

# NEWS BULLETIN

Updates from the Commissioner for Employers

## Announcements

### 1 **Employment Insurance Monitoring and Assessment Report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025**

The 2024-25 EI Monitoring and Assessment Report has been tabled in Parliament and is now available online through the following [link](#)

#### Some highlights:

- The average duration of being unemployed increased by approximately 3 weeks, and the share of long-term unemployment rose to 10.9% in 2024-25 compared to 8.0% in the previous fiscal year.
- Job vacancies and job vacancy rates continued to decrease between the last quarters of 2023-24 and 2024-25, while the unemployment-vacancy ratio increased steadily, further indicating looser labour market conditions.
- The number of new EI claims established for regular benefits slightly increased in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24, while the amount paid for these benefits increased significantly.
- The number of Work-Sharing agreements and of new Work-Sharing claims established in 2024-25 increased compared to 2023-24.
- The number of new claims established for EI special benefits and the total amount paid for these benefits increased in 2024-25.
- In 2024-25, Labour Market Development Agreements (LMDAs) continued to support workers and employers across Canada in obtaining skills training and employment support services.
- 2024-25 marked the end of 7 years of temporary additional LMDA investments. In 2024-25, EI Part II delivered nearly 848,000 Employment Benefits and Support Measures (EBSM) services—2.7% fewer than the roughly 872,000 provided the previous year, and supported more than 502,000 clients across the country. Total LMDA investments reached \$2.1B, complemented by \$181M in pan-Canadian programming that continued to expand national reach and capability.
- LMDAs generated strong labour market outcomes: of those supported, more than 169,000 EI-insured clientsFootnote3 and close to 61,000 non-insured clients returned to work within 6 months of receiving service, as did more than 12,700 Pan-Canadian clients. These returns produced \$1.1B in unpaid EI Part I benefits, representing a 51% return on investment and a 15.7% increase in EI savings compared to the previous year.

- Service delivery patterns shifted considerably as jurisdictions adjusted to reduced funding. Intensive Employment Benefits dropped 19.5% to about 155,000 services, but this was partly offset by a 1.8% increase in less-intensive Support Measures, which rose to roughly 639,000 services. Pan-Canadian Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) services also grew by 4.1% to about 54,000.
- A major driver of early client engagement in 2024-25 was the continued expansion and integration of the Targeting, Referral and Feedback (TRF) system, which referred 44.9% of eligible EI Part I applicants (more than 674,000, in total) to provincial and territorial employment programs, up from 36.8% the previous year<sup>Footnote4</sup>. This allowed nearly 60% of active claimants to be served within the first 12 weeks of their benefit period. Together, these advancements illustrate how integrated federal-provincial systems and coordinated service delivery continue to enhance LMDA performance in a rapidly evolving labour market.

## **2 The hidden resilience in Canada's labour market**

### **RBC Insights**

Headline labour market data in Canada looks gloomy in 2026, but beneath that lies more encouraging details: Fewer permanent layoffs and stable hidden unemployment point to easing in cyclical weakness and underlying resilience.

Read more [here](#)

## **3 Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC)**

CERC is pleased to share an important survey being conducted by the Canadian Employee Relocation Council (CERC), in partnership with several leading industry organizations across the mobility and immigration ecosystem. The survey focuses on the real world experiences of companies whose employees cross the Canada–U.S. border for work under Chapter 16 of the USMCA/CUSMA.

Efficient cross border mobility is essential to North American competitiveness, innovation, and economic growth. However, many organizations continue to encounter administrative challenges that affect the movement of Business Visitors, Traders and Investors, and Intra Company Transferees.

Your participation in this brief survey is vital. The insights collected will directly shape the recommendations that CERC, and our partners will present to both the U.S. and Canadian governments as part of a coordinated effort to modernize the administration of Chapter 16 and strengthen cross border mobility.

All responses are confidential. Individual organizations will not be identified, and only aggregate findings will be shared.

[Click here to access the survey](#)

## 4 Expectations mismatch fueling Canada's youth unemployment challenges

### Canadian Federation of Independent Business

The report presents findings from an economic analysis, a survey of small businesses, and a survey of youth. It outlines key disconnects contributing to youth unemployment and offers practical recommendations for governments, small businesses, and young people. In particular, it calls on the federal government to reduce the cost of hiring youth and enhance wraparound supports available for youth through existing programs.

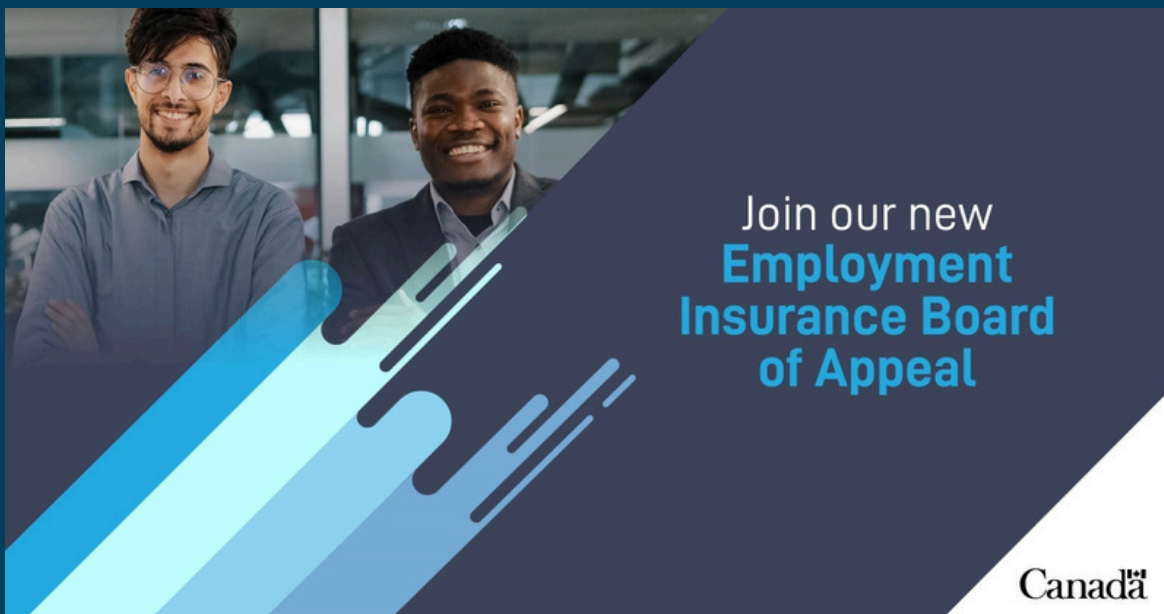
Read more [here](#)

## 5 Join the EI Board of Appeals

The EI Board of Appeals is seeking employer candidates in the following regions:

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- PEI
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan

This board will be hearing and deciding on first-level EI appeals.



Apply [here](#)