

Employment Growth, 2001 - 2006

Abstract

Between 2001 and 2006, total employment in Canada 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. Employment rose in every part of the country. Over the five years, the 1.7% annual average national employment growth rate was surpassed only in Alberta (2.9%) and British Columbia (2.1%) and the three territories. The map shows the employment growth rate and the average annual growth rate between 2001 and 2006 by census division and census subdivision.

On an industry basis, the fastest growth in employment occurred in the mining and oil and gas extraction industry, where employment increased at an average pace of 7.5% a year, nearly four times the national average. Alberta alone accounted for 70% of the employment growth in this industry.

With low interest rates spurring activity, growth in the larger construction sector was a strong 4.5% on average per year. During the five-year period, this sector added an estimated 196 200 workers to its ranks.

On the downside, manufacturing shed 136 700 jobs during the five-year period, equivalent to a 1.4% decline per year. This occurred in the wake of the rapidly appreciating Canadian dollar and shifts in production from Canada to other countries.

These manufacturing losses were concentrated in central Canada. Ontario incurred declines in employment in the computer manufacturing and telecommunications sector, while both Ontario and Quebec experienced declines in textile employment.

On the other hand, employment increased by 1.8% per year in retail trade. As a result, the gap between employment in retail and manufacturing closed rapidly during the five-year period. In 2001, about 373 900 more people were employed in manufacturing than in retail trade. By 2006, this gap had shrunk to about 81 400. Manufacturing and retail trade are the country's two largest employers.

Data for occupations largely reflected these industry developments. One of the fastest growing occupations over the five years was in the construction industry. More specifically, the number of trades helpers and labourers increased by 52 300, or 57.2%, to 143 900 in 2006.

In the textile industry, the number of sewing machine operators plunged by 18 300, or 32.7%. In the steel industry, there was also a decline in the number of metal fabricators, including steel workers over the five year period.

Subprovincial Trends

The census metropolitan area (CMA) of Barrie, north of Toronto, had the fastest employment growth of all census metropolitan areas between 2001 and 2006. It was followed by Kelowna, British Columbia, Calgary and Edmonton.

Employment among people living in Barrie rose by 17 400, or 22.9%, to 93 400 in 2006. In Kelowna, it rose by 14 200, or 21.0%, to 82 000. The slowest rate of growth occurred in Windsor, Ontario where employment increased by only 2.1% between 2001 and 2006.

Of the three largest metropolitan areas—Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver—Vancouver had the highest employment growth, with an 11.0% gain. Construction was changing its skyline, as housing prices and demand increased and the city began to prepare for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

In central Canada, both Toronto and Montréal experienced slower employment growth between 2001 and 2006, compared with the previous five years. In fact, their growth lagged behind that of both Calgary and Vancouver. On the upside, Toronto, like the rest of the country, was in the midst of a housing boom, and the financial capital of the country increased the labour force in finance and business.

Like Toronto, manufacturing troubles affected Montréal, which shed textile jobs. But some of these losses were offset by gains in employment in a number of industries, including financial services and in child day-care services.

In Ontario, Windsor faced the worst of the declines in auto parts manufacturing. Windsor's unemployment rate rose from 6.3% in 2001 to 8.3% by 2006, the third highest in the country after Saguenay, Quebec and St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. However, unemployment rates in both Saguenay and St. John's declined during this five-year period. Although Windsor's unemployment rate increased, its employment rate in 2006 was still higher at 59.0% than St. John's (58.7%) or Saguenay (54.8%).

In contrast, unemployment rates improved in several Quebec CMAs. The city of Québec had an unemployment rate of only 4.6%, one of the lowest in the country. This was an improvement from the rate of 6.9% five years earlier.

The Daily is Statistics Canada's official release bulletin. The Daily for March 4, 2008 (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/080304/dq080304a-eng.htm>), marked the public release of this census variable. Highlight tables allowing users to perform simple rank and sort functions with the data at various levels of geography are available for this variable here: Labour Highlight Tables, 2006 Census (<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/hlt/97-559/Index-eng.cfm>). Technical notes for this variable can be found at Labour Market Activity and Unpaid Work Reference Guide, 2006 Census

(<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/rp-guides/labour-activite-eng.cfm>).

The text was adapted from Statistics Canada, Canada's Changing Labour Force, 2006 Census (<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/as-sa/97-559/index-eng.cfm>), Catalogue number 97-559-X2006001. Statistics Canada information is used with the permission of Statistics Canada. Information on the availability of the wide range of data from Statistics Canada can be obtained from the Statistics Canada's Regional Offices, its World Wide Web site at www.statcan.gc.ca, or its toll-free access number 1-800-263-1136.

Map Sources

Employment Growth, 2006

Statistics Canada. Occupation - National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2006 (11), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (7), Major Field of Study - Classification of Instructional Programs, 2000 (14), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Employed Labour Force 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Catalogue number 97 560 X2006014.

References

Statistics Canada. 2007. 2006 Census Dictionary. (<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>)

Weiss, Carolyn; Cillis, Patricia; Rothwell, Neil. 2008. The Population Ecumene of Canada: Exploring the Past and Present. Geography Working Paper Series. Catalogue no. 92F0138M, No. 2008003. Geography Division, Statistics Canada. (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/92f0138m/92f0138m2008003-eng.pdf>)

Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)

Federal Government

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census. Analysis Series

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/as-sa/index-eng.cfm>

This series, launched via The Daily for each of the eight major releases, includes a number of comprehensive analytical articles which will supplement day of release



information. These catalogued articles provide an analytical perspective on 2006 Census topics.

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census Highlight Tables

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/highlights/index.cfm>

This page provides tables for population and dwelling counts; age and sex; families and households; languages, immigration and citizenship; Aboriginal peoples; labour, language used at work, place of work, commuting to work, education; ethnic origin and visible minorities; income, and earnings, and shelter costs. Available on each official day of release, the tables will present information highlights by topic via key indicators for various levels of geography.

Statistics Canada. 2006 Census Trends

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/92-596/index.cfm?Lang=eng>

This product presents a series of summary data trends spanning three censuses: 2006, 2001 and 1996. The product is designed to facilitate the analysis and comparison of the changing demographic and socio-economic composition of selected geographic areas across Canada.

Statistics Canada. 2006 Community Profiles

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>

These profiles present community-level information from the 2006 Census of Population. Users can search for an area of interest using the search engine provided in this site. Users can access data on population and dwellings, age, marital status, families, income, languages, immigration, education, labour force, income, and more.

Statistics Canada. Census Tract (CT) Profiles, 2006 Census

<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-597/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Census tracts are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population of 2,500 to 8,000. They are identified using seven-character numeric 'names' (e.g., 0005.00) and are located in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and larger census agglomerations (CAs). From this page you can visualize each census tract via a map and/or retrieve profile data for the census tract.

Statistics Canada. Learning Resources

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/index-eng.htm>

This page gives support material, such as data, reference material and lesson plans, for teaching and learning in schools at elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels.