

Labour Force Survey Report

Prince Edward Island

April 2026



May 8, 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						
		Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	M-M	% Chg	Y-Y	% Chg
150.1	Population (000's)	156.0	155.8	153.2	0.2	0.1	2.8	1.8
99.4	Labour force (000's)	103.8	103.6	100.7	0.2	0.2	3.1	3.1
91.8	Employment (000's)	95.5	96.0	93.6	-0.5	-0.5	1.9	2.0
78.8	Employment full-time (000's)	82.7	81.7	80.9	1.0	1.2	1.8	2.2
13.0	Employment part-time (000's)	12.8	14.3	12.7	-1.5	-10.5	0.1	0.8
7.7	Unemployment (000's)	8.3	7.6	7.0	0.7	9.2	1.3	18.6
7.7	Unemployment rate (%)	8.0	7.3	7.0	0.7		1.0	
66.2	Participation rate (%)	66.5	66.5	65.7	0.0		0.8	
61.1	Employment rate (%)	61.2	61.6	61.1	-0.4		0.1	

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 103,800 in April 2026, an increase of 200 persons in comparison to the previous month. The labour force was 3.1% higher when compared to April 2025.
- **Employment** totaled 95,500 in April 2026, a decrease of 500 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 2.0% higher than a year ago. There was a year over year increase in **full-time employment** (+1,800) and a year over year increase in **part-time employment** (+100).
- **Unemployment** totaled 8,300 in April 2026, an increase of 700 persons from the prior month. There was an increase of 1,300 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The **unemployment rate** increased month over month and sits at 8.0%. The rate is 1.0 percentage point higher than it was in April 2025 (7.0%).
- The **participation rate** was 66.5% in April 2026; this represents an increase of 0.8 of a percentage point from a year-over-year perspective. The PEI participation rate is higher than the national average (65.0%) and is third highest among provinces behind Alberta and Saskatchewan.

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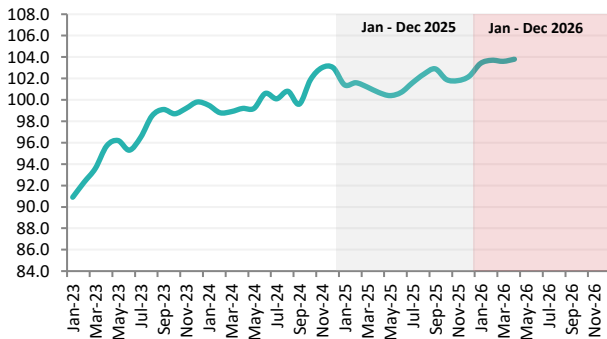


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LFS - Progress Report

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.

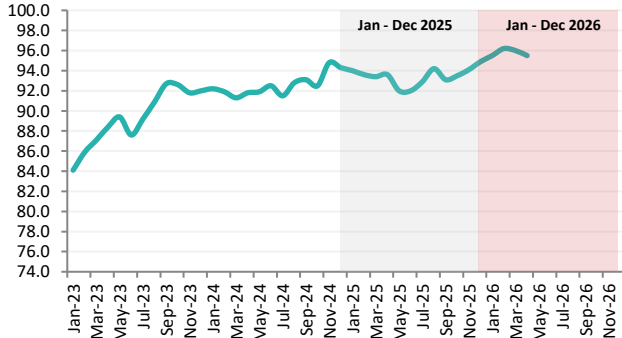
Labour Force (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Population	152.8	155.7	2.9	1.9%
Labour Force	101.2	103.6	2.4	2.4%
Not in LF	51.6	52.1	0.5	1.0%
Participation rate (%)	66.2	66.5	0.3	-

The labour force figure for April 2026 ranks highest all-time. In addition, three out of the last four months have resulted in a new all-time high being established. The labour force has 2,400 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%.

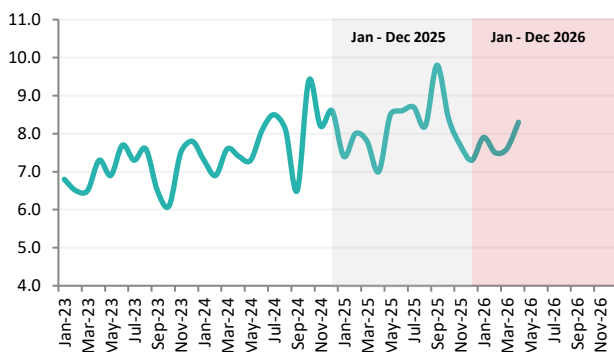
Employment (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Employment	93.7	95.8	2.1	2.3%
Full-time	81.1	81.9	0.8	1.0%
Part-time	12.6	13.9	1.3	10.5%
Employment rate (%)	61.3	61.5	0.2	-

Employment saw its second consecutive month-over-month decline in April 2026- this follows a period of 5 consecutive months of monthly increases. Despite the decline, the employment figure ranks third highest all-time high. The figure for full-time employment represents the highest on record.

Unemployment (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Unemployment	7.6	7.8	0.3	3.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	7.5	7.5	0.1	-

April 2026 was the first year over year increase in the number of unemployed individuals and the unemployment rate in three months, this increase was due to more people seeking employment. On a year to date basis, the number of unemployment individuals in 2026 is 100 persons higher than the same period in 2025.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

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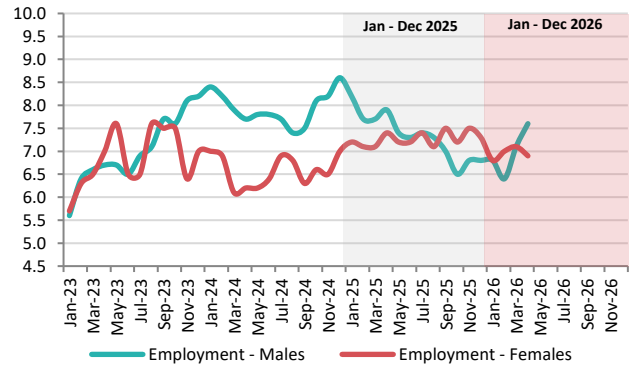
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Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

('000's)	Historical	Current: 2026 YTD		
	2023-25	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	16.1	15.8	8.2	7.7
Employment	14.3	13.9	7.0	7.0
Unemployment	1.8	1.9	1.2	0.7
Unemp rate (%)	11.0	11.9	14.5	9.1

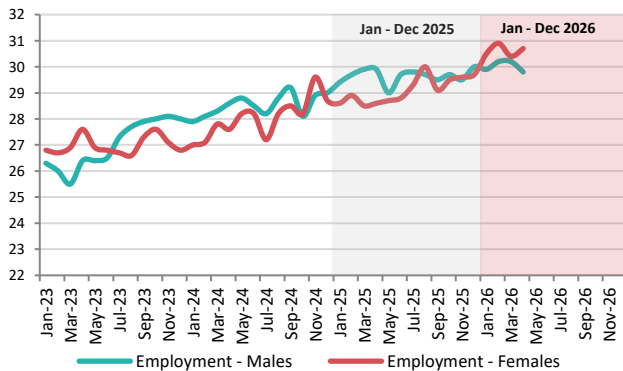
In April, there were 300 fewer males employed and 500 fewer females employed in comparison to a year earlier. For full-time employment, females (-1,200) saw a decrease and males (-600) saw a decrease. Part-time employment increased for males (+200) and for females (+600). The unemployment rate for this cohort was 12.2%, up 4.9 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	64.6	32.4	32.2
Employment	56.4	60.7	30.0	30.6
Unemployment	4.0	3.9	2.4	1.5
Unemp rate (%)	6.5	6.1	7.3	4.8

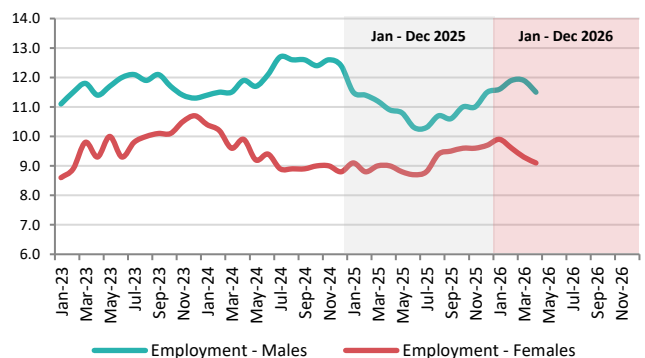
In April, employment increased for females (+2,100) and decreased for males (-100) in comparison to April 2025. On a FT basis, year over year employment increased for females (+1,800) and for males (+500). On a PT basis, there was a year over year increase for females (+300) and decreased for males (-600) in a year over year comparison. The unemployment rate increased for males (to 7.7%) and decreased for females (to 5.0%) 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	23.3	12.9	10.4
Employment	21.0	21.2	11.7	9.5
Unemployment	1.9	2.1	1.1	1.0
Unemp rate (%)	8.4	8.9	8.5	9.1

On a year over year basis there were 100 more females and 600 more males employed. There were more females (+100) and more males (+700) in the labour force when comparing April 2026 to April 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		
		Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	M-M	Y-Y	2026	2025	Change
91.8	Total industries ('000s)	95.5	96.0	93.6	-0.5	1.9	95.8	93.7	2.1
23.0	Goods-sector	22.9	23.4	25.2	-0.5	-2.3	23.2	25.2	-2.0
3.8	Agriculture	3.3	3.6	4.5	-0.3	-1.2	3.6	3.8	-0.2
2.2	Other primary	1.5	1.7	2.2	-0.2	-0.7	1.5	2.5	-1.1
0.3	Utilities	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.4
8.7	Construction	9.8	9.6	9.7	0.2	0.1	9.7	9.8	-0.1
8.1	Manufacturing	7.6	7.9	8.6	-0.3	-1.0	7.8	8.8	-1.1
68.7	Services-sector	72.6	72.7	68.5	-0.1	4.1	72.7	68.5	4.1
11.0	Wholesale/retail trade	11.9	12.1	11.4	-0.2	0.5	11.8	11.5	0.3
2.7	Transport/Warehousing	1.9	1.8	2.4	0.1	-0.5	1.9	2.4	-0.5
3.9	Fin/Ins/Real estate	4.1	4.4	3.7	-0.3	0.4	4.4	3.6	0.8
4.9	Prof/ scientific/technical	6.2	6.1	5.1	0.1	1.1	5.9	4.8	1.1
2.2	Business/building/other	1.6	1.3	2.4	0.3	-0.8	1.6	2.5	-0.8
6.3	Educational services	6.9	6.8	5.8	0.1	1.1	6.6	6.0	0.6
15.0	Health/social assistance	16.2	16.2	15.6	0.0	0.6	16.4	15.4	1.1
2.7	Info/culture/rec	2.6	2.6	1.9	0.0	0.7	2.7	1.8	0.9
5.9	Accomm/food services	7.3	7.6	6.0	-0.3	1.3	7.4	6.2	1.2
3.5	Other services	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-0.2	3.2	3.6	-0.3
10.5	Public administration	10.8	10.6	10.7	0.2	0.1	10.8	11.0	-0.2

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 72,600 persons employed in the **Services-producing sector** in April 2026, comprising 76.0% of PEI's industrial employment base. There was a year-over-year increase of 4,100 persons employed in the service sector. There was year over year growth in Wholesale/retail trade (+500), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+400), Professional, technical and scientific services (+1,100), Educational services (+1,100), Health care and social assistance (+600), Information, culture and recreation (+700) and Accommodation and food services (+1,300) and Public administration (+100). There was a year over year decrease in Transportation and warehousing (-500), Business, building and other support services (-800) and Other services (except public administration) (-200).

There were 22,900 persons employed in the **Goods-producing sector** in April 2026, resulting in a decrease of 2,300 persons employed compared to a year ago. There was year over year growth Utilities (+500) and Construction (+100). There was a year over year decrease in Agriculture (-1,200), Other primary (-700) and Manufacturing (-1,000).

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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							
	Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	M-M	Y-Y	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	
29.2	Total industries ('000s)	32.24	31.75	29.69	0.49	2.55	31.84	29.82
27.0	Goods-sector	30.25	28.54	26.59	1.71	3.66	29.26	27.98
22.0	Agriculture	26.47	24.68	21.49	1.79	4.98	25.34	22.97
28.8	Other primary	21.51	27.03	24.42	n/a	-2.91	28.77	36.98
43.7	Utilities	50.78	45.86	45.48	4.92	5.30	46.95	41.52
27.4	Construction	28.87	27.75	28.10	1.12	0.77	28.23	28.31
27.6	Manufacturing	31.26	28.59	26.87	2.67	4.39	29.49	27.79
29.9	Services-sector	32.75	32.52	30.66	0.23	2.09	32.47	30.38
21.9	Wholesale/retail trade	24.30	23.57	22.92	0.73	1.38	23.43	22.26
26.6	Transport/Warehousing	31.62	30.24	29.65	1.38	1.97	30.25	29.33
31.8	Fin/Ins/Real estate	32.91	32.32	24.43	0.59	8.48	33.22	28.80
34.8	Prof/ scientific/technical	38.23	37.63	37.17	0.60	1.06	37.02	36.39
22.1	Business/building/other	27.99	28.52	22.19	-0.53	5.80	26.60	25.05
35.9	Educational services	37.38	37.30	37.48	0.08	-0.10	37.33	36.38
31.8	Health/social assistance	34.76	35.24	33.98	-0.48	0.78	35.00	32.03
24.2	Info/culture/rec	27.05	28.02	25.57	-0.97	1.48	28.45	25.68
18.6	Accomm/food services	19.88	19.69	18.48	0.19	1.40	19.66	18.05
25.5	Other services	28.60	29.58	22.87	-0.98	5.73	28.52	24.45
39.4	Public administration	42.78	43.34	39.70	-0.56	3.08	42.85	40.35

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 \$32.24/hr in April 2026, this represents an increase of 8.6% in comparison to the same month a year earlier. On a year to date basis, the average hourly rate is 6.8% higher in 2026 (\$31.84/hr) in comparison to the same period in 2025 (\$29.82/hr).

The wages for the **Services-producing sector** was \$32.75/hr in April 2026, which is 6.9% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. There was year over year wage growth in Wholesale/retail trade (\$1.38/hr or 6.0%), Transportation and warehousing (\$1.97/hr or 6.6%), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (\$8.48/hr or 34.7%), Professional, scientific and technical services (\$1.06/hr or 2.9%), Business, building and other support services (\$5.80/hr or 26.1%), Health and social assistance (\$0.78/hr or 2.3%), Information, culture and recreation (\$1.48/hr or 5.8%), Accommodation and food services (\$1.40/hr or 7.6%), Other services (except public administration) (\$5.73/hr or 25.1%) and Public Administration (\$3.08/hr or 7.8%).

The average hourly wage rate for the **Goods-producing sector** was \$30.25/hr in April 2026, which is 13.8% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. Year over year growth for wages occurred in Agriculture (\$4.98/hr or 23.2%), Utilities (\$5.30/hr or 11.7%), Construction (\$0.77/hr or 2.7%) and Manufacturing (\$4.39/hr or 16.3%).

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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
Labour force	22,600.1	271.6	103.8	564.5	440.3
Level	79.9	-3.0	3.1	8.2	9.6
Percent	0.4%	-1.1%	3.1%	1.5%	2.2%
Employment	21,033.7	244.4	95.5	528.7	408.6
Level	67.0	-3.6	1.9	12.4	7.8
Percent	0.3%	-1.5%	2.0%	2.4%	1.9%
Unemployment	1,566.4	27.2	8.3	35.8	31.8
Level	12.9	0.6	1.3	-4.2	1.9
Percent	0.8%	2.3%	18.6%	-10.5%	6.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.9	10.0	8.0	6.3	7.2
Level	0	0.3	1	-0.9	0.3

Newfoundland and Labrador

NL experienced a decrease in employment year-over-year in April 2026 (-1.5%).

On year over year basis, the unemployment rate in NL increased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 10.0%.

Nova Scotia

Employment in Nova Scotia increased year-over-year (2.4%).

On a year over year basis, the unemployment rate decreased 0.9 of a percentage point and sits at 6.3%.

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

(000's)	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB
Labour force	22,600.1	271.6	103.8	564.5	440.3
Level	33.5	-4.4	0.2	-1.0	-1.9
Percent	0.1%	-1.6%	0.2%	-0.2%	-0.4%
Employment	21,033.7	244.4	95.5	528.7	408.6
Level	-17.7	-5.2	-0.5	0.7	-2.7
Percent	-0.1%	-2.1%	-0.5%	0.1%	-0.7%
Unemployment	1,566.4	27.2	8.3	35.8	31.8
Level	51.2	0.9	0.7	-1.6	0.9
Percent	3.4%	3.4%	9.2%	-4.3%	2.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.9	10	8	6.3	7.2
Level	0.2	0.5	0.7	-0.3	0.2

New Brunswick

New Brunswick saw a 1.9% increase in year over year employment.

On year over year basis, their unemployment rate increased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 7.2%.

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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	2.3%
2	Prince Edward Island	1.8%
3	Saskatchewan	1.6%
4	Manitoba	1.3%
5	Nova Scotia	1.0%
6	New Brunswick	1.0%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.7%
8	Ontario	0.6%
9	Quebec	0.3%
10	British Columbia	0.2%
	Canada	0.8%

LABOUR FORCE

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	3.3%
2	Prince Edward Island	3.1%
3	New Brunswick	2.2%
4	Saskatchewan	1.7%
5	Nova Scotia	1.5%
6	Manitoba	1.3%
7	Ontario	0.4%
8	British Columbia	-0.9%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.1%
10	Quebec	-1.2%
	Canada	0.4%

EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	3.5%
2	Nova Scotia	2.4%
3	Prince Edward Island	2.0%
4	New Brunswick	1.9%
5	Manitoba	1.7%
6	Ontario	0.7%
7	Saskatchewan	0.4%
8	Quebec	-1.4%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.5%
10	British Columbia	-1.5%
	Canada	0.3%

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	4.3%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.2%
3	Ontario	2.0%
4	Nova Scotia	1.8%
5	New Brunswick	0.8%
6	Saskatchewan	0.1%
7	Manitoba	-0.6%
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.1%
9	British Columbia	-2.4%
10	Quebec	-3.4%
	Canada	0.3%

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Manitoba	13.0%
2	New Brunswick	8.5%
3	Quebec	7.5%
4	Nova Scotia	5.7%
5	British Columbia	2.0%
6	Saskatchewan	1.8%
7	Prince Edward Island	0.8%
8	Alberta	-0.4%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	-3.2%
10	Ontario	-5.4%
	Canada	0.5%

AVG HOURLY WAGES

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Prince Edward Island	8.6%
2	Alberta	6.5%
3	Quebec	5.9%
4	Saskatchewan	4.5%
5	Ontario	4.2%
6	Nova Scotia	3.9%
7	New Brunswick	3.5%
8	British Columbia	2.5%
9	Manitoba	2.4%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.2%
	Canada	4.5%

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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	2.5%
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	0.6%
10	British Columbia	0.5%
	Canada	0.9%

LABOUR FORCE

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	3.1%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.4%
3	New Brunswick	2.0%
4	Saskatchewan	1.9%
5	Manitoba	1.5%
6	Nova Scotia	1.0%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.5%
8	Ontario	-0.1%
9	Quebec	-0.3%
10	British Columbia	-0.4%
	Canada	0.4%

EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	3.5%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.3%
3	New Brunswick	1.9%
4	Manitoba	1.7%
5	Saskatchewan	1.5%
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.2%
7	Nova Scotia	0.8%
8	Ontario	-0.1%
9	Quebec	-0.3%
10	British Columbia	-0.8%
	Canada	0.4%

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	4.5%
2	Saskatchewan	2.7%
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.1%
4	Prince Edward Island	1.0%
5	New Brunswick	1.0%
6	Ontario	0.8%
7	Manitoba	0.7%
8	Nova Scotia	0.6%
9	British Columbia	-0.7%
10	Quebec	-1.7%
	Canada	0.5%

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	10.5%
2	New Brunswick	7.8%
3	Manitoba	6.7%
4	Quebec	5.9%
5	Nova Scotia	2.1%
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.8%
7	Alberta	-0.9%
8	British Columbia	-1.3%
9	Ontario	-3.8%
10	Saskatchewan	-3.9%
	Canada	-0.1%

AVG HOURLY WAGES

YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	6.8%
2	Quebec	5.5%
3	Nova Scotia	4.7%
4	Alberta	4.4%
5	New Brunswick	4.2%
6	Ontario	4.1%
7	British Columbia	2.8%
8	Saskatchewan	2.2%
9	Manitoba	1.6%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.6%
	Canada	4.1%