

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



May 29, 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	
		Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	M-M	Chg	Y-Y	Chg
	Employment (persons)							
76,355	All employees	75,962	76,512	76,185	-550	-0.7%	-223	-0.3%
44,249	Hourly paid employees	44,433	45,098	43,834	-665	-1.5%	599	1.4%
27,516	Salaried employees	27,610	27,216	27,346	394	1.4%	264	1.0%
77,864	All employees - including unclassified occupations	77,448	77,920	77,811	-472	-0.6%	-363	-0.5%
	Average weekly earnings - including overtime (dollars)							
1,076	All employees	1,177.97	1,179.65	1,093.79	-1.68	-0.1%	84.18	7.7%
825	Hourly employees	936.13	926.72	824.86	9.41	1.0%	111.3	13.5%
1,432	Salaried employees	1,546.38	1,563.97	1,494.95	-17.59	-1.1%	51.4	3.4%
	Average hourly earnings - including overtime (dollars)							
26.21	Hourly employees	29.78	29.77	25.97	0.01	0.0%	3.81	14.7%
37.31	Salaried employees	40.78	41.42	39.49	-0.64	-1.5%	1.29	3.3%
	Average weekly hours - including overtime							
31.46	Hourly employees	31.20	31.30	31.50	-0.10	-0.3%	-0.30	-1.0%

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 March 2026, PEI's seasonally adjusted employment (jobs) for non-farm employees decreased by 0.5% compared to a year ago, totaling 77,448. The national employment increased by 0.1% over the same period.
- Average weekly earnings in PEI increased 7.7% (or \$84.18) to \$1,177.97 in March 2026 representing the second highest figure on record (dating back to 2001). PEI was above national growth (3.5%) and had the highest year over year percentage growth among provinces.
- Labour Force Survey note regarding employment: According to Labour Force Survey, there were 96,000 persons employed in March 2026, a decrease of 200 persons compared to a year ago. There was a year-over-year increase in full-time employment (+200) and a year over year increase in part-time employment (+2,400).

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SEPH Employment by Industry: Prince Edward Island

Historical 2023-25		Current Period					2026	2025	YTD
		Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	Y-Y	Chg	YTD avg	YTD avg	Chg
77,864	Industrial aggregate (including unclassified (1) businesses)	77,448	77,920	77,811	-363	-0.5%	77,961	77,931	0.0%
76,355	Industrial aggregate (excluding unclassified businesses)	75,962	76,512	76,185	-223	-0.3%	76,531	76,281	0.3%
12,565	Goods producing industries	12,404	12,862	13,436	-1,032	-7.7%	12,908	13,225	-2.4%
50	Forestry, logging and support	45	47	52	-7	-13.5%	45	53	-15.1%
21	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	19	20	x	n/a	n/a	20	n/a	n/a
412	Utilities	407	401	x	n/a	n/a	394	n/a	n/a
5,279	Construction	5,397	5,375	5,347	50	0.9%	5,389	5,384	0.1%
6,832	Manufacturing	6,536	7,020	7,656	-1,120	-14.6%	7,061	7,385	-4.4%
63,790	Service producing industries	63,557	63,650	62,750	807	1.3%	63,623	63,056	0.9%
2,214	Wholesale trade	2,100	2,065	2,231	-131	-5.9%	2,155	2,207	-2.4%
9,654	Retail trade	9,294	9,223	9,237	57	0.6%	9,263	9,296	-0.4%
2,949	Transportation and warehousing	2,660	2,668	2,823	-163	-5.8%	2,672	2,889	-7.5%
673	Information and cultural industries	518	511	680	-162	-23.8%	523	680	-23.1%
2,088	Finance and insurance	2,071	2,121	2,160	-89	-4.1%	2,086	2,132	-2.2%
1,066	Real estate and rental and leasing	1,109	1,090	1,068	41	3.8%	1,092	1,062	2.9%
2,977	Professional, scientific and technical services	2,987	3,009	3,042	-55	-1.8%	2,991	3,010	-0.6%
198	Management of companies and enterprises	208	220	273	-65	-23.8%	243	270	-10.2%
4,009	Admin/support/waste management/remediation services	2,732	2,809	3,125	-393	-12.6%	2,817	3,376	-16.5%
6,409	Educational services	6,649	6,701	6,576	73	1.1%	6,702	6,610	1.4%
10,423	Health care and social assistance	11,818	12,055	10,540	1,278	12.1%	11,840	10,441	13.4%
1,154	Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,102	1,103	1,111	-9	-0.8%	1,093	1,088	0.5%
7,171	Accommodation and food services	7,234	7,242	7,112	122	1.7%	7,231	7,141	1.3%
2,522	Other services (except public administration)	2,970	2,952	2,523	447	17.7%	2,958	2,500	18.3%
10,331	Public administration	10,105	9,880	10,250	-145	-1.4%	9,959	10,354	-3.8%

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 March 2026 (for non-farm employees) *including* unclassified businesses decreased by 363 employees from March 2025 to 77,448. The number of jobs in March 2026 (for non-farm employees) *excluding* unclassified businesses decreased 223 employees from March 2025 to 75,962- there was a loss in goods producing industries (-1,032) and a gain in service producing industries (+807).
- There was year over year gains in Construction (+50), Retail trade (+57), Real estate and rental and leasing (+41), Educational services (+73), Health Care and social assistance (+1,278), Accommodation and food services (+122) and Other services (except public administration) (+447).
- There was year over year losses in Forestry, logging and support (-7), Manufacturing (-1,120), Wholesale trade (-131), Transportation and warehousing (-163), Information and cultural industries (-162), Finance and insurance (-89), Professional, scientific and technical services (-55), Management of companies and enterprises (-65), Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services (-393), Arts, entertainment and recreation (-9), and Public administration (-145).

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
		Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	Y-Y	Chg	YTD avg	YTD avg	Chg
1,075.63	Industrial aggregate (excluding unclassified businesses)	1,177.97	1,179.65	1,093.79	84.18	7.7%	1,172.55	1,094.05	7.2%
	Goods producing industries	1,342.54	1,326.71	1,249.98	92.56	7.4%	1,328.73	1,247.93	6.5%
1,215.28	Construction	1,325.53	1,308.31	1,242.56	82.97	6.7%	1,299.52	1,243.89	4.5%
1,203.93	Manufacturing	1,307.29	1,331.40	1,204.62	102.67	8.5%	1,323.93	1,219.66	8.5%
	Service producing industries	1,146.32	1,141.29	1,067.35	78.97	7.4%	1,138.33	1,063.34	7.1%
1,307.47	Wholesale trade	1,360.12	1,334.80	1,326.85	33.27	2.5%	1,329.18	1,320.80	0.6%
714.30	Retail trade	764.67	748.78	707.59	57.08	8.1%	761.71	712.84	6.9%
1,109.68	Transportation and warehousing	1,268.82	1,256.28	1,135.10	133.72	11.8%	1,252.83	1,118.45	12.0%
1,398.42	Information and cultural industries	1,360.61	1,397.91	1,398.81	-38.20	-2.7%	1,463.99	1,409.39	3.9%
1,531.25	Finance and insurance	1,704.48	1,568.60	1,516.58	187.90	12.4%	1,615.18	1,640.76	-1.6%
973.92	Real estate and rental and leasing	1,069.84	1,066.71	F	n/a	n/a	1,078.82	985.98	9.4%
1,521.85	Professional, scientific and technical services	1,686.01	1,663.67	1,595.14	90.87	5.7%	1,672.13	1,600.46	4.5%
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	949.03	916.18	777.09	171.94	22.1%	923.61	767.12	20.4%
1,269.46	Educational services	1,359.95	1,348.73	1,307.43	52.52	4.0%	1,348.48	1,283.74	5.0%
1,080.91	Health care and social assistance	1,240.80	1,251.47	1,043.66	197.14	18.9%	1,226.58	1,055.36	16.2%
641.65	Arts, entertainment and recreation	797.57	783.27	F	n/a	n/a	784.00	715.88	9.5%
489.29	Accommodation and food services	F	F	510.41	n/a	n/a	n/a	505.53	n/a
881.04	Other services (except public administration)	850.93	870.54	F	n/a	n/a	855.81	n/a	n/a
1,413.59	Public administration	1,512.98	1,565.85	1,497.39	15.59	1.0%	1,532.05	1,447.57	5.8%

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 March 2026 (for non-farm employees) increased by \$84.18 up 7.7% from March 2025 to \$1,177.97. There was an increase of \$92.56 in the average weekly earnings related to the goods producing industries and an increase of \$78.97 in the average weekly earnings associated with the service producing industries on a year over year basis.
- In March 2026, there was a year over year gain in average weekly earnings in Construction (\$82.97), Manufacturing (\$102.67), Wholesale trade (\$33.27), Retail trade (\$57.08), Transportation and warehousing (\$133.72), Finance and insurance (\$187.90), Professional, scientific and technical services (\$90.87), Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services (\$171.94), Educational services (\$52.52), Health care and social assistance (\$197.14), and Public administration (\$15.59).
- In March 2026, there was a year over year decrease in average weekly earnings in Information and cultural industries (-\$38.20).

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Employment and Average Weekly Wages by Province

	Employment			Wages (\$)		
	Mar-25	Mar-26	Y-Y Change	Mar-25	Mar-26	Y-Y Change
Canada	18,248,468	18,272,154	0.1%	1,288.12	1,333.23	3.5%
Newfoundland & Labrador	219,887	220,839	0.4%	1,274.73	1,290.53	1.2%
Prince Edward Island	77,811	77,448	-0.5%	1,093.79	1,177.97	7.7%
Nova Scotia	460,901	465,456	1.0%	1,144.01	1,210.83	5.8%
New Brunswick	365,030	369,439	1.2%	1,153.91	1,231.77	6.7%
Quebec	4,083,008	4,073,478	-0.2%	1,244.97	1,283.60	3.1%
Ontario	7,055,640	7,042,997	-0.2%	1,321.96	1,368.71	3.5%
Manitoba	640,534	645,758	0.8%	1,153.10	1,214.49	5.3%
Saskatchewan	520,692	531,616	2.1%	1,250.12	1,288.82	3.1%
Alberta	2,178,264	2,198,399	0.9%	1,345.70	1,371.07	1.9%
British Columbia	2,572,477	2,570,327	-0.1%	1,302.42	1,348.36	3.5%

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

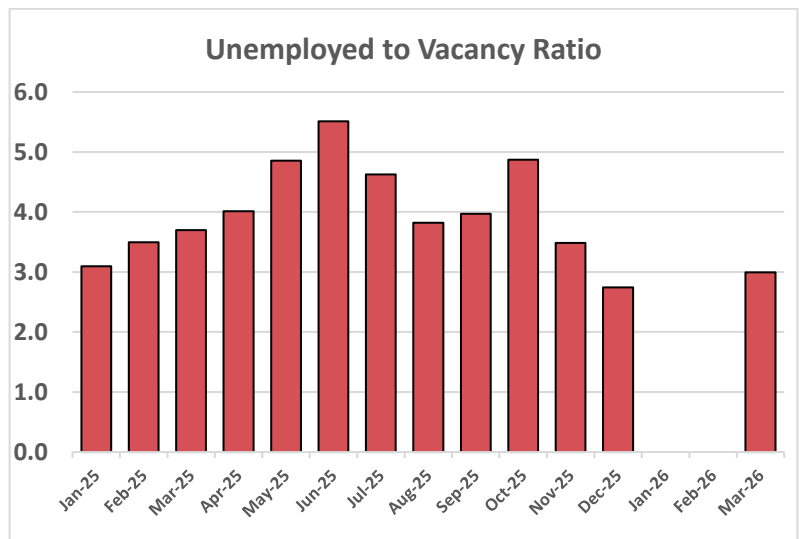
Unemployed Persons to Vacancy Ratio

NOTE: The January 2026 and 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 2,540 vacancies reported by employers in March 2026- this is 430 more vacancies than what was reported in March 2025. The March 2026 vacancy rate was 3.5% which is above the national rate (2.8%) and ranked highest among provinces.

There were 3.0 unemployed persons per vacancy in March 2026, this is down from March 2025 where the ratio was 3.7 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

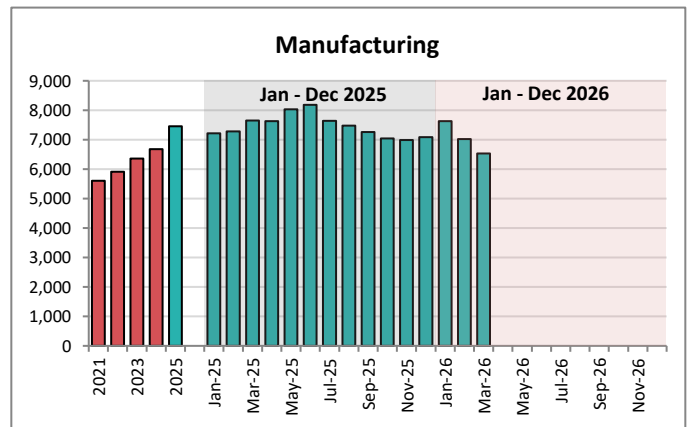
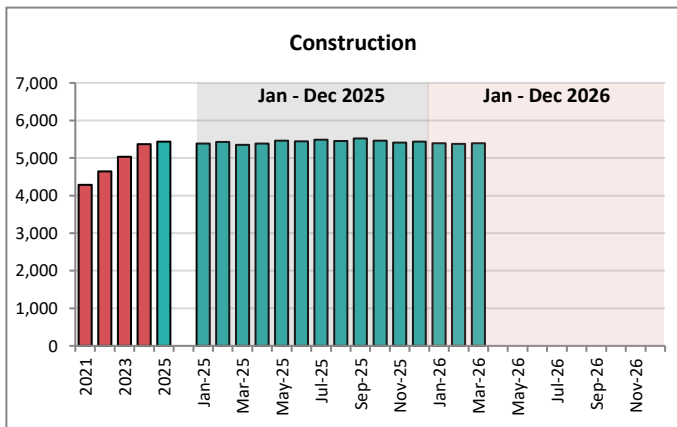
*Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours data is released on a monthly basis. The purpose of this section is to track the progress of employment by industry with historical context. “Year-to-date” (YTD) compares average values of available months in 2026 to the same in 2025. *Note: Months with suppressed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

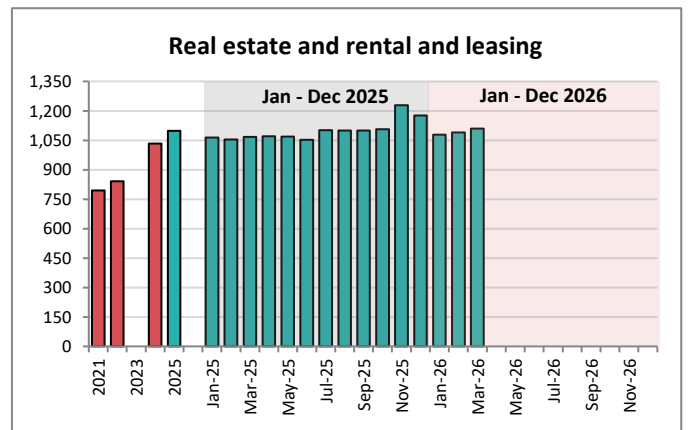
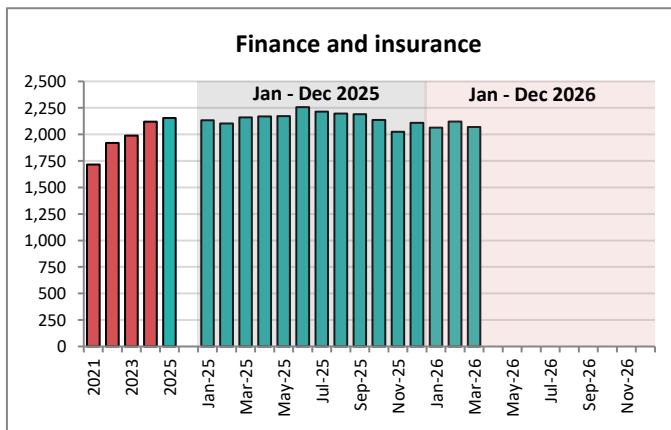
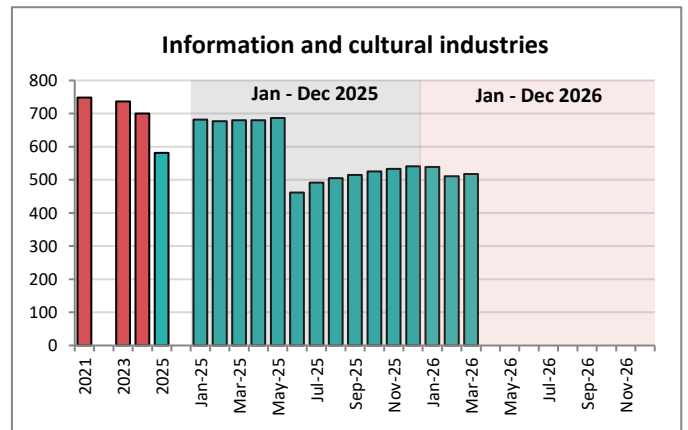
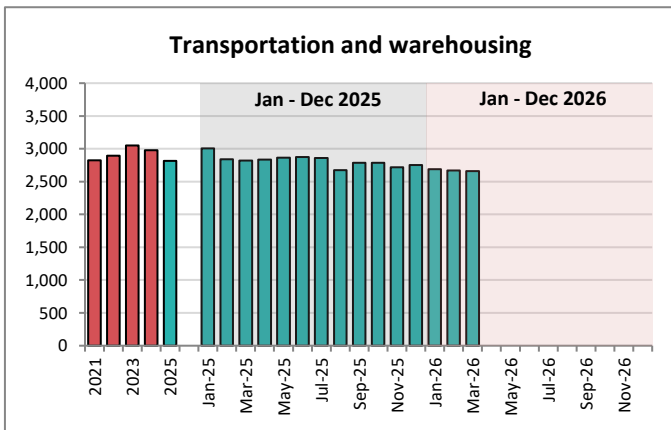
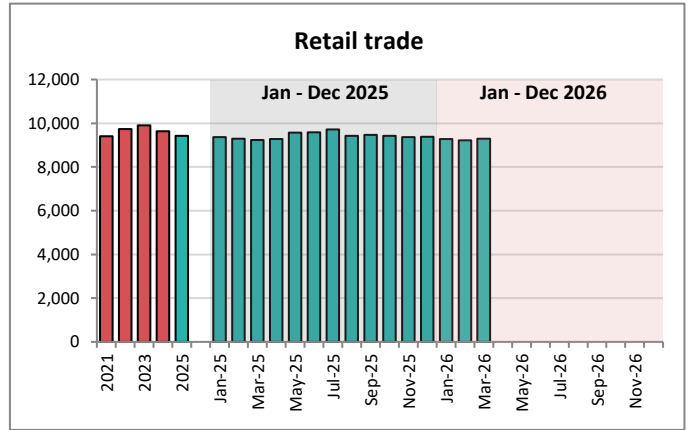
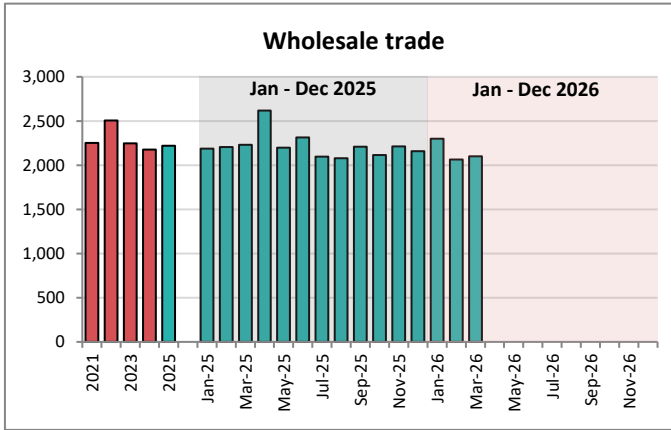


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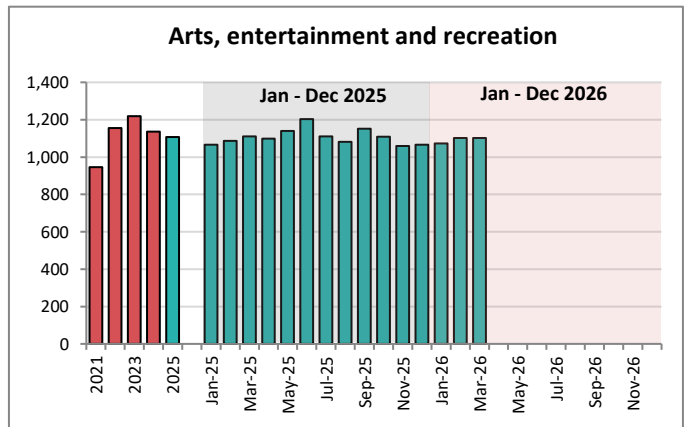
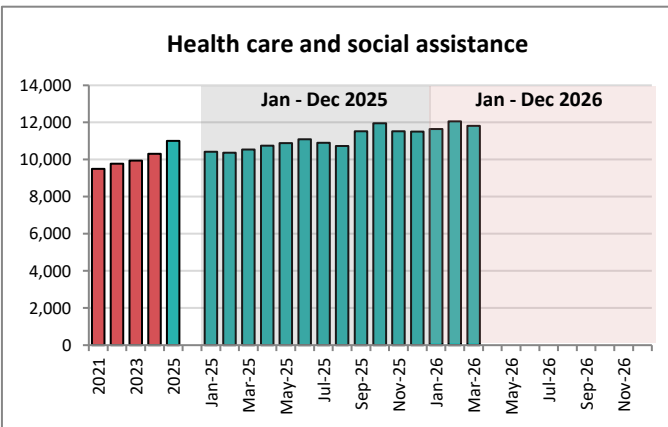
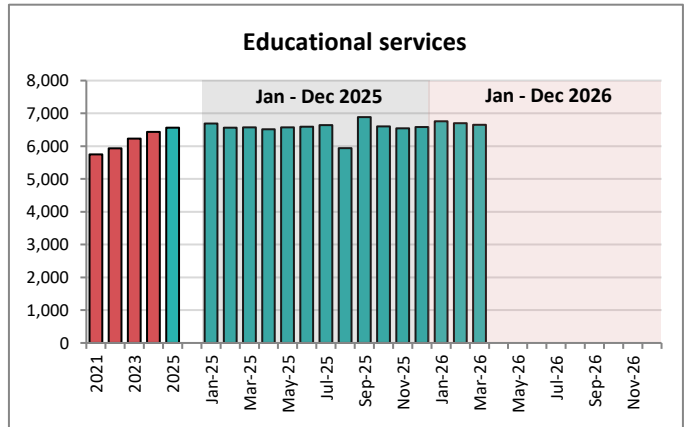
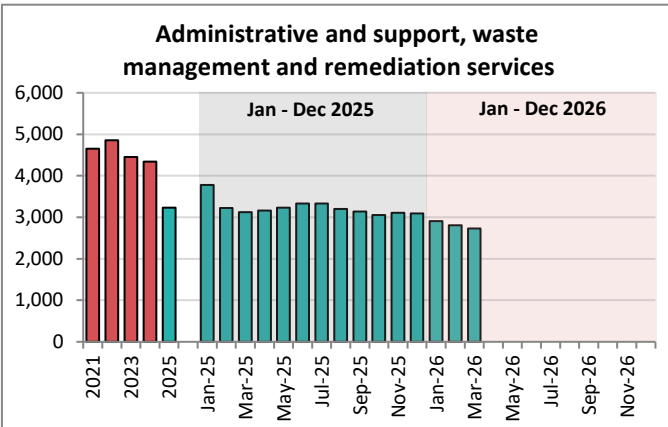
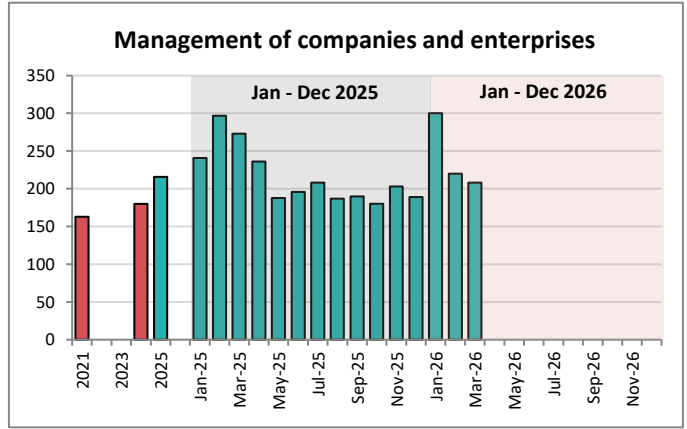
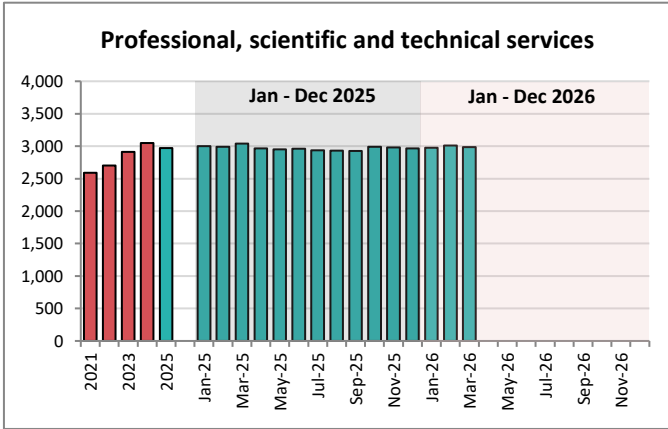
Services-Producing Industries



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