

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, September 4, 2015

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Labour Force Survey, August 2015

2

Employment was little changed (+12,000 or +0.1%) in August. However, the unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 7.0%, as more people searched for work. Prior to August, the unemployment rate had held steady at 6.8% for six consecutive months.

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

11

Farm product prices, July 2015

14

Asphalt roofing, July 2015

15

New products and studies

16

Release dates: September 8 to 11, 2015

17



Releases

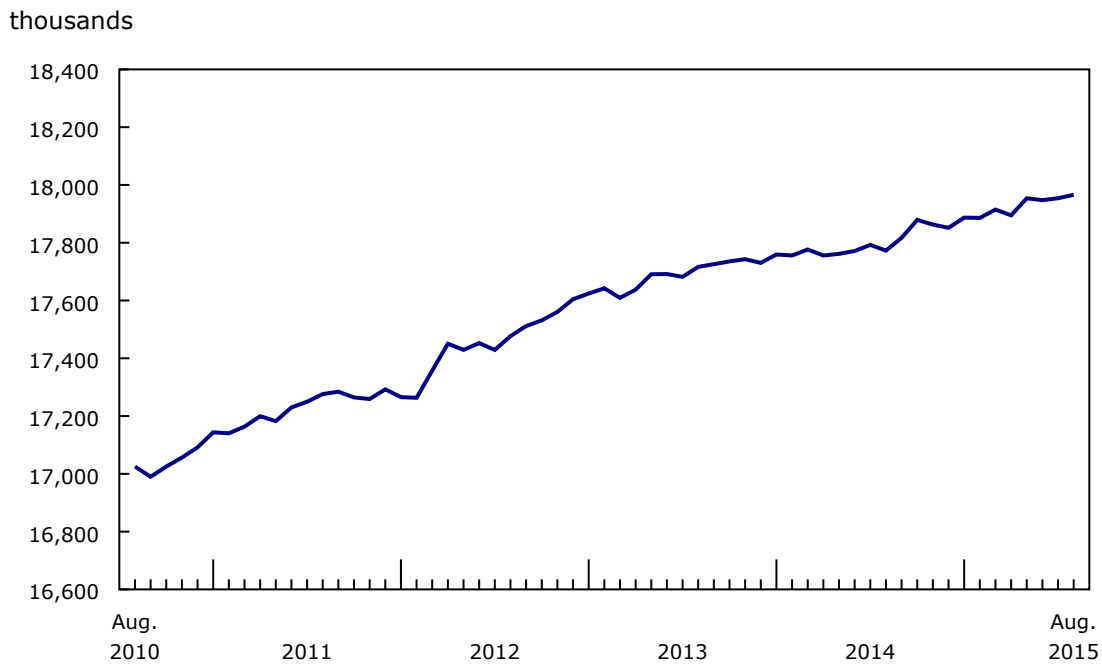
Labour Force Survey, August 2015

Employment was little changed (+12,000 or +0.1%) in August. However, the unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 7.0%, as more people searched for work. Prior to August, the unemployment rate had held steady at 6.8% for six consecutive months.

An increase of 54,000 in full-time employment in August was mostly offset by a decline of 42,000 in part-time work.

Compared with 12 months earlier, employment was up by 193,000 or 1.1%. Over the same period, full-time work increased by 318,000 (+2.2%) while part time declined by 125,000 (-3.6%). At the same time, the total number of hours worked rose 2.1%.

Chart 1 Employment



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

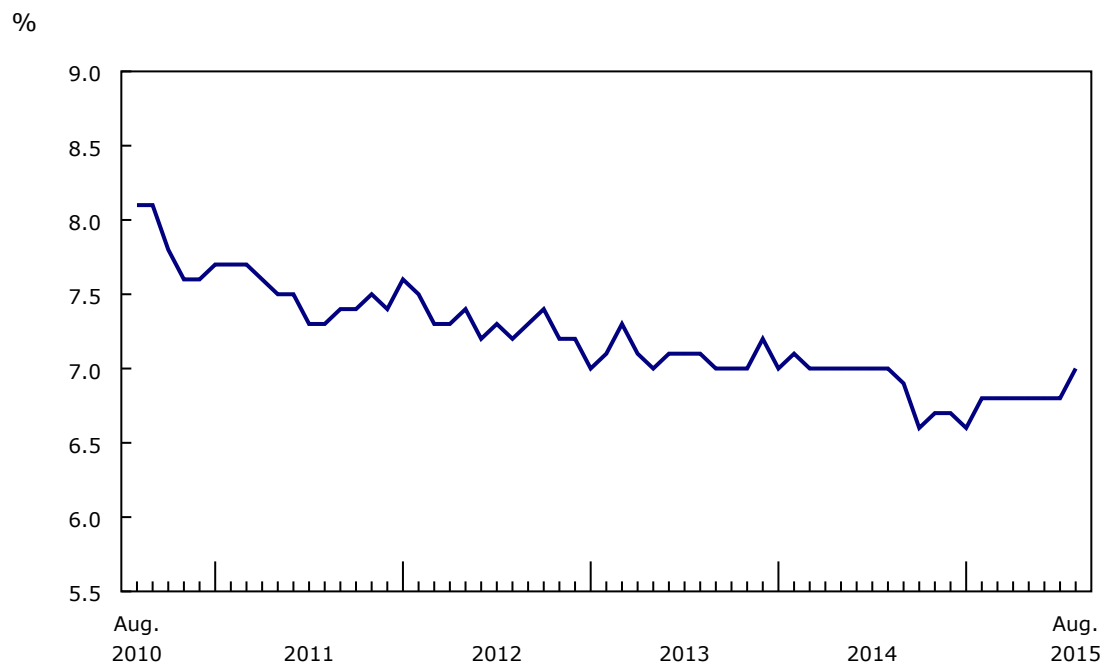
In August, employment increased among women aged 55 and older, while it edged down for men and women aged 25 to 54. There was little employment change among the other demographic groups.

Provincially, employment rose in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and New Brunswick. There was little change in the other provinces.

Employment increased in public administration and educational services, while it was little changed in the remaining industries.

The number of public sector employees was up in August, while self-employment edged down. At the same time, private sector employment was little changed.

Chart 2
Unemployment rate



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

Employment up for women aged 55 and older

For women aged 55 and older, employment increased by 29,000 in August, contributing the bulk of the year-over-year growth of 35,000 (+2.2%). Their unemployment rate in August was unchanged at 5.4%, as more of them participated in the labour market.

There was little change in the employment level of men aged 55 and older, and their unemployment rate was 6.7%. In the 12 months to August, there were 77,000 (+4.0%) more men employed in this age group, largely the result of growth in their population.

For men and women aged 25 to 54, employment edged down in August, pushing their unemployment rate up 0.2 percentage points to 5.8%. However, compared with 12 months earlier, employment for this group increased by 90,000 (+0.8%).

Employment among youths aged 15 to 24 was virtually unchanged and their unemployment rate was 13.1% in August. On a year-over-year basis, there was little change in both the employment level and the unemployment rate for this age group.

Provincial summary

Employment in Saskatchewan increased by 4,000 in August, partly offsetting a decline the previous month. The unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points to 4.7%, still the lowest among all provinces. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was little changed.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, employment rose by 3,100 in August and the unemployment rate was 11.5%. On a year-over-year basis, employment in the province was little changed.

In Manitoba, there were 2,700 more people employed in August. However, as more people participated in the labour market, the unemployment rate was little changed at 5.7%. Compared with a year earlier, employment gains in the province totalled 8,600 (+1.4%).

Following three months of declines, employment in New Brunswick increased by 2,400 in August, pushing the unemployment rate down 0.9 percentage points to 10.1%. Compared with August 2014, however, employment in the province was little changed.

Despite little change in employment for Quebec, an increase in the number of people looking for work pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 8.0%. In the 12 months to August, employment in the province increased by 40,000 (+1.0%).

In Ontario, employment was also little changed in August, and the unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 6.8% as more people searched for work. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment rose by 64,000 (+0.9%). There were notable increases in full-time work (+145,000 or +2.6%), which were partially offset by part-time losses (-81,000 or -6.0%).

In Alberta, employment was little changed in August and the unemployment rate remained at 6.0%. On a year-over-year basis, employment gains totalled 41,000 (+1.8%). However, there has been no overall employment growth in the province so far in 2015, and the unemployment rate has increased 1.3 percentage points over this period.

Industry perspective

Employment in public administration increased for the third consecutive month, up 14,000 in August. These recent increases offset earlier declines, leaving employment in the industry virtually unchanged compared with 12 months earlier.

In August, employment rose by 11,000 in educational services, continuing the upward trend that began earlier in the year. Compared with August 2014, employment increased by 53,000 (+4.2%), with most of the gains in postsecondary institutions.

Public sector employment rose by 27,000 in August, contributing to a year-over-year increase of 67,000 or 1.9%. The public sector includes all employees in public administration, most employees in utilities, as well as some employees in education, health care and social assistance, transportation and warehousing, and other industries.

While the number of private sector employees was virtually unchanged in August, it was up 124,000 (+1.1%) compared with August 2014.

Self-employment edged down in August, but was virtually unchanged compared with 12 months earlier.

Student summer employment

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects labour market data about youths aged 15 to 24 who attended school full time in March, and who intended to return full time in the fall. The published data are not seasonally adjusted; therefore, comparisons can only be made on a year-over-year basis.

For students aged 15 to 24, the average employment rate over the summer months (May to August) was 49.1% and the unemployment rate was 16.8%, similar to the rates observed in the summer of 2014. However, compared with the summer of 2013, the employment rate was up 0.7 percentage points, and the unemployment rate was little changed as more students participated in the labour market.

In comparison, for non-students aged 15 to 24, the employment rate in the summer of 2015 was 77.3% and their unemployment rate was 10.3%.

The average number of hours worked at all jobs by students aged 15 to 24 this summer was 24.1 hours per week, compared with 23.5 hours the previous summer. Over the same period, average hours worked by non-students in this age group edged down from 34.1 to 33.9.

For students aged 20 to 24, the rate of employment averaged 66.0% in the summer of 2015, similar to the previous two summers. On the other hand, the unemployment rate for this group of students was 10.1% in the summer of 2015, edging down from 10.6% last summer and 11.3% in the summer of 2013.

By comparison, for non-students aged 20 to 24, the employment rate was 79.3%, up 0.5 percentage points from last summer, but little changed from two summers ago. Over the same period, the unemployment rate for this group was little changed at 9.6%.

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for August are for the week of August 9 to 15.

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](#)."

With this release, seasonally adjusted three-month moving average estimates for Nunavut have been added to CANSIM table 282-0100.

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 was fully implemented in June 2015.

Next release

The next release of the LFS will be on October 9.

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

	July 2015	August 2015	Standard error ¹	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over							
Population	29,296.1	29,321.5	...	25.4	293.3	0.1	1.0
Labour force	19,260.0	19,312.0	29.2	52.0	203.6	0.3	1.1
Employment	17,954.0	17,966.0	29.1	12.0	193.3	0.1	1.1
Full-time	14,585.3	14,639.7	41.8	54.4	317.9	0.4	2.2
Part-time	3,368.7	3,326.3	38.4	-42.4	-124.5	-1.3	-3.6
Unemployment	1,306.0	1,346.1	24.9	40.1	10.3	3.1	0.8
Participation rate	65.7	65.9	0.1	0.2	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.8	7.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	61.3	61.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	18.8	18.5	0.2	-0.2	-0.9	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years							
Population	4,431.9	4,428.8	...	-3.1	-42.6	-0.1	-1.0
Labour force	2,834.2	2,832.9	17.1	-1.3	-24.1	0.0	-0.8
Employment	2,461.0	2,460.8	16.0	-0.2	-8.5	0.0	-0.3
Full-time	1,266.7	1,272.5	19.8	5.8	11.0	0.5	0.9
Part-time	1,194.3	1,188.3	20.9	-6.0	-19.5	-0.5	-1.6
Unemployment	373.2	372.0	14.8	-1.2	-15.7	-0.3	-4.0
Participation rate	63.9	64.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.2	13.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	55.5	55.6	0.4	0.1	0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	48.5	48.3	0.8	-0.2	-0.6	...	...
Men, 25 years and over							
Population	12,162.5	12,177.1	...	14.6	165.7	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,749.9	8,769.6	15.8	19.7	137.8	0.2	1.6
Employment	8,219.1	8,215.6	16.9	-3.5	116.1	0.0	1.4
Full-time	7,603.0	7,599.4	23.1	-3.6	151.1	0.0	2.0
Part-time	616.1	616.2	18.9	0.1	-35.0	0.0	-5.4
Unemployment	530.8	554.1	14.8	23.3	21.8	4.4	4.1
Participation rate	71.9	72.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	67.6	67.5	0.1	-0.1	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	7.5	7.5	0.2	0.0	-0.5	...	...
Women, 25 years and over							
Population	12,701.7	12,715.6	...	13.9	170.3	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,675.9	7,709.5	16.4	33.6	89.9	0.4	1.2
Employment	7,274.0	7,289.6	16.4	15.6	85.8	0.2	1.2
Full-time	5,715.7	5,767.8	27.4	52.1	155.8	0.9	2.8
Part-time	1,558.3	1,521.8	25.9	-36.5	-70.1	-2.3	-4.4
Unemployment	401.9	419.9	13.1	18.0	4.2	4.5	1.0
Participation rate	60.4	60.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.2	5.4	0.2	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	57.3	57.3	0.1	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	21.4	20.9	0.3	-0.5	-1.2	...	...

... 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

	July 2015	August 2015	Standard error ²	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015
	thousands			change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker							
Employees	15,185.8	15,219.3	35.6	33.5	191.5	0.2	1.3
Self-employed	2,768.2	2,746.6	25.3	-21.6	1.7	-0.8	0.1
Public/private sector employees							
Public	3,602.9	3,630.1	20.7	27.2	67.2	0.8	1.9
Private	11,582.9	11,589.2	36.0	6.3	124.3	0.1	1.1
All industries	17,954.0	17,966.0	29.1	12.0	193.3	0.1	1.1
Goods-producing sector	3,857.2	3,852.0	16.7	-5.2	-8.3	-0.1	-0.2
Agriculture	287.3	287.5	5.8	0.2	-14.2	0.1	-4.7
Natural resources ³	356.3	358.6	5.5	2.3	-3.8	0.6	-1.0
Utilities	142.0	141.1	2.4	-0.9	9.7	-0.6	7.4
Construction	1,363.2	1,359.6	11.4	-3.6	-8.8	-0.3	-0.6
Manufacturing	1,708.4	1,705.2	10.7	-3.2	8.9	-0.2	0.5
Services-producing sector	14,096.8	14,114.0	27.5	17.2	201.6	0.1	1.4
Trade	2,738.0	2,739.3	14.3	1.3	2.4	0.0	0.1
Transportation and warehousing	929.5	924.0	8.2	-5.5	38.4	-0.6	4.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,106.6	1,109.2	8.6	2.6	33.8	0.2	3.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,379.7	1,370.1	10.6	-9.6	29.2	-0.7	2.2
Business, building and other support services	751.9	757.9	9.9	6.0	29.6	0.8	4.1
Educational services	1,293.0	1,304.1	10.4	11.1	53.0	0.9	4.2
Health care and social assistance	2,287.4	2,295.4	10.8	8.0	78.2	0.3	3.5
Information, culture and recreation	748.4	739.8	9.7	-8.6	-12.2	-1.1	-1.6
Accommodation and food services	1,208.0	1,204.6	11.6	-3.4	3.2	-0.3	0.3
Other services	753.9	755.2	8.3	1.3	-44.3	0.2	-5.5
Public administration	900.4	914.4	6.9	14.0	-9.8	1.6	-1.1

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**

	July 2015	August 2015	Standard error ¹	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015
	thousands (except rates)			change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Population	442.5	442.3	...	-0.2	-1.3	0.0	-0.3
Labour force	268.3	270.7	2.0	2.4	-0.4	0.9	-0.1
Employment	236.5	239.6	2.1	3.1	2.7	1.3	1.1
Full-time	205.5	204.3	2.7	-1.2	3.4	-0.6	1.7
Part-time	31.0	35.3	2.1	4.3	-0.7	13.9	-1.9
Unemployment	31.8	31.1	2.0	-0.7	-3.1	-2.2	-9.1
Participation rate	60.6	61.2	0.5	0.6	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.9	11.5	0.7	-0.4	-1.1	...	...
Employment rate	53.4	54.2	0.5	0.8	0.8	...	...
Prince Edward Island							
Population	120.9	121.1	...	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
Labour force	81.7	80.9	0.6	-0.8	-1.2	-1.0	-1.5
Employment	72.2	72.2	0.6	0.0	-2.2	0.0	-3.0
Full-time	59.7	59.5	0.9	-0.2	-2.8	-0.3	-4.5
Part-time	12.5	12.6	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.8	4.1
Unemployment	9.5	8.7	0.6	-0.8	1.0	-8.4	13.0
Participation rate	67.6	66.8	0.5	-0.8	-1.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.6	10.8	0.7	-0.8	1.4	...	...
Employment rate	59.7	59.6	0.5	-0.1	-2.0	...	...
Nova Scotia							
Population	785.8	786.1	...	0.3	3.0	0.0	0.4
Labour force	489.3	488.6	2.6	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Employment	449.5	447.7	2.7	-1.8	1.0	-0.4	0.2
Full-time	369.4	370.1	3.8	0.7	5.6	0.2	1.5
Part-time	80.1	77.6	3.3	-2.5	-4.6	-3.1	-5.6
Unemployment	39.8	40.9	2.4	1.1	-1.2	2.8	-2.9
Participation rate	62.3	62.2	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.1	8.4	0.5	0.3	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	57.2	57.0	0.3	-0.2	0.0	...	...
New Brunswick							
Population	621.9	621.8	...	-0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
Labour force	390.4	389.3	2.2	-1.1	0.4	-0.3	0.1
Employment	347.5	349.9	2.3	2.4	-3.0	0.7	-0.9
Full-time	297.7	295.6	3.1	-2.1	-0.7	-0.7	-0.2
Part-time	49.8	54.3	2.7	4.5	-2.3	9.0	-4.1
Unemployment	42.9	39.4	2.1	-3.5	3.4	-8.2	9.4
Participation rate	62.8	62.6	0.4	-0.2	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.0	10.1	0.5	-0.9	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	55.9	56.3	0.4	0.4	-0.5	...	...
Quebec							
Population	6,845.1	6,848.6	...	3.5	38.7	0.1	0.6
Labour force	4,438.5	4,451.1	14.8	12.6	57.0	0.3	1.3
Employment	4,097.2	4,095.2	14.8	-2.0	40.0	0.0	1.0
Full-time	3,297.4	3,292.8	21.4	-4.6	64.6	-0.1	2.0
Part-time	799.8	802.5	19.6	2.7	-24.5	0.3	-3.0
Unemployment	341.3	355.9	13.2	14.6	16.9	4.3	5.0
Participation rate	64.8	65.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.7	8.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	59.9	59.8	0.2	-0.1	0.3	...	...

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

	July 2015	August 2015	Standard error ¹	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015	July to August 2015	August 2014 to August 2015
Ontario							
Population	11,390.4	11,401.1	...	10.7	114.3	0.1	1.0
Labour force	7,424.1	7,450.1	19.7	26.0	29.6	0.4	0.4
Employment	6,945.7	6,941.8	19.6	-3.9	63.9	-0.1	0.9
Full-time	5,642.4	5,675.6	28.3	33.2	145.0	0.6	2.6
Part-time	1,303.4	1,266.1	25.6	-37.3	-81.2	-2.9	-6.0
Unemployment	478.4	508.4	16.9	30.0	-34.2	6.3	-6.3
Participation rate	65.2	65.3	0.2	0.1	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.8	0.2	0.4	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	61.0	60.9	0.2	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Manitoba							
Population	987.6	988.5	...	0.9	10.4	0.1	1.1
Labour force	669.7	673.3	2.5	3.6	10.3	0.5	1.6
Employment	632.3	635.0	2.5	2.7	8.6	0.4	1.4
Full-time	509.7	511.6	3.8	1.9	9.4	0.4	1.9
Part-time	122.6	123.4	3.6	0.8	-0.8	0.7	-0.6
Unemployment	37.4	38.3	2.1	0.9	1.7	2.4	4.6
Participation rate	67.8	68.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.7	0.3	0.1	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	64.0	64.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	...	...
Saskatchewan							
Population	861.9	862.8	...	0.9	8.8	0.1	1.0
Labour force	599.6	600.9	2.6	1.3	5.5	0.2	0.9
Employment	568.7	572.7	2.7	4.0	1.5	0.7	0.3
Full-time	464.6	466.3	3.7	1.7	-9.6	0.4	-2.0
Part-time	104.2	106.4	3.4	2.2	11.1	2.1	11.6
Unemployment	30.9	28.2	2.0	-2.7	4.0	-8.7	16.5
Participation rate	69.6	69.6	0.3	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.2	4.7	0.3	-0.5	0.6	...	...
Employment rate	66.0	66.4	0.3	0.4	-0.5	...	...
Alberta							
Population	3,360.4	3,365.1	...	4.7	69.8	0.1	2.1
Labour force	2,446.1	2,449.5	10.0	3.4	64.1	0.1	2.7
Employment	2,298.2	2,302.9	10.2	4.7	41.0	0.2	1.8
Full-time	1,920.5	1,928.7	14.2	8.2	46.2	0.4	2.5
Part-time	377.7	374.2	12.7	-3.5	-5.2	-0.9	-1.4
Unemployment	147.8	146.7	7.9	-1.1	23.1	-0.7	18.7
Participation rate	72.8	72.8	0.3	0.0	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.0	0.3	0.0	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	68.4	68.4	0.3	0.0	-0.2	...	...
British Columbia							
Population	3,879.5	3,884.1	...	4.6	48.6	0.1	1.3
Labour force	2,452.3	2,457.6	10.1	5.3	38.6	0.2	1.6
Employment	2,306.0	2,309.1	10.1	3.1	39.9	0.1	1.8
Full-time	1,818.4	1,835.3	14.9	16.9	56.9	0.9	3.2
Part-time	487.7	473.8	14.4	-13.9	-17.0	-2.9	-3.5
Unemployment	146.2	148.5	8.2	2.3	-1.3	1.6	-0.9
Participation rate	63.2	63.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.0	0.3	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	59.4	59.5	0.3	0.1	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](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [282-0001](#), [282-0003](#), [282-0005 to 282-0007](#), [282-0009](#), [282-0011](#), [282-0013](#), [282-0015](#), [282-0017](#), [282-0019](#), [282-0021](#), [282-0023](#), [282-0025](#), [282-0027](#), [282-0032](#), [282-0033](#), [282-0035](#), [282-0037](#), [282-0039](#), [282-0041](#), [282-0047](#), [282-0049](#), [282-0069](#), [282-0071](#), [282-0073](#), [282-0075](#), [282-0077](#), [282-0079](#), [282-0081](#), [282-0083](#), [282-0085](#), [282-0087 to 282-0089](#), [282-0092 to 282-0094](#), [282-0100](#), [282-0101](#), [282-0103](#), [282-0105](#), [282-0107](#), [282-0122](#), [282-0124](#), [282-0126](#), [282-0128](#), [282-0130](#), [282-0132](#), [282-0135 to 282-0137](#), [282-0139](#), [282-0200](#), [282-0202](#), [282-0204](#), [282-0206](#), [282-0208](#), [282-0210](#), [282-0212](#), [282-0214](#), [282-0216](#) and [282-0218](#).

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 August 15. 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*.

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 Andrew Fields (613-951-3551; andrew.fields@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, second quarter 2015

Labour productivity of Canadian businesses declined 0.6% in the second quarter, following a 0.5% decrease in the first quarter.

Chart 1

Labour productivity of Canadian businesses declines for a second consecutive quarter

Source(s): CANSIM table 383-0008.

In the second quarter, the output of businesses decreased at a rate similar to the first quarter, while hours worked continued to increase.

Real gross domestic product (GDP) of businesses declined 0.3% in the second quarter, following a 0.4% decrease in the first quarter. The decline in the second quarter was mainly attributable to goods-producing businesses, where output fell significantly. In contrast, the output in service-producing businesses advanced 0.8%, after no growth in the first quarter.

At the same time, hours worked in the business sector (+0.3%) increased for a fourth straight quarter. Hours worked increased 0.5% in goods-producing businesses and 0.2% in service-producing businesses. Hours worked were up in 11 of the 16 major industrial sectors. Decreases were recorded in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (-2.4%), utilities (-1.4%), finance and insurance (-0.5%), retail trade (-0.5%) and transportation and warehousing (-0.4%).

Productivity in service-producing businesses was up 0.6% in the second quarter, while it was down 2.5% in goods-producing businesses. In the first quarter, a 0.5% decline was observed in both service- and goods-producing businesses.

In the second quarter, the decline of productivity in the business sector as a whole was mainly the result of productivity declines in construction (-2.3%), mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (-2.2%) and manufacturing (-1.4%). Productivity was up in every service industry sector except information and cultural industries (-1.0%), professional services (-0.9%) and administrative services (-0.5%).

In the United States, labour productivity of businesses grew 0.9% in the second quarter, after declining for two consecutive quarters. Real GDP of American businesses rose 1.1% in the second quarter, after edging up 0.1% in the first quarter. At the same time, hours worked rose 0.3%, after increasing 0.5% in the first quarter.

For Canadian businesses, the decrease in productivity was larger than the decline in hourly compensation (-0.2%) in the second quarter. As a result, the labour cost per unit of output for Canadian businesses was up 0.4% in the second quarter, after increasing 1.3% in the first quarter. Hourly compensation decreased 0.2% in both the goods- and service-producing businesses. Arts, entertainment and recreation as well as mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction posted the largest declines.

After two quarters of depreciation, the average value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar rose 0.9% in the second quarter. Given this appreciation, the unit labour cost in American dollars for Canadian businesses was up 1.4%, the first increase in three quarters.

By comparison, the unit labour cost of American businesses decreased 0.3%, following a 0.6% gain in the first quarter.

Note to readers

Revisions

With this release on labour productivity and related measures, data were revised back to the first quarter of 2015 at the aggregate level and to the first quarter of 2014 at the industry level.

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.

Next release

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost data for the third quarter will be released on December 4. Data in this release will reflect the 2015 comprehensive revision to the gross domestic product that will be published on December 1. This will include a revision back to 1981 at the aggregate level and to 1997 at the industry level.

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

	Second quarter 2013	Third quarter 2013	Fourth quarter 2013	First quarter 2014	Second quarter 2014	Third quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2014	First quarter 2015	Second quarter 2015
% change from previous quarter									
Canada									
Labour productivity	0.6	0.5	1.1	-0.3	2.0	0.3	0.3	-0.5	-0.6
Real gross domestic product (GDP)	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.2	1.1	1.0	0.6	-0.4	-0.3
Hours worked	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.5	-0.8	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.3
Hourly compensation	0.7	0.6	1.5	0.2	2.0	0.5	0.3	0.8	-0.2
Unit labour cost	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.2	-0.1	1.3	0.4
Exchange rate ²	-1.4	-1.4	-1.0	-4.9	1.2	0.1	-4.0	-8.5	0.9
Unit labour cost in US dollars	-1.3	-1.3	-0.7	-4.4	1.2	0.3	-4.2	-7.3	1.4
United States³									
Labour productivity	0.1	0.3	0.8	-0.9	0.7	0.6	-0.6	-0.3	0.9
Real GDP	0.4	1.0	1.3	-0.4	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.1	1.1
Hours worked	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.3
Hourly compensation	1.5	0.1	0.5	1.4	-0.2	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.5
Unit labour cost	1.4	-0.2	-0.3	2.4	-0.9	-0.0	1.4	0.6	-0.3
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Third quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2014	First quarter 2015	Second 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	3.1	2.3	2.1	-0.4
Real GDP	3.8	3.3	1.9	2.2	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.3	0.9
Hours worked	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.1	0.1	-0.0	0.5	0.2	1.3
Hourly compensation	1.5	3.5	3.0	2.4	3.7	4.3	3.1	3.7	1.4
Unit labour cost	-0.4	2.1	3.0	1.3	1.0	1.2	0.7	1.5	1.9
Exchange rate ²	10.3	4.1	-1.0	-3.0	-6.7	-4.7	-7.6	-11.0	-11.3
Unit labour cost in US dollars	10.0	6.3	2.0	-1.7	-5.8	-3.5	-6.9	-9.8	-9.6
United States³									
Labour productivity	3.3	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.4	0.6
Real GDP	3.2	2.1	2.9	2.0	3.0	3.6	3.0	3.6	3.3
Hours worked	-0.1	2.0	2.2	1.6	2.4	2.3	3.2	3.2	2.8
Hourly compensation	1.8	2.2	2.8	1.2	2.6	2.4	2.6	1.5	2.2
Unit labour cost	-1.4	2.1	2.0	0.8	2.0	1.1	2.8	1.1	1.7

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 the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Productivity and costs: Second quarter 2015 published in NEWS, September 2. Because 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 publication *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review (13-010-X)* has been discontinued. Links to other releases from the national accounts can still be found in the [System of macroeconomic accounts](#) module, accessible from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website.

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, July 2015

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

The July Alberta feeder cattle price was \$213.33 per hundredweight, down 6.1% from June, but up 34.2% from July 2014 when the price was \$158.96.

The Quebec soybeans price in July was \$464.60 per tonne, up 3.8% from June, but down 20.5% from July 2014 when the price was \$584.55.

Note to readers

Farm commodity prices are now available in CANSIM. Prices for over 35 commodities are available by province, with some series going back 35 years. Data on prices 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).

Asphalt roofing, July 2015

Shipments of asphalt shingles declined 17.6% from June to 3.0 million metric bundles in July. Compared with July 2014, shipments were 7.3% lower.

Production of asphalt shingles decreased 26.7% from June to 2.3 million metric bundles in July, while it was 13.5% lower compared with July 2014.

Note to readers

The monthly survey, Asphalt Roofing, measures production, shipments and exports of asphalt roofing products, including the destination of shipments.

Data in this release are subject to revisions and not seasonally adjusted.

Available in CANSIM: table [303-0052](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2123](#).

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

Labour Force Information, August 9 to 15, 2015
Catalogue number [71-001-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

Labour Force Survey Microdata File, August 2015
Catalogue number [71M0001X](#) (CD-ROM)

Release dates: September 8 to 11, 2015

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
9	Building permits	July 2015
9	University tuition fees	2015/2016
10	Canada's international investment position	second quarter 2015
10	Industrial capacity utilization rates	second quarter 2015
10	New Housing Price Index	July 2015
10	Study: Ovarian cancer: Survival statistics	1992/1994 to 2006/2008
11	National balance sheet and financial flow accounts	second quarter 2015
11	Further postsecondary education and labour market outcomes	March 2014

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



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-X.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access or subscribe to *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2015. All rights reserved. Use of this publication is governed by the [Statistics Canada Open Licence Agreement](#):

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/reference/copyright-droit-auteur-eng.htm>