



Unemployment rate down to 6.2 per cent in October: StatsCan

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OTTAWA (CP) - The jobless rate slipped to 6.2 per cent in October, from 6.4 per cent in September, with big employment gains in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Statistics Canada said the economy recorded a net gain of 51,000 jobs.

While Alberta alone created 23,000 new jobs, manufacturing continued to falter, especially in Central Canada.

In Alberta, unemployment fell a half-point to three per cent, a three-decade low.

The national job gains pushed unemployment among women down to a record low 4.9 per cent, while the rate for adult men was 5.4 per cent.

Young workers also made gains, with 36,000 new jobs, a third of them in Alberta.

While the West boomed, manufacturing jobs in Central Canada continued to ebb away, with 15,000 jobs lost.

So far this year, 83,000 manufacturing jobs have disappeared.

While Ontario lost 18,000 factory jobs, its overall unemployment rate has little changed because of gains in the finance, insurance, real estate and leasing sectors.

In Quebec, which also lost manufacturing jobs, gains in the business, building and public administration sectors helped push the unemployment rate down to a 30-year low of 7.4 per cent.

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A quick look at October unemployment (previous month in brackets):

Unemployment rate: 6.2 per cent (6.4)

Number unemployed: 1,086,000 (1,131,000)

Number working: 16,660,000 (16,505,000)

Youth (15-24 years) unemployment: 11.3 per cent (12.3)

Men (25 plus) unemployment: 5.4 per cent (5.5)

Women (25 plus) unemployment: 4.9 per cent (5.0)

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Here's what happened provincially (previous month in brackets):

- Newfoundland 14.2 (14.1)

- Prince Edward Island 11.1 (10.8)

- Nova Scotia 8.2 (7.7)

- New Brunswick 8.1 (8.9)

- Quebec 7.7 (8.0)

- Ontario 6.4 (6.6)
- Manitoba 4.2 (4.4)
- Saskatchewan 3.9 (4.3)
- Alberta 3.0 (3.5)
- British Columbia 4.6 (4.8)

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Statistics Canada also released seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average unemployment rates for major cities but cautions the figures may fluctuate widely because they are based on small statistical samples. (Previous month in brackets.)

- St. John's, N.L. 8.0 (7.8)
- Halifax 5.2 (5.6)
- Saint John, N.B. 6.1 (6.5)
- Saguenay, Que. 8.8 (9.5)
- Quebec 5.7 (5.3)
- Trois-Rivieres, Que. 8.0 (8.5)
- Sherbrooke, Que. 8.1 (8.0)
- Montreal 8.0 (8.2)
- Gatineau, Que. 4.9 (4.6)
- Ottawa 5.2 (5.1)
- Kingston, Ont. 5.7 (6.7)
- Toronto 6.7 (6.6)
- Hamilton 6.5 (6.4)
- Kitchener, Ont. 5.3 (5.4)
- London, Ont. 6.7 (6.9)
- Oshawa, Ont. 6.8 (6.9)
- St. Catharines-Niagara, Ont. 6.6 (6.5)
- Sudbury, Ont. 7.7 (7.8)
- Thunder Bay, Ont. 7.8 (8.2)
- Windsor, Ont. 8.8 (8.9)
- Winnipeg 4.3 (4.5)
- Regina 4.8 (5.0)
- Saskatoon 3.7 (4.1)
- Calgary 3.2 (3.6)

-Edmonton 4.1 (4.3)

-Abbotsford, B.C. 4.2 (4.0)

-Vancouver 4.1 (4.1)

-Victoria 4.0 (3.7)

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