

# Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

February 2026



April 24, 2026

**Background:** The Statistics Canada Employment Insurance Statistics are based on administrative data; the microdata on beneficiaries are collected and provided by Service Canada. The number of EI beneficiaries represents a count of persons who qualified for employment insurance benefits during the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually the week containing the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month. This survey is a census with a cross-sectional design. Data are collected for all units of the target population; therefore, no sampling is done.

The release of the data includes information on benefits paid, benefit weeks paid, claims received and allowed and the number of beneficiaries along with their characteristics such as age, and gender. For reference purposes, a regular beneficiary is an individual in receipt of employment insurance benefits in a month and is not currently in receipt of special benefits such as maternity, parental, or sick leave.

***The following information is a summary for data that is unadjusted for seasonality.*** Note on Seasonality: *The EI time series is subject to seasonal and/or calendar effects and is therefore seasonally adjusted. Seasonal effects are the monthly fluctuations which occur more or less regularly from year to year. They result from composite effects of climatic events, institutional decisions or modes of operation which occur repeatedly with some regularity within the year. Calendar effects are related to the composition of the calendar. They include trading-day effects associated with the location of the Labour Force Survey reference week, moving holiday effects associated with non-fixed date holidays such as Easter, and other predictable events from the calendar.*

## Employment Insurance- Brief

- The number of regular beneficiaries increased by 430 (+4.2%) when comparing February 2026 to February 2025 and stood at 10,550.
- Males represent 63.4% of the regular beneficiaries; there was a year over year increase and month over month decrease in all three age cohorts (15 to 24 years, 25 to 54 years, and 55 years and older).
- Of the 10,550 regular beneficiaries in February 2026, there were 9,540 who did not declare earnings, or alternatively, 1,010 (or 9.6% of the total) who did declare earnings. In February 2025, there were 960 (or 9.5%) of the total 9,540 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.
- In February 2026, there were 2,390 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 8,160 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.
- A year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+120 or +4.7%), Summerside Census agglomeration (+90 or 7.6%) and Outside census metropolitan areas (+210 or +3.3).
- February 2026 saw year over year increases in Kings County (+70), Queens County (+190), and Prince County (+160).
- In February 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (2,910) followed by Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (2,640) and Sales and service occupations (2,100).

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February 2026



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## Labour Market Context

The figures below are based on seasonally adjusted figures.

- Employment totaled 96,200 in February 2026, an increase of 700 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 2.8% higher than a year ago. There was a year-over-year increase in full-time employment (+700) and a year over year increase in part-time employment (+1,800).
- Unemployment totaled 7,500 in February 2026, a decrease of 400 persons from the prior month. There was a decrease of 500 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The unemployment rate increased from the previous month and was 7.2%. The rate was 0.7 of a percentage point lower than it was in February 2025 (7.9%).

# Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

February 2026



April 24, 2026

## Characteristics of Regular Beneficiaries (Seasonally Unadjusted)

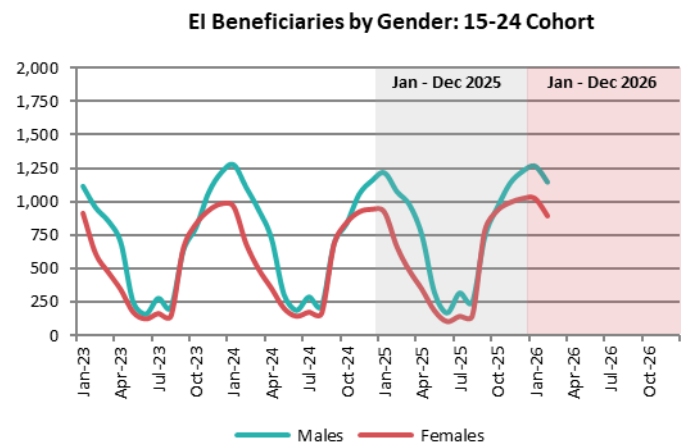
The number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in February 2026 was 10,550 of which 63.4% were males. The number of regular beneficiaries this month represents a decrease of 520 beneficiaries (-4.7%) in comparison to January 2026 and an increase of 430 beneficiaries (+4.2%) in comparison to February 2025.

- On a month-over-month basis there was a decrease in male beneficiaries (-230) and a decrease in female beneficiaries (-280).
- On a year-over-year basis there was an increase in male beneficiaries (+230) and an increase in female beneficiaries (+190).
- Of the 10,550 regular beneficiaries in February 2026, there were 9,540 who did not declare earnings or alternatively, 1,010 (or 9.6% of the total) who did declare earnings. In February 2025, there were 960 (or 9.5%) of the total 9,490 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.

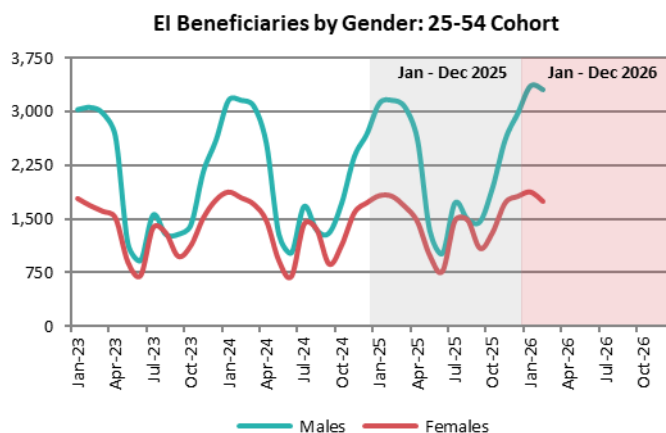
## Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		% Chg
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	1271	2165	1940	11.6%
Males	729	1210	1150	5.2%
Females	542	955	790	20.9%

There were 300 more regular beneficiaries year over year for this cohort. Males saw a year over year increase (+70) and sit at a total of 1,150 beneficiaries. Females saw a year over year increase of 230 to sit at a total of 890 beneficiaries. There was a decrease of 250 regular beneficiaries in a month over month comparison.



## Core-age Cohort (25-54 Years)



	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		% Chg
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	3509	5150	4965	3.7%
Males	2109	3335	3140	6.2%
Females	1400	1815	1825	-0.5%

In February 2026, male beneficiaries increased by 150 year-over-year, while female beneficiaries decreased by 70 during the same period. The total number of regular beneficiaries was 3,310 males and 1,750 females. When, compared to the previous month, female regular beneficiaries decreased by 130 and the figure for male regular beneficiaries decreased by 50.

# Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

February 2026

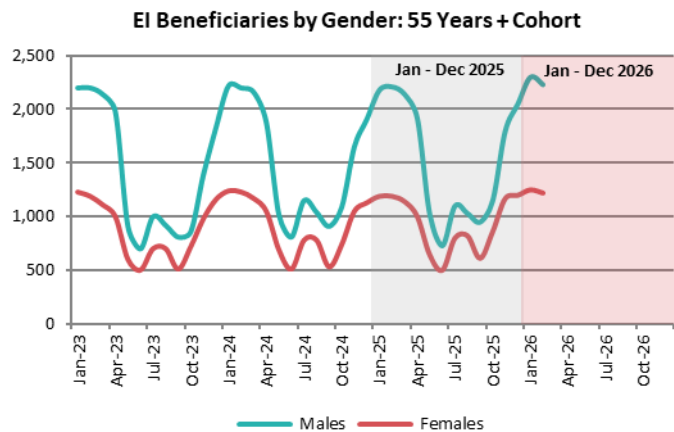


April 24, 2026

## Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

	Historical	Current Period		% Chg
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	2379	3495	3390	3.1%
Males	1479	2265	2195	3.2%
Females	901	1235	1190	3.8%

In the 55 and over age group, there was a year-over-year increase of 1.5%. Females (+30 or 2.5%) and males (+20 or 0.9%) saw increases in a year over year comparison. When comparing February 2026 to January 2026, males in this cohort decreased by 70 regular beneficiaries and while females (-30) also saw a decrease in regular beneficiaries.



## Employment Insurances Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits by Province (Seasonally Unadjusted)

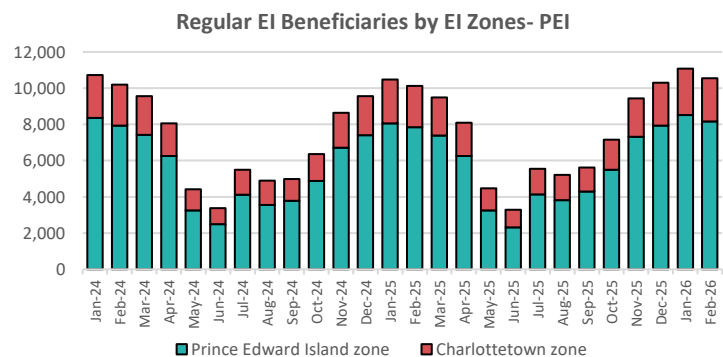
	Feb-26	Monthly Change	Annual Change	YTD Change
Canada	666,000	-3.3%	6.6%	8.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	34,430	-3.2%	-3.0%	-1.2%
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	<b>10,550</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
Nova Scotia	26,900	-3.6%	-4.9%	-1.5%
New Brunswick	32,320	-3.7%	-2.4%	0.1%
Quebec	161,220	-6.0%	2.1%	4.5%
Ontario	217,300	-1.8%	12.4%	13.3%
Manitoba	20,590	-2.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Saskatchewan	19,520	7.0%	9.8%	5.6%
Alberta	76,060	-1.4%	13.1%	14.1%
British Columbia	64,130	-6.3%	8.6%	11.9%

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0010-01 Employment insurance beneficiaries by age group, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

## Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by EI Zones

In February 2026, there were 2,390 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 8,160 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.

The Charlottetown zone had 110 more regular EI beneficiaries, and the PEI zone had 320 more EI regular beneficiaries in comparison to February 2025.



Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0346-01 Employment Insurance beneficiaries by employment insurance region, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

# Employment Insurance Summary

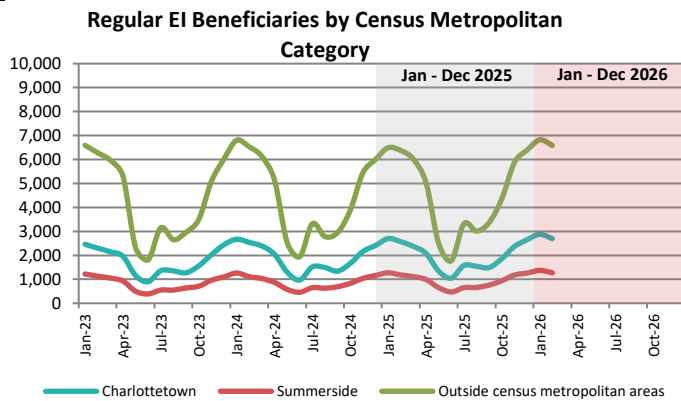
Prince Edward Island

February 2026



April 24, 2026

## Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by Census Metropolitan Category



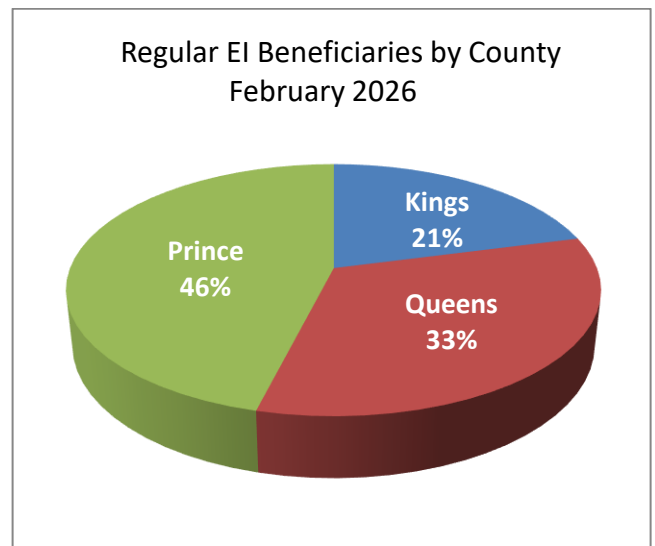
Category	Historical	Current Period		% Chg
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Charlottetown	1862	2785	2635	5.7%
Summerside	866	1320	1225	7.8%
Outside census metropolitan areas	4433	6700	6430	4.2%

Based on unadjusted data, a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+120 or +4.7%), Summerside Census agglomeration (+90 or +7.6%) and Outside Census Metropolitan areas (+210 or +3.3%).

Note: Table 14-10-0137-01 – Employment insurance beneficiaries (regular benefits) by census metropolitan category, monthly, seasonally adjusted.

## Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by County

- Based on unadjusted data there was a year over year increase (+430) in employment insurance beneficiaries. At the county level there was an increase in Kings (+70), Queens (+190), and Prince (+160) Counties.
- For the 15-24 age group, Kings (40), Queens (+50), and Prince (+200) Counties had an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries in a year over year comparison.
- For the 25-54 age group, Kings (+10) and Queens (+100), Counties had a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries. While Prince County (-20) had a year over year decrease in regular beneficiaries.
- For individuals aged 55 and over, a year over year comparison shows that Kings (+20) and Queens (+40), Counties had an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries during the same period. While Prince County (-10) had a year over year decrease in regular beneficiaries.



Kings County- 2,210 Regular Beneficiaries  
 Queens County- 3,480 Regular Beneficiaries  
 Prince County- 4,860 Regular Beneficiaries

Note: Table 14-10-0323-01 – Employment insurance beneficiaries by census division unadjusted for seasonally

# Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

February 2026



April 24, 2026

## Employment Insurances Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits by Occupation (Seasonally Unadjusted)

The table below displays the number of EI beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by occupational grouping.

- In February 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (2,910) followed by Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (2,640) and Sales and service occupations (2,100).
- There was a year over year decrease in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Occupations in manufacturing and utilities (-10).
- There was a year over year increase in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Business, finance, and administration occupations (10), Natural and applied sciences and related occupations (10), Health occupations (+40), Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (+50), Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport (+30), Sales and service occupations (+210), Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (+50), Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations (+10), and Unclassified occupations (+30).
- There was no change in the number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Management occupations in a year over year comparison.

Note: Any further details on occupational groupings may not be available due to data limitations.

**Table 3**  
**Employment Insurances Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits**  
**National Occupation Classification (NOC) Skill Type-Seasonally Unadjusted**

Historical 2023-25		Current Period				
		Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25	M-M	Y-Y
7,159	<b>All occupations</b>	<b>10,550</b>	<b>11,070</b>	<b>10,120</b>	<b>-520</b>	<b>430</b>
27	Management occupations	30	30	30	0	0
555	Business, finance and administration occupations	620	700	610	-80	10
288	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	440	460	430	-20	10
135	Health occupations	190	200	150	-10	40
414	Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	310	360	260	-50	50
116	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	160	170	130	-10	30
1,294	Sales and service occupations	2,100	2,280	1,890	-180	210
1,817	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	2,910	2,960	2,860	-50	50
1,733	Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	2,640	2,760	2,630	-120	10
766	Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	1,090	1,110	1,100	-20	-10
24	Unclassified occupations	50	40	20	10	30

Data source: Table 14-10-0336-01; "Historical 2022-24" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

# Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

February 2026

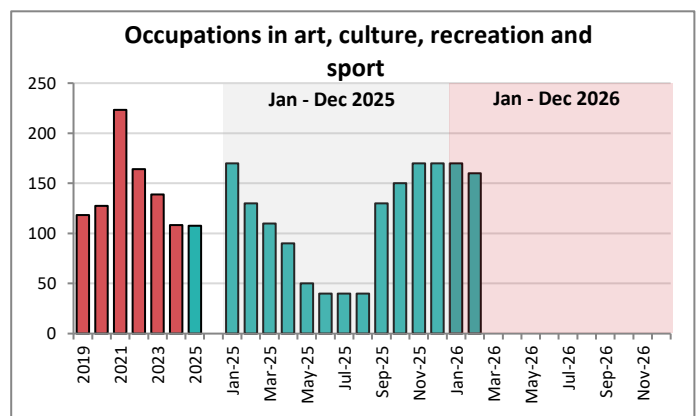
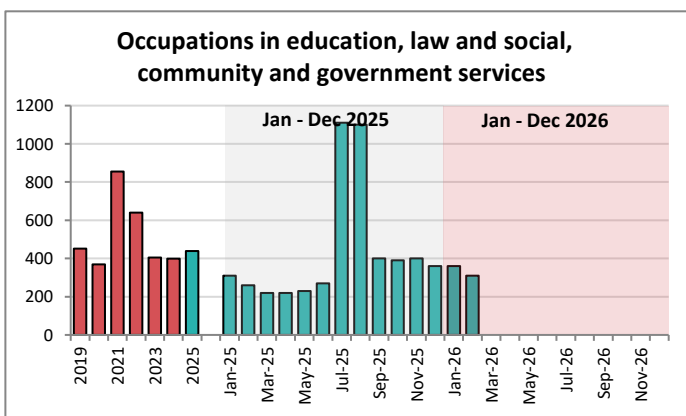
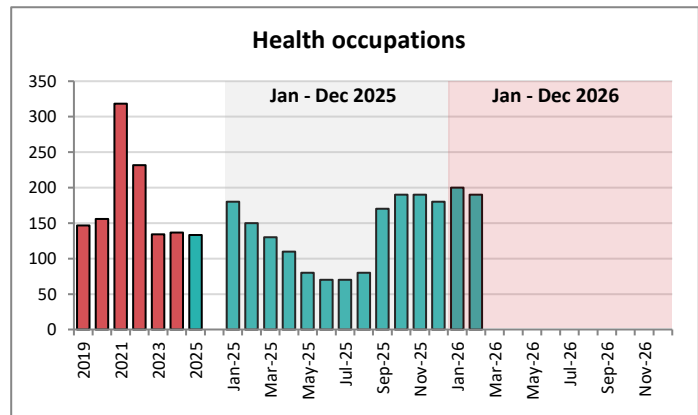
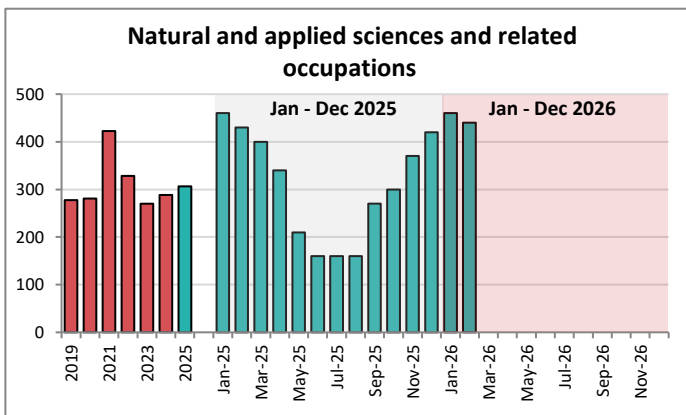
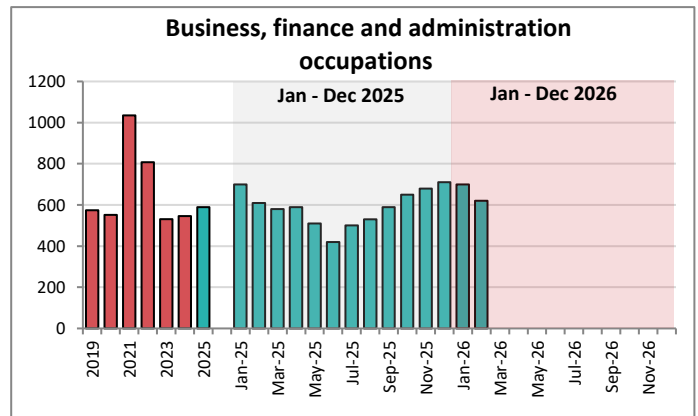
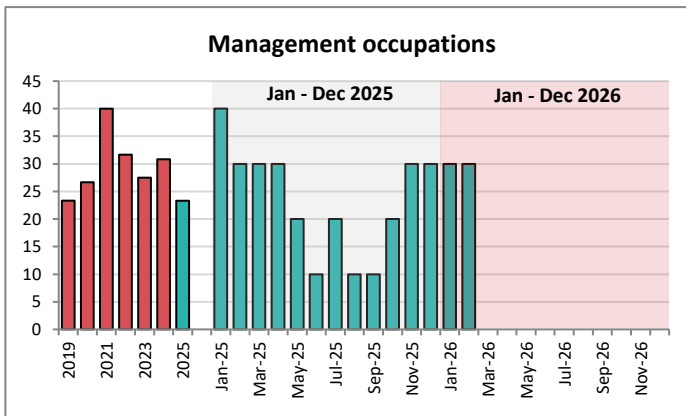


April 24, 2026

## EI Beneficiaries by NOC Skill Type Progress Report

EI Beneficiary data is released monthly. The purpose of this section is to track the progress of employment by industry with historical context. “Year-to-date” (YTD) compares average values of available months in 2026 to the same in 2025.

Graph interpretation: Annual – Historical perspective: 2019 – 2025  
 Monthly – Current perspective: 2025 - 2026 (YTD)



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