

Canada Talent Market Monthly

October 9, 2026



Canadian employment fell for a second consecutive month, and the unemployment rate edged up:

- **Employment:** Fell by 68K, split between full-time (-35K) and part-time (-33K). Losses were concentrated among youth aged 15 to 24 (-48K) and women aged 25 to 54 (-28K). Year-over-year, employment was up by 95K.
- **Employment rate:** Fell -0.2 percentage points to 60.6%, its 2nd consecutive monthly decline.
- **Unemployment rate:** The rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 6.5%, matching its level at the start of the year (6.5% in January).
- **Worker Category:** The public sector lost 70K jobs, its 4th consecutive monthly decline. The private sector was little changed for a 2nd consecutive month. Self-employment edged down by 23K, following an upward trend from April to July.
- **Industry:** Employment decreased in educational services (-35K), health care and social assistance (-23K) and manufacturing (-13K) and increased in 'other services' (+17K).
- **Province:** Employment decreased in Quebec (-49K), British Columbia (-20K) and Manitoba (-4.4K) and increased in Alberta (+23K), Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.8K), and Prince Edward Island (+1.0K).
- **Wages:** Average hourly wages rose 2.3% (+\$0.86) to \$37.64 year-over-year, following growth of 2.0% in August.

Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast job gains of 9,200 and an unemployment rate of 6.5%, up from 6.4% in August.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



EMPLOYMENT
▼ **68,300**
IN SEPTEMBER



AVG HOURLY WAGE
▲ **\$37.64**
2.3% YEAR-OVER-YEAR



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
▲ **6.5%**
IN SEPTEMBER

Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

