



Canada Talent Market Monthly

August 8, 2025

Canada shed 41,000 jobs, partly offsetting earlier growth

The Canadian economy lost 41K (-0.2%) jobs in July, partly offsetting the increase of 83K in June. The decline was concentrated in full-time work (-51K; -0.3%).

The employment rate—the proportion of the population aged 15+ who are employed—fell by 0.2% to 60.7% and was down 0.4% from 61.1% in January and February.

The private sector fell by 39K (-0.3%), partly offsetting a cumulative gain of 107K in May and June. There was little change in the public sector and those self-employed.

The decline was concentrated among youth aged 15 to 24 (-34K; -1.2%), a group that has struggled to find work in the current economic climate. Their employment rate fell 0.7% to 53.6%, the lowest since November 1998 (excluding the pandemic) and their unemployment rate hit 14.6%, the highest rate for this group since September 2010, again excluding the pandemic. There was little change among those core-aged and aged 55+.

The unemployment rate held steady at 6.9% as the number of people looking for work or on temporary layoff was roughly unchanged from June.

Despite continued uncertainty related to tariffs and trade, the layoff rate was virtually unchanged at 1.1% from the same month a year ago (1.2%).

Of the 1.6M who were jobless, 23.8% were looking for work for 27 weeks or more. That’s the highest share of long-term unemployment since February 1998 (excluding the pandemic).

The sectors hit hardest included information, culture and recreation (-29K; -3.3%), construction (-22K; -1.3%) and business, building and other support services (-19K; -2.8%). Transportation and warehousing made gains with 26K (+2.4%), the first gain since January.

Employment declined in Alberta (-17K; -0.6%) and British Columbia (-16K; -0.5%), while it increased in Saskatchewan (+3.5K; +0.6%). There was little change in the other provinces.

Average hourly wages increased 3.3% (+\$1.17) to \$36.16 year-over-year.

Analysts were expecting the economy to add 13.5K jobs and that the unemployment rate would tick up to 7.0%.



EMPLOYMENT

▼ 40,800

IN JULY



AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

▲ \$36.16

3.3% ABOVE JULY 2024



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

= 6.9%

IN JULY 2024

Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

