

Canada added 8,200 jobs, unemployment rose to 6.8%

The Canadian economy was little changed with just 8.2K jobs added in December. This followed three consecutive increases in September, October and November totalling 181K jobs. The employment rate held steady at 60.9%.

The unemployment rate rose 0.3% to 6.8%, as more people searched for work. There were 1.6 million people unemployed, an increase of 73K (+4.9%) in the month.

Full-time employment rose by 50K while part-time employment fell by 42K. Over 2025, part-time employment rose at a faster pace (+2.6%; +99K) than full-time employment (+0.7%; +128K).

Employment in the private and public sectors as well as in the number of self-employed workers was little changed.

Job gains were seen for those aged 55 and older (+33K; +0.8%), while it fell among youth aged 15 to 24 (-27K; -1.0%).

Employment increased in health care and social assistance (+21K; +0.7%) and 'other services' (+15K; +2.0%) while it decreased in professional, scientific and technical services (-18K; -0.9%), the first decrease since August 2025. The trade-sensitive manufacturing sector added 4,300 jobs.

Employment was up in Quebec (+16K; +0.3%), the first significant gain since June 2025. Employment fell in Alberta (-14K; -0.5%) and Saskatchewan (-4.0K; -0.6%). There was little employment change in the other provinces.

Average hourly wages among employees increased 3.4% (+\$1.23) to \$37.06 year-over-year.

Analysts polled by Reuters had expected a net loss of 5,000 positions and the jobless rate to edge up to 6.6%.



EMPLOYMENT

▲ 8,200

IN DECEMBER



AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

▲ \$37.06

3.4% ABOVE DECEMBER 2024



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

▲ 6.8%

IN DECEMBER

Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

