



NATIONAL REPORT

Medical Radiation Technologist Workforce Crisis

**Canadian Association of
Medical Radiation Technologists**

November 2025

Medical Radiation Technologists: Essential to Canadian Healthcare

Medical radiation technologists (MRTs) provide the essential link between compassionate care and the sophisticated medical imaging and therapeutic technologies that underpin modern healthcare. In total, more than 22,000 technologists are working across Canada within the medical imaging areas of radiologic technology, nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance, and the practice of radiation therapy.

A strong, accessible, and well-supported healthcare system is the foundation of a thriving nation and is critical to the well-being of Canadians and the stability of communities across the country. Within this system, medical radiation technologists play a vital role.

Medical radiation technologists (MRTs) care for and interact with patients at some of the most critical junctures in their care. MRT work touches every Canadian. Millions of patients depend on medical imaging every year to help guide their diagnosis, care, and recovery. Hundreds of thousands more depend on highly targeted radiation therapy to treat their cancer.

What's more, medical imaging and radiation therapy are significant contributors to the Canadian economy, employing tens of thousands and generating billions in GDP.

KEY DATA

Total MRTs (2024)

Province / Terr	Total MRTs	RTR	RTNM	RTMR	RTT	RTR Multi	RTNM Multi	RTMR Multi	RTT Multi
British Columbia*	2,500*				400*				
Alberta	2,796	1889	293	267	246	38	12	49	2
Saskatchewan	656	461	52	65	78				
Manitoba	894	642	52	111	89				
Ontario	7,561	5177	638	631	1,115				
Quebec	6,131	4422	498	425	786				
New Brunswick	543	380	35	11	57			60	
Nova Scotia	619	414	63	61	81				
Prince Edward Island	108	81	5	7	15				
Newfoundland & Labrador	397	293	26	36	42				
Yukon	0**								
NWT	0**								
Nunavut	0**								
National	22,205	13759	1662	1614	2,909	38	12	109	2

Data from the Alliance of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologist Regulators of Canada (AMRITRC)

Impact: Medical Imaging

30 Million medical imaging exams a year in Canada

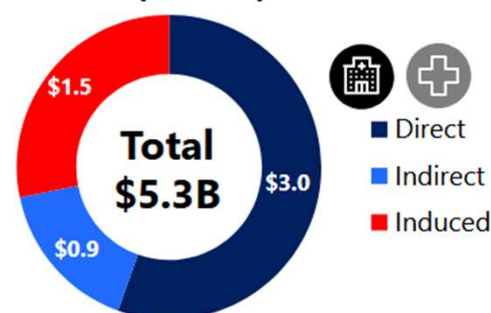
3 in 5 Canadians receive care from an MRT or sonographer each year



Economic footprint of radiology

IMPACT TO GDP

Total GDP impact (hospitals + clinics)



Total GDP impact from hospitals

\$3.6B

Total GDP impact from clinics

\$1.7B

Data taken from Deloitte report

Impact: Radiation Therapy

70,000 Canadians undergo radiation therapy every year



A system at risk: MRT shortages across the country

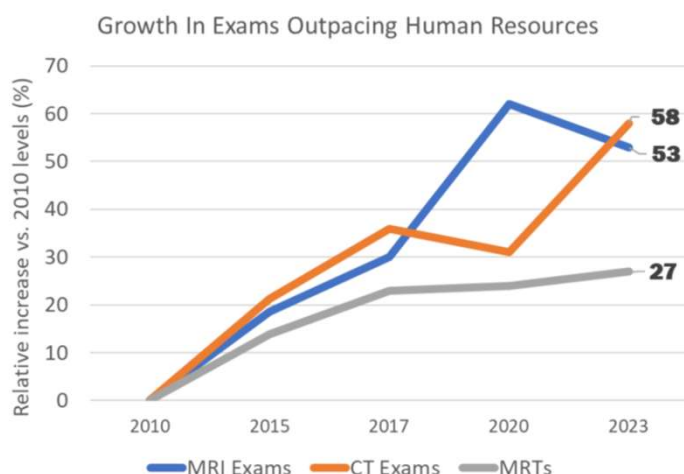
Data collected over more than a decade at CAMRT shows evidence of a deep and sustained shortage of MRTs in all medical imaging and radiation therapy.

Surveys from all disciplines reveal workforce shortages in the 8-15% range nationally. These high vacancy rates greatly hinder the ability of departments to function and deliver service, and for patients to access the care they expect from a modern healthcare system.

Without adequate investment in staffing, MRTs are consistently being asked to do more with less. The measures typically imposed on the workforce (like running services 24 hours a day and over weekends) have worn the critical MRT workforce thin. CAMRT's research reveals a troubling picture of how all these factors are combining to build a cycle of burnout, departures from the profession and rising vacancy levels across Canada. National mental health surveys conducted by CAMRT show that 70% of MRT respondents now exhibit high levels of emotional exhaustion and more than two-thirds are considering other avenues for employment.

Without action, this situation will likely worsen. The bottom line is that **Canada needs thousands more MRTs** for a sustainable workforce.

KEY DATA

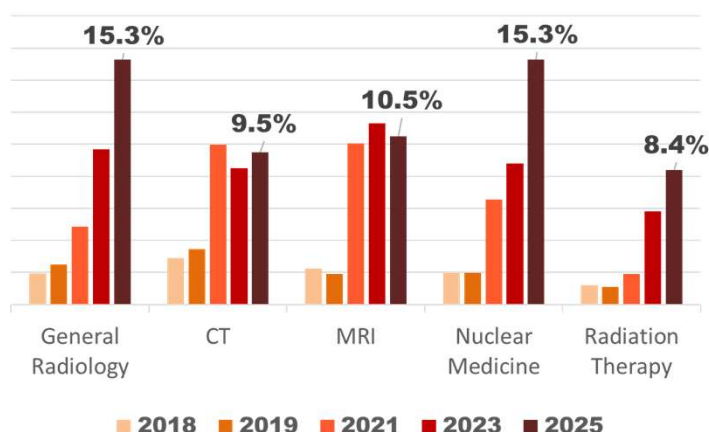


Demand in exams outpaces growth in MRTs

MRT growth less than half the growth in demand for MRI + CT

Data from the CDA (formerly CADTH) and CIHI

Vacancy rates by discipline



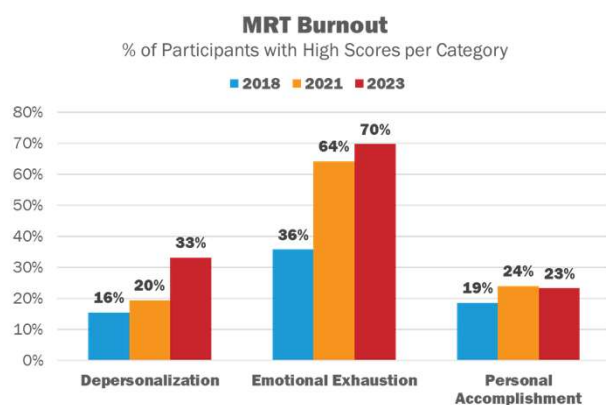
MRT shortfall and targets

Vacancy rates calculated as MRT numbers to achieve 0, 5, 10% vacancy

Discipline	RTR	RTNM	RTMR	RTT	Total
Current workforce (est.)	15,421	1,842	1,872	2,909	22,084
Full workforce (est.)	18,206	2,175	2,099	3,176	25,656
MRTs to get to 10% vacancy	964	116	17	0	1,097
MRTs to get to 5% vacancy	1,875	224	122	108	2,329
MRTs to get to 0% vacancy	2,786	333	227	267	3,572

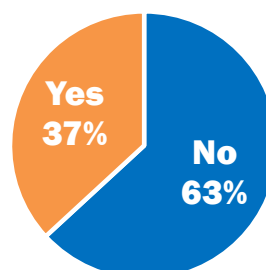
Data from CAMRT HHR surveys, AMRITRC

MRT mental health survey



MRTs leaving their roles

Are you looking for employment?



Top reasons

- Better working conditions (mental 20.0%, physical 12.8%, culture 11.1%)
- Better pay (12.8%)

Data from CAMRT 2024 Workforce survey

A profound impact on patients

The crisis in the MRT workforce has very real implications for Canadians and the Canadian healthcare system. In several instances, severe shortages have caused temporary and even long-term closures of hospital departments, reducing access for many. More generally, they manifest in greater wait times, which, since 2019, have reached historic highs in many places across the country.

Canada has struggled with long wait times for critical imaging exams like CT scans, PET scans, and MRIs for years, and these are now entrenched in many parts of the country (see Key Data).

Health impact

The loss in access to timely medical imaging and radiation therapy affects Canadians in many ways:

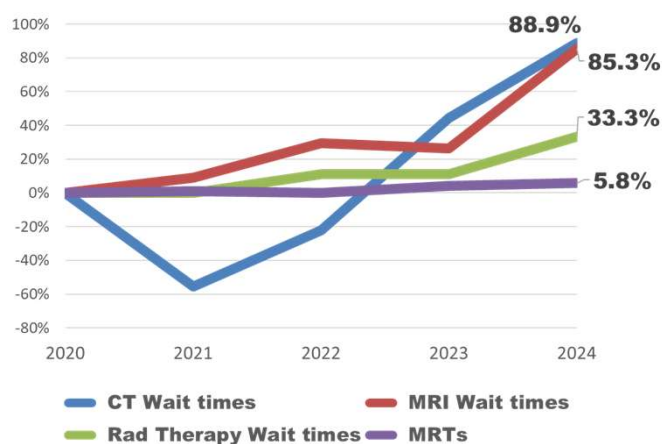
- Delays in diagnosis and management/treatment for their conditions
- Worsening of symptoms and prognoses (e.g., cancer discovered at later stages)
- Anxiety and psychological distress while waiting
- Time off work for patients and caregivers

Economic impact

Wait times also have an enormous impact on the Canadian economy. A 2025 study by Deloitte, commissioned by the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR), and in concert with CAMRT and Sonography Canada, showed that 14% of those waiting for CT scans and 18% of those waiting for MRIs needed to quit work while they waited. On aggregate, an estimated 2.0 million people had to stop work for some period of time, costing the Canadian economy billions in GDP, lost wages and lost tax revenues.

KEY DATA

Increasing wait times



Relative wait time growth from 2020 has vastly outpaced growth of the MRT profession over the same timeframe

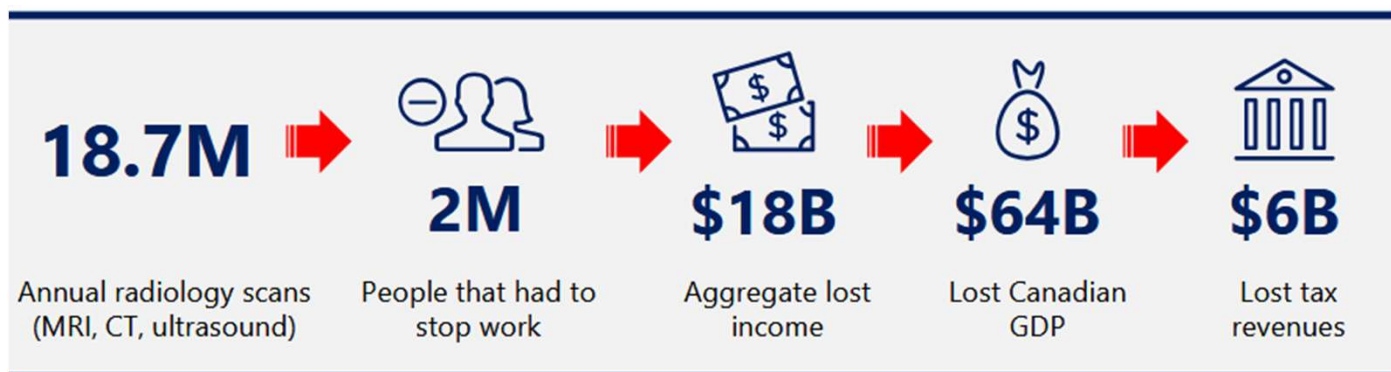
CIHI reported wait times, 2024

Indicator	Metric	Data year	Unit of measurement	Indicator result
CT Scan	50th Percentile	2024	Days	16
MRI Scan	50th Percentile	2024	Days	57
Radiation Therapy	50th Percentile	2024	Days	12

Indicator	Metric	Data year	Unit of measurement	Indicator result
CT Scan	90th Percentile	2024	Days	128
MRI Scan	90th Percentile	2024	Days	198
Radiation Therapy	90th Percentile	2024	Days	23

Data from the CIHI, 2024

Impacts on the broader economy



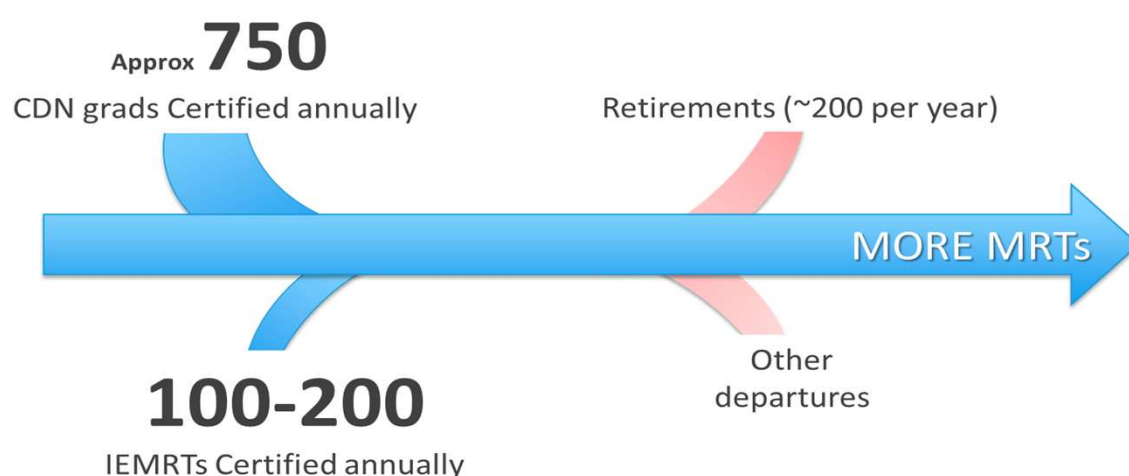
Data from Canadian Association of Radiologists: Impact of Delayed Medical Imaging in Canada, 2025.

Current Status: Supply of MRTs

As the association and national certifying body, CAMRT also keeps data that tracks MRTs entering the workforce. The two ways in which MRTs enter the Canadian workforce are via accredited Canadian programs and as internationally-educated MRTs (IEMRTs). To make up the workforce shortfall and to meet increasing demands, we need more of both.

Currently in Canada, approximately 700-750 individuals become newly certified MRTs each year. This number has been relatively static over about a decade, though we are starting to see small increases thanks to growth in student numbers in disciplines like MRI.

Internationally-educated MRTs are a growing part of the workforce. Last year, a record 451 IEMRTs wrote the CAMRT certification exam (a 52% increase over 2023). With lower pass rates than Canadian candidates, this projects to somewhere between 150-200 newly certified IEMRTs a year. While this growth is positive, the total number of MRTs entering the workforce is insufficient to make up for the current gap in workforce.



A Call to Action

Without concerted action and government assistance (at all levels) this crisis in medical imaging and radiation therapy will worsen.

CAMRT is asking the federal government for leadership and assistance to address this crisis.

1. Extend the student loan forgiveness program for healthcare professionals working in rural and remote communities to **include the MRT profession.**
2. Work in collaboration with the provinces to establish strategies and funding to **address the historic backlogs in medical imaging** with particular consideration for the human resources crisis in the MRT profession.
3. Direct funding to provinces to **increase the number of MRTs educated across Canada.**
4. Continue to invest in programs specifically designed to **address the mental health of the healthcare workforce.**

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