

Canada adds a surprise 67,000 jobs, unemployment rate drops to 6.9%

The Canadian economy added 67K jobs (+0.3%) driven by gains in part-time work (+85K; +2.3%). Cumulative gains in September and October (+127K) have offset cumulative declines in July and August (-106K).

Employment rose among men aged 25 to 54 (+33K; +0.5%), the second consecutive monthly increase. Among youth aged 15 to 24, employment rose by 21K (+0.8%), the first increase since January.

The private sector added 73K jobs (+0.5%), the first gain since June. There was little change in the public sector and for those self-employed.

The employment rate rose by 0.2% to 60.8%, the second consecutive monthly increase.

The unemployment rate ticked down to 6.9% and nearly one in five people (19.8%) who were unemployed in September found work in October.

The youth unemployment rate fell for the first time since February as young people gained jobs. That rate has been on an upward trend from the beginning of 2023.

Job gains were driven by wholesale and retail trade with 41K (+1.4%), transportation and warehousing with 30K (+2.8%), information, culture and recreation with 25K (+3.0%), and utilities with 7.6K (+4.6%). Tariff-sensitive manufacturing had a gain of 8.7K jobs (+0.5%) while the construction sector lost 15K jobs (-0.9%).

Employment increases were concentrated in Ontario with 55K (+0.7%) jobs added, the first increase since June. Employment also increased in Newfoundland and Labrador (+4.4K; +1.8%) but declined in Nova Scotia (-4.4K; -0.8%) and Manitoba (-4.0K; -0.5%).

Average hourly wages among employees increased 3.5% (+\$1.27) to \$37.06 year-over-year.

Economists polled by Reuters ahead of Friday's release expected Canada's labour market would take a breather with a loss of 2,500 jobs in October, following a surprise gain of 60,000 positions in September.



EMPLOYMENT

▲ 67,000

IN OCTOBER



AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

▲ \$37.06

3.5% ABOVE OCTOBER 2024



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

▼ 6.9%

IN OCTOBER

Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

