

February 9, 2024

Canada's unemployment rate drops for first time since 2022

- Following three months of little change, the Canadian labour market increased by 37K jobs in January. The employment rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 61.6%, as population growth (+0.4%) outpaced employment growth (+0.2%).
- The unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 5.7% – the first decline since December 2022. The rate had been trending upward for most of 2023 – from 5.1% in April to 5.8% in December.
- Job gains were spread across several industries in the services-producing sector, led by wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing, educational services, transportation and warehousing, business, building and other support services and public administration. Declines were seen in accommodation and food services, professional, scientific and technical services and information, culture and recreation.
- Employment was up Ontario (+24K; +0.3%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+7.5K; +3.2%), Manitoba (+6.9K; +1.0%) and Nova Scotia (+3.7K; +0.7%) while it was down in Saskatchewan (-6.2K; -1.0%).
- Average hourly wages rose 5.3% (+\$1.74) to \$34.75 year-over-year, slightly down from 5.4% in December 2023.

Notable Industries

Wholesale and retail trade	+31.3K	+1.1%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	+28.1K	+2.1%
Educational services	+27.7K	+1.8%
Transportation and warehousing	+19.9K	+1.9%
Professional, scientific and technical services	-16.5K	-0.9%
Accommodation and food services	-30.3K	-2.7%



Monthly Job Change and Unemployment Rate

