



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

March 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 March 2022

- Employment increased by 35,100 (+2.6%) in Ontario in March 2022, with all of the gains coming from full-time employment (+65,500; +1.0%). Part-time employment declined by 30,400 (-2.2%).
- The unemployment rate fell from 5.5% in February to 5.3% in March, the lowest unemployment rate since January 2020. The unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 dropped from 12.2% to 10.4%.
- Employment in both goods-producing and services-producing sectors experienced gains.

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Employment in Ontario expanded slightly in March 2022, reaching an all-time high

- Employment gains in March (+35,100, +0.5%) were entirely in full-time work (+65,500; +1.0%), as part-time employment declined by 30,400 (-2.2%).
- There were slight gains in employment among youth aged 15 to 24 (+4,000; +0.4%), but the majority of employment gains were among people aged 55 and older (+17,600; +1.0%).
- In Canada, overall employment increased (+72,500; +0.4%). Ontario and Quebec accounted for the majority of the gains. Four provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan observed a decrease in employment.

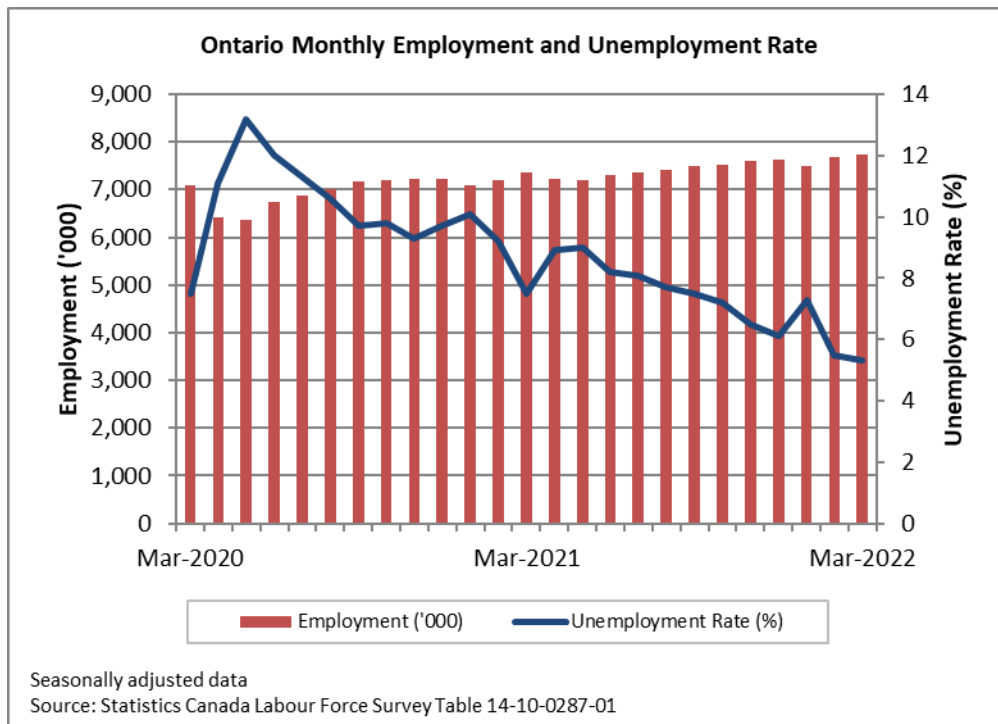
Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	March 2022	February 2022	March 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,469.3	12,454.6	12,301.8	14.7	0.1	167.5	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	8,152.7	8,139.2	7,969.6	13.5	0.2	183.1	2.3
Employment ('000)	7,722.9	7,687.8	7,368.3	35.1	0.5	354.6	4.8
Full-Time ('000)	6,339.5	6,274.0	6,104.1	65.5	1.0	235.4	3.9
Part-Time ('000)	1,383.4	1,413.8	1,264.2	-30.4	-2.2	119.2	9.4
Unemployment ('000)	429.8	451.4	601.3	-21.6	-4.8	-171.5	-28.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	5.5	7.5	-0.2	-	-2.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.4	65.4	64.8	0.0	-	0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.9	61.7	59.9	0.2	-	2.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

- In March, the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 5.3%, the lowest since February 2020.
- The participation rate was unchanged from February 2022, at 65.4%.
- Ontario’s unemployment rate in March was equal to the national rate. This is the second month in a row that the provincial unemployment rate is equal to or lower than Canada’s, which previously had not happened since June 2020.



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	March 2022	February 2022	March 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.3	5.5	7.5	-0.2	-2.2
25 years and over	4.4	4.4	6.3	0.0	-1.9
Men - 25 years and over	3.7	4.2	6.3	-0.5	-2.6
Women - 25 years and over	5.2	4.7	6.3	0.5	-1.1
15 to 24 years	10.4	12.2	15.5	-1.8	-5.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	9.6	13.2	14.1	-3.6	-4.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.3	11.1	17.0	0.2	-5.7

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 grew in Ontario's **goods-producing sector** by 32,800 (+2.2%) in March 2022, with the largest gains in construction (+11,200; +1.9%) and manufacturing (+8,800; +1.1%). All other goods-producing industries observed gains in employment in March as well.

Construction

- Employment in the Ontario construction industry grew in March, increasing for the fifth consecutive month as Ontario entered the spring construction season.
- Construction employment in Ontario was 9.9% greater in March 2022 than in March 2021.

Manufacturing

- The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which provides an indication of the overall health of the economy and the strength of the manufacturing industry in Canada, grew to an all-time high of 58.9 in March, up from 56.6 in February.
- In Canada, output and new orders were high, driven by a combination of the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and concerns over future price hikes of input goods.

Employment in Ontario's **services-producing sector** grew ever so slightly by 2,400 (+0.04%) in March 2022, with the largest gains in other services (+7,900; +3.2%) and professional, technical and scientific services (+7,500; +0.9%). However, all five industries that experienced losses over the month were services-producing sectors. Transportation and warehousing declined the furthest, losing 13,000 over the month (-13.0%).

Others services (except public administration)

- Employment growth in other services, which 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, was supported by the provincial government lifting mask mandates in indoor settings across the province.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	March 2022	February 2022	March 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,722.9	7,687.8	7,368.3	35.1	0.5	354.6	4.8
Goods-producing sector	1,542.5	1,509.7	1,480.0	32.8	2.2	62.5	4.2
Agriculture	66.3	62.4	64.9	3.9	6.3	1.4	2.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	46.3	38.9	35.7	7.4	19.0	10.6	29.7
Utilities	60.0	58.5	52.0	1.5	2.6	8.0	15.4
Construction	595.5	584.3	542.0	11.2	1.9	53.5	9.9
Manufacturing	774.4	765.6	785.5	8.8	1.1	-11.1	-1.4
Services-producing sector	6,180.5	6,178.1	5,888.3	2.4	0.0	292.2	5.0
Trade	1,149.7	1,150.7	1,086.7	-1.0	-0.1	63.0	5.8
Transportation and warehousing	380.9	393.9	366.6	-13.0	-3.3	14.3	3.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	662.9	658.4	630.3	4.5	0.7	32.6	5.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	798.9	791.4	713.5	7.5	0.9	85.4	12.0
Business, building and other support services	296.4	302.0	283.3	-5.6	-1.9	13.1	4.6
Educational services	552.7	553.7	570.6	-1.0	-0.2	-17.9	-3.1
Health care and social assistance	946.4	941.2	915.7	5.2	0.6	30.7	3.4
Information, culture and recreation	334.7	329.8	313.7	4.9	1.5	21.0	6.7
Accommodation and food services	384.5	392.5	329.6	-8.0	-2.0	54.9	16.7
Other services	258.2	250.3	292.2	7.9	3.2	-34.0	-11.6
Public administration	415.1	414.3	386.1	0.8	0.2	29.0	7.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In March 2022, all but one economic region in Ontario, Muskoka-Kawarthas, reported a year-over-year increase in employment compared to March 2021. However, compared to the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, two economic regions had lower levels of employment in March 2022: Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie and Stratford—Bruce Peninsula.

The unemployment rate in all economic regions declined compared to March 2021. However, compared to the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, three out of eleven economic regions had higher unemployment rates in March 2022: Ottawa, Toronto and Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	March 2022 ('000)	March 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	March 2022 (%)	March 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,523.9	7,105.6	5.9	6.2	9.1	-2.9
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	730.5	728.7	0.2	5.3	6.3	-1.0
Kingston - Pembroke	226.1	209.2	8.1	5.4	9.4	-4.0
Muskoka - Kawarthas	175.6	187.2	-6.2	3.6	8.6	-5.0
Toronto	3,653.6	3,390.9	7.7	7.0	10.1	-3.1
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	766.5	725.2	5.7	5.6	9.5	-3.9
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	771.1	725.1	6.3	5.7	8.5	-2.8
London	384.4	359.5	6.9	5.6	7.4	-1.8
Windsor - Sarnia	304.4	289.2	5.3	7.1	9.0	-1.9
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	157.3	153.7	2.3	4.5	6.6	-2.1
Northeast	256.0	240.5	6.4	5.3	8.2	-2.9
Northwest	98.4	96.4	2.1	6.0	7.6	-1.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

Notable changes between March 2021 and March 2022 include:

- Employment increased by 7.7% (+262,700) in the **Toronto** economic region, as full-time employment increased by 4.8% (+137,800) and part-time employment increased by 24.1% (+124,900).
- The labour force in the **Muskoka—Kawarthas** economic region declined by 11.2% (-22,900). This is reflected in the participation rate decline from 58.9% to 51.7%.
- Employment in the **Kingston—Pembroke** economic region increased by 8.1% (+16,900), as part-time employment increased by 31.3% (+11,300).

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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