



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

June 2021



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Ontario, including the regions of Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula, Kingston—Pembroke, Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie, London, Muskoka—Kawartha, Northeast, Northwest, Ottawa, Stratford—Bruce Peninsula, Toronto and Windsor—Sarnia.

OVERVIEW

Labour Force Trends - Employment increased in Ontario in the second quarter of 2021

- Employment grew by 20,200 in Ontario in the second quarter of 2021
- All of the job gains were in part-time work
- The unemployment rate decreased slightly to 8.9% in the second quarter
- The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 increased to 19.4%
- The largest job gains were in professional, scientific and technical services, transportation and warehousing, and public administration
- Employment increased in all of Ontario's economic regions

On June 11, the Government of Ontario moved into Step One of its Roadmap to Reopen given increased vaccination rates and improvements in key public health and health care indicators.¹ Step One allowed for greater outdoor activities, increased capacity at essential retailers and reopening of non-essential retailers, outdoor dining, and the reopening of outdoor horse racing tracks, motor speedways, and other outdoor attractions. On June 30, all of Ontario except for the Region of Waterloo moved into Step Two of the provincial reopening plan.² Step Two allowed for increased outdoor and indoor gatherings, expanded retail capacity, reopening of personal care services, and additional outdoor recreation and entertainment activities.

According to Statistics Canada's Guide to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), people who are on temporary layoff due to business conditions, such as the mandatory shutdown from the COVID-19 pandemic, with an expectation of recall, and were available for work, are considered unemployed. This is different from people who had a job but were not at work due to illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, vacation or labour dispute who are all considered employed.³

Employment rose by 20,200 (+0.3%) in Ontario between the first and second quarters of 2021. After consecutive job losses in April and May, employment surged in June as public health measures eased boosting overall quarterly employment. All of the job gains in the second quarter were in part-time work (+68,500; +5.8%) offsetting full-time losses (-48,300; -0.8%). The jump in part-time work may be due to greater activity in retail trade, and accommodation and food services, which often employ more part-time workers. The unemployment rate dropped slightly to 8.9% and the quarterly participation rate inched up to 64.5%.

Youth employment decreased in Ontario by 12,800 (-1.4%) in the second quarter of 2021. Losses in full-time employment outweighed gains in part-time work. The unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to reach 19.4%. Despite the quarterly loss, youth employment shot up in June as restrictions eased allowing businesses that tend to employ more youth such as retailers, restaurants, and some recreational service providers, to reopen and increase activity. Though still elevated, the youth unemployment rate has fallen from 28.1% in the second quarter of 2020 when the first COVID-19 wave and ensuing lockdown took place across Ontario.

Employment grew by 113,000 (+0.6%) in Canada in the second quarter of 2021 with gains across most of the country as several provinces lifted restrictions. The quarterly unemployment rate trended down and all of the job gains were in part-time work. The Canadian job vacancy rate reached 3.6% in the first quarter of 2021 because of a higher number of available positions and a drop in employment.⁴ This was the highest comparable job vacancy rate observed since 2015. Average hourly wages in Canada saw little growth between June 2020 and June 2021 reaching \$29.70 while average weekly hours worked fell 1.1% to 35.6.⁵

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 850,000 in the United States in June 2021 and the unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 5.9%.⁶ The strong employment tally topped analysts' expectations⁷ with large employment gains in leisure and hospitality, public and private education, and professional and business services. The underemployment rate, which measures the total number of persons unemployed, marginally attached or employed part-time for economic reasons, declined to 9.8% the lowest level since March 2020.⁸

Labour market conditions in the second quarter of 2021 showed a marked difference compared to the same period of last year, when strict public health measures came into effect and economic activity tumbled. Employment increased by 736,000 (+11.3%) between the second quarters of 2020 and 2021 with gains in both full-time and part-time work. The unemployment rate improved to 8.9% from 12.3% in the second quarter of 2020, and the participation and employment rates made noticeable strides over this period as labour force activity started to recover.

Throughout the summer months, Statistics Canada collects labour market data on youth aged 15 to 24 who attended school full-time in March and who intend to return to school in the fall.⁹ Full-time student employment increased by 55,600 (+44.0%) and part-time employment rose by 90,900 (+45.1%) in Ontario between June 2020 and June 2021. The unemployment rate for returning students declined by 15.7 percentage points to 20.0%. This was above the national rate of 15.3%. The participation and employment rates for summer students also improved significantly to 56.4% and 45.1%, suggesting greater availability and uptake of work this summer. Many younger students may have still been in school in June, so these results may be a better indicator of labour market conditions for older students.

Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally adjusted data | 2nd Quarter 2021 | 1st Quarter 2021 | 2nd Quarter 2020 | Quarterly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 12,317.5 | 12,291.6 | 12,200.3 | 25.9 | 0.2 | 117.2 | 1.0 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 7,939.5 | 7,921.6 | 7,411.7 | 17.9 | 0.2 | 527.8 | 7.1 |
| Employment ('000) | 7,233.3 | 7,213.1 | 6,497.3 | 20.2 | 0.3 | 736.0 | 11.3 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 5,978.4 | 6,026.7 | 5,474.4 | -48.3 | -0.8 | 504.0 | 9.2 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 1,254.9 | 1,186.5 | 1,022.9 | 68.5 | 5.8 | 232.0 | 22.7 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 706.2 | 708.4 | 914.4 | -2.2 | -0.3 | -208.2 | -22.8 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 8.9 | 9.0 | 12.3 | -0.1 | - | -3.4 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 64.5 | 64.4 | 60.7 | 0.1 | - | 3.8 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 58.7 | 58.7 | 53.3 | 0.0 | - | 5.4 | - |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

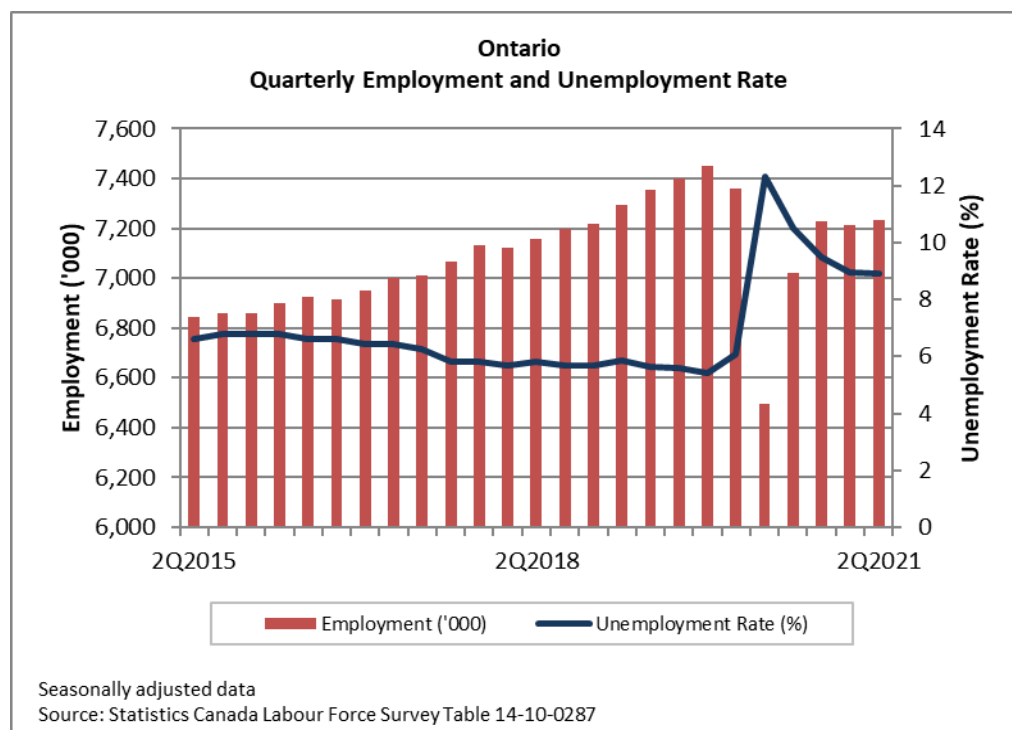
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

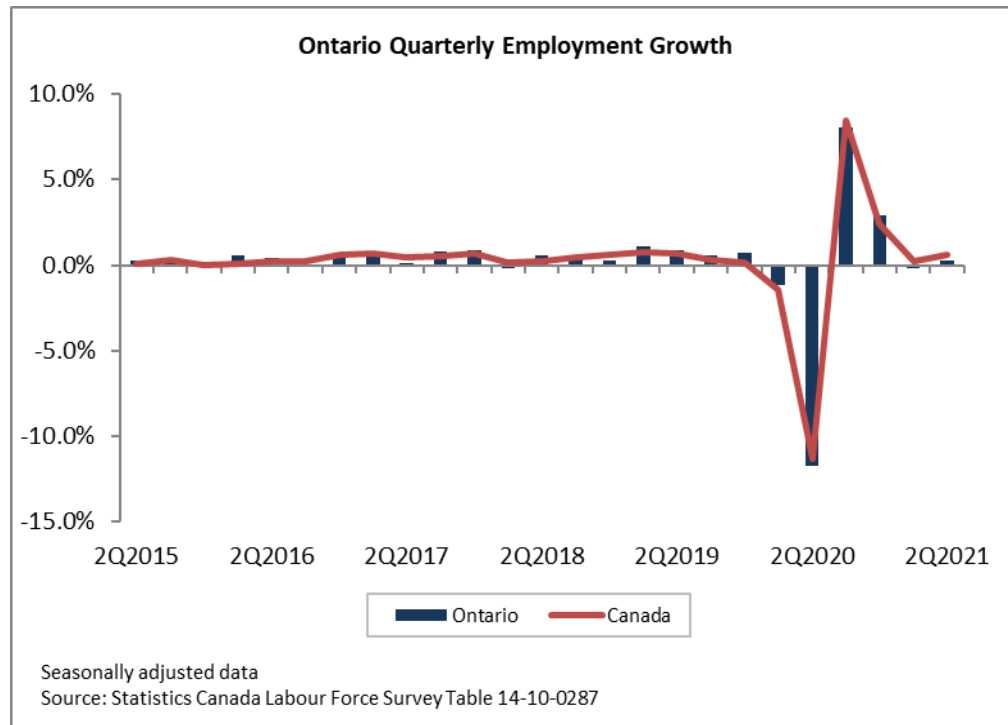
Ontario Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally adjusted data | 2nd Quarter 2021 (%) | 1st Quarter 2021 (%) | 2nd Quarter 2020 (%) | Quarterly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | | | (% points) | (% points) |
| Total | 8.9 | 8.9 | 12.3 | 0.0 | -3.4 |
| 25 years and over | 7.2 | 7.3 | 10.0 | -0.1 | -2.8 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 7.0 | 7.0 | 9.2 | 0.0 | -2.2 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 7.4 | 7.6 | 10.9 | -0.2 | -3.5 |
| 15 to 24 years | 19.4 | 19.2 | 28.1 | 0.2 | -8.7 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 19.8 | 18.0 | 27.8 | 1.8 | -8.0 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 19.0 | 20.6 | 28.4 | -1.6 | -9.4 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087





EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment fell in Ontario's goods-producing sector in the second quarter of 2021

Employment in the Ontario **goods-producing sector** fell by 14,500 (-1.0%) between the first quarter of 2021 and the second quarter of 2021. Employment declined in manufacturing (-16,000; -2.0%), construction (-4,000; -0.8%), and utilities (-1,000; -2.0%). However, employment grew in agriculture (+6,500; +10.1%) and remained steady in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas.

Employment in the **manufacturing** industry fell by 16,000 (-2.0%) between the first quarter of 2021 and the second quarter of 2021. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index decreased continuously throughout the quarter but remained in expansion territory.¹⁰ Manufacturing sales also fell by 5.5% in Ontario in April 2021.¹¹

The ongoing global shortage of semiconductor chips continued to affect the Ontario manufacturing industry. Contributing factors to the global shortage include supply chain bottlenecks, production issues related to the pandemic, as well as the surge in demand for electronic goods requiring semiconductor chips. The shortage led to multiple work stoppages throughout the quarter including at the General Motors of Canada CAMI Assembly Plant in Ingersoll,¹² the Ford Motor Company of Canada Oakville Assembly Plant¹³ and Essex and Windsor Engine Plants,¹⁴ and the Stellantis Windsor Assembly Plant.¹⁵ These shutdowns affected parts suppliers and feeder plants throughout Ontario with some automakers being able to restart production towards the end of the quarter. A COVID-19 outbreak at one of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada's key suppliers also caused the automaker to halt production temporarily at its assembly plants in Woodstock and Cambridge in late April.¹⁶

In expansion news, noteworthy announcements included General Motors of Canada accepting applications for more than 1,600 positions as it prepares to reopen its Oshawa Assembly Plant for pickup truck production.¹⁷ In mid-May, the governments of Canada and Ontario and the City of Toronto announced a combined investment of \$568M to purchase 60 streetcars for the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC).¹⁸ The streetcars will be produced at the Alstom assembly plant in Thunder Bay, with delivery starting in 2023. In addition, the Government of Canada announced a \$199.2M investment in Resilience Biotechnologies Inc. to help the company increase vaccine and therapeutic manufacturing capacity at its Mississauga plant, which will create and support 500 jobs and 50 co-op positions.¹⁹

Employment in the **construction** industry fell by 4,000 (-0.8%) between the first and second quarters of 2021. In mid-April, the Government of Ontario announced restriction orders that temporarily stopped all construction work at sites deemed non-essential.²⁰ The order was lifted and all construction projects were allowed to resume in mid-June.²¹ The price of a new single-family home in the Toronto area surged to a record \$1.4M in March, representing close to a 30% annual increase.²² Government investments in infrastructure continued to support the construction industry. In May, the federal government announced that it would invest more than \$12B towards five public transit projects in the Toronto and Hamilton area, including three subway lines and two light rail transit projects.²³ In June, the governments of Canada and Ontario announced a joint investment of \$115.1M in municipalities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area,²⁴ as well as \$22.2M in 130 municipalities in eastern Ontario,²⁵ and \$51.2M in 129 towns, cities and municipalities throughout Southwestern, Midwestern and Central Ontario.²⁶ The Government of Canada also earmarked \$470M over three years starting in 2021-22 to establish a new Apprenticeship Service to support apprenticeship opportunities, including for underrepresented groups such as women, racialized Canadians and persons with disabilities.²⁷

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the **goods-producing sector** increased by 166,700 (+12.9%) between the second quarters of 2020 and 2021, led by gains in manufacturing (+103,900; +15.6%) and construction (+61,700; +13.1%).

Employment grew in the services-producing sector in Ontario in the second quarter of 2021

Employment in the Ontario **services-producing sector** rose by 34,700 (+0.6%) between the first quarter of 2021 and the second quarter of 2021. The largest gains were in professional, scientific and technical services (+16,800; +2.4%), transportation and warehousing (+13,200; +3.7%), and public administration (+13,000; +3.3%). However, employment fell in educational services (-19,300; -3.5%), finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-9,600; -1.5%), and information, culture and recreation (-7,100; -2.5%).

For much of the quarter, activity in **accommodation and food services** was tempered by public health restrictions. In early April, the Government of Ontario issued a province-wide emergency shutdown, which restricted indoor and outdoor dining and limited service to take-out, drive-thru, and delivery.²⁸ As vaccination rates and public health indicators improved, the provincial government eased restrictions allowing outdoor patio dining to resume in mid-June.²⁹ A few investments were made in the second quarter to help boost the tourism industry over the summer season. The Government of Ontario launched the Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant, which provides a one-time payment to support small tourism and travel businesses.³⁰ The City of Toronto started preparation work on CaféTO, which is expected to provide more than 1,000 restaurants with expanded patio space over the summer.³¹ The Government of Ontario also invested \$1.3M through Destination Northern Ontario to provide 300 people with training to work in Northern Ontario's tourism industry.³² Meanwhile, the Government of Canada extended the Canada-United States land border closure until at least July 21, lowering tourism expectations especially for border communities.³³

Employment in the provincial **trade** industry remained relatively stable between the first and second quarters of 2021, increasing by 1,000 (+0.1%). Public health restrictions that were in place for much of the second quarter weighed on retail activity.³⁴ Retail sales fell by 5.7% in Canada in April, representing the sharpest decline in a year, with preliminary estimates suggesting a drop of 3.2% in May.³⁵ In early April, all non-essential retailers were forced to close for in-person shopping and were restricted to curbside pickup and delivery services, while big box stores were only allowed to sell essential goods in Ontario.³⁶ Store capacity was also reduced at essential retailers limiting the number of shoppers. As public health indicators improved and vaccines rolled out, the province eased restrictions allowing non-essential retailers to reopen for in-person shopping and essential retailers to increase store capacity with no restrictions on the types of goods sold.³⁷ The reopening of stores in shopping malls towards the end of the quarter should give the industry a further boost heading into the summer. Retailers such as Giant Tiger Stores Limited³⁸ and Sephora³⁹ announced plans to open several new stores across Canada over the next few years while The Disney Store announced that it would close all of its locations in Canada over the summer, including nine Ontario stores.⁴⁰

Employment in the **transportation and warehousing** industry grew by 13,200 (+3.7%) over the second quarter of 2021, with major developments occurring across the transportation industry. In April, Air Canada reached an agreement with the federal government on an aid package worth up to \$5.9B aimed at speeding up customer refunds and helping bring back jobs and service lost during the pandemic.⁴¹ Other air carriers received government-funding support as well. Transat AT Inc. reached an agreement for up to \$700M in funding,⁴² Sunwing Airlines Inc. and Sunwing Vacations Inc. received a loan of up to \$100M,⁴³ and Porter Airlines received a loan of up to \$270.5M.⁴⁴ Air travel was further restricted over the quarter as the Government of Canada temporarily banned all commercial and private passenger flights from India and Pakistan in mid-April amid rising COVID-19 case counts in those countries.⁴⁵ The impact of the pandemic on passenger demand extended beyond the air transportation industry. Greyhound Canada Transportation permanently shuttered all of its remaining bus routes in Canada, affecting about 400 workers who were mainly in Ontario.⁴⁶

Heading into the summer, the industry received some positive news. Air Canada announced that it would recall more than 2,600 employees as it prepares for increased travel demands⁴⁷ and the federal government announced that fully vaccinated Canadians would be able to travel outside of Canada without having to self-isolate or quarantine upon return effective early July.⁴⁸

Employment in the **services-producing sector** increased significantly by 569,300 (+10.9%) between the second quarter of 2020 and the second quarter of 2021. Nearly all industries within the services sector reported year-over-year employment gains, with the largest increases in trade (+115,800; +12.7%), professional, scientific and technical services (+93,700; +14.8%), and health care and social assistance (+87,800; +10.6%).

Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

| Seasonally adjusted data ('000) | 2nd Quarter 2021 | 1st Quarter 2021 | 2nd Quarter 2020 | Quarterly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 7,233.3 | 7,213.1 | 6,497.3 | 20.2 | 0.3 | 736.0 | 11.3 |
| Goods-producing sector | 1,457.6 | 1,472.1 | 1,290.8 | -14.5 | -1.0 | 166.7 | 12.9 |
| Agriculture | 70.5 | 64.1 | 71.4 | 6.5 | 10.1 | -0.9 | -1.3 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 34.9 | 34.9 | 34.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| Utilities | 50.3 | 51.3 | 48.8 | -1.0 | -2.0 | 1.5 | 3.1 |
| Construction | 533.7 | 537.7 | 471.9 | -4.0 | -0.8 | 61.7 | 13.1 |
| Manufacturing | 768.2 | 784.2 | 664.3 | -16.0 | -2.0 | 103.9 | 15.6 |
| Services-producing sector | 5,775.7 | 5,741.1 | 5,206.4 | 34.7 | 0.6 | 569.3 | 10.9 |
| Trade | 1,029.1 | 1,028.1 | 913.2 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 115.8 | 12.7 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 374.3 | 361.1 | 345.1 | 13.2 | 3.7 | 29.2 | 8.5 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 625.0 | 634.5 | 601.3 | -9.6 | -1.5 | 23.7 | 3.9 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 725.9 | 709.0 | 632.2 | 16.8 | 2.4 | 93.7 | 14.8 |
| Business, building and other support services | 284.5 | 274.9 | 288.6 | 9.6 | 3.5 | -4.1 | -1.4 |
| Educational services | 526.6 | 546.0 | 480.5 | -19.3 | -3.5 | 46.1 | 9.6 |
| Health care and social assistance | 915.6 | 905.7 | 827.8 | 9.8 | 1.1 | 87.8 | 10.6 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 282.8 | 289.9 | 240.8 | -7.1 | -2.5 | 42.0 | 17.4 |
| Accommodation and food services | 325.6 | 312.9 | 250.5 | 12.7 | 4.0 | 75.1 | 30.0 |
| Other services | 283.9 | 289.1 | 249.6 | -5.3 | -1.8 | 34.3 | 13.7 |
| Public administration | 402.6 | 389.7 | 376.9 | 13.0 | 3.3 | 25.7 | 6.8 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table T14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in all economic regions as Ontario started to reopen

Employment increased by 340,700 (+10.9%) in the **Toronto** economic region between the second quarter of 2020 and the second quarter of 2021, mostly in full-time employment (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). The regional unemployment rate decreased by 3.7 percentage points to 10.0%, tied for the highest regional unemployment rate in Ontario with Windsor–Sarnia. There were a few technology-related job announcements in the region over the quarter. Netflix, Inc. announced that it would open its Canadian corporate office in Toronto,⁴⁹ Wayfair Inc. announced plans to open an engineering office,⁵⁰ and technology start-up Wattpad announced expansion plans.⁵¹ Toronto's retail industry continued to see activity, with various grocery and clothing stores opening. Over the quarter, clothing retailer Ellie Mae Studios⁵² opened a store, Athleta⁵³ plans to open a store in the fall, and a T&T Supermarket location is scheduled to open in downtown Toronto by fall.⁵⁴ Although there were some closures including from clothing retailers Kit and Ace⁵⁵ and WANT Apothecary,⁵⁶ the reopening of indoor shopping in Ontario, including at malls, should help boost employment in the industry. Several restaurants also opened in the Toronto region helping support opportunities in accommodation and food services. Dozens of restaurants in the region, including Myth Restaurant⁵⁷ and Waska Peruvian Chicken,⁵⁸ opened while some eateries, such as Scarborough Buffet⁵⁹ and The County General,⁶⁰ permanently closed. Similar to retail trade, the industry was bolstered by the reopening of outdoor patio dining and should see greater activity as restrictions ease further.

Employment increased year-over-year by 81,200 (+11.9%) in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region in the second quarter of 2021. The majority of gains were in full-time employment (+63,900). The regional unemployment rate declined by 4.5 percentage points from 12.0% to 7.5%. The region's manufacturing industry saw a few positive events. NRB Modular Solutions opened a manufacturing facility in Cambridge, creating more than 100 jobs⁶¹ and safety component manufacturer Swenco Limited announced expansion plans, creating 24 jobs.⁶² Additionally, the job market was supported by hiring announcements at two software companies. Online learning platform MasterClass opened an engineering hub,⁶³ and satellite-data software company SkyWatch Space Applications Inc. plans to expand operations.⁶⁴ The accommodation and food services industry also saw several restaurants open across the region, including Champa Kitchen⁶⁵ and Tahinis Mediterranean Fusion Cuisine.⁶⁶

The **Ottawa** economic region experienced labour market gains in the second quarter of 2021. Employment increased by 80,200 (+11.9%) between the second quarters of 2020 and 2021, and the regional unemployment rate fell to 8.1% from 9.5%, a 1.4 percentage point decrease. Ottawa's overall labour force grew in size, with approximately 75,400 entrants for a gain of 10.1%. The regional manufacturing industry received a boost with Saniton Plastic Corporation opening a manufacturing facility in Cornwall in May⁶⁷ and an announced expansion at Siemens Healthineers AG over the next five years.⁶⁸ The region also saw three cannabis retail stores open—Creekside Greens⁶⁹ and Spiritleaf⁷⁰ in Kemptville and High Tide Inc. at the ByWard Market in Ottawa.⁷¹ Further, Ross Video Limited announced plans to hire over 200 employees at its Ottawa facility⁷² and Walmart Logistics held a hiring event to fill around 150 positions at its distribution hub in Cornwall.⁷³

The **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region saw employment gains of 76,800 (+11.7%) in the second quarter of 2021. The unemployment rate fell in the region, decreasing 3.7 percentage points from 12.5% to 8.8% year-over-year. Similar to the rest of Ontario, the retail industry saw some openings. A Costco Business Centre opened with 140 employees⁷⁴ and three cannabis retailers opened in the region – Sparkle Cannabis Company in Hamilton,⁷⁵ Cannabis Roll in Ancaster,⁷⁶ and The Hunny Pot Cannabis Co. in Niagara Falls.⁷⁷ In other positive news, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$6M in Hamilton's Innovation Factory to support the production of healthcare products, creating 50 jobs.⁷⁸ Construction also began on a couple major projects in the area. Work started on the upgrade of the Merritton Centennial Arena in St. Catharines⁷⁹ and Tamarack Lumber Inc. started work on its new manufacturing facility in Welland.

Employment in the **Windsor–Samia** economic region saw a sizeable gain increasing by 49,900 (+20.1%). The unemployment rate, though tied with Toronto for the highest in Ontario at 10.0%, decreased 4.9 percentage points from last year. Some positive news occurred in the regional manufacturing industry. Harbour Technologies opened a personal protective equipment manufacturing plant in Chatham with plans to hire 80 workers,⁸⁰ Ford Motor Company of Canada began hiring production technicians for its Essex and Annex Engine Plants,⁸¹ and Dimachem Inc. announced that it would expand operations to produce Pine-Sol products.⁸²

The **London** economic region saw employment gains of 49,300 (+15.4%) in the second quarter of 2021. The overall labour force in London increased substantially growing by about 45,200 (+12.5%). The unemployment rate decreased in the region, falling 2.3 percentage points from 11.7% to 9.4% year-over-year. Job creation in the London economic region was steady throughout the quarter with several businesses hiring workers. In the manufacturing industry, Nestlé Canada announced that it would expand its London ice cream plant and hire 88 workers⁸³ and Arva Industries Inc. received a contract to supply 12 rail cars to New York City's transit system, which will create around 50 jobs.⁸⁴ The transportation and warehousing industry was also bolstered by news that Amazon would open two warehouses in London, creating 200 warehouse jobs and 130 delivery driver positions.⁸⁵ ZTR Control Systems, LLC, a tracking technology company, announced plans to hire around 40 staff as well.⁸⁶

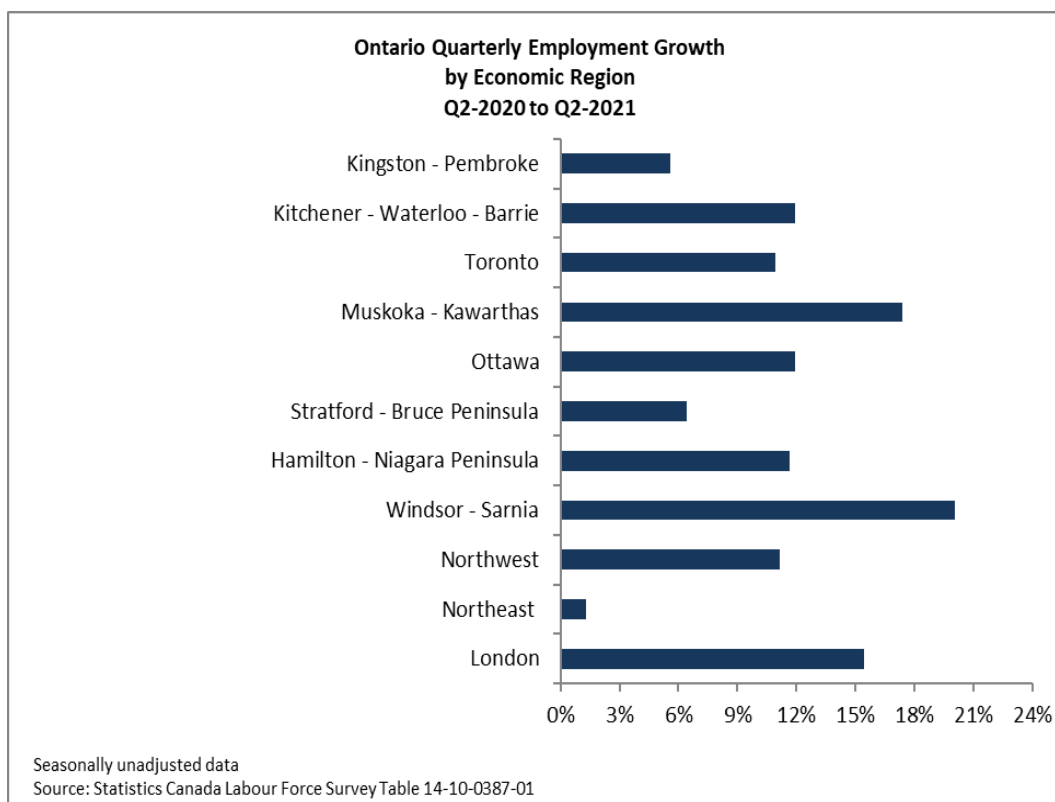
The **Muskoka–Kawartha** economic region saw employment increase from 163,200 in the second quarter of 2020 to 191,600 in the second quarter of 2021 (+28,400, +17.4%). Muskoka–Kawartha's overall labour force grew in size gaining 21,000 (+11.5%). The region's labour market was boosted by the start of construction projects. Work began on the \$10M Peterborough Animal Care Centre⁸⁷ and Ashburnham Realty broke ground on an affordable housing project in Peterborough.⁸⁸ The trend of cannabis stores opening also continued in the region with Sparq Retail Inc. opening in Peterborough⁸⁹ and Trease opening in Bobcaygeon.⁹⁰

Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| Seasonally unadjusted data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2nd Quarter 2021 ('000) | 2nd Quarter 2020 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | 2nd Quarter 2021 (%) | 2nd Quarter 2020 (%) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
| Ontario | 7,273.4 | 6,533.5 | 11.3 | 9.0 | 12.5 | -3.5 |
| Economic Regions | | | | | | |
| Ottawa | 752.1 | 671.9 | 11.9 | 8.1 | 9.5 | -1.4 |
| Kingston - Pembroke | 205.1 | 194.3 | 5.6 | 9.2 | 11.7 | -2.5 |
| Muskoka - Kawartha | 191.6 | 163.2 | 17.4 | 6.0 | 10.8 | -4.8 |
| Toronto | 3,457.8 | 3,117.1 | 10.9 | 10.0 | 13.7 | -3.7 |
| Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie | 761.8 | 680.6 | 11.9 | 7.5 | 12.0 | -4.5 |
| Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula | 736.0 | 659.2 | 11.7 | 8.8 | 12.5 | -3.7 |
| London | 368.8 | 319.5 | 15.4 | 9.4 | 11.7 | -2.3 |
| Windsor - Sarnia | 298.4 | 248.5 | 20.1 | 10.0 | 14.9 | -4.9 |
| Stratford - Bruce Peninsula | 159.3 | 149.7 | 6.4 | 3.8 | 9.8 | -6.0 |
| Northeast | 243.7 | 240.6 | 1.3 | 7.2 | 10.1 | -2.9 |
| Northwest | 98.7 | 88.8 | 11.1 | 7.6 | 10.8 | -3.2 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387-01



Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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