



Canada Talent Market Monthly

April 4, 2025

The Canadian labour lost 33,000 jobs and the unemployment ticked up to 6.7%.

Canada’s labour market lost 33K (–0.2%) jobs in March, the first loss since January 2022. The decline was driven by a loss of 62K (–0.4%) full-time jobs which was partially offset by gains of 29.5K (+0.8%) part-time jobs.

The employment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 60.9%, partially offsetting an increase of 0.3% observed from October 2024 to January 2025.

The unemployment ticked up to 6.7%, the first increase since November 2024. While still below the recent high of 6.9% in November, the rate has remained above the pre-pandemic average of 6.0% (from 2017 to 2019).

Private sector employment fell by 48K (–0.3%), year-over-year the sector was up by 175K (+1.3%). Public sector employment was little changed for a 3rd consecutive month and was up 92K (+2.1%) year-over-year. Self-employment was also little changed and was up 81K (+3.0%) year-over-year.

Employment among men aged 55+ fell by 21K (–0.9%), bringing the cumulative decline for the group to 47K (–1.9%) since the beginning of the year. Employment also edged down for core-aged men by 16K (–0.2%). There was little change for other major demographic groups.

Employment declined in wholesale and retail trade by 29K (–1.0%), following an increase of 51K in February, as well as in information, culture and recreation (–20K; –2.4%) and agriculture (–9.3K; –3.9%). There were gains in "other services" (+12K; +1.5%) and utilities (+4.2K; +2.8%).

Employment decreased in Ontario and Alberta by 28K (–0.3%) and 15K (–0.6%) respectively, while it increased in Saskatchewan by 6.6K (+1.1%). Employment was little changed in the other provinces.

Average hourly wages among employees were up 3.6% (+\$1.24) to \$36.05 year-over-year, following growth of 3.8% in February.



EMPLOYMENT

▼ 33,000

IN MARCH



AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

▲ \$36.05

3.6% ABOVE MARCH 2024



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

▲ 6.7%

6.1% IN MARCH 2024

Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

