

The Prairie Labour Market Report's

Labour Market Hot Sheet

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FREE TRIAL, WEEK 3 OF 5

JobDevelopment.org/PrairieLMR

April 16, 2026



Get this kind of LMI every week

Welcome to Week 3 of our 5 week free trial of the **Praire Labour Market Report**. We still have two weeks to go, but if you would like to get this newsletter every week moving forward, **AND** a **10% discount**, let us know right away. A subscription is just **\$19.95 per month**, with discounts for quarter- and year-long subscriptions. [Click here to subscribe](#)

Sincerely, Christian Saint Cyr
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Publisher, Prairie Labour Market Report

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Canadian Job Market Booms In West, Slumps In East, Gap To Widen: BMO

Research / Geographic Variation

Canada's seemingly stable jobless rate is hiding widening disparities among cities (and provinces), according to **BMO Capital Markets**. The bank's latest Labour Market Performance Ranking shows job markets in Western Canada are largely improving, while Eastern Canada—Southern Ontario in particular—dominates among the worst-performing



[Canadian Job Development Network](#)

9 ways to turn LMI into employment outcomes

This week for **#MotivatingMondays**, we talked about how labour market

cities. The bank warns this divergence won't be resolved any time soon, and is expected to widen.

After the initial post-pandemic boom that saw growth across all provinces, regional divergences are returning, says BMO. The bank sees Western Canada continuing to grow in the near-term, with Alberta and Saskatchewan forecast for at least 2% real GDP growth, a benefit driven by soaring oil prices and weaker exposure to tariff uncertainties.

Eastern Canada's heavy exposure to a pricey housing downturn and population growth changes has turned into a slump. The bank is forecasting that real GDP in Ontario and Quebec will fall below the 1% national average. This has—and will continue to have—an impact on local job markets.

"In the job market, activity has seemingly gone quiet with employment growth up very modestly from a year ago and the jobless rate little changed. But there is churn below the surface, across industries, job types and regions. The latest Labour Force Survey results shine a clear light on the emerging regional cracks in the job market," explains BMO Senior Economist Robert Kavcic.

Resource-driven economies dominate the bank's list, largely located in the Prairies. Four out of five of the top-ranking cities are in Alberta and Saskatchewan: Calgary (#1), Saskatoon (#2), Edmonton (#3), and Regina (#4). Rounding out the list is Sudbury (#5), one of the few Ontario cities to rank towards the top of the list.

Winnipeg ranks in the middle of the pack in 16th place, but ahead of Vancouver (21st), Ottawa (23rd), Montreal (25th) and Victoria (26th).

That downturn is largely concentrated in real estate-heavy Southern Ontario. The province's cities occupy 7 of the bottom 10 cities, and include: Toronto (#27), Kitchener (#29), Barrie (#30), St. Catharines (#31), Windsor (#32), and London (#33). While London is last, it does top one list: at 9.1%, the city's unemployment rate is the highest of any city in Canada. That's nearly 1 in 10 workers unable to find a job.

Click here to access the: [BMO Regional Labour Market Report Card | April 10, 2026](#)

\$5,000 Incentive to Bring Trained Early Childhood Educators Back to the Sector **Education / Employment**

The Manitoba government is rolling out a new \$5,000 Recruit-Back Incentive aimed at bringing trained Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) back into the province's licensed non-profit child-care system. The program targets ECE II and ECE III-classified workers who have been out of the sector for at least two consecutive years and are prepared to return to full-time employment beginning June 1, 2025. Funding is

information can be valuable to job developers and other employer engagement professionals. LMI is very much an untapped resource of business and economic activity that leads to 'emerging job opportunities'. We discussed the importance of LMI and how critical it is to apply for jobs before the employer has even thought to place the advertisement.

IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT

[Read the Apr. 7th 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 a great diversion from the eternal question: why do some people get Easter Monday off and others have to work?

Email:

csaintcyr@labourmarketsolutions.ca

Website:

www.JobDevelopment.org

Next Topic:
Government pushes employers towards hiring youth

Join us
Mon. Apr. 13, 2026

[Start Your Free Membership in the](#)

Manitoba

provided through the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Prospective applicants must submit their Recruit-Back Incentive application by January 1, 2027. Those still seeking work can use the Manitoba Child Care Search tool to find openings in licensed non-profit centres and homes across the province.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

[CJDN](#)



Prairie Labour
Market Online

Saskatchewan

Federal investment boosts nuclear supply chain in Saskatchewan Utilities / Economic Development

The **Government of Canada** has announced \$625,100 in federal support for **Saskatchewan Industrial and Mining Suppliers' Association Inc.** (SIMSA), the **Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries** (OCNI), and **Southeast Techhub Incorporated** (SETH). This support will help advance nuclear supply chains in Saskatchewan. The **Government of Saskatchewan** is contributing \$286,000 through **Crown Investments Corporation**.

Saskatchewan's nuclear energy potential stems from its capacity in research, testing and natural resources, especially abundant, world-class uranium. The nuclear sector will create opportunities for businesses specializing in a range of activities—from SMR design and engineering to component manufacturing, plant construction and operations, and specialized services such as quality assurance and environmental management. Saskatchewan will need approximately 2,500 to 3,500 skilled workers, mostly in the trades, to build and operate nuclear power plants in the province. Additional jobs will be created in the nuclear supply chain across Saskatchewan.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

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Major labour market stories from the past week

Breaking Labour Market News for Manitoba and Saskatchewan

- Health-care recruitment forum leads to dozens of job opportunities, but workers say barriers remain ([Click Here](#))

- Macklin added to Saskatchewan incentive program aimed at recruiting health-care workers ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba adds nearly 11000 jobs in March ([Click Here](#))
- Sask. makes headway in ongoing struggle to recruit medical specialists ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba employers to be required to provide free menstrual products ([Click Here](#))
- Minister Re-Establishes Advisory Committee on Labour Relations and Workplace Safety ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba issues 32 Letters of Advice in first PNP draw of April ([Click Here](#))
- Next generation of agriculture leaders named in Saskatchewan Mentorship Program ([Click Here](#))
- Work permit freeze extended to Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Halifax ([Click Here](#))
- Nine More Saskatchewan Communities Now Eligible for Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba labour market sees gains ([Click Here](#))
- Life skills pilot program celebrates first graduating class ([Click Here](#))
- Why are nurses leaving Manitoba? New study looks into nurse retention ([Click Here](#))
- Moose Jaw takes centre stage as Sask Polytech event tackles future of Saskatchewan agriculture and supply chain ([Click Here](#))
- Province, feds pledge infrastructure funding to Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw ([Click Here](#))
- Revised data show jump in paramedic vacancies ([Click Here](#))
- Saskatchewan opens 2026-27 grant applications for veterans service clubs ([Click Here](#))
- Saskatchewan expands incentive program aimed at filling rural health-care jobs ([Click Here](#))
- Steinbach Fire Department highlights strong team dynamic while recruiting members ([Click Here](#))
- Canada and Saskatchewan invest in water and wastewater infrastructure to support more housing across the province ([Click Here](#))
- Saskatchewan's Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship Program announces participants ([Click Here](#))
- We need more skilled workers and we need them faster ([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.

- Much more promised as federal fund delivers on three Saskatchewan projects ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba to require hot water for handwashing at large construction sites ([Click Here](#))
- Regina program helps young men build new lives outside the justice system ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba Government Invests \$2.5 Million to Advance New Mining and Critical Mineral Opportunities ([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 don't want to waste your time. For instance, we're not going to post articles like: ['Giddy teenagers,' Justin Trudeau and Katy Perry go viral at Coachella after dancing to Justin Bieber](#). *Is it just me or does that headline look like something you would get in a game of Mad Libs?*

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

Community Calendar

Career Development Events

Prairie Strong: 16 ways trade is changing our labour market

The 2026 Prairie Labour Market Conference, LMC26

June 11th and 12th, 2026

30% Discount for Registrations Received by May 14, 2026

Hosted online by the Prairie Labour Market Report

Learn More: [Conference Website](#) | [Information Sheet](#) | [Registration](#)

#MotivatingMondays for Job Developers

Monday April 20th at 9:30am Saskatchewan / 10:30 Manitoba

Topic: Employers share the workplace skills they most want

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

Job Postings

Career Development Employment

To post a job here, please email: admin@labourmarketsolutions.ca

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

[Manager, Contact Centre](#)

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training

Regina, SK

Closes: Apr. 24, 2026

[Instructor, Essential Skills Development](#)

Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Saskatoon, SK

Closes: Unknown

[Independent Living Transition Facilitator/Family Enhancement Facilitator](#)

Marymound Inc.

Winnipeg, MB

Closes: Unknown

[Independent Living Transition Facilitator/Family Enhancement Facilitator](#)

Marymound Inc.

Winnipeg, MB

Closes: Unknown

[Direct Support Staff – Employment Services/Diversity Works](#)

WASO Inc

Winnipeg, MB
Closes: Unknown

[Employment Assistance Service Coordinator](#)

Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre Inc.
Flin Flon, MB
Closes: Unknown

[Job Developer & Employment Liaison](#)

Regina Open Door Society
Regina, SK
Closes: Unknown

[Employment Coordinator, Connections to Employment](#)

Inclusion Selkirk
Selkirk, MB
Closes: Unknown

Did you know?

Fascinating Facts

According to the March 2026 Labour Force Survey, the youth unemployment rate is 13.8%. Across the country, two out of every five job seekers are between the ages of 15 and 24.

- Statistics Canada

Quote of the Week

Career Inspiration

"That worried me early on in my career - that I would change. If I went to New York or Los Angeles that I would become somebody I wouldn't like. That person that gets a big head and starts thinking they're more special than anyone else.
I never wanted to be that person."

- Anne Murray

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