Employment Insurance Summary

Prince Edward Island

August 2026

WorkPEI

October 23, 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 decreased by 330 (-6.3%) when comparing August 2026 to August 2025 and stood at 4,880.
- Males represent 54.3% of the regular beneficiaries; there was a year over year and month over month decreases in the 15 to 24 years, 25 to 54 years and 55 years and older cohorts.
- Of the 4,880 regular beneficiaries in August 2026, there were 4,330 who did not declare earnings, or alternatively, 550 (or 11.3% of the total) who did declare earnings. In August 2025, there were 570 (or 10.9%) of the total 5,210 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.
- In August 2026, there were 1,420 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 3,470 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.
- A year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+30 or +1.9%). The Summerside Census agglomeration (-60 or -9.1%) and Outside census metropolitan areas (-300 or -10.0%) saw a year over year decrease.
- August 2026 saw a year over year increase in Queens County (+10) while Kings County (-20) and Prince County (-320) saw a year over year decreases.
- In August 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (1,120) followed by Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (1,080) and Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (1,000).

Labour Market Context

The figures below are based on seasonally adjusted figures.

- Employment totaled 95,600 in August 2026, a decrease of 400 persons in comparison to the previous month. Employment levels were 1.5% higher than 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 (+800).

- Unemployment totaled 8,200 in August 2026, an increase of 1,200 persons from the prior month. There was no change in unemployed persons in comparison to the same period a year ago.

- The unemployment rate increased from July 2026 and was 7.9%. The rate was 0.1 of a percentage point lower than it was in August 2025 (8.0%).

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Characteristics of Regular Beneficiaries (Seasonally Unadjusted)

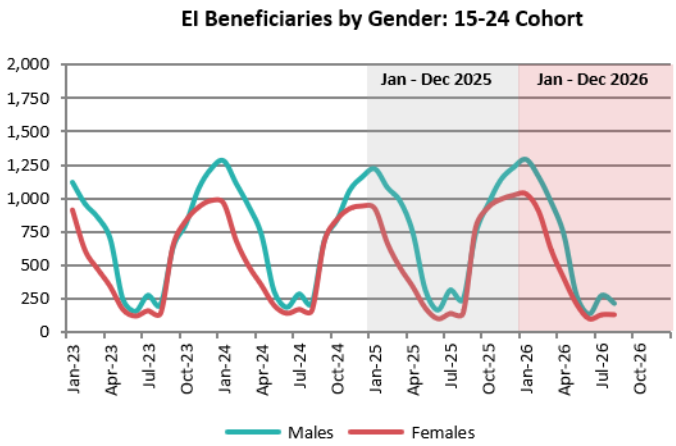
The number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in August 2026 was 4,880 of which 54.3% were males. The number of regular beneficiaries this month represents a decrease of 590 beneficiaries (-10.8%) in comparison to July 2026 and a decrease of 330 beneficiaries (-6.3%) in comparison to August 2025.

- On a month-over-month basis there was a decrease in male beneficiaries (-470) and a decrease in female beneficiaries (-120).
- On a year-over-year basis there was a decrease in male beneficiaries (-120) and a decrease in female beneficiaries (-220).
- Of the 4,880 regular beneficiaries in August 2026, there were 4,330 who did not declare earnings or alternatively, 550 (or 11.3% of the total) who did declare earnings. In August 2025, there were 570 (or 10.9%) of the total 5,210 regular beneficiaries who declared earnings.

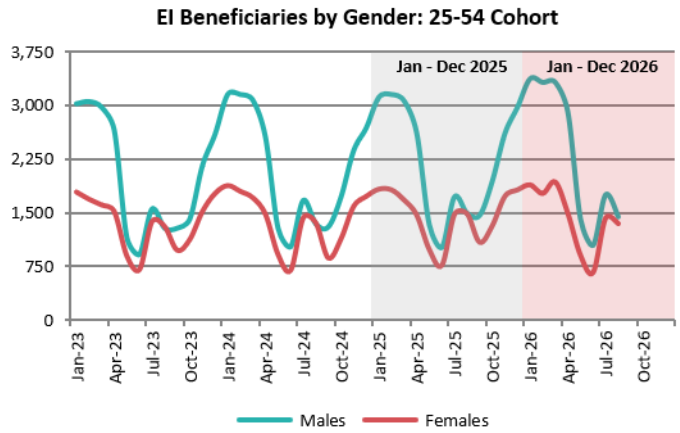
Young Worker Cohort (15-24 Years)

	Historical 2023-25	Current Period YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Chg
Both sexes	1271	1074	1008	6.6%
Males	729	634	636	-0.4%
Females	542	439	370	18.6%

There were 50 fewer regular beneficiaries year over year for this cohort. Males saw a year over year decrease (-30) and sit at a total of 220 beneficiaries. Females saw a year over year decrease of 10 to sit at a total of 130 beneficiaries. There was a decrease of 70 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	3755	3630	3.4%
Males	2109	2324	2190	6.1%
Females	1400	1430	1441	-0.8%

In August 2026, male beneficiaries decreased by 50 year-over-year, while female beneficiaries decreased by 140 during the same period. The total number of regular beneficiaries was 1,440 males and 1,350 females. When, compared to the previous month, female regular beneficiaries decreased by 80 and male regular beneficiaries decreased by 310.

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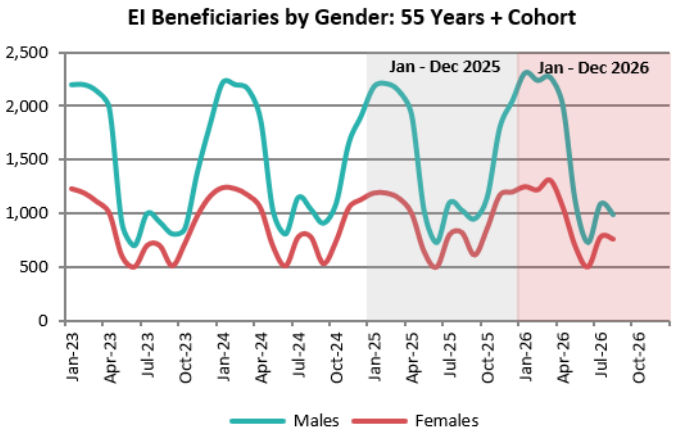
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Older-worker Cohort (55 Years +)

	Historical 2023-25	Current Period YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Chg
Both sexes	2379	2540	2451	3.6%
Males	1479	1594	1541	3.4%
Females	901	946	910	4.0%

In the 55 and over age group, there was a decrease of 90 regular EI beneficiaries in a year-over-year comparison. Females (-60) and males (-40) saw decreases in a year over year comparison. When comparing August 2026 to July 2026, males in this cohort decreased by 100 regular beneficiaries and while females (-20) also saw a decrease in regular beneficiaries.



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

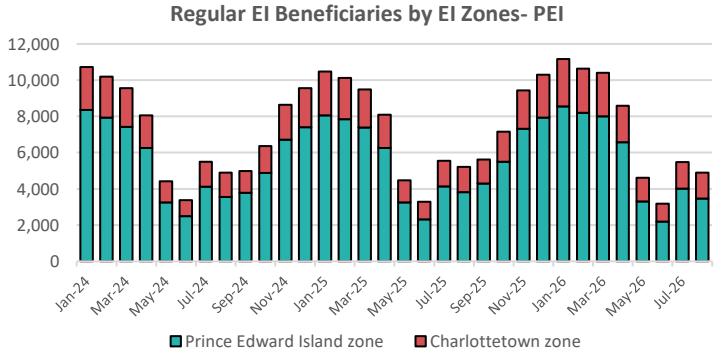
	Aug-26	Monthly Change	Annual Change	YTD Change
Canada	609,340	1.1%	-2.2%	4.2%
Newfoundland and Labrador	21,080	1.8%	-16.4%	-5.5%
Prince Edward Island	4,880	-10.8%	-6.3%	3.9%
Nova Scotia	22,840	5.1%	-4.1%	-3.6%
New Brunswick	25,010	-0.8%	-3.4%	0.1%
Quebec	136,200	7.0%	-4.3%	1.1%
Ontario	221,590	-0.7%	0.7%	7.1%
Manitoba	21,930	0.2%	-6.1%	-1.9%
Saskatchewan	16,340	-0.9%	-4.4%	0.0%
Alberta	65,270	-3.3%	-6.1%	7.7%
British Columbia	72,420	1.0%	4.7%	11.0%

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 August 2026, there were 1,420 regular employment insurance beneficiaries in the Charlottetown zone while the PEI zone had 3,470 regular employment insurance beneficiaries.

The Charlottetown zone had 30 more regular EI beneficiaries, and the PEI zone had 350 fewer EI regular beneficiaries in comparison to August 2025.



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

Employment Insurance Summary

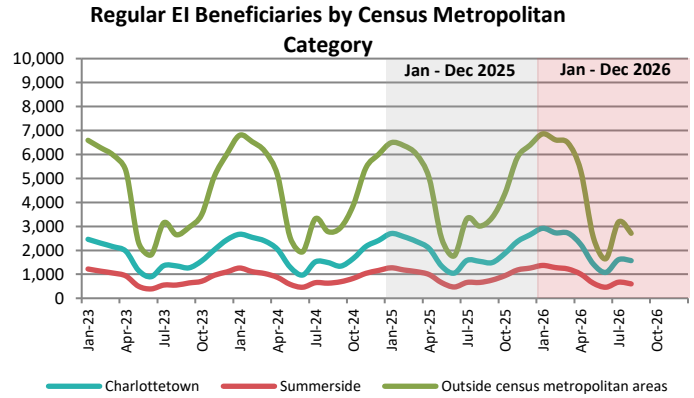
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Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries by Census Metropolitan Category



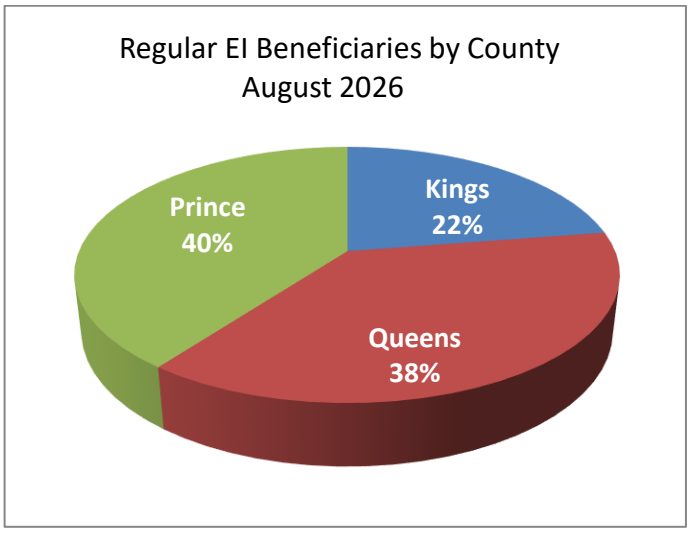
	Historical	Current Period		
	2023-25	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Chg
Charlottetown	1862	2039	1904	7.1%
Summerside	866	905	874	3.6%
Outside census metropolitan areas	4433	4423	4311	2.6%

Based on unadjusted data, a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries was observed in the Charlottetown Census agglomeration (+30 or 1.9%). The Summerside Census agglomeration (-60 or -9.1%) and Outside Census Metropolitan (-300 or -10.0%) areas 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 decrease (-330) in regular employment insurance beneficiaries. At the county level there was an increase in Queens County (+10) while Kings (-20) and Prince (-320) Counties saw a year over year decrease.
- For the 15-24 age group, Prince County (-70) had a decrease in the number of regular beneficiaries in a year over year comparison. Queens County (+20) had a year over year increase while Kings County saw no change.
- For the 25-54 age group, Queens County (+10) had a year over year increase in regular beneficiaries. Kings (-10) and Prince (-180) Counties saw a year over year decrease.
- For individuals aged 55 and over, a year over year comparison shows that Kings (-10), Queens (-10) and Prince (-80) Counties had a decrease in the number of regular beneficiaries.



Kings County- 1,100 Regular Beneficiaries
Queens County- 1,840 Regular Beneficiaries
Prince County- 1,940 Regular Beneficiaries

Note: Table 14-10-0323-01 – Employment insurance beneficiaries by census division unadjusted for seasonally

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 August 2026, the largest number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries were in in Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (1,120) followed by Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (1,080) and Natural resources, agriculture, and related production occupations (1,000).

- There was a year over year decrease in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Business, finance, and administration occupations (-90), Sales and service occupations (-50), Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (-90), Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations (-30), Occupations in manufacturing and utilities (-110) and Unclassified occupations (-30).

- There was a year over year increase in regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Management occupations (+20), Natural and applied sciences and related occupations (+10) and Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (+20).

- There was no change in the number of regular employment insurance beneficiaries in Health occupations and Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport 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		Current Period				
2023-25		**Aug-26**	**Jul-26**	**Aug-25**	M-M	Y-Y
7,160	**All occupations**	**4,880**	**5,470**	**5,210**	**-590**	**-330**
27	Management occupations	**30**	30	10	0	20
555	Business, finance and administration occupations	**440**	450	530	-10	-90
288	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	**170**	190	160	-20	10
135	Health occupations	**80**	80	80	0	0
414	Occupations in education, law and social, community and governmer	**1,120**	1,150	1,100	-30	20
116	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	**40**	40	40	0	0
1,294	Sales and service occupations	**520**	530	570	-10	-50
1,817	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	**1,080**	1,170	1,170	-90	-90
1,733	Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	**1,000**	1,310	1,030	-310	-30
766	Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	**370**	500	480	-130	-110
24	Unclassified occupations	**20**	30	50	-10	-30

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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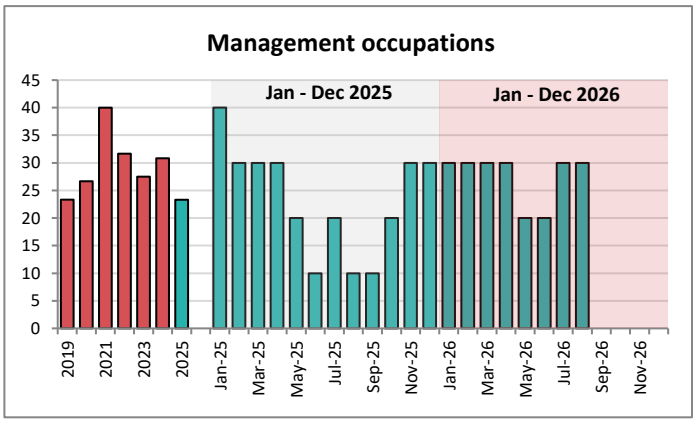
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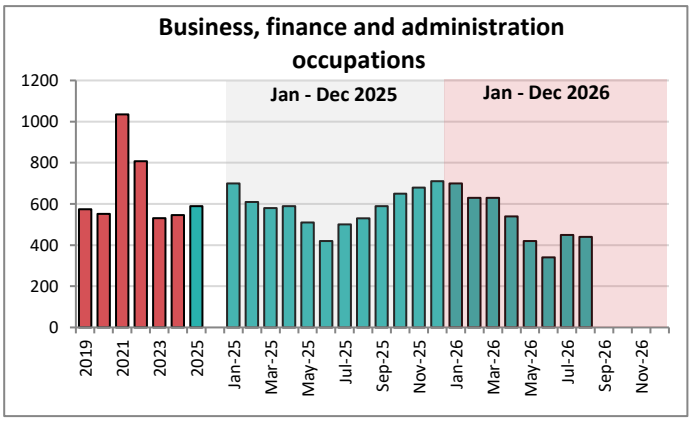
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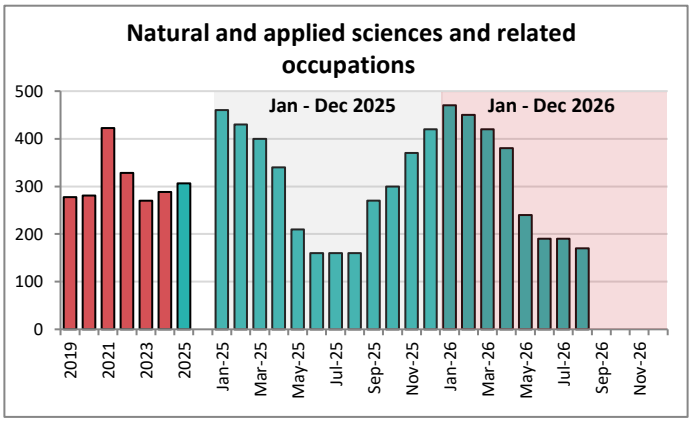
EI Beneficiaries by NOC Skill Type Progress Report

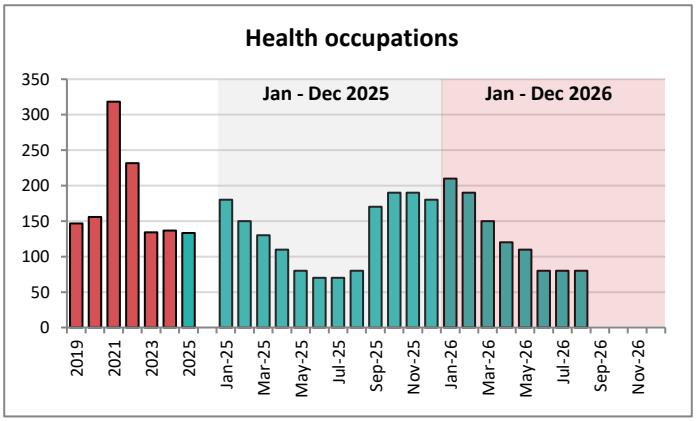
EI Beneficiary data is released monthly. The purpose of this section is to track the progress of employment by industry with historical context. "Year-to-date" (YTD) compares average values of available months in 2026 to the same in 2025.

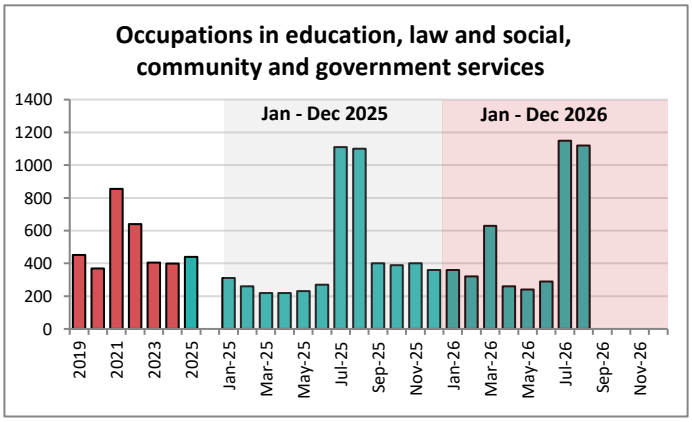
Graph interpretation: *Annual – Historical perspective:* *2019 – 2025*
Monthly – Current perspective: *2025 - 2026 (YTD)*

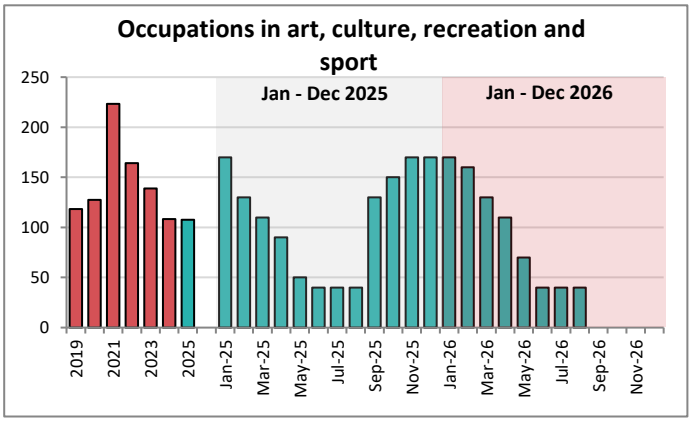












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