

# Market Watch

<b>S&amp;P/TSX</b> 34,077.76 +221.14	<b>S&amp;P 500</b> 7,398.93 +61.82	<b>DOW</b> 49,609.16 +12.19	<b>NASDAQ</b> 26,247.08 +440.88	<b>DOLLAR</b> 73.07¢US -0.27¢	<b>OIL per barrel</b> US\$95.42 +\$0.61	<b>GOLD</b> US\$4,730.70 +\$19.80
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## Canada loses 18,000 jobs in April, unemployment rate rises to 6.9%

The Canadian Press

Canada's economy took an unexpected hit on the job market in April, while unemployment also crept up, raising concerns about the strength of the economy ahead of the Bank of Canada's rate decision next month.

Statistics Canada's labour force survey released on Friday said the economy shed 18,000 jobs in April, following an increase of 14,000 jobs in March.

The loss came as the unemployment rate rose to 6.9 per cent compared with 6.7 per cent in March, returning to where it was in October last year, largely because more people were looking for work.

Economists had expected the economy to add jobs for the month and the unemployment rate to hold steady.

"If you look at the drivers of that increase in the unemployment rate, in particular for April, it was not driven by permanent layoffs, so that's kind of the good news," RBC assistant chief economist Nathan Janzen said.

"What drove the unemployment rate higher, a lot of it was people quitting their current job to look for a new one."

While Janzen said it isn't a good indication that people aren't immediately able to find a new job, it does signal confidence in the labour market that people are willing to quit their jobs in search for another.

The Bank of Canada held its overnight lending rate at 2.25 per cent last month — its fourth consecutive hold after back-to-back quarter-point drops in September and October of last year.

The central bank said it was closely monitoring the impact of the Middle East war and how the economy continues to respond to U.S. tariffs and trade policy uncertainty.

In a note to clients Friday, TD senior economist Andrew Hencic said given the soft jobs report and the limited ability for companies to pass on inflation shock price increases to consumers, he expects the Bank of Canada to

continue to hold this year, if the sharp rise in oil prices begins to reverse in the coming weeks.

Earlier this week, the head of the International Energy Agency warned the global energy crisis from the war in Iran will hit Canadians soon.

Fatih Birol said it's the worst energy crisis the world had ever seen. And while Canada has been somewhat insulated from the full effect of the price shocks so far, he warned that would soon change.

"If Canada's future or current customers are economically weak, their ability and appetite to buy energy or other things will be weaker," Birol said in Ottawa on Tuesday.

Adding to the concerns surrounding Canada's economy is the uncertainty around the trade agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico that is up for a mandatory review this year.

While Canada added 67,000 more jobs on a year-over-year basis, the country has lost



CP FILE PHOTO

Statistics Canada building and signs are pictured in Ottawa.

112,000 jobs since January, mostly in the manufacturing and wholesale sectors.

The last time Canada lost so many jobs in a four-month window was from October 2020 to January 2021 — during the pandemic. In non-pandemic times, you'd have to go back to 2009, when Canada lost 241,000 jobs in a four-month span.

BMO chief economist Doug Porter said there's no debate that

the first couple months of the year have been challenging.

"Maybe the best way to look at this is, what's happened over the last 12 months and what we've seen is very little job growth," Porter said.

"Overall employment is up 0.3 per cent. That's next to no job growth whatsoever, when you think about the fact that there's over 20 million people employed in the country."

# PUBLIC NOTICES



### DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED APRIL 30 TO MAY 6, 2026

#### RESIDENTIAL

216 SEVEN PERSONS DRIVE SW - Garage

47 SIERRA ROAD SW - Single Detached House

#### COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

2051 STRACHAN ROAD SE - Change Of Use To Retail And Consumer Services.

3 1427 32 STREET SW - Change Of Use (Vacant To Retail And Consumer Services).

1221 SOUTH RAILWAY STREET SE - Demolition (Commercial Building).

#### HOME BUSINESS

2678 BURTON PLACE SE - Home Business Major - General Business License (Escape Room). (Refused. No application fee payment / Incomplete application).

21 GREENWOOD COURT SW - Home Business Major - Manicure/Pedicure/Aesthetics.

467 SIERRA BOULEVARD SW - Home Business Minor - Roofing/Siding Contractor.

231 ROSS GLEN ROAD SE - Home Business Minor - Online Sales (Digital Coupons).

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty one (21) days of this publication. Forms available from: City Clerk Dept., 3rd Floor, City Hall or City website: [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca).

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. For more information, contact Planning and Development Services, 2nd Floor, City Hall. Ph. (403) 529-8374.

### FREE SUREGROW COMPOST & USED BATTERY COLLECTION!

Another chance is here to load up on free compost compliments of City of Medicine Hat!

When: **Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 10am to 3pm**

Where: **1453 Hutchinson Ave SE**  
across the avenue from the Kipling Street Recycling Depot

Bring your own container and help yourself to free compost while quantities last. There will be a limit of 10 gallons of compost per household on a first come first served basis.

Learn more about SureGrow compost at [medicinehat.ca/suregrow](http://medicinehat.ca/suregrow)

**Bring your used batteries too!** The City will be set up to collect used household batteries to ensure safe transport for recycling through Recycle Your Batteries, Canada!

For more information about battery recycling, visit [recycleyourbatteries.ca](http://recycleyourbatteries.ca) or [medicinehat.ca/whatgoeswhere](http://medicinehat.ca/whatgoeswhere)

### FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS & WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Environmental Utilities maintenance crews perform regular, routine maintenance to uphold the waterworks system infrastructure and water quality by annually inspecting fire hydrants and flushing water mains.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will dissipate when flushing is complete.

It is important to note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry, and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

### THE CITY OF MEDICINE HAT LAND USE BYLAW 4883-2026 REZONING OF 21 RANGLANDS BOULEVARD NE

TAKE NOTICE that the Medicine Hat City Council gave first reading on Monday, April 20, 2026, to the following City of Medicine Hat Bylaw:

Bylaw 4883-2026, proposes to rezone the parcel located 21 Ranglands Boulevard NE from Neighbourhood Commercial (C-N) District to Medium Density Residential (R-MD) District.

A public hearing in general accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the City's Procedure Bylaw, and consideration of second/third readings of proposed Bylaw 4883-2026 will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at approximately 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers (580 First Street SE).

Any person who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw may make an oral presentation limited to five minutes to City Council at the public hearing.

Written/electronic submissions – all written submissions received prior to the public hearing will be provided to City Council. Submissions received by end of day on Monday, May 11, 2026, will be published in the Regular City Council Meeting agenda.

All written/electronic submissions become public documents and must be submitted to the City Clerk Department at 580 First Street SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8E6 or via e-mail: [clerk@medicinehat.ca](mailto:clerk@medicinehat.ca)

For further information or to view related documents, please contact Planning & Development Services at 403-529-8374. Additional information may also be accessed via the 'Proposed Bylaws' section on the city website at [www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca).

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 2th day of May 2026, updated this 9th day of May 2026.

Stephanie Zubrecki  
Interim City Clerk

### ASSESSMENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PACKAGES

The City of Medicine Hat Tax Assessment department has mailed out Assessment Request for Information (ARFI) packages to property owners of improved non-residential and multi-family property classes.

This process of collecting property related data is the first step towards developing the 2026 assessment roll for tax year 2027. Collecting data annually ensures the assessment roll reflects current market information.

Completing the ARFI is an important part of the tax assessment process. Assessment values are established to allow for equitable distribution of taxes. Higher response rates will increase the statistical confidence level in the resulting assessment values. It is important for property owners to retain their ability to participate in the assessment appeal process. For property owners to be eligible to appeal their 2026 assessment for the 2027 taxation year, they must respond completely to an ARFI by the July 6, 2026 deadline.

As always, property owners are encouraged to contact the Assessment department directly if they have questions regarding their property assessment or if they require any assistance in completing their request for information forms.

Dated this 9th day of May 2026.

Sue Sterkenburg, AMAA  
Manager & City Assessor

### 8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828

### GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR MAY

**Medicine Hat - The City of Medicine Hat has set its May energy commodity rates.**

#### Natural Gas – all customers

The May natural gas default rate is \$0.979 per gigajoule (GJ), down from the previous month of \$1.638 per GJ.

The rate is based on the weighted average cost of the City's natural gas purchases for the month of consumption, plus \$0.07/GJ to recover transactional costs and a small rate of return, in accordance with the Gas Utility Bylaw 2489.

#### Electricity – Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting

The calculated electricity rate for April, May and June 2026 is \$0.0449/kWh which, under the Electric Utility Bylaw 2244, defaults to the minimum \$0.07000/kWh for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting customers.

The rate is based on a 12-month, volume weighted forecast as per the ICE-NGX wholesale electricity energy market, not to exceed a maximum of 11 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) or go below a minimum rate of seven cents per kWh, and is recalculated on the first business day of January, April, July, and October.

#### Electricity - Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting Customers

The current default electricity rate for Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting customers is \$0.12025 per kilowatt hour.

The rate is based on the average of the rates for owners whose regulated rate tariffs are approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission under section 103(2) of the Electric Utilities Act for that calendar month as posted by the Alberta Utilities Commission on its internet page under Rate of Last Resort (ROLR) Regulation.

Under the new ROLR Regulation, this fixed rate is expected to remain in place until December 31, 2026.

Rate of Last Resort	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	\$0.12020
ENMAX Energy Corporation	\$0.12060
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	\$0.12010
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	\$0.12010
<b>City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)</b>	<b>\$0.12025</b>

#### Going Green Charge

Customers also have a "Going Green" surcharge on their bill. This surcharge is for renewable energy purchased for residential, farm, small and medium commercial customers.

The Going Green surcharge is calculated monthly to recover costs incurred to purchase renewable energy.

The Going Green surcharge for May is \$0.0046 per kilowatt hour.

For more details about energy rates, visit [medicinehat.ca/energyplans](http://medicinehat.ca/energyplans).

For further information, please contact: [media@medicinehat.ca](mailto:media@medicinehat.ca)