

Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

February 2023



April 21, 2023

Background: The Statistics Canada Employment Insurance Statistics are based on administrative data; the microdata on beneficiaries are collected and provided by Service Canada. The number of EI beneficiaries represents a count of persons who qualified for employment insurance benefits during the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually the week containing the 15th day of the month. This survey is a census with a cross-sectional design. Data are collected for all units of the target population; therefore no sampling is done.

The release of the data includes information on benefits paid, benefit weeks paid, claims received and allowed and the number of beneficiaries along with their characteristics such as age, and gender. For reference purposes, a regular beneficiary is an individual in receipt of employment insurance benefits in a month and is not currently in receipt of special benefits such as maternity, parental, or sick leave.

The following information is a summary for data that is unadjusted for seasonality. Note on Seasonality: *The EI time series is subject to seasonal and/or calendar effects and is therefore, seasonally adjusted. Seasonal effects are the monthly fluctuations which occur more or less regularly from year to year. They result from composite effects of climatic events, institutional decisions or modes of operation which occur repeatedly with some regularity within the year. Calendar effects are related to the composition of the calendar. They include trading-day effects associated with the location of the Labour Force Survey reference week, moving holiday effects associated with non-fixed date holidays such as Easter, and other predictable events from the calendar.*

Employment Insurance- Brief

- The number of regular beneficiaries decreased by 3,620 (-27.3%) when comparing February 2023 to February 2022 and stood at 9,660. Prince Edward Island ranked second last among provinces in year over year percentage decrease in regular beneficiaries and had ranked first in month over month decrease among provinces.
- Males represent 64.1% of the regular beneficiaries; there were year over year and month over month decreases in all three age cohorts (15 to 24 years, 25 to 54 years and 55 years and older).
- Of the 9,660 regular beneficiaries in February 2023, there were 8,680 who did not declare earnings or alternatively, 980 (or 10.1% of the total) who did declare earnings. In February 2022, there were 1,560 (or 11.7%) of the total 13,280 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.
- In February 2023, there were 2,460 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 7,180 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.
- A year over year decrease in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (-2,260 or -36.0%), Summerside census agglomeration (-1,720 or -40.8%) and outside census metropolitan areas (-540 or -26.3%).
- February 2023 saw year over year decreases in Prince County (-1,090), Kings County (-560) and Queens County (-1,970).
- Previous versions of this report had occupational data however Statistics Canada has indicated the related data tables are not currently available as Statistics Canada are converting the EI statistics data to the 2021 National Occupational Classification (NOC) standard. It is anticipated this data will be released in June 2023.

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Labour Market Context

Figures below are based on seasonally adjusted figures

- Employment totaled 85,600 in February 2023, an increase of 1,700 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 2.5% higher from a year ago. There was a year-over-year increase in full-time employment (+1,200) while there was a year over year increase in part-time employment (+1,000).
- Unemployment totaled 6,700 in February, a decrease of 300 persons from the prior month. There was a decrease of 2,200 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The unemployment rate decreased month over month in February 2023 and sits at 7.3%. The rate was 2.3 percentage points lower than it was in February 2022 (9.6%).

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Characteristics of Regular Beneficiaries (Seasonally Unadjusted)

The number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in February 2023 was 9,660 of which 64.1% were males. The number of regular beneficiaries in this month represents a decrease of 520 beneficiaries (-5.1%) in comparison to January 2023 and a decrease of 3,620 beneficiaries (-27.3%) in comparison to February 2022.

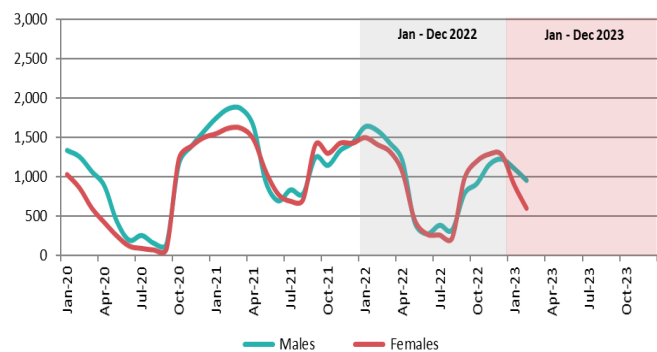
- On a month-over-month basis there was a decrease in male beneficiaries (-100) and a decrease in female beneficiaries (-420).
- On a year-over-year basis there was a decrease in male beneficiaries (-1,730) and a decrease in female beneficiaries (-1,890).
- Of the 9,660 regular beneficiaries in February 2023, there were 8,680 who did not declare earnings or alternatively, 980 (or 10.1% of the total) who did declare earnings. In February 2022, there were 1,560 (or 11.7%) of the total 13,280 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.

Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

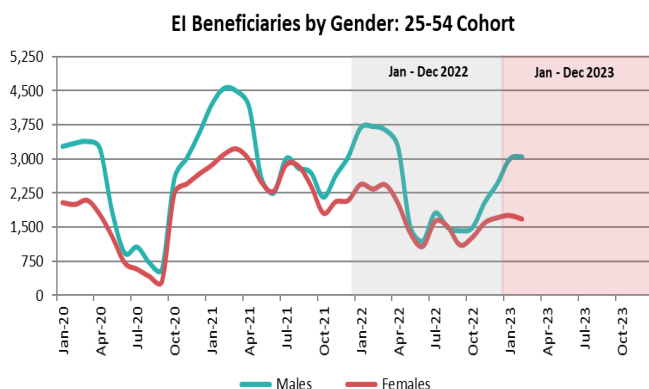
| | Historical 2020-22 | Current Period YTD 2023 | YTD 2022 | % Chg |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------|
| Both sexes | 1957.8 | 1775.0 | 3065.0 | -42.1% |
| Males | 1014.7 | 1025.0 | 1605.0 | -36.1% |
| Females | 943.6 | 750.0 | 1455.0 | -48.5% |

There was 1,450 fewer regular beneficiaries year over year for this cohort. Males saw a year over year decrease (-630) and sit at a total of 950 beneficiaries. Females saw a year over year decrease of 810 to sit at a total of 600 beneficiaries. There was a decrease of 450 regular beneficiaries in a month over month comparison.

EI Beneficiaries by Gender: 15-24 Cohort



Core-age Cohort (25-54 Years)



| | Historical 2020-22 | Current Period YTD 2023 | YTD 2022 | % Chg |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------|
| Both sexes | 4555.8 | 4745.0 | 6085.0 | -22.0% |
| Males | 2608.3 | 3025.0 | 3705.0 | -18.4% |
| Females | 1948.9 | 1720.0 | 2390.0 | -28.0% |

Both males (-670) and females (-660) saw a year over year decrease in February 2023. In February 2023, there were 3,050 males and 1,680 female regular beneficiaries. In a month over month comparison there was an increase of 50 male regular beneficiaries and a decrease of 80 female regular beneficiaries.

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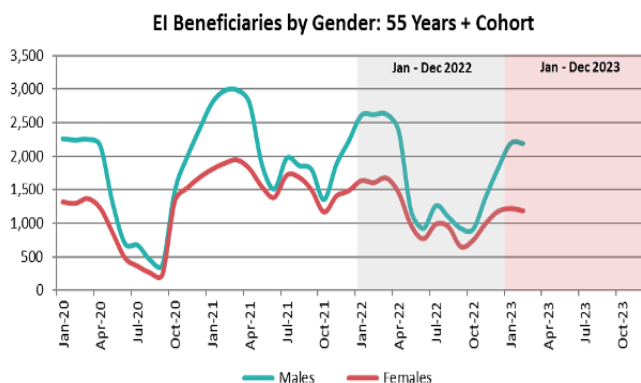


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Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

| | Historical | Current Period | | |
|------------|------------|----------------|----------|--------|
| | 2020-22 | YTD 2023 | YTD 2022 | % Chg |
| Both sexes | 3029.2 | 3400.0 | 4240.0 | -19.8% |
| Males | 1779.2 | 2190.0 | 2615.0 | -16.3% |
| Females | 1250.3 | 1205.0 | 1625.0 | -25.8% |

In the 55 and over age group there was a year over year decrease of 19.8%. Females (-420 or -26.1%) and males (-430 or -16.4%) saw a decrease in year over year comparisons. When comparing February 2023 to January 2023, males in this cohort had no change in regular beneficiaries and females decreased by 30 regular beneficiaries.



Employment Insurances Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits by Province (Seasonally Unadjusted)

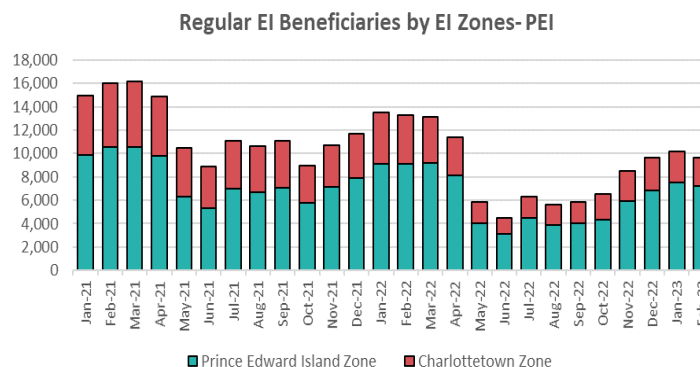
| | Feb-23 | Monthly Change | Annual Change | YTD Change |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Canada | 516,690 | 0.8% | -29.5% | -34.1% |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 37,010 | 1.5% | -18.2% | -21.4% |
| Prince Edward Island | 9,660 | -5.1% | -27.3% | -25.9% |
| Nova Scotia | 27,670 | 1.6% | -30.1% | -31.3% |
| New Brunswick | 33,390 | -2.7% | -32.2% | -33.0% |
| Quebec | 133,590 | -1.6% | -32.3% | -38.2% |
| Ontario | 143,340 | 6.0% | -28.0% | -34.7% |
| Manitoba | 17,530 | -0.5% | -28.1% | -30.9% |
| Saskatchewan | 15,970 | 0.4% | -28.3% | -30.5% |
| Alberta | 50,390 | -0.2% | -32.8% | -35.4% |
| British Columbia | 45,160 | -2.5% | -29.4% | -34.1% |

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0010-01 Employment insurance beneficiaries by age group, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by EI Zones

In February 2023, there were 2,460 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 7,180 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.

The Charlottetown zone had 1,710 fewer EI beneficiaries and the EI zone had 1,920 fewer EI beneficiaries in comparison to February 2022.



Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0346-01 Employment Insurance beneficiaries by employment insurance region, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

Employment Insurance Summary

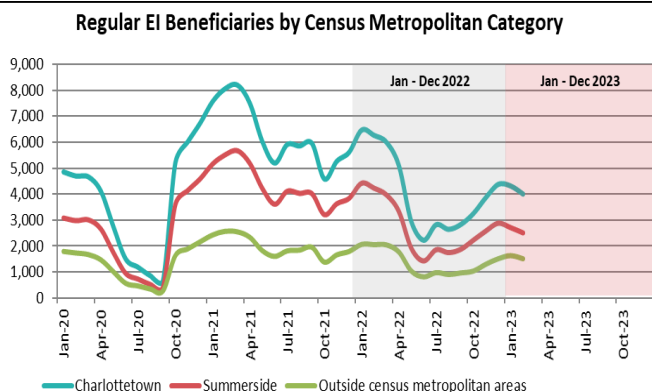
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Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by Census Metropolitan Category



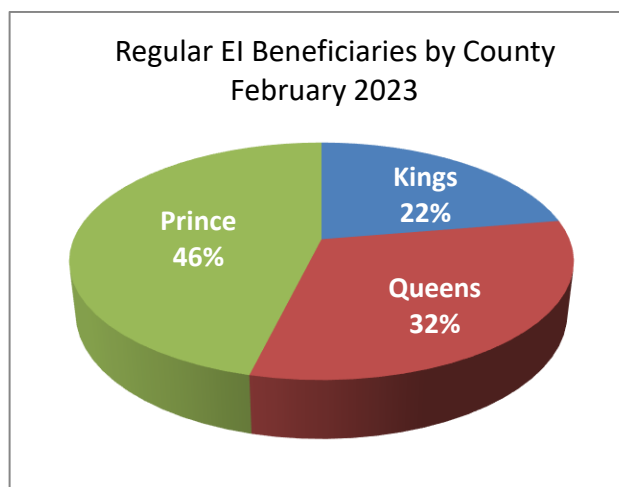
| | Historical | Current Period | | % Chg |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------|--------|
| | 2020-22 | YTD 2023 | YTD 2022 | |
| Charlottetown | 4665.0 | 4165.0 | 6370.0 | -34.6% |
| Summerside | 3131.7 | 2600.0 | 4315.0 | -39.7% |
| Outside census metropolitan areas | 1533.9 | 1570.0 | 2055.0 | -23.6% |

Based on unadjusted data, a year over year decrease in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (-2,260 or -36.0%), Summerside census agglomeration (-1,720 or -40.8%) and outside census metropolitan areas (-540 or -26.3%).

Note: Table 14-10-0137-01 – Employment insurance beneficiaries (regular benefits) by census metropolitan category, monthly, seasonally adjusted.

Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by County

- Based on unadjusted data there was an annual year over year decrease (-3,620). The decrease is attributed to Kings (-560), Queens (-1,970) and Prince (-1,090) Counties.
- For the 15-24 age group, Kings (-170), Queens (-800) and Prince (-480) Counties had year over year decreases.
- For the 25-54 age group, Kings (-220), Queens (-790) and Prince (-330) Counties had year over year decreases in regular beneficiaries.
- For the 55 and over age group, Kings County (-180), Queens (-380) and Prince (-290) Counties had year over year decreases in regular beneficiaries.



Kings County- 2,160 Regular Beneficiaries
 Queens County- 3,040 Regular Beneficiaries
 Prince County- 4,460 Regular Beneficiaries

Note: Table 14-10-0323-01 – Employment insurance beneficiaries by census division unadjusted for seasonally