

February 4, 2022

## Labour market loses momentum amid Omicron-driven shutdowns

- After seven straight months of growth, the Canadian labour market lost momentum last month by shedding 200K jobs in January. Declines were spread across both part-time (-117K) and full-time (-83K) work with stricter public health measures imposed due to the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.
- Employment declined in Ontario (-146K), Quebec (-63K), Newfoundland and Labrador (3.9K), New Brunswick (3.1K) and Prince Edward Island (2.9K) but rose in in Saskatchewan (3.9K). There was little change in the other provinces.
- Jobs in the services-producing sector fell by 223K – the first decline since April. Consistent with public health measures introduced, notable declines were seen in accommodation and food (-113K), information, culture and recreation (-48K) and retail trade (-26K). Jobs also fell in business, building and other support (-22K) and in "other" services (-13K). In contrast, the goods-producing sector added 23K jobs, building on the gain of 43K in December. The increase was driven by construction (+23K) and natural resources (+5.9K).
- The unemployment rate increased for the first time in nine months to 6.5% in January. The increase was entirely due to more people on temporary lay-off or scheduled to start a job (+120K), while the number of people looking for work was little changed.

### NOTABLE INDUSTRIES

Construction	<b>+22.6K</b>
Accommodation and food services	<b>-112.9K</b>
Information, culture and recreation	<b>-48.4K</b>
Business, building and other support services	<b>-21.9K</b>



### Canada Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

