

Labour Force Survey Report

Prince Edward Island

May 2026



June 5, 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						
		May-26	Apr-26	May-25	M-M	% Chg	Y-Y	% Chg
150.1	Population (000's)	156.0	156.0	153.4	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.7
99.4	Labour force (000's)	103.8	103.8	100.4	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.4
91.8	Employment (000's)	96.7	95.5	92.0	1.2	1.3	4.7	5.1
78.8	Employment full-time (000's)	83.6	82.7	79.3	0.9	1.1	4.3	5.4
13.0	Employment part-time (000's)	13.1	12.8	12.6	0.3	2.3	0.5	4.0
7.7	Unemployment (000's)	7.0	8.3	8.5	-1.3	-15.7	-1.5	-17.6
7.7	Unemployment rate (%)	6.7	8.0	8.5	-1.3		-1.8	
66.2	Participation rate (%)	66.5	66.5	65.4	0.0		1.1	
61.1	Employment rate (%)	62.0	61.2	60.0	0.8		2.0	

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 May 2026, representing no change in comparison to the previous month. The labour force was 3.4% higher when compared to May 2025.
- **Employment** totaled 96,700 in May 2026, an increase of 1,200 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 5.1% higher than a year ago. There was a year over year increase in **full-time employment** (+4,300) and a year over year increase in **part-time employment** (+500).
- **Unemployment** totaled 7,000 in May 2026, a decrease of 1,300 persons from the prior month. There was a decrease of 1,500 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The **unemployment rate** decreased month over month and sits at 6.7%. The rate is 1.8 percentage points lower than it was in May 2025 (8.5%).
- The **participation rate** was 66.5% in May 2026; this represents an increase of 1.1 percentage points from a year-over-year perspective. The PEI participation rate is higher than the national average (65.0%) and is fourth highest among provinces behind Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

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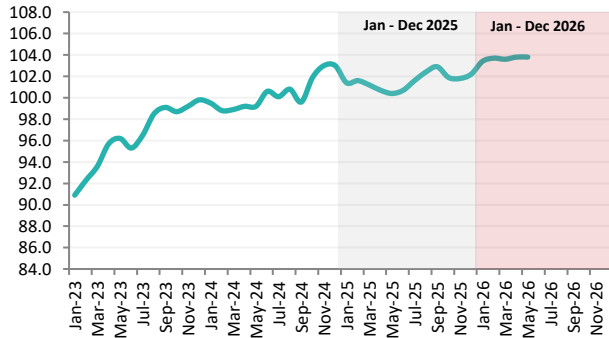


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LFS - Progress Report

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.

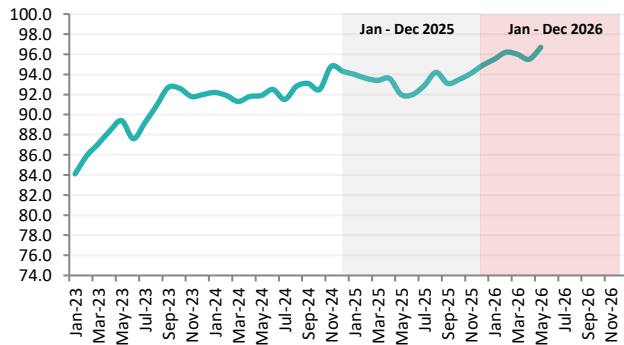
Labour Force (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Population	152.9	155.8	2.9	1.9%
Labour Force	101.1	103.7	2.6	2.6%
Not in LF	51.8	52.1	0.3	0.5%
Participation rate (%)	66.1	66.5	0.5	-

The labour force figure for May 2026 is tied for the highest all-time with April 2026. In addition, four out of the last five months have resulted in a new all-time high being established. The labour force has 2,600 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%.

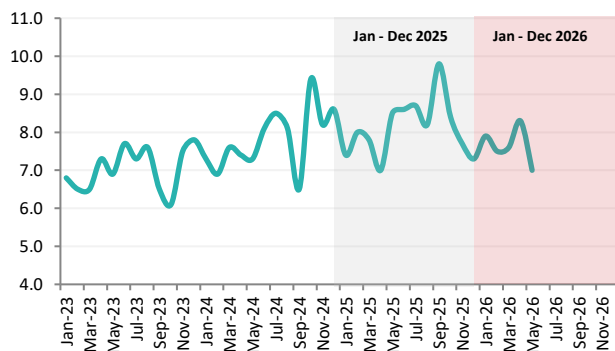
Employment (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Employment	93.3	96.0	2.7	2.9%
Full-time	80.7	82.2	1.5	1.9%
Part-time	12.6	13.8	1.2	9.2%
Employment rate (%)	61.0	61.6	0.6	-

In May, employment saw a month-over-month increase after two consecutive month-over-month declines. The May employment figure represents the highest figure on record—all five months in 2026 sit within the 5 highest monthly employment figures on record. The figure for full-time employment represents the highest on record and surpasses the previous highest figure by 900 persons.

Unemployment (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Unemployment	7.7	7.7	-0.1	-1.0%
Unemployment rate (%)	7.7	7.4	-0.3	-

The unemployment in May 2026 was the sixth lowest unemployment rate dating back to 1976 and was the first time since September 2024 it has been below 7%. Going back to 1976, there have only been 9 months where an unemployment rate below 7% was recorded. On a year to date basis, the number of unemployment individuals in 2026 is 100 persons fewer than the same period in 2025.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

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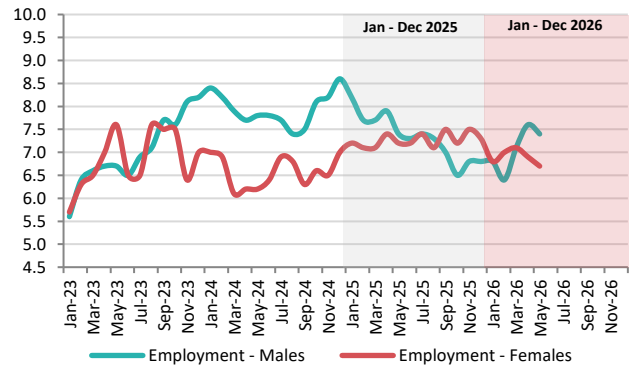
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Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

('000's)	Historical	Current: 2026 YTD		
	2023-25	Both	Male	Female
Labour force	16.1	15.9	8.2	7.7
Employment	14.3	14.0	7.1	6.9
Unemployment	1.8	1.9	1.2	0.7
Unemp rate (%)	11.0	12.1	14.4	9.6

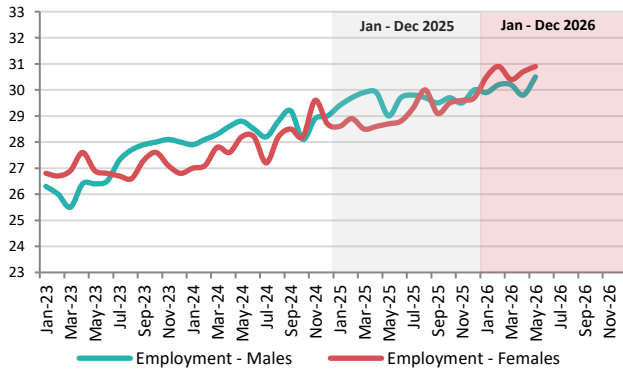
In May, there were 500 fewer females employed and no change in males employed in comparison to a year earlier. For full-time employment, females (-200) saw a decrease and males (+300) saw an increase. Part-time employment decreased for males (-300) and for females (-300). The unemployment rate for this cohort was 13.0%, up 1.0 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	60.8	30.1	30.7
Unemployment	4.0	3.7	2.3	1.4
Unemp rate (%)	6.5	5.8	7.1	4.4

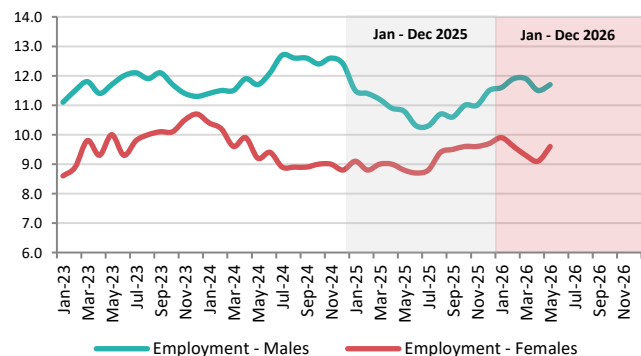
In May, employment increased for females (+2,200) and for males (+1,500) in comparison to May 2025. On a FT basis, year over year employment increased for females (+1,700) and for males (+1,300). On a PT basis, there was a year over year increase for females (+500) and no change for males. The unemployment rate decreased for males (to 6.5%) and decreased for females (to 3.1%) 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	23.2	12.9	10.4
Employment	21.0	21.2	11.7	9.5
Unemployment	1.9	2.0	1.1	0.9
Unemp rate (%)	8.4	8.8	8.8	8.5

On a year over year basis there were 800 more females and 900 more males employed. There were more females (+500) and more males (+1,100) in the labour force when comparing May 2026 to May 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		
		May-26	Apr-26	May-25	M-M	Y-Y	2026	2025	Change
91.8	Total industries ('000s)	96.7	95.5	92.0	1.2	4.7	96.0	93.3	2.7
23.0	Goods-sector	23.1	22.9	24.1	0.2	-1.0	23.2	24.9	-1.8
3.8	Agriculture	3.6	3.3	3.1	0.3	0.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1
2.2	Other primary	2.0	1.5	1.9	0.5	0.1	1.6	2.4	-0.8
0.3	Utilities	0.7	0.7	x	0.0	n/a	0.7	0.3	0.4
8.7	Construction	9.7	9.8	9.7	-0.1	0.0	9.7	9.7	0.0
8.1	Manufacturing	7.1	7.6	9.2	-0.5	-2.1	7.6	8.9	-1.3
68.7	Services-sector	73.6	72.6	67.8	1.0	5.8	72.8	68.4	4.5
11.0	Wholesale/retail trade	12.6	11.9	10.8	0.7	1.8	11.9	11.3	0.6
2.7	Transport/Warehousing	1.9	1.9	2.6	0.0	-0.7	1.9	2.4	-0.5
3.9	Fin/Ins/Real estate	4.3	4.1	3.6	0.2	0.7	4.3	3.6	0.8
4.9	Prof/ scientific/technical	5.3	6.2	5.2	-0.9	0.1	5.8	4.9	0.9
2.2	Business/building/other	2.1	1.6	2.0	0.5	0.1	1.7	2.4	-0.6
6.3	Educational services	6.8	6.9	5.7	-0.1	1.1	6.6	5.9	0.7
15.0	Health/social assistance	16.0	16.2	16.2	-0.2	-0.2	16.3	15.5	0.8
2.7	Info/culture/rec	2.7	2.6	2.1	0.1	0.6	2.7	1.9	0.8
5.9	Accomm/food services	7.8	7.3	6.0	0.5	1.8	7.5	6.2	1.3
3.5	Other services	3.3	3.1	2.8	0.2	0.5	3.2	3.4	-0.2
10.5	Public administration	10.7	10.8	10.7	-0.1	0.0	10.7	10.9	-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 73,600 persons employed in the **Services-producing sector** in May 2026, comprising 76.1% of PEI's industrial employment base. There was a year-over-year increase of 5,800 persons employed in the service sector. There was year over year growth in Wholesale/retail trade (+1,800), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+700), Professional, technical and scientific services (+100), Business, building and other support services (-100), Educational services (+1,100), Information, culture and recreation (+600), Accommodation and food services (+1,800) and Other services (except public administration) (+500). There was a year over year decrease in Transportation and warehousing (-700) and Health care and social assistance (-200). There was no change in employment in Public Administration in a year over year comparison.

There were 23,100 persons employed in the **Goods-producing sector** in May 2026, resulting in a decrease of 1,000 persons employed compared to a year ago. There was year over year growth Agriculture (+500) and Other primary (+100). There was a year over year decrease in Manufacturing (-2,100). There was no change in employment in Construction in a year over year comparison.

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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						
		May-26	Apr-26	May-25	M-M	Y-Y	2026 YTD	2025 YTD
29.2	Total industries ('000s)	31.56	32.24	29.34	-0.68	2.22	31.79	29.73
27.0	Goods-sector	28.90	30.25	25.84	-1.35	3.06	29.19	27.55
22.0	Agriculture	25.03	26.47	21.59	-1.44	3.44	25.27	22.69
28.8	Other primary	26.09	21.51	25.36	n/a	0.73	28.10	34.65
43.7	Utilities	48.90	50.78	x	-1.88	n/a	47.34	41.52
27.4	Construction	30.16	28.87	28.02	1.29	2.14	28.62	28.25
27.6	Manufacturing	28.25	31.26	25.22	-3.01	3.03	29.24	27.28
29.9	Services-sector	32.33	32.75	30.53	-0.42	1.80	32.44	30.41
21.9	Wholesale/retail trade	24.38	24.30	23.20	0.08	1.18	23.62	22.45
26.6	Transport/Warehousing	27.92	31.62	25.78	-3.70	2.14	29.78	28.62
31.8	Fin/Ins/Real estate	35.07	32.91	26.52	2.16	8.55	33.59	28.34
34.8	Prof/ scientific/technical	40.69	38.23	38.37	2.46	2.32	37.75	36.79
22.1	Business/building/other	27.45	27.99	22.26	-0.54	5.19	26.77	24.49
35.9	Educational services	38.66	37.38	33.91	1.28	4.75	37.60	35.89
31.8	Health/social assistance	33.95	34.76	33.59	-0.81	0.36	34.79	32.34
24.2	Info/culture/rec	27.60	27.05	24.30	0.55	3.30	28.28	25.40
18.6	Accomm/food services	19.87	19.88	19.18	-0.01	0.69	19.70	18.28
25.5	Other services	31.71	28.60	25.64	3.11	6.07	29.16	24.69
39.4	Public administration	42.11	42.78	40.07	-0.67	2.04	42.70	40.29

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 \$31.56/hr in May 2026, this represents an increase of 7.6% in comparison to the same month a year earlier. On a year to date basis, the average hourly rate is 6.9% higher in 2026 (\$31.79/hr) in comparison to the same period in 2025 (\$29.73/hr).

The wages for the **Services-producing sector** was \$32.33/hr in May 2026, which is 5.9% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. There was year over year wage growth in Wholesale/retail trade (\$1.18/hr or 5.1%), Transportation and warehousing (\$2.14/hr or 8.3%), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (\$8.55/hr or 32.2%), Professional, scientific and technical services (\$2.32/hr or 6.0%), Business, building and other support services (\$5.19/hr or 23.3%), Educational services (\$4.75/hr or 14.0%), Health and social assistance (\$0.36/hr or 1.1%), Information, culture and recreation (\$3.30/hr or 13.6%), Accommodation and food services (\$0.69/hr or 3.6%), Other services (except public administration) (\$6.07/hr or 23.7%) and Public Administration (\$2.04/hr or 5.1%).

The average hourly wage rate for the **Goods-producing sector** was \$28.90/hr in May 2026, which is 11.8% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. Year over year growth for wages occurred in Agriculture (\$3.44/hr or 15.9%), Other primary (\$0.73/hr or 2.9%), Construction (\$2.14/hr or 7.6%) and Manufacturing (\$3.03/hr or 12.0%).

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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	22,603.9	269.1	103.8	569.1	439.8
Level	58.5	-5.0	3.4	6.2	4.3
Percent	0.3%	-1.8%	3.4%	1.1%	1.0%
Employment	21,121.5	243.2	96.7	528.5	408.1
Level	147.1	-4.2	4.7	2.3	0.2
Percent	0.7%	-1.7%	5.1%	0.4%	0.0%
Unemployment	1,482.4	25.8	7.0	40.5	31.6
Level	-88.6	-0.9	-1.5	3.7	4.1
Percent	-5.6%	-3.4%	-17.6%	10.1%	14.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.6	9.6	6.7	7.1	7.2
Level	-0.4	-0.1	-1.8	0.6	0.9

Newfoundland and Labrador

NL experienced a decrease in employment year-over-year in May 2026 (-1.7%).

On year over year basis, the unemployment rate in NL decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 9.6%.

Nova Scotia

Employment in Nova Scotia increased year-over-year (0.4%).

On a year over year basis, the unemployment rate increased 0.6 of a percentage point and sits at 7.1%.

Regional Comparison of Labour Market Indicators

MONTH-over-MONTH Changes

(000's)	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB
Labour force	22,603.9	269.1	103.8	569.1	439.8
Level	3.8	-2.5	0.0	4.6	-0.5
Percent	0.0%	-0.9%	0.0%	0.8%	-0.1%
Employment	21,121.5	243.2	96.7	528.5	408.1
Level	87.8	-1.2	1.2	-0.2	-0.5
Percent	0.4%	-0.5%	1.3%	0.0%	-0.1%
Unemployment	1,482.4	25.8	7.0	40.5	31.6
Level	-84.0	-1.4	-1.3	4.7	-0.2
Percent	-5.4%	-5.1%	-15.7%	13.1%	-0.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.6	9.6	6.7	7.1	7.2
Level	-0.3	-0.4	-1.3	0.8	0

New Brunswick

New Brunswick saw no change in a year over year comparison for employment.

On year over year basis, their unemployment rate increased by 0.9 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	1.7%
3	Saskatchewan	1.7%
4	Manitoba	1.3%
5	Nova Scotia	1.1%
6	New Brunswick	1.0%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.7%
8	Ontario	0.5%
9	Quebec	0.1%
10	British Columbia	0.1%
	Canada	0.7%

LABOUR FORCE

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Prince Edward Island	3.4%
2	Alberta	3.2%
3	Manitoba	2.2%
4	Saskatchewan	1.5%
5	Nova Scotia	1.1%
6	New Brunswick	1.0%
7	Ontario	0.1%
8	British Columbia	-0.7%
9	Quebec	-1.1%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.8%
	Canada	0.3%

EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Prince Edward Island	5.1%
2	Alberta	4.1%
3	Manitoba	2.6%
4	Ontario	1.1%
5	Nova Scotia	0.4%
6	New Brunswick	0.0%
7	Saskatchewan	-0.7%
8	Quebec	-0.8%
9	British Columbia	-1.0%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.7%
	Canada	0.7%

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	5.6%
2	Prince Edward Island	5.4%
3	Ontario	2.3%
4	Manitoba	1.0%
5	Nova Scotia	0.2%
6	Saskatchewan	-0.5%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.6%
8	New Brunswick	-0.6%
9	British Columbia	-1.6%
10	Quebec	-2.4%
	Canada	0.9%

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Manitoba	10.6%
2	Quebec	6.3%
3	Prince Edward Island	4.0%
4	New Brunswick	3.9%
5	Nova Scotia	1.6%
6	British Columbia	1.6%
7	Saskatchewan	-1.1%
8	Alberta	-2.9%
9	Ontario	-4.1%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-7.3%
	Canada	0.0%

AVG HOURLY WAGES

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Prince Edward Island	7.6%
2	Alberta	4.8%
3	Quebec	4.7%
4	Nova Scotia	4.2%
5	Saskatchewan	4.1%
6	New Brunswick	3.6%
7	Ontario	2.1%
8	Manitoba	1.8%
9	British Columbia	1.5%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.9%
	Canada	3.0%

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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 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	Nova Scotia	1.0%
6	New Brunswick	1.0%
7	Ontario	0.7%
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.7%
9	Quebec	0.5%
10	British Columbia	0.4%
	Canada	0.9%

LABOUR FORCE

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	3.1%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.6%
3	Saskatchewan	1.8%
4	New Brunswick	1.8%
5	Manitoba	1.6%
6	Nova Scotia	1.1%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.0%
8	Ontario	-0.1%
9	British Columbia	-0.5%
10	Quebec	-0.5%
	Canada	0.4%

EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	3.6%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.9%
3	Manitoba	1.9%
4	New Brunswick	1.6%
5	Saskatchewan	1.0%
6	Nova Scotia	0.7%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.6%
8	Ontario	0.2%
9	Quebec	-0.4%
10	British Columbia	-0.8%
	Canada	0.5%

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	4.7%
2	Saskatchewan	2.0%
3	Prince Edward Island	1.9%
4	Ontario	1.1%
5	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.8%
6	Manitoba	0.8%
7	New Brunswick	0.6%
8	Nova Scotia	0.5%
9	British Columbia	-0.9%
10	Quebec	-1.9%
	Canada	0.6%

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	9.2%
2	Manitoba	7.5%
3	New Brunswick	7.0%
4	Quebec	6.0%
5	Nova Scotia	2.0%
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.1%
7	British Columbia	-0.7%
8	Alberta	-1.3%
9	Saskatchewan	-3.3%
10	Ontario	-3.9%
	Canada	-0.1%

AVG HOURLY WAGES

YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	6.9%
2	Quebec	5.4%
3	Nova Scotia	4.6%
4	Alberta	4.4%
5	New Brunswick	4.1%
6	Ontario	3.7%
7	Saskatchewan	2.5%
8	British Columbia	2.5%
9	Manitoba	1.6%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.7%
	Canada	3.9%