

Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours May 2026



July 30, 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						
		May-26	Apr-26	May-25	M-M	Chg	Y-Y	Chg
	Employment (persons)							
76,355	All employees	77,429	76,356	77,551	1,073	1.4%	-122	-0.2%
44,249	Hourly paid employees	44,397	43,056	43,990	1,341	3.1%	407	0.9%
27,516	Salaried employees	26,186	25,729	28,536	457	1.8%	-2,350	-8.2%
77,864	All employees - including unclassified occupations	78,769	77,883	79,221	886	1.1%	-452	-0.6%
	Average weekly earnings - including overtime (dollars)							
1,076	All employees	1,189.61	1,161.57	1,138.65	28.04	2.4%	50.96	4.5%
825	Hourly employees	952.77	907.44	871.42	45.33	5.0%	81.4	9.3%
1,432	Salaried employees	1,639.52	1,538.35	1,519.72	101.17	6.6%	119.8	7.9%
	Average hourly earnings - including overtime (dollars)							
26.21	Hourly employees	29.90	29.35	26.83	0.55	1.9%	3.07	11.4%
37.31	Salaried employees	42.36	40.10	38.40	2.26	5.6%	3.96	10.3%
	Average weekly hours - including overtime							
31.46	Hourly employees	31.40	31.00	32.30	0.40	1.3%	-0.90	-2.8%

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 May 2026, PEI's seasonally adjusted employment (jobs) for non-farm employees decreased by 0.6% compared to a year ago, totaling 78,769. The national employment increased by 0.6% over the same period.
- Average weekly earnings in PEI increased 4.5% (or \$50.96) to \$1,189.61 in May 2026 representing the highest figure on record (dating back to 2001). PEI was above national growth (3.4%) and had the fourth highest year over year percentage growth among provinces.
- Labour Force Survey note regarding employment: According to Labour Force Survey, there were 96,700 persons employed in May 2026, an increase of 4,700 persons compared to 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).

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SEPH Employment by Industry: Prince Edward Island

Historical 2023-25		Current Period					2026	2025	YTD
		May-26	Apr-26	May-25	Y-Y	Chg	YTD avg	YTD avg	Chg
77,864	Industrial aggregate (including unclassified (1) businesses)	78,769	77,883	79,221	-452	-0.6%	78,137	78,226	-0.1%
76,355	Industrial aggregate (excluding unclassified businesses)	77,429	76,356	77,551	-122	-0.2%	76,703	76,593	0.1%
12,565	Goods producing industries	12,845	12,348	13,942	-1,097	-7.9%	12,799	13,415	-4.6%
50	Forestry, logging and support	40	48	46	-6	-13.0%	45	51	-11.5%
21	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	24	25	19	5	26.3%	22	23	-2.2%
412	Utilities	442	411	389	53	13.6%	407	376	8.3%
5,279	Construction	5,425	5,486	5,458	-33	-0.6%	5,420	5,399	0.4%
6,832	Manufacturing	6,915	6,378	8,030	-1,115	-13.9%	6,906	7,564	-8.7%
63,790	Service producing industries	64,584	64,008	63,609	975	1.5%	63,903	63,178	1.1%
2,214	Wholesale trade	2,192	2,170	2,197	-5	-0.2%	2,163	2,288	-5.4%
9,654	Retail trade	9,675	9,493	9,570	105	1.1%	9,392	9,346	0.5%
2,949	Transportation and warehousing	2,658	2,663	2,863	-205	-7.2%	2,671	2,873	-7.0%
673	Information and cultural industries	520	525	687	-167	-24.3%	523	681	-23.2%
2,088	Finance and insurance	2,098	2,052	2,173	-75	-3.5%	2,080	2,148	-3.1%
1,066	Real estate and rental and leasing	1,064	1,115	1,069	-5	-0.5%	1,092	1,065	2.6%
2,977	Professional, scientific and technical services	2,857	2,894	2,953	-96	-3.3%	2,941	2,990	-1.6%
198	Management of companies and enterprises	209	272	188	21	11.2%	241	247	-2.4%
4,009	Admin/support/waste management/remediation services	2,688	2,717	3,232	-544	-16.8%	2,773	3,304	-16.0%
6,409	Educational services	6,823	6,619	6,576	247	3.8%	6,710	6,585	1.9%
10,423	Health care and social assistance	12,027	11,831	10,879	1,148	10.6%	11,881	10,589	12.2%
1,154	Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,095	1,135	1,139	-44	-3.9%	1,102	1,100	0.1%
7,171	Accommodation and food services	7,356	7,343	7,099	257	3.6%	7,280	7,131	2.1%
2,522	Other services (except public administration)	3,037	3,019	2,817	220	7.8%	2,989	2,554	17.0%
10,331	Public administration	10,284	10,158	10,167	117	1.2%	10,062	10,279	-2.1%

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 May 2026 (for non-farm employees) *including* unclassified businesses decreased by 452 employees from May 2025 to 78,769. The number of jobs in May 2026 (for non-farm employees) *excluding* unclassified businesses decreased 122 employees from May 2025 to 77,429- there was a loss in goods producing industries (-1,097) and a gain in service producing industries (+975).
- There was year over year gains in Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (+5), Utilities (+53), Retail trade (+105), Management of companies and enterprises (+21), Educational services (+247), Health Care and social assistance (+1,148), Accommodation and food services (+257) and Other services (except public administration) (+220) and Public administration (+117).
- There was year over year losses in Forestry, logging and support (-6), Construction (-33), Manufacturing (-1,115), Wholesale trade (-5), Transportation and warehousing (-205), Information and cultural industries (-167), Finance and insurance (-75), Real estate and rental and leasing (-5), Professional, scientific and technical services (-96), Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services (-544), and Arts, entertainment and recreation (-44).

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					Y-Y	Chg	2026	2025	YTD
		May-26	Apr-26	May-25	YTD avg	YTD avg			Chg		
1,075.63	Industrial aggregate (excluding unclassified businesses)	1,189.61	1,161.57	1,138.65	50.96	4.5%	1,172.87	1,109.79	5.7%		
	Goods producing industries	1,310.16	1,334.93	1,411.43	-101.27	-7.2%	1,324.55	1,287.00	2.9%		
1,215.28	Construction	1,314.71	1,352.49	1,321.18	-6.47	-0.5%	1,313.75	1,268.33	3.6%		
1,203.93	Manufacturing	1,250.54	1,299.79	1,398.60	-148.06	-10.6%	1,300.41	1,259.57	3.2%		
	Service producing industries	1,177.23	1,119.23	1,087.28	89.95	8.3%	1,141.21	1,074.49	6.2%		
1,307.47	Wholesale trade	1,501.40	1,588.18	1,422.80	78.60	5.5%	1,420.43	1,356.78	4.7%		
714.30	Retail trade	774.51	768.40	704.96	69.55	9.9%	765.44	708.82	8.0%		
1,109.68	Transportation and warehousing	1,325.30	1,187.27	1,243.88	81.42	6.5%	1,256.07	1,150.99	9.1%		
1,398.42	Information and cultural industries	1,567.32	1,554.98	1,385.75	181.57	13.1%	1,507.56	1,404.99	7.3%		
1,531.25	Finance and insurance	1,731.60	1,582.69	1,621.51	110.09	6.8%	1,634.21	1,624.78	0.6%		
973.92	Real estate and rental and leasing	1,199.99	1,134.71	1,013.01	186.98	18.5%	1,115.92	999.18	11.7%		
1,521.85	Professional, scientific and technical services	1,621.18	1,702.35	1,648.53	-27.35	-1.7%	1,667.64	1,617.23	3.1%		
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	986.73	885.61	729.67	257.06	35.2%	927.16	765.29	21.2%		
1,269.46	Educational services	1,396.10	1,184.66	1,282.22	113.88	8.9%	1,323.44	1,282.34	3.2%		
1,080.91	Health care and social assistance	1,197.36	1,184.63	1,035.57	161.79	15.6%	1,208.97	1,062.21	13.8%		
641.65	Arts, entertainment and recreation	853.35	875.10	626.99	226.36	36.1%	811.63	645.18	25.8%		
489.29	Accommodation and food services	524.71	522.19	507.12	17.59	3.5%	523.45	508.01	3.0%		
881.04	Other services (except public administration)	844.06	837.16	901.51	-57.45	-6.4%	849.46	901.51	n/a		
1,413.59	Public administration	1,659.26	1,508.13	1,495.53	163.73	10.9%	1,552.13	1,469.08	0.0%		

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 May 2026 (for non-farm employees) increased by \$50.96 up 4.5% from May 2025 to \$1,189.61. There was a decrease of \$101.27 in the average weekly earnings related to the goods producing industries and an increase of \$89.95 in the average weekly earnings associated with the service producing industries on a year over year basis.
- In May 2026, there was a year over year gain in average weekly earnings in Wholesale trade (\$78.60), Retail trade (\$69.55), Transportation and warehousing (\$81.42), Information and cultural industries (\$181.57), Finance and insurance (\$110.09), Real estate and rental and leasing (\$186.98), Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services (\$257.06), Educational services (\$113.88), Health care and social assistance (\$161.79) and Arts, entertainment and recreation (\$226.36), Accommodation and food services (\$17.59) and Public administration (\$163.73).
- In May 2026, there was a year over year decrease in average weekly earnings in Construction (-\$6.47), Manufacturing (-\$148.06), Professional, scientific and technical services (-\$27.35), and Other services (except public administration) (-\$57.45).

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Employment and Average Weekly Wages by Province

	Employment			Wages (\$)		
	May-25	May-26	Y-Y Change	May-25	May-26	Y-Y Change
Canada	18,280,118	18,392,616	0.6%	1,293.19	1,337.77	3.4%
Newfoundland & Labrador	221,074	223,863	1.3%	1,283.06	1,266.10	-1.3%
Prince Edward Island	79,221	78,769	-0.6%	1,138.65	1,189.61	4.5%
Nova Scotia	462,409	470,118	1.7%	1,156.63	1,217.66	5.3%
New Brunswick	365,601	370,606	1.4%	1,184.09	1,228.55	3.8%
Quebec	4,075,977	4,083,303	0.2%	1,249.30	1,293.11	3.5%
Ontario	7,075,319	7,079,902	0.1%	1,327.18	1,377.49	3.8%
Manitoba	642,434	649,799	1.1%	1,162.19	1,218.31	4.8%
Saskatchewan	525,972	537,673	2.2%	1,254.07	1,298.13	3.5%
Alberta	2,183,101	2,234,417	2.4%	1,359.66	1,378.85	1.4%
British Columbia	2,574,125	2,586,766	0.5%	1,294.59	1,354.67	4.6%

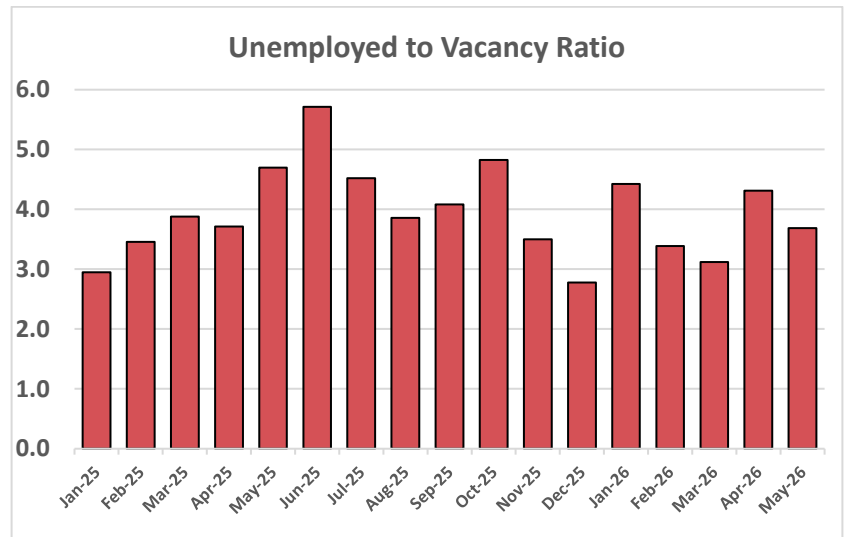
Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0223-01 –Employment and average weekly earnings (including overtime) for all employees by province and territory, monthly, seasonally adjusted

Unemployed Persons to Vacancy Ratio

There were 1,900 vacancies reported by employers in May 2026- this is 90 more vacancies than what was reported in May 2025. The May 2026 vacancy rate was 2.6%, which is lower than the national rate (2.8%) and ranked tied for 7th highest among provinces.

There were 3.7 unemployed persons per vacancy in May 2026, this is down from May 2025 where the ratio was 4.7 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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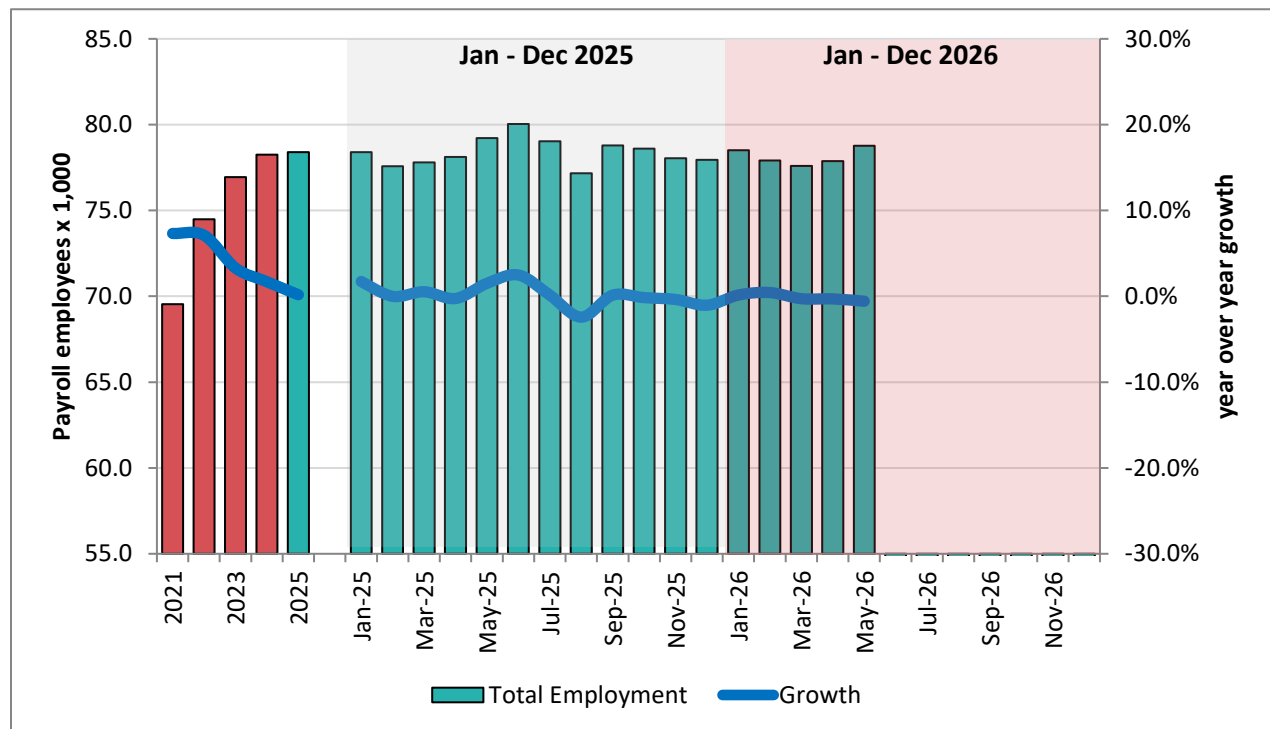
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Appendix 1 – Employment by Industry Progress Report

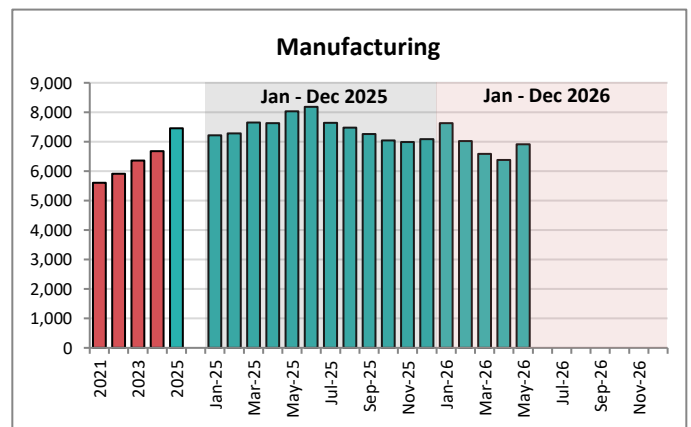
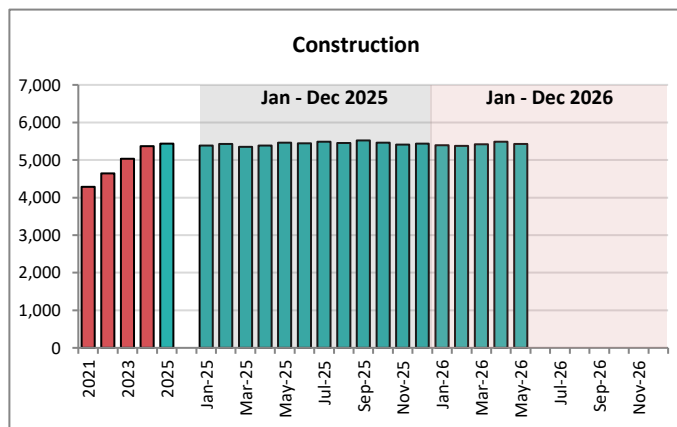
Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours data is released on a monthly basis. The purpose of this section is to track the progress of employment by industry with historical context. “Year-to-date” (YTD) compares average values of available months in 2026 to the same in 2025. ***Note: Months with suppressed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

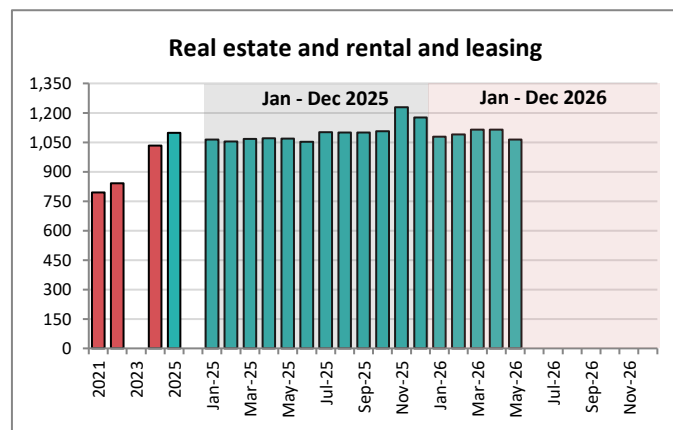
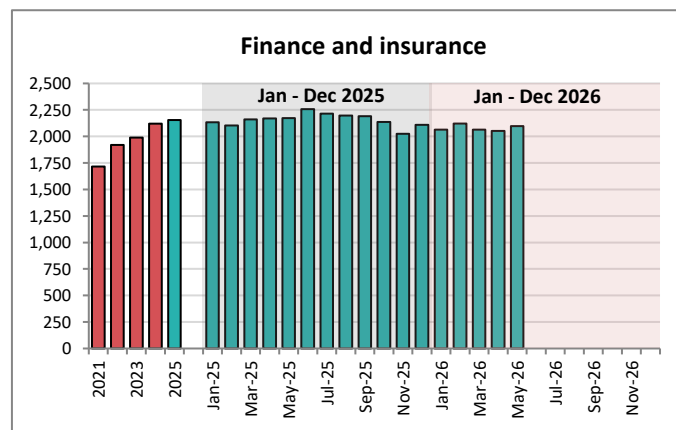
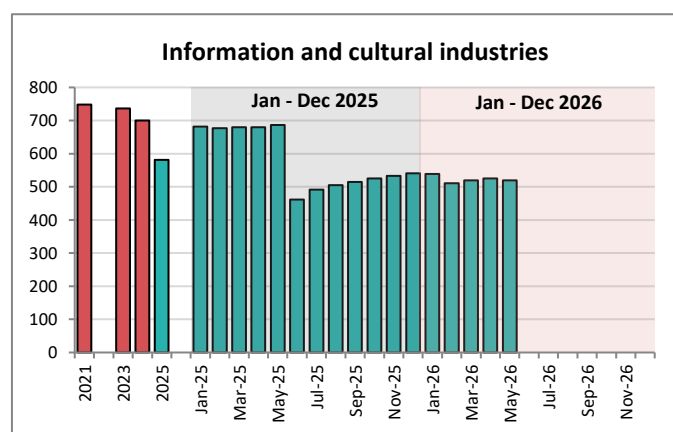
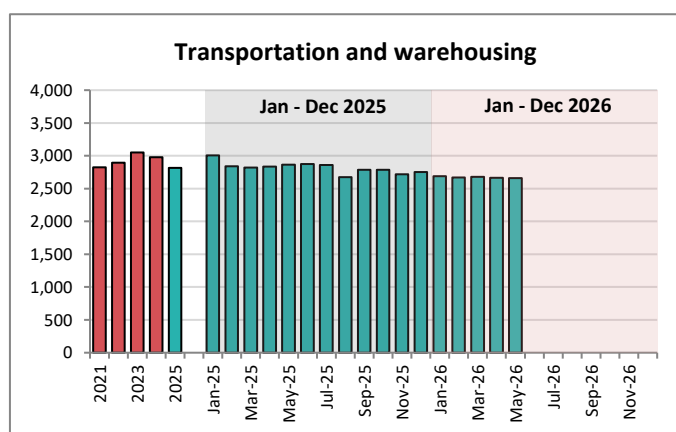
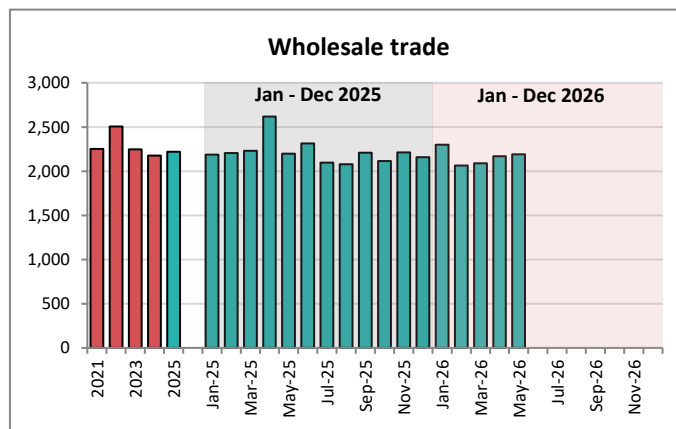


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Services-Producing Industries

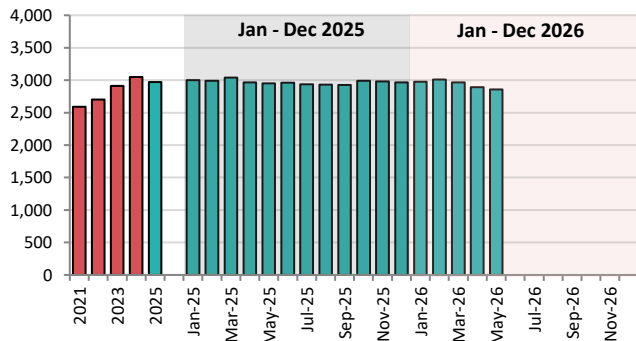


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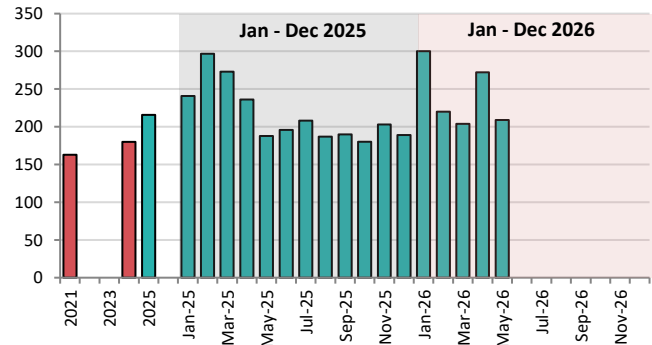
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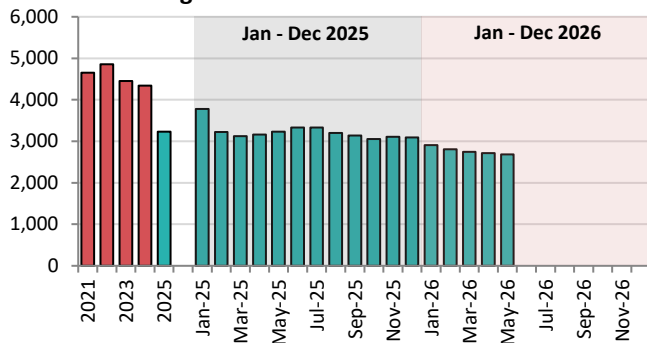
Professional, scientific and technical services



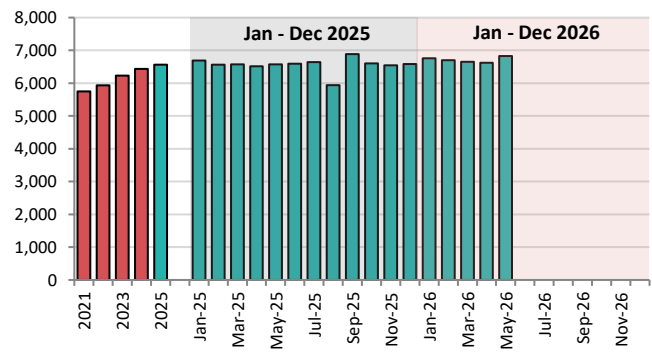
Management of companies and enterprises



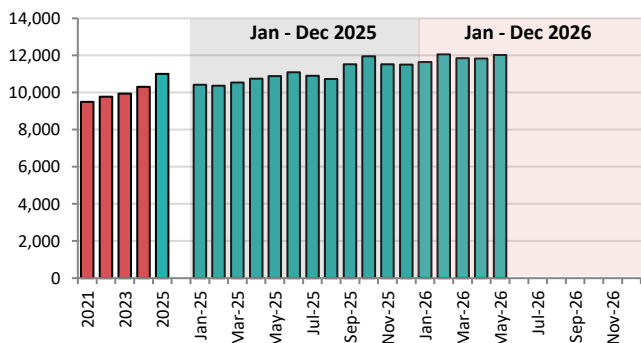
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services



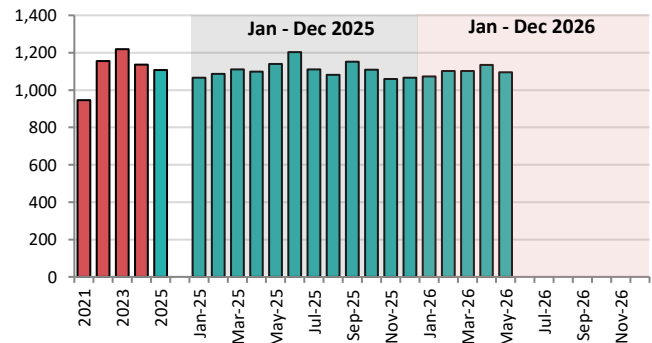
Educational services



Health care and social assistance



Arts, entertainment and recreation

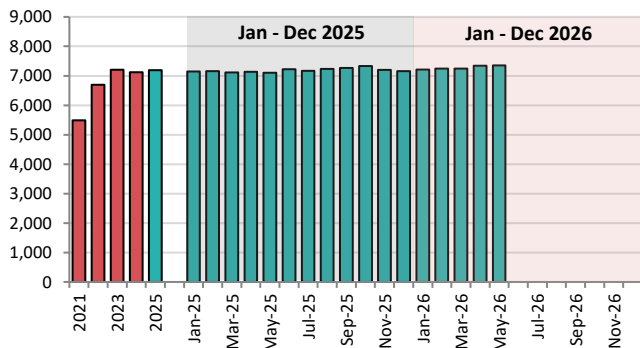


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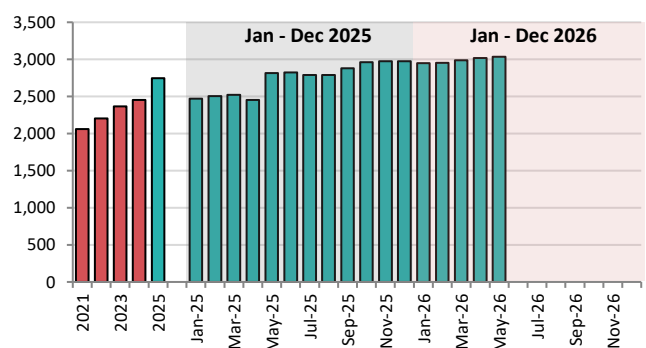


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Accommodation and food services



Other services (except public administration)



Public administration

