

Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

April 2026



June 19, 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 15th 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 470 (+5.8%) when comparing April 2026 to April 2025 and stood at 8,570.
- Males represent 65.7% 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 all three age cohorts.
- Of the 8,570 regular beneficiaries in April 2026, there were 7,650 who did not declare earnings, or alternatively, 920 (or 10.7% of the total) who did declare earnings. In April 2025, there were 900 (or 11.1%) of the total 8,100 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.
- In April 2026, there were 2,000 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 6,570 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.
- A year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+160 or +7.7%), Summerside Census agglomeration (+10 or 1.0%) and Outside census metropolitan areas (+310 or +6.2%).
- April 2026 saw year over year increases in Kings County (+160), Queens County (+190), and Prince County (+130).
- In April 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (2,600) followed by Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (2,050) and Sales and service occupations (1,530).

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Labour Market Context

The figures below are based on seasonally adjusted figures.

- Employment totaled 95,500 in April 2026, a decrease of 500 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 2.0% higher than a year ago. There was a year-over-year increase in full-time employment (+1,800) and a year over year increase in part-time employment (+100).
- Unemployment totaled 8,300 in April 2026, an increase of 700 persons from the prior month. There was an increase of 1,300 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The unemployment rate increased from March 2026 and was 8.0%. The rate was 1.0 percentage point higher than it was in April 2025 (7.0%).

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Characteristics of Regular Beneficiaries (Seasonally Unadjusted)

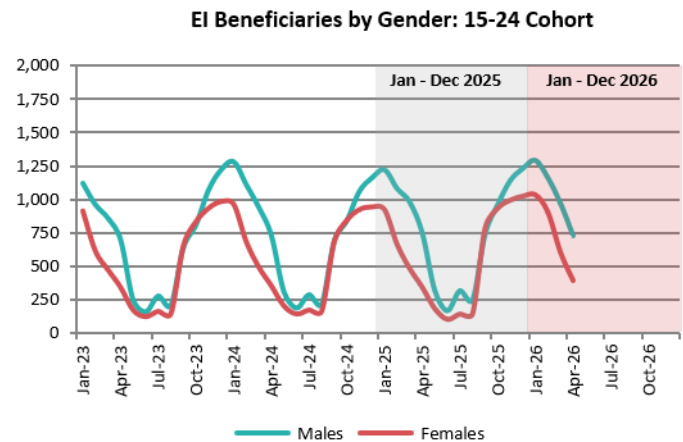
The number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in April 2026 was 8,570 of which 65.7% were males. The number of regular beneficiaries this month represents a decrease of 1,800 beneficiaries (-17.4%) in comparison to March 2026 and an increase of 470 beneficiaries (+5.8%) in comparison to April 2025.

- On a month-over-month basis there was a decrease in male beneficiaries (-910) and a decrease in female beneficiaries (-890).
- On a year-over-year basis there was an increase in male beneficiaries (+340) and an increase in female beneficiaries (+130).
- Of the 8,570 regular beneficiaries in April 2026, there were 7,650 who did not declare earnings or alternatively, 920 (or 10.7% of the total) who did declare earnings. In April 2025, there were 900 (or 11.1%) of the total 8,100 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.

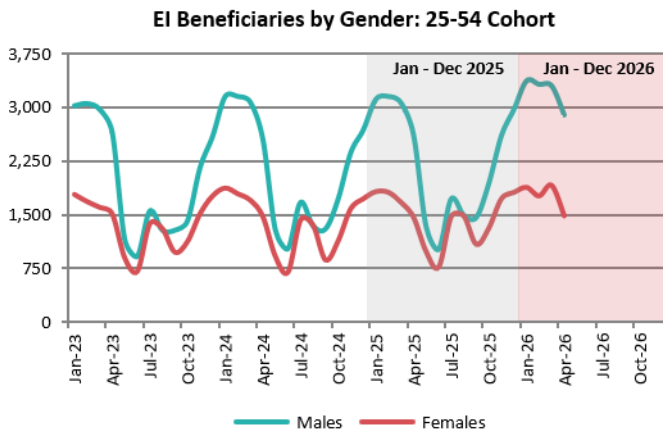
Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		% Chg
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	1271	1768	1608	10.0%
Males	729	1038	1008	3.0%
Females	542	730	600	21.7%

There were 30 more regular beneficiaries year over year for this cohort. Males saw a year over year decrease (-20) and sit at a total of 730 beneficiaries. Females saw a year over year increase of 50 to sit at a total of 390 beneficiaries. There was a decrease of 450 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	4998	4693	6.5%
Males	2109	3230	2993	7.9%
Females	1400	1768	1700	4.0%

In April 2026, male beneficiaries increased by 280 year-over-year, while female beneficiaries increased by 20 during the same period. The total number of regular beneficiaries was 2,900 males and 1,490 females. When, compared to the previous month, female regular beneficiaries decreased by 430 and the figure for male regular beneficiaries decreased by 410.

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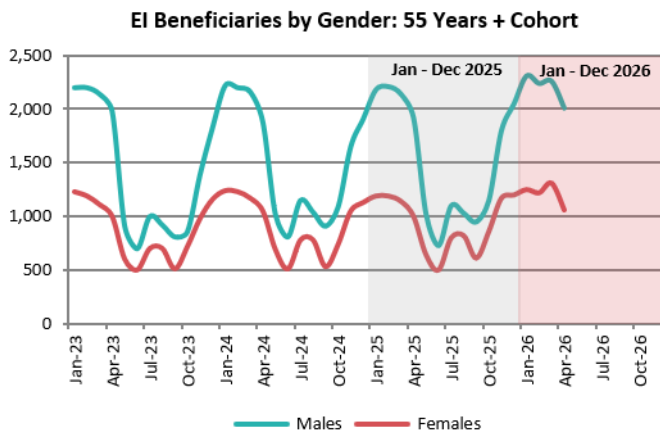


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Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

	Historical	Current Period		% Chg
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	2379	3415	3245	5.2%
Males	1479	2205	2113	4.4%
Females	901	1210	1130	7.1%

In the 55 and over age group, there was a year-over-year increase of 5.1%. Females (+60 or 6.0%) and males (+90 or 4.7%) saw increases in a year over year comparison. When comparing April 2026 to March 2026, males in this cohort decreased by 250 regular beneficiaries and while females (-250) also saw a decrease in regular beneficiaries.



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

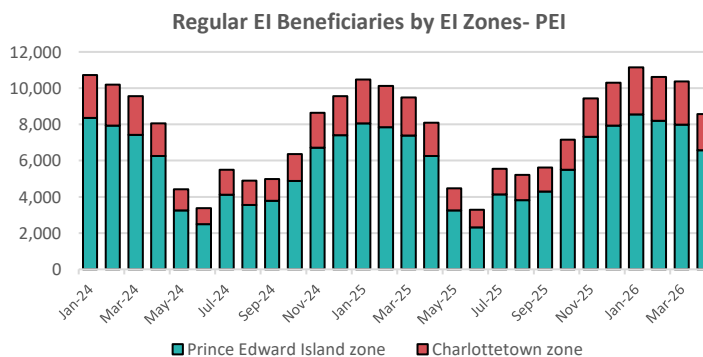
	Apr-26	Monthly Change	Annual Change	YTD Change
Canada	549,440	-16.5%	3.0%	7.7%
Newfoundland and Labrador	30,050	-9.0%	-0.3%	-1.3%
Prince Edward Island	8,570	-17.4%	5.8%	6.7%
Nova Scotia	21,010	-23.7%	-10.7%	-3.4%
New Brunswick	27,790	-10.6%	0.2%	0.0%
Quebec	125,010	-17.0%	0.5%	3.8%
Ontario	181,210	-21.3%	4.3%	11.9%
Manitoba	17,250	-9.1%	-1.4%	0.6%
Saskatchewan	14,950	-10.0%	-2.5%	3.0%
Alberta	65,950	-8.4%	10.0%	13.7%
British Columbia	54,840	-14.8%	7.0%	14.3%

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 April 2026, there were 2,000 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 6,570 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.

The Charlottetown zone had 160 more regular EI beneficiaries, and the PEI zone had 310 more EI regular beneficiaries in comparison to April 2025.



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

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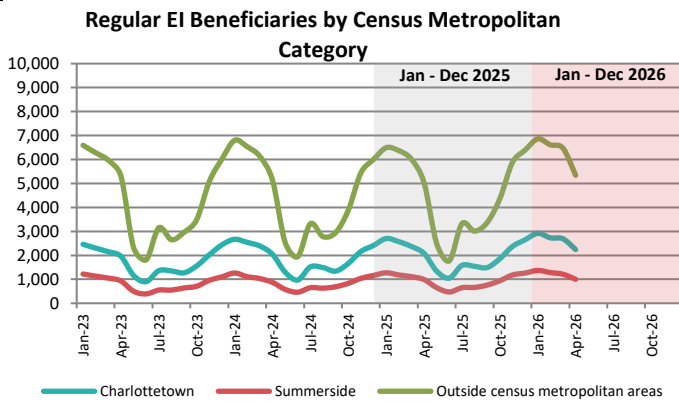
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Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by Census Metropolitan Category



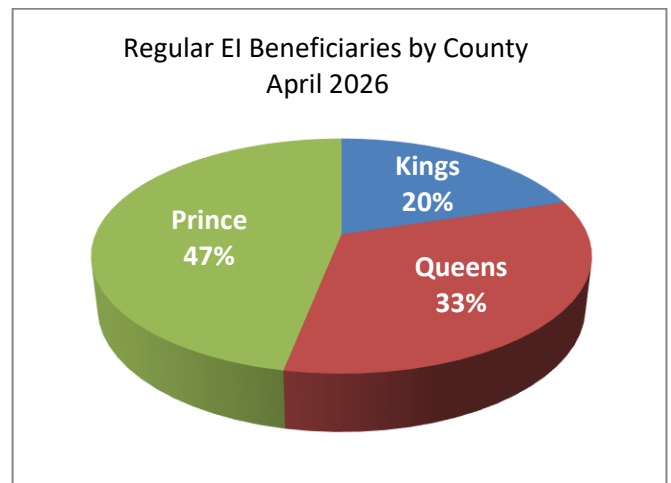
	Historical	Current Period		% Chg
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Charlottetown	1862	2645	2430	8.8%
Summerside	866	1215	1138	6.8%
Outside census metropolitan areas	4433	6320	5975	5.8%

Based on unadjusted data, a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+160 or +7.7%), Summerside Census agglomeration (+10 or +1.0%) and Outside Census Metropolitan areas (+310 or +6.2%).

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 (+470) in employment insurance beneficiaries. At the county level there was an increase in Kings (+160), Queens (+190), and Prince (+130) Counties.
- For the 15-24 age group, Kings (30) and Prince (+10) 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 (+70), Queens (+140), and Prince (+80) Counties had a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries.
- For individuals aged 55 and over, a year over year comparison shows that Kings (+70), Queens (+50), and Prince (+40) Counties had an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries.



Kings County- 1,730 Regular Beneficiaries
 Queens County- 2,820 Regular Beneficiaries
 Prince County- 4,020 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 April 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (2,600) followed by Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (2,050) and Sales and service occupations (1,530).
- There was a year over year decrease in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Business, finance, and administration occupations (-50).
- There was a year over year increase in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Natural and applied sciences and related occupations (+30), Health occupations (+10), Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (+40), Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport (+20), Sales and service occupations (+100), Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (+90), Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations (+120), Occupations in manufacturing and utilities (+90), 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				
		Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	M-M	Y-Y
7,159	All occupations	8,570	10,370	8,100	-1,800	470
27	Management occupations	30	30	30	0	0
555	Business, finance and administration occupations	540	630	590	-90	-50
288	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	370	420	340	-50	30
135	Health occupations	120	150	110	-30	10
414	Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	260	620	220	-360	40
116	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	110	130	90	-20	20
1,294	Sales and service occupations	1,530	1,860	1,430	-330	100
1,817	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	2,600	2,910	2,510	-310	90
1,733	Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	2,050	2,500	1,930	-450	120
766	Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	910	1,050	820	-140	90
24	Unclassified occupations	60	80	30	-20	30

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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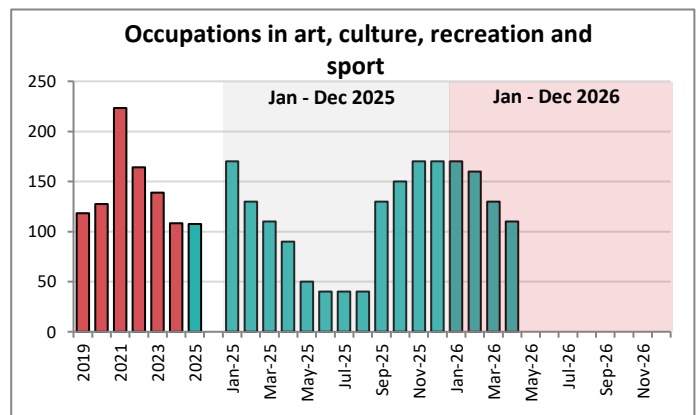
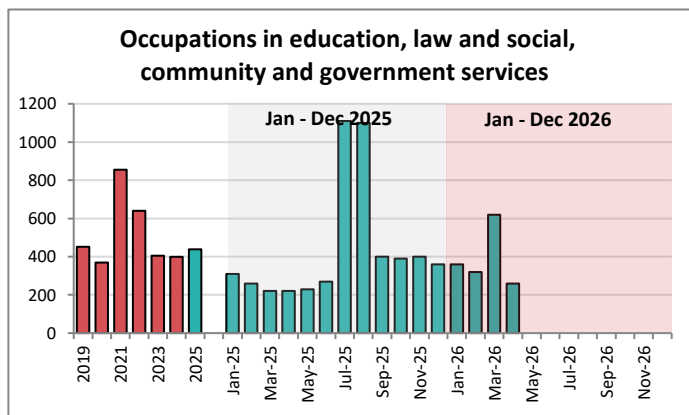
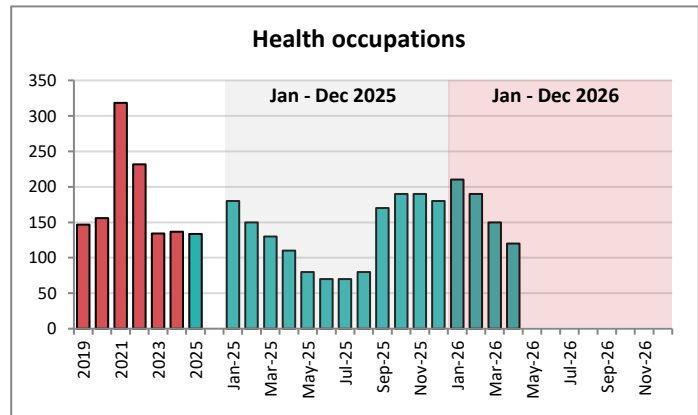
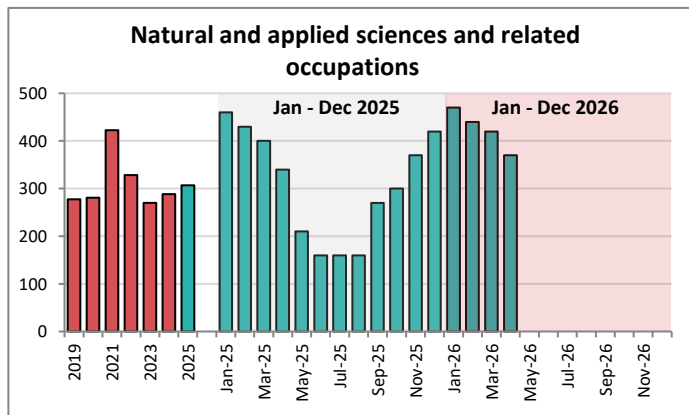
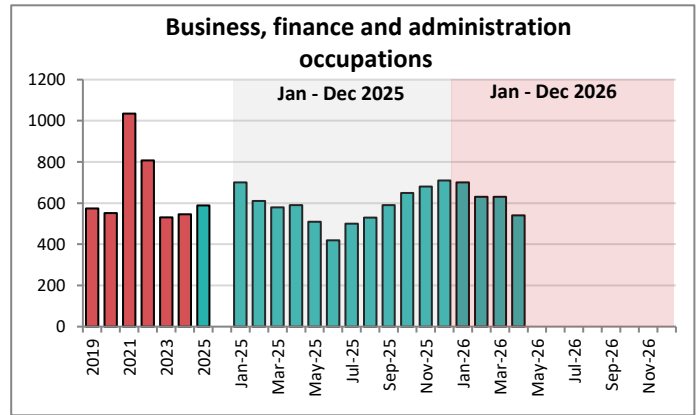
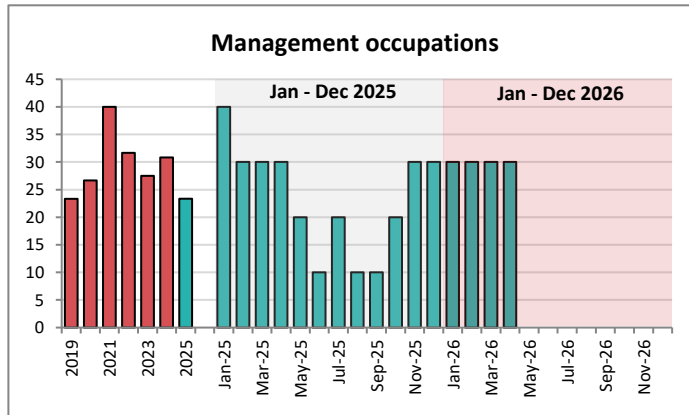


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EI Beneficiaries by NOC Skill Type Progress Report

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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