

# Central Okanagan Economic Indicators

Q1 2026




**CENTRAL  
OKANAGAN**  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION

The Region's Primary Business Resource | [investkelowna.com](https://investkelowna.com)



# Population Growth

 **3.9%**

2025

Population

261,432

2024


Population

251,723

Based on BC stats data, the Kelowna CMA population grew by 3.9% from 2024 to 2025.



# Labour Force

 **2.1%**  
unemployment rate

Jan-Mar  
2026

Total Employed 122,433

Labour Force 133,900

Unemployment 8.5%

Jan-Mar  
2025

Total Employed 111,067

Labour Force 118,800

Unemployment 6.4%

The unemployment rate increased by 2.1 %. This reflects higher labour market entry than job availability. The total number of people employed increased by 10%.



# Housing Starts



# 10.7%

Jan-Mar  
2026

Total Starts

599

Single Detached

39

Multi-Family

520

Jan-Mar  
2025

Total Starts

541

Single Detached

50


Multi-Family

491

Overall housing starts increased by 10.7% in Q1 2026. Multifamily starts increased by 5.9%.



# Building Permit Values

 **25.1%**

## Total Values

Jan-Mar

2026

\$258,698,012

2025

\$206,854,628


2024

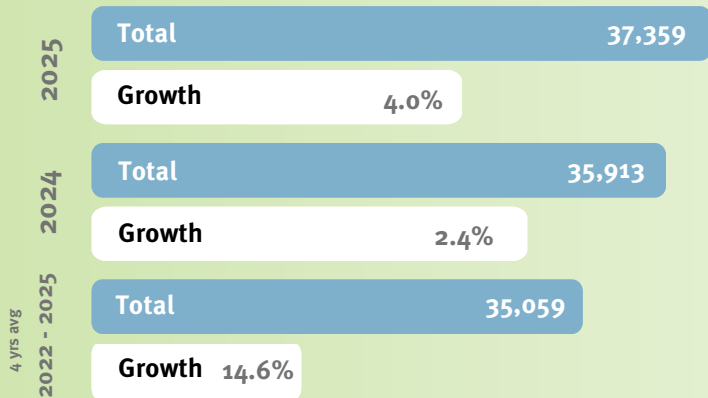
\$197,993,680

Building permits increased 25.1% in Q1 2026 compared to Q1 2025.




# Business Counts

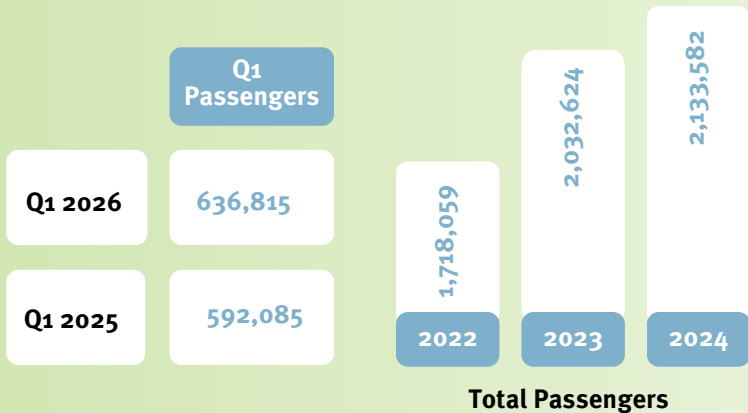
 **5.4%**



The number of businesses in the Central Okanagan has increased by 14.6% in the last 4 years, with 37,359 operating in 2025

# Airport Passengers


 **7.6%**

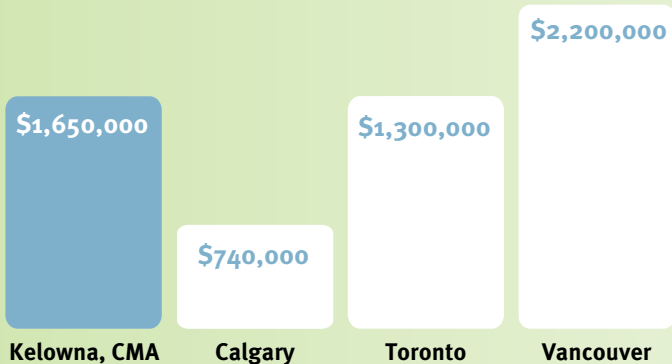


Passenger numbers increased by 7.6% from Q1 2025 to Q1 2026, indicating an upward trend in travel demand and regional economic activity



# Median New Home Price


 **3.1%**

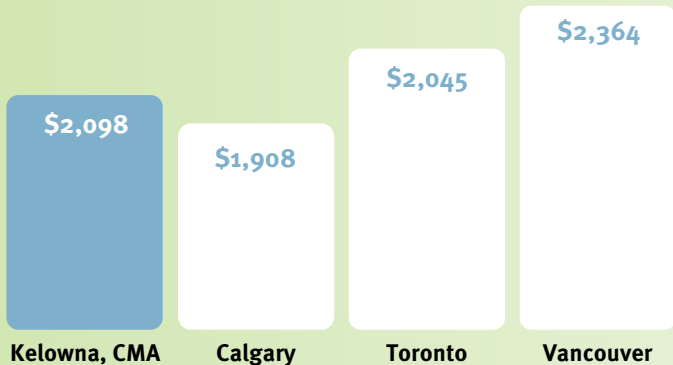


The median price of a newly constructed home in the region increased by a modest 3.1% in Q1 2026 compared to Q1 2025.



# Average Rent (2 Bedroom Row/Apartment)


 **10%**



The average rent of a 2 bedroom row/apartment in the Kelowna CMA is 10% higher than Calgary and 11.3% lower than in Vancouver.

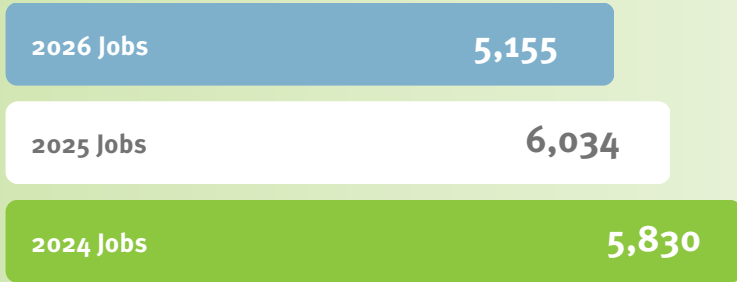


# Job Postings

 **14.6%**

## Total Values

Jan-Mar










Job postings overall decreased by 14.6% in 2026 compared to 2025 with 33.7% of job postings coming from Sales and Services.



# Job Postings by Occupation








Jan-Mar

|                                                         | # of Postings | %     |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sales & Service                                         | 1,737         | 33.7% |  16.4%                                                                               |
| Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators                 | 696           | 13.5% |  17.8%                                                                               |
| Business, Finance & Administration                      | 692           | 13.4% |  26.2%                                                                               |
| Health                                                  | 482           | 9.4%  |  12.1%                                                                               |
| Education, Law, Social, Community & Government Services | 262           | 5.1%  |  21.3%                                                                               |



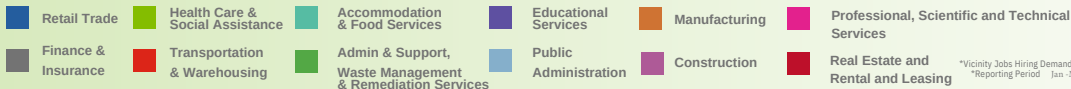
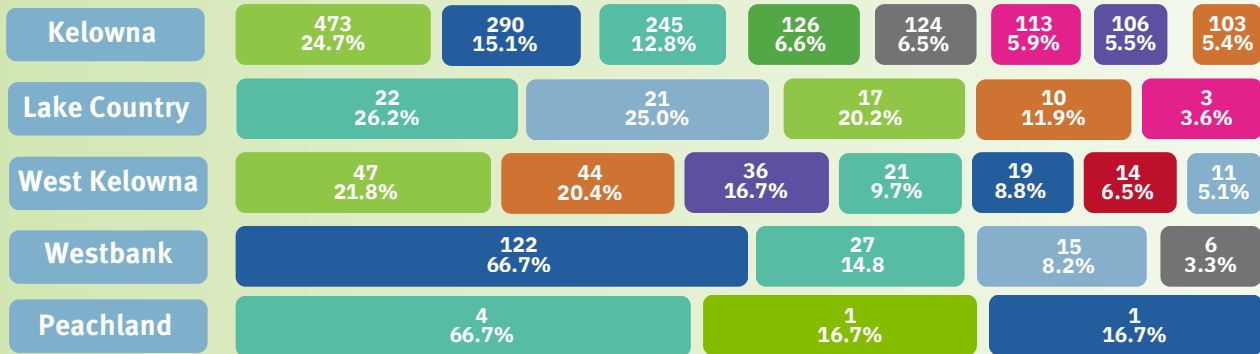
# Job Postings by Industry

Jan-Mar

|                                 | # of Postings | %     |   |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 538           | 22.4% |  19.3%                                                                               |
| Retail Trade                    | 434           | 18.1% |  10.2%                                                                               |
| Accommodation & Food Services   | 319           | 13.3% |  16.1%                                                                               |
| Educational Services            | 143           | 5.9%  |  6.5%                                                                                |
| Public Administration           | 122           | 5.1%  |  20.8%                                                                               |



# Job Postings by Location by Industry



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\*Real-time labour market information (LMI) is generated by extracting information from publicly available online job postings.

\*Labour Force Survey is a sample survey and estimates are subject to both sample survey and non-sampling errors. Due to the relatively small sample size for the Kelowna CMA from which disaggregated data are derived, caution should be used in the interpretation of month-to-month changes in the estimates.