

Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours
February 2026



May 1, 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	
		Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25		Chg		Chg
	Employment (persons)							
76,355	All employees	76,415	77,118	75,951	-703	-0.9%	464	0.6%
44,249	Hourly paid employees	44,973	45,644	43,583	-671	-1.5%	1,390	3.2%
27,516	Salaried employees	27,287	27,085	27,286	202	0.7%	1	0.0%
77,864	All employees - including unclassified occupations	77,793	78,516	77,582	-723	-0.9%	211	0.3%
	Average weekly earnings - including overtime (dollars)							
1,076	All employees	1,179.64	1,160.03	1,088.16	19.61	1.7%	91.48	8.4%
825	Hourly employees	920.26	913.82	821.92	6.44	0.7%	98.3	12.0%
1,432	Salaried employees	1,562.93	1,534.44	1,443.00	28.49	1.9%	119.9	8.3%
	Average hourly earnings - including overtime (dollars)							
26.21	Hourly employees	29.63	29.29	26.16	0.34	1.2%	3.47	13.3%
37.31	Salaried employees	41.42	40.82	39.36	0.60	1.5%	2.06	5.2%
	Average weekly hours - including overtime							
31.46	Hourly employees	31.30	31.30	31.70	0.00	0.0%	-0.40	-1.3%

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 February 2026, PEI's seasonally adjusted employment (jobs) for non-farm employees increased by 0.3% compared to a year ago, totaling 77,793. The national employment figure virtually did not change over the same period. Prince Edward Island was tied for fifth highest among provinces in year over year percentage change.
- Average weekly earnings in PEI increased 8.4% (or \$91.48) to \$1,179.64 in February 2026 representing the highest figure on record (dating back to 2001). PEI was above national growth (3.4%) and had the highest year over year percentage growth among provinces.
- Labour Force Survey note regarding employment: According to Labour Force Survey, there were 96,200 persons employed in February 2026, an increase of 700 persons compared to a year ago. There was a year-over-year increase in full-time employment (+700) and a year over year increase in part-time employment (+1,800).

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SEPH Employment by Industry: Prince Edward Island

Historical 2023-25		Current Period					2026	2025	YTD
		Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25	Y-Y	Chg	YTD avg	YTD avg	Chg
77,864	Industrial aggregate (including unclassified (1) businesses)	77,793	78,516	77,582	211	0.3%	78,155	77,991	0.2%
76,355	Industrial aggregate (excluding unclassified businesses)	76,415	77,118	75,951	464	0.6%	76,767	76,329	0.6%
12,565	Goods producing industries	12,867	13,457	13,181	-314	-2.4%	13,162	13,119	0.3%
50	Forestry, logging and support	47	43	51	-4	-7.8%	45	54	-15.9%
21	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	20	21	x	n/a	n/a	21	n/a	n/a
412	Utilities	402	373	x	n/a	n/a	388	n/a	n/a
5,279	Construction	5,356	5,394	5,424	-68	-1.3%	5,375	5,403	-0.5%
6,832	Manufacturing	7,042	7,626	7,277	-235	-3.2%	7,334	7,250	1.2%
63,790	Service producing industries	63,548	63,661	62,770	778	1.2%	63,605	63,210	0.6%
2,214	Wholesale trade	2,053	2,299	2,205	-152	-6.9%	2,176	2,196	-0.9%
9,654	Retail trade	9,167	9,271	9,289	-122	-1.3%	9,219	9,325	-1.1%
2,949	Transportation and warehousing	2,668	2,687	2,839	-171	-6.0%	2,678	2,923	-8.4%
673	Information and cultural industries	514	539	677	-163	-24.1%	527	680	-22.5%
2,088	Finance and insurance	2,125	2,065	2,104	21	1.0%	2,095	2,119	-1.1%
1,066	Real estate and rental and leasing	1,083	1,078	1,054	29	2.8%	1,081	1,059	2.0%
2,977	Professional, scientific and technical services	3,034	2,978	2,990	44	1.5%	3,006	2,995	0.4%
198	Management of companies and enterprises	224	300	297	-73	-24.6%	262	269	-2.6%
4,009	Admin/support/waste management/remediation services	2,832	2,910	3,223	-391	-12.1%	2,871	3,501	-18.0%
6,409	Educational services	6,709	6,755	6,567	142	2.2%	6,732	6,627	1.6%
10,423	Health care and social assistance	12,033	11,647	10,368	1,665	16.1%	11,840	10,392	13.9%
1,154	Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,108	1,073	1,086	22	2.0%	1,091	1,076	1.3%
7,171	Accommodation and food services	7,256	7,216	7,159	97	1.4%	7,236	7,156	1.1%
2,522	Other services (except public administration)	2,940	2,951	2,506	434	17.3%	2,946	2,489	18.4%
10,331	Public administration	9,800	9,891	10,406	-606	-5.8%	9,846	10,406	-5.4%

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 February 2026 (for non-farm employees) *including* unclassified businesses increased by 211 employees from February 2025 to 77,793. The number of jobs in February 2026 (for non-farm employees) *excluding* unclassified businesses increased 464 employees from February 2025 to 76,415- there was a loss in goods producing industries (-314) and a gain in service producing industries (+778).
- There was year over year gains in Finance and insurance (+21), Real estate and rental and leasing (+29), Professional, scientific and technical services (+44), Educational services (+142), Health Care and social assistance (+1,665), Arts, entertainment and recreation (+22), Accommodation and food services (+97) and Other services (except public administration) (+434).
- There was year over year losses in Forestry, logging and support (-4), Construction (-68), Manufacturing (-235), Wholesale trade (-152), Retail trade (-122), Transportation and warehousing (-171), Information and cultural industries (-163), Management of companies and enterprises (-73), Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services (-391), and Public administration (-606).

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
		Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25	Y-Y	Chg	YTD avg	YTD avg	Chg
1,075.63	Industrial aggregate (excluding unclassified businesses)	1,179.64	1,160.03	1,088.16	91.48	8.4%	1,169.84	1,094.19	6.9%
	Goods producing industries	1,326.77	1,316.93	1,242.19	84.58	6.8%	1,321.85	1,246.90	6.0%
1,215.28	Construction	1,306.89	1,264.71	1,250.89	56.00	4.5%	1,285.80	1,244.56	3.3%
1,203.93	Manufacturing	1,333.61	1,333.10	1,216.68	116.93	9.6%	1,333.36	1,227.18	8.7%
	Service producing industries	1,138.11	1,127.38	1,054.76	83.35	7.9%	1,132.75	1,061.33	6.7%
1,307.47	Wholesale trade	1,333.63	1,292.61	1,321.68	11.95	0.9%	1,313.12	1,317.78	-0.4%
714.30	Retail trade	739.06	771.67	711.20	27.86	3.9%	755.37	715.47	5.6%
1,109.68	Transportation and warehousing	1,256.50	1,233.40	1,107.89	148.61	13.4%	1,244.95	1,110.13	12.1%
1,398.42	Information and cultural industries	1,393.85	1,633.45	1,415.21	-21.36	-1.5%	1,513.65	1,414.68	7.0%
1,531.25	Finance and insurance	1,597.69	1,572.47	1,714.64	-116.95	-6.8%	1,585.08	1,702.85	-6.9%
973.92	Real estate and rental and leasing	1,083.92	1,099.91	1,015.72	68.20	6.7%	1,091.92	985.98	10.7%
1,521.85	Professional, scientific and technical services	1,655.70	1,666.70	1,568.70	87.00	5.5%	1,661.20	1,603.13	3.6%
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	924.36	905.61	773.35	151.01	19.5%	914.99	762.13	20.1%
1,269.46	Educational services	1,347.74	1,336.76	1,263.87	83.87	6.6%	1,342.25	1,271.90	5.5%
1,080.91	Health care and social assistance	1,242.08	1,187.47	1,025.74	216.34	21.1%	1,214.78	1,061.21	14.5%
641.65	Arts, entertainment and recreation	812.04	771.16	715.88	96.16	13.4%	791.60	715.88	n/a
489.29	Accommodation and food services	F	F	499.68	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
881.04	Other services (except public administration)	873.51	845.96	F	n/a	n/a	859.74	n/a	n/a
1,413.59	Public administration	1,566.22	1,517.33	1,420.66	145.56	10.2%	1,541.78	1,422.66	8.4%

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 February 2026 (for non-farm employees) increased by \$91.48 up 8.4% from February 2025 to \$1,179.64. There was an increase of \$84.58 in the average weekly earnings related to the goods producing industries and an increase of \$83.35 in the average weekly earnings associated with the service producing industries on a year over year basis.
- In February 2026, there was a year over year gain in average weekly earnings in Construction (\$56.00), Manufacturing (\$116.93), Wholesale trade (\$11.95), Retail trade (\$27.86), Transportation and warehousing (\$148.61), Real estate and rental and leasing (\$68.20), Professional, scientific and technical services (\$87.00), Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services (\$151.01), Educational services (\$83.87), Health care and social assistance (\$216.34), Arts, Entertainment and recreation (\$96.16) and Public administration (\$145.56).
- In February 2026, there was a year over year decrease in average weekly earnings in Information and cultural industries (-\$21.36) and Finance and insurance (-\$116.95).

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Employment and Average Weekly Wages by Province

	Employment			Wages (\$)		
	Feb-25	Feb-26	Y-Y Change	Feb-25	Feb-26	Y-Y Change
Canada	18,283,983	18,281,847	0.0%	1,294.74	1,338.24	3.4%
Newfoundland & Labrador	219,647	219,888	0.1%	1,266.43	1,295.01	2.3%
Prince Edward Island	77,582	77,793	0.3%	1,088.16	1,179.64	8.4%
Nova Scotia	460,116	465,297	1.1%	1,144.72	1,205.85	5.3%
New Brunswick	365,274	368,172	0.8%	1,164.79	1,224.37	5.1%
Quebec	4,095,845	4,074,087	-0.5%	1,245.07	1,280.65	2.9%
Ontario	7,078,413	7,046,603	-0.4%	1,334.91	1,382.99	3.6%
Manitoba	642,308	644,523	0.3%	1,151.06	1,213.63	5.4%
Saskatchewan	522,056	531,453	1.8%	1,261.06	1,292.18	2.5%
Alberta	2,176,422	2,204,837	1.3%	1,351.57	1,373.25	1.6%
British Columbia	2,571,772	2,573,960	0.1%	1,299.76	1,356.68	4.4%

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

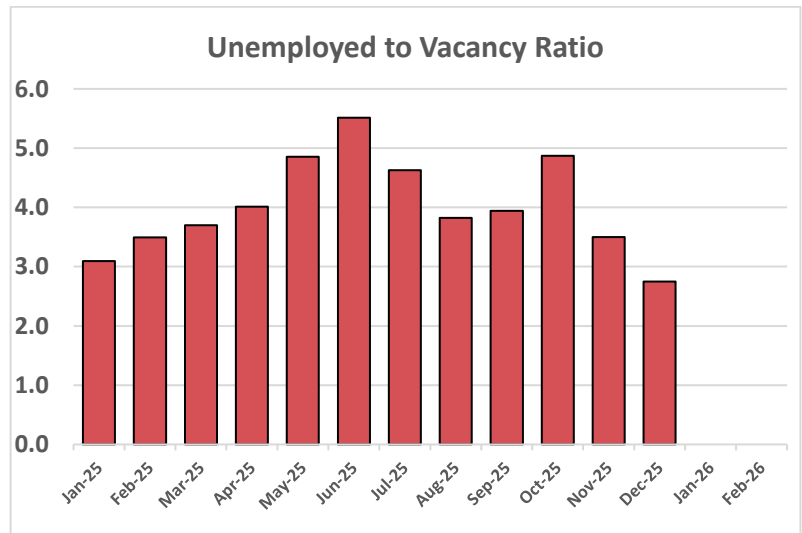
Unemployed Persons to Vacancy Ratio

NOTE: The **February 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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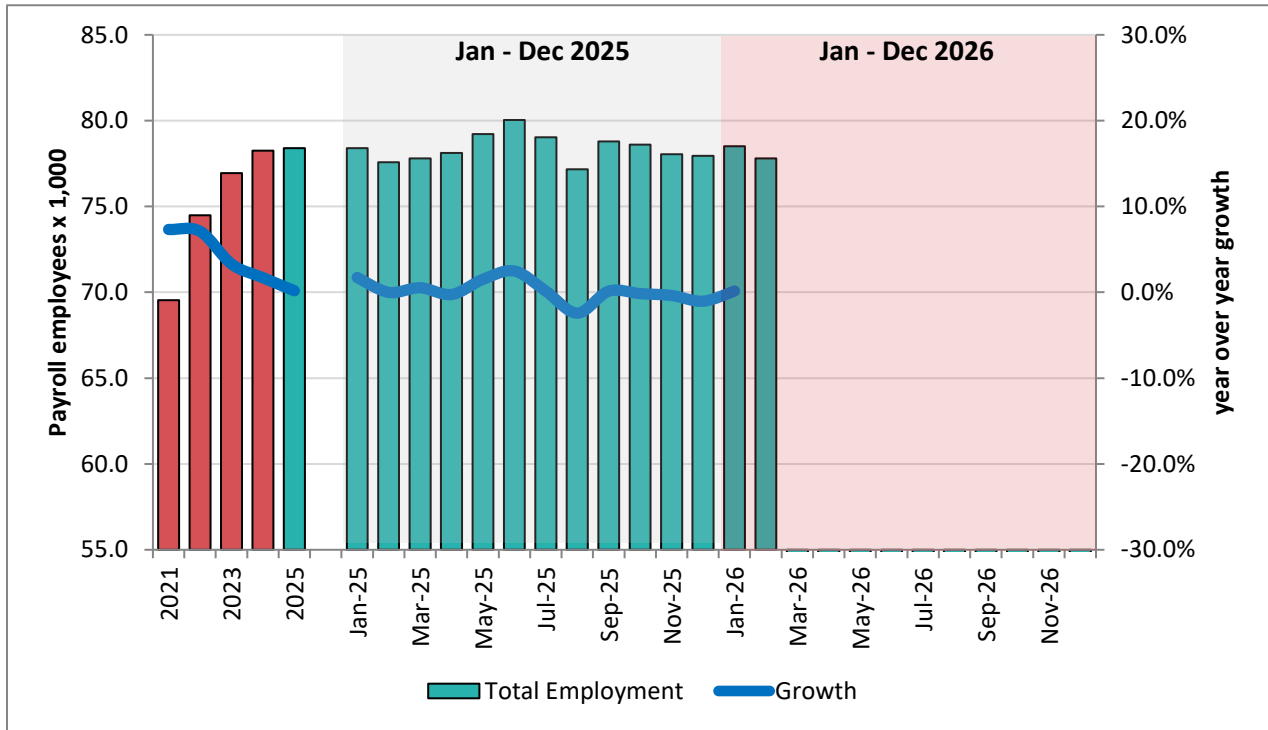
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Appendix 1 – Employment by Industry Progress Report

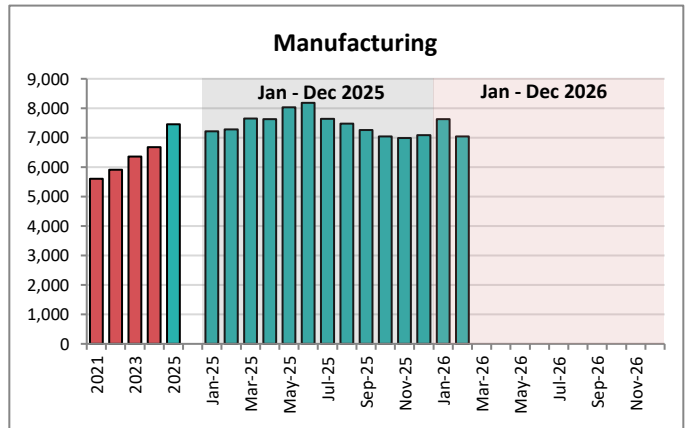
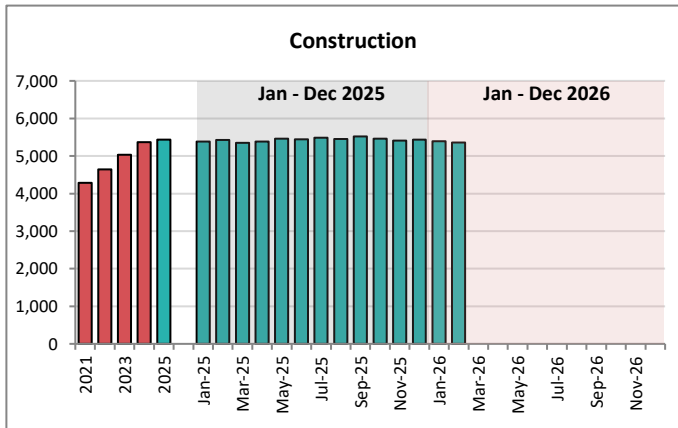
*Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours data is released on a monthly basis. The purpose of this section is to track the progress of employment by industry with historical context. “Year-to-date” (YTD) compares average values of available months in 2026 to the same in 2025. *Note: Months with suppressed 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

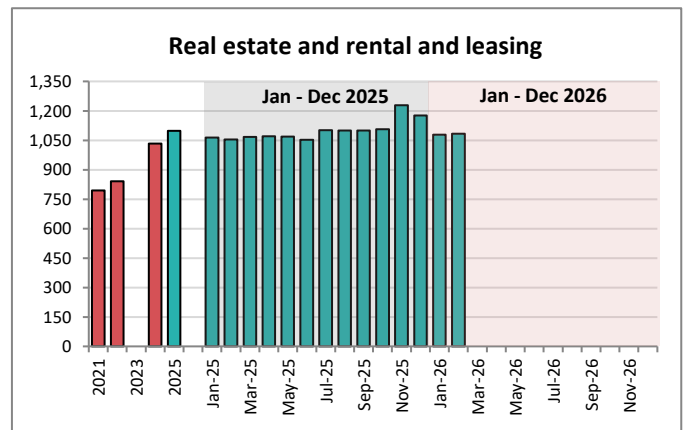
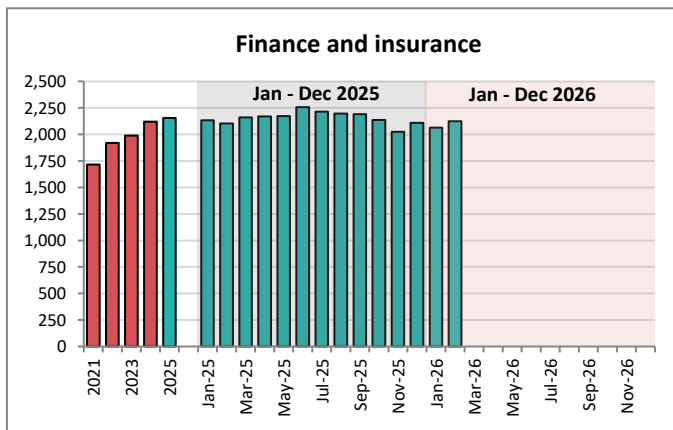
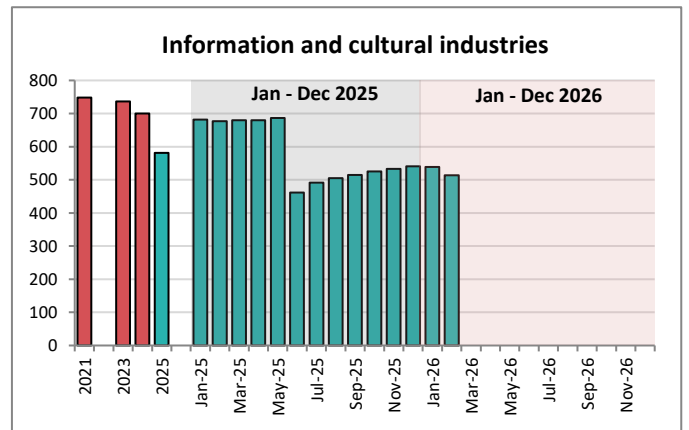
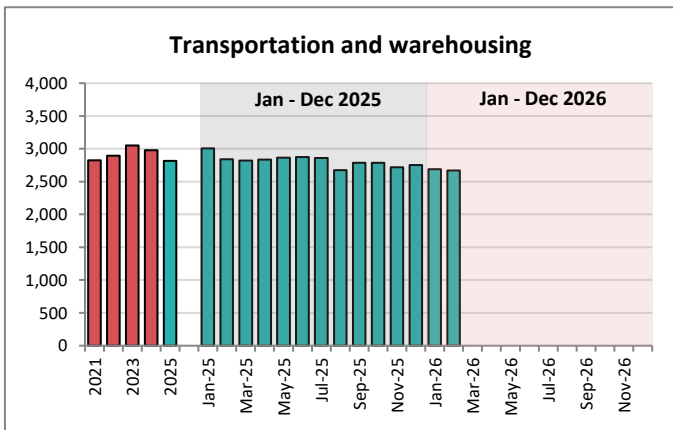
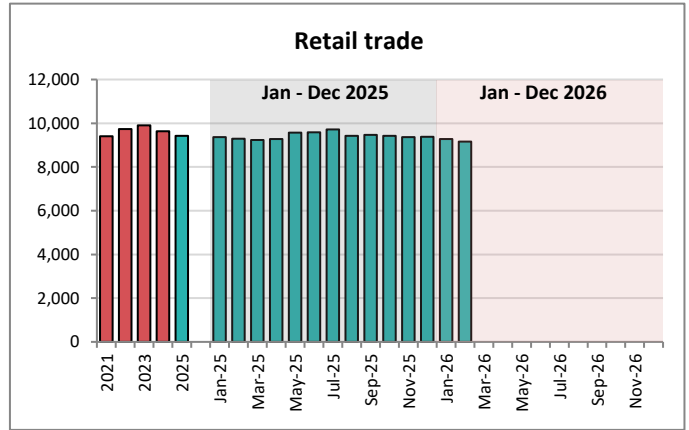
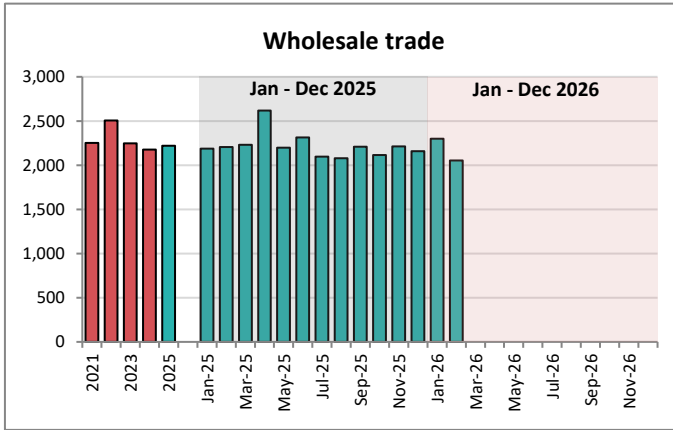


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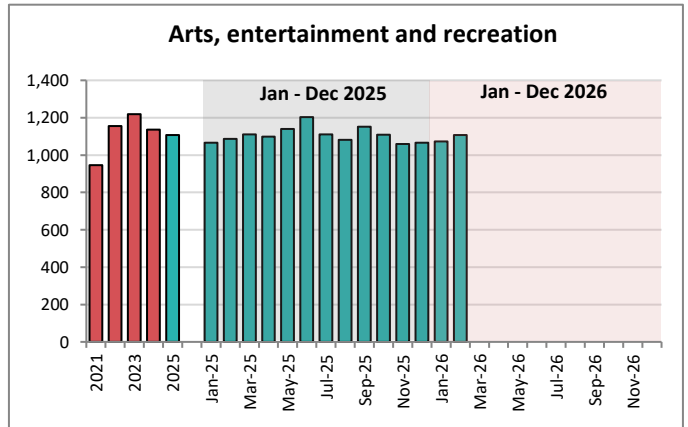
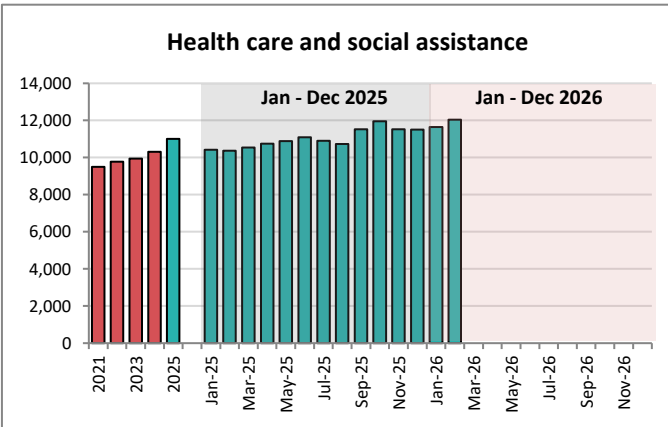
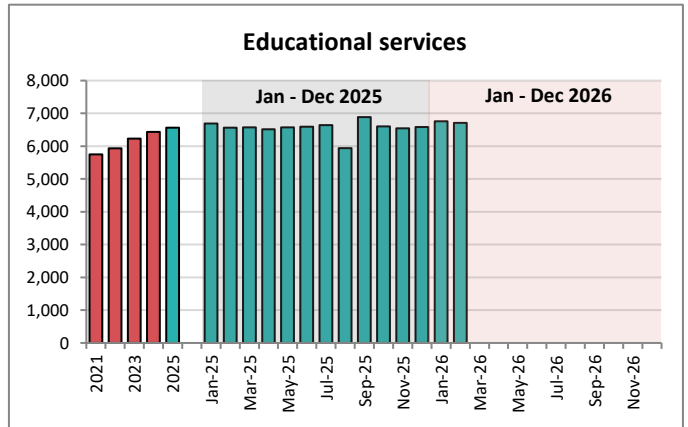
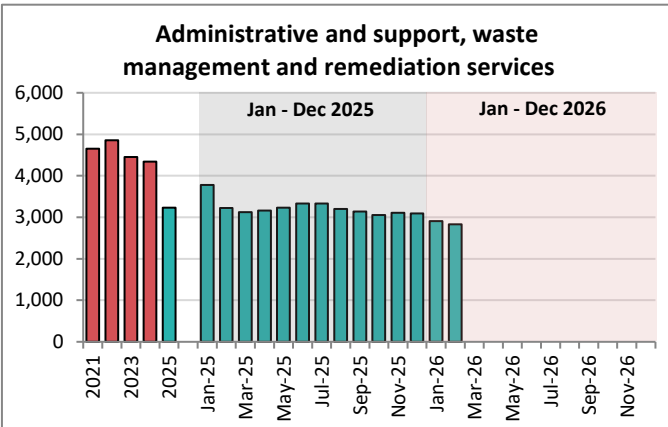
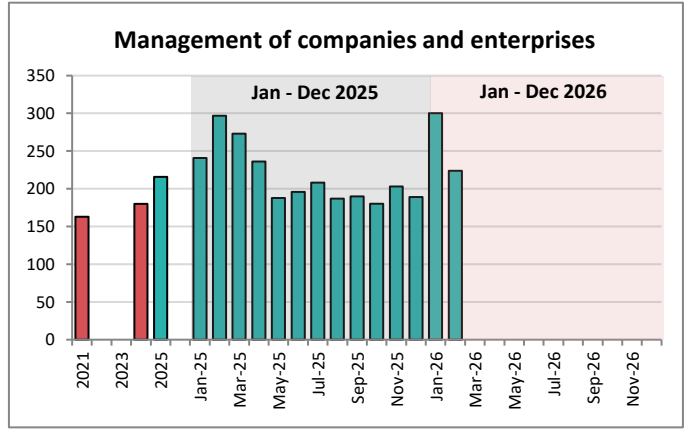
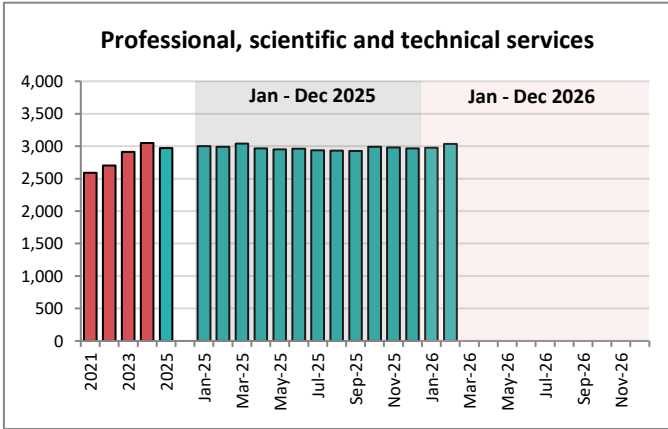
Services-Producing Industries



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