

Fact Sheet #5

Part-time Work Growing Trend among Older Workers

With Canada's changing labour market, part-time work has become more common, increasing from 14.8% of total employment in 1981 to a post-recession high of 19.4% in 2010, and slightly dropping to 18.8% in 2012. Part-time employment has increased most notably among youth aged 15 to 24 but the largest increases are among older workers, those aged 55 and over in particular.

Full-time work on the rise in last two years

- Between October 2008 and July 2009, 483,000 full-time jobs were lost in Canada. It took two and a half years to recoup these losses. Full-time employment has since grown to 14.3 million in March 2013, roughly 374,000 above pre-recession levels.²⁶
- Part-time employment, as a share of all employment, increased from 18.5% in 2008 to 19.4% in 2010, and then fell back to 18.8% in 2012.²⁷ As of March 2013, part-time jobs numbered 3.3 million, 93,000 above pre-recession levels.²⁸
- The highest rate of part-time work is in British Columbia, the lowest in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Part-time work increasing among working-age men

- The overall increase in part-time jobs, while consistent across all demographics, has not impacted each group equally.
- Almost half (47.3%) of the employed 15- to 24-year-olds worked part-time in 2012, compared with only one in four (24.9%) in 1981. This trend reflects both the increase in young people pursuing post-secondary education and changing labour market opportunities.²⁹
- More recently, young people have seen their rate of part-time employment increase from 44.8% in 2007 to 47.3% in 2012.
- Men over age 25, however, have seen the largest increase in part-time work since the recession, with the number of jobs rising by 114,000 between 2007 and 2012, an increase of 23.2%. Women over age 25 have seen a 9.2% increase in the number of part-time jobs over this period.

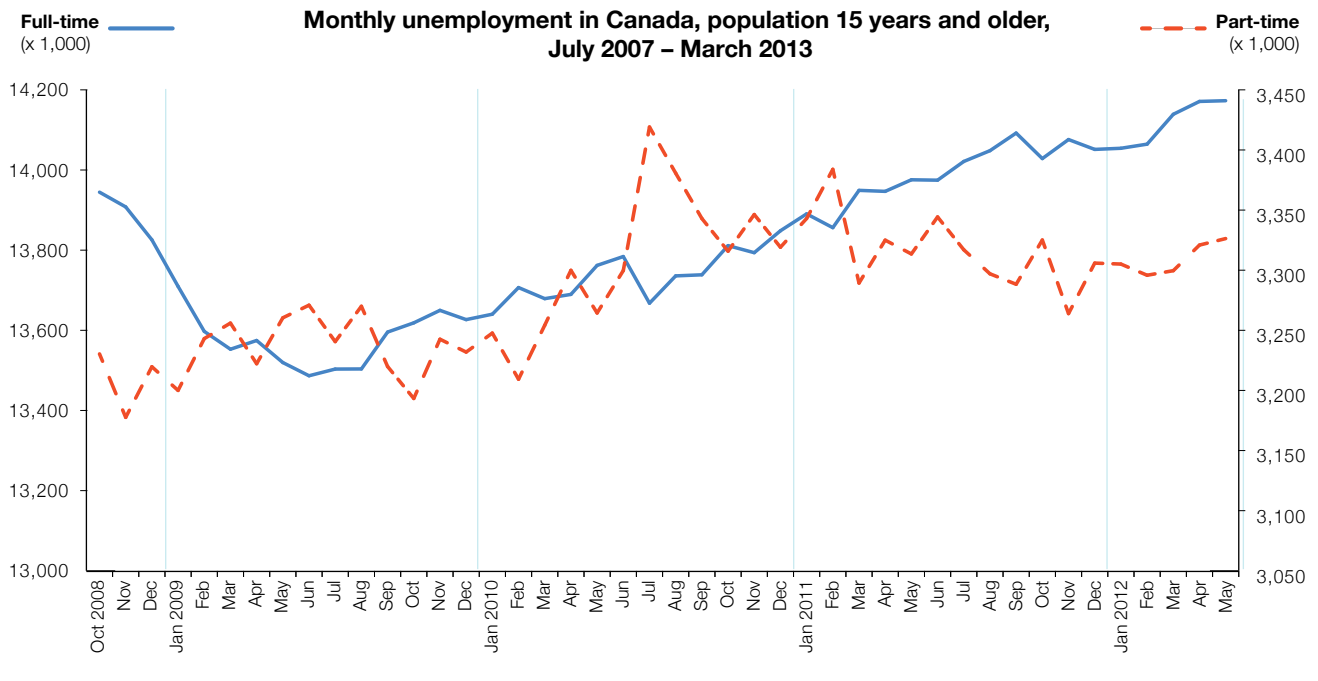
Highest rates of part-time employment in British Columbia

- British Columbia has the highest rate of part-time employment among the provinces, followed by Nova Scotia and Manitoba (21.8%, 19.6%, and 19.3%, respectively).

Rate of involuntary part-time employment remains high four years after end of recession

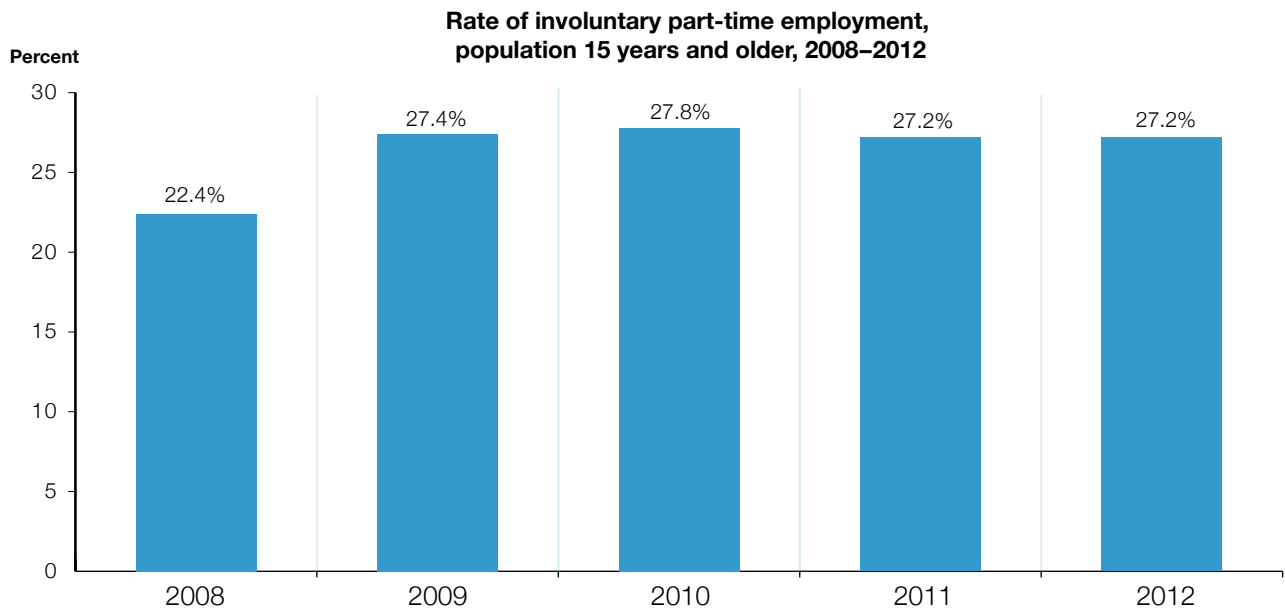
- The number of Canadians who are working part-time involuntarily has grown in lock-step with the rise in part-time jobs. In 2012, 27.2% of part-time workers in Canada stated that they would prefer to work full-time but full-time jobs weren't available. This is well above the pre-recession level of 22.0% in 2007.³⁰
- Defining these people as "unemployed" would have brought the 2012 unemployment rate to 9.6% in 2012 – 2.4 percentage points above the official level at 7.2%.³¹

Steady growth in the number of full-time jobs



Statistics Canada, Table 282-0087 – Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (persons x 1,000)

Involuntary part-time employment five percentage points above pre-recession levels



Statistics Canada, Table 282-0014 – Labour force survey estimates (LFS), part-time employment by reason for part-time work, sex and age group, annual