

Private sector job vacancies | 2026 Q3



The private sector job vacancy rate in Canada decreased slightly to 2.6% in 2026 Q3 (Figure 7). Vacancy rates remained relatively stable across most provinces and sectors compared to the previous quarter. Year-over-year changes were generally modest, with most provinces, sectors and business size categories recording variations of less than one percentage point.

Vacancy rates continue to ease in most provinces

Prince Edward Island (-1.2), Saskatchewan (-0.5), and Manitoba (-0.4) experienced the largest year-over-year decreases in vacancy rates. Alberta (+0.1) and British Columbia (0.0) were the only province recording an increase or no changes (Figure 7 and Table 3).

Health and education posts the largest decline in vacancy rates

On a yearly basis, health and education (-0.8) other services (-0.5), and construction businesses (-0.5) recorded the largest declines in vacancy rates. Information, arts and recreation (+0.8), professional services (+0.1), accommodation and food services (+0.1), agriculture (+0.1), transportation and warehousing (+0.1), and enterprise management (+0.1) were the only sectors posting yearly increases in vacancy rates (Figure 8 and Table 3).

Small businesses lead the decline in vacancy rates

On a yearly basis, businesses with fewer than 20 employees recorded the largest declines in vacancy rates, while vacancy rates increased slightly among mid-sized businesses with fewer than 100 employees (Figure 9 and Table 3).

Sources

(1) CFIB, Your Business Outlook Survey, January 2004-September 2026. Trended. For more details, please visit our [interactive webpage](#).
(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 7 – Job vacancy rates by province, Canada^{1,2}

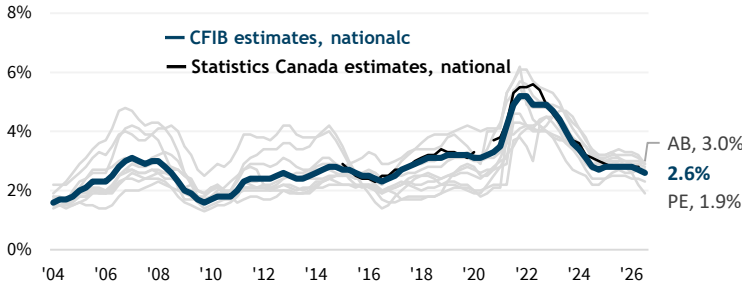


Figure 8 – Job vacancy rates by sector, Canada¹

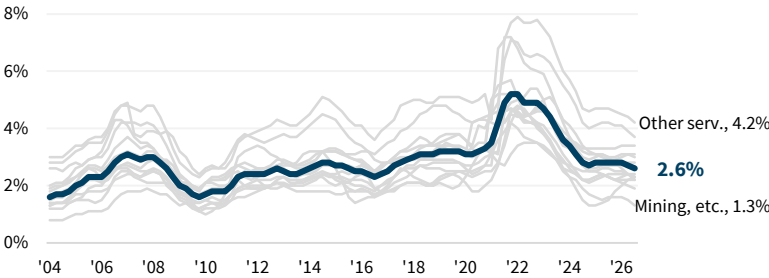


Figure 9 – Total vacancies, Canada (in thousands)¹

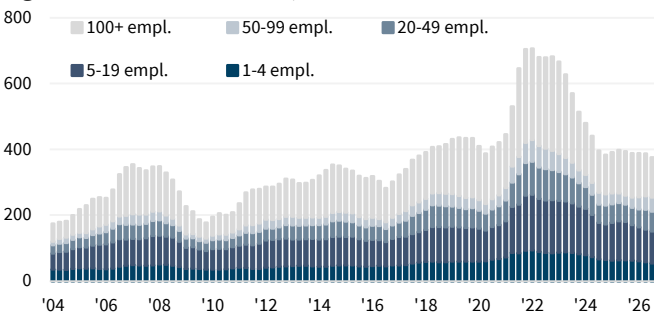


Table 3 – Private sector job vacancies, 2026 Q3

	Vacancy rate (%)	Q/Q change ³	Y/Y change ³	Total vacancies (n)
Canada	2.6	-0.1	-0.2	375,000
Alberta	3.0	0.1	0.1	53,300
New Brunswick	2.9	-0.1	-0.1	7,500
Quebec	2.9	-0.2	-0.3	89,200
Saskatchewan	2.9	-0.3	-0.5	10,900
British Columbia	2.8	-0.1	0.0	55,200
Nova Scotia	2.7	0.0	-0.2	9,000
Manitoba	2.7	-0.1	-0.4	12,500
Newfoundland & Labrador	2.6	-0.1	-0.1	4,000
Ontario	2.3	-0.1	-0.2	132,400
Prince Edward Island	1.9	-0.3	-1.2	1,000
Other Services	4.2	-0.2	-0.5	25,700
Construction	3.7	-0.2	-0.5	45,300
Professional Services	3.4	0.0	0.1	43,700
Accom. and Food Services	3.1	0.0	0.1	41,900
Agriculture	3.0	-0.1	0.1	5,000
Transportation and Warehousing	2.8	0.0	0.1	20,200
Enterprise Management	2.4	0.0	0.1	23,500
Retail	2.3	-0.1	-0.1	46,400
Info., Arts, Recreation	2.3	0.1	0.8	12,900
Ins., Real Estate, Fin.	2.3	-0.1	-0.3	26,200
Manufacturing	2.2	0.0	-0.1	35,600
Health and Education	2.2	-0.2	-0.8	29,300
Wholesale	1.9	-0.1	-0.4	16,300
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1.3	-0.2	-0.3	3,000
1-4 employees	4.9	-0.4	-0.9	53,200
5-19 employees	4.3	0.0	-0.7	97,600
20-49 employees	3.3	0.0	0.4	59,900
50-99 employees	2.9	0.1	1.0	42,600
100+ employees	1.6	-0.1	-0.2	121,600