

Labour Force Survey Report

Prince Edward Island

March 2023 Release

WorkPEI

April 6, 2023

Every month, Statistics Canada releases Labour Force Survey (LFS) data. The releases include unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data related to the local labour market (labour force, employment and unemployment). The data presented in this report has been adjusted for seasonality. Most estimates associated with the labour market are subject to seasonal influence in which the data experiences regular and predictable changes that recur every calendar year (i.e. due to climate, vacations, holidays, etc.). The employment figures presented in the LFS is an estimate of employed Island residents and should not be interpreted as number of jobs (as reported in Statistics Canada's Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours).

Labour Force Survey – Brief

Summary

Historical 2020-22		Current Period						
		Mar-23	Feb-23	Mar-22	M-M	% Chg	Y-Y	% Chg
135.3	Population (000's)	142.6	142.1	137.6	0.5	0.4	5.0	3.6
88.6	Labour force (000's)	93.5	92.3	92.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3
80.3	Employment (000's)	87.3	85.6	84.4	1.7	2.0	2.9	3.4
67.7	Employment full-time (000's)	73.6	72.5	70.9	1.1	1.5	2.7	3.8
12.7	Employment part-time (000's)	13.6	13.2	13.5	0.4	3.0	0.1	0.7
8.3	Unemployment (000's)	6.2	6.7	7.9	-0.5	-7.5	-1.7	-21.5
9.4	Unemployment rate (%)	6.6	7.3	8.6	-0.7		-2.0	
65.5	Participation rate (%)	65.6	65.0	67.1	0.6		-1.5	
59.3	Employment rate (%)	61.2	60.2	61.3	1.0		-0.1	

Source: Table 14-10-0287-03; "Historical 2020-22" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

- The **labour force** totaled 93,500 in March 2023, an increase of 1,200 persons in comparison to the previous month. The labour force was 1.3% higher when compared to March 2022.
- **Employment** totaled 87,300 in March 2023, an increase of 2,900 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 3.4% higher from a year ago. There was a year over year increase in **full-time employment** (+2,700) and an increase in **part-time employment** (+100).
- **Unemployment** totaled 6,200 in March, a decrease of 500 persons from the prior month. There was a decrease of 1,700 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The **unemployment rate** decreased month over month and sits at 6.6%. The rate is 2.0 percentage points lower than March 2022 (8.6%).
- The **participation rate** was 65.6% in March; this represents a decrease of 1.5 percentage points from a year-over-year perspective. The PEI participation rate is the same as the national average (65.6%) in March and sits fourth highest among provinces.

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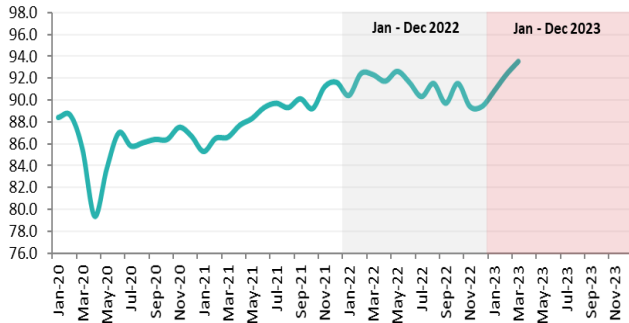


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LFS - Progress Report

LFS data is released on a monthly basis. The purpose of this section is to track the progress of key labour market indicators. "Year-to-date" (YTD) compares average values of available months in 2023 to the same in 2022.

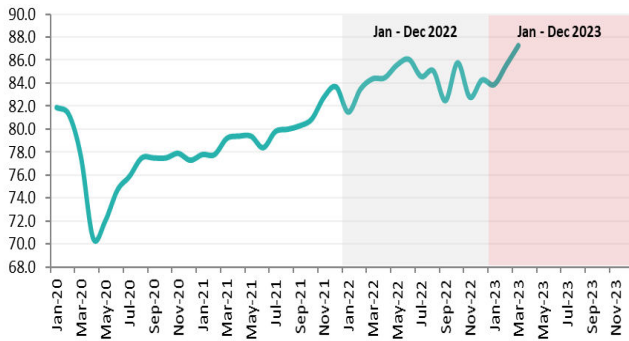
Labour Force ('000's)



	2022	2023	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Population	137.2	142.1	4.9	3.5%
Labour Force	91.7	92.2	0.5	0.5%
Not in LF	45.5	49.9	4.4	9.6%
Participation rate (%)	66.8	64.9	-1.9	-

The population and labour force increased in comparison to the previous month and when compared to the same month a year earlier. Both figures are the highest all-time. The labour force is 500 more persons YTD over the same period last year. On a YTD basis, the participation rate is 1.9 percentage points lower than same period last year and sits at 64.9%.

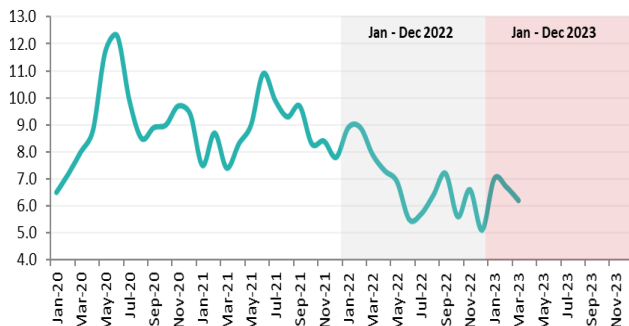
Employment ('000's)



	2022	2023	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Employment	83.1	85.6	2.5	3.0%
Full-time	70.4	72.1	1.6	2.3%
Part-time	12.7	13.5	0.8	6.6%
Employment rate (%)	60.6	60.2	-0.4	-

Employment increased month over month and represents the highest all-time figure (dating back to 1976). The full-time employment figure for March represents the highest all-time figure (dating back to 1976). The YTD increase in employment in 2023 is mainly driven by YTD growth in full-time employment.

Unemployment ('000's)



	2022	2023	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Unemployment	8.6	6.6	-1.9	-22.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	9.3	7.2	-2.1	-

There was a decrease in unemployed persons in comparison to the prior month along with a decrease in the unemployment rate. In addition, both figures are lower than the same month a year earlier. The unemployment rate is the fifth lowest figure on record. On a YTD basis, the number of unemployed persons in 2023 is 1,900 lower than the same period in 2022.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

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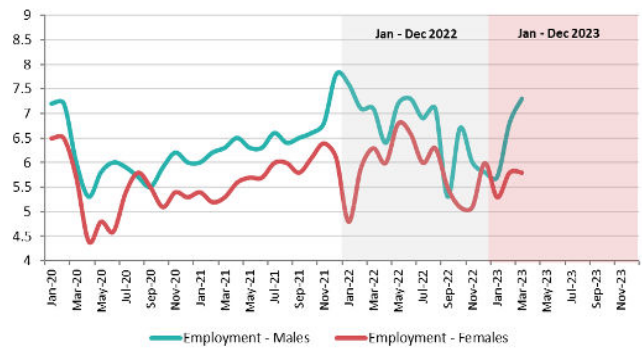
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Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

('000's)	Historical	Current: 2023 YTD		
	2020-22	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	14.1	14.3	7.7	6.6
Employment	12.1	12.2	6.6	5.6
Unemployment	2.0	2.1	1.1	0.9
Unemp rate (%)	14.3	14.8	14.9	14.2

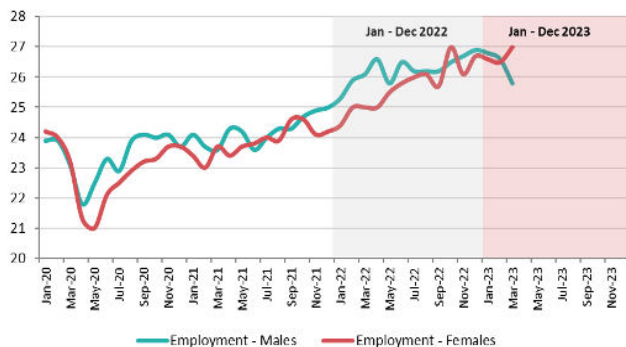
Overall, labour force and employment decreased year over year in March 2023. There were 500 fewer females and 200 more males employed in comparison to a year earlier. For full-time employment, females (+100) saw an increase and males (+300) saw an increase. Part-time employment decreased for females (-600) and for males (-100). The unemployment rate for this cohort was 11.5%.

Employment by Gender: 15-24 Age Cohort (000's)



Core-age Cohort (25-54 Years)

Employment by Gender: 25-54 Age Cohort (000's)



('000's)	Historical	Current: 2023 YTD		
	2020-22	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	52.8	56.0	28.0	28.0
Employment	48.8	53.1	26.4	26.7
Unemployment	4.0	2.9	1.7	1.3
Unemp rate (%)	7.7	5.2	5.9	4.5

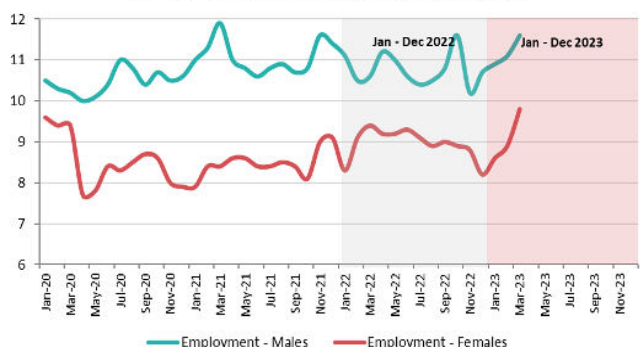
In March, employment increased for females (+2,000) and decreased for males (-300) in comparison to March 2022. On a FT basis, year over year employment increased for females (+1,600) while males (-1,100) saw a decrease. On a PT basis, there was a year over year increase for females (+400) and for males (+800). The unemployment rate increased for males (to 7.2%) and decreased for females (to 3.2%) on a year over year basis.

Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

('000's)	Historical	Current: 2023 YTD		
	2020-22	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	21.6	21.9	12.5	9.5
Employment	19.4	20.3	11.2	9.1
Unemployment	2.2	1.6	1.3	0.4
Unemp rate (%)	10.2	7.5	10.2	3.9

Employment levels increased for males (+500) and for females (+900) in March 2023 in comparison to February 2023. On a year over year, basis there were 400 more females and 1,000 more males employed. There were fewer females (-100) and more males (+200) in the labour force when comparing March 2023 to March 2022.

Employment by Gender: 55+ Age Cohort (000's)



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LFS – Industry Perspective (Employment)

The following presents LFS employment estimates by industry for Prince Edward Island.

Historical 2020-22		Current Period					2023 YTD	2022 YTD	Change
		Mar-23	Feb-23	Mar-22	M-M	Y-Y			
80.3	Total industries ('000s)	87.3	85.6	84.4	1.7	2.9	85.6	83.1	2.5
20.1	Goods-sector	20.5	20.5	21.3	0.0	-0.8	20.4	21.5	-1.1
3.4	Agriculture	3.0	2.9	3.4	0.1	-0.4	3.0	3.4	-0.4
2.5	Other primary	2.1	2.0	2.1	0.1	0.0	2.1	2.2	-0.1
0.3	Utilities	0.2	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0
6.5	Construction	7.1	6.9	7.1	0.2	0.0	6.9	7.4	-0.5
7.4	Manufacturing	8.2	8.4	8.4	-0.2	-0.2	8.2	8.2	0.0
60.3	Services-sector	66.7	65.2	63.1	1.5	3.6	65.2	61.6	3.5
11.3	Wholesale/retail trade	10.7	11.0	11.4	-0.3	-0.7	11.0	11.4	-0.4
2.5	Transport/Warehousing	2.2	2.1	2.2	0.1	0.0	2.1	2.3	-0.3
3.0	Fin/Ins/Real estate	3.6	3.5	2.8	0.1	0.8	3.4	2.7	0.7
4.4	Prof/ scientific/technical	4.3	4.4	5.3	-0.1	-1.0	4.6	5.1	-0.5
2.3	Business/building/other	2.9	2.2	2.2	0.7	0.7	2.5	2.0	0.5
5.9	Educational services	6.5	6.2	5.7	0.3	0.8	6.2	5.7	0.6
11.3	Health/social assistance	14.5	13.6	11.9	0.9	2.6	13.6	11.8	1.8
2.5	Info/culture/rec	2.7	3.1	2.5	-0.4	0.2	2.9	2.4	0.5
4.5	Accomm/food services	5.3	5.2	5.2	0.1	0.1	4.9	4.8	0.1
3.3	Other services	3.5	3.7	3.9	-0.2	-0.4	3.5	3.9	-0.5
9.2	Public administration	10.4	10.1	10.2	0.3	0.2	10.4	9.6	0.8

Data source: Table 14-10-0355-02; "Historical 2020-22" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

There were 66,700 persons employed in the **Services-producing sector** in March 2023, comprising 76.4% of PEI's industrial employment base. There was a year-over-year increase of 3,600 persons employed in the service-sector. There was year over year growth in Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+800), Business, building and other support services (+700), Educational services (+800), Health care and social assistance (+2,600), Information, culture and recreation (+200), Accommodation and food services (+100) and Public administration (+200). There was a year over year decrease in Wholesale and retail trade (-700), Professional, scientific and technical services (-1,000), and Other services (except public administration) (-400). There was no year over year change in Transportation and warehousing.

There were 20,500 persons employed in the **Goods-producing sector** in March 2023, resulting in a decrease of 800 persons employed compared to a year ago. There was a year over year decrease in Agriculture (-400), Utilities (-100) and Manufacturing (-200). There was no year over year change in employment for Other Primary and Construction.

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LFS – Industry Perspective (Average Hourly Wages)

The following presents LFS average hourly wages by industry for Prince Edward Island.

Historical 2020-22		Current Period						
		Mar-23	Feb-23	Mar-22	M-M	Y-Y	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
25.5	Total industries ('000s)	28.10	28.13	26.99	-0.03	1.11	28.19	26.86
23.3	Goods-sector	27.12	27.33	25.27	-0.21	1.85	26.51	25.30
19.7	Agriculture	22.12	23.04	22.42	-0.92	-0.30	22.77	22.57
26.6	Other primary	26.20	30.80	33.55	-4.60	-7.35	28.10	35.19
39.1	Utilities	40.66	43.99	37.77	-3.33	2.89	43.40	44.89
23.4	Construction	25.39	26.51	24.48	-1.12	0.91	25.71	25.45
23.6	Manufacturing	28.86	27.99	25.59	0.87	3.27	27.13	24.75
26.2	Services-sector	28.34	28.34	27.46	0.00	0.88	28.60	27.31
18.6	Wholesale/retail trade	20.23	20.61	19.92	-0.38	0.31	20.43	19.05
24.4	Transport/Warehousing	24.39	25.42	24.92	-1.03	-0.53	24.54	24.13
27.3	Fin/Ins/Real estate	31.90	31.52	32.74	0.38	-0.84	32.42	31.34
30.3	Prof/ scientific/technical	30.97	27.52	31.73	3.45	-0.76	29.46	32.47
17.8	Business/building/other	17.78	19.71	20.23	-1.93	-2.45	18.47	20.50
33.7	Educational services	33.15	33.42	32.32	-0.27	0.83	33.01	33.31
28.0	Health/social assistance	30.84	30.34	27.52	0.50	3.32	31.20	28.21
23.0	Info/culture/rec	21.63	23.79	25.41	-2.16	-3.78	23.77	24.67
15.9	Accomm/food services	16.65	17.97	16.45	-1.32	0.20	17.27	16.15
22.6	Other services	22.48	22.86	25.93	-0.38	-3.45	23.91	25.38
34.5	Public administration	37.43	37.41	36.67	0.02	0.76	37.51	35.73

Data source: Table 14-10-0063-01; "Historical 2020-22" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

The average hourly wage rate across all industries was \$28.10/hr in March 2023, this represents an increase of 4.1% in comparison to the same month a year earlier. On a year to date basis, the average hourly rate is 4.9% higher in 2023 (\$28.19/hr) in comparison to the same period in 2022 (\$26.86/hr).

The wages for the **Services-producing sector** was \$28.34/hr in March 2023, which is 3.2% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. There was year over year wage growth in Wholesale/retail trade (\$0.31/hr or 1.6%), Education (\$0.83/hr or 2.6%), Health care and social assistance (\$3.32/hr or 12.1%), Accommodation and food services (\$0.20/hr or 1.2%) and Public administration (\$0.76/hr or 2.1%).

The average hourly wage rate for the **Goods-producing sector** was \$27.12/hr in March 2023, which is 7.3% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. Year over year growth for wages occurred in Utilities (\$2.89/hr or 7.7%), Construction (\$0.91/hr or 3.7%) and Manufacturing (\$3.27/hr or 12.8%).

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LFS – Regional Perspective

The following compares LFS estimates and changes among the Atlantic Provinces and nationally, by month and year.

Regional Comparison of Labour Market Indicators YEAR-over-YEAR Changes

(000's)	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB
Labour force	21,141.8	264.9	93.5	525.8	409.2
Level	382.3	-0.2	1.2	11.5	11.3
Percent	1.8%	-0.1%	1.3%	2.2%	2.8%
Employment	20,088.8	237.8	87.3	496.0	385.5
Level	425.5	8.1	2.9	17.5	16.0
Percent	2.2%	3.5%	3.4%	3.7%	4.3%
Unemployment	1,053.0	27.2	6.2	29.8	23.6
Level	-43.3	-8.2	-1.7	-6.0	-4.9
Percent	-3.9%	-23.2%	-21.5%	-16.8%	-17.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.0	10.3	6.6	5.7	5.8
Level	-0.3	-3.1	-2	-1.3	-1.4

Newfoundland and Labrador

NL experienced a year-over-year increase in employment in March 2023 (+3.5%).

On year over year basis, the unemployment rate in NL decreased 3.1 percentage points in March 2023 to 10.3%.

Nova Scotia

Employment in Nova Scotia increased year-over-year (+3.7%).

On a year over year basis, their unemployment rate decreased 1.3 percentage points to 5.7%.

Regional Comparison of Labour Market Indicators MONTH-over-MONTH Changes

(000's)	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB
Labour force	21,141.8	264.9	93.5	525.8	409.2
Level	21.3	0.3	1.2	-1.3	-0.4
Percent	0.1%	0.1%	1.3%	-0.2%	-0.1%
Employment	20,088.8	237.8	87.3	496.0	385.5
Level	34.7	-0.5	1.7	-0.9	1.9
Percent	0.2%	-0.2%	2.0%	-0.2%	0.5%
Unemployment	1,053.0	27.2	6.2	29.8	23.6
Level	-13.4	0.9	-0.5	-0.4	-2.4
Percent	-1.3%	3.4%	-7.5%	-1.3%	-9.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	5	10.3	6.6	5.7	5.8
Level	0	0.4	-0.7	0	-0.5

New Brunswick

New Brunswick saw a 4.3% increase in year over year employment.

On year over year basis, their unemployment rate decreased by 1.4 percentage points to 5.8%.

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LFS – Growth Indicators and Provincial Rankings

The following compares and ranks growth estimates for select labour market indicators across provinces.

YEAR OVER YEAR – PROVINCIAL RANKINGS

(Current month vs same month a year ago)

WORKING AGE POPULATION

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Prince Edward Island	3.6%
2	Alberta	3.2%
3	New Brunswick	2.8%
4	Nova Scotia	2.7%
5	Saskatchewan	2.5%
6	Manitoba	1.9%
7	Ontario	1.7%
8	British Columbia	1.5%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.3%
10	Quebec	1.3%
	Canada	1.8%

LABOUR FORCE

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	3.5%
2	New Brunswick	2.8%
3	Manitoba	2.6%
4	Nova Scotia	2.2%
5	Quebec	2.0%
6	Ontario	1.5%
7	Prince Edward Island	1.3%
8	Saskatchewan	1.2%
9	British Columbia	1.0%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.1%
	Canada	1.8%

EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	New Brunswick	4.3%
2	Alberta	4.0%
3	Nova Scotia	3.7%
4	Newfoundland and Labrador	3.5%
5	Prince Edward Island	3.4%
6	Manitoba	2.6%
7	Quebec	1.9%
8	Ontario	1.8%
9	Saskatchewan	1.5%
10	British Columbia	1.5%
	Canada	2.2%

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Manitoba	5.7%
2	Alberta	5.4%
3	Prince Edward Island	3.8%
4	New Brunswick	2.9%
5	Ontario	2.7%
6	British Columbia	2.7%
7	Quebec	2.0%
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	2.0%
9	Saskatchewan	1.9%
10	Nova Scotia	1.8%
	Canada	2.9%

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Newfoundland and Labrador	13.4%
2	New Brunswick	13.2%
3	Nova Scotia	12.6%
4	Quebec	1.4%
5	Prince Edward Island	0.7%
6	Saskatchewan	-0.2%
7	Alberta	-1.6%
8	Ontario	-2.5%
9	British Columbia	-3.0%
10	Manitoba	-9.7%
	Canada	-1.1%

AVG HOURLY WAGES

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Newfoundland and Labrador	6.3%
2	Nova Scotia	6.3%
3	Manitoba	6.3%
4	Ontario	6.0%
5	Quebec	6.0%
6	British Columbia	5.4%
7	New Brunswick	4.4%
8	Prince Edward Island	4.1%
9	Alberta	2.5%
10	Saskatchewan	2.5%
	Canada	5.3%

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LFS – Growth Indicators and Provincial Rankings

The following compares and ranks growth estimates for select labour market indicators across provinces.

YEAR TO DATE – PROVINCIAL RANKINGS

(Average: January to current month relative to the same period a year ago)

WORKING AGE POPULATION

YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	3.5%
2	Alberta	3.1%
3	New Brunswick	2.8%
4	Nova Scotia	2.6%
5	Saskatchewan	2.4%
6	Manitoba	1.8%
7	Ontario	1.6%
8	British Columbia	1.4%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.2%
10	Quebec	1.2%
	Canada	1.7%

LABOUR FORCE

YEAR TO DATE

1	New Brunswick	3.3%
2	Alberta	3.2%
3	Nova Scotia	2.7%
4	Quebec	2.4%
5	Manitoba	1.5%
6	Ontario	1.5%
7	British Columbia	1.4%
8	Saskatchewan	1.1%
9	Prince Edward Island	0.5%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.4%
	Canada	1.9%

EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	New Brunswick	4.6%
2	Nova Scotia	4.0%
3	Alberta	3.9%
4	Newfoundland and Labrador	3.6%
5	Prince Edward Island	3.0%
6	Quebec	2.9%
7	Ontario	2.6%
8	Saskatchewan	1.8%
9	Manitoba	1.7%
10	British Columbia	1.7%
	Canada	2.7%

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	5.0%
2	Manitoba	3.9%
3	Ontario	3.2%
4	British Columbia	3.0%
5	Nova Scotia	2.8%
6	New Brunswick	2.6%
7	Quebec	2.3%
8	Prince Edward Island	2.3%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	2.1%
10	Saskatchewan	1.2%
	Canada	3.1%

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	New Brunswick	17.1%
2	Newfoundland and Labrador	13.3%
3	Nova Scotia	10.1%
4	Prince Edward Island	6.6%
5	Quebec	5.3%
6	Saskatchewan	4.6%
7	Ontario	-0.6%
8	Alberta	-1.0%
9	British Columbia	-3.2%
10	Manitoba	-7.7%
	Canada	0.8%

AVG HOURLY WAGES

YEAR TO DATE

1	Nova Scotia	6.5%
2	Quebec	6.4%
3	Manitoba	5.7%
4	British Columbia	5.5%
5	Newfoundland and Labrador	5.5%
6	New Brunswick	5.1%
7	Prince Edward Island	4.9%
8	Ontario	4.8%
9	Alberta	3.2%
10	Saskatchewan	2.7%
	Canada	5.1%