number [11-632-X](#) (HTML)

Labour Force Information, May 10 to 16, 2015

Catalogue number [71-001-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

Guide to the Labour Force Survey, 2015

Catalogue number [71-543-G](#) (HTML | PDF)

Labour Force Survey Microdata File, May 2015

Catalogue number [71M0001X](#) (CD-ROM)

Release dates: June 8 to 12, 2015

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
8	Building permits	April 2015
11	Canada's international investment position	First quarter 2015
11	Industrial capacity utilization rates	First quarter 2015
11	New Housing Price Index	April 2015
12	National balance sheet and financial flow accounts	First quarter 2015

See also the [release dates for major economic indicators](#) for the rest of the year.



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