

# Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

March 2026



May 22, 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 880 (+9.3%) when comparing March 2026 to March 2025 and stood at 10,370.
- Males represent 63.1% of the regular beneficiaries; there was a year over year increase in all three age cohorts (15 to 24 years, 25 to 54 years and 55 years and older cohorts) and a month over month decrease in the 15 to 24 years cohort while the 25 to 54 years and 55 years and older cohorts saw month over month increases.
- Of the 10,370 regular beneficiaries in March 2026, there were 9,430 who did not declare earnings, or alternatively, 940 (or 9.1% of the total) who did declare earnings. In March 2025, there were 910 (or 9.6%) of the total 9,490 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.
- In March 2026, there were 2,380 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 7,990 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.
- A year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+320 or +13.5%), Summerside Census agglomeration (+100 or 9.0%) and Outside census metropolitan areas (+460 or +7.7%).
- March 2026 saw year over year increases in Kings County (+210), Queens County (+380), and Prince County (+290).
- In March 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 (2,500) and Sales and service occupations (1,860).

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## Labour Market Context

The figures below are based on seasonally adjusted figures.

- Employment totaled 96,000 in March 2026, a decrease of 200 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 (+200) and a year over year increase in part-time employment (+2,400).
- Unemployment totaled 7,600 in March 2026, an increase of 100 persons from the prior month. There was a decrease of 200 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The unemployment rate increased from the previous month and was 7.3%. The rate was 0.4 of a percentage point lower than it was in March 2025 (7.7%).

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## Characteristics of Regular Beneficiaries (Seasonally Unadjusted)

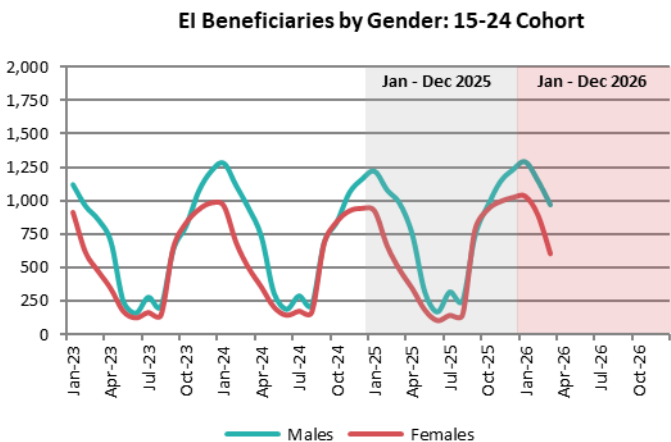
The number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in March 2026 was 10,370 of which 63.1% were males. The number of regular beneficiaries this month represents a decrease of 180 beneficiaries (-1.7%) in comparison to February 2026 and an increase of 880 beneficiaries (+9.3%) in comparison to March 2025.

- On a month-over-month basis there was a decrease in male beneficiaries (-150) and a decrease in female beneficiaries (-30).
- On a year-over-year basis there was an increase in male beneficiaries (+340) and an increase in female beneficiaries (+540).
- Of the 10,370 regular beneficiaries in March 2026, there were 9,430 who did not declare earnings or alternatively, 940 (or 9.1% of the total) who did declare earnings. In March 2025, there were 910 (or 9.6%) of the total 9,490 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.

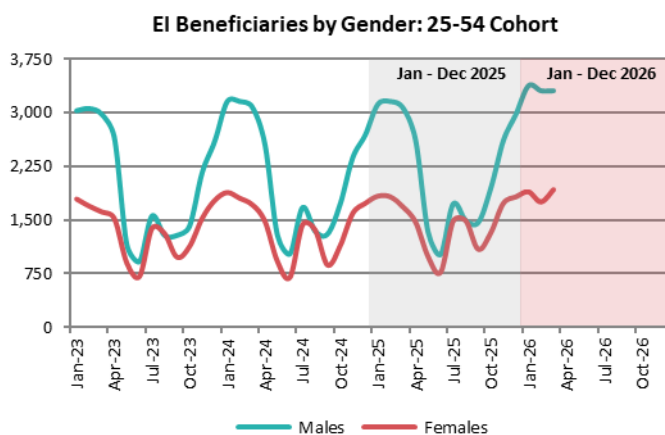
## Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		% Chg
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	1271	1977	1780	11.0%
Males	729	1137	1093	4.0%
Females	542	840	687	22.3%

There were 110 more regular beneficiaries year over year for this cohort. Males saw a year over year decrease (-10) and sit at a total of 970 beneficiaries. Females saw a year over year increase of 120 to sit at a total of 600 beneficiaries. There was a decrease of 470 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	5187	4893	6.0%
Males	2109	3333	3117	7.0%
Females	1400	1853	1777	4.3%

In March 2026, male beneficiaries increased by 240 year-over-year, while female beneficiaries increased by 240 during the same period. The total number of regular beneficiaries was 3,310 males and 1,920 females. When, compared to the previous month, female regular beneficiaries increased by 170 and the figure for male regular beneficiaries did not change.

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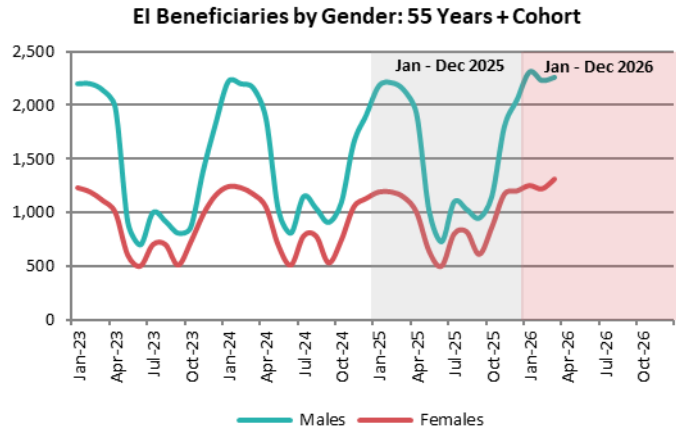


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## Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

	Historical	Current Period		% Chg
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	2379	3527	3353	5.2%
Males	1479	2267	2177	4.1%
Females	901	1260	1173	7.4%

In the 55 and over age group, there was a year-over-year increase of 8.8%. Females (+170 or 14.9%) and males (+120 or 5.6%) saw increases in a year over year comparison. When comparing March 2026 to February 2026, males in this cohort increased by 30 regular beneficiaries and while females (+90) also saw an increase in regular beneficiaries.



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

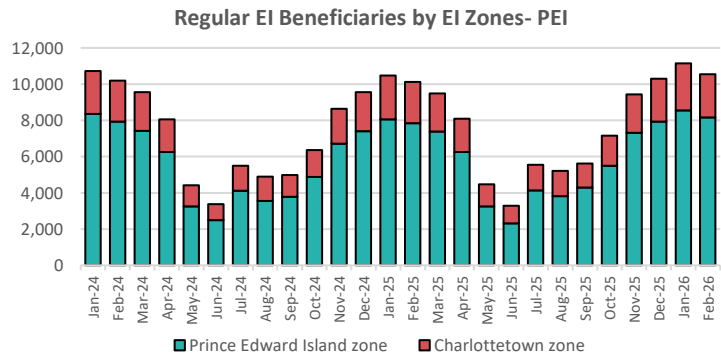
	Mar-26	Monthly Change	Annual Change	YTD Change
Canada	657,940	-1.2%	7.7%	8.6%
Newfoundland and Labrador	33,020	-4.1%	-3.6%	-1.8%
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Nova Scotia	27,540	2.4%	-3.0%	-1.6%
New Brunswick	31,100	-3.8%	-1.9%	-0.3%
Quebec	150,660	-6.6%	2.3%	4.3%
Ontario	230,400	6.0%	12.3%	13.6%
Manitoba	18,970	-7.9%	-0.4%	0.7%
Saskatchewan	16,620	-14.9%	-0.6%	4.1%
Alberta	71,980	-5.4%	12.5%	14.3%
British Columbia	64,370	0.4%	22.0%	15.9%

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 March 2026, there were 2,380 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 7,990 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.

The Charlottetown zone had 270 more regular EI beneficiaries, and the PEI zone had 610 more EI regular beneficiaries in comparison to March 2025.



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

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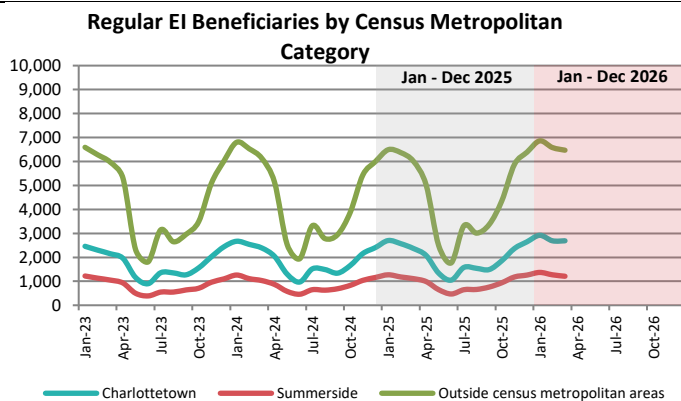
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## Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by Census Metropolitan Category



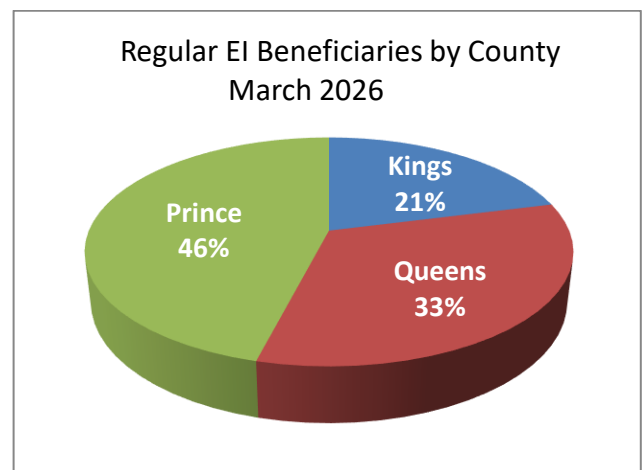
	Historical	Current Period		% Chg
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Charlottetown	1862	2767	2547	8.6%
Summerside	866	1283	1187	8.1%
Outside census metropolitan areas	4433	6637	6290	5.5%

Based on unadjusted data, a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+320 or +13.5%), Summerside Census agglomeration (+100 or +9.0%) and Outside Census Metropolitan areas (+460 or +7.7%).

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 (+880) in employment insurance beneficiaries. At the county level there was an increase in Kings (+210), Queens (+380), and Prince (+290) Counties.
- For the 15-24 age group, Kings (40) and Prince (+60) Counties had an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries in a year over year comparison. Queens County saw no change.
- For the 25-54 age group, Kings (+90), Queens (+220), and Prince (+170) Counties had a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries.
- For individuals aged 55 and over, a year over year comparison shows that Kings (+80), Queens (+160), and Prince (+60) Counties had an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries.



Kings County- 2,180 Regular Beneficiaries  
 Queens County- 3,420 Regular Beneficiaries  
 Prince County- 4,770 Regular Beneficiaries

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

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## 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 March 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 (2,500) and Sales and service occupations (1,860).
- There were no occupations that saw a year over year decrease in regular employment insurance beneficiaries.
- There was a year over year increase in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Business, finance, and administration occupations (50), Natural and applied sciences and related occupations (20), Health occupations (+20), Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (+400), Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport (+20), Sales and service occupations (+190), Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (+120), Occupations in manufacturing and utilities (+10), and Unclassified occupations (+50).
- There was no change in the number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Management occupations and Natural resources, agriculture and related production 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				
		Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	M-M	Y-Y
7,159	<b>All occupations</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>10,550</b>	<b>9,490</b>	<b>-180</b>	<b>880</b>
27	Management occupations	30	30	30	0	0
555	Business, finance and administration occupations	630	620	580	10	50
288	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	420	440	400	-20	20
135	Health occupations	150	190	130	-40	20
414	Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	620	310	220	310	400
116	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	130	160	110	-30	20
1,294	Sales and service occupations	1,860	2,100	1,670	-240	190
1,817	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	2,910	2,910	2,790	0	120
1,733	Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	2,500	2,640	2,500	-140	0
766	Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	1,050	1,090	1,040	-40	10
24	Unclassified occupations	80	50	30	30	50

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

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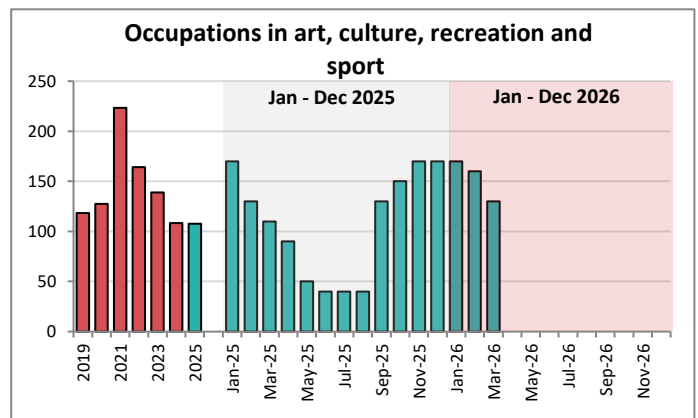
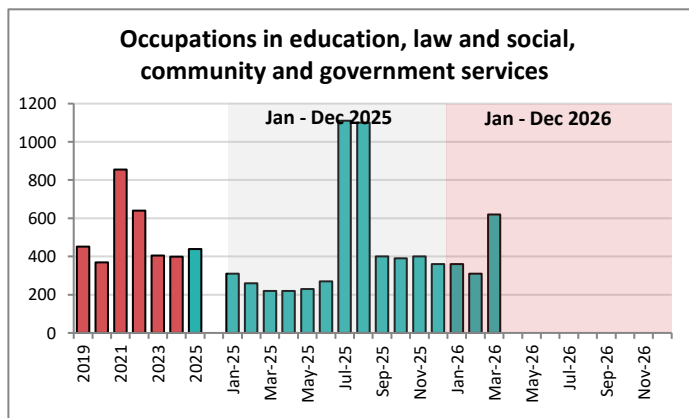
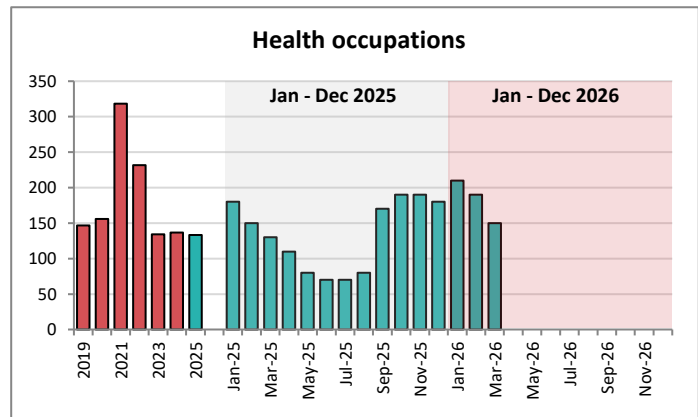
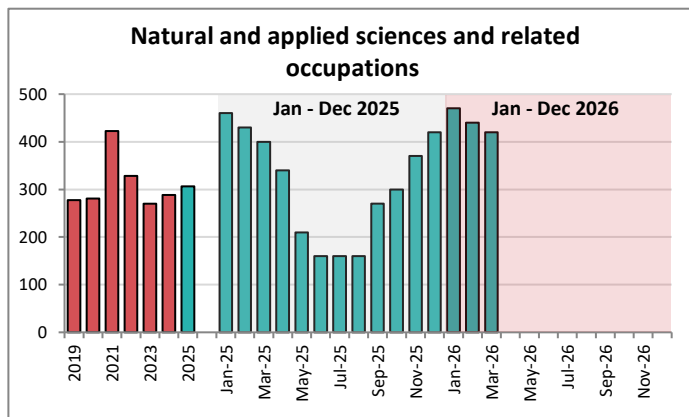
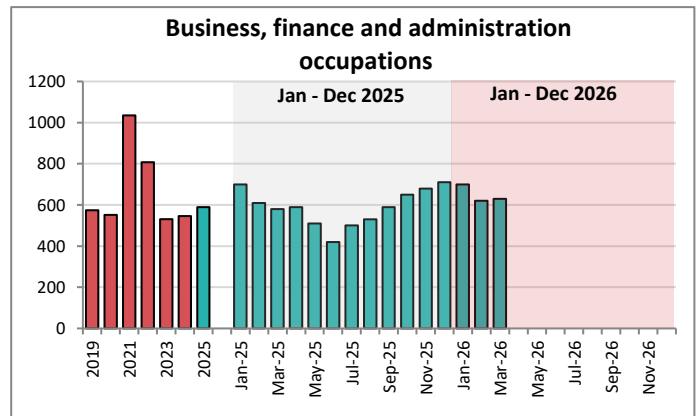
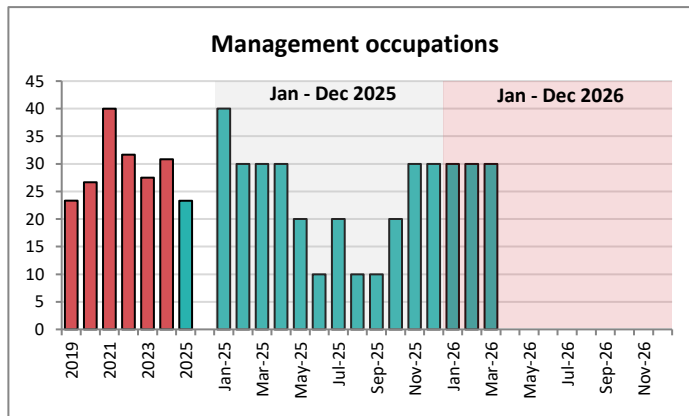


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## EI Beneficiaries by NOC Skill Type Progress Report

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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