

**Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours
January 2026**



March 26, 2026

Every month, Statistics Canada releases data on the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH). This release includes unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data related to employment, wages and hours worked. The survey's target population is composed of businesses in Canada that have at least one employee and, thus issued at least one payroll deduction remittance during the reference month. Excluded are businesses that are primarily involved in agriculture, fishing and trapping, private household services, religious organizations, international and other extraterritorial public administration and military personnel of defence services. The employment figures presented in the SEPH is an estimate of the number of jobs and should not be interpreted as number of employed persons (as reported in Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey).

Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH) – Brief

SEPH Indicators: Prince Edward Island

Historical 2023-25	Current Period	Current Period			M-M		Y-Y	
		Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25		Chg		Chg
	Employment (persons)							
76,355	All employees	77,490	76,525	76,706	965	1.3%	784	1.0%
44,249	Hourly paid employees	45,907	44,990	44,184	917	2.0%	1,723	3.9%
27,516	Salaried employees	27,216	27,689	27,211	-473	-1.7%	5	0.0%
77,864	All employees - including unclassified occupations	78,907	77,951	78,400	956	1.2%	507	0.6%
	Average weekly earnings - including overtime (dollars)							
1,076	All employees	1,156.68	1,174.91	1,100.21	-18.23	-1.6%	56.47	5.1%
825	Hourly employees	911.37	931.47	841.92	-20.10	-2.2%	69.5	8.2%
1,432	Salaried employees	1,532.99	1,512.72	1,453.99	20.27	1.3%	79.0	5.4%
	Average hourly earnings - including overtime (dollars)							
26.21	Hourly employees	29.24	30.26	26.16	-1.02	-3.4%	3.08	11.8%
37.31	Salaried employees	40.82	40.20	39.23	0.62	1.5%	1.59	4.1%
	Average weekly hours - including overtime							
31.46	Hourly employees	31.30	31.20	32.30	0.10	0.3%	-1.00	-3.1%

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0222-01 - Employment, average hourly and weekly earnings (including overtime), and average weekly hours for the industrial aggregate excluding unclassified businesses, monthly, seasonally adjusted

Summary:

- In January 2026, PEI's seasonally adjusted employment (jobs) for non-farm employees increased by 0.6% compared to a year ago, totaling 78,907. The national employment figure increased by 0.2 of a percentage point over the same period. Prince Edward Island was fifth highest among provinces in year over year percentage change.
- Average weekly earnings in PEI increased 5.1% (or \$56.47) to \$1,156.68 in January 2026 representing the fourth highest figure on record (dating back to 2001). PEI was above national growth (2.0%) and had the highest year over year percentage growth among provinces.
- Labour Force Survey note regarding employment: According to Labour Force Survey, there were 95,500 persons employed in January 2026, an increase of 600 persons compared to 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).

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SEPH Employment by Industry: Prince Edward Island

Historical 2023-25		Current Period					2026	2025	YTD
		Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	Y-Y	Chg	YTD avg	YTD avg	Chg
77,864	Industrial aggregate (including unclassified (1) businesses)	78,907	77,951	78,400	507	0.6%	78,907	78,400	0.6%
76,355	Industrial aggregate (excluding unclassified businesses)	77,490	76,525	76,706	784	1.0%	77,490	76,706	1.0%
12,565	Goods producing industries	13,546	12,956	13,057	489	3.7%	13,546	13,057	3.7%
50	Forestry, logging and support	42	42	56	-14	-25.0%	42	56	-25.0%
21	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	21	15	x	n/a	n/a	21	n/a	n/a
412	Utilities	366	376	x	n/a	n/a	366	n/a	n/a
5,279	Construction	5,562	5,438	5,381	181	3.4%	5,562	5,381	3.4%
6,832	Manufacturing	7,556	7,085	7,222	334	4.6%	7,556	7,222	4.6%
63,790	Service producing industries	63,943	63,569	63,649	294	0.5%	63,943	63,649	0.5%
2,214	Wholesale trade	2,311	2,159	2,186	125	5.7%	2,311	2,186	5.7%
9,654	Retail trade	9,557	9,381	9,361	196	2.1%	9,557	9,361	2.1%
2,949	Transportation and warehousing	2,699	2,752	3,006	-307	-10.2%	2,699	3,006	-10.2%
673	Information and cultural industries	539	541	682	-143	-21.0%	539	682	-21.0%
2,088	Finance and insurance	2,063	2,108	2,133	-70	-3.3%	2,063	2,133	-3.3%
1,066	Real estate and rental and leasing	1,085	1,176	1,064	21	2.0%	1,085	1,064	2.0%
2,977	Professional, scientific and technical services	2,982	2,965	2,999	-17	-0.6%	2,982	2,999	-0.6%
198	Management of companies and enterprises	298	189	241	57	23.7%	298	241	23.7%
4,009	Admin/support/waste management/remediation services	2,932	3,096	3,779	-847	-22.4%	2,932	3,779	-22.4%
6,409	Educational services	6,760	6,586	6,687	73	1.1%	6,760	6,687	1.1%
10,423	Health care and social assistance	11,543	11,506	10,416	1,127	10.8%	11,543	10,416	10.8%
1,154	Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,060	1,067	1,066	-6	-0.6%	1,060	1,066	-0.6%
7,171	Accommodation and food services	7,214	7,154	7,152	62	0.9%	7,214	7,152	0.9%
2,522	Other services (except public administration)	2,975	2,974	2,471	504	20.4%	2,975	2,471	20.4%
10,331	Public administration	9,924	9,915	10,406	-482	-4.6%	9,924	10,406	-4.6%

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0223-01 –Employment and average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees by province and territory, monthly, seasonally adjusted; (1) Unclassified businesses are businesses for which the industrial classification (North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] 2012) has yet to be determined. F- data too unreliable to be published. x- suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

- The number of jobs in January 2026 (for non-farm employees) *including* unclassified businesses increased by 507 employees from January 2025 to 78,907. The number of jobs in January 2026 (for non-farm employees) *excluding* unclassified businesses increased 784 employees from January 2025 to 77,490- there was a gain in goods producing industries (+489) and a gain in service producing industries (+294).
- There was year over year gains in Construction (+181), Manufacturing (+334), Wholesale trade (+125), Retail trade (+196), Real estate and rental and leasing (+21), Management of companies and enterprises (+57), Educational services (+73), Health Care and social assistance (+1,127), Accommodation and food services (+62) and Other services (except public administration) (+504).
- There was year over year losses in Forestry, logging and support (-14), Transportation and warehousing (-307), Information and cultural industries (-143), Finance and insurance (-70), Professional, scientific and technical services (-17), Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services (-847), Arts, entertainment and recreation (-6), and Public administration (-482).

See Appendix 1 for further graphs on Employment by Industry

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SEPH Average Weekly Earnings including overtime: Prince Edward Island (in dollars)

Historical 2023-25		Current Period					2026	2025	YTD
		Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	Y-Y	Chg	YTD avg	YTD avg	Chg
1,075.63	Industrial aggregate (excluding unclassified businesses)	1,156.68	1,174.91	1,100.21	56.47	5.1%	1,156.68	1,100.21	5.1%
	Goods producing industries	1,308.22	1,312.15	1,251.61	56.61	4.5%	1,308.22	1,251.61	4.5%
1,215.28	Construction	1,256.75	1,259.47	1,238.23	18.52	1.5%	1,256.75	1,238.23	1.5%
1,203.93	Manufacturing	1,320.63	1,305.72	1,237.67	82.96	6.7%	1,320.63	1,237.67	6.7%
	Service producing industries	1,122.72	1,155.25	1,067.90	54.82	5.1%	1,122.72	1,067.90	5.1%
1,307.47	Wholesale trade	1,296.09	1,313.12	1,313.87	-17.78	-1.4%	1,296.09	1,313.87	-1.4%
714.30	Retail trade	770.11	747.81	719.74	50.37	7.0%	770.11	719.74	7.0%
1,109.68	Transportation and warehousing	1,233.80	1,269.94	1,112.37	121.43	10.9%	1,233.80	1,112.37	10.9%
1,398.42	Information and cultural industries	1,621.10	1,444.65	1,414.15	206.95	14.6%	1,621.10	1,414.15	14.6%
1,531.25	Finance and insurance	1,568.50	1,569.15	1,691.05	-122.55	-7.2%	1,568.50	1,691.05	-7.2%
973.92	Real estate and rental and leasing	1,093.74	1,026.63	956.23	137.51	14.4%	1,093.74	956.23	14.4%
1,521.85	Professional, scientific and technical services	1,642.17	1,726.67	1,637.55	4.62	0.3%	1,642.17	1,637.55	0.3%
n/a	Management of companies and enterprises	F	F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
771.38	Admin/support/waste management/remediation services	911.30	771.30	750.91	160.39	21.4%	911.30	750.91	21.4%
1,269.46	Educational services	1,338.49	1,347.44	1,279.92	58.57	4.6%	1,338.49	1,279.92	4.6%
1,080.91	Health care and social assistance	1,184.17	1,376.92	1,096.68	87.49	8.0%	1,184.17	1,096.68	8.0%
641.65	Arts, entertainment and recreation	785.27	717.25	F	n/a	n/a	785.27	n/a	n/a
489.29	Accommodation and food services	F	F	506.51	n/a	n/a	n/a	506.51	n/a
881.04	Other services (except public administration)	857.15	853.71	F	n/a	n/a	857.15	n/a	n/a
1,413.59	Public administration	1,504.77	1,538.82	1,424.65	80.12	5.6%	1,504.77	1,424.65	5.6%

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0223-01 –Employment and average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees by province and territory, monthly, seasonally adjusted; (1) Unclassified businesses are businesses for which the industrial classification (North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] 2012) has yet to be determined. F- data too unreliable to be published. x- suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

- The wages in January 2026 (for non-farm employees) increased by \$56.47 up 5.1% from January 2025 to \$1,156.68. There was an increase of \$56.61 in the average weekly earnings related to the goods producing industries and an increase of \$54.82 in the average weekly earnings associated with the service producing industries on a year over year basis.
- In January 2026, there was a year over year gain in average weekly earnings in Construction (\$18.52), Manufacturing (\$82.96), Retail trade (\$50.37), Transportation and warehousing (\$121.43), Information and cultural industries (\$206.95), Real estate and rental and leasing (\$137.51), Professional, scientific and technical services (\$4.62), Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services (\$160.39), Educational services (\$58.57), Health care and social assistance (\$87.49) and Public administration (\$80.12).
- In January 2026, there was a year over year decrease in average weekly earnings in Wholesale trade (-\$17.78), Finance and insurance (-\$122.55).

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Employment and Average Weekly Wages by Province

	Employment			Wages (\$)		
	Jan-25	Jan-26	Y-Y Change	Jan-25	Jan-26	Y-Y Change
Canada	18,309,852	18,343,379	0.2%	1,294.30	1,320.46	2.0%
Newfoundland & Labrador	220,143	220,213	0.0%	1,275.14	1,314.24	3.1%
Prince Edward Island	78,400	78,907	0.6%	1,100.21	1,156.68	5.1%
Nova Scotia	461,188	465,451	0.9%	1,148.50	1,198.75	4.4%
New Brunswick	366,332	369,433	0.8%	1,178.06	1,229.96	4.4%
Quebec	4,096,024	4,084,554	-0.3%	1,236.66	1,267.08	2.5%
Ontario	7,096,113	7,085,174	-0.2%	1,334.75	1,355.96	1.6%
Manitoba	643,347	646,625	0.5%	1,158.39	1,199.35	3.5%
Saskatchewan	521,451	532,303	2.1%	1,262.61	1,301.73	3.1%
Alberta	2,180,719	2,203,872	1.1%	1,364.36	1,369.76	0.4%
British Columbia	2,571,498	2,580,316	0.3%	1,298.71	1,332.84	2.6%

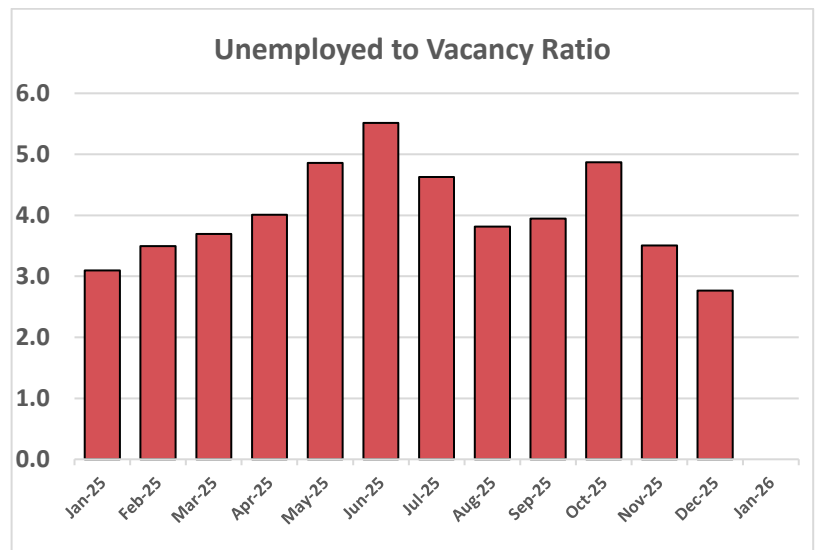
Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0223-01 –Employment and average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees by province and territory, monthly, seasonally adjusted

Unemployed Persons to Vacancy Ratio

NOTE: The January 2026 job vacancies figure and job vacancy rate for Prince Edward Island has been deemed too unreliable to be published by Statistics Canada.

There were 2,640 vacancies reported by employers in December 2025- this is 370 fewer vacancies than what was reported in December 2024. The December 2025 vacancy rate was 3.6% which is above the national rate (2.8%) and ranked highest among provinces.

There were 2.8 unemployed persons per vacancy in December 2025, this is down from December 2024 where the ratio was 2.9 unemployed persons per vacancy.



Note: The job vacancy rate is the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of labour demand; that is, all occupied and vacant jobs.

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0432-01 Job vacancies, payroll employees, and job vacancy rate by provinces and territories, monthly, adjusted for seasonality and Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months. Calculation by report author.

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Appendix 1 – Employment by Industry Progress Report

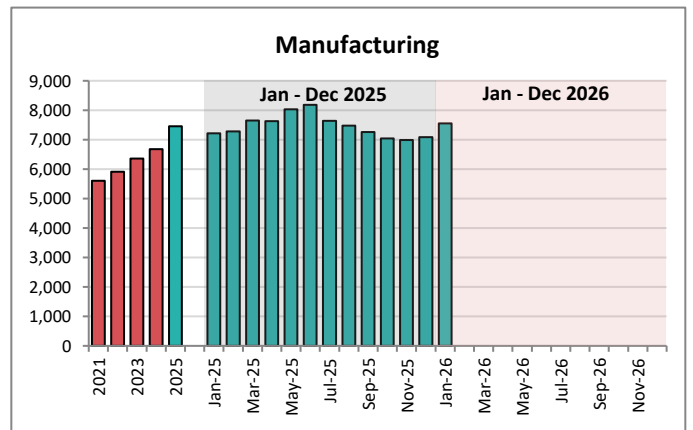
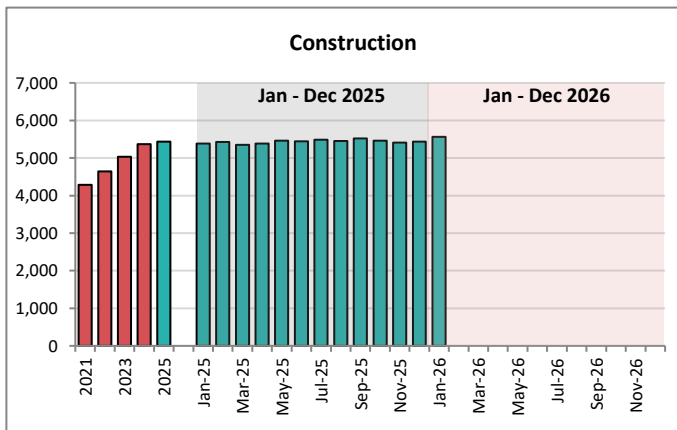
*Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours data is released on a monthly basis. The purpose of this section is to track the progress of employment by industry with historical context. “Year-to-date” (YTD) compares average values of available months in 2026 to the same in 2025. *Note: Months with suppressed figures are represented with no bar in the graphs.*

Graph interpretation: Annual – Historical perspective: 2021 – 2025
 Monthly – Current perspective: 2025 - 2026 (YTD)

All Industries



Goods-Producing Industries

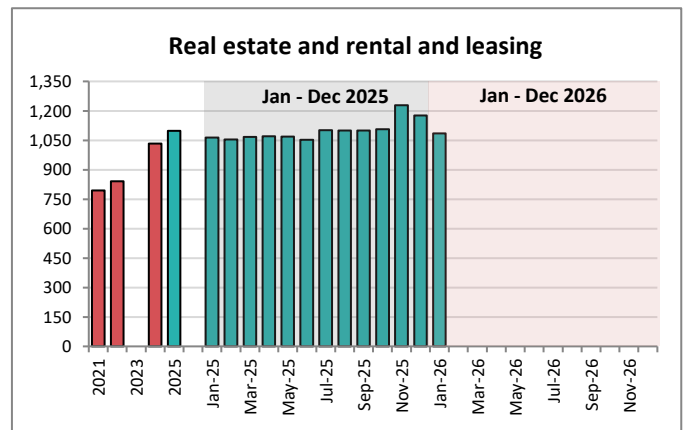
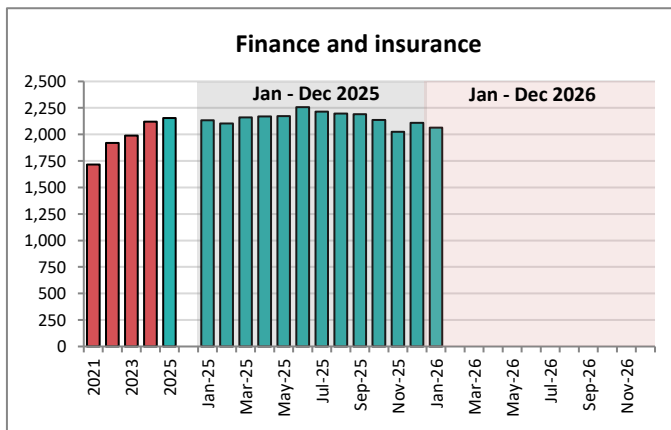
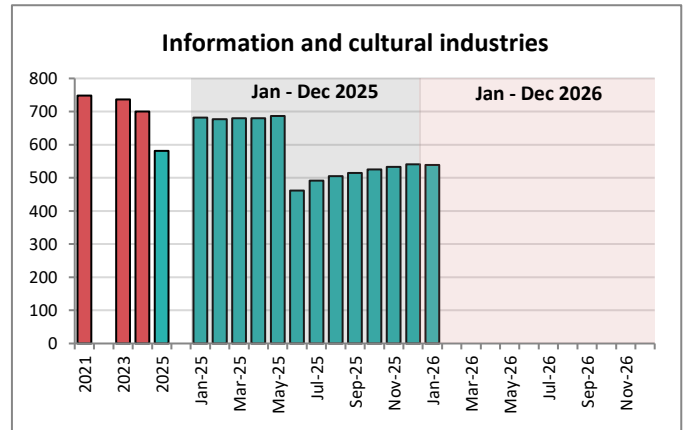
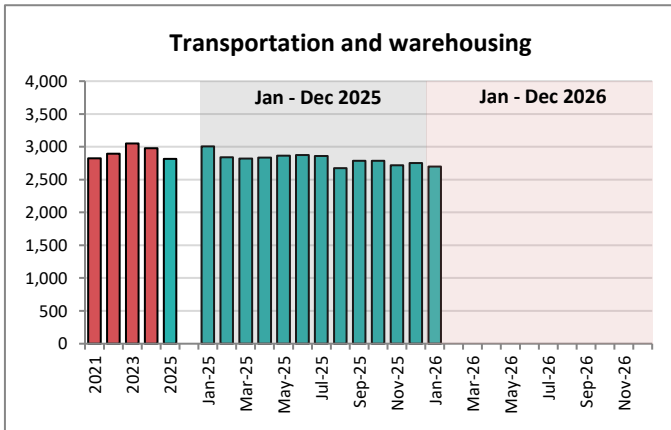
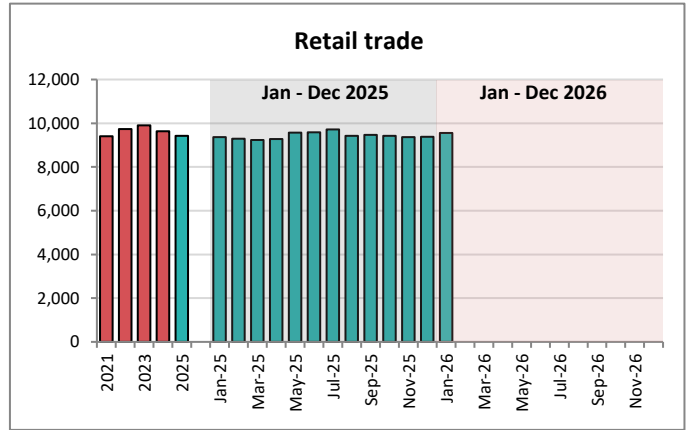
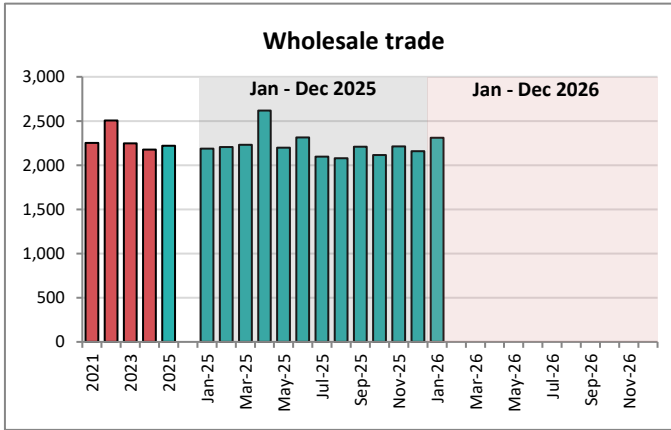


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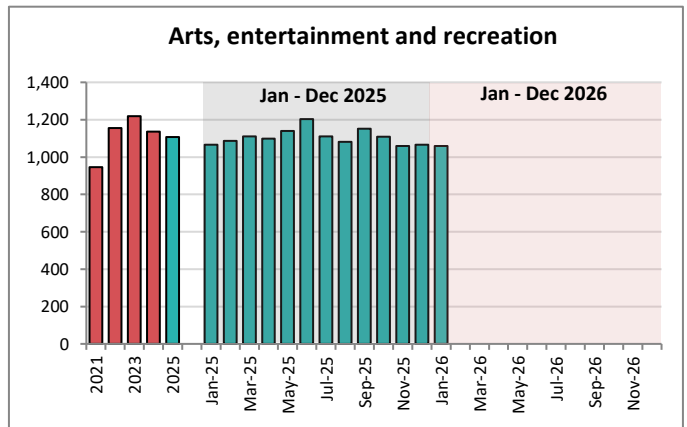
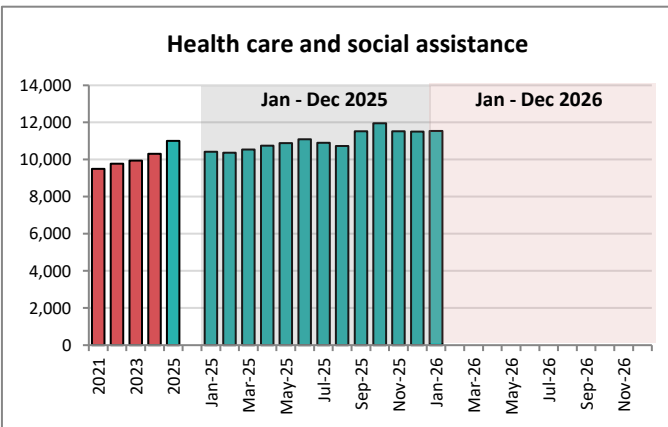
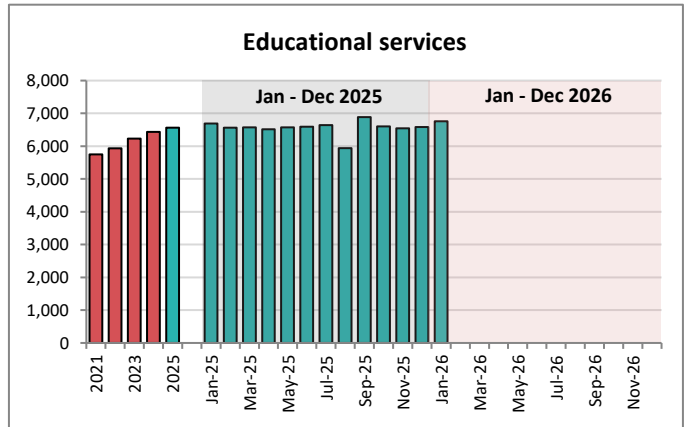
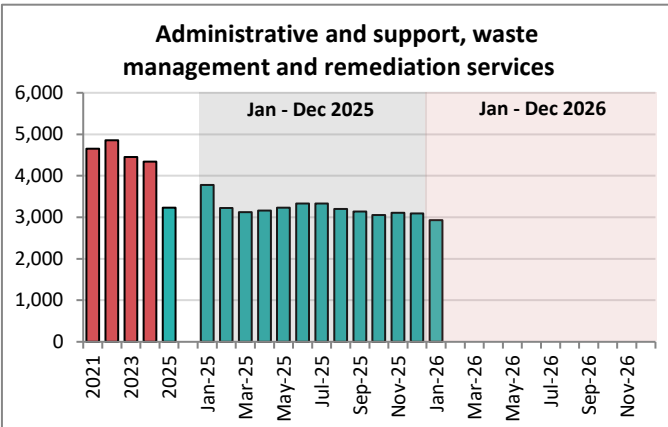
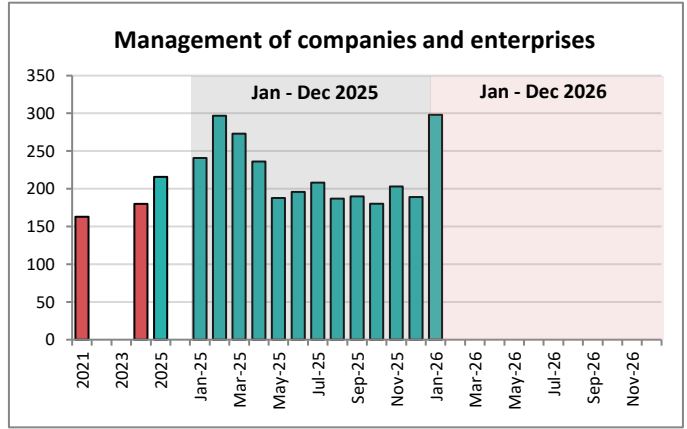
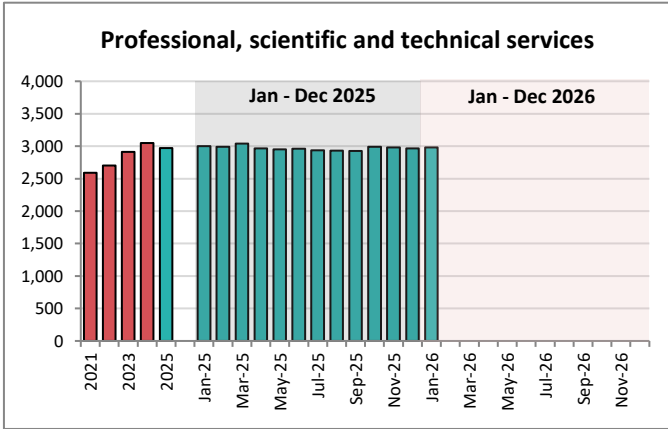
Services-Producing Industries



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