

Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

January 2026



March 25, 2026

Background: The Statistics Canada Employment Insurance Statistics are based on administrative data; the microdata on beneficiaries are collected and provided by Service Canada. The number of EI beneficiaries represents a count of persons who qualified for employment insurance benefits during the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually the week containing the 15th day of the month. This survey is a census with a cross-sectional design. Data are collected for all units of the target population; therefore, no sampling is done.

The release of the data includes information on benefits paid, benefit weeks paid, claims received and allowed and the number of beneficiaries along with their characteristics such as age, and gender. For reference purposes, a regular beneficiary is an individual in receipt of employment insurance benefits in a month and is not currently in receipt of special benefits such as maternity, parental, or sick leave.

The following information is a summary for data that is unadjusted for seasonality. Note on Seasonality: *The EI time series is subject to seasonal and/or calendar effects and is therefore seasonally adjusted. Seasonal effects are the monthly fluctuations which occur more or less regularly from year to year. They result from composite effects of climatic events, institutional decisions or modes of operation which occur repeatedly with some regularity within the year. Calendar effects are related to the composition of the calendar. They include trading-day effects associated with the location of the Labour Force Survey reference week, moving holiday effects associated with non-fixed date holidays such as Easter, and other predictable events from the calendar.*

Employment Insurance- Brief

- The number of regular beneficiaries increased by 610 (+5.8%) when comparing January 2026 to January 2025 and stood at 11,070.
- Males represent 62.5% of the regular beneficiaries; there was a year over year increase and month over month increase in all three age cohorts (15 to 24 years, 25 to 54 years, and 55 years and older).
- Of the 11,070 regular beneficiaries in January 2026, there were 9,960 who did not declare earnings, or alternatively, 1,110 (or 10.0% of the total) who did declare earnings. In January 2025, there were 1,000 (or 9.6%) of the total 10,460 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.
- In January 2026, there were 2,560 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 8,510 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.
- A year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+180 or +6.7%), Summerside Census agglomeration (+100 or 7.9%) and Outside census metropolitan areas (+330 or +5.1).
- January 2026 saw year over year increases in Kings County (+100), Queens County (+220), and Prince County (+280).
- In January 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (2,960) followed by Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (2,760) and Sales and service occupations (2,280).

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Labour Market Context

The figures below are based on seasonally adjusted figures.

- Employment totaled 95,500 in January 2026, an increase of 600 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 1.6% higher than a year ago. There was a year-over-year increase in full-time employment (+500) and a year over year increase in part-time employment (+1,000).
- Unemployment totaled 7,900 in January 2026, an increase of 600 persons from the prior month. There was an increase of 500 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The unemployment rate increased from the previous month and was 7.6%. The rate was 0.3 of a percentage point higher than it was in January 2025 (7.3%).

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Characteristics of Regular Beneficiaries (Seasonally Unadjusted)

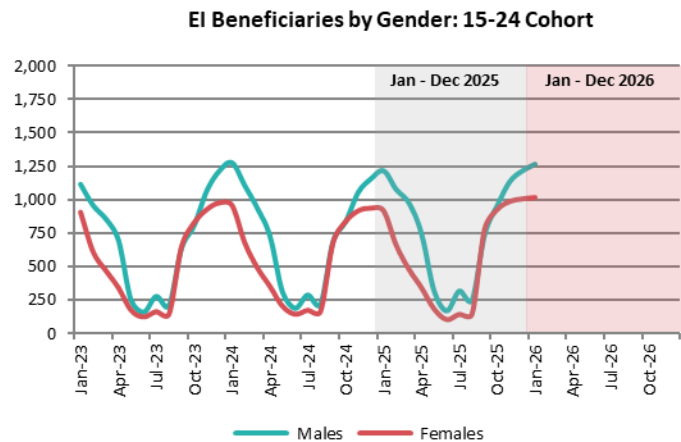
The number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in January 2026 was 11,070 of which 62.5% were males. The number of regular beneficiaries this month represents an increase of 810 beneficiaries (+7.9%) in comparison to December 2025 and an increase of 610 beneficiaries (+5.8%) in comparison to January 2025.

- On a month-over-month basis there was an increase in male beneficiaries (+690) and an increase in female beneficiaries (+120).
- On a year-over-year basis there was an increase in male beneficiaries (+390) and an increase in female beneficiaries (+200).
- Of the 11,070 regular beneficiaries in January 2026, there were 9,960 who did not declare earnings or alternatively, 1,110 (or 10.0% of the total) who did declare earnings. In January 2025, there were 1,000 (or 9.6%) of the total 10,460 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.

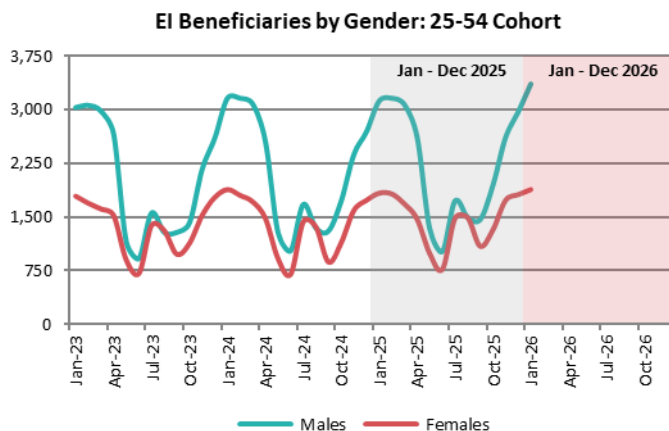
Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		% Chg
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	1270.8	2290.0	2140.0	7.0%
Males	729.2	1270.0	1220.0	4.1%
Females	541.9	1020.0	920.0	10.9%

There were 150 more regular beneficiaries year over year for this cohort. Males saw a year over year increase (+50) and sit at a total of 1,270 beneficiaries. Females saw a year over year increase of 100 to sit at a total of 1,020 beneficiaries. There was an increase of 60 regular beneficiaries in a month over month comparison.



Core-age Cohort (25-54 Years)



	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		% Chg
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	3628.1	3661.7	3497.5	4.7%
Males	2144.4	2207.5	2112.5	4.5%
Females	1485.0	1455.8	1384.2	5.2%

In January 2026, male beneficiaries increased by 240 year-over-year, while female beneficiaries rose by 50 during the same period. The total number of regular beneficiaries was 3,360 males and 1,880 females. When, compared to the previous month, female regular beneficiaries increased by 70 and the figure for male regular beneficiaries grew by 390.

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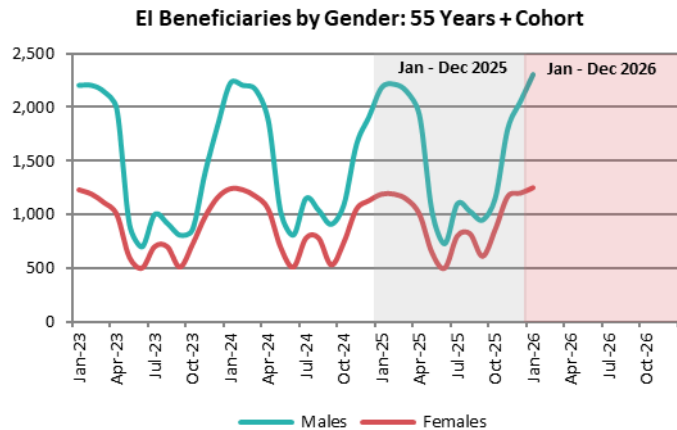


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Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

	Historical	Current Period		% Chg
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Both sexes	2490.6	2447.5	2411.7	1.5%
Males	1519.7	1522.5	1503.3	1.3%
Females	970.8	926.7	908.3	2.0%

In the 55 and over age group, there was a year-over-year increase of 4.7%. Females (+60 or 5.0%) and males (+120 or 5.5%) saw increases in a year over year comparison. When comparing January 2026 to December 2025, males in this cohort increased by 250 regular beneficiaries and while females (+50) saw an increase in regular beneficiaries.



Employment Insurances Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits by Province (Seasonally Unadjusted)

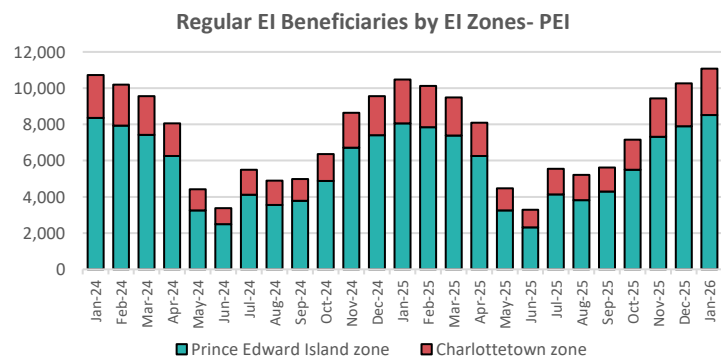
	Jan-26	Monthly Change	Annual Change	YTD Change
Canada	688,610	15.7%	9.7%	9.7%
Newfoundland and Labrador	35,550	11.9%	0.7%	0.7%
Prince Edward Island	11,070	7.9%	5.8%	5.8%
Nova Scotia	27,910	17.1%	2.0%	2.0%
New Brunswick	33,550	13.2%	2.7%	2.7%
Quebec	171,470	23.1%	6.8%	6.8%
Ontario	221,180	19.9%	14.1%	14.1%
Manitoba	21,000	6.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Saskatchewan	18,250	6.7%	1.4%	1.4%
Alberta	77,110	6.3%	15.0%	15.0%
British Columbia	68,460	7.7%	15.2%	15.2%

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0010-01 Employment insurance beneficiaries by age group, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by EI Zones

In January 2026, there were 2,560 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 8,510 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.

The Charlottetown zone had 150 more regular EI beneficiaries, and the PEI zone had 450 more EI regular beneficiaries in comparison to January 2025.



Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0346-01 Employment Insurance beneficiaries by employment insurance region, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

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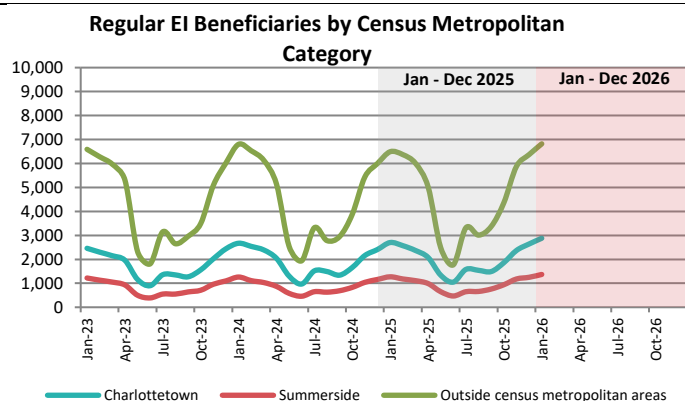
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Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by Census Metropolitan Category



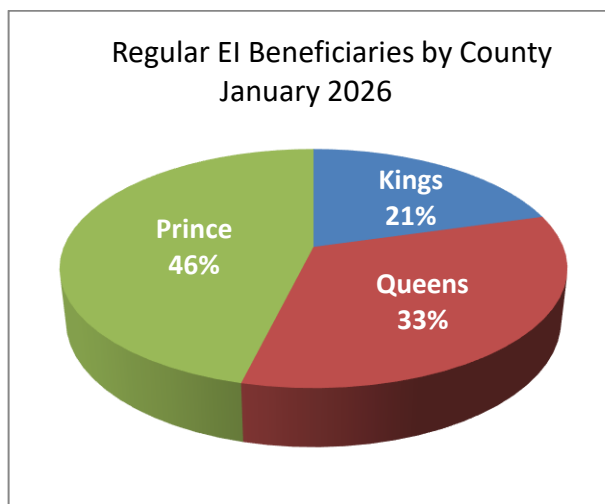
	Historical	Current Period		% Chg
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	
Charlottetown	1861.4	2880.0	2700.0	6.7%
Summerside	865.3	1370.0	1270.0	7.9%
Outside census metropolitan areas	4432.2	6820.0	6490.0	5.1%

Based on unadjusted data, a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+180 or +6.7%), Summerside Census agglomeration (+100 or +7.9%) and Outside Census Metropolitan areas (+330 or +5.1%).

Note: Table 14-10-0137-01 – Employment insurance beneficiaries (regular benefits) by census metropolitan category, monthly, seasonally adjusted.

Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by County

- Based on unadjusted data there was a year over year increase (+610) in employment insurance beneficiaries. At the county level there was an increase in Kings (+100), Queens (+220), and Prince (+280) Counties.
- For the 15-24 age group, Kings (20), Queens (+50), and Prince (+70) Counties had an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries in a year over year comparison.
- For the 25-54 age group, Kings (+30), Queens (+110), and Prince (+150) Counties had a year-over increase in regular beneficiaries.
- For individuals aged 55 and over, a year-over-year comparison shows that Kings (+60), Queens (+40), and Prince (+60) Counties had an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries during the same period.



Kings County- 2,280 Regular Beneficiaries
 Queens County- 3,680 Regular Beneficiaries
 Prince County- 5,110 Regular Beneficiaries

Note: Table 14-10-0323-01 – Employment insurance beneficiaries by census division unadjusted for seasonally

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Employment Insurances Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits by Occupation (Seasonally Unadjusted)

The table below displays the number of EI beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by occupational grouping.

- In January 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (2,960) followed by Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (2,760) and Sales and service occupations (2,280).
- There was a year over year decrease in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Management occupations (-10).
- There was a year over year increase in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Health occupations (+20), Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (+50), Sales and service occupations (+260), Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (+120), Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations (+110), Occupations in manufacturing and utilities (+40) and Unclassified occupations (+20).
- There was no change in the number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Business, finance, and administration occupations, Natural and applied sciences and related occupations and Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport in a year over year comparison.

Note: Any further details on occupational groupings may not be available due to data limitations.

Table 3
Employment Insurances Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits
National Occupation Classification (NOC) Skill Type-Seasonally Unadjusted

Historical 2023-25		Current Period				
		Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	M-M	Y-Y
7,158	All occupations	11,070	10,260	10,460	810	610
27	Management occupations	30	30	40	0	-10
555	Business, finance and administration occupations	700	710	700	-10	0
288	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	460	410	460	50	0
135	Health occupations	200	180	180	20	20
414	Occupations in education, law and social, community and government	360	360	310	0	50
116	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	170	170	170	0	0
1,294	Sales and service occupations	2,280	2,140	2,020	140	260
1,817	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	2,960	2,480	2,840	480	120
1,733	Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	2,760	2,650	2,650	110	110
766	Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	1,110	1,090	1,070	20	40
24	Unclassified occupations	40	50	20	-10	20

Data source: Table 14-10-0336-01; "Historical 2022-24" is provided as average values over the past 3 years for historical context.

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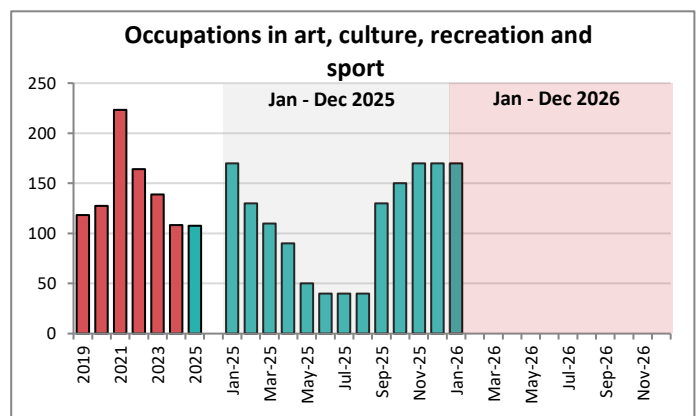
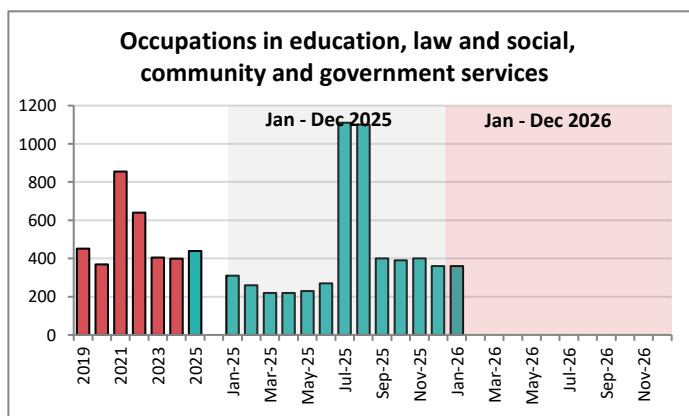
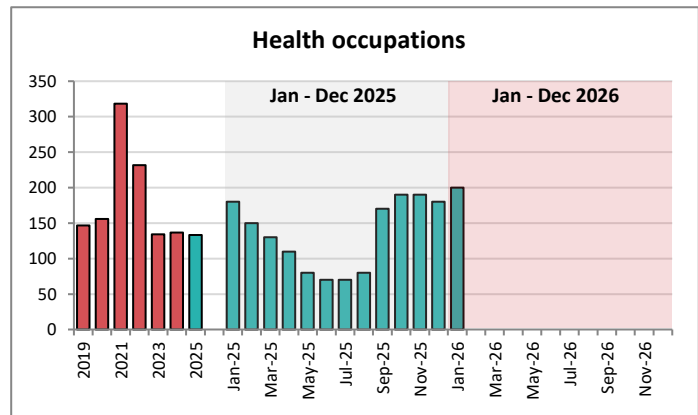
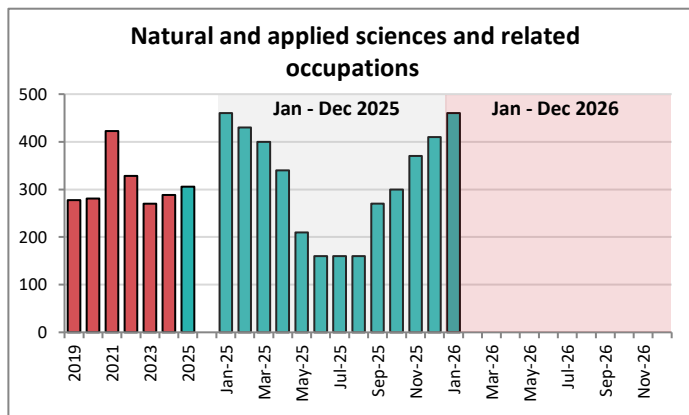
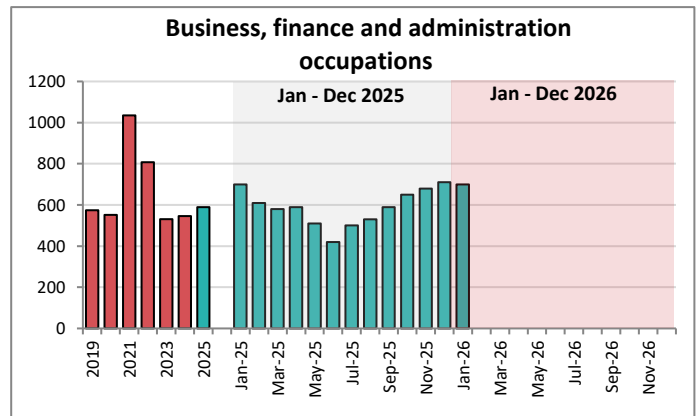
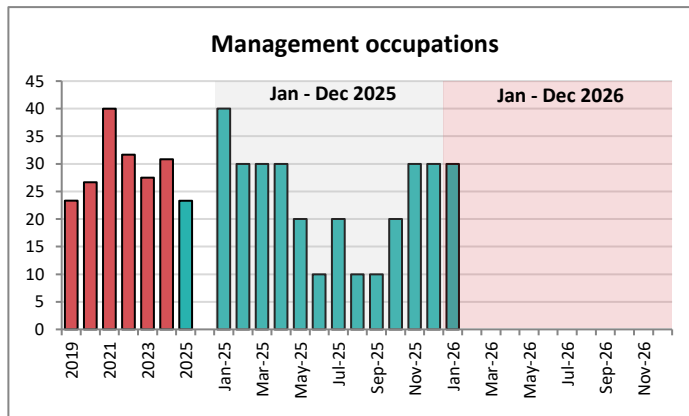


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EI Beneficiaries by NOC Skill Type Progress Report

EI Beneficiary data is released monthly. The purpose of this section is to track the progress of employment by industry with historical context. "Year-to-date" (YTD) compares average values of available months in 2026 to the same in 2025.

Graph interpretation: Annual – Historical perspective: 2019 – 2025
 Monthly – Current perspective: 2025 - 2026 (YTD)



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