

Central Okanagan Economic Indicators

Q2 2026



**CENTRAL
OKANAGAN**
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION

The Region's Primary Business Resource | investkelowna.com



Population Growth

 **1.2%**

2025

Population

254,635

2024

Population

251,610

BC Stats estimates that the Kelowna CMA population grew by 1.2% from 2024 to 2025.

*Estimates for 2024/2025 sourced from BC Stats Population Estimates & Projections obtained July 2026



Labour Force

 **12.4%**

Labour force

The number of people employed increased by 9.8%, while the labour force grew at a faster rate of 12.4%, contributing to a 2.2% increase in the unemployment rate.

Jan-Jun
2026

Total Employed

122,767

Labour Force

133,850

Unemployment

8.3%

Jan-Jun
2025

Total Employed

111,767

Labour Force

119,067

Unemployment

6.1%



Housing Starts

Jan-Jun
2026

Total Starts

1,143

Single Detached

87

Multi-Family

1,056

Jan-Jun
2025

Total Starts

1,814

Single Detached

135

Multi-Family

1,679

 **671**
Units

Housing starts were 671 units lower than in 2025, reflecting a slowdown in residential construction activity.



Building Permit Values

 **5.7%**

Total Values

Jan-Jun

2026

\$622,774,925

2025

\$660,475,595

2024

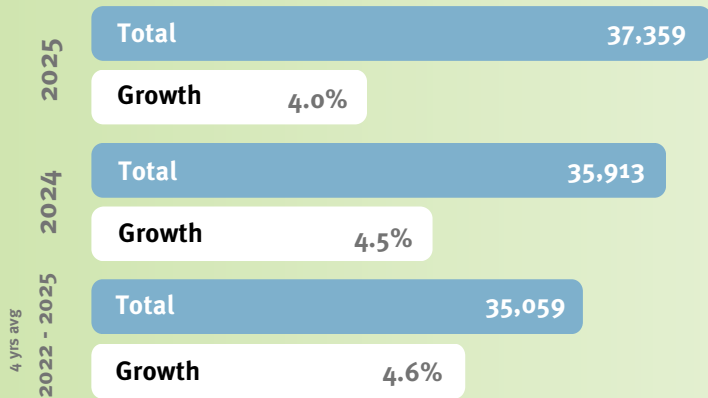
\$580,195,168

Building permit values in Q2 2026 were 5.7% lower than Q2 2025, but still exceeded Q2 2024 by 7.3%.



Business Counts

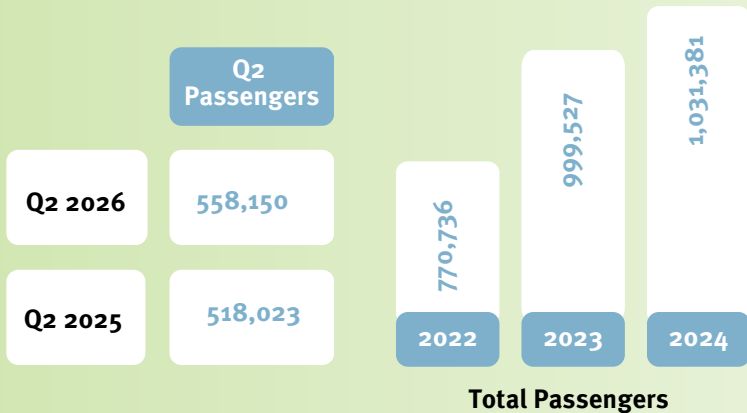
 **4.0%**



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

↑ 7.7%

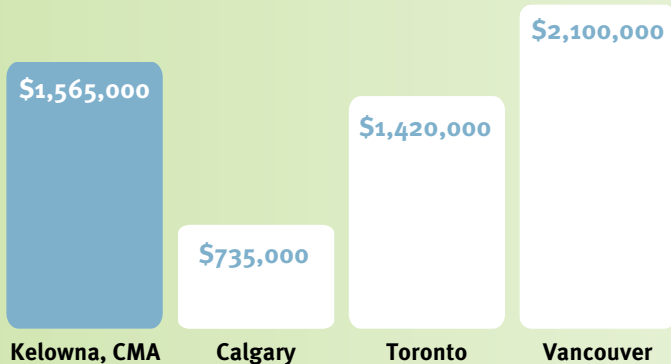


Passenger numbers increased by 7.7% from Q2 2025 to Q2 2026, indicating an upward trend in travel demand and regional economic activity.



Median New Home Price

 **5.7%**

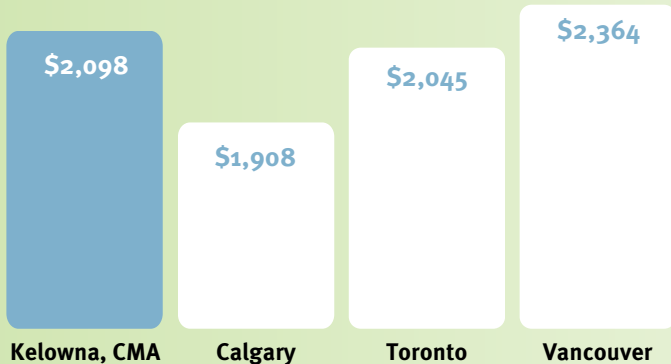


The median price of a newly constructed home in the region increased by a modest 5.7% in Q2 2026 compared to Q2 2025.



Average Rent (2 Bedroom Row/Apartment)

 **9.5%**

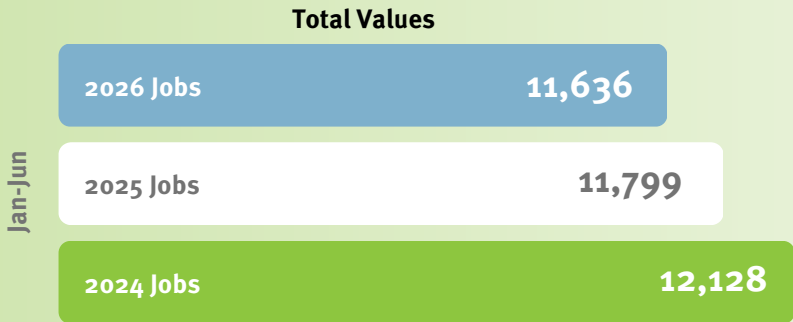


The average rent of a 2 bedroom row/apartment in the Kelowna CMA increased by 9.5% while the vacancy rate increased from 3.4% to 5.1%.



Job Postings

 **1.4%**



Job postings overall decreased by 1.4% in 2026 compared to 2025 with 32.9% of job postings coming from Sales and Service.



Job Postings by Occupation

Jan-Jun

	# of Postings	%	 
Sales & Service	3,825	32.9%	 7.6%
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators	1,711	14.7%	 1.7%
Business, Finance & Administration	1,611	13.8%	 8.3%
Health	1,000	8.6%	 27.7%
Education, Law, Social, Community & Government Services	639	5.5%	 3.7%



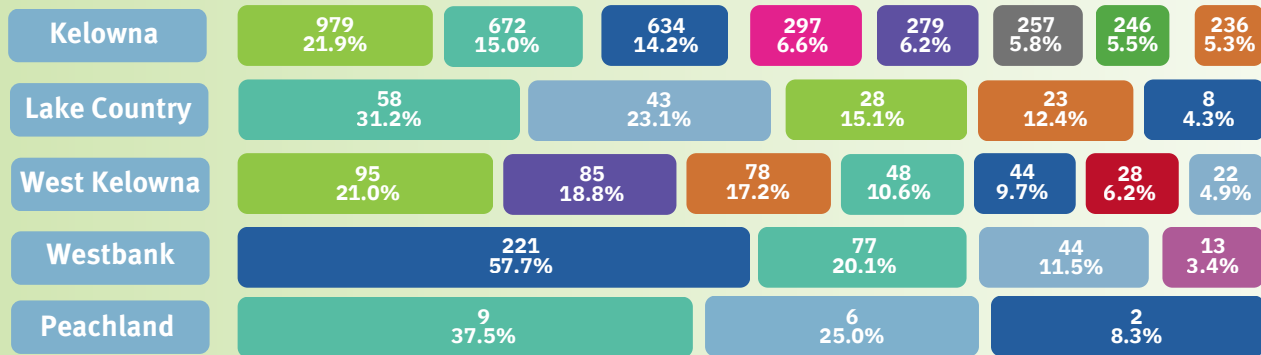
Job Postings by Industry

Jan-Mar

	# of Postings	%	 
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,104	20.0%	 29.3%
Retail Trade	909	16.5%	 10.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	864	15.7%	 0.1%
Educational Services	366	6.6%	 28.9%
Public Administration	301	5.5%	 8.3%



Job Postings by Location by Industry



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Economic Development
Commission



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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.