

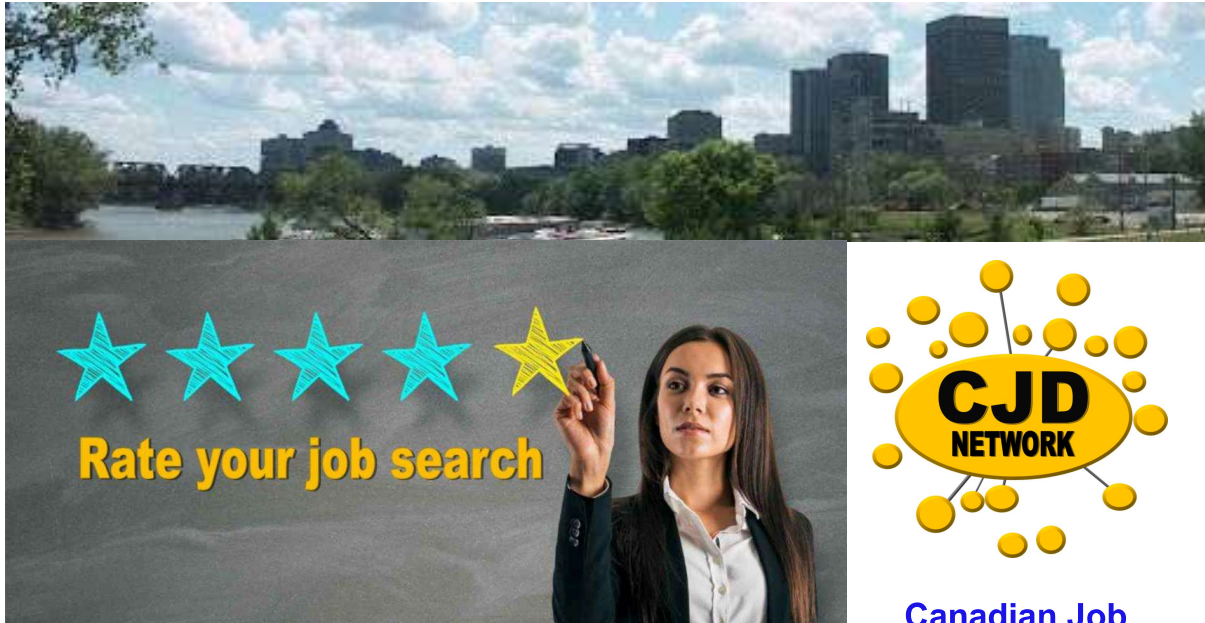
The Prairie Labour Market Report's

# Labour Market Hot Sheet

Click for a PDF Copy of the Report

JobDevelopment.org/PrairieLMR

May 7, 2026



## Manitobans more optimistic about the job search than those from Saskatchewan

Survey / Job Search Research

When asked 'how is their job search going?', 57 per cent of people in Manitoba who are job seeking or know someone close to them who is job seeking would describe it as 'Bad' (33%) or 'Terrible' (24%). By comparison, 78 per cent of those polled in Saskatchewan would describe their job search as 'Bad' (36%) and 'Terrible' (44%).

Just 12% of respondents in Saskatchewan described their job search as 'Good', while 23% of Manitobans described their job search as 'Good'. Virtually no respondents in either province were prepared to describe their job search as 'Great'.

These were just a few of the insights in a report released by the **Angus Reid Institute** which polled individuals throughout the country on the state of job search.

The survey found far more people are looking for work in Manitoba. Just three per cent of respondents in Saskatchewan

[Canadian Job Development Network](#)

**Creating job opportunities during the 'silver tsunami'**

This week for **#MotivatingMondays**, we looked at a huge transfer of business leadership coming soon. The average age of Canadian small business owners is approximately 53 to 54 years old, with a significant portion of entrepreneurs approaching retirement age. Data indicates that around 60 per cent of small and medium-

are looking for work right now, as opposed to nearly three times this number (9%) who are looking for work in Manitoba.

There seems to be a large portion of job seekers who identify as being unemployed but have no interest or ability to seek employment. This was six per cent of respondents in Saskatchewan and five per cent in Manitoba.

Across Canada, four-in-five Canadians who are either looking for a job, or have someone close to them who is, describe the current job market as “bad” or “terrible,” with just 13 per cent offering a positive assessment. Among job seekers, the most common frustrations reflect a lack of response from employers and a perceived shortage of available jobs in their area.

The top factors making job search difficult were identified as:

- *Not hearing back from jobs applied to (68%)*
- *Lack of available jobs to apply for in my area (66%)*
- *Not finding jobs that match skills or experience (43%)*
- *Not receiving offers after interviews (40%)*
- *Not finding jobs that meet pay expectations (39%)*

More key findings include:

- Just three-in-10 employed Canadians say they feel totally secure in their job, while 14 per cent feel insecure to some degree.
- The share of Canadians who say they are worse off than a year ago has fallen, but at 35 per cent remains roughly twice the proportion who say they are better off.
- The proportion who say housing costs are difficult to manage has dropped 13 points in under two years, from 44 to 31 per cent

Click here to review: [Spring Economic Update -- Job market woes test young workers as unemployment exposure tells a worrying story](#)



## Joint government effort raises early childhood educator wages

### Education / Wages

The **Governments of Canada and Manitoba** have announced continued support for early childhood educators (ECEs) with increased wages and operating funding for child-care facilities. The wage grid is a key pillar of Higher Wages, Good Jobs, More Child Care – *Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Workforce Strategy*. This wage grid increase builds on previous rounds of wage enhancements aimed at addressing longstanding compensation gaps in the early learning and child-care sector, the minister noted. The base operating increase provides facilities with additional resources to support day-to-day operations alongside staff compensation.

sized enterprise (SME) owners in Canada are aged 50 or older. Marketing a client to a 35 year-old business owner and a 60 year-old business owner is a different arrangement and we should be tailoring our approach as such.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[Read the May 4th Job Development Pulse](#)

[Watch it on Youtube](#)

We make these sessions available EVERY WEEK on **YouTube** and most podcast platforms for people who can't attend in person. This could be the perfect excuse not to go to your cousin's 'May the 4th be with you Barbecue'.

**Email:**

[csaintcyr@labourmarketsolutions.ca](mailto:csaintcyr@labourmarketsolutions.ca)

**Website:**

[www.JobDevelopment.org](http://www.JobDevelopment.org)

Next Topic:  
**Stocking the 'Employer Pipeline' for long-term success**

Join us  
Mon. May 11, 2026

[Start Your Free Membership in the CJDN](#)

The wage increase applies to ECEs, child-care assistants (CCAs) and home-based providers working in licensed and funded child-care facilities and homes. With Manitoba's largest historic wage increase last spring, the minister added that ECEs could see a wage increase of up to \$7.00 an hour retroactive to April 2024, depending on their certification level and the size of the child-care facility.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Prairie Labour  
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**Saskatchewan**

**Saskatchewan Invests \$3.5 Million  
in Regina and Saskatoon Trades  
and Skills Centres**  
**Skills Development / Training**

The **Government of Saskatchewan** has increased funding by \$534,000 to the Trades and Skills Centres in Saskatoon and Regina, bringing the total investment to \$3.5 million. This increase will fund three additional programs at both **Trades and Skills Centres**. The Regina and Saskatoon Trades and Skills Centres deliver short-term demand driven trades and skills programs that lead to entry-level jobs. These training centres work with employers and industry to provide hands-on training experiences that meet the needs of learners, employers and the labour market.

*"We are incredibly grateful for the Government of Saskatchewan's continued investment in Regina Trades and Skills Centre" RTSC Executive Director Brian Shankowsky said. "This funding allows us to expand our programming and respond directly to the needs of local employers, while giving more individuals the opportunity to gain meaningful, hands-on training. At RTSC, our focus is on helping people build confidence, develop skills and secure employment - and this support plays a key role in making that happen. This funding not only strengthens our capacity to move forward with confidence but also reinforces the importance of collaboration in building a stronger and more connected community. We are proud to be part of strengthening Saskatchewan's workforce and economy."*

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

**Major labour market stories from the past week**

**Breaking Labour Market News for Manitoba and Saskatchewan**

- Manitoba Economic Summit 2026: Building What's Next, Together ([Click Here](#))

- VR simulators give Regina residents a hands-on preview of future careers [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Ottawa's \$6B recruitment push not enough to get Manitobans into trades: colleges [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Saskatchewan invests \$37M in SARCAN recycling program [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Prairie Mountain Health Recruitment Successes [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Government plans to hire five new highway patrol officers in 2026-27 [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Beck says she misspoke on LNG for power generation, asks about coal refurbishment costs [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic supports Ukrainian women veterans' return to civilian life [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Manitoba Public Safety Institute recognizes public safety graduates across multiple programs [\(Click Here\)](#)
- \$3.5M boost to trades training targets Saskatchewan job demand [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Government of Canada investing in innovation ecosystems and AI to strengthen [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Medic Minute: Highlighting EMS careers for women and girls [\(Click Here\)](#)
- RRC Polytech closing programs, some permanently, 'to remain sustainable' [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Report urges Saskatchewan to close gaps in Indigenous economic participation [\(Click Here\)](#)
- New Supported Housing Initiative to Help Youth in Care Successfully Transition to Independence [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Economic Growth Cannot Be Built on Our Lands Without Us - Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Winners hiring points to new store in North Battleford [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Saskatchewan Employer Position Assessment (EPA) Pathway Unlocks New Opportunities [\(Click Here\)](#)
- STEM Days celebrates five years of hands-on learning and fun [\(Click Here\)](#)
- New Saskatoon housing program to support youth independence [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Saskatchewan needs a framework for Crown infrastructure deals [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Saskatchewan investing \$17.2M in First Nations alternative justice [\(Click Here\)](#)
- MGBHLM First Nation advances \$100 million casino and resort project in Saskatchewan [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Ottawa's \$6B recruitment push not enough to get Manitobans into trades: colleges [\(Click Here\)](#)

## This Week on LinkedIn

Please take the time to 'like' or follow:

[Prairie Labour Market Report on LinkedIn](#)  
[Christian Saint Cyr on LinkedIn](#)

Check out our new Podcast: [#MotivatingMondays](#) which looks exclusively at the Job Development Sector.

- Canada's unions gather in Winnipeg to set workers' agenda in uncertain times — The CLC's 31st constitutional convention [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Sask. NDP calls on province to ensure local workers benefit from infrastructure projects [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Mayor to join panel as Manitoba chambers meet in Steinbach [\(Click Here\)](#)
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic receives \$2-million from Saskatchewan Polytechnic Student Association towards new Joseph A. Remail Saskatoon Campus [\(Click Here\)](#)

On our social media feeds we only post labour market and job search information, research and the occasional ironic observation. You can trust our **LinkedIn** feeds. We carefully evaluate social media posts to see if they would be valuable to you.

We're not going to shock you with videos like: [Watch the moment a United plane crashes into a truck injuring the driver](#). *The driver's injuries were minor and no one on the plane was hurt, but the video is dramatic. If you slow it down, you can see the plane's wheels right behind the driver just before the plane hits the truck.*

Your time is valuable and we wouldn't want to waste it, follow us on [LinkedIn](#) :-)

## Community Calendar

### Career Development Events

#### #MotivatingMondays for Job Developers

**Monday May 11th at 9:30am Saskatchewan / 10:30 Manitoba**

**Topic: Stocking the 'Employer Pipeline' for long-term success**

*Hosted by the Canadian Job Development Network*

Free for All Attendees

*Start your free membership to get your weekly link*

For more info: [www.JobDevelopment.org](http://www.JobDevelopment.org)

## Job Postings

### Career Development Employment

To post a job here, please email: [admin@labourmarketsolutions.ca](mailto:admin@labourmarketsolutions.ca)

*(When you write your cover letter, please mention you saw this advertisement in the Prairie Labour Market Report)*

#### [Northern Workforce Development Centre Operations Coordinator](#)

University College of the North

Thompson, MB

Closes: May 20, 2026

#### [Lead - Co-op and WIL Programs](#)

University of Manitoba

Winnipeg, MB

Closes: May 12, 2026

#### [Employment Specialist](#)

Premier Personnel

Winnipeg, MB

Closes: Unknown

#### [Indigenous Women In Trades & Technology\\_\(WITT\)\\_Coordinator](#)

Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Prince Albert, SK

Closes: May 7, 2026

#### [Vocational Supports Supervisor](#)

DASCH INC

Winnipeg, MB

Closes: Unknown

#### [Direct Support Worker](#)

Transforming Supporting Empowering Networking (TSEN)

Winnipeg, MB

Closes: Unknown

## Did you know?

### Fascinating Facts

LinkedIn's hiring products using what is known as agentic AI are on track to generate \$450 million in sales in the coming year. The social media platform has 1 billion members and makes much of its revenue from selling tools to sales and recruiting professionals. They have launched two primary agentic AI products for recruiters, one for large businesses and one for small businesses. The systems work by having an AI agent take instructions from a human recruiter to understand what the recruiter is seeking and then sift through LinkedIn profiles to find the best ones for follow-up by the human recruiter.

- LinkedIn

## Quote of the Week

### Career Inspiration.

"You've got to love what you do. If you love it, you can overcome any handicap or the soreness or all the aches and pains, and continue to play for a long, long time".

- Gordie Howe

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