

## Labour Force, 2006

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Between 2001 and 2006, total employment increased at an annual average rate of 1.7%, the fastest rate increase among the Group of Seven (G7) nations. Italy's growth rate of 1.2% was second followed by France and the United States of America. The growth in employment reflected the nation's economic performance. During this five-year period, gross domestic product (GDP) rose at an annual average rate of 2.7% a year. Employment rose in every part of the country. However, growth was strongest in the western provinces, especially in Alberta and British Columbia.

### Employment Growth

Employment growth is defined as the percentage change in the number of persons employed during the Census reference week. When growth in employment exceeds growth in population, this often indicates that there are increasing employment opportunities and an expanding economy. The average annual employment growth rate is the compounded rate at which employment grew in each year between 2001 and 2006 in order to reach 2006 employment levels.