

Fact Sheet #1

Canada's Slow Job Recovery Grinds On

Four years after the recession, the economic recovery remains modest. The number of jobs has been increasing, notably in the past year. However, employment gains have not kept pace with population growth and unemployment levels are stuck at 1.4 million. The western provinces, notably Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, have experienced significant job growth, while employment levels are still depressed in New Brunswick and, to a lesser extent, in Nova Scotia. Overall, the labour market is much more volatile than it was before the recession: making gains one month, clawing them back the next.

Job creation finally picked up in 2012...

- More than 400,000 jobs were lost in the nine months following the economic crash in October 2008. By January 2011, total employment levels had recovered this ground.
- Employment continued to rise until September 2011, stalled through the fall and early winter of 2012, and then picked up through the remainder of the year, for a total annual increase of 310,000.⁴
- Employment retrenched early in 2013, however, as the economy lost 26,000 jobs in the first quarter.⁵

But the number of unemployed is stuck at 1.4 million

- The number of unemployed has been trending down from the peak recorded in August 2009 of 1.6 million, but remains above pre-recession levels. In March 2013, 1,374,700 Canadians were out of work, 23.4% higher than the 1,113,800 recorded in October 2008.

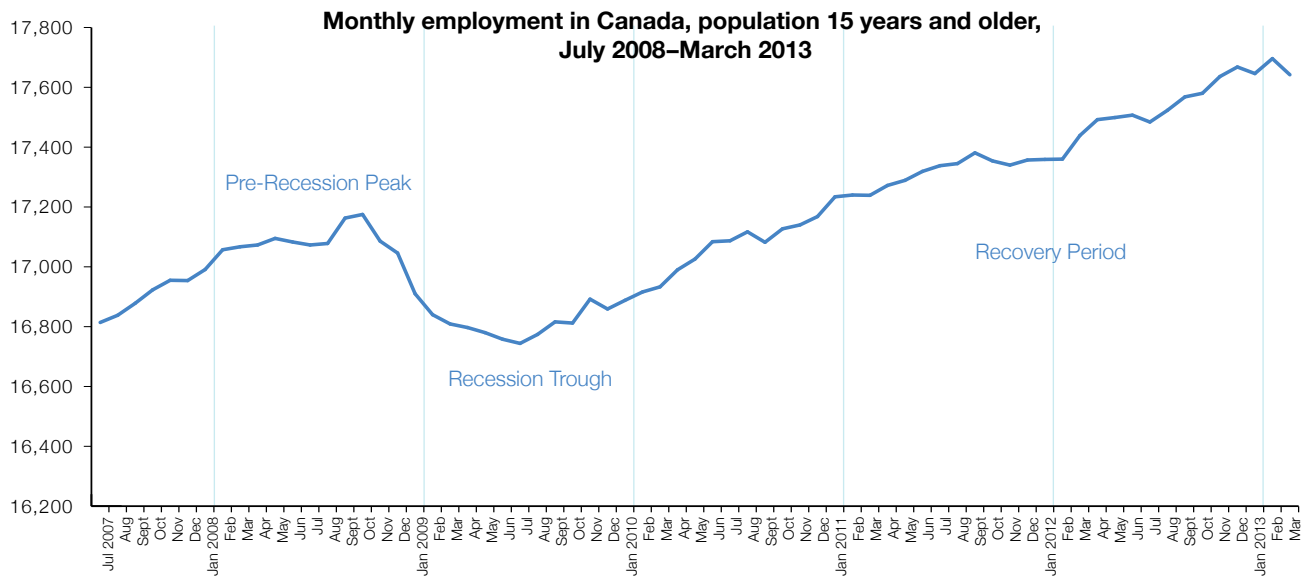
And many more have left the labour force altogether

- There has also been significant growth in the number of people who are not engaged in the labour force (the NILFs: Not-in-Labour-Force). This figure rose by almost 500,000 between October 2008 and December 2010, and then by another 200,000 between December 2010 and December 2012.
- Detailed analysis shows that students, who represented just 16% of the NILF population at the beginning of the recession, accounted for more than 50% of the increase in non-participation, as young people turned to education in the face of a hostile labour market.⁶

Post-recession employment growth has been highest in Newfoundland, lowest in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia

- Alberta, Ontario, and Newfoundland and Labrador experienced the greatest job losses over the 2008–09 recession. Manitoba and Saskatchewan, by contrast, were relatively sheltered, experiencing the smallest proportional losses.
- Since July 2009, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and Alberta have led the way in percentage gains in employment.
- New Brunswick's economy has struggled since the recession; indeed, employment levels have deteriorated, falling by 3.6% between December 2008 and December 2012. Employment levels in Nova Scotia fell by 0.5% over this same period.

Employment on the rise since the recession



Statistics Canada, Table 282-0087 – Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly Note: Population age 15 and older

Labour force trends, population 15 years and older, 2007–2012

| | Population | NILF | Labour Force | Employed | Unemployed |
|--|------------|---------|--------------|----------|------------|
| Number x 1,000 (Monthly Average for December) | | | | | |
| 2007 | 26,690.7 | 8,655.6 | 18,035.1 | 16,954.4 | 1,080.7 |
| 2008 | 27,090.0 | 8,797.4 | 18,292.6 | 17,045.5 | 1,247.0 |
| 2009 | 27,469.7 | 9,047.7 | 18,422.0 | 16,858.6 | 1,563.4 |
| 2010 | 27,814.8 | 9,229.5 | 18,585.3 | 17,167.5 | 1,417.8 |
| 2011 | 28,130.8 | 9,369.2 | 18,761.6 | 17,357.3 | 1,404.3 |
| 2012 | 28,468.6 | 9,442.6 | 19,026.0 | 17,667.6 | 1,358.4 |
| Percentage Change by Period | | | | | |
| 2008–2010 | 2.7 | 4.9 | 1.6 | 0.7 | 13.7 |
| 2010–2012 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.9 | -4.2 |

Statistics Canada, Table 282-0087 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly. NILF = Not in Labour Force