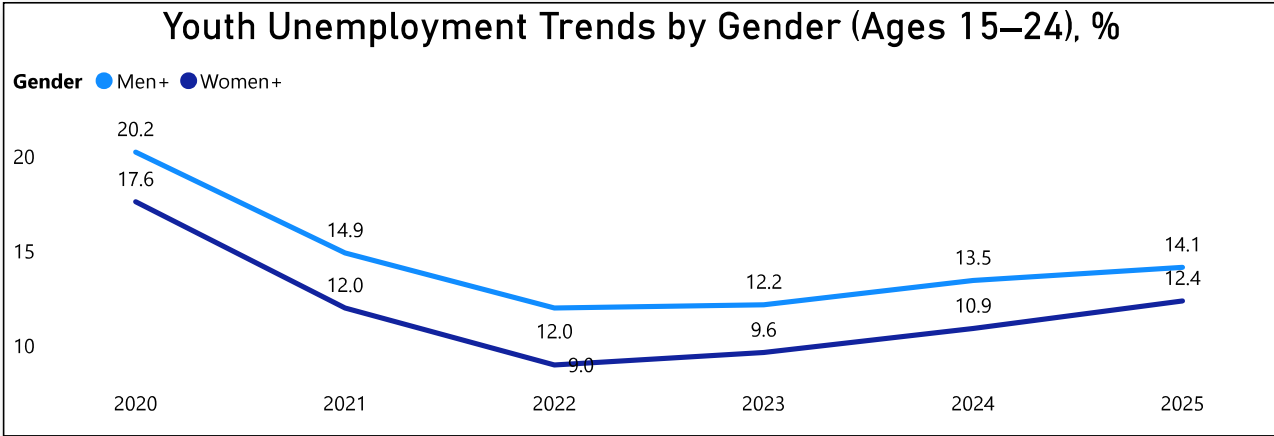
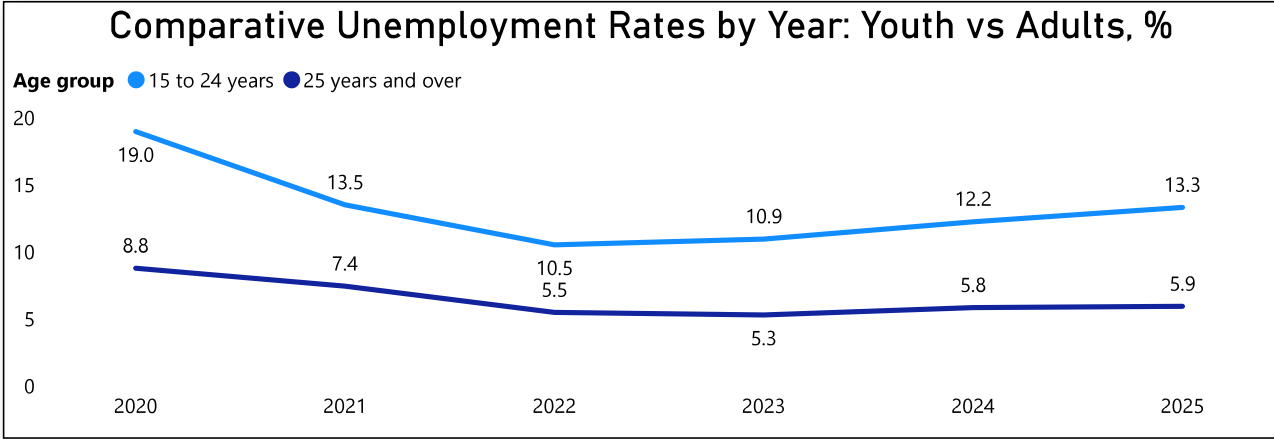


# The Geography of Joblessness: Youth vs National Trends 2020-2025



Canada reported **462,900** unemployed youth in September, 2025 with males accounting for **249,400** and females **213,500**.

Year

2025

Month

September

Unemployment Rate Youth

14.30

vs Last Month\_Y ▲ 3.2%

vs Last Year\_Y ▲ 18.6%

Unemployment Rate Adult

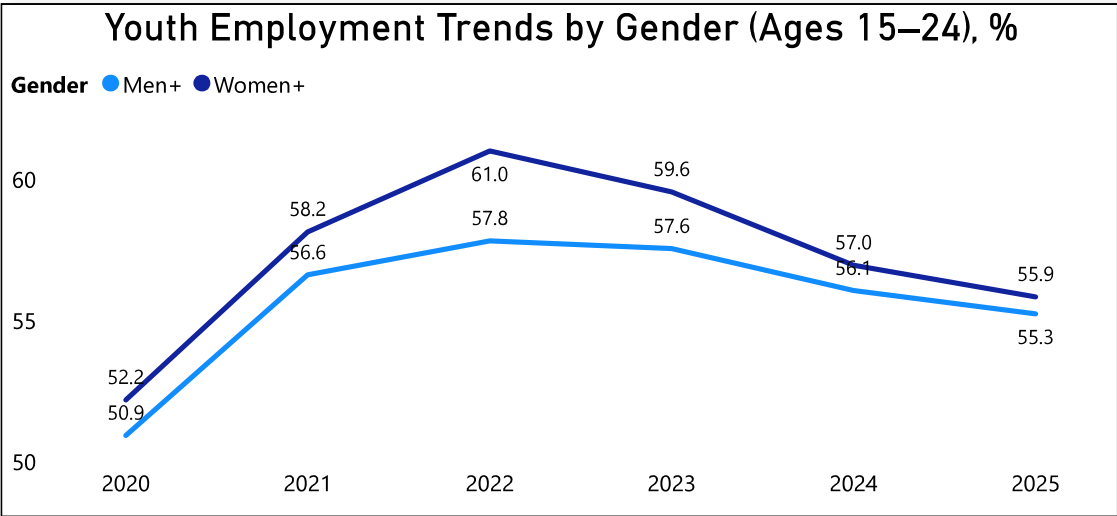
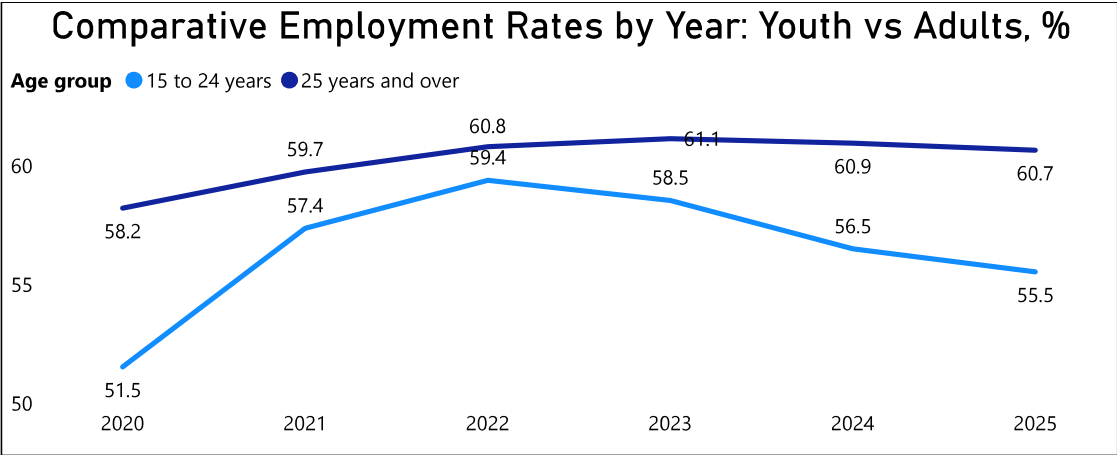
6.32

vs Last Month\_A ▲ 4.1%

vs Last Year\_A ▲ 6.8%

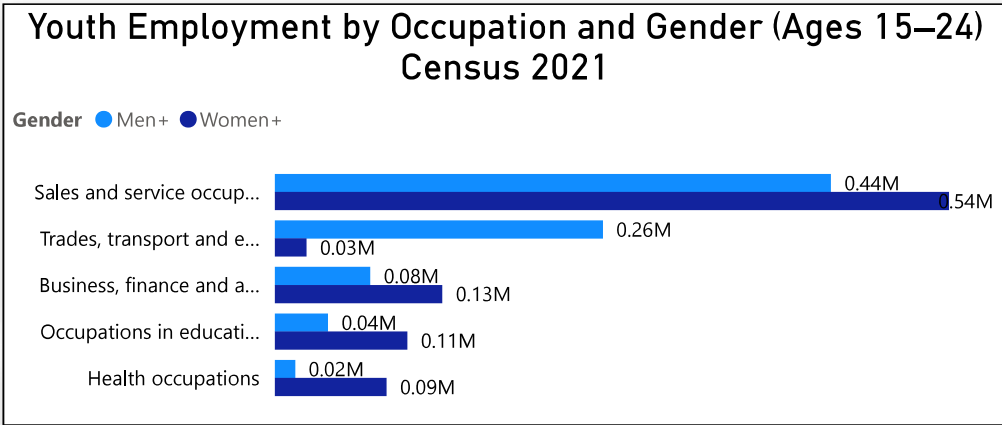
Youth unemployment peaked in 2020, followed by a steady decline until 2022. However, since 2022, the unemployment rate among young people has been rising again for both women and men, reaching elevated levels by 2025. Throughout this period, the average youth unemployment rate has remained approximately twice as high as that of adults aged 25 and over. Notably, within the 15–25 age group, the unemployment rate among women has consistently been lower than that of men.

# The Geography of Joblessness: Youth vs National Trends 2020-2025



The number of employed **men aged 15 to 24** is **1,283,100** representing an employment rate of **53.4%**.

The number of employed **men aged 15 to 24** is **1,411,700**, representing an employment rate of **54.1%**.

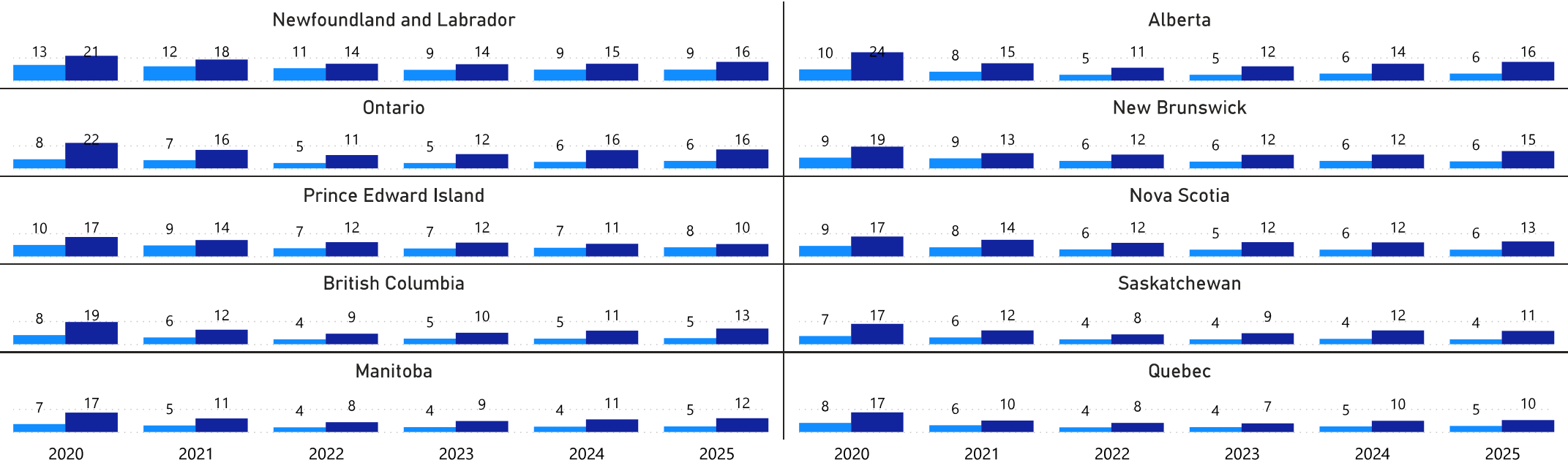


Until **August 2025**, the employment rate among **women aged 15–25** was consistently higher than that of **men in the same age category**. However, in **September 2025**, this trend shifted: the employment rate among young women reached **53.4%**, slightly below the **54.1%** recorded for young men. Despite this, the unemployment rate for women aged 15–24 remained lower than that of young men—**14.3%** compared to **15%**. According to the 2021 Census data on occupation by labour force status, education level, age, and gender across Canada and its regions, we can observe where young people are employed. Among the top five occupations held by youth, women are predominant in most categories. The only exception is in trades, where young men are more heavily represented. Although the proportion of active job seekers is nearly equal between young women and men, slightly more young men are participating in the labour force. Nevertheless, young women appear to have an easier time securing employment, likely due to their stronger representation in the top youth-held occupations, which tend to favour female participation.

# The Geography of Joblessness: Youth vs National Trends 2020-2025

Comparative Unemployment Rates by Province: Youth vs Adults, %

● 25 years and over ● 15 to 24 years



### Observation: Youth Unemployment Trends Across Canadian Provinces (2020–2025)

Youth unemployment has been a persistent challenge in Canada, with notable fluctuations since 2020. The peak rates were recorded during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, when widespread economic shutdowns disproportionately affected young workers employed in service-oriented and entry-level occupations.

Across provinces, the impact was uneven. **Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta, Ontario, and New Brunswick** experienced the sharpest increases in youth unemployment, reflecting their dependence on industries such as energy, hospitality, and retail—sectors that were heavily disrupted by the pandemic.

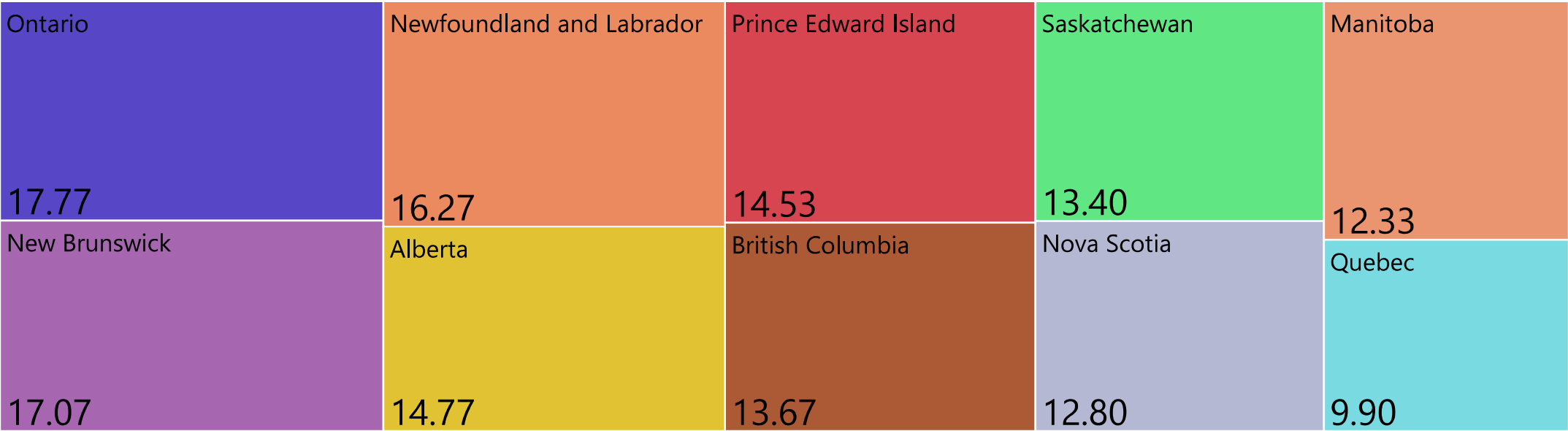
By contrast, **Quebec** demonstrated a relatively more stable labour market. In 2025, the province recorded an **average youth unemployment rate of around 10%**, compared to about **5% among adults**, indicating a smaller but still persistent gap between younger and older workers.

**Saskatchewan** followed a similar pattern, maintaining a **youth unemployment rate near 11%** and **4% among adults**, supported by its steady agricultural and resource-based economy.

In **British Columbia** and **Nova Scotia**, labour conditions have gradually improved, yet the **youth unemployment rate remains elevated—around 13% in 2025**—highlighting ongoing challenges in integrating younger individuals into stable employment.

Overall, the data suggest that while adult employment levels have largely recovered to pre-pandemic norms, **youth unemployment remains structurally higher across all provinces**, underscoring barriers such as limited experience, sectoral concentration, and slower wage growth in entry-level roles.

# The Geography of Joblessness: Youth Unemployment Rate in September, 2025



### Youth Unemployment in Canada, September 2025 — Regional Overview

According to the latest data from Statistics Canada (September 2025), the **highest youth unemployment rates** were recorded in **Ontario (17.77%)**, followed by **New Brunswick (17.07%)** and **Newfoundland and Labrador (16.27%)**. These provinces show the most significant labour market challenges for young workers. In contrast, **Quebec** reported a considerably lower youth unemployment rate of **9.9%**, suggesting a more resilient job market. Conditions were also relatively manageable in **Nova Scotia** and **Manitoba**, where rates stayed close to the national average. Meanwhile, **Prince Edward Island (13.67%)**, **British Columbia**, and **Saskatchewan (13.4%)** continued to experience moderate but persistent levels of youth unemployment.

### Sources:

Statistic Canada, Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle ([Table 14-10-0287-01](#)).  
Statistic Canada, Occupation unit group by labour force status, highest level of education, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts ([Table 98-10-0449-01](#)).