

# Labour Force Survey Report

Prince Edward Island

March 2026



April 10, 2026

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 2023-25		Current Period						
		Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	M-M	% Chg	Y-Y	% Chg
150.1	Population (000's)	155.8	155.6	152.8	0.2	0.1	3.0	2.0
99.4	<b>Labour force (000's)</b>	103.6	103.7	101.2	-0.1	-0.1	2.4	2.4
91.8	<b>Employment (000's)</b>	96.0	96.2	93.4	-0.2	-0.2	2.6	2.8
78.8	Employment full-time (000's)	81.7	81.5	81.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
13.0	Employment part-time (000's)	14.3	14.6	11.9	-0.3	-2.1	2.4	20.2
7.7	<b>Unemployment (000's)</b>	7.6	7.5	7.8	0.1	1.3	-0.2	-2.6
7.7	Unemployment rate (%)	7.3	7.2	7.7	0.1		-0.4	
66.2	Participation rate (%)	66.5	66.6	66.2	-0.1		0.3	
61.1	Employment rate (%)	61.6	61.8	61.1	-0.2		0.5	

Source: Table 14-10-0287-03; "Historical 2023-25" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

- The **labour force** totaled 103,600 in March 2026, a decrease of 100 persons in comparison to the previous month. The labour force was 2.4% higher when compared to March 2025.
- **Employment** totaled 96,000 in March 2026, a decrease of 200 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 2.8% higher than a year ago. There was a year over year increase in **full-time employment** (+200) and a year over year increase in **part-time employment** (+2,400).
- **Unemployment** totaled 7,600 in March 2026, an increase of 100 persons from the prior month. There was a decrease of 200 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The **unemployment rate** increased month over month and sits at 7.3%. The rate is 0.4 of a percentage point lower than it was in March 2025 (7.7%).
- The **participation rate** was 66.5% in March 2026; this represents an increase of 0.3 of a percentage point from a year-over-year perspective. The PEI participation rate is higher than the national average (64.9%) and is fourth highest among provinces behind Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

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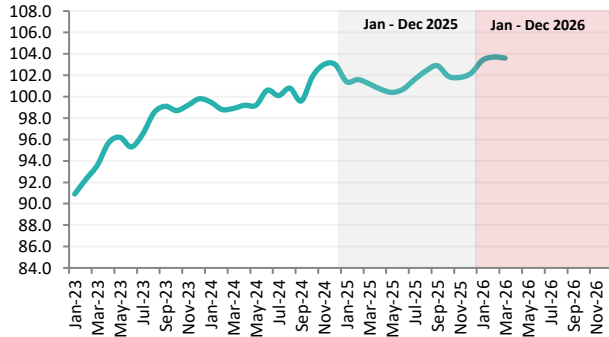


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## LFS - Progress Report

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 2026 to the same in 2025.

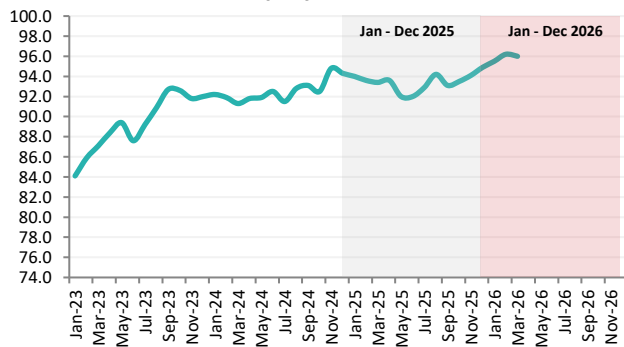
**Labour Force (000's)**



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Population	152.6	155.6	3.0	1.9%
Labour Force	101.4	103.6	2.2	2.1%
Not in LF	51.2	52.0	0.8	1.6%
Participation rate (%)	66.4	66.5	0.1	-

The labour force figure for March 2026 ranks second highest all-time- this follows a period of two consecutive months where a new all-time high was established. It is the first time in four months that the figure decreased month over month. The labour force has 2,200 more persons YTD over the same period last year. On a YTD basis, the participation rate is higher in comparison to the same period last year and sits at 66.5%.

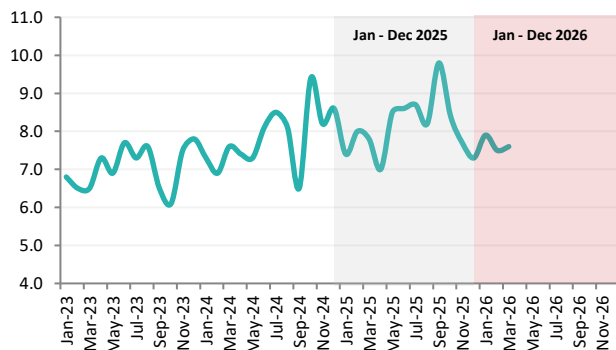
**Employment (000's)**



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Employment	93.7	95.9	2.2	2.4%
Full-time	81.1	81.6	0.5	0.6%
Part-time	12.6	14.3	1.7	13.8%
Employment rate (%)	61.4	61.6	0.3	-

Employment saw its first month-over-month decline in the past six months in March 2026. Despite the decline, the employment figure ranks second highest all-time high. The figure for full-time employment represents the second highest on record.

**Unemployment (000's)**



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Unemployment	7.7	7.7	-0.1	-0.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	7.6	7.4	-0.3	-

March represented the second consecutive month where both the number of unemployed individuals and the unemployment rate decreased year over year. On a year to date basis, the number of unemployment individuals in 2026 is 100 persons lower than the same period in 2025.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

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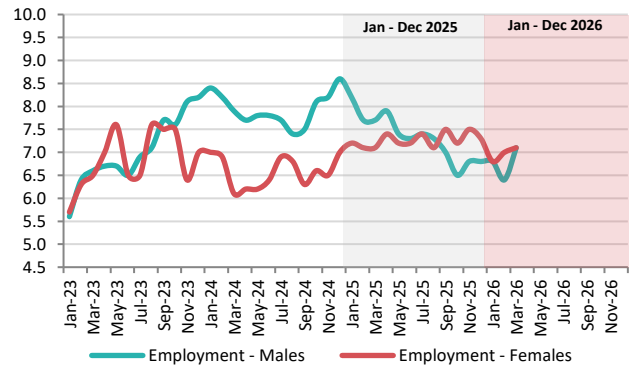
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## Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

('000's)	Historical	Current: 2026 YTD		
	2023-25	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	16.1	15.6	8.0	7.6
Employment	14.3	13.8	6.8	7.0
Unemployment	1.8	1.8	1.2	0.6
Unemp rate (%)	11.0	11.7	15.4	8.3

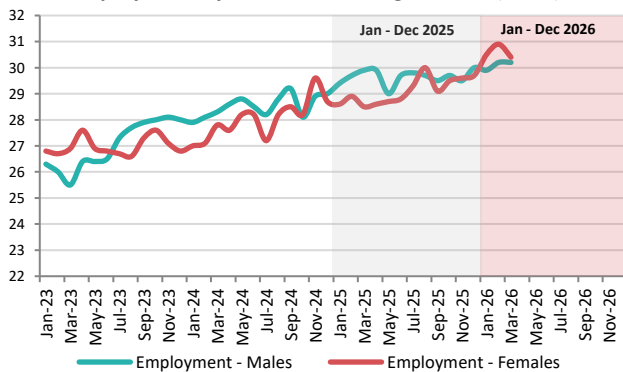
In March, there were 600 fewer males employed and no change in females employed in comparison to a year earlier. For full-time employment, females (-200) saw a decrease and males (-1,200) saw a decrease. Part-time employment increased for males (+600) and did not change for females. The unemployment rate for this cohort was 9.0%, down 1.2 percentage point year over year.

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: 2026 YTD		
	2023-25	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	60.4	64.5	32.4	32.1
Employment	56.4	60.7	30.1	30.6
Unemployment	4.0	3.8	2.3	1.5
Unemp rate (%)	6.5	5.9	7.2	4.7

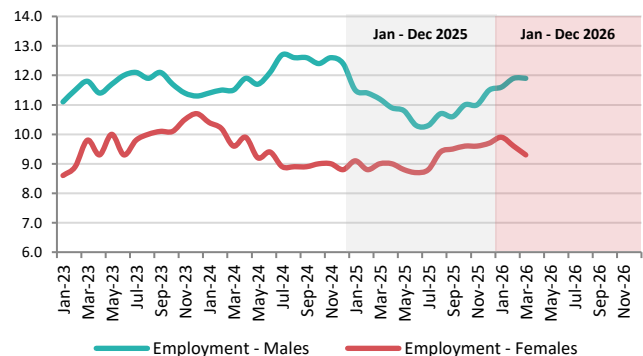
In March, employment increased for females (+1,900) and for males (+300) in comparison to March 2025. On a FT basis, year over year employment increased for females (+1,600) and did not change for males. On a PT basis, there was a year over year increase for females (+200) and increased for males (+300) in a year over year comparison. The unemployment rate decreased for males (to 7.9%) and decreased for females (to 5.3%) on a year over year basis.

## Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

('000's)	Historical	Current: 2026 YTD		
	2023-25	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	22.9	23.4	12.9	10.5
Employment	21.0	21.4	11.8	9.6
Unemployment	1.9	2.0	1.1	0.9
Unemp rate (%)	8.4	8.7	8.2	8.9

On a year over year basis there were 300 more females and 700 more males employed. There were more females (+500) and more males (+700) in the labour force when comparing March 2026 to March 2025.

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 2023-25		Current Period					Year to Date		
		Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	M-M	Y-Y	2026	2025	Change
91.8	<b>Total industries ('000s)</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>96.2</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>
23.0	<b>Goods-sector</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
3.8	Agriculture	3.6	3.8	3.6	-0.2	0.0	3.7	3.6	0.1
2.2	Other primary	1.7	1.4	2.9	0.3	-1.2	1.5	2.6	-1.2
0.3	Utilities	0.6	0.7	0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4
8.7	Construction	9.6	9.5	9.4	0.1	0.2	9.7	9.8	-0.1
8.1	Manufacturing	7.9	7.9	9.0	0.0	-1.1	7.8	8.9	-1.1
68.7	<b>Services-sector</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>
11.0	Wholesale/retail trade	12.1	11.7	11.4	0.4	0.7	11.7	11.5	0.3
2.7	Transport/Warehousing	1.8	1.9	2.3	-0.1	-0.5	1.9	2.3	-0.4
3.9	Fin/Ins/Real estate	4.4	4.3	3.7	0.1	0.7	4.4	3.5	0.9
4.9	Prof/ scientific/technical	6.1	5.8	5.0	0.3	1.1	5.8	4.7	1.1
2.2	Business/building/other	1.3	1.8	2.3	-0.5	-1.0	1.6	2.5	-0.8
6.3	Educational services	6.8	6.5	5.7	0.3	1.1	6.5	6.0	0.5
15.0	Health/social assistance	16.2	16.5	15.6	-0.3	0.6	16.5	15.3	1.2
2.7	Info/culture/rec	2.6	2.7	1.4	-0.1	1.2	2.7	1.8	0.9
5.9	Accomm/food services	7.6	7.7	6.3	-0.1	1.3	7.5	6.3	1.2
3.5	Other services	3.1	3.2	3.7	-0.1	-0.6	3.3	3.6	-0.4
10.5	Public administration	10.6	10.9	11.1	-0.3	-0.5	10.7	11.0	-0.3

Data source: Table 14-10-0355-02; "Historical 2023-25" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

There were 72,700 persons employed in the **Services-producing sector** in March 2026, comprising 75.7% of PEI's industrial employment base. There was a year-over-year increase of 4,300 persons employed in the service sector. There was year over year growth in Wholesale/retail trade (+700), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+700), Professional, technical and scientific services (+1,100), Educational services (+1,100), Health care and social assistance (+600), Information, culture and recreation (+1,200) and Accommodation and food services (+1,300). There was a year over year decrease in Transportation and warehousing (-500), Business, building and other support services (-1,000), Other services (except public administration) (-600) and Public administration (-500).

There were 23,400 persons employed in the **Goods-producing sector** in March 2026, resulting in a decrease of 1,600 persons employed compared to a year ago. There was year over year growth Utilities (+400) and Construction (+200). There was a year over year decrease in Other primary (-1,200) and Manufacturing (-1,100). There was no change in a year over year comparison for Agriculture.

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## LFS – Industry Perspective (Average Hourly Wages)

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

Historical 2023-25	Current Period							
	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	M-M	Y-Y	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	
29.2	<b>Total industries ('000s)</b>	<b>31.75</b>	<b>31.78</b>	<b>29.55</b>	<b>-0.03</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>31.71</b>	<b>29.87</b>
27.0	<b>Goods-sector</b>	<b>28.54</b>	<b>29.18</b>	<b>27.45</b>	<b>-0.64</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>28.93</b>	<b>28.44</b>
22.0	Agriculture	24.68	24.41	24.10	0.27	0.58	24.96	23.46
28.8	Other primary	27.03	x	34.65	n/a	-7.62	32.41	41.16
43.7	Utilities	45.86	42.01	40.15	3.85	5.71	45.68	40.20
27.4	Construction	27.75	27.98	28.61	-0.23	-0.86	28.02	28.37
27.6	Manufacturing	28.59	29.66	26.31	-1.07	2.28	28.89	28.10
29.9	<b>Services-sector</b>	<b>32.52</b>	<b>32.41</b>	<b>30.15</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>32.38</b>	<b>30.28</b>
21.9	Wholesale/retail trade	23.57	23.29	22.09	0.28	1.48	23.14	22.04
26.6	Transport/Warehousing	30.24	28.25	29.05	1.99	1.19	29.79	29.23
31.8	Fin/Ins/Real estate	32.32	33.84	30.76	-1.52	1.56	33.32	30.25
34.8	Prof/ scientific/technical	37.63	36.94	37.12	0.69	0.51	36.61	36.13
22.1	Business/building/other	28.52	26.70	24.03	1.82	4.49	26.14	26.00
35.9	Educational services	37.30	37.95	36.84	-0.65	0.46	37.32	36.02
31.8	Health/social assistance	35.24	34.57	31.88	0.67	3.36	35.08	31.38
24.2	Info/culture/rec	28.02	28.38	24.12	-0.36	3.90	28.91	25.71
18.6	Accomm/food services	19.69	19.35	17.86	0.34	1.83	19.59	17.91
25.5	Other services	29.58	28.42	22.17	1.16	7.41	28.49	24.97
39.4	Public administration	43.34	43.29	39.40	0.05	3.94	42.87	40.57

Data source: Table 14-10-0063-01; "Historical 2023-25" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

The average hourly wage rate across all industries was \$31.75/hr in March 2026, this represents an increase of 7.4% in comparison to the same month a year earlier. On a year to date basis, the average hourly rate is 6.2% higher in 2026 (\$31.71/hr) in comparison to the same period in 2025 (\$29.87/hr).

The wages for the **Services-producing sector** was \$32.52/hr in March 2026, which is 7.9% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. There was year over year wage growth in Wholesale/retail trade (\$1.48/hr or 6.7%), Transportation and warehousing (\$1.19/hr or 4.1%), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (\$1.56/hr or 5.1%), Professional, scientific and technical services (\$0.51/hr or 1.4%), Business, building and other support services (\$4.49/hr or 18.7%), Educational services (\$0.46/hr or 1.2%), Health and social assistance (\$3.36/hr or 10.5%), Information, culture and recreation (\$3.90/hr or 16.2%), Accommodation and food services (\$1.83/hr or 10.2%), Other services (except public administration) (\$7.41/hr or 33.4%) and Public Administration (\$3.94/hr or 10.0%).

The average hourly wage rate for the **Goods-producing sector** was \$28.54/hr in March 2026, which is 4.0% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. Year over year growth for wages occurred in Agriculture (\$0.58/hr or 2.4%), Utilities (\$5.71/hr or 14.2%) and Manufacturing (\$2.28/hr or 8.7%).

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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>22,566.6</b>	<b>276.0</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>565.5</b>	<b>442.2</b>
Level	81.8	4.0	2.4	7.6	10.1
Percent	0.4%	1.5%	2.4%	1.4%	2.3%
<b>Employment</b>	<b>21,051.4</b>	<b>249.6</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>528.0</b>	<b>411.3</b>
Level	87.1	4.9	2.6	4.5	9.0
Percent	0.4%	2.0%	2.8%	0.9%	2.2%
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>1,515.2</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>30.9</b>
Level	-5.4	-1.1	-0.2	3.1	1.1
Percent	-0.4%	-4.0%	-2.6%	9.0%	3.7%
<b>employment rate (%)</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Level	-0.1	-0.6	-0.4	0.5	0.1

### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

NL experienced an increase in employment year-over-year in March 2026 (+2.0%).

On year over year basis, the unemployment rate in NL decreased by 0.6 of a percentage point to 9.5%.

### **Nova Scotia**

Employment in Nova Scotia increased year-over-year (0.9%).

On a year over year basis, the unemployment rate increased 0.5 of a percentage point and sits at 6.6%.

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

(000's)	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB
<b>Labour force</b>	<b>22,566.6</b>	<b>276.0</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>565.5</b>	<b>442.2</b>
Level	15.1	1.3	-0.1	1.6	1.9
Percent	0.1%	0.5%	-0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
<b>Employment</b>	<b>21,051.4</b>	<b>249.6</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>528.0</b>	<b>411.3</b>
Level	14.1	0.2	-0.2	3.9	2.0
Percent	0.1%	0.1%	-0.2%	0.7%	0.5%
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>1,515.2</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>30.9</b>
Level	1.0	0.9	0.1	-2.4	-0.1
Percent	0.1%	3.5%	1.3%	-6.0%	-0.3%
<b>employment rate (%)</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7</b>
Level	0	0.3	0.1	-0.5	0

### **New Brunswick**

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

On year over year basis, their unemployment rate increased by 0.1 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	2.5%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.0%
3	Saskatchewan	1.7%
4	Manitoba	1.4%
5	New Brunswick	1.0%
6	Nova Scotia	1.0%
7	Ontario	0.7%
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.6%
9	Quebec	0.5%
10	British Columbia	0.4%
	Canada	0.9%

#### LABOUR FORCE

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	3.2%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.4%
3	New Brunswick	2.3%
4	Manitoba	2.1%
5	Saskatchewan	1.6%
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.5%
7	Nova Scotia	1.4%
8	Ontario	-0.1%
9	British Columbia	-0.5%
10	Quebec	-0.6%
	Canada	0.4%

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	4.0%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.8%
3	Manitoba	2.5%
4	New Brunswick	2.2%
5	Newfoundland and Labrador	2.0%
6	Saskatchewan	1.4%
7	Nova Scotia	0.9%
8	Ontario	-0.2%
9	Quebec	-0.2%
10	British Columbia	-1.2%
	Canada	0.4%

#### FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	5.5%
2	Saskatchewan	3.3%
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	3.3%
4	Manitoba	1.2%
5	Ontario	0.8%
6	Prince Edward Island	0.2%
7	New Brunswick	-0.1%
8	Nova Scotia	-0.4%
9	British Columbia	-1.5%
10	Quebec	-1.5%
	Canada	0.6%

#### PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Prince Edward Island	20.2%
2	New Brunswick	16.9%
3	Manitoba	8.9%
4	Nova Scotia	7.0%
5	Quebec	5.6%
6	British Columbia	-0.2%
7	Alberta	-2.9%
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	-4.1%
9	Ontario	-4.7%
10	Saskatchewan	-6.6%
	Canada	-0.4%

#### AVG HOURLY WAGES

##### YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Prince Edward Island	7.4%
2	Quebec	6.4%
3	Ontario	4.9%
4	New Brunswick	4.5%
5	Alberta	4.2%
6	Nova Scotia	4.1%
7	British Columbia	3.8%
8	Saskatchewan	2.1%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.0%
10	Manitoba	0.4%
	Canada	4.7%

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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	2.6%
2	Prince Edward Island	1.9%
3	Saskatchewan	1.7%
4	Manitoba	1.4%
5	New Brunswick	1.0%
6	Nova Scotia	1.0%
7	Ontario	0.8%
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.7%
9	Quebec	0.7%
10	British Columbia	0.6%
	Canada	1.0%

#### LABOUR FORCE

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	3.0%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.1%
3	Saskatchewan	2.0%
4	New Brunswick	1.9%
5	Manitoba	1.5%
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.0%
7	Nova Scotia	0.9%
8	Quebec	-0.1%
9	British Columbia	-0.2%
10	Ontario	-0.3%
	Canada	0.4%

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	3.5%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.4%
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	2.1%
4	New Brunswick	1.9%
5	Saskatchewan	1.8%
6	Manitoba	1.7%
7	Nova Scotia	0.3%
8	Quebec	0.0%
9	Ontario	-0.3%
10	British Columbia	-0.6%
	Canada	0.4%

#### FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	4.6%
2	Saskatchewan	3.5%
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.9%
4	Manitoba	1.1%
5	New Brunswick	1.0%
6	Prince Edward Island	0.6%
7	Ontario	0.3%
8	Nova Scotia	0.2%
9	British Columbia	-0.1%
10	Quebec	-1.2%
	Canada	0.6%

#### PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	13.8%
2	New Brunswick	7.6%
3	Quebec	5.4%
4	Manitoba	4.7%
5	Newfoundland and Labrador	3.5%
6	Nova Scotia	0.9%
7	Alberta	-1.0%
8	British Columbia	-2.4%
9	Ontario	-3.2%
10	Saskatchewan	-5.8%
	Canada	-0.3%

#### AVG HOURLY WAGES

##### YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	6.2%
2	Quebec	5.4%
3	Nova Scotia	4.9%
4	New Brunswick	4.5%
5	Ontario	4.1%
6	Alberta	3.6%
7	British Columbia	2.9%
8	Saskatchewan	1.4%
9	Manitoba	1.4%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.4%
	Canada	4.0%