



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

February 2022



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Ontario and its regions.

SUMMARY

Labour Force Trends – Employment increased in February 2022

- Employment increased by 194,300 (+2.6%) in Ontario in February 2022, with the majority of gains coming from part-time employment (+138,000; +10.8%).
- The unemployment rate fell to 5.5%, the lowest since February 2020, while the unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 dropped to 12.2%.
- Employment in both goods-producing and services-producing sectors experienced gains.

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Employment in Ontario expanded strongly in February 2022, reversing the decline in employment from the previous month.

- Employment gains in February (+194,300, +2.6%) can be attributed to an increase of part-time work (+138,000; +10.8%).
- Strong gains in employment among youth aged 15 to 24 (+85,300; +9.2%) accounted for 43.9% of total job gains in Ontario.
- In Canada, overall employment increased (+336,600; +1.8%). Ontario and Quebec accounted for the majority of the gains, with all ten provinces observing an increase in employment.

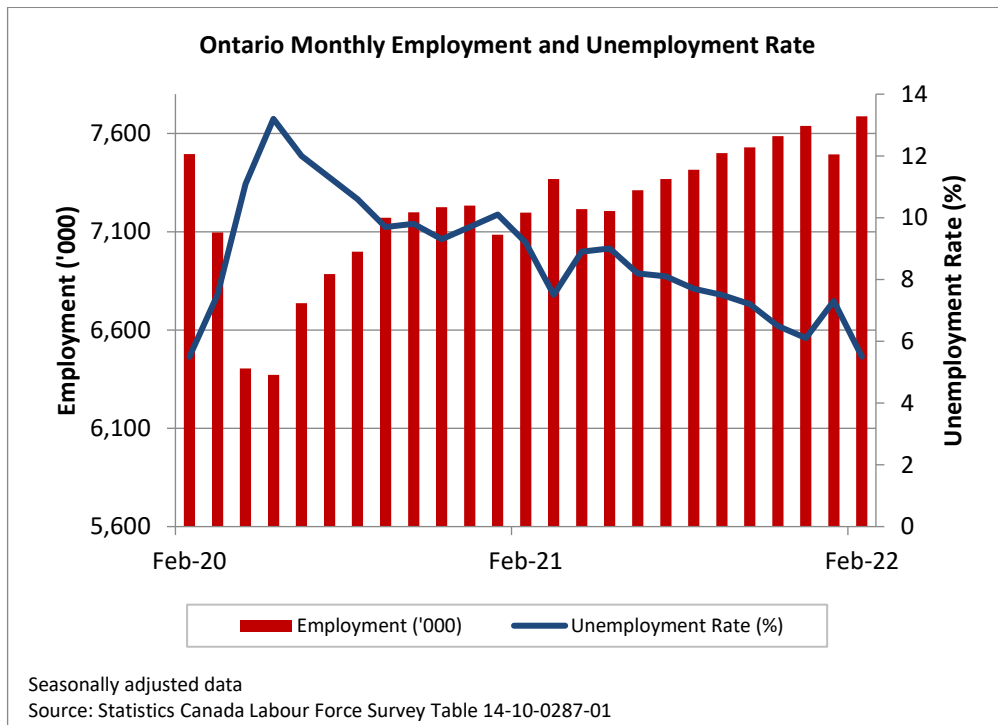
Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	12,454.6	12,436.1	12,292.4	18.5	0.1	162.2	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	8,139.2	8,084.9	7,923.2	54.3	0.7	216.0	2.7
Employment ('000)	7,687.8	7,493.5	7,197.5	194.3	2.6	490.3	6.8
Full-Time ('000)	6,274.0	6,217.7	6,007.0	56.3	0.9	267.0	4.4
Part-Time ('000)	1,413.8	1,275.8	1,190.4	138.0	10.8	223.4	18.8
Unemployment ('000)	451.4	591.4	725.7	-140.0	-23.7	-274.3	-37.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.5	7.3	9.2	-1.8	-	-3.7	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.4	65.0	64.5	0.4	-	0.9	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.7	60.3	58.6	1.4	-	3.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - Table 14-10-0287-01

- In February, the unemployment rate fell 1.8 percentage points to 5.5%, the lowest since February 2020.
- The participation rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 65.4%.
- Ontario’s unemployment rate in February was equal to the national rate. This is the first time, since June 2020, that the provincial unemployment rate is equal to or lower than Canada’s.



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.5	7.3	9.2	-1.8	-3.7
25 years and over	4.4	5.8	7.2	-1.4	-2.8
Men - 25 years and over	4.2	5.4	6.9	-1.2	-2.7
Women - 25 years and over	4.7	6.4	7.4	-1.7	-2.7
15 to 24 years	12.2	16.6	21.3	-4.4	-9.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.2	16.4	18.6	-3.2	-5.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.1	16.9	24.2	-5.8	-13.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - Table 14-10-0287-01

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment grew in Ontario's **goods-producing sector** by 22,200 (+1.5%) in February 2022, with the largest gains in construction (+20,700; +3.7%) and manufacturing (+2,300; +0.3%). Two goods-producing industries observed losses in employment in February, utilities (-1,000; -1.7%); and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-600; -1.5%).

Construction

- Employment in the Ontario construction industry grew by 3.7% in February, increasing for the fourth consecutive month, as Ontario continues to focus on housing affordability and increasing residential housing stock across the province.

Employment in Ontario's **services-producing sector** expanded by 172,200 (+2.9%) in February 2022, with the largest gains in accommodation and food services (+75,600; +23.9%); and information, culture and recreation (+39,000; +13.4%). The other services (except public administration) industry experienced the largest decline (-7,600; -2.9%) among Ontario services-producing industries. The other services industry includes establishments in motor vehicle maintenance and repair, provision of personal care services, laundry and funeral services, promotion of religious activities, and support of political or social causes.

Accommodation and Food Services

- The Ontario accommodation and food services sector workforce rose sharply by 23.9% in February as capacity limits in restaurants, bars, and other food and drink establishments were removed across the province.
- Easing of travel requirements across Canada and the introduction of a tax credit for travel within Ontario have improved outlooks for accommodation services in Ontario, as tourism activities slowly uptick.

Information, Culture and Recreation

- Employment in the Ontario information, culture and recreation sector saw a strong gain of 13.4% over the month.
- Removal of capacity limits for gaming establishments, gyms and recreational facilities, as well as expanded capacity in arenas and entertainment venues, has boosted employment in this sector.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,687.8	7,493.5	7,197.5	194.3	2.6	490.3	6.8
Goods-producing sector	1,509.7	1,487.5	1,469.1	22.2	1.5	40.6	2.8
Agriculture	62.4	61.7	60.2	0.7	1.1	2.2	3.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	38.9	39.5	35.5	-0.6	-1.5	3.4	9.6
Utilities	58.5	59.5	51.4	-1.0	-1.7	7.1	13.8
Construction	584.3	563.6	530.9	20.7	3.7	53.4	10.1
Manufacturing	765.6	763.3	791.1	2.3	0.3	-25.5	-3.2
Services-producing sector	6,178.1	6,005.9	5,728.4	172.2	2.9	449.7	7.9
Trade	1,150.7	1,136.9	1,018.6	13.8	1.2	132.1	13.0
Transportation and warehousing	393.9	388.0	362.2	5.9	1.5	31.7	8.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	658.4	641.2	631.9	17.2	2.7	26.5	4.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	791.4	776.6	712.5	14.8	1.9	78.9	11.1
Business, building and other support services	302.0	288.0	276.7	14.0	4.9	25.3	9.1
Educational services	553.7	557.8	541.7	-4.1	-0.7	12.0	2.2
Health care and social assistance	941.2	931.3	902.9	9.9	1.1	38.3	4.2
Information, culture and recreation	329.8	290.8	282.1	39.0	13.4	47.7	16.9
Accommodation and food services	392.5	316.9	323.6	75.6	23.9	68.9	21.3
Other services	250.3	257.9	287.5	-7.6	-2.9	-37.2	-12.9
Public administration	414.3	420.5	388.7	-6.2	-1.5	25.6	6.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - Table 14-10-0355-01

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In February 2022, all economic regions reported a year-over-year increase in employment compared to February 2021. However, when compared to February 2020 prior to the pandemic, five out of eleven economic regions posted a lower level of employment: Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie, Stratford-Bruce Peninsula, Northeast and Northwest.

All economic regions saw a decline in unemployment rates compared to February 2021. However, when compared to February 2020 prior to the pandemic, six out of eleven economic regions posted a higher unemployment rate: Ottawa, Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie, Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula, London and Northwest.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2022 ('000)	February 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2022 (%)	February 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,541.3	7,107.3	6.1	6.1	9.3	-3.2
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	728.1	727.0	0.2	4.7	6.1	-1.4
Kingston-Pembroke	225.8	213.5	5.8	4.6	8.6	-4.0
Muskoka-Kawarthas	167.8	185.5	-9.5	4.5	8.4	-3.9
Toronto	3,680.3	3,410.1	7.9	6.9	10.4	-3.5
Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie	766.1	721.1	6.2	5.1	9.6	-4.5
Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula	772.2	718.5	7.5	5.4	8.8	-3.4
London	384.1	359.0	7.0	5.6	7.1	-1.5
Windsor-Sarnia	310.4	281.9	10.1	7.0	9.5	-2.5
Stratford-Bruce Peninsula	154.3	153.3	0.7	4.6	7.1	-2.5
Northeast	254.6	241.2	5.6	5.1	8.0	-2.9
Northwest	97.6	96.4	1.2	6.0	7.1	-1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Notable changes between February 2021 and February 2022 include:

- Employment increased by 7.9% (+270,200) in the **Toronto** economic region, as full-time employment increased by 5.6% (+160,500) and part-time employment increased by 20.3% (+109,700).
- The labour force in the **Muskoka-Kawarthas** economic region declined by 13.2% (-26,700). This is reflected in the participation rate decline from 58.3% to 50.0%.
- Employment in the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region increased by 10.1% (+28,500), as full-time employment increased by 12.8% (+28,600).

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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