

Education Remains Critical with Unemployment, Employment, and Participation Rates in 2020 Being the Worst in Many Years for Aboriginals and Non-Aboriginals

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ABSTRACT

The higher the level of education completed the higher the wage rates, the lower the rate of unemployment, and the higher the employment rates. Unemployment rates were significantly higher and participation and employment rates were significantly lower for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals in Canada in 2020. This may be attributed to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. The rate of unemployment increased more for non-Aboriginals than for Aboriginals in 2020. However, participation and employment rates decreased more for Aboriginals than for non-Aboriginals. Employment, unemployment, and participation rates are and historically have been more favourable for non-Aboriginals than for Aboriginals. As educational levels increase, employment measures and wage rates improve. Employment measures are examined by gender, age, province, and education, and for Métis, Inuit, and First Nations.

INTRODUCTION

Employment data for Aboriginals 15 years and older living off Reserves and for non-Aboriginals is presented for 2007 through 2020 to enable the reader to assess the changes over time. The focus provided is on the changes between 2020 from 2019.

The term Aboriginal is used throughout this paper because it is consistent with the terms used in the databases that form the foundation of this analysis.

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EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND PARTICIPATION RATES

The employment rate is the percent of those working in the total population who are over the age of 15. The participation rate is the percent of those employed and those seeking to be employed over the same total population of those over 15 years old. The higher these rates, in general, the better the economy is thought to be doing. In contrast, the lower the unemployment rate, the better the economy is considered to be doing. The unemployment rate is the percentage of those seeking employment divided by those employed and those seeking employment. The combination of those employed and those unemployed (that is, those seeking employment) is considered the labour force. Therefore, another way of defining the unemployment rate is the percentage unemployed in the labour force. It may be helpful to note that the employment and unemployment rates are not directly related, as they are measured in different ways.

The unemployment rate for Aboriginals in 2020 was 14.2 versus 10.2 in 2019, which was an increase of 39.2%. The non-Aboriginal unemployment rate of 9.4 increased from 5.6, which was an increase of 67.9% for the same time period. These were the highest rates of unemployment since the reporting here of this data since 2007. The percentage increase in the unemployment rate for non-Aboriginals was larger than for Aboriginals.

The participation rate declined for Aboriginals by 4.3% and by 2.3% for non-Aboriginals in 2020. The Aboriginal employment rate in 2020 was 52.0, a decrease of 8.5% from 56.8 in 2019, while for non-Aboriginals it decreased by 6.3% from 62 in 2019 to 58.1 in 2020.

In summary, participation and employment rates decreased (worsened) more for Aboriginals while unemployment rates increased (worsened) more for non-Aboriginals in 2020. All three rates in 2020, for both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals, were the worst they have been since 2007, which is when the data was first reported. These three rates have also been worse for Aboriginals than for non-Aboriginals in every year since at least 2007. See Table 1.

COMPARING RATES FOR FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT

In 2020, the unemployment rate for First Nations was 15.1, and it was 11.9 in 2019. The 3.2 increase in the rate of unemployment was a 26.9% over the 2019 rate. The Métis unemployment rate was 13.3 in 2020, compared to 8.4 in 2019, which was an increase of 58.3% from the 2019 rate. First Nations have consistently had higher unemployment rates than Métis.

Participation rates and employment rates decreased for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in 2020. The Métis employment and participation rates have consistently been higher than for First Nations and for Inuit, except for 2007, 2013, and 2019, when these rates were higher for Inuit.

In 2020, the participation rate was 62.6 for Métis and 58.9 for First Nations; for Inuit it was 48.1. Thus, the participation rates were 5.9% lower for First Nations and 23.2% lower for Inuit, then for Métis. The employment rate for Métis was 54.3, for First Nations it was 50.0, and for Inuit it was 40.3 in 2020. This is 7.9% lower for First Nations and 25.8% lower for Inuit than for Métis.

TABLE 1
 Employment, Participation, and Unemployment Rates
 Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves in Canada, 15 years and older and non-Aboriginal

| | Aboriginals | | | | | | | | | | | | % Change 2020/2019 | | |
|--------------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | 2019 | 2020 |
| Unemployment rate | 10.7 | 10.2 | 13.7 | 14.1 | 13.1 | 12.9 | 11.7 | 11.2 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 11.3 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 14.2 | 39.2 |
| Participation rate | 65.0 | 66.3 | 65.7 | 62.2 | 63.4 | 64.7 | 64.1 | 64.2 | 63.0 | 64.4 | 64.4 | 64.1 | 63.3 | 60.6 | -4.3 |
| Employment rate | 58.1 | 59.6 | 56.7 | 53.5 | 55.1 | 56.4 | 56.6 | 57.0 | 55.2 | 56.5 | 57.1 | 57.6 | 56.8 | 52.0 | -8.5 |
| Non-Aboriginals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | % Change 2020/2019 |
| Unemployment rate | 5.9 | 6.0 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 9.4 | 67.9 |
| Participation rate | 67.5 | 67.6 | 67.1 | 67.0 | 66.8 | 66.5 | 66.5 | 66.0 | 65.9 | 65.7 | 65.8 | 65.4 | 65.6 | 64.1 | -2.3 |
| Employment rate | 63.5 | 63.5 | 61.6 | 61.7 | 61.8 | 61.8 | 61.9 | 61.5 | 61.4 | 61.2 | 61.7 | 61.7 | 62.0 | 58.1 | -6.3 |

Aboriginal vs. non-Aboriginal

% 2020/2019

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Unemployment rate | 51.1 |
| Participation rate | -5.5 |
| Employment rate | -10.5 |

Employment Rate: % working of total population over age 15

Participation Rate: % working and seeking employment of total population over 15

Unemployment Rate: % seeking employment divided by those employed and seeking employment (also defined as the % seeking employment divided by the Labour Force)

Labour Force: those employed and seeking employment

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour force survey, custom tabulation 4cfl_abo_wage_AN.ivt

The employment and participation rates in 2020 for Métis and Inuit were the lowest they have been since the data has been available from 2007, and the unemployment rate was the highest in 2020 for the Métis for the same time period. For First Nations their unemployment rate, participation rate, and employment rate were the worst they have been since 2012, 2010, and 2011, respectively. Please see Table 2.

EMPLOYMENT RATES BY AGE AND GENDER

In 2020 employment rates declined for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men and women in each of the three age groups of 15–24, 24–54, and 55 and over, except for Aboriginal men over 55. Their employment rate increased by 1.7% from a low level of 36.2 in 2019 to 36.8 in 2020. The largest percentage decreases for Aboriginals were for men 15–24 years and for women 55 and over, which were declines of 15.0% and 18.3% respectively. The largest decreases for non-Aboriginals were for men 15–24 years and women 15–24 years at 12.9% and 16.3% respectively.

For Aboriginal men and women in the 15–24 and the 25–54 age categories, their employment rates have been consistently lower than non-Aboriginal men and women. The employment rate for Aboriginal women 55 and over has been higher than for non-Aboriginals since 2013, except in 2020. For Aboriginal men 55 and over it has been the opposite. Their employment rate has been lower than for non-Aboriginal men since 2013. Please see Table 3.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY AGE AND GENDER

Unemployment rates increased significantly for men and women in all three age categories for both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals in 2020. The largest increase was the more than doubling for Aboriginal women 55 years and older, increasing 110.3% to an unemployment rate of 12.2. The highest unemployment rate was 24.3 for Aboriginal men 15–24, an increase of 38.9% over 2019. In a similar manner non-Aboriginal men's unemployment rate was the highest for those 15–24 at 20.6, an increase of 71.7%. The unemployment rate more than doubled for non-Aboriginal women 15–24, increasing by 106.4% to a rate of 19.4.

The unemployment rate for Aboriginals was 51.1% higher than for non-Aboriginals in 2020. For Aboriginal men the unemployment rate was 64.2% higher and for Aboriginal women it was 35.1% higher than for non-Aboriginals in 2020. Significantly higher rates of unemployment for Aboriginal men and women in each of the three age groups have persisted since 2007, which is the time period for which the data is available. Please see Table 4.

EMPLOYMENT RATES AND POPULATION BY PROVINCE OR REGION

The province with the highest Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations is Ontario. In Ontario, the employment rate for Aboriginals decreased to 52.1 in 2020, from 56.2 in 2019, and the lowest for Ontario since 2007 (except for 2010). The provinces with the highest

TABLE 2
Employment, Participation, and Unemployment Rates, Canada
First Nations, Métis, and Inuits
In thousands, except for rates

| | First Nations | | | | | | | | | | | | % Change 2020/2019 | % Compared to Métis | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | | 2019 | 2020 |
| Population | 303.8 | 324.2 | 344.5 | 364.8 | 383.2 | 394.3 | 405.5 | 417.3 | 428.9 | 449.6 | 472.0 | 486.1 | 535.4 | 554.7 | 26.9 | 13.5 |
| Unemployment rate | 12.5 | 12.5 | 15.9 | 17.1 | 16.8 | 15.7 | 13.5 | 12.1 | 14.7 | 15.0 | 13.5 | 11.2 | 11.9 | 15.1 | -2.6 | -5.9 |
| Participation rate | 62.4 | 63.5 | 62.5 | 58.3 | 59.7 | 62.5 | 60.9 | 61.2 | 59.5 | 61.7 | 62.0 | 61.8 | 60.5 | 58.9 | -6.2 | -7.9 |
| Employment rate | 54.6 | 55.5 | 52.5 | 48.3 | 49.6 | 52.7 | 52.6 | 53.8 | 50.7 | 52.4 | 53.6 | 54.9 | 53.3 | 50.0 | | |
| | Métis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | % Change 2020/2019 | |
| Population | 320.7 | 334.7 | 349.8 | 361.6 | 373.2 | 387.3 | 402.3 | 417.5 | 428.8 | 442.7 | 457.6 | 468.8 | 550.4 | 566.9 | 58.3 | |
| Unemployment rate | 9.2 | 8.0 | 11.6 | 11.4 | 9.8 | 10.5 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 10.2 | 10.0 | 9.1 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 13.3 | -4.9 | |
| Participation rate | 67.3 | 69.0 | 68.9 | 66.2 | 67.4 | 67.1 | 67.3 | 67.5 | 66.4 | 67.4 | 67.1 | 66.7 | 65.8 | 62.6 | -10.0 | |
| Employment rate | 61.2 | 63.5 | 60.9 | 58.7 | 60.8 | 60.0 | 60.5 | 60.6 | 59.7 | 60.7 | 61.0 | 60.9 | 60.3 | 54.3 | | |
| | Inuits | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | % Change 2020/2019 | % Compared to Métis |
| Population | 12.0 | 10.5 | 10.4 | 12.1 | 14.0 | 13.7 | 13.9 | 11.7 | 16.3 | 16.5 | 15.1 | 16.3 | 21.4 | 20.6 | N/A | N/A |
| Unemployment rate | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 19.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 15.7 | 0.0 | -30.3 | -23.2 |
| Participation rate | 71.0 | 69.5 | 67.6 | 64.6 | 61.0 | 64.5 | 69.6 | 56.7 | 62.8 | 61.0 | 60.5 | 61.1 | 69.0 | 48.1 | -30.8 | -25.8 |
| Employment rate | 65.1 | 62.3 | 56.7 | 54.9 | 55.6 | 59.3 | 64.0 | 48.6 | 50.8 | 54.3 | 51.5 | 52.6 | 58.2 | 40.3 | | |

Note: Table cells showing 0.0 refer to estimates that are suppressed (cannot be published) because they are below the confidentiality threshold. The LFS estimates are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. As a result, monthly estimates will show more variability than trends observed over longer time periods. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries also have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Estimates quality" section of the publication Labour Force Information (Catalogue number 71-001-X).

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 4ctl_abo_main_AN.iwt

TABLE 3
Employment Rates by Age and Gender, Canada
Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves and Non-Aboriginals

| | Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | % Change 2020/2019 | 2020 % vs Non-Aboriginal | | |
|-------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | | 2019 | 2020 |
| Both Sexes | 58.1 | 59.6 | 56.7 | 53.5 | 55.1 | 56.4 | 56.6 | 57.0 | 55.2 | 56.5 | 56.5 | 57.6 | 56.8 | 52.0 | -8.5 | -10.5 |
| 15-24 years | 49.8 | 52.8 | 46.4 | 45.2 | 47.1 | 45.7 | 49.2 | 50.4 | 49.8 | 49.2 | 49.9 | 48.9 | 51.0 | 44.6 | -12.5 | -10.3 |
| 25-54 years | 69.9 | 70.8 | 68.8 | 65.8 | 67.3 | 69.3 | 69.2 | 69.3 | 67.5 | 69.1 | 69.1 | 71.3 | 72.2 | 68.3 | -5.4 | -14.4 |
| 55 years and over | 32.5 | 33.4 | 34.3 | 29.8 | 32.4 | 34.5 | 33.2 | 34.8 | 34.4 | 35.4 | 35.4 | 37.3 | 34.4 | 31.7 | -7.8 | -6.5 |
| Men | 62.9 | 65.4 | 59.7 | 55.4 | 58.0 | 60.5 | 59.2 | 59.7 | 58.3 | 58.5 | 58.7 | 59.7 | 59.0 | 54.7 | -7.3 | -12.1 |
| 15-24 years | 50.9 | 55.3 | 47.8 | 44.6 | 47.1 | 47.5 | 49.5 | 51.8 | 51.5 | 48.4 | 50.1 | 48.6 | 52.8 | 44.9 | -15.0 | -9.3 |
| 25-54 years | 75.5 | 77.0 | 72.8 | 69.5 | 70.9 | 73.8 | 72.8 | 72.9 | 72.1 | 71.8 | 73.0 | 74.4 | 74.9 | 70.7 | -5.6 | -15.2 |
| 55 years and over | 38.7 | 38.5 | 36.9 | 29.7 | 37.0 | 41.2 | 34.8 | 37.0 | 35.3 | 39.7 | 36.4 | 40.1 | 36.2 | 36.8 | 1.7 | -6.8 |
| Women | 53.7 | 54.3 | 54.0 | 51.7 | 52.4 | 52.6 | 54.3 | 54.6 | 52.3 | 54.5 | 55.6 | 55.7 | 54.7 | 49.5 | -9.5 | -8.3 |
| 15-24 years | 48.7 | 50.8 | 45.1 | 45.8 | 47.1 | 43.9 | 49.0 | 49.1 | 48.2 | 50.0 | 49.7 | 49.3 | 49.1 | 44.4 | -9.6 | -11.0 |
| 25-54 years | 64.6 | 64.7 | 65.2 | 62.4 | 64.1 | 65.2 | 65.8 | 66.1 | 63.2 | 66.7 | 67.8 | 68.5 | 69.8 | 66.1 | -5.3 | -13.1 |
| 55 years and over | 27.3 | 29.4 | 31.8 | 29.9 | 28.3 | 28.6 | 31.7 | 32.8 | 33.7 | 31.3 | 34.4 | 34.6 | 32.8 | 26.8 | -18.3 | -6.6 |
| | Non-Aboriginals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | % Change 2020/2019 | |
| Both Sexes | 63.5 | 63.5 | 61.6 | 61.7 | 61.8 | 61.8 | 61.9 | 61.5 | 61.4 | 61.2 | 61.7 | 61.7 | 62.0 | 58.1 | -6.3 | |
| 15-24 years | 59.8 | 59.8 | 55.6 | 55.2 | 55.6 | 54.7 | 55.3 | 55.8 | 56.0 | 55.6 | 56.8 | 56.6 | 58.1 | 49.7 | -14.5 | |
| 25-54 years | 82.5 | 82.6 | 80.6 | 80.9 | 81.3 | 81.7 | 82.0 | 81.6 | 81.8 | 81.7 | 82.7 | 83.1 | 83.5 | 79.8 | -4.4 | |
| 55 years and over | 31.7 | 32.4 | 32.7 | 33.6 | 33.9 | 34.4 | 35.0 | 35.1 | 35.1 | 35.4 | 35.7 | 35.8 | 35.9 | 33.9 | -5.6 | |
| Men | 68.0 | 68.0 | 65.1 | 65.5 | 65.9 | 65.6 | 65.7 | 65.5 | 65.5 | 65.0 | 65.6 | 65.5 | 65.9 | 62.2 | -5.6 | |
| 15-24 years | 59.4 | 59.1 | 53.6 | 53.4 | 54.4 | 53.4 | 54.3 | 54.3 | 54.5 | 54.3 | 55.6 | 55.7 | 56.8 | 49.5 | -12.9 | |
| 25-54 years | 86.5 | 86.8 | 83.7 | 84.2 | 85.1 | 85.4 | 85.5 | 85.4 | 85.6 | 85.4 | 86.3 | 86.7 | 86.9 | 83.4 | -4.0 | |
| 55 years and over | 38.1 | 38.5 | 38.3 | 39.4 | 39.6 | 39.9 | 40.4 | 40.6 | 40.8 | 40.6 | 40.9 | 40.8 | 41.6 | 39.5 | -5.0 | |
| Women | 59.1 | 59.1 | 58.1 | 58.0 | 57.9 | 58.0 | 58.2 | 57.7 | 57.5 | 57.5 | 57.9 | 58.0 | 58.1 | 54.0 | -7.1 | |
| 15-24 years | 60.2 | 60.4 | 57.7 | 57.1 | 56.9 | 56.1 | 56.4 | 57.3 | 57.6 | 57.1 | 58.0 | 57.6 | 59.6 | 49.9 | -16.3 | |
| 25-54 years | 78.5 | 78.3 | 77.4 | 77.5 | 77.6 | 78.1 | 78.5 | 77.8 | 78.0 | 78.1 | 79.0 | 79.5 | 80.0 | 76.1 | -4.9 | |
| 55 years and over | 26.0 | 27.1 | 27.7 | 28.4 | 28.8 | 29.5 | 30.1 | 30.1 | 29.9 | 30.7 | 31.0 | 31.3 | 30.7 | 28.7 | -6.5 | |

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 4c1_abo_main_ANI.ivt

TABLE 4
Unemployment Rates by Age and Gender, Canada
Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves and Non-Aboriginals

| | Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | % Change 2020/2019 | 2020 % vs. Non- Aboriginal | | |
|-------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | | 2019 | 2020 |
| Both Sexes | 10.7 | 10.2 | 13.7 | 14.1 | 13.1 | 12.9 | 11.7 | 11.2 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 11.3 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 14.2 | 39.2 | 51.1 |
| 15-24 years | 16.9 | 15.1 | 22.5 | 21.1 | 19.7 | 21.3 | 17.8 | 16.7 | 18.8 | 19.0 | 17.4 | 17.2 | 16.6 | 22.2 | 33.7 | 11.0 |
| 25-54 years | 8.9 | 9.1 | 11.5 | 12.1 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 10.1 | 9.8 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 9.6 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 11.7 | 37.6 | 51.9 |
| 55 years and over | 8.4 | 6.3 | 10.4 | 11.7 | 11.3 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 9.6 | 10.3 | 7.7 | 8.7 | 13.8 | 58.6 | 76.9 |
| Men | 11.2 | 10.3 | 15.2 | 15.7 | 14.9 | 13.2 | 12.8 | 11.9 | 13.1 | 13.9 | 13.2 | 11.5 | 12.0 | 15.6 | 30.0 | 64.2 |
| 15-24 years | 18.5 | 16.5 | 24.3 | 24.5 | 23.1 | 21.0 | 19.3 | 17.6 | 19.5 | 21.5 | 20.2 | 19.4 | 17.5 | 24.3 | 38.9 | 18.0 |
| 25-54 years | 9.1 | 9.1 | 12.6 | 13.0 | 12.5 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 10.3 | 11.2 | 12.2 | 10.8 | 9.8 | 10.0 | 13.0 | 30.0 | 68.8 |
| 55 years and over | 9.6 | 0.0 | 13.3 | 14.5 | 12.5 | 10.5 | 11.0 | 9.6 | 11.5 | 10.7 | 13.7 | 8.7 | 11.6 | 15.0 | 29.3 | 89.9 |
| Women | 10.1 | 10.0 | 12.1 | 12.4 | 11.1 | 12.6 | 10.6 | 10.4 | 11.7 | 10.8 | 9.4 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 12.7 | 51.2 | 35.1 |
| 15-24 years | 15.3 | 13.9 | 20.6 | 17.8 | 16.1 | 21.7 | 16.4 | 15.7 | 18.0 | 16.6 | 14.5 | 14.8 | 15.5 | 20.0 | 29.0 | 3.1 |
| 25-54 years | 8.7 | 9.2 | 10.3 | 11.1 | 9.6 | 10.5 | 9.1 | 9.4 | 10.9 | 9.3 | 8.5 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 10.5 | 52.2 | 34.6 |
| 55 years and over | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | 9.2 | 9.8 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 5.6 | 8.3 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 5.8 | 12.2 | 110.3 | 58.4 |
| | Non-Aboriginals | | | | | | | | | | | | % Change 2020/2019 | | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | | |
| Both Sexes | 5.9 | 6.0 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 9.4 | 67.9 | |
| 15-24 years | 11.0 | 11.5 | 15.1 | 14.7 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 13.6 | 13.4 | 13.0 | 12.9 | 11.4 | 10.8 | 10.7 | 20.0 | 86.9 | |
| 25-54 years | 5.0 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 7.7 | 63.8 | |
| 55 years and over | 4.8 | 5.0 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 7.8 | 56.0 | |
| Men | 6.3 | 6.5 | 9.4 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 9.5 | 61.0 | |
| 15-24 years | 12.1 | 12.9 | 18.2 | 17.1 | 15.8 | 15.9 | 15.0 | 14.9 | 14.9 | 14.6 | 13.0 | 12.2 | 12.0 | 20.6 | 71.7 | |
| 25-54 years | 5.3 | 5.3 | 8.0 | 7.3 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 7.7 | 60.4 | |
| 55 years and over | 4.9 | 5.2 | 7.4 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 7.9 | 49.1 | |
| Women | 5.6 | 5.6 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 9.4 | 80.8 | |
| 15-24 years | 9.9 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 12.4 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 12.0 | 11.8 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 9.7 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 19.4 | 106.4 | |
| 25-54 years | 4.7 | 4.7 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 7.8 | 73.3 | |
| 55 years and over | 4.7 | 4.6 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 7.7 | 63.8 | |

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Aboriginal employment rates were British Columbia, with a rate of 53.8, a decrease of 12.8%; and Manitoba, with a rate of 53.5, a decrease of 4.8%. Quebec was the province with the lowest Aboriginal employment rate in 2020, at 46.7, a decline of 11.0 percent. Employment rates for Aboriginals in 2020 for the four western provinces were also the lowest since reporting started in 2007. In Quebec their employment rates were lower in 2015, 2010 and 2007, while in the Atlantic region they were lower in five previous years.

The provinces with the highest employment rates for non-Aboriginals were Saskatchewan, with 61.9; Alberta, with a rate of 61.0; and Manitoba, with a rate of 60.7. The lowest were the Atlantic Region at 53.1 and Ontario at 57.5. See Table 5.

EMPLOYMENT RATES BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Employment rates decreased for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals in 2020 regardless of educational level.

The employment rate is lower for Aboriginals; however, when examined by the level of education the rates are somewhat similar. In fact, the rate has been higher for Aboriginal high school graduates than for non-Aboriginal high school graduates every year since 2007, with the one exception of 2010. In 2020 it was 2.3% higher than for non-Aboriginals. For Aboriginals the employment rate ranged from 0.3% lower for those with less than high school to 4.4% lower for those with some post-secondary education.

The similarity of employment rates for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals when examined by educational level is consistent for the fourteen years for which the data is available. This is highly significant. It means that education is an important aspect in determining employment rates for both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. Further, the higher the level of “completed” education, the higher the employment rate. The reason “completed” is in quotes is that Aboriginals who attended some post-secondary but didn’t complete it have had lower employment rates than those who graduated from high school since 2007. This had been the case for non-Aboriginals from 2007 through 2014, but not since 2015. See Table 6.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The unemployment rates increased for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals in 2020 and did so for every educational level examined. The highest rates of unemployment are for those with less than a high school graduation. For Aboriginals with less than a high school graduation, their unemployment rate was 22.0 in 2020, while for non-Aboriginals it was 16.0. The lowest rates of unemployment in 2020 were for university graduates, with Aboriginals having a rate of 8.4 and non-Aboriginals 6.7. In 2020 Aboriginals with some post-secondary education had a lower rate of unemployment than non-Aboriginals with the same level of education. This was the only educational level at which Aboriginals had a lower rate of unemployment in 2020, and it was the only year from 2007 that the Aboriginal unemployment rate was lower for those with some post-secondary education. Aboriginals with less than high school, those who graduated high school, and those with post-secondary certificates or diplomas consistently had higher unemployment rates than similarly educated non-Aboriginals. Aboriginals with university degrees had lower unemployment rates in 2018, 2013, 2011, and 2009 than non-Aboriginals with university degrees. The equalizing effect of

TABLE 5
Employment Rates and Population 15 years and over by Province and Atlantic Region
Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves and Non-Aboriginals
 In thousands, except for rates

| | Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | | Rank by Employment Rate | % Change | |
|------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | | 2020 |
| Canada | 639.1 | 673.3 | 707.3 | 741.3 | 777.1 | 819.6 | 862.7 | 905.6 | 948.5 | 991.7 | 1033.5 | 1073.8 | 1114.3 | 1153.8 | | |
| Employment rate | 57.9 | 59.4 | 56.6 | 53.3 | 55.0 | 56.0 | 56.2 | 56.4 | 54.5 | 55.7 | 56.4 | 56.8 | 56.8 | 52.0 | | -8.5 |
| Atlantic Region | 40.1 | 44.6 | 49.0 | 53.5 | 58.2 | 64.1 | 70.0 | 75.9 | 81.8 | 87.5 | 91.9 | 95.8 | 99.4 | 103.0 | 5 | -0.4 |
| Employment rate | 51.3 | 53.8 | 52.9 | 50.0 | 53.8 | 53.6 | 53.7 | 51.9 | 55.2 | 49.1 | 51.2 | 54.5 | 52.3 | 52.1 | | |
| Quebec | 62.8 | 67.6 | 72.5 | 77.3 | 82.5 | 89.0 | 95.6 | 102.2 | 108.7 | 115.2 | 120.5 | 125.4 | 130.3 | 135.0 | 7 | -11.0 |
| Employment rate | 45.9 | 54.0 | 55.5 | 44.6 | 47.4 | 47.9 | 52.4 | 51.3 | 45.4 | 48.3 | 50.9 | 56.0 | 52.5 | 46.7 | | |
| Ontario | 159.8 | 169.3 | 178.8 | 188.2 | 198.0 | 209.1 | 220.3 | 231.5 | 242.7 | 253.9 | 264.6 | 274.9 | 285.4 | 295.8 | 5 | -7.3 |
| Employment rate | 57.5 | 57.4 | 54.8 | 49.4 | 54.0 | 55.8 | 51.9 | 55.4 | 52.9 | 54.7 | 54.5 | 56.2 | 56.2 | 52.1 | | |
| Manitoba | 87.0 | 89.7 | 92.4 | 95.1 | 98.1 | 102.3 | 106.5 | 110.7 | 114.9 | 119.2 | 123.9 | 128.1 | 132.4 | 136.4 | 2 | -4.8 |
| Employment rate | 59.4 | 61.5 | 61.6 | 58.6 | 59.1 | 57.7 | 57.5 | 56.1 | 56.3 | 55.8 | 56.4 | 57.6 | 56.2 | 53.5 | | |
| Saskatchewan | 65.4 | 67.4 | 69.4 | 71.3 | 73.5 | 76.1 | 78.8 | 81.4 | 84.1 | 86.9 | 89.9 | 93.0 | 96.0 | 99.0 | 3 | -0.8 |
| Employment rate | 56.2 | 56.3 | 54.4 | 53.7 | 55.6 | 55.5 | 58.1 | 55.5 | 55.5 | 55.0 | 53.6 | 53.2 | 52.9 | 52.5 | | |
| Alberta | 111.8 | 116.3 | 120.8 | 125.3 | 130.0 | 135.5 | 141.1 | 146.7 | 152.2 | 158.1 | 164.7 | 171.7 | 178.9 | 185.9 | 3 | -13.2 |
| Employment rate | 66.9 | 65.4 | 60.1 | 61.2 | 60.0 | 62.7 | 65.2 | 66.0 | 62.1 | 60.1 | 60.3 | 58.9 | 60.5 | 52.5 | | |
| British Columbia | 112.2 | 118.4 | 124.4 | 130.5 | 136.8 | 143.6 | 150.4 | 157.2 | 164.1 | 171.0 | 178.0 | 185.0 | 191.9 | 198.8 | 3 | -13.2 |
| Employment rate | 58.6 | 61.6 | 55.6 | 53.8 | 53.5 | 55.2 | 55.5 | 54.9 | 53.9 | 61.8 | 63.4 | 58.8 | 61.7 | 53.8 | 1 | -12.8 |
| Non-Aboriginals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | 25829.9 | 26157.9 | 26501.8 | 26835.5 | 27128.1 | 27412.0 | 27683.9 | 27938.3 | 28127.9 | 28394.4 | 28730.7 | 29146.7 | 29580.5 | 29898.8 | | |
| Population | 63.3 | 63.3 | 61.4 | 61.5 | 61.7 | 61.6 | 61.7 | 61.4 | 61.3 | 61.1 | 61.5 | 61.5 | 62.0 | 58.1 | | -6.3 |
| Employment rate | 1870.5 | 1874.8 | 1883.4 | 1893.9 | 1901.1 | 1901.5 | 1896.9 | 1892.6 | 1888.1 | 1893.3 | 1901.1 | 1910.4 | 1925.4 | 1936.0 | | |
| Atlantic Region | 57.0 | 57.4 | 56.5 | 56.6 | 56.7 | 57.0 | 57.0 | 56.4 | 55.9 | 55.5 | 55.1 | 55.3 | 55.8 | 53.1 | 7 | -4.8 |
| Population | 6240.0 | 6314.8 | 6394.6 | 6476.9 | 6544.1 | 6584.8 | 6612.7 | 6631.9 | 6641.3 | 6669.1 | 6722.5 | 6795.6 | 6870.3 | 6918.5 | | |
| Employment rate | 60.8 | 60.7 | 59.4 | 59.9 | 59.9 | 59.7 | 60.1 | 59.5 | 59.9 | 59.9 | 60.9 | 61.0 | 61.6 | 58.2 | 4 | -5.5 |
| Ontario | 10165.6 | 10280.9 | 10396.7 | 10526.2 | 10647.1 | 10760.8 | 10865.2 | 10956 | 11035.0 | 11168.0 | 11342.0 | 11552.8 | 11765.3 | 11921.9 | 6 | -6.2 |
| Population | 63.3 | 63.1 | 60.8 | 61.0 | 61.3 | 60.8 | 61.2 | 60.9 | 60.8 | 60.7 | 60.9 | 60.7 | 61.3 | 57.5 | | |
| Employment rate | 812.1 | 817.4 | 824.7 | 833.3 | 841.3 | 849.5 | 855.7 | 862.1 | 867.9 | 878.9 | 890.2 | 899.6 | 907.8 | 911.4 | | |
| Manitoba | 66.1 | 66.4 | 65.8 | 66.1 | 65.8 | 65.8 | 65.6 | 65 | 65.3 | 64.1 | 64.1 | 63.7 | 63.6 | 60.7 | 3 | -4.6 |
| Population | 693.9 | 705.0 | 717.3 | 729.3 | 739.1 | 749.2 | 757.9 | 764.6 | 767.4 | 773.0 | 779.1 | 783.6 | 787.8 | 789.1 | | |
| Employment rate | 67.1 | 67.5 | 67.4 | 67.2 | 66.7 | 67.1 | 67.8 | 67.6 | 67.0 | 65.8 | 65.2 | 65.0 | 65.8 | 61.9 | 1 | -5.9 |
| Alberta | 2666.7 | 2734.7 | 2800.4 | 2842.4 | 2884.6 | 2943.1 | 3017.4 | 3090.6 | 3132.2 | 3158.2 | 3185.7 | 3226.7 | 3275.5 | 3321.1 | | |
| Population | 71.5 | 72.1 | 69.7 | 68.4 | 69.8 | 70.3 | 69.8 | 69.2 | 68.6 | 66.4 | 66.5 | 66.9 | 66.2 | 61.0 | 2 | -7.9 |
| Employment rate | 3381.1 | 3430.3 | 3484.6 | 3533.5 | 3570.7 | 3623.2 | 3678.1 | 3740.5 | 3796.1 | 3853.8 | 3910.0 | 3978.1 | 4048.6 | 4100.8 | | |
| British Columbia | 63.2 | 63.1 | 60.7 | 60.7 | 60.1 | 60.5 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 60.1 | 60.9 | 62.4 | 62.3 | 62.9 | 58.0 | 5 | -7.8 |
| Population | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employment rate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Note: Table cells showing 0.0 refer to estimates that are suppressed (cannot be published) because they are below the confidentiality threshold. The LFS estimates are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling variability. As a result, monthly estimates will show more variability than trends observed over longer time periods. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries also have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Estimates quality" section of the publication Labour Force Information (Catalogue number71-001-X).

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 4cfl_abo_educ_AN1v1

TABLE 6
Employment Rates by Highest Level of Educational Attainment, Canada
Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves and Non-Aboriginals

| | Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | | % Change 2020/2019 | 2020 % vs. Non- Aboriginal | |
|--|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | | 2020 |
| Total, all education levels | 58.1 | 59.6 | 56.7 | 53.5 | 55.1 | 56.4 | 56.6 | 57.0 | 55.2 | 56.5 | 57.1 | 57.6 | 56.8 | 52.0 | -8.5 | -10.5 |
| Less than high school | 37.5 | 39.8 | 34.7 | 31.8 | 32.6 | 35.4 | 34.6 | 32.4 | 32.3 | 33.6 | 32.4 | 32.4 | 30.6 | 29.5 | -3.6 | -0.3 |
| High school graduate | 69.1 | 67.2 | 62.5 | 59.9 | 62.3 | 61.1 | 62.2 | 62.6 | 58.5 | 58.1 | 61.2 | 59.7 | 59.9 | 53.3 | -11.0 | 2.3 |
| Some post-secondary | 58.7 | 62.3 | 58.0 | 58.3 | 54.3 | 55.9 | 59.3 | 57.3 | 56.2 | 56.9 | 57.5 | 54.7 | 57.7 | 51.7 | -10.4 | -1.3 |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma* | 72.4 | 72.9 | 70.3 | 66.1 | 68.7 | 69.8 | 66.7 | 69.0 | 67.3 | 69.0 | 68.0 | 69.0 | 68.5 | 61.3 | -10.5 | -4.4 |
| University degree | 79.6 | 79.7 | 82.6 | 77.6 | 80.0 | 77.3 | 80.6 | 78.2 | 75.2 | 78.1 | 79.1 | 80.4 | 76.1 | 70.2 | -7.8 | -1.1 |
| | Non-Aboriginals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | % Change 2020/2019 | |
| Total, all education levels | 63.5 | 63.5 | 61.6 | 61.7 | 61.8 | 61.8 | 61.9 | 61.5 | 61.4 | 61.2 | 61.7 | 61.7 | 62.0 | 58.1 | -6.3 | |
| Less than high school | 36.9 | 37.1 | 34.2 | 33.7 | 33.6 | 33.3 | 33.2 | 32.8 | 32.3 | 32.0 | 32.8 | 32.8 | 33.1 | 29.6 | -10.6 | |
| High school graduate | 65.3 | 64.6 | 61.7 | 61.7 | 61.6 | 61.0 | 60.6 | 59.9 | 58.3 | 58.0 | 58.2 | 57.1 | 56.9 | 52.1 | -8.4 | |
| Some post-secondary | 64.3 | 64.5 | 60.9 | 60.9 | 60.6 | 60.6 | 59.9 | 58.9 | 58.7 | 58.2 | 58.9 | 58.3 | 59.0 | 52.4 | -11.2 | |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma* | 72.8 | 72.7 | 71.1 | 70.9 | 70.9 | 70.5 | 70.7 | 70.2 | 70.0 | 69.2 | 68.8 | 68.9 | 69.1 | 64.1 | -7.2 | |
| University degree | 76.7 | 76.2 | 75.6 | 75.2 | 74.6 | 74.7 | 74.5 | 73.9 | 74.3 | 73.8 | 74.4 | 73.9 | 73.7 | 71.0 | -3.7 | |

* Trade certificate or diploma from a vocational school or apprenticeship training, a non-university certificate or diploma from a community college, CEGEP or school of nursing, etc., or a university certificate below bachelor's level.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 4c1_abo_educ_AN.iyt

education that applied for employment rates does not apply for unemployment rates. See Table 7.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Average wages increased by 6.1% for Aboriginals and by 6.8% for non-Aboriginals in 2020. This is an unusually high level for wages to increase. The average annual increase from 2008–2020 was 3.2% for Aboriginals and 2.9% for non-Aboriginals. A possible explanation for these large increases is that if during the pandemic a greater number of lower wage earners were laid off, then the average wage rate of those still employed would be higher.

Wage rates on average have been consistently lower for Aboriginals than for non-Aboriginals. Overall wages for Aboriginals were 8.3% lower than for non-Aboriginals in 2020, which is a greater difference than the 7.7% gap in 2019. When wage rates are examined by educational level, we obtain further information. As completed levels of education increase, wages increase. This is the case for both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals, with one exception. That exception is Aboriginals without high school completion but with a post-secondary certificate or diploma earning more than similarly educated Aboriginals who graduated from high school, as shown in 2013, 2015, 2019 and 2020.

Aboriginals with less than high school graduation had an 8.0% higher wage rate than non-Aboriginals, while wage rates for high school graduates were the same. Aboriginals with a post-secondary certificate or diploma without completing high school had wage rates 11.0% higher, while wage rates were 0.6% higher for Aboriginals that had a post-secondary certificate or diploma and had completed high school. With regard to wage rates in 2020 for people with a Bachelor's degree and with advanced degrees, non-Aboriginals were 1.4% and 7.1%, respectively, higher than for Aboriginals. See Table 8.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The employment, participation, and unemployment rates for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals all significantly worsened in 2020. The unemployment rate was the highest and the participation and employment rates were the lowest since the reporting of these rates in 2007. All three rates have been consistently worse for Aboriginals.

Métis unemployment rates have been consistently lower, and their employment and participation rates have been consistently higher than for First Nations. In most years Métis' participation rates were higher than those of Inuit.

In 2020 the unemployment rates increased for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men and women in all three age groups. The employment rate decreased for all of them as well, except for Aboriginal men 55 years and over, which had a small increase.

The provinces with the highest Aboriginal employment rates were Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba. The Atlantic Region had the lowest Aboriginal employment rate, followed by Ontario.

Employment rates for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals are similar when examined by educational level. This is the case for the fourteen years for which the data is available. This is highly significant. It means that education is an important aspect in determining employment rates for both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. Nonetheless, unemployment rates for

TABLE 7
Unemployment Rates by Highest Level of Educational Attainment, Canada
Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves and Non-Aboriginals

| | Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | 2020 % vs. Non- Aboriginal | | | |
|--|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | 2019 | 2020 | |
| Total, all education levels | 10.7 | 10.2 | 13.7 | 14.1 | 13.1 | 12.9 | 11.7 | 11.2 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 11.3 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 14.2 | 39.2 | 51.1 |
| Less than high school | 17.0 | 16.2 | 23.2 | 24.0 | 22.7 | 21.7 | 19.6 | 20.7 | 22.8 | 22.4 | 19.7 | 18.9 | 19.1 | 22.0 | 15.2 | 37.5 |
| High school graduate | 9.0 | 8.8 | 13.3 | 14.1 | 13.0 | 13.3 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 12.4 | 13.1 | 11.5 | 10.8 | 11.3 | 16.7 | 47.8 | 40.3 |
| Some post-secondary | 10.6 | 10.8 | 14.2 | 12.7 | 14.7 | 14.1 | 12.2 | 12.1 | 13.0 | 12.3 | 13.9 | 13.1 | 11.7 | 14.2 | 21.4 | -7.8 |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma* | 8.5 | 7.5 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 9.2 | 9.0 | 9.8 | 8.1 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 11.8 | 59.5 | 43.9 |
| University degree | 5.0 | 5.9 | 3.6 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 6.2 | 3.9 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 3.5 | 5.5 | 8.4 | 52.7 | 25.4 |
| | Non-Aboriginals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | | |
| Total, all education levels | 5.9 | 6.0 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 9.4 | 67.9 | |
| Less than high school | 11.9 | 11.8 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 15.0 | 14.5 | 14.3 | 13.6 | 13.4 | 13.4 | 12.2 | 11.3 | 10.9 | 16.0 | 46.8 | |
| High school graduate | 6.0 | 6.3 | 9.1 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 11.9 | 75.0 | |
| Some post-secondary | 7.0 | 6.9 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 9.3 | 8.3 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 15.4 | 100.0 | |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma* | 4.8 | 4.8 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 8.2 | 78.3 | |
| University degree | 3.7 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 6.7 | 63.4 | |

* Trade certificate or diploma from a vocational school or apprenticeship training, a non-university certificate or diploma from a community college, CEGEP or school of nursing, etc. or a University certificate below bachelor's level.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 4c1_abo_educ_AN.iwt

TABLE 8
Average weekly earnings (current dollars) by highest level of educational attainment, Canada
Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves and Non-Aboriginals

| | Aboriginals Living Off of the Reserves | | | | | | | | | | | | | % Change 2020/2019 | 2020 % vs. Non- Aboriginal | |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | | 2020 |
| Total, all education levels | 665 | 715 | 726 | 743 | 760 | 796 | 816 | 832 | 861 | 855 | 881 | 907 | 937 | 994 | 6.1 | -8.3 |
| Less than high school | 522 | 553 | 550 | 571 | 575 | 606 | 609 | 615 | 634 | 622 | 661 | 711 | 698 | 733 | 5.0 | 8.0 |
| High school graduate | 623 | 651 | 664 | 672 | 672 | 717 | 737 | 721 | 775 | 772 | 769 | 787 | 824 | 871 | 5.7 | 0.0 |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma without high school completion | 705 | 747 | 770 | 802 | 850 | 827 | 915 | 892 | 979 | 847 | 946 | 882 | 1026 | 1113 | 8.4 | 11.0 |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma with high school completion | 769 | 834 | 808 | 825 | 852 | 891 | 908 | 941 | 962 | 942 | 983 | 991 | 1022 | 1081 | 5.7 | 0.6 |
| Bachelor's degree | 874 | 917 | 941 | 1033 | 1023 | 1053 | 1060 | 1063 | 1108 | 1135 | 1109 | 1195 | 1201 | 1267 | 5.5 | -1.4 |
| Above bachelor's degree | 1178 | 1176 | 1201 | 1219 | 1208 | 1208 | 1195 | 1353 | 1319 | 1299 | 1285 | 1304 | 1416 | 1407 | -0.7 | -7.1 |
| Non-Aboriginals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | % Change 2020/2019 | |
| Total, all education levels | 753 | 783 | 804 | 819 | 838 | 865 | 883 | 899 | 924 | 943 | 958 | 986 | 1015 | 1084 | 6.8 | |
| Less than high school | 488 | 504 | 514 | 532 | 543 | 570 | 577 | 587 | 596 | 599 | 604 | 620 | 633 | 679 | 7.3 | |
| High school graduate | 645 | 673 | 683 | 695 | 707 | 728 | 734 | 746 | 765 | 766 | 778 | 813 | 819 | 871 | 6.4 | |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma without high school completion* | 747 | 765 | 767 | 787 | 799 | 834 | 866 | 869 | 884 | 885 | 888 | 935 | 973 | 1002 | 3.0 | |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma with high school completion* | 786 | 814 | 835 | 848 | 867 | 885 | 905 | 924 | 945 | 953 | 970 | 996 | 1023 | 1074 | 5.0 | |
| Bachelor's degree | 959 | 997 | 1020 | 1024 | 1045 | 1067 | 1084 | 1102 | 1121 | 1144 | 1164 | 1185 | 1214 | 1285 | 5.9 | |
| Above bachelor's degree | 1145 | 1192 | 1203 | 1208 | 1230 | 1270 | 1295 | 1292 | 1314 | 1371 | 1373 | 1388 | 1435 | 1514 | 5.5 | |
| Average Annual % Increase 2008-2020 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percent average weekly earnings increase for Aboriginals | 7.5 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 4.8 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 3.5 | -0.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 6.1 | 3.2 | |
| Percent average weekly earnings increase for non-Aboriginals | 4.0 | 2.7 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 6.8 | 2.9 | |

* Trade certificate or diploma from a vocational school or apprenticeship training, a non-university certificate or diploma from a community college, CEGEP or school of nursing, etc. or a University certificate below bachelor's level.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 4ctl_abo_wage_AN.iiv

Aboriginals are substantially higher than for non-Aboriginals, regardless of educational level, with only a few exceptions since 2007.

Wage rates on average have been consistently lower for Aboriginals than for non-Aboriginals. Aboriginals' wages were 8.3% lower for non-Aboriginals in 2020, which compares to a 7.7% difference in 2019. Examining wage rates by the educational level obtained shows less of a difference in wages between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals except for those with a post-secondary certificate or diploma without high school completion. In that case wage rates were 11.0% higher for Aboriginals. Overall, those with lower levels of education have lower wage rates.

Education is critical — the higher the level of education completed, the higher the wage rates, the lower the rate of unemployment, and the higher the employment rates. This is the case for both Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. Education appears to be a key determinant of employment and higher wage rates.

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