



# Markets Update April 2024

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# Executive Summary

This month's market report highlights several critical economic indicators and policy updates that shed light on current market dynamics and future expectations. The Bank of Canada (BoC) has decided to maintain the current interest rates as of April, reflecting a strategic response to the latest economic signals. Notably, headline inflation measured at **2.8% in February**; however, when **excluding Mortgage Interest Cost**, inflation aligns more closely with the Bank of Canada's **target at 2%**.

In terms of employment, the **unemployment rate** has **risen by 0.3%**, breaching the **6% mark** for the first time since **2017**, signifying a shift in job market conditions. A key observation is the divergent trends within the employment sectors: the **public sector** continues to **add jobs**, contrasting with **declines** in the **private sector**. Additionally, **population growth** remains robust with an expected increase of **1.27 million people in 2024**, driven by immigration. However, recent **policy adjustments** announced by the Immigration Minister, including **a cut in international student visas**, along with a slowing economy, suggest a forthcoming **moderation in immigration rates** which could impact various sectors.

Real estate markets, particularly GTA, continue to experience softness with house sales **declining by 4.9%** year-over-year, led predominantly by an **oversupply in the condo market**. Conversely, **rental markets** across the country show a **slight decrease** in rates month-over-month, yet **demand persists strongly**, suggesting an anticipated **moderate growth** in rental prices between **2-5%** moving forward. This reflects a cooling yet resilient rental market scenario. These indicators collectively provide a comprehensive view of the current economic landscape, assisting in strategic planning and decision-making for the forthcoming periods.

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# Macro Commentary

## Bond Rates:

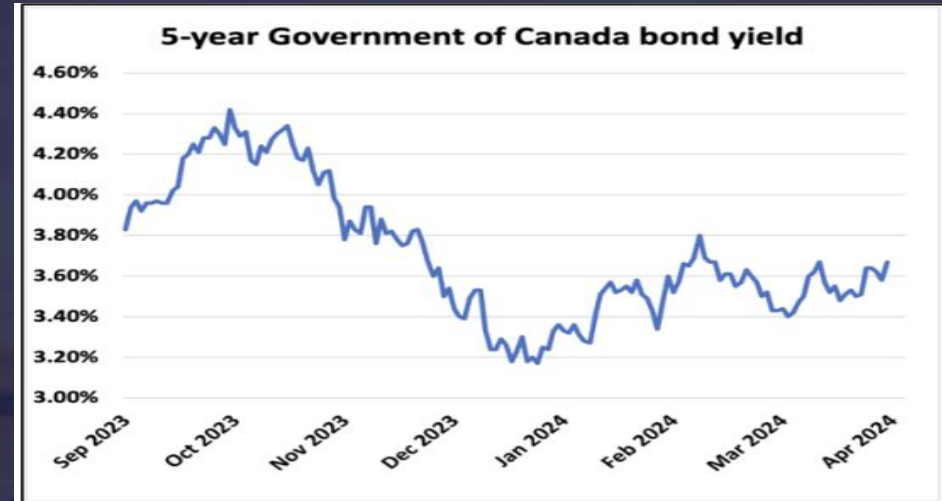
Rates in a **holding pattern** even as macro backdrop weakens

Bond yields remain more or less **range-bound**, with the bellwether **5-year** sitting just a shade under **3.7%**.

## Mortgage Rates:

The implied policy path has been unchanged over the past month, with the **first cut** still expected in **June**.

Analysts continue to anticipate rate cuts by year end in the range of **0.75%**. There was some movement in the probabilities around the timing of the first rate cut as BOC continues to take a very conservative approach.



Source: MortgageLogic.news

# Unemployment increased in March

## Employment News:

Unemployment **increased by 0.3%**, the largest jump since mid-2022.

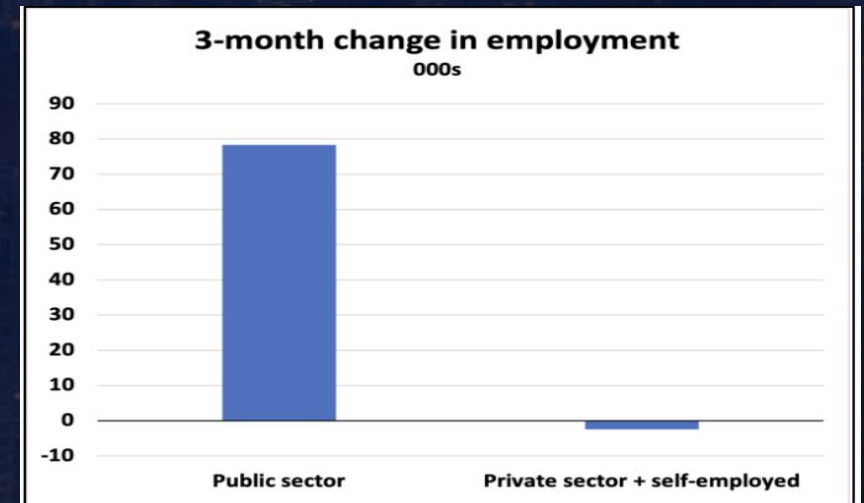
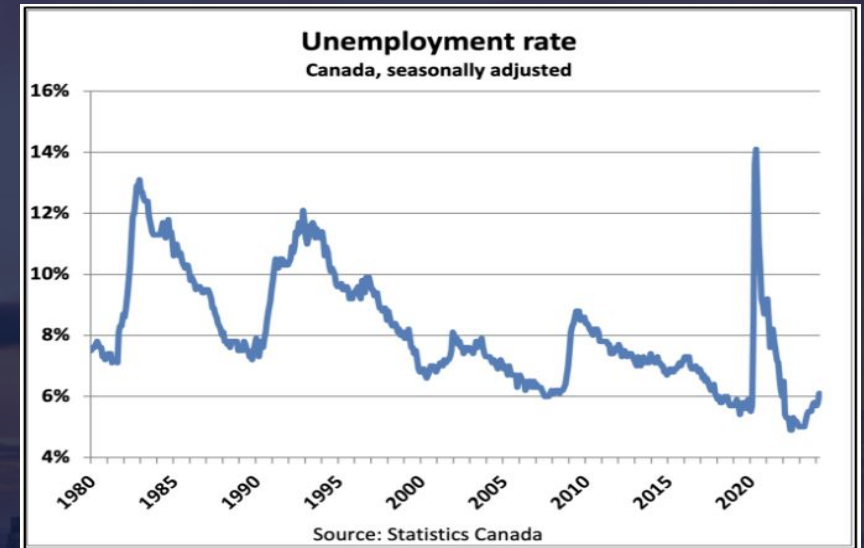
Total unemployment is **above 6%** for the first time since 2017, excluding the COVID related surge.

Historically, the tendency is for unemployment to trend. Once it gains momentum it tends to move for a while.

## Jobs Data:

The composition of employment is also a red flag as we continue to see weakness in private sector employment being offset by growth in the public sector.

This softness in private sector employment correlates with a decline in real GDP.





# Inflation - CPI

## Consumer Price Index:

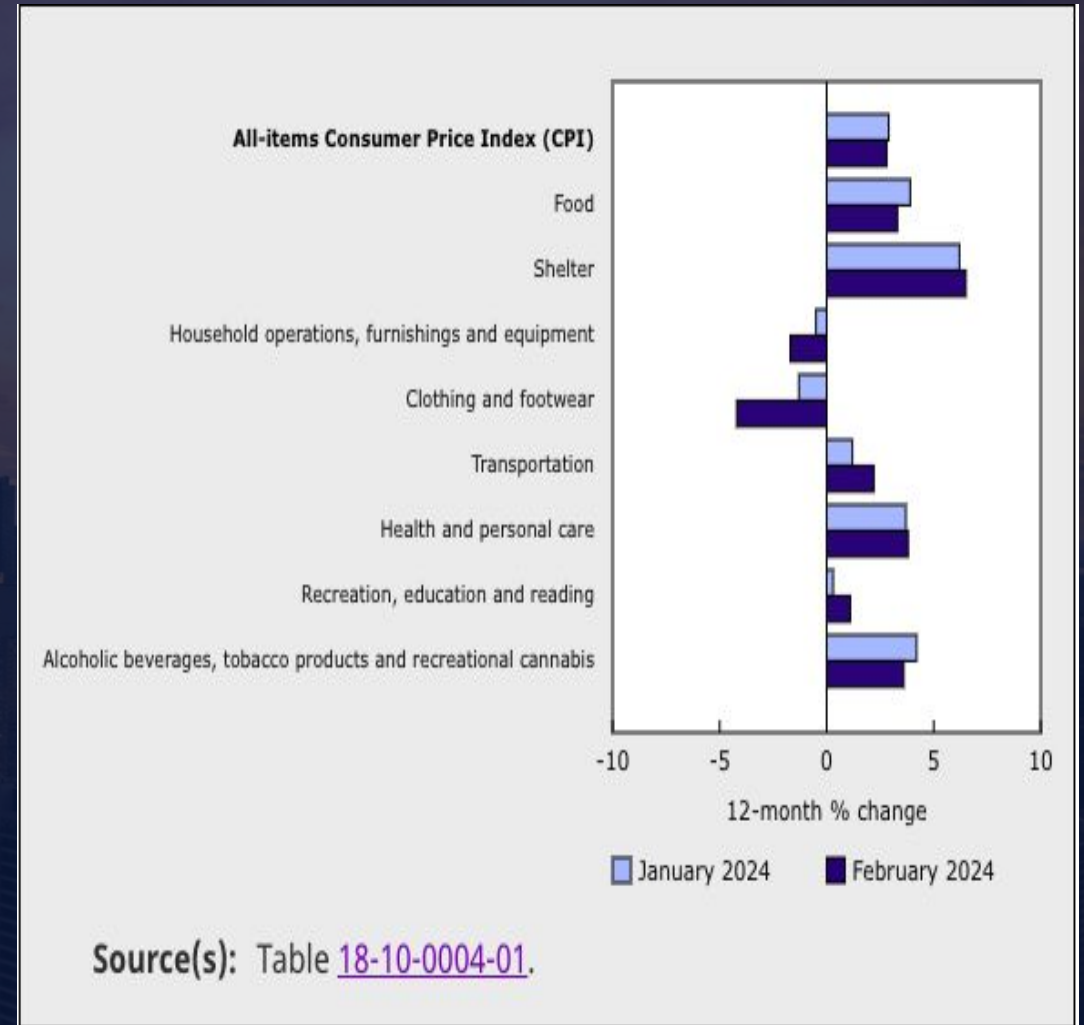
Headline inflation came in at **2.8%** in **February**, down from **2.9%** in **January**.

Household operations, furnishings & equipment continue to fall coming in at **-1.7%**. Clothing & Footwear also saw a significant decline at **-4.2%**.

Food is starting to level off coming in at **3.3%**. There are concerns that the April 01st **carbon tax increase** will have a flow through impact on food prices. **Transportation was up** a a full **1%** in February vs January, coming in at **2.2%**.

Shelter continues to be the greatest driver of inflation coming in at **6.5%** which is **+300 bps** month over month.

Mortgage interest costs were **0.8% of total inflation**, backing this out would have seen total inflation at the **BoC target of 2%**.



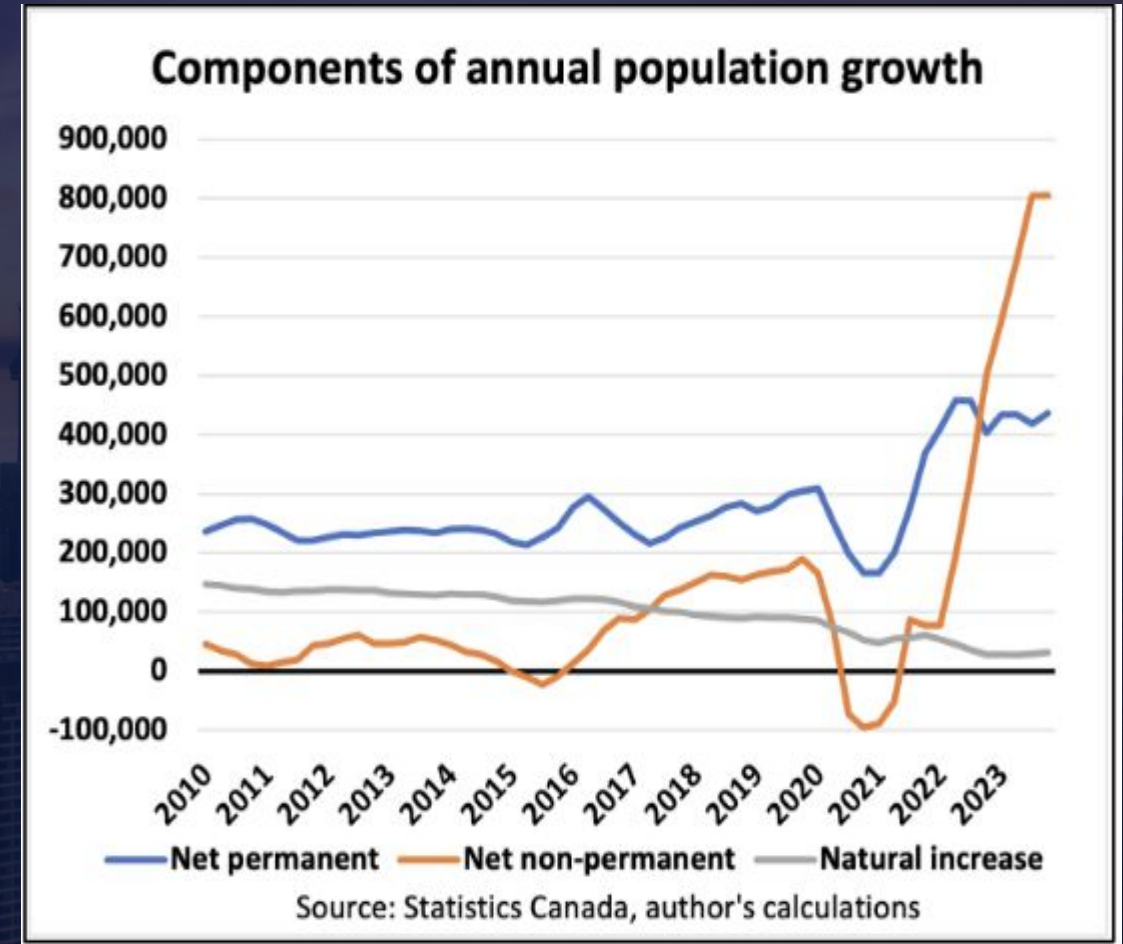
# Population & Immigration

**Total Population** is expected to grow by ~1.2mm in 2024. That's **+3.2%** YoY.

The key driver of population growth is **Non-Permanent Residents (NPR)** which makes up ~**800k** of the **total population growth**.

The Immigration Minister recently announced a major overhaul of the NPR programs. The plan is to **reduce NPR to 5% of total population** within **3 years**, it **currently** sits at **6.5%**.

On April 05th, Minister Miller announced a cap on the intake of international students. **Nationally**, the number of **approved student permits** will **decrease** by **28%**. Ontario will see the greatest decline as it expects to approve **141,000** permits in **2024** down from **239,768** in **2023**.





# Real Estate - Residential

## Residential:

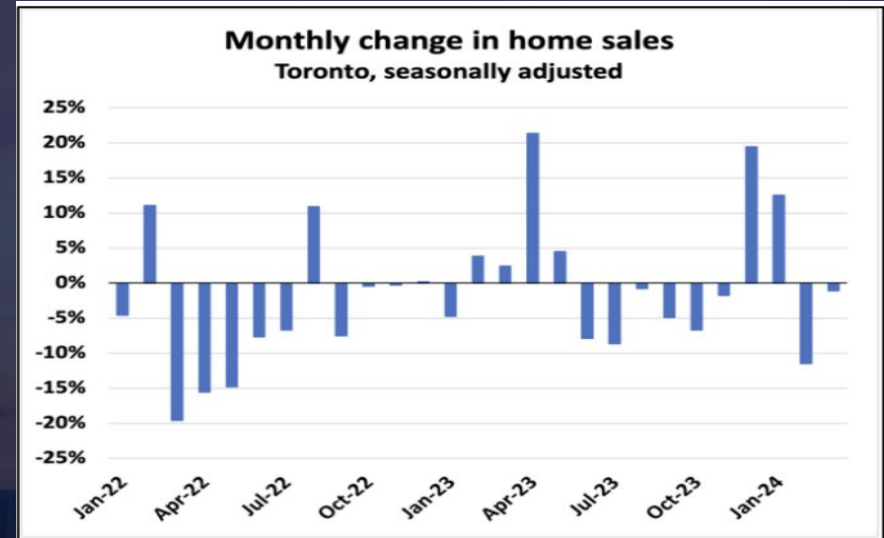
Home sales in the GTA fell by - **1.1% month over month** (MoM) in March and were down - **4.9% year over year** (YoY).

**Condos** in the 416 area code were the **biggest driver of the softness**. Single Family homes in 416 & 905, particularly “entry level” homes are still seeing considerable demand.

**Affordability** is the key driver and it's unclear if even a potential **June rate cut** will be enough to spur buyers into action.

There are still **no signs** that **prospective sellers** are **getting anxious** or being forced to liquidate. New listings are well below decade norms for March.

**Prices** remain **flat** relative to last year with **single family homes** growing **+2%** and **condos** in decline at **-2%**.







# Real Estate - Rental



**TWO SEVENS**  
CAPITAL

## Overview:

For March, the average rents were down slightly across the country **(-0.1%)**.

**15 of the 20** major markets saw a **modest decline** in March, month over month.

With the planned reduction in non-permanent residents we expect to **see a flattening** of what has been an exceptionally robust rental market. To be clear, **not FALLING rents**, just a more moderate **growth** in the range of **2-4% YoY** in most areas.

Within our current primary markets, **Hamilton market** saw modest growth in March 1-Bed **+1.2%**, 2-Bed **+0.9% MoM**. **YoY** March 1-Bed **-0.6%**, 2-Bed **-1.5%**

**Kingston market** was slightly down on MoM basis, 1-Bed **-0.1%**, 2-Bed **-2% MoM**. **YoY** still rising March 1-Bed **+12.3%**, 2-Bed **+7.3%**

RANK**	CITY/AREA	1 BED	M/M	YY	2 BED	M/M	YY
2	Toronto, ON	\$2,495	-0.6%	-0.2%	\$3,287	-1.3%	-0.8%
4	Mississauga, ON	\$2,294	-1.3%	5.2%	\$2,722	0.3%	4.3%
5	Oakville, ON	\$2,268	-0.5%	0.0%	\$2,684	-1.8%	-8.1%
6	Etobicoke, ON	\$2,255	0.1%	1.9%	\$2,799	-1.2%	1.1%
7	Scarborough, ON	\$2,194	-1.2%	10.1%	\$2,519	-1.3%	3.0%
8	Burlington, ON	\$2,193	-0.5%	-1.2%	\$2,591	0.5%	2.4%
9	Brampton, ON	\$2,155	-1.5%	15.5%	\$2,398	-2.4%	3.8%
12	Ottawa, ON	\$2,037	-0.2%	4.0%	\$2,494	0.6%	6.7%
13	Waterloo, ON	\$2,027	1.5%	14.2%	\$2,449	-1.0%	6.4%
14	Guelph, ON	\$1,986	0.3%	-1.7%	\$2,476	2.4%	6.3%
16	Kitchener, ON	\$1,924	-0.7%	-0.4%	\$2,350	-0.2%	-2.4%
17	Barrie, ON	\$1,915	-1.0%	-0.7%	\$2,189	-2.9%	-12.1%
19	Kingston, ON	\$1,874	-0.1%	12.3%	\$2,279	-2.0%	7.3%
20	London, ON	\$1,829	-0.9%	3.1%	\$2,208	-0.2%	4.6%
21	Hamilton, ON	\$1,817	1.2%	-0.6%	\$2,201	0.9%	-1.5%
22	Oshawa, ON	\$1,803	-1.8%	4.2%	\$2,114	-2.1%	-0.4%





# Unit Holder Impact

## Unit Holder Takeaways:

- With headline inflation trending toward the BoC target of 2% the expectation is that we will see rate cuts in the early summer. Intuitively, this should provide some stimulus to what has been a relatively quiet acquisition market. We anticipate to start seeing more deals getting completed in H2 2024. There is still a disconnect between sellers and buyers around valuations.
  - Although immigration is expected to cool, the demand for housing remains high as new builds continue to lag the accumulated demand. Home purchase affordability also provides a tailwind for the multi family real estate market as would be buyers remain in the rental market.
  - We continue to see significant growth in rental rates within our properties. As we see turnover in previously renovated units we are able to achieve rents that reflect the accelerated growth of the last 18 months.
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