

Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

May 2026



July 24, 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 140 (+3.1%) when comparing May 2026 to May 2025 and stood at 4,610.
- Males represent 60.5% of the regular beneficiaries; there was a year over year increase in the 55 years and older cohort while the 15 to 24 years and 25 to 54 years saw a year over year decrease. There was a month over month decrease in all three age cohorts.
- Of the 4,610 regular beneficiaries in May 2026, there were 3,970 who did not declare earnings, or alternatively, 630 (or 13.7% of the total) who did declare earnings. In May 2025, there were 550 (or 12.3%) of the total 4,470 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.
- In May 2026, there were 1,290 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 3,310 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.
- A year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+80 or +6.0%) and Outside census metropolitan areas (+60 or +2.4). While the Summerside Census agglomeration (-20 or -3.1%) saw a year over year decrease.
- May 2026 saw year over year increases in Kings County (+50) and Queens County (+110) while Prince County (-30) saw a year over year decrease.
- In May 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (1,520) followed by Sales and service occupations (960) and Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (660).

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Labour Market Context

The figures below are based on seasonally adjusted figures.

- Employment totaled 96,700 in May 2026, an increase of 1,200 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 5.1% higher than a year ago. There was a year-over-year increase in full-time employment (+4,300) and a year over year increase in part-time employment (+500).
- Unemployment totaled 7,000 in May 2026, a decrease of 1,300 persons from the prior month. There was a decrease of 1,500 unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.
- The unemployment rate decreased from May 2026 and was 6.7%. The rate was 1.8 percentage points lower than it was in May 2025 (8.5%).

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Characteristics of Regular Beneficiaries (Seasonally Unadjusted)

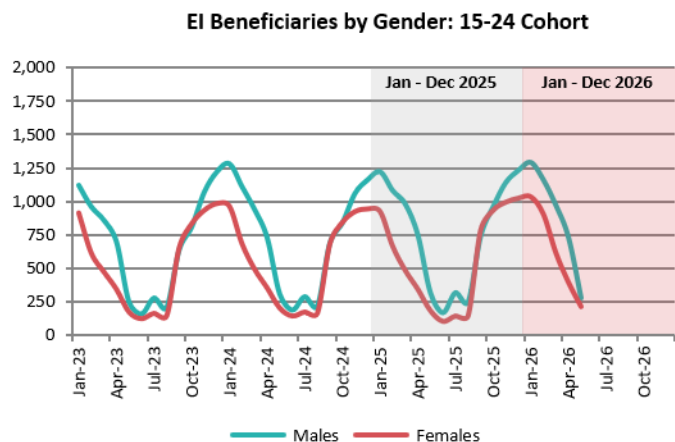
The number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in May 2026 was 4,610 of which 60.5% were males. The number of regular beneficiaries this month represents a decrease of 3,960 beneficiaries (-46.2%) in comparison to April 2026 and an increase of 140 beneficiaries (+3.1%) in comparison to May 2025.

- On a month-over-month basis there was a decrease in male beneficiaries (-2,840) and a decrease in female beneficiaries (-1,120).
- On a year-over-year basis there was an increase in male beneficiaries (+120) and an increase in female beneficiaries (+10).
- Of the 4,610 regular beneficiaries in May 2026, there were 3,970 who did not declare earnings or alternatively, 630 (or 13.7% of the total) who did declare earnings. In May 2025, there were 550 (or 12.3%) of the total 4,470 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.

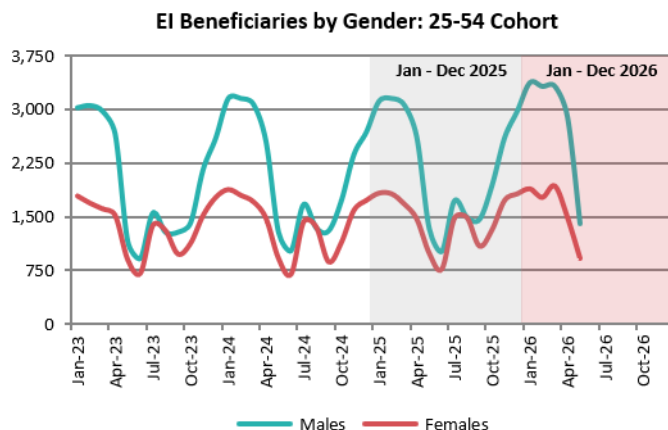
Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Chg
Both sexes	1271	1514	1608	-5.8%
Males	729	886	1008	-12.1%
Females	542	628	600	4.7%

There were 10 fewer regular beneficiaries year over year for this cohort. Males saw a year over year decrease (-40) and sit at a total of 280 beneficiaries. Females saw a year over year increase of 30 to sit at a total of 210 beneficiaries. There was a decrease of 630 regular beneficiaries in a month over month comparison.



Core-age Cohort (25-54 Years)



	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Chg
Both sexes	3509	4466	4693	-4.8%
Males	2109	2868	2993	-4.2%
Females	1400	1600	1700	-5.9%

In May 2026, male beneficiaries increased by 70 year-over-year, while female beneficiaries decreased by 70 during the same period. The total number of regular beneficiaries was 1,400 males and 920 females. When, compared to the previous month, female regular beneficiaries decreased by 570 and the figure for male regular beneficiaries decreased by 1,500.

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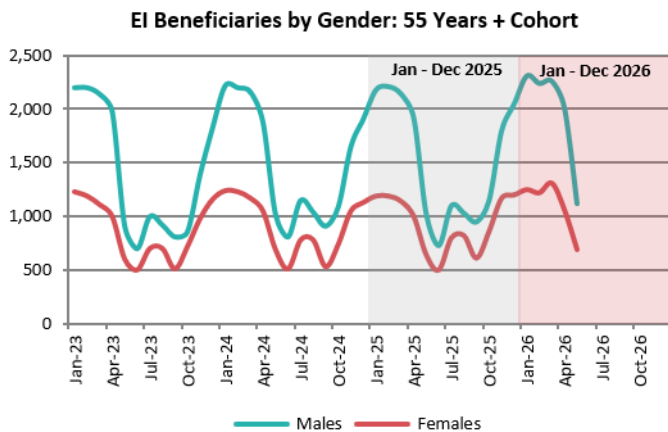
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Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Chg
Both sexes	2379	3096	3245	-4.6%
Males	1479	1988	2113	-5.9%
Females	901	1106	1130	-2.1%

In the 55 and over age group, there was a year-over-year increase of 9.0%. Females (+50 or 7.8%) and males (+100 or 9.8%) saw increases in a year over year comparison. When comparing May 2026 to April 2026, males in this cohort decreased by 890 regular beneficiaries and while females (-370) also saw a decrease in regular beneficiaries.



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

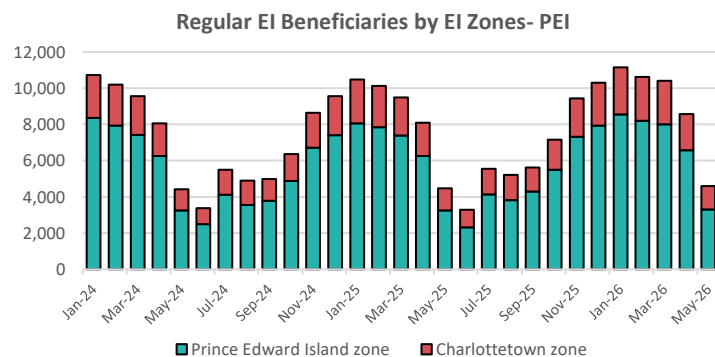
	May-26	Monthly Change	Annual Change	YTD Change
Canada	451,290	-17.9%	3.4%	7.3%
Newfoundland and Labrador	24,330	-19.0%	-5.7%	-2.0%
Prince Edward Island	4,610	-46.2%	3.1%	6.4%
Nova Scotia	16,100	-23.4%	-6.8%	-3.7%
New Brunswick	20,510	-26.2%	3.2%	0.5%
Quebec	95,050	-24.0%	2.4%	3.8%
Ontario	155,570	-14.1%	4.7%	11.0%
Manitoba	13,720	-20.5%	-2.6%	0.3%
Saskatchewan	11,330	-24.2%	-1.8%	2.5%
Alberta	55,310	-16.1%	6.6%	12.8%
British Columbia	52,190	-4.8%	7.2%	13.4%

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 May 2026, there were 1,290 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 3,310 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.

The Charlottetown zone had 70 more regular EI beneficiaries, and the PEI zone had 50 more EI regular beneficiaries in comparison to May 2025.



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

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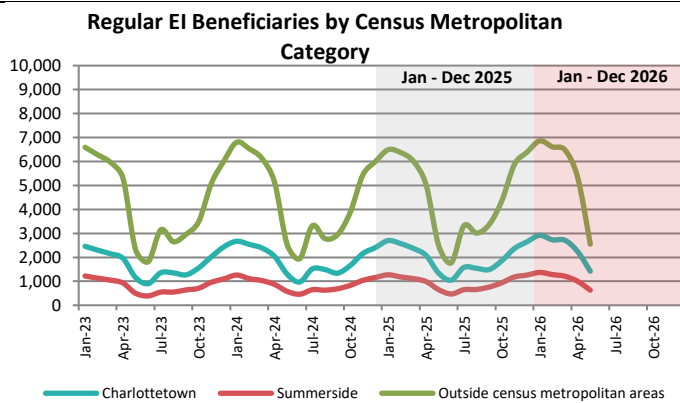
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Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by Census Metropolitan Category



	Historical 2023-25	Current Period		
		YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Chg
Charlottetown	1862	2404	2212	8.7%
Summerside	866	1098	1040	5.6%
Outside census metropolitan areas	4433	5568	5278	5.5%

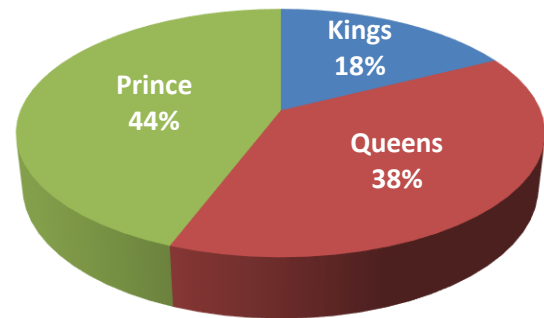
Based on unadjusted data, a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+80 or +6.0%) and Outside Census Metropolitan areas (+60 or +2.4%). The Summerside Census agglomeration (-20 or -3.1%) saw a year over year decrease.

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 (+140) in employment insurance beneficiaries. At the county level there was an increase in Kings (+50), and Queens (+110) counties. Prince County (-30) saw a year over year decrease.
- For the 15-24 age group, Kings County (-10) had a decrease in the number of regular beneficiaries in a year over year comparison. Queens and Prince Counties saw no change.
- For the 25-54 age group, Queens County (+40) had a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries. Prince County (-50) saw a year over year decrease. Kings County saw no change.
- For individuals aged 55 and over, a year over year comparison shows that Kings (+60), Queens (+80), and Prince (+20) Counties had an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries.

Regular EI Beneficiaries by County
May 2026



Kings County- 810 Regular Beneficiaries
Queens County- 1,760 Regular Beneficiaries
Prince County- 2,040 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 May 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (1,520) followed by Sales and service occupations (960) and Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (660).
- There was a year over year decrease in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Business, finance, and administration occupations (-90).
- There was a year over year increase in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Natural and applied sciences and related occupations (+30), Health occupations (+30), Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (+20), Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport (+10), Sales and service occupations (+20), Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (+70), Occupations in manufacturing and utilities (+40), and Unclassified occupations (+10).
- There was no change in the number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Management occupations and Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations 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				
		May-26	Apr-26	May-25	M-M	Y-Y
7,159	All occupations	4,610	8,570	4,470	-3,960	140
27	Management occupations	20	30	20	-10	0
555	Business, finance and administration occupations	420	540	510	-120	-90
288	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	240	370	210	-130	30
135	Health occupations	110	120	80	-10	30
414	Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	250	260	230	-10	20
116	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	60	110	50	-50	10
1,294	Sales and service occupations	960	1,530	940	-570	20
1,817	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	1,520	2,600	1,450	-1,080	70
1,733	Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	660	2,050	660	-1,390	0
766	Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	340	910	300	-570	40
24	Unclassified occupations	30	60	20	-30	10

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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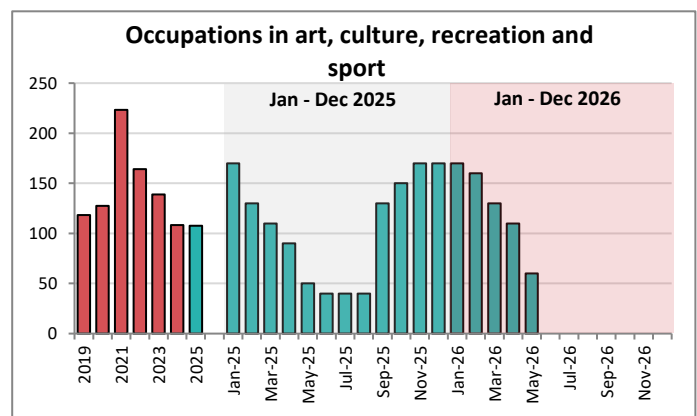
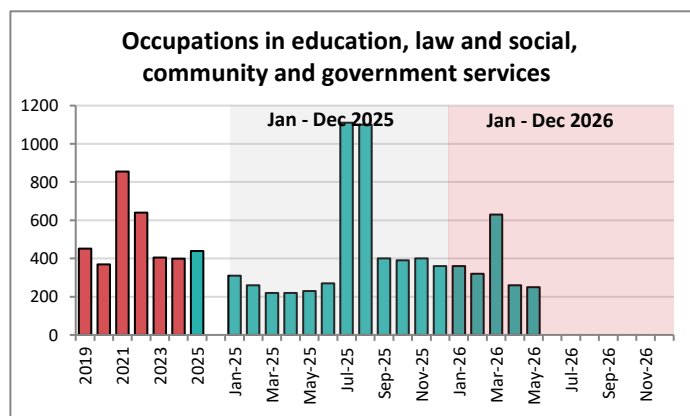
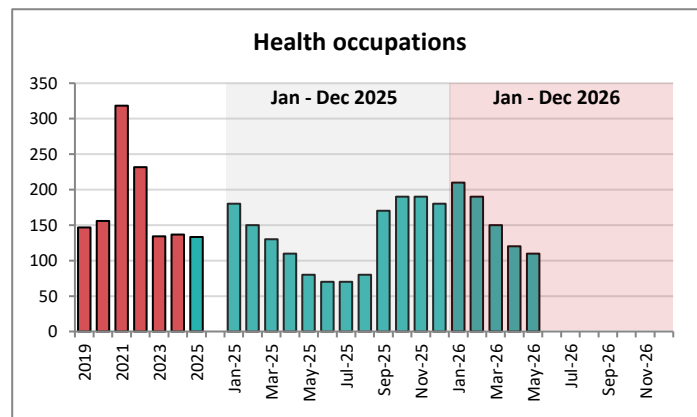
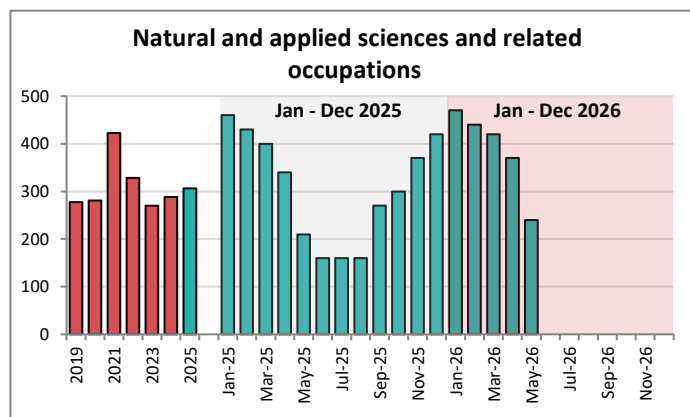
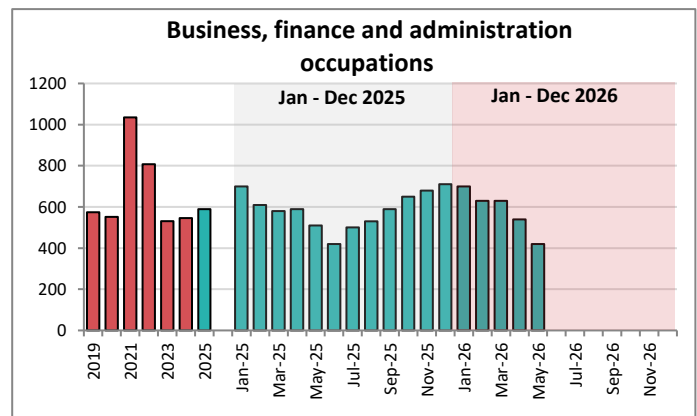
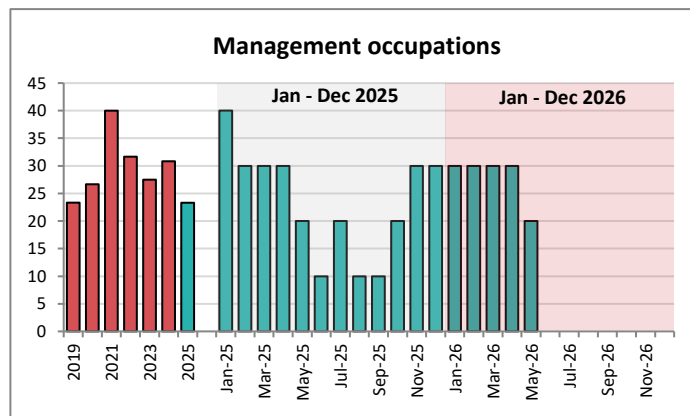


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EI Beneficiaries by NOC Skill Type Progress Report

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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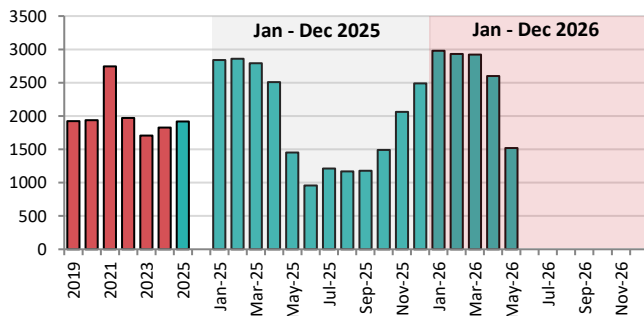
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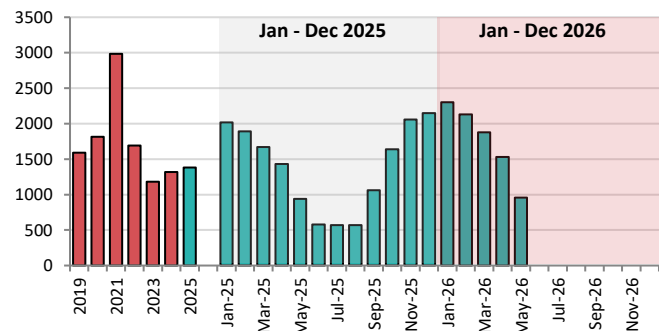
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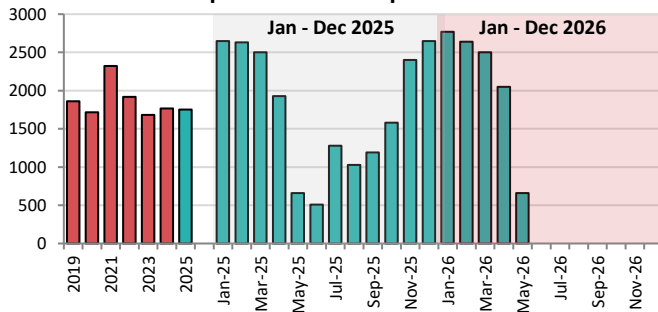
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations



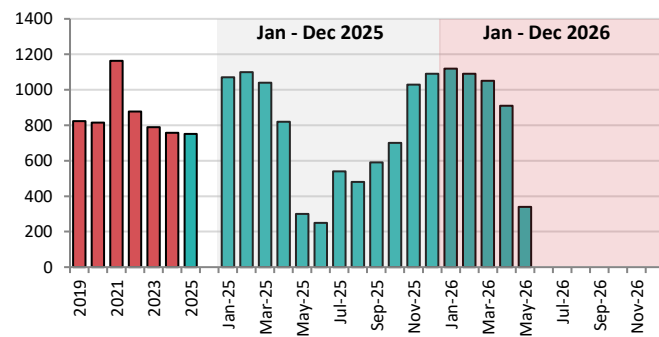
Sales and service occupations



Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations



Occupations in manufacturing and utilities



Unclassified occupations

