Canada Talent Market Monthly

Canada adds 83,000 jobs, driving unemployment rate down

Canada's labour market topped expectations and added 83.1K (–0.4%) jobs in June, the first significant gain since January. Growth was concentrated in part–time work (+70K; +1.8%).

The employment rate increased by 0.1% to 60.9%. The rate had previously recorded a cumulative decline of 0.3% points in March and April and had held steady in May.

Employment increased in both the private (+47K; +0.3%) and public (+23K; +0.5%) sectors, while the number of self–employed workers was little changed.

Employment rose among core–aged (25 to 54) men (+62K; +0.8%) and core–aged women (+29K; +0.4%). There was little change among youth and people aged 55+.

The unemployment rate ticked down to 6.9%, the first decrease since January.

There were 1.6M unemployed people, little changed in the month but up 128K (+9.0%) year–over–year. More than one in five (21.8%) have been searching for work for 27 weeks or more, up from 17.7% in June 2024.

The unemployment rate for returning students – those heading back to school in the fall – was 17.4%, up from 15.8% in June 2024. This was the highest unemployment rate for returning students since 2009, excluding pandemic years.

Employment increased in wholesale and retail trade (+34K; +1.1%), as well as in health care and social assistance (+17K; +0.6%) but declined in agriculture (–6K; –2.6%). There was little change in other industries.

Employment increased in Alberta (+30K; +1.2%), Quebec (+23K; +0.5%), Ontario (+21K; +0.3%) and Manitoba (+8.5K; +1.2%), while it declined in Newfoundland and Labrador (–3.5K; –1.4%) and Nova Scotia (–3.4K; –0.6%).

Average hourly wages increased 3.2% (+$1.10) to $36.01 year–over–year.

A Reuters poll of economists heading into Friday's release predicted the jobless rate would rise to 7.1% and employment would remain flat.

EMPLOYMENT

▲ 83,100

IN JUNE

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

▲ $36.01

3.2% ABOVE JUNE 2024

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

▼ 6.9%

6.4% IN JUNE 2024

Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

Legend: ■ Monthly Job Change — Unemployment Rate

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Monthly Job Change	76,000	1,100	–32,600	7,400	8,800	83,100
Unemployment Rate	6.6%	6.6%	6.7%	6.9%	7.0%	6.9%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey