

# COVID-19 and the labour market in May 2020

Between February and April ...

In May, most provinces began easing COVID-19 restrictions. Compared with April, in May...

**5.5 million** Canadians were impacted by COVID-19 including **3 million people** who lost their jobs and **2.5 million** who lost work hours

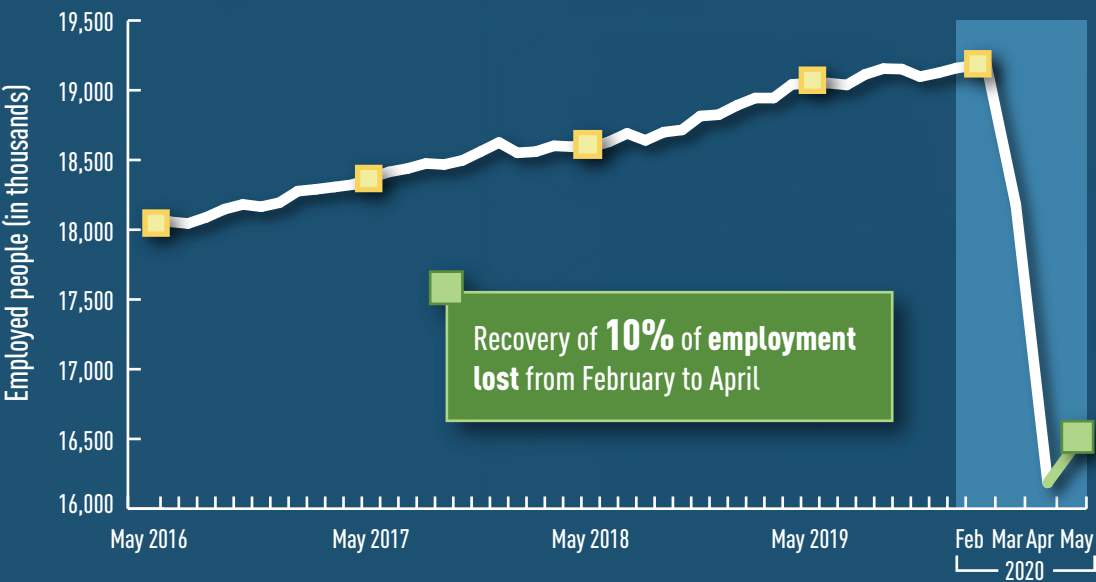
**290,000** more people had jobs, up almost **2%**

**292,000** fewer people were absent from work for COVID-related reasons, down **9%**

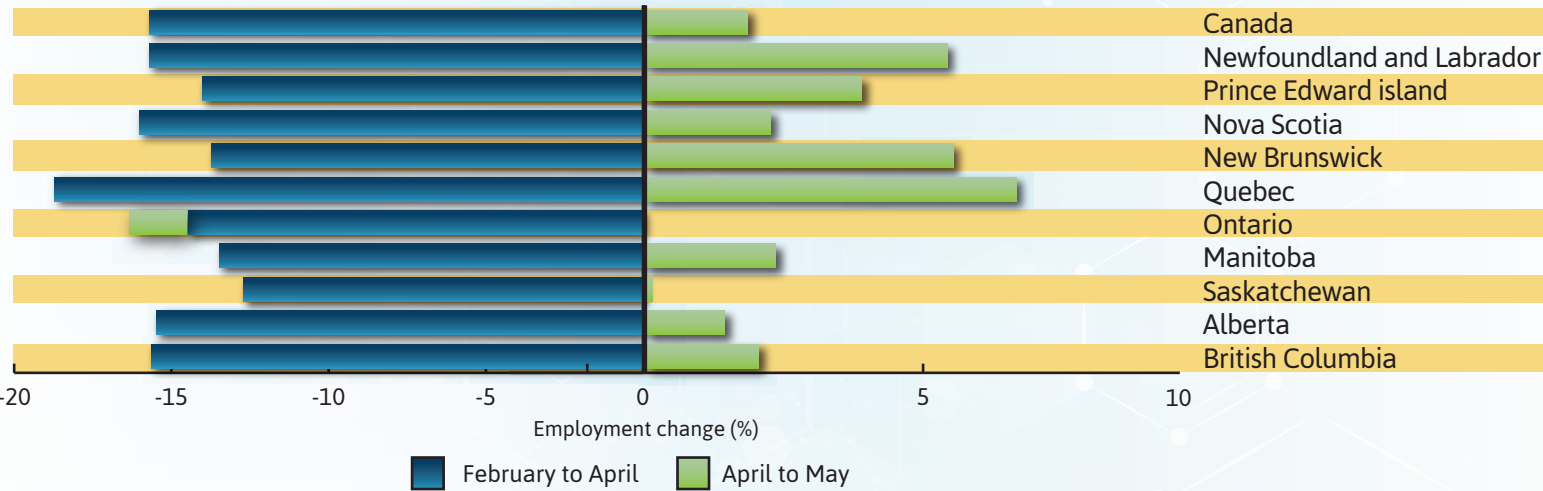
**201,000** more people were unemployed, up **8%**

**130,000** fewer people wanted a job but didn't look for one, down **8.5%**

## Employment declines stop in May

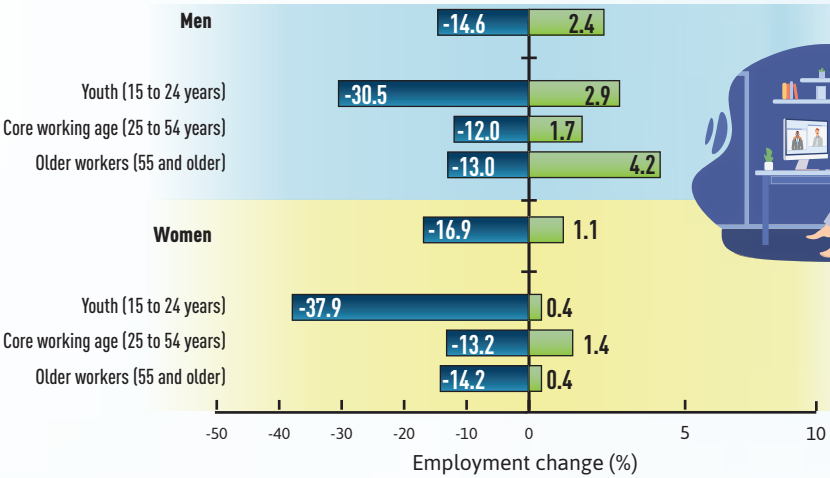


## Easing of COVID-19 restrictions sees most provinces regaining jobs



## Uneven employment recovery

February to April April to May



## Lower-wage<sup>1</sup> jobs most affected

In March and April, the percentage of employees in lower-wage jobs dropped by **38%**, compared with **13%** for all other paid jobs.

In March and April, employment in lower-wage jobs increased by **7%**, compared with **4%** for all other paid jobs.

1. Jobs that pay less than two-thirds of the 2019 annual median wage.

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