



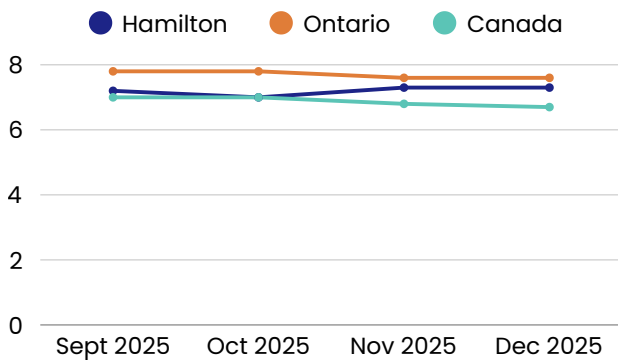
DECEMBER 2025

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Take a look into how Hamilton fared in December 2025 by the numbers!
Data taken from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey and WPH's Job Board.

POPULATION GROWTH	UNEMPLOYMENT		JOB DEMAND
Y-O-Y % Change +7.2K +1%	Unemployment Rate 7.3%		Job Posts 5,127 -5%
15+ Population (December 2025) 726,900	M-o-M Increase 0%	Compared to Canada +0.6%	Top Employer MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

UNEMPLOYMENT, OCT - DEC 2025



Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0459-01](#)

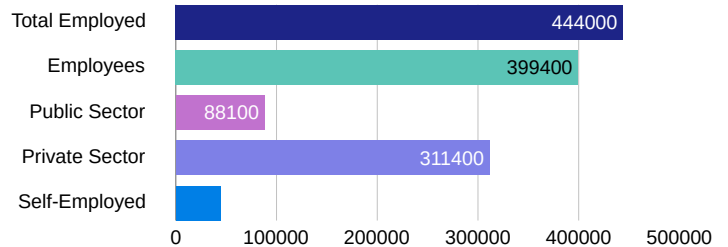
Hamilton's unemployment rate held steady at 7.3% in December 2025, unchanged from the previous month. This follows a decline earlier in the year and subsequent increases later in 2025. The rate now sits above the national average of 6.7% but remains below Ontario's provincial rate of 7.6%.

REGIONAL COMPARISON

The chart on the right shows unemployment rates across Southern Ontario, ranked from highest to lowest. Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo recorded the highest rate at 8.2%, about 1.5% above the national average. Toronto followed closely at 8.1%, with Windsor at 7.7%. Hamilton's rate stood at 7.3%, while St. Catharines-Niagara recorded the lowest rate among these cities at 6.9%, slightly above the national average of 6.7% and below Ontario's provincial rate of 7.6%.

EMPLOYMENT

In December 2025, the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) employed 444,000 persons. The chart below shows the types of employment.



Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0467-01](#)

Employment fell by 4,000 in December, with losses spread across the public and private sectors. Public sector employment declined by 1,000, private sector employment fell by 400, and the number of self-employed workers decreased by 2,500.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

KITCHENER-CAMBRIDGE-WATERLOO	8.2%
TORONTO	8.1%
WINDSOR	7.7%
ONTARIO	7.6%
HAMILTON	7.3%
ST.CATHARINES NIAGARA	6.9%
CANADA	6.7%

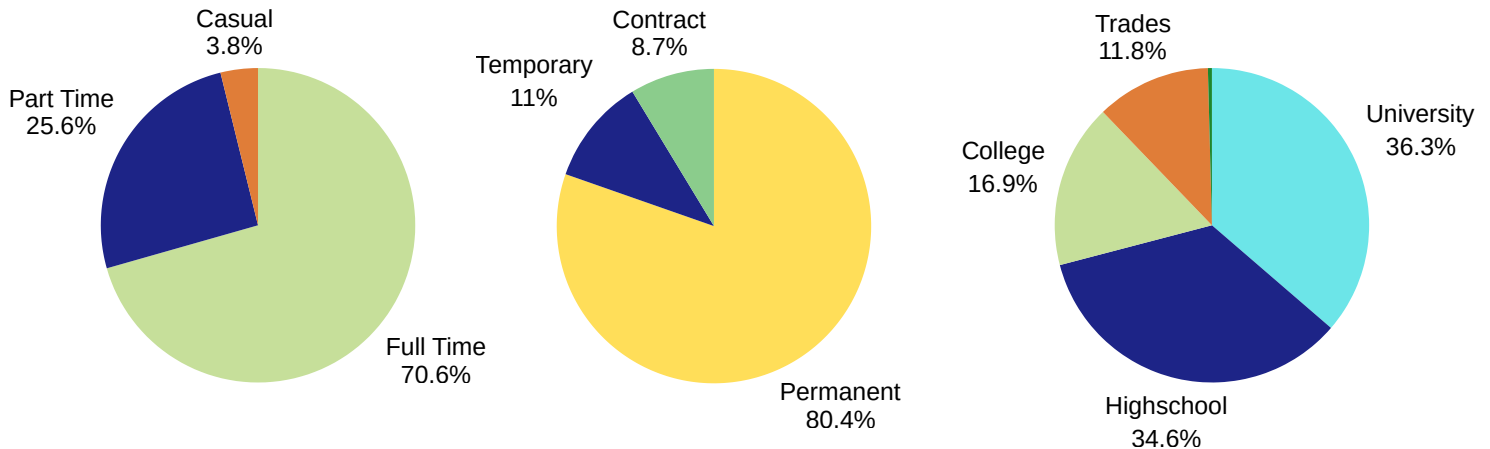
Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0459-01](#)

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MONTHLY OVERVIEW

The three pie charts below look at the distribution of job posts collected from our Job Board by employment type, duration and skill-level.



TOP IN DEMAND JOBS

POSTS	*MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE	OCCUPATION
+175	\$17.00	FOOD SERVICE JOBS
+167	\$18.00	RETAIL SALESPERSONS
+149	\$41.00	REGISTERED NURSES
+137	\$22.00	HOME SUPPORT WORKERS
+117	\$31.00	TRANSPORT TRUCK DRIVERS

The top in-demand occupation for December 2025 was Food Service Jobs, with 175 job posts and a median hourly wage of \$17.00/hour.

GROWING OCCUPATIONS

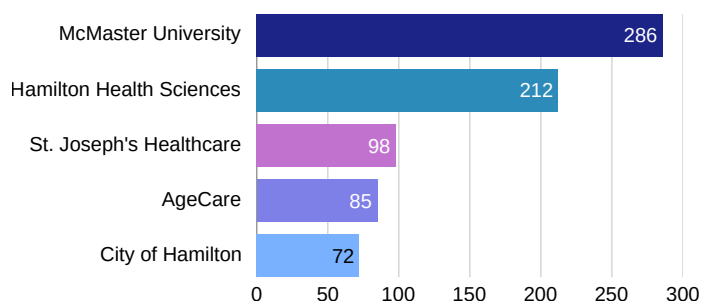
Occupations in Art and Recreation experienced the largest M-o-M increase in December 2025, rising by 4%. Sales occupations followed with a 3% gain, while occupations in Education & Law increased more modestly, up 1%.

DECLINING OCCUPATIONS

The top declining occupational group was Natural Resources & Agriculture, falling by 35% M-o-M. Occupations in Management also declined, down 4%, while occupations in Health saw a 3% decrease.

TOP EMPLOYERS

Our Job Board collects information on the employers hiring in Hamilton. These were the top five.



McMaster University had the most job posts in December 2025, with 286. Following were Hamilton Health Sciences with 212, St. Joseph's with 98, AgeCare with 85 and the City of Hamilton with 72.

GROWTH



DECLINE



Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0467-03

*Median wages are taken from job postings and include both full-time and part-time rates.

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