

Labour Force Survey Report

Prince Edward Island

August 2026

WorkPEI

September 4, 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		Current Period						
2023-25		Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	M-M	% Chg	Y-Y	% Chg
150.1	Population (000's)	156.2	156.1	154.5	0.1	0.1	1.7	1.1
99.4	Labour force (000's)	103.8	103.0	102.4	0.8	0.8	1.4	1.4
91.8	Employment (000's)	95.6	96.0	94.2	-0.4	-0.4	1.4	1.5
78.8	Employment full-time (000's)	82.9	82.7	82.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.9
13.0	Employment part-time (000's)	12.7	13.3	11.9	-0.6	-4.5	0.8	6.7
7.7	Unemployment (000's)	8.2	7.0	8.2	1.2	17.1	0.0	0.0
7.7	Unemployment rate (%)	7.9	6.8	8.0	1.1		-0.1	
66.2	Participation rate (%)	66.5	66.0	66.3	0.5		0.2	
61.1	Employment rate (%)	61.2	61.5	61.0	-0.3		0.2	

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 August 2026, an increase of 800 persons in comparison to the previous month. The labour force was 1.4% higher when compared to August 2025.
- **Employment** totaled 95,600 in August 2026, a decrease of 400 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 1.5% higher than a year ago. There was a year over year increase in **full-time employment** (+700) and a year over year increase in **part-time employment** (+800).
- **Unemployment** totaled 8,200 in August 2026, an increase of 1,200 persons from the prior month. There was a no change in unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The **unemployment rate** increased month over month and sits at 7.9%. The rate is 0.1 of a percentage point lower than it was in August 2025 (8.0).
- The **participation rate** was 66.5% in August 2026; this represents an increase of 0.2 of a percentage point 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, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

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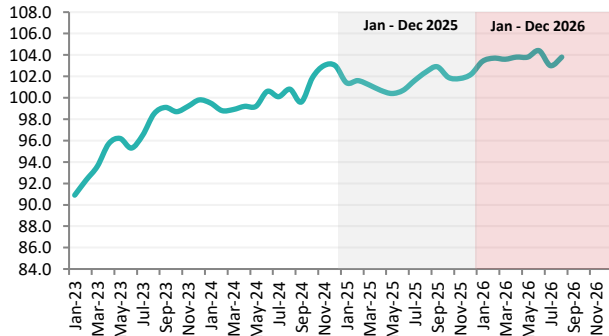


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LFS - Progress Report

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.

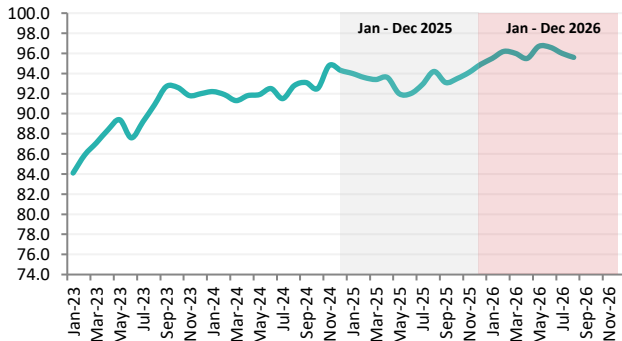
Labour Force (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Population	153.4	155.9	2.5	1.6%
Labour Force	101.3	103.7	2.4	2.4%
Not in LF	52.2	52.2	0.0	0.1%
Participation rate (%)	66.0	66.5	0.5	-

The labour force figure for August 2026 is tied for the second highest all-time. The August 2026 figure represents the eighth consecutive month where the figure has been 103,000 persons or higher. 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%.

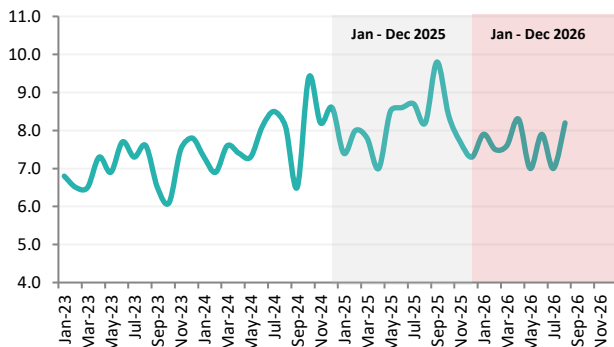
Employment (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Employment	93.2	96.0	2.8	3.0%
Full-time	80.9	82.5	1.6	2.0%
Part-time	12.3	13.5	1.2	9.4%
Employment rate (%)	60.8	61.6	0.8	-

In August, employment met or exceeded 95,500 persons for the eighth consecutive month. The August employment figure is the fifth highest figure on record- all eight months in 2026 sit within the 8 highest monthly employment figures on record. The figure for full-time employment represents the third highest on record.

Unemployment (000's)



	2025	2026	Level	Percent
('000)	YTD	YTD	Chg	Chg
Unemployment	8.0	7.7	-0.4	-4.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	7.9	7.4	-0.6	-

The unemployment rate in August 2026 marks the ninth out of the past ten months where the unemployment rate was below 8%. On a year to date basis, the number of unemployment individuals in 2026 is 400 persons fewer than the same period in 2025.

Note: Not all values sum up due to rounding

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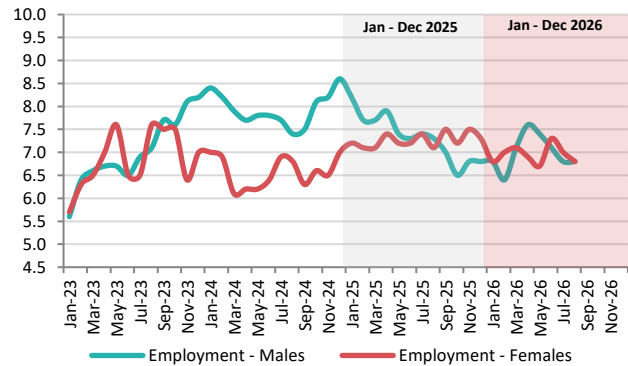
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Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

('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	7.0	7.0
Unemployment	1.8	2.0	1.2	0.7
Unemp rate (%)	11.0	12.3	14.8	9.6

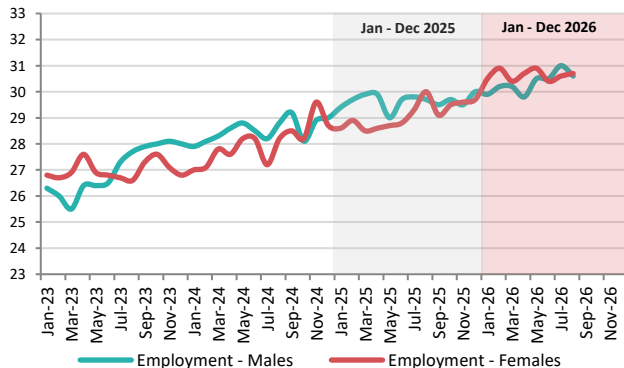
In August, there were 300 fewer females employed and 500 fewer in males employed in comparison to a year earlier. For full-time employment, females (-300) saw a decrease and while males (-300) also saw a decrease. Part-time employment decreased for males (-200) and did not change for females. The unemployment rate for this cohort was 13.9%, down 0.4 of a 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	32.5	32.1
Employment	56.4	61.0	30.3	30.6
Unemployment	4.0	3.6	2.2	1.4
Unemp rate (%)	6.5	5.6	6.8	4.4

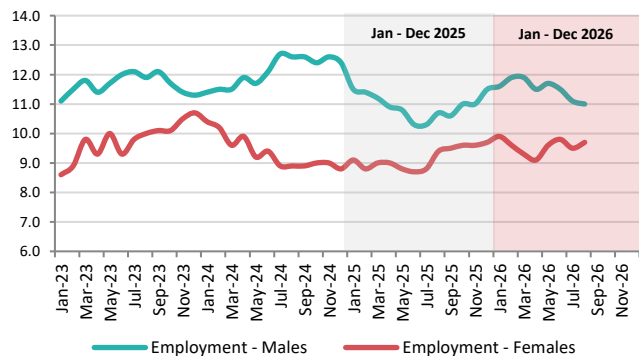
In August, employment increased for females (+700) and for males (+900) in comparison to August 2025. On a FT basis, year over year employment decreased for females (-200) and for males (+1,400). On a PT basis, there was a year over year increase for females (+800) and a decrease for males (-300). The unemployment rate decreased for males (to 6.7%) and increased for females (to 4.3%) 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	23.2	12.8	10.3
Employment	21.0	21.1	11.5	9.6
Unemployment	1.9	2.1	1.3	0.8
Unemp rate (%)	8.4	9.1	10.2	7.7

On a year over year basis there were 300 more females and 300 more males employed. There were fewer females (-100) and more males (+600) in the labour force when comparing August 2026 to August 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		
		Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	M-M	Y-Y	2026	2025	Change
91.8	Total industries ('000s)	95.6	96.0	94.2	-0.4	1.4	96.0	93.2	2.8
23.0	Goods-sector	21.9	21.6	23.9	0.3	-2.0	22.6	24.6	-2.0
3.8	Agriculture	3.1	3.3	3.0	-0.2	0.1	3.5	3.5	0.0
2.2	Other primary	1.9	1.3	2.8	0.6	-0.9	1.6	2.4	-0.7
0.3	Utilities	0.6	0.5	x	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.4
8.7	Construction	9.1	9.4	9.6	-0.3	-0.5	9.5	9.8	-0.3
8.1	Manufacturing	7.2	7.2	8.4	0.0	-1.2	7.4	8.8	-1.4
68.7	Services-sector	73.7	74.4	70.3	-0.7	3.4	73.4	68.7	4.8
11.0	Wholesale/retail trade	13.1	13.7	11.0	-0.6	2.1	12.5	11.1	1.4
2.7	Transport/Warehousing	2.1	1.9	2.6	0.2	-0.5	2.0	2.5	-0.5
3.9	Fin/Ins/Real estate	4.4	4.6	3.9	-0.2	0.5	4.4	3.8	0.6
4.9	Prof/ scientific/technical	4.9	5.2	5.5	-0.3	-0.6	5.6	5.1	0.5
2.2	Business/building/other	1.7	1.7	2.3	0.0	-0.6	1.7	2.3	-0.6
6.3	Educational services	7.1	7.2	6.6	-0.1	0.5	6.8	6.1	0.7
15.0	Health/social assistance	16.6	16.0	16.1	0.6	0.5	16.3	15.8	0.5
2.7	Info/culture/rec	2.5	2.6	2.6	-0.1	-0.1	2.7	2.1	0.6
5.9	Accomm/food services	7.7	7.3	6.2	0.4	1.5	7.5	6.1	1.4
3.5	Other services	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	0.1	3.2	3.2	0.0
10.5	Public administration	10.7	11.0	10.6	-0.3	0.1	10.8	10.7	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 73,700 persons employed in the **Services-producing sector** in August 2026, comprising 77.1% of PEI's industrial employment base. There was a year-over-year increase of 3,400 persons employed in the service sector. There was year over year growth in Wholesale/retail trade (+2,100), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+500), Educational services (+500), Health care and social assistance (+500), Accommodation and food services (+1,500), Other services (except public administration) (+100) and Public administration (+100). There was a year over year decrease in Transportation and warehousing (-500), Professional, technical and scientific services (-600), Business, building and other support services (-600) and Information, culture and recreation (-100).

There were 21,900 persons employed in the **Goods-producing sector** in August 2026, resulting in a decrease of 2,000 persons employed compared to a year ago. There was year over year growth in Agriculture (+100) and Utilities (+500). There was a year over year decrease in Other primary (-900), Construction (-500) and Manufacturing (-1,200).

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LFS – Industry Perspective (Average Hourly Wages)

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

Historical 2023-25		Current Period			M-M	Y-Y	2026 YTD	2025 YTD
		Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25				
29.2	Total industries ('000s)	31.29	31.14	30.22	0.15	1.07	31.63	29.58
27.0	Goods-sector	29.61	29.57	26.97	0.04	2.64	29.47	27.13
22.0	Agriculture	24.85	26.41	22.16	-1.56	2.69	25.29	22.05
28.8	Other primary	32.12	31.55	24.32	0.57	7.80	29.77	30.81
43.7	Utilities	54.00	44.25	x	9.75	n/a	47.84	41.13
27.4	Construction	28.94	29.90	28.56	-0.96	0.38	29.14	28.30
27.6	Manufacturing	29.58	28.94	27.47	0.64	2.11	29.37	27.07
29.9	Services-sector	31.74	31.55	31.29	0.19	0.45	32.18	30.37
21.9	Wholesale/retail trade	24.79	23.75	24.12	1.04	0.67	23.83	22.69
26.6	Transport/Warehousing	26.38	26.11	27.96	0.27	-1.58	28.67	27.65
31.8	Fin/Ins/Real estate	32.61	31.50	31.65	1.11	0.96	33.22	28.46
34.8	Prof/ scientific/technical	40.09	39.63	41.46	0.46	-1.37	38.61	37.41
22.1	Business/building/other	26.03	26.10	22.99	-0.07	3.04	26.70	23.71
35.9	Educational services	41.54	42.20	35.12	-0.66	6.42	38.77	35.41
31.8	Health/social assistance	33.59	34.18	35.39	-0.59	-1.80	34.43	33.17
24.2	Info/culture/rec	27.25	26.24	21.37	1.01	5.88	27.68	23.89
18.6	Accomm/food services	20.84	21.79	19.11	-0.95	1.73	20.23	18.48
25.5	Other services	28.42	26.72	25.80	1.70	2.62	28.66	24.68
39.4	Public administration	41.49	40.44	41.19	1.05	0.30	42.14	40.33

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 \$31.29/hr in August 2026, this represents an increase of 3.5% 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 (\$31.63/hr) in comparison to the same period in 2025 (\$29.58/hr).

The wages for the **Services-producing sector** was \$31.74/hr in August 2026, which is 1.4% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. There was year over year wage growth in Wholesale/retail trade (\$0.67/hr or 2.8%), Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (\$0.96/hr or 3.0%), Business, building and other support services (\$3.04/hr or 13.2%), Educational services (\$6.42/hr or 18.3%), Information, culture and recreation (\$5.88/hr or 27.5%), Accommodation and food services (\$1.73/hr or 9.1%), Other services (except public administration) (\$2.62/hr or 10.2%) and Public Administration (\$0.30/hr or 0.7%).

The average hourly wage rate for the **Goods-producing sector** was \$29.61/hr in August 2026, which is 9.8% higher than the wage rate a year earlier. Year over year growth for wages occurred in Agriculture (\$2.69/hr or 12.1%), Other primary (\$7.80/hr or 32.1%), Construction (\$0.38/hr or 1.3%) and Manufacturing (\$2.11/hr or 7.7%).

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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
Labour force	22,632.6	268.1	103.8	575.7	440.7
Level	86.0	-3.3	1.4	15.4	5.1
Percent	0.4%	-1.2%	1.4%	2.7%	1.2%
Employment	21,173.1	245.0	95.6	540.5	408.6
Level	216.5	2.7	1.4	16.6	6.5
Percent	1.0%	1.1%	1.5%	3.2%	1.6%
Unemployment	1,459.5	23.0	8.2	35.3	32.1
Level	-130.6	-6.1	0.0	-1.1	-1.5
Percent	-8.2%	-21.0%	0.0%	-3.0%	-4.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	8.6	7.9	6.1	7.3
Level	-0.7	-2.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4

Newfoundland and Labrador

NL experienced an increase in employment year-over-year in August 2026 (+1.1%).

On year over year basis, the unemployment rate in NL decreased by 2.1 percentage points to 8.6%.

Nova Scotia

Employment in Nova Scotia increased year-over-year (3.2%).

On a year over year basis, the unemployment rate decreased 0.4 of a percentage point and sits at 6.1%.

Regional Comparison of Labour Market Indicators

MONTH-over-MONTH Changes

(000's)	CA	NL	PE	NS	NB
Labour force	22,632.6	268.1	103.8	575.7	440.7
Level	-36.8	-0.6	0.8	2.1	4.0
Percent	-0.2%	-0.2%	0.8%	0.4%	0.9%
Employment	21,173.1	245.0	95.6	540.5	408.6
Level	-41.7	1.4	-0.4	2.6	2.4
Percent	-0.2%	0.6%	-0.4%	0.5%	0.6%
Unemployment	1,459.5	23.0	8.2	35.3	32.1
Level	4.8	-2.1	1.2	-0.4	1.7
Percent	0.3%	-8.4%	17.1%	-1.1%	5.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	8.6	7.9	6.1	7.3
Level	0	-0.7	1.1	-0.1	0.3

New Brunswick

New Brunswick saw an increase (1.6%) in a year over year comparison for employment.

On year over year basis, their unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 of a percentage point to 7.3%.

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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	2.2%
2	Saskatchewan	2.0%
3	Nova Scotia	1.3%
4	Manitoba	1.2%
5	New Brunswick	1.2%
6	Prince Edward Island	1.1%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.8%
8	Ontario	0.5%
9	British Columbia	-0.1%
10	Quebec	-0.3%
	Canada	0.5%

LABOUR FORCE

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Nova Scotia	2.7%
2	Alberta	2.1%
3	Manitoba	1.7%
4	Saskatchewan	1.5%
5	Prince Edward Island	1.4%
6	New Brunswick	1.2%
7	British Columbia	0.6%
8	Ontario	0.5%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	-1.2%
10	Quebec	-1.5%
	Canada	0.4%

EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	3.6%
2	Nova Scotia	3.2%
3	Manitoba	2.6%
4	New Brunswick	1.6%
5	Prince Edward Island	1.5%
6	Ontario	1.4%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.1%
8	British Columbia	0.5%
9	Saskatchewan	0.2%
10	Quebec	-1.2%
	Canada	1.0%

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Alberta	3.4%
2	Manitoba	3.2%
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	2.8%
4	Nova Scotia	2.6%
5	New Brunswick	1.9%
6	Ontario	1.4%
7	Prince Edward Island	0.9%
8	British Columbia	0.8%
9	Saskatchewan	-1.0%
10	Quebec	-1.4%
	Canada	1.0%

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Prince Edward Island	9.0%
2	Nova Scotia	9.0%
3	Saskatchewan	7.3%
4	Quebec	2.2%
5	Manitoba	2.2%
6	Ontario	-0.2%
7	Alberta	-0.8%
8	British Columbia	-1.5%
9	New Brunswick	-4.5%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	-9.9%
	Canada	-0.2%

AVG HOURLY WAGES

YEAR OVER YEAR

1	Nova Scotia	4.6%
2	New Brunswick	4.4%
3	British Columbia	4.0%
4	Prince Edward Island	3.5%
5	Quebec	3.3%
6	Manitoba	2.7%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	1.3%
8	Ontario	0.8%
9	Alberta	0.5%
10	Saskatchewan	0.2%
	Canada	2.0%

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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	2.4%
2	Saskatchewan	1.7%
3	Prince Edward Island	1.6%
4	Manitoba	1.3%
5	Nova Scotia	1.1%
6	New Brunswick	1.0%
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.7%
8	Ontario	0.6%
9	British Columbia	0.3%
10	Quebec	0.2%
	Canada	0.8%

LABOUR FORCE

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	2.9%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.4%
3	Manitoba	1.6%
4	Saskatchewan	1.5%
5	Nova Scotia	1.4%
6	New Brunswick	1.1%
7	Ontario	0.0%
8	British Columbia	-0.2%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.6%
10	Quebec	-0.8%
	Canada	0.3%

EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	3.5%
2	Prince Edward Island	3.0%
3	Manitoba	1.9%
4	Nova Scotia	1.4%
5	New Brunswick	1.1%
6	Ontario	0.5%
7	Saskatchewan	0.5%
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.4%
9	British Columbia	-0.6%
10	Quebec	-0.6%
	Canada	0.6%

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Alberta	4.3%
2	Prince Edward Island	2.0%
3	Ontario	1.3%
4	Manitoba	1.3%
5	Nova Scotia	1.0%
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.9%
7	New Brunswick	0.7%
8	Saskatchewan	0.6%
9	British Columbia	-0.3%
10	Quebec	-1.7%
	Canada	0.7%

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	9.4%
2	Manitoba	5.0%
3	Quebec	4.5%
4	New Brunswick	3.9%
5	Nova Scotia	3.7%
6	Alberta	0.2%
7	Saskatchewan	0.1%
8	British Columbia	-1.5%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	-2.6%
10	Ontario	-3.0%
	Canada	-0.1%

AVG HOURLY WAGES

YEAR TO DATE

1	Prince Edward Island	6.9%
2	Quebec	4.8%
3	Nova Scotia	4.3%
4	New Brunswick	4.0%
5	Alberta	3.5%
6	Ontario	3.1%
7	British Columbia	2.7%
8	Saskatchewan	2.4%
9	Manitoba	1.9%
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	0.6%
	Canada	3.4%