

Labour Market Information News

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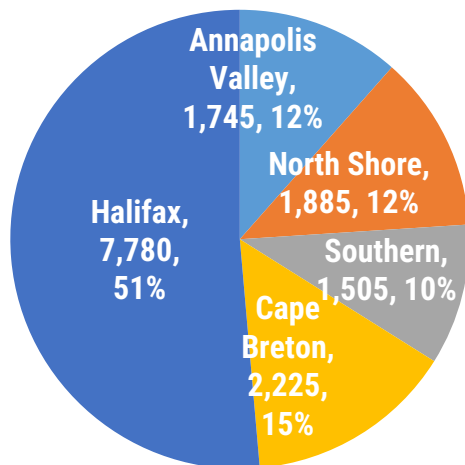
September 2026

Job Vacancy and Wage Survey, 2nd Quarter 2026 Nova Scotia Highlights

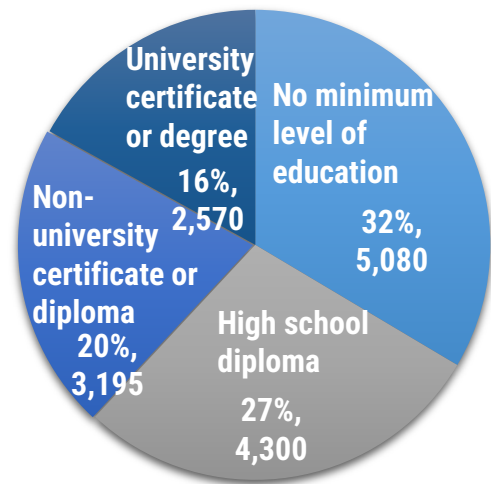
In the second quarter of 2026, the number of job vacancies (15,145) in Nova Scotia rose by 16.1% compared to last quarter (13,040) and fell by 4.4% compared to the same quarter last year (15,850). The job vacancy rate (3.4%) rose by 0.5 percentage points compared to last quarter and dropped 0.2 percentage points compared to one year ago.

15,145 job vacancies in Q2 2026

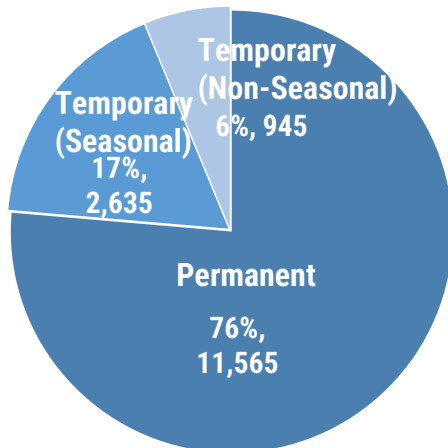
By Economic Region



By Education Requirement



By Job Type



Q2 2026 Overview

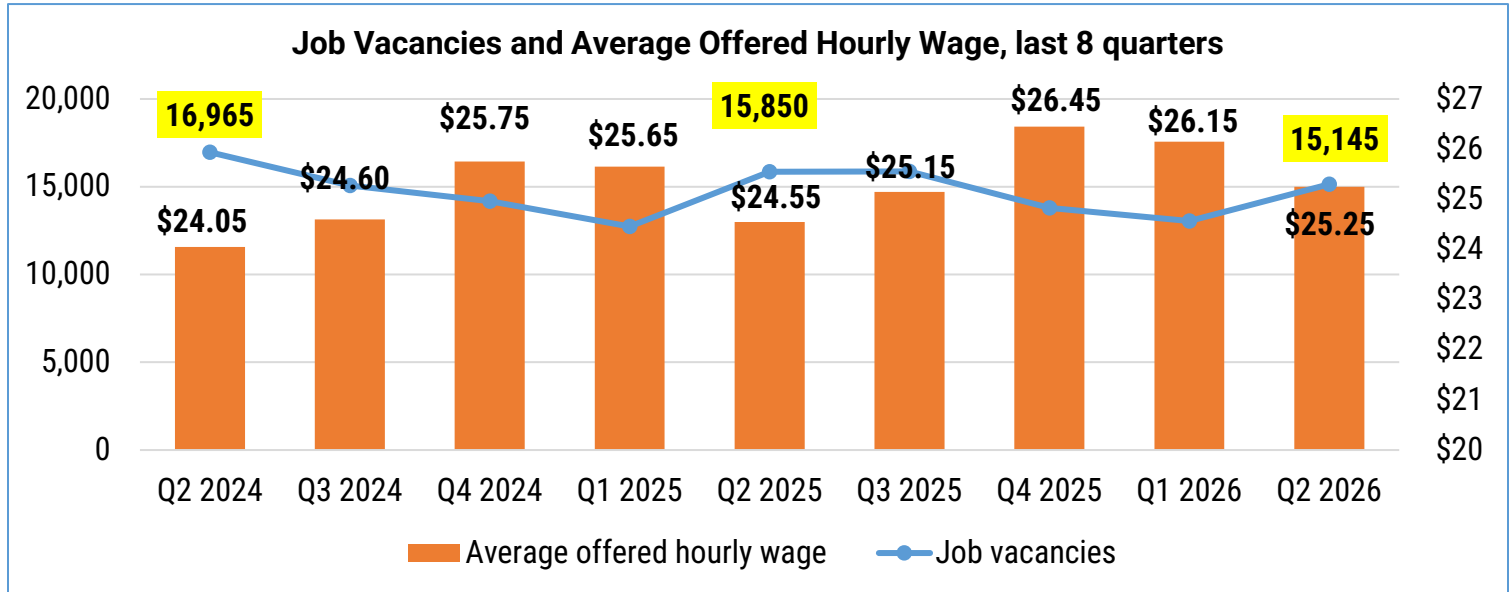
quarter-over-quarter comparison

- The number of **job vacancies** rose by 2,105 (+16.1%) to 15,145 in Q2 2026.
- The **offered hourly wage** in Q2 of 2026 in Nova Scotia rose \$0.70/hr (+2.9%) to \$25.25 compared to Q2 2025.
- The **job vacancy rate*** rose 0.5 percentage points to 3.4% from Q1 2026 to Q2 2026.

Note: The job vacancy rate is the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of labour demand (the sum of occupied and vacant jobs).

Job Vacancy Trend

- The number of job vacancies shows a seasonal pattern, generally peaking in Q2 each year and declining through the following quarters. Compared to the previous quarter, job vacancies grew 16.1% in Q2 2026 but fell 4.4% compared to a year ago.
- The average offered hourly wage fell by 3.4% in Q2 2026, following a decrease in Q1 2026 as well. Compared to a year ago, it was up by 2.9% from Q2 2025 to Q2 2026.

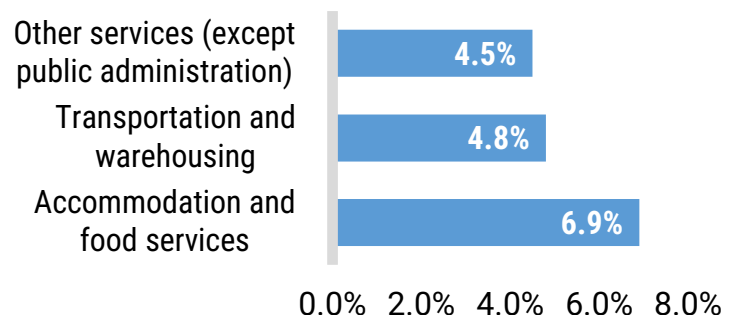


Job Vacancy & Wage Rate	Q2 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q/Q % change	Y/Y %change
Job vacancies	15,850	13,040	15,145	16.1%	-4.4%
Payroll employees	429,750	429,995	436,260	1.5%	1.5%
Job vacancy rate	3.6%	2.9%	3.4%	0.5 points	-0.2 points
Average offered hourly wage	\$24.55	\$26.15	\$25.25	-3.4%	2.9%

Industry Analysis

- In Q2 2026, the highest job vacancy rates were in “accommodation and food services” (6.9%), “transportation and warehousing” (4.8%) & “other services” (4.5%). For comparison, the provincial average job vacancy rate was 3.4% in Q2 2026.

Top Industries with Highest Job Vacancy Rates -- Q2 2026



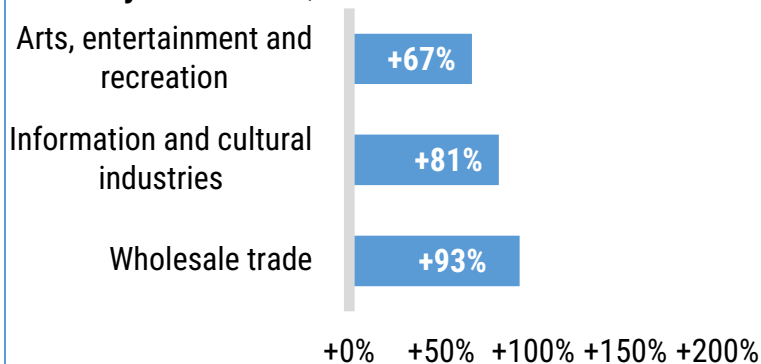
- Vacancy growth rate, year over year, varies across industries. “Wholesale trade” experienced the largest expansion at 92.5%, followed by “information and cultural industries” (+81.3%) and “arts, entertainment and recreation” (+66.7%).

Wages

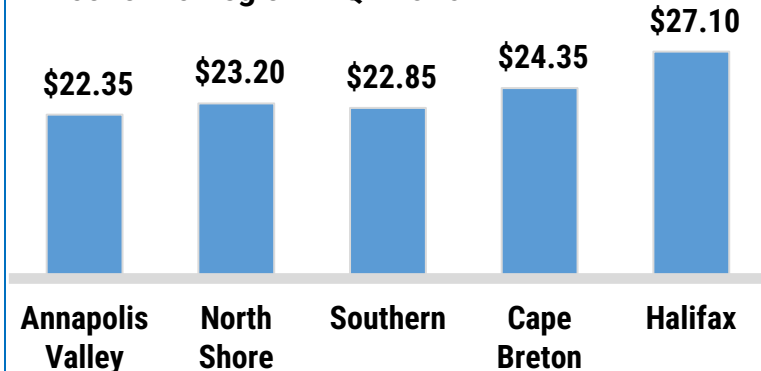
year-over-year comparison

- The average offered **hourly wage** is \$25.25, up \$0.70 (+2.9%) year-over-year (compared to the 2nd quarter of 2025).
- During Q2 of 2026, four of five economic regions posted higher offered wages for vacant positions compared to the previous year (Q2 2025): Cape Breton (+7.3%), North Shore (+6.4%), Halifax (+1.9%), Annapolis Valley (+0.2%). Average offered hourly wage declined in Southern (-5.8%).
- The average offered hourly wage increases, on average, with the educational requirements of the offered position. In Q2 2026 compared to Q2 2025, the average hourly wage expanded most for “non-university certificate” (+9.1%), “bachelor’s degree” (+4.7%), “no minimum education” (+4.4%), and “high school diploma” (+1.0%). Positions requiring “university, below bachelor’s” (-8.4%) and “master’s or above” (-0.4%) declined.

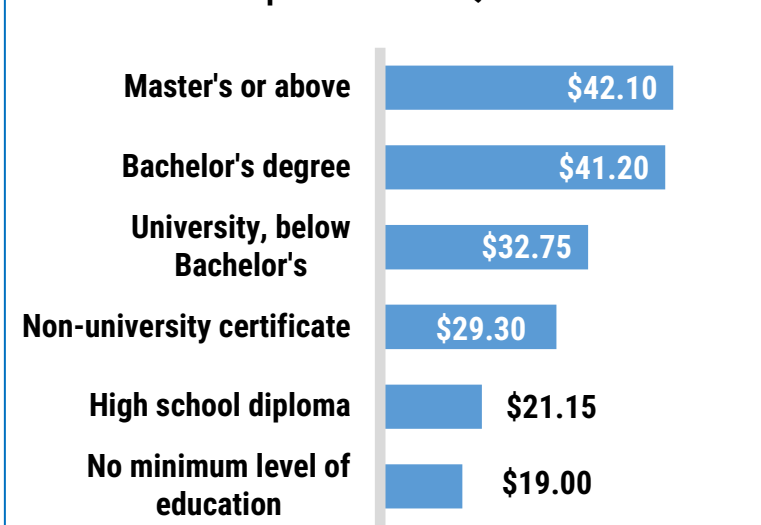
Top Industries with Year-over-Year Vacancy Growth -- Q2 2026



Average Offered Hourly Wage by Economic Region -- Q2 2026



Average Offered Hourly Wage by Educational Requirements -- Q2 2026



For more data, please visit the “Job Opportunities” Page in [LMI Dashboard | Labour market Information](#).

Sources: Statistics Canada, Job Vacancy & Wage Survey, Tables 14-10-0441-01, 14-10-0442-01 and 14-10-0443-01, unadjusted for seasonality.