

Job vacancy rates unchanged for five consecutive quarters

The private sector job vacancy rate in Canada remained unchanged at 2.8% in 2026 Q1 (Figure 4), marking the fifth consecutive quarter at this level. Vacancy rates showed little to no change quarter-over-quarter across most provinces and sectors. Year-over-year variations were minimal—under 0.5% for all provinces, sectors, and business sizes, except for businesses employing 5 to 19 workers (-0.7).

Limited changes in vacancy rates across provinces

Most provinces recorded slight year-over-year declines in vacancy rates. Saskatchewan (+0.3), Quebec (+0.2), New Brunswick (+0.1), and Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.1) were the only provinces to post increases, and these gains remained modest.

Little changes in vacancy rates across sectors

Mirroring provincial trends, most industries experienced year-over-year stagnation or decline in vacancy rates. Only information, arts and recreation (+0.5), retail (+0.3), finance, insurance, and real estate (+0.1), and transportation (+0.1) registered annual increases.

Smaller businesses continue to report higher vacancy rates

On a yearly basis, businesses with 49 employees or less saw slight declines in vacancy rates, while those with 50 employees or more recorded small increases (Figure 6 and Table 3).

Sources

- (1) CFIB, Your Business Outlook Survey, January 2004-March 2026. Trended.
- (2) Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0398-01. Adjusted for seasonality.
- (3) Q/Q (3-month) and Y/Y (12-month) changes are in percentage points.

Figure 4 – Job vacancy rates by province, Canada^{1,2}

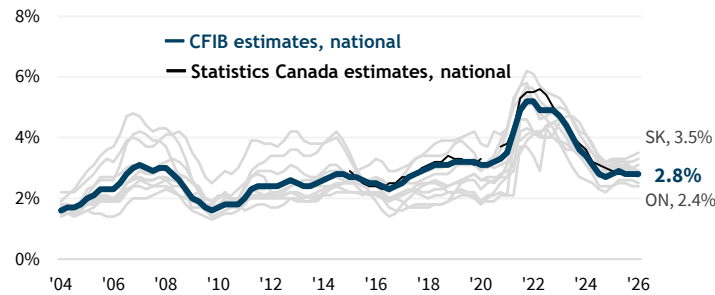


Figure 5 – Job vacancy rates by sector, Canada¹

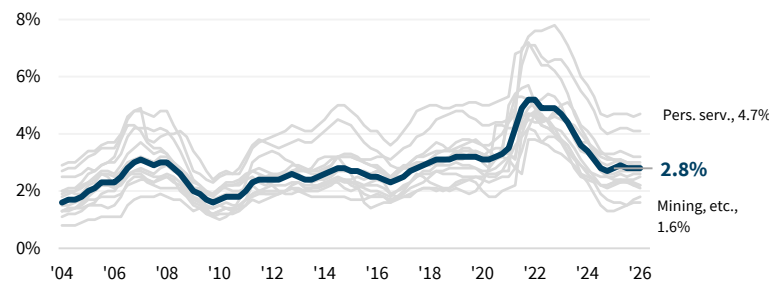


Figure 6 – Total vacancies, Canada (in thousands)¹

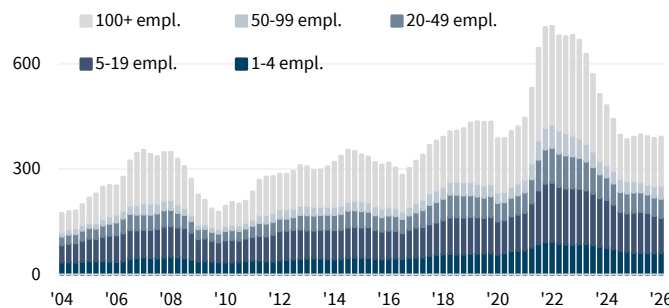


Table 3 – Private sector job vacancies, 2026 Q1

	Vacancy rate (%)	Q/Q change ³	Y/Y change ³	Total vacancies (n)
Canada	2.8	0.0	0.0	391,300
Saskatchewan	3.5	0.1	0.3	12,700
Quebec	3.3	0.1	0.2	102,300
New Brunswick	3.1	0.1	0.1	7,900
Prince Edward Island	2.9	-0.1	-0.4	1,500
Manitoba	2.9	-0.1	-0.1	13,500
Nova Scotia	2.8	0.0	-0.2	9,400
Alberta	2.8	-0.1	-0.2	49,600
British Columbia	2.7	-0.1	-0.2	53,800
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.5	-0.1	0.1	3,800
Ontario	2.4	0.0	0.0	136,800
Personal services	4.7	0.1	0.0	29,300
Construction	4.1	0.0	0.0	52,100
Professional services	3.2	0.0	-0.1	40,800
Agriculture	3.0	0.0	-0.1	5,300
Hospitality	2.9	0.0	-0.1	40,000
Health, education	2.8	0.0	-0.3	35,600
Transportation	2.7	0.0	0.1	20,400
Insurance, real estate, finance	2.6	0.0	0.1	30,300
Retail	2.5	0.1	0.3	50,500
Wholesale	2.2	-0.1	-0.1	18,500
Enterprise and management	2.2	0.0	-0.2	21,000
Manufacturing	2.1	-0.1	-0.2	33,300
Information, arts, recreation	1.8	0.1	0.5	10,700
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1.6	0.0	0.0	3,600
1-4 employees	5.5	-0.1	-0.1	60,400
5-19 employees	4.3	-0.3	-0.7	101,000
20-49 employees	2.9	0.0	-0.3	54,600
50-99 employees	2.5	0.3	0.3	36,900
100+ employees	1.9	0.0	0.2	138,400