

# Labour Force Survey Report

Prince Edward Island

March 2025



April 4, 2025

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 2022-24		Current Period						
		Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	M-M	% Chg	Y-Y	% Chg
145.4	Population (000's)	152.8	152.7	149.4	0.1	0.1	3.4	2.3
98.8	<b>Labour force (000's)</b>	101.5	101.7	99.0	-0.2	-0.2	2.5	2.5
91.3	<b>Employment (000's)</b>	93.9	93.8	91.7	0.1	0.1	2.2	2.4
78.2	Employment full-time (000's)	82.1	81.0	79.5	1.1	1.4	2.6	3.3
13.1	Employment part-time (000's)	11.9	12.8	12.2	-0.9	-7.0	-0.3	-2.5
7.5	<b>Unemployment (000's)</b>	7.6	7.9	7.3	-0.3	-3.8	0.3	4.1
7.6	Unemployment rate (%)	7.5	7.8	7.4	-0.3		0.1	
66.4	Participation rate (%)	66.4	66.6	66.3	-0.2		0.1	
61.4	Employment rate (%)	61.5	61.4	61.4	0.1		0.1	

Source: Table 14-10-0287-03; "Historical 2022-24" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

- The **labour force** totaled 101,500 in March 2025, a decrease of 200 persons in comparison to the previous month. The labour force was 2.5% higher when compared to March 2024.
- **Employment** totaled 93,900 in March 2025, an increase of 100 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 2.4% higher from a year ago. There was a year over year increase in **full-time employment** (+2,600) and a decrease in **part-time employment** (-300).
- **Unemployment** totaled 7,600 in March 2025, a decrease of 300 persons from the prior month. There was an increase of 300 persons in the number of unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The **unemployment rate** decreased month over month and sits at 7.5%. The rate is 0.1 of a percentage point higher than it was in March 2024 (7.4%).
- The **participation rate** was 66.4% in March 2025; this represents an increase of 0.1 of a percentage point from a year-over-year perspective. The PEI participation rate is higher than the national average (65.2%) and sits fourth highest among provinces behind Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

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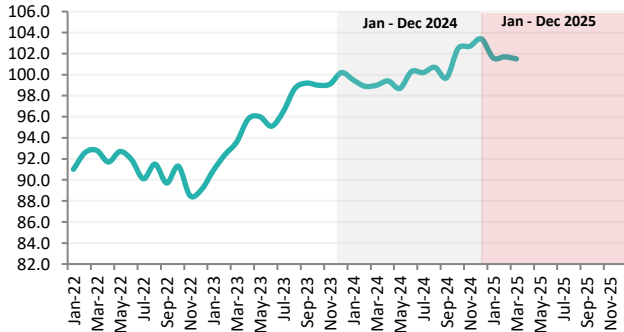


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## LFS - Progress Report

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 2025 to the same in 2024.

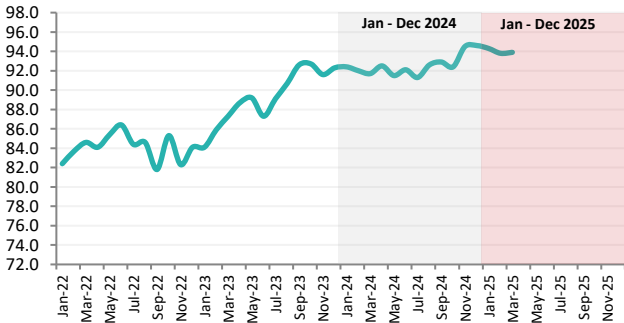
Labour Force (000's)



('000)	2024	2025	Level	Percent
	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Population	148.9	152.6	3.7	2.5%
Labour Force	99.1	101.6	2.5	2.5%
Not in LF	49.8	51.0	1.2	2.5%
Participation rate (%)	66.6	66.6	0.0	-

The labour force figure in March 2025 ranks sixth highest all-time. It also marks the 9<sup>th</sup> time in the past 10 months where the seasonally adjusted figure exceeded 100,000 persons. The labour force has 2,500 more persons YTD over the same period last year. On a YTD basis, the participation rate is the same in comparison to the same period last year and sits at 66.6%.

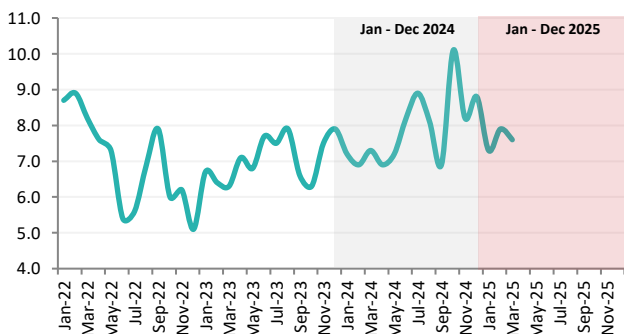
Employment (000's)



('000)	2024	2025	Level	Percent
	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Employment	92.0	94.0	2.0	2.1%
Full-time	79.2	81.4	2.2	2.8%
Part-time	12.8	12.6	-0.2	-1.6%
Employment rate (%)	61.8	61.6	-0.2	-

Employment increased in March after two consecutive months of decline, the figure ranks fourth highest all-time. The full-time employment figure for March 2025 is the highest all-time high and is the first time it has exceeded 82,000 persons. The full-time employment figure has exceeded 80,000 persons in 4 out of the past 5 months.

Unemployment (000's)



('000)	2024	2025	Level	Percent
	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Unemployment	7.1	7.6	0.5	6.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	7.2	7.5	0.3	-

In March, both the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate decreased monthly. The decrease in unemployed persons was mainly due to the fewer people looking for employment in March 2025 in comparison to February 2025. On a YTD basis, the number of unemployed persons in 2025 is 500 persons higher than the same period in 2024.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

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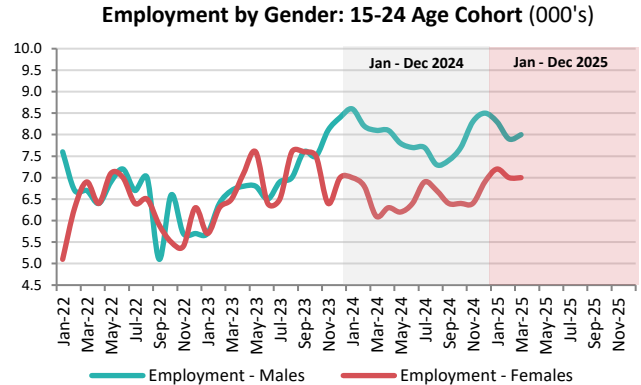


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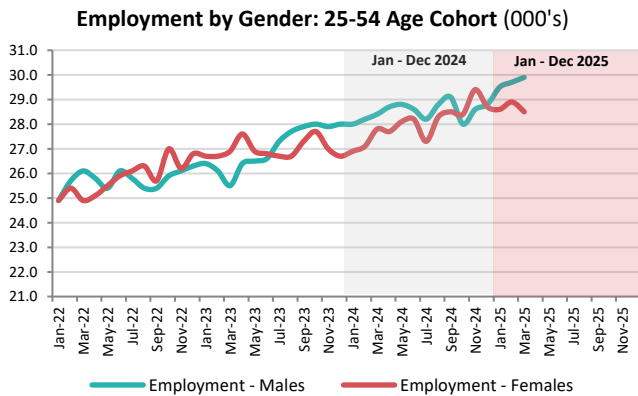
## Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

('000's)	Historical	Current: 2025 YTD		
	2022-24	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	15.5	16.6	9.0	7.7
Employment	13.7	15.1	8.1	7.1
Unemployment	1.8	1.5	0.9	0.6
Unemp rate (%)	11.5	9.0	10.0	7.8

In March, there were 100 fewer males and 900 more females employed in comparison to a year earlier. For full-time employment, females (+800) saw an increase and males (-500) saw a decrease. Part-time employment increased for males (+400) and increased for females (+100). The unemployment rate for this cohort was 10.2%, up 0.1 of a percentage point year over year.



## Core-age Cohort (25-54 Years)



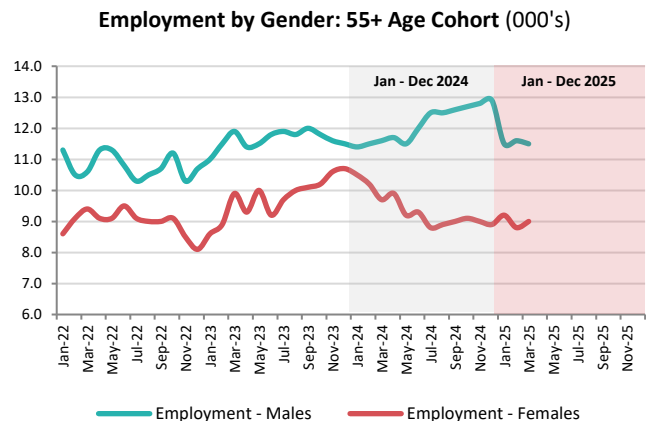
('000's)	Historical	Current: 2025 YTD		
	2022-24	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	57.6	62.6	32.2	30.4
Employment	54.0	58.3	29.7	28.7
Unemployment	3.5	4.3	2.5	1.8
Unemp rate (%)	6.1	6.8	7.9	5.8

In March, employment increased for females (+700) and for males (+1,500) in comparison to March 2024. On a FT basis, year over year employment increased for females (+1,000) and for males (+1,700). On a PT basis, there was a year over year decrease for females (-400) and males (-200). The unemployment rate increased for males (to 8.0%) and increased for females (to 5.9%) on a year over year basis.

## Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

('000's)	Historical	Current: 2025 YTD		
	2022-24	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	22.9	22.4	12.5	9.8
Employment	20.9	20.6	11.5	9.0
Unemployment	2.0	1.8	1.0	0.8
Unemp rate (%)	8.8	8.0	8.0	8.5

On a year over year, basis there were 700 fewer females and 100 fewer males employed. There were fewer females (-900) and fewer males (-400) in the labour force when comparing March 2025 to March 2024.



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## LFS – Industry Perspective (Employment)

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

Historical 2022-24		Current Period					2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
		Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	M-M	Y-Y			
88.6	<b>Total industries ('000s)</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>93.8</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
22.3	<b>Goods-sector</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>
3.7	Agriculture	3.6	3.4	4.0	0.2	-0.4	3.6	3.9	-0.3
2.2	Other primary	3.1	2.5	1.7	0.6	1.4	2.8	1.6	1.2
0.3	Utilities	0.2	0.3	0.4	-0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.4	-0.1
7.9	Construction	9.4	10.0	8.0	-0.6	1.4	9.8	7.9	1.8
8.2	Manufacturing	9.0	8.8	7.7	0.2	1.3	8.9	8.0	0.9
66.3	<b>Services-sector</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
11.0	Wholesale/retail trade	11.4	11.5	9.7	-0.1	1.7	11.5	10.5	1.0
2.6	Transport/Warehousing	2.2	2.2	3.6	0.0	-1.4	2.3	3.5	-1.2
3.5	Fin/Ins/Real estate	3.8	3.3	4.4	0.5	-0.6	3.6	4.3	-0.7
4.7	Prof/ scientific/technical	5.0	4.7	4.9	0.3	0.1	4.7	4.8	-0.1
2.2	Business/building/other	2.3	2.8	2.3	-0.5	0.0	2.5	2.4	0.1
6.2	Educational services	5.7	6.0	6.7	-0.3	-1.0	6.0	6.8	-0.8
13.7	Health/social assistance	15.5	15.1	14.7	0.4	0.8	15.2	14.6	0.6
2.9	Info/culture/rec	1.4	2.3	3.5	-0.9	-2.1	1.8	3.3	-1.5
5.4	Accomm/food services	6.3	6.2	6.1	0.1	0.2	6.3	6.1	0.2
3.7	Other services	3.8	3.6	3.7	0.2	0.1	3.7	3.7	0.0
10.4	Public administration	11.2	11.1	10.2	0.1	1.0	11.1	10.3	0.8

Data source: Table 14-10-0355-02; "Historical 2022-24" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

There were 68,700 persons employed in the **Services-producing sector** in March 2025, comprising 73.2% of PEI's industrial employment base. There was a year-over-year decrease of 1,200 persons employed in the service-sector. There was year over year growth in Wholesale/retail trade (+1,700), Professional, technical and scientific services (+100), Health care and social assistance (+800), Accommodation and food services (+200), Other services (except public administration) (+100) and Public administration (+1,000). There was a year over year decrease in Transportation and warehousing (-1,400), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (-600), Educational services (-1,000), and Information, culture and recreation (-2,100). There was no year over year change in employment for Business, building and other support services.

There were 25,200 persons employed in the **Goods-producing sector** in March 2025, resulting in an increase of 3,400 persons employed compared to a year ago. There was a year over year increase in Other primary (+1,400), Construction (+1,400) and Manufacturing (+1,300). There was a year over year decrease in Agriculture (-400) and Utilities (-200).

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## LFS – Industry Perspective (Average Hourly Wages)

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

Historical 2022-24		Current Period						
		Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	M-M	Y-Y	2025 YTD	2024 YTD
28.1	<b>Total industries ('000s)</b>	<b>29.55</b>	<b>29.94</b>	<b>29.52</b>	<b>-0.39</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>29.87</b>	<b>29.16</b>
26.0	<b>Goods-sector</b>	<b>27.45</b>	<b>28.89</b>	<b>29.10</b>	<b>-1.44</b>	<b>-1.65</b>	<b>28.44</b>	<b>27.79</b>
21.8	Agriculture	24.10	22.97	23.32	1.13	0.78	23.46	21.92
28.1	Other primary	34.65	43.46	29.29	-8.81	5.36	41.16	28.78
43.6	Utilities	40.15	43.46	62.78	-3.31	-22.63	40.20	59.86
26.1	Construction	28.61	28.79	28.94	-0.18	-0.33	28.37	27.49
26.6	Manufacturing	26.31	28.43	28.90	-2.12	-2.59	28.10	28.01
28.8	<b>Services-sector</b>	<b>30.15</b>	<b>30.24</b>	<b>29.63</b>	<b>-0.09</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>30.28</b>	<b>29.50</b>
20.7	Wholesale/retail trade	22.09	22.24	21.62	-0.15	0.47	22.04	21.21
26.1	Transport/Warehousing	29.05	27.87	26.18	1.18	2.87	29.23	26.08
31.8	Fin/Ins/Real estate	30.76	28.56	30.18	2.20	0.58	30.25	30.15
33.0	Prof/ scientific/technical	37.12	36.11	34.51	1.01	2.61	36.13	34.72
20.9	Business/building/other	24.03	26.48	19.62	-2.45	4.41	26.00	19.77
35.0	Educational services	36.84	35.83	35.04	1.01	1.80	36.02	34.71
30.6	Health/social assistance	31.88	31.25	31.30	0.63	0.58	31.38	30.72
23.9	Info/culture/rec	24.12	23.87	22.15	0.25	1.97	25.71	23.07
18.0	Accomm/food services	17.86	18.00	18.78	-0.14	-0.92	17.91	19.31
25.4	Other services	22.17	26.19	26.61	-4.02	-4.44	24.97	27.40
37.7	Public administration	39.40	41.09	39.47	-1.69	-0.07	40.57	39.37

Data source: Table 14-10-0063-01; "Historical 2022-24" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

The average hourly wage rate across all industries was \$29.55/hr in March 2025, this represents an increase of 0.1% in comparison to the same month a year earlier. On a year to date basis, the average hourly rate is 2.4% higher in 2025 (\$29.87/hr) in comparison to the same period in 2024 (\$29.16/hr).

The wages for the **Services-producing sector** was \$30.15/hr in March 2025, which is 1.8% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. There was year over year wage growth in Wholesale/Retail trade (\$0.47/hr or 2.2%), Transportation and warehousing (\$2.87/hr or 11.0%), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (\$0.58/hr or 1.9%), Professional, scientific and technical services (\$2.61/hr or 7.6%), Business, building and other support services (\$4.41/hr or 22.5%), Educational services (\$1.80/hr or 5.1%), Health and social assistance (\$0.58/hr or 1.9%) and Information, culture and recreation (\$1.97/hr or 8.9%).

The average hourly wage rate for the **Goods-producing sector** was \$27.45/hr in March 2025, which is 5.7% lower than the wage rate a year earlier. Year over year growth for wages occurred in Agriculture (\$0.78/hr or 3.3%) and Other primary (\$5.36/hr or 18.3%).

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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
<b>Labour force</b>	<b>22,470.7</b>	<b>271.7</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>558.9</b>	<b>431.5</b>
Level	513.8	-1.6	2.5	-1.3	4.6
Percent	2.3%	-0.6%	2.5%	-0.2%	1.1%
<b>Employment</b>	<b>20,961.9</b>	<b>244.3</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>524.9</b>	<b>401.6</b>
Level	347.4	-1.5	2.2	0.9	8.6
Percent	1.7%	-0.6%	2.4%	0.2%	2.2%
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>1,508.8</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>
Level	166.5	-0.2	0.3	-2.3	-3.8
Percent	12.4%	-0.7%	4.1%	-6.3%	-11.2%
<b>employment rate (%)</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Level	0.6	-0.1	0.1	-0.4	-0.9

### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

NL experienced a year-over-year decrease in employment in March 2025 (-0.6%).

On year over year basis, the unemployment rate in NL decreased in March 2025 and was 10.0%.

### **Nova Scotia**

Employment in Nova Scotia increased year-over-year (+0.2%).

On a year over year basis, the unemployment rate decreased and sits at 6.1%.

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

(000's)	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB
<b>Labour force</b>	<b>22,470.7</b>	<b>271.7</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>558.9</b>	<b>431.5</b>
Level	-13.3	-0.1	-0.1	-1.5	1.2
Percent	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.3%	0.3%
<b>Employment</b>	<b>20,961.9</b>	<b>244.3</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>524.9</b>	<b>401.6</b>
Level	-31.5	1.2	-0.4	-2.3	-1.3
Percent	-0.2%	0.5%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.3%
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>1,508.8</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>
Level	18.2	-1.4	0.3	0.8	2.5
Percent	1.2%	-4.9%	4.1%	2.4%	9.1%
<b>employment rate (%)</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>7</b>
Level	0.1	-0.6	0.3	0.2	0.6

### **New Brunswick**

New Brunswick saw a 2.2% increase in year over year employment.

On year over year basis, their unemployment rate decreased 0.9 of a percentage point to 7.0%.

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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	Alberta	4.3%
2	Manitoba	3.0%
3	British Columbia	2.9%
4	Ontario	2.9%
5	Saskatchewan	2.7%
6	Quebec	2.4%
7	Prince Edward Island	2.3%
8	New Brunswick	2.1%
9	Nova Scotia	1.8%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.3%
	Canada	2.9%

#### LABOUR FORCE

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Manitoba	3.3%
2	Quebec	2.8%
3	Alberta	2.7%
4	Saskatchewan	2.6%
5	Prince Edward Island	2.5%
6	Ontario	2.5%
7	British Columbia	1.5%
8	New Brunswick	1.1%
9	Nova Scotia	-0.2%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.6%
	Canada	2.3%

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Saskatchewan	3.1%
2	Manitoba	2.6%
3	Prince Edward Island	2.4%
4	New Brunswick	2.2%
5	Alberta	2.0%
6	Quebec	1.9%
7	Ontario	1.7%
8	British Columbia	0.9%
9	Nova Scotia	0.2%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.6%
	Canada	1.7%

#### FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	New Brunswick	3.8%
2	Prince Edward Island	3.3%
3	Manitoba	3.0%
4	Alberta	2.0%
5	Quebec	1.8%
6	Saskatchewan	1.4%
7	Nova Scotia	1.3%
8	Ontario	0.9%
9	British Columbia	0.1%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.6%
	Canada	1.2%

#### PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Saskatchewan	11.5%
2	Ontario	5.4%
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	4.8%
4	British Columbia	4.7%
5	Quebec	2.7%
6	Alberta	1.8%
7	Manitoba	1.0%
8	Prince Edward Island	-2.5%
9	Nova Scotia	-5.1%
10	New Brunswick	-7.1%
	Canada	3.8%

#### AVG HOURLY WAGES

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Nova Scotia	6.9%
2	Manitoba	6.0%
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	5.0%
4	Ontario	4.1%
5	Saskatchewan	3.2%
6	British Columbia	3.1%
7	New Brunswick	3.0%
8	Quebec	2.9%
9	Alberta	2.4%
10	Prince Edward Island	0.1%
	Canada	3.6%

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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	Alberta	4.4%
2	Manitoba	3.1%
3	Ontario	3.1%
4	British Columbia	3.1%
5	Saskatchewan	2.8%
6	Quebec	2.5%
7	Prince Edward Island	2.5%
8	New Brunswick	2.2%
9	Nova Scotia	1.9%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.3%
	Canada	3.0%

#### LABOUR FORCE

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Manitoba	3.3%
2	Ontario	3.2%
3	Alberta	3.0%
4	Quebec	2.7%
5	Prince Edward Island	2.5%
6	Saskatchewan	2.2%
7	British Columbia	1.8%
8	New Brunswick	1.4%
9	Nova Scotia	0.1%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.9%
	Canada	2.7%

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	2.5%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.1%
3	Saskatchewan	2.1%
4	Ontario	2.1%
5	Quebec	1.9%
6	Manitoba	1.9%
7	New Brunswick	1.8%
8	British Columbia	1.1%
9	Nova Scotia	0.4%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.3%
	Canada	1.9%

#### FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	New Brunswick	2.9%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.8%
3	Alberta	2.8%
4	Manitoba	2.3%
5	Nova Scotia	2.0%
6	Quebec	1.9%
7	Ontario	1.5%
8	Saskatchewan	1.0%
9	British Columbia	0.4%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.3%
	Canada	1.6%

#### PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Saskatchewan	7.2%
2	Ontario	4.9%
3	British Columbia	3.9%
4	Quebec	2.0%
5	Alberta	0.9%
6	Manitoba	0.2%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.2%
8	Prince Edward Island	-1.6%
9	New Brunswick	-4.0%
10	Nova Scotia	-6.7%
	Canada	3.0%

#### AVG HOURLY WAGES

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Nova Scotia	6.2%
2	Manitoba	5.6%
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	4.3%
4	Ontario	3.8%
5	Saskatchewan	3.6%
6	Quebec	3.5%
7	British Columbia	3.3%
8	Alberta	2.8%
9	New Brunswick	2.7%
10	Prince Edward Island	2.4%
	Canada	3.6%