



Canada Talent Market Monthly

May 9, 2025

Canada added 7,400 jobs as the unemployment rate ticked up to 6.9%.

The Canadian labour market held steady with 7,400 (–0.0%) jobs added in April, slightly outpacing economist expectations for a gain of 2,500.

The unemployment rate ticked up to 6.9%, topping economists’ expectation of 6.8%. The rate has returned to its level of November 2024, which was the highest since January 2017 (excluding 2020 and 2021, during the pandemic).

Public sector employment was up by 23K (+0.5%) and mostly associated with temporary hiring for the federal election. Employment in the private sector was little changed, following a decline in March (–48K; –0.3%). Self-employment was little changed for a third consecutive month.

Employment among core-aged (25 to 54) women fell by 60K (–0.9%), while it increased among those aged 55+ (+35K; +0.8%) and core-aged men (+24K; +0.3%).

Employment fell in manufacturing by –31K (–1.6%), with the largest decline in Ontario (–33K; –3.9%), as the industry continues to face uncertainty related to tariffs on exports to the US. This was the first significant decline since November 2024, though was little changed year-over-year. Employment also fell in wholesale and retail trade by 27K (–0.9%).

Employment increased in public administration (+37K; +3.0%), coinciding with temporary workers for the federal election, and in finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+24K; +1.6%).

Employment declined in Ontario (–35K; –0.4%) and Nova Scotia (–8.5K; –1.6%), while it rose in Quebec (+18K; +0.4%), Alberta (+15K; +0.6%), Manitoba (+5.7K; +0.8%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+3.8K; +1.6%). Employment was little changed in the other provinces.

Average hourly wages increased 3.4% (+\$1.20) to \$36.13 year-over-year, following growth of 3.6% in March.



EMPLOYMENT

▲ 7,400

IN APRIL



AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

▲ \$36.13

3.4% ABOVE APRIL 2024



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

▲ 6.9%

6.2% IN APRIL 2024

Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

