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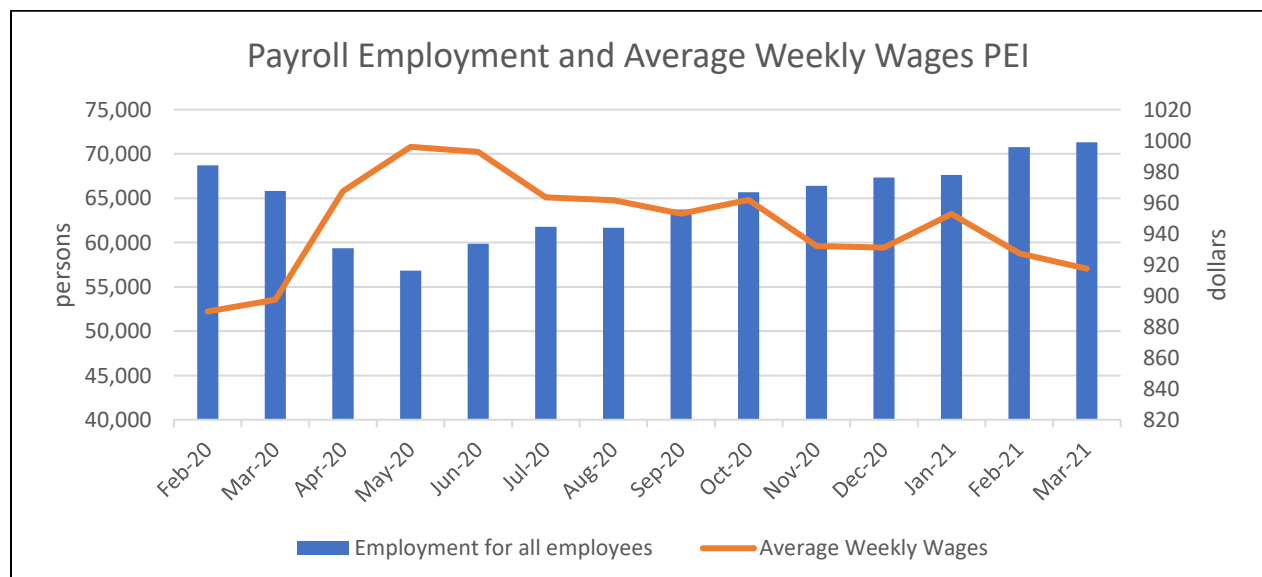
Statistics Canada Releases Payroll Employment, Earnings and Hours and Job Vacancies, March 2021

On 27 May 2021, Statistics Canada released data from the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH), and the Job Vacancy and Wage Survey (JVWS). The SEPH provides information on the number of employees earning pay or benefits during a given month, as well as earnings and hours worked, while the JVWS provides information on the number of job vacancies and the job vacancy rate (unadjusted).

Restrictions eased in many parts of the country in March, and there was a considerable amount of re-opening between the second and third waves of the COVID pandemic, leading to increased payroll employment.

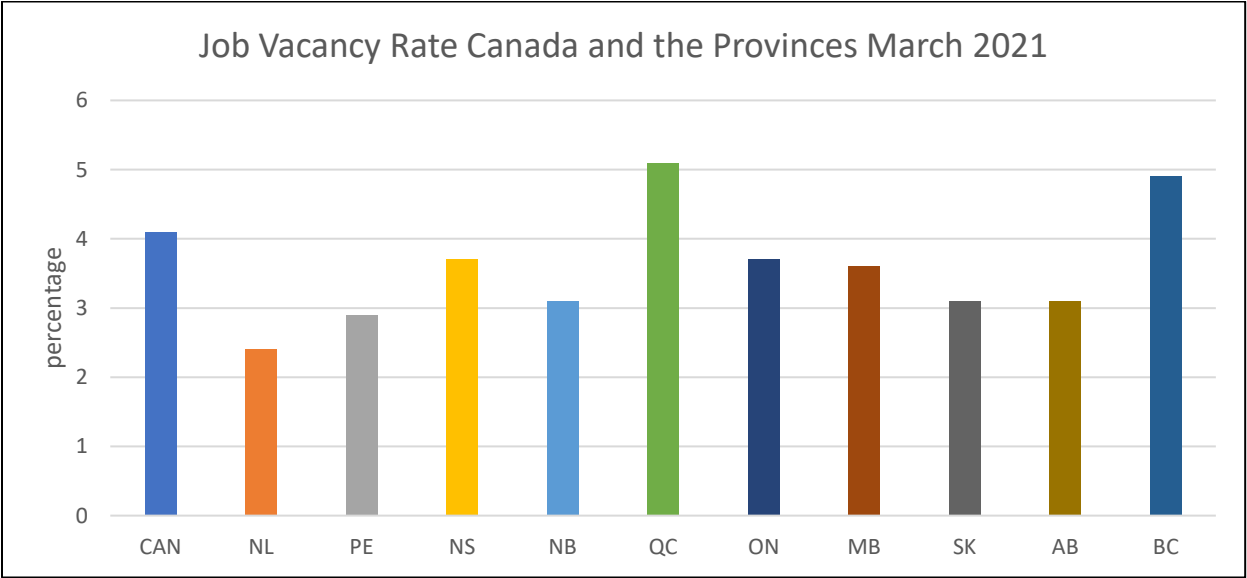
The number of payroll jobs on the Island continued to increase in March, totaling 71,301, an increase of 0.7 per cent from February 2021, and an increase of 8.3 per cent from March 2020. There has been a steady increase in the amount of payroll employment on the Island since August 2020, and March 2021 was the second consecutive month where the level of payroll employment exceeded the level seen prior to the pandemic (February 2020).

Employment increased in both the goods-producing sectors, up 3.3 per cent from February, and up 5.0 per cent compared to March 2020, as well as in the services-producing sectors, up 0.3 per cent since February 2021, and 8.9 per cent since March 2020. Nationally, payroll employment increased 1.5 per cent between February and March 2021, an increase of 1.5 per cent, and the fastest growth since September 2020. Compared to March 2020, payroll employment increased 0.3 per cent.



Average hourly wages were \$917.35 in March, a decrease of 1.1 per cent from February, and up 2.2 per cent from March 2020. Wages in the goods-producing sector increased 0.7 per cent between February and March 2021, and 5.8 per cent compared to March 2020. In the services sector, wages declined 1.3 per cent compared to February 2021, and were up 1.6 per cent compared to March 2020. A significant portion of hiring in March occurred in hourly service industry employment, which generally have lower wages contributing to the downward pressure on average weekly wages in the series. Nationally, average weekly earnings declined 0.8 per cent between February and March 2021 to average \$1,125.27. Total wages paid were up 7.4 per cent compared to March 2020.

On an unadjusted basis, there were 1,700 job vacancies on Prince Edward Island in March 2021, for a job vacancy rate of 2.9 per cent. Among the provinces, the job vacancy rate for March 2021 ranged from a high of 5.1 per cent in Quebec, to a low of 2.4 per cent in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Nationally, the job vacancy rate for March 2021 was 4.1 per cent, with the highest job vacancy rates in accommodation and food services (7.4 per cent), agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (6.6 per cent) and construction (5.8 per cent). Additional information on job vacancies for the first quarter of 2021 will be released by Statistics Canada on June 22, 2021.