

EMPLOYMENT & INCOME LOSSES

The economic news for Canadian individuals and households gets worse with every new report. Population growth continues to outpace job growth, which means the standard of living continues to fall.

The November Statistics Canada *Labour Force Survey* reported that job growth in October remained stagnant, with the unemployment rate stuck at 6.5% nation-wide (7.9% in Calgary). On top of this, the rate of employment decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 60.6% in October, as hiring demand continued to slow and the number of job openings declined.

This is the sixth consecutive monthly decline in Canada's employment rate, falling by 1.3% on a year-over-year basis. Canada has witnessed a consistent downward trend in employment since February 2023.



As a consequence, nearly 200,000 Canadians have lost their jobs since this time last year.

Canada's available jobs are not coming close to keeping up with population growth. In October, only 15,000 jobs were created, while the working-age population grew by 85,000 people, according to *RBC*.

This follows another Statistics Canada report from late October showing that nearly **500,000 Canadians were claiming EI. This was the fourth consecutive monthly increase and an increase of 26,000 people from the same time last year.**

As a result, Canada reached a 25-month high in the number of people claiming EI. 🍁

Fast Facts

Canadian per capita Gross Domestic Product fell again in the third quarter of 2024, for the 8th time in the last 9 quarters.



At the Parliamentary Finance Committee on October 30, Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem said in response to my question "...

foreign capital, even Canadian capital, is going to the United States because they can get faster regulatory approvals...It's a big number."

A recent report from RBC said, "median income households are now spending up to 63.5% of their income on housing."



In September, 23% of Canadians said they were "concerned about having enough income to cover basic needs."

[*Salvation Army Annual Poverty Report*].

58% of parents said they are facing "food-related challenges." One in four parents say they personally ate less so their children or family members could eat more; 86% said they are buying less nutritious food because it is cheaper [*Salvation Army report*].



According to the Food Bank Canada Hunger Count report for 2024, food banks recorded a historic 2,059,636 visits in March 2024 alone. This is a shocking 90% increase from 2019, five years ago.



On October 17, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) reported that in 2024-25, the federal deficit will be \$5.6 billion higher than the budget promised, rising to \$46.4 billion; it will increase by another \$6.9 billion by 2028-2029, well

above the government's promised \$40 billion cap on the deficit.



The PBO projects a deterioration in both real and nominal national GDP growth by 0.1-0.2% annually going forward.

The PBO also projects the unemployment rate for 2025 will be a half point higher than previously expected. 🍁

House to House

Report from Parliament

December 2024

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE BEST OF THE SEASON

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or simply the pure joy of this season, I wish you all the best for a peaceful time with family and friends.

Christmas is a time for celebration and generosity, but for many, it has been a difficult year. Millions of Canadians struggle to afford gas, groceries, home heating, and especially housing.

Under the current Liberal Government, per capita GDP has fallen below what it was in 2015, which means that after 9 years, the standard of living in Canada has fallen over that period.

The season is also a time for hope. My colleagues in the Conservative official opposition remain committed to holding the government to account for its policies, and continue to call for an immediate election.

I wish you the best in the new year and hope that 2025 will ring in a new, better, government. 🍁

Pat Kelly



Madam Speaker,

Let me be the one to let the Parliamentary Secretary know that, per capita, the economy is smaller today than it was in 2015. That is the legacy of this government.

It has shrunk the economy.

Canadians are poorer now than they were when the government took office nine years ago.

That is the legacy of this government.

Pat Kelly, MP
House of Commons, Oct 23, 2024

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REMEMBERING



I spoke on Remembrance Day, November 11, at the Bowness Legion #238.

"It is my honour to address you once again here in the Bowness Community Centre, next to the High School I attended, and in a community I have always known and where I once lived. A timeless place, and I can think of no better place to be for today's act of Remembrance.

Today is the day that Canadians stop and give pause to remember those who served, those who continue to serve, those injured, in the body or the mind, and those who gave their lives in service to Canada.

Canada is not an accident. It is a country created deliberately, by elected representatives, who consciously chose to build a country founded on eternal values and principles, like freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and pluralism. These basic principles formed the basis of this incredible country that we love. A country that millions of people have chosen to make their own from every corner of the world. Principles that underpin the peace, comfort, and orderliness that we have enjoyed since 1867.

But these foundational Canadian values have been threatened repeatedly over time, and have had to be defended by the force of Arms, from those that would deny Canadians our way of life, and Canadians have always answered the call.

Today is the day we fulfil a sacred obligation owed by the living to the dead; and by free people to those who have dedicated their lives to the preservation of freedom - the obligation of remembrance.

The relentless passage of time makes Remembrance Day more urgent with every passing year.

The First World War has long passed from living memory, and the same is now happening with the Second. This past summer Calgary's Bill Stewart of the Calgary Tank regiment passed away at 102 years old. He

was the last survivor of the Dieppe raid. He was captured on that fateful day in 1942 and spent two and half years as a POW.

D-Day, when 14,000 Canadians landed on Juno Beach, was 80 years ago. There will soon be a time when no one lives who can remember these times, so I beg you, as I do every year, if you know anyone who lived in that time, talk to them, while you still can, so that their memory will endure.

But we remember not only those who brought us victory from wars past, we remember those who maintained peace through vigilance, and those who serve today because today our values are under attack again throughout the world.



Now, more than ever, we the living, bear a responsibility and a duty to remember all those before us; and those who today, stand ready to defend our values, our very way of life, from today's petty tyrants who despise the very notion of people living freely, in peace, in prosperity, in harmony with diverse neighbours, and under democratic leadership, with the rule of law and public order.

For all who place value on these things, and all those who wish to bequeath such a country to their children. We remember.

We remember Flanders Fields and Vimy Ridge, we remember Dieppe and Juno Beach, we remember those who patrolled the air and the sea, we remember Korea, we remember the DEW line and cold war vigilance, we remember the peacekeepers from Bosnia to Namibia, we remember Kandahar, and we remember that right now, while I'm speaking to you, over a thousand brave Canadian men and women lead a battlegroup in Latvia, a short drive from the Russian border, that gives reassurance to our NATO allies.

Remember them all. Remember those serving now, remember those who have served before, and remember those who died so that we may live in peace and in freedom – lest we forget. 🍁

LUNG CANCER MONTH



Mr. Speaker, one in 15 Canadians will be diagnosed with lung cancer.

"Lung cancer affects thousands of Canadian families, including my own. It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Canada, and one of the least survivable, with only a 22% five-year survival rate. Many Canadians would be surprised to know that lung cancer kills more Canadians than prostate cancer, breast cancer, and colon cancer combined.

"It is usually undetectable until its final stages. ... While smoking is a factor in 70% of lung cancer cases, nearly 30% of patients have never smoked. If one has lungs, one can get lung cancer. I ask Canadians to treat all cancer patients with compassion and with the best hopes for new, life-prolonging therapies to add years of survival for our loved ones." 🍁



Pat Kelly, MP
House of Commons, October 30, 2024

Minister Resigns Following Opposition Pressure

Last spring media reports emerged indicating that Randy Boissonnault (MP Edmonton Centre), was a 50% shareholder and actively involved in the management of Global Health Imports, a company that had dealings with the Federal government, while he was in the Federal Cabinet as Minister of Employment and Workforce Development. The company was subject to allegations of fraud and lawsuits from some of its customers, and was connected to a suspicious fire at its warehouse. It was also reported that he was a partner in a lobbying firm that lobbied the federal government while he was a minister.

Ministers are prohibited from managing private businesses while they serve in Cabinet.

The Minister claimed he had no involvement in the business after he joined Cabinet, but text records proved this claim was false.

It was later revealed the Minister's business falsely claimed to be Indigenous owned in order to obtain a procurement contract set aside for Indigenous owned enterprises. The

Minister had a history of claiming Indigenous identity, but neither he nor his business partner are in fact Indigenous. It was also reported that the business had the same mailing address as individuals arrested for cocaine smuggling.

For months, the Conservative Opposition called for his resignation or for the Prime Minister to fire him. He finally did "step away" from cabinet on November 21 leaving Canadians to wonder why he was allowed to remain in cabinet for months despite breaching the Conflict of Interest Act, making false denials at a Parliamentary committee, attempting to profit from a false claim of Indigenous identity, and reports of a shared business address with known cocaine smugglers. By normal historic standards of behaviour, the Prime Minister should have demanded his resignation as soon as it was clear that he had been in clear and obvious violation of the Conflict of Interest Act.

My opposition colleagues and I will continue to demand accountability from the government for the numerous conflicts of interest. Canadians expect a higher standard of conduct from their government. 🍁

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