



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

October 2019



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—Kawarthas, Northeast, Northwest, Ottawa, Stratford—Bruce Peninsula, Toronto and Windsor—Sarnia.

OVERVIEW

Labour Force Trends – Ontario employment decreased in October 2019

- Employment decreased by 16,200 in October
- Employment losses were concentrated in full-time employment (-24,200; -0.4%)
- The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.3%

Employment in Ontario decreased by 16,200 (-0.2%) from September to October 2019. All of the losses were concentrated in full-time employment (-24,200; -0.4%). Unemployment in the province dropped slightly (-400; -0.1%) in October resulting in the unemployment rate remaining unchanged at 5.3%. The Ontario participation rate lowered slightly from 65.2% to 64.9% over the month, as the labour force slumped by 16,600 (-0.2%).

Youth employment fell by 5,400 (-0.5%) in October, all due to losses in full-time employment (-8,400; -1.7%). All losses in youth employment were experienced by male youth (-9,800; -2.0%); while their female counterparts experienced an increase in employment (+4,300; +0.9%). The youth unemployment rate decreased by 0.5 percentage points to 12.2% from September to October 2019. This was accompanied by a contraction in the youth labour force (-12,100; -1.1%) as well as dips in the participation rate (0.7 percentage points) and employment rate (0.4 percentage points). Between October 2018 and October 2019, estimates show slightly stronger employment conditions for youth with gains of 51,100 (+5.5%) over this period.

Between October 2018 and October 2019, employment in Ontario increased by 235,500 (+3.2%) with gains being observed in both full-time (+165,600; +2.8%) and part-time employment (+69,900; +5.2%). The unemployment rate dipped by 0.3 percentage points from 5.6% to 5.3% over the year, while both the participation rate and employment rate increased, by 0.6 percentage points and 0.8 percentage points respectively, during this period.

The national picture mirrored this sluggishness, with employment in Canada showing an almost imperceptible decrease (-1800; -0.0%) from September to October 2019. Total employment was dragged down by a decline in full-time employment (-16,100; -0.1%) while part-time employment saw some gains (+14,300; +0.4%). Ontario (-

16,200; -0.2%) was the biggest contributor to employment losses, followed by Quebec (-9,500; -0.2%). On the other hand, the largest employment gains were observed in British Columbia (+15,300; +0.6%), followed by Alberta (+7,700; +0.3%). Both the labour force (+7,600) and the unemployed population (+9,500) increased in October, keeping the national unemployment rate steady at 5.5% for the second month in a row. The participation rate (65.7%) and employment rate (62.0%) remained nearly unchanged over this period.

The Bank of Canada (BoC) left its policy interest rate at 1.75% on October 30, 2019, unchanged since October 2018, potentially indicating a cautious take.¹ The BoC is expecting further contractions in investments and exports domestically set against a somewhat weak global backdrop where global growth is being dragged down by ongoing trade conflicts.²

The United States (U.S.) total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 128,000 in October, while the unemployment rate changed slightly at 3.6%.³ Losses were heavily concentrated in the manufacturing sector, which saw employment fall by the most in a decade, potentially owing to strike activity at GM plants in Michigan and Kentucky. Canadian exports to the U.S declined by 0.6% between August and September 2019, after an increase of 2.6% in August 2019. This decline is in line with a general export slowdown in the third quarter, which can be attributed to lower exports of energy products and motor vehicles and parts.⁴

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,207.4	12,187.3	11,965.3	20.1	0.2	242.1	2.0
Labour Force ('000)	7,925.2	7,941.8	7,695.9	-16.6	-0.2	229.3	3.0
Employment ('000)	7,503.0	7,519.2	7,267.5	-16.2	-0.2	235.5	3.2
Full-Time ('000)	6,089.3	6,113.5	5,923.7	-24.2	-0.4	165.6	2.8
Part-Time ('000)	1,413.7	1,405.7	1,343.8	8.0	0.6	69.9	5.2
Unemployment ('000)	422.2	422.6	428.5	-0.4	-0.1	-6.3	-1.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	5.3	5.6	0.0	-	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.9	65.2	64.3	-0.3	-	0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.5	61.7	60.7	-0.2	-	0.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

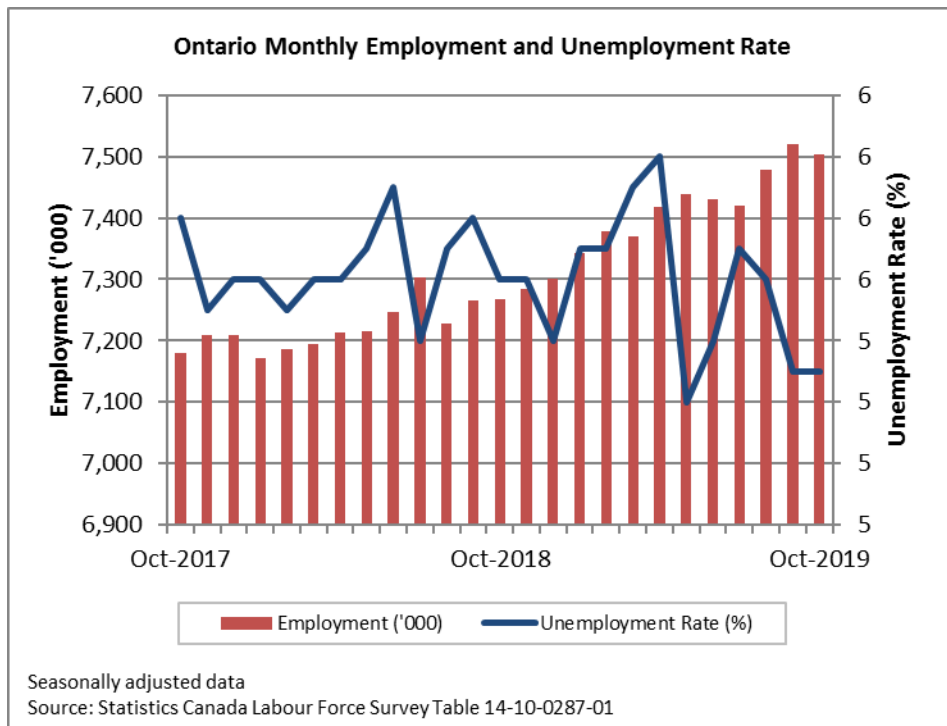
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

¹ Bank of Canada. Policy Interest Rate. Retrieved from <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/core-functions/monetary-policy/key-interest-rate/>

² Bank of Canada Staff. (2019, October 30). Bank of Canada maintains overnight rate target at 1 ¾ percent. *Bank of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2019/10/fad-press-release-2019-10-30/>

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019, November 01). Employment Situation Summary. *United States Department of Labor*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

⁴ Statistics Canada. (2019, November 05). Canadian international merchandise trade, September 2019. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/191105/dq191105a-eng.htm>



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.3	5.3	5.6	0.0	-0.3
25 years and over	4.2	4.1	4.5	0.1	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	4.2	4.0	4.4	0.2	-0.2
Women - 25 years and over	4.2	4.2	4.6	0.0	-0.4
15 to 24 years	12.2	12.7	12.2	-0.5	0.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.4	13.5	13.7	-0.1	-0.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.0	11.8	10.4	-0.8	0.6

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 decline reported in nearly all segments of the goods-producing sector, largest in manufacturing

Employment fell in Ontario’s **goods-producing** sector this month with employment losses of 22,500 (-1.5%). The greatest decline was reported in manufacturing (-17,500; -2.3%), followed by construction (-7,400; -1.3%). An employment increase was only reported in agriculture (+3,500; +4.8%).

The indicators showed some constraints in **manufacturing**. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 51.2 in October, the highest since February 2019, but this represented only a marginal improvement in overall conditions. Recruitment activities were softer due to modest growth in output and new orders.^{5,6}

Among some of the sector's positive news were expansion announcements in the food processing cluster. These included LiveFit planning to recruit 200 workers over the next seven months at its headquarters in London;⁷ Mondelez Canada investing \$40M into expanding its Hamilton candy plant and creating 50 new full-time jobs;⁸ and Post Foods Canada Inc. increasing production capacity at its facilities in Cobourg and Niagara Falls with provincial support, which will create 47 jobs and retain 317 positions.⁹

On the downside, the emerging cannabis industry took some major hits this month. HEXO Corp. is restructuring to meet changing market and regulatory environments. The move will result in the elimination of 200 positions across the company, including the winding down of operations at its greenhouse facility in Beamsville, affecting 100 workers.¹⁰ Additionally, CannTrust Holdings Inc. announced plans to layoff another 140 employees before the end of the year, following a layoff of about 180 employees in August.¹¹

Shifting market conditions were also reflected in news from the automotive production segment. Ford Motor Company of Canada, Ltd. is expected to undertake a second round of layoffs by early 2020, affecting 450 more workers at its Oakville Assembly Complex. The job cuts coincide with the end of production of the Ford Flex and Lincoln MKT models, which have been experiencing lower sales.^{12,13} This latest move brings the total number of workers impacted at the plant, since an earlier announcement in July 2019, to about 635.¹⁴

Yet the plan by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), to extend the life of the third shift at its Windsor Assembly Plant until further notice, added some optimism in the sector. The company had originally intended to eliminate that

⁵ IHS Markit. (2019, November 01). Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from

<https://www.markiteconomics.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/be089b5a715340fdbdd2e261ef2bbb6a>

⁶ Trading Economics. Canada Manufacturing PMI. Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

⁷ Sutherland, M. (2019, October 10). The Western Fair Association announces a new Agri-Business Hub. *CTV News London*.

Retrieved from <https://london.ctvnews.ca/the-western-fair-association-announces-a-new-agri-business-hub-1.4632819>

⁸ Mann, K. (2019, October 23). Candy production soars in Hamilton after \$40 million investment. *Global News*. Retrieved

from <https://globalnews.ca/news/6072838/mondelez-candy-plant-jobs/>

⁹ Davies, G. (2019, October 16). Ontario government funding to expand Post Foods Canada plants in Cobourg, Niagara Falls. *Global News*. Retrieved from

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6035517/post-foods-canada-funding/>

¹⁰ Hogue, T. (2019, October 25). Beamsville cannabis operation closes, 100 staff laid off. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved

from <https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/9660580-beamsville-cannabis-operation-closes-100-staff-laid-off/>

¹¹ Canadian Press Staff. (2019, October 25). CannTrust laying off up to 140 people as it works to regain cannabis licenses. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from

<https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/operations/canntrust-laying-off-up-to-140-people-as-it-works-to-regain-cannabis-licenses-240997/>

¹² Financial Post Staff. (2019, October 28). Ford to cut 450 jobs at Oakville assembly plant in Ontario. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from

<https://business.financialpost.com/transportation/autos/ford-to-cut-450-jobs-at-canada-plant-on-flex-lincoln-mkt-production-halt-2>

¹³ Irwin, J. (2019, October 28). Ford laying off 450 workers at Oakville, Ont., plant as Flex production ends. *Automotive News Canada*. Retrieved from

https://canada.autonews.com/automakers/ford-laying-450-workers-oakville-ont-plant-flex-production-ends?utm_source=breaking-news&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20191028&utm_content=hero-readmore

¹⁴ Irwin, J. (2019, July 19). Ford cutting nearly 200 jobs at Edge, Flex plant in Ontario, union says. *Automotive News Canada*.

Retrieved from <https://canada.autonews.com/labour/ford-cutting-nearly-200-jobs-edge-flex-plant-ontario-union-says>

shift at the end of September 2019 due to declining minivan sales. About 1,700 workers would have been affected.¹⁵

In other related news, General Motors of Canada Company began work on its autonomous vehicle test track at a site in Oshawa. The location is expected to become operational in spring 2020, and will produce parts and support software and engineering work being done at some of the company's other facilities.¹⁶

Employment in **construction** fell in October by 7,400 (-1.3%) which was a setback from the gain shown in the previous month. Residential activities were also weaker when compared with the previous month and last year. Housing starts decreased by 21.7% in October 2019 compared with October 2018.¹⁷ Over the same period, new developments fell in all categories, but noticeably in apartment and other unit types.¹⁸ However, across the province, a number of projects broke ground, and there were also encouraging signs in the resale residential segment. The number of homes sold in the Greater Toronto Area increased by 14.0%, and the average selling price was also up (5.5%) in this month when compared with October of last year.¹⁹

Several large non-residential developments were also announced during the month, which should strengthen employment in the sector. This included a \$100M investment by DHL to replace and expand its current facility at the John C. Munro Hamilton Airport.²⁰ Also, Panattoni Development Company Inc. started work on a 1.3M -sq. -ft. Canadian Tire Corporation distribution centre in Brampton²¹ and a \$30M warehouse next to the airport in Hamilton.²² Meanwhile the Government of Ontario plans to spend up to \$17.8M for the redevelopment of the emergency department at the Geraldton District Hospital in Thunder Bay.²³

On a year-over-year basis, employment growth in the goods-producing sector was tepid (+800; +0.1%). The construction sector reported the highest gain (+17,600; +3.3%), while the largest loss was in manufacturing (-21,100; -2.7%).

¹⁵Automotive News Canada Staff. (2019, October 26). FCA extends 3rd shift at Ontario minivan plant until further notice. *Automotive News Canada*. <https://canada.autonews.com/automakers/fca-extends-3rd-shift-ontario-minivan-plant-until-further-notice>

¹⁶McEachern, S. (2019, October 28). GM Starts Construction On New Autonomous Vehicle Test Track. *GM Authority Newsletter*. Retrieved from <http://gmauthority.com/blog/2019/10/gm-starts-construction-on-new-autonomous-vehicle-test-track/#ixzz64hc1bLeD>

¹⁷Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0158-01 - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, all areas, Canada and provinces, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, monthly. Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3410015801>

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0143-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions in centres 10,000 and over, Canada, provinces, selected census metropolitan areas. Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3410014301>

¹⁹ Bickis, I. (2019, November 05). Toronto, Vancouver both see home sale gains in October but prices diverge. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/toronto-vancouver-both-see-home-sale-gains-in-october-but-prices-diverge-1.4670494>

²⁰ Mitchell, D. (2019, October 29). DHL to invest \$100M in Hamilton airport facility expansion. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/6095956/dhl-hamilton-airport-expansion/>

²¹ Persaud, T. (2019, October 23). Canadian Tire Is Constructing a New Location in Brampton. *Bramptonist*. Retrieved from <https://bramptonist.com/canadian-tire-is-constructing-a-new-location-in-brampton/>

²² Hogue, T. (2019, October 23). Hamilton airport development launches with \$30-million warehouse. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/9657513-hamilton-airport-development-launches-with-30-million-warehouse>

²³ Ministry of Health. (2019, October 03). Ontario Expanding Hospital Emergency Department in Geraldton. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2019/10/ontario-expanding-hospital-emergency-department-in-geraldton.html>

Employment growth in the services-producing sector underpinned by gains in the FIRE industry

The **services-producing** sector experienced a soft employment gain (+6,300; +0.1%) in October. The employment increase was led by a 14,800 (+2.5%) gain in the finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing [FIRE] industry. Employment also rose in educational services (+6,100; 1.1%). Notable employment losses were reported in health care and social assistance (-9,400; -1.0%), and accommodation and food services (-6,200; -1.3%). Employment was unchanged in professional, scientific and technical services.

The **finance and insurance services** sector is continuing to make significant investments in automation and artificial intelligence technologies worldwide, including in the local operations. These initiatives are not only diversifying the business base, but also changing the composition of the workforce and making many roles redundant across various areas, including call centre and compliance sections.²⁴

Employment in **educational services** increased by 6,100 (+1.1%). Some positive news came to the forefront with the Government of Ontario announcing a \$40M investment in mental health services for Ontario's high school students. Most of this will go towards permanent funding for about 180 mental health workers such as social workers, psychologists, and psychotherapists who were hired by district school boards in the 2018-2019.^{25,26} On the flip side, Humber College will close its Orangeville Campus at the end of June 2021. The college will offer new roles to full-time staff and work to identify employment opportunities for part-time and contract employees at other campuses.²⁷

Employment remained flat in **professional, scientific and technical** services, but some noteworthy events should boost job creation in the sector. Nuvia Canada Inc. signed a \$58-million contract with Bruce Power for radiation protection services in support of the Life Extension Program at the nuclear facility.²⁸ In addition, Accenture plc will be employing about 500 workers in St. Catharines;²⁹ while Carta Inc., a California-based equity management software company, will open an office in the Waterloo Region, hiring more than 50 former employees impacted by layoffs at Kik Interactive Inc.³⁰

The **business, building and other support services** sector suffered an employment loss of 2,700 (-0.9%). Adding to this weak news, Agero, Inc. announced plans to close its call centre in the City of Sault Ste. Marie on April 30, 2020, affecting about 300 employees. The company blames the prohibitive cost of technology upgrades needed in Sault

²⁴Bradshaw, J. (2019, October 20) Automation, AI are upending jobs at Canada's big banks. *Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-bank-jobs-changing-as-automation-and-ai-reshape-the-sector/>

²⁵CBC News Staff. (2019, October 10). Ford government pledges \$40M to mental-health initiatives for students. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ford-government-mental-health-funding-1.5316095>

²⁶Loiselle, A. (2019, October 10). Education minister announces \$40M for student mental health. *Black Burn News*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/windsor/windsor-news/2019/10/10/education-minister-announces-40-million-student-mental-health/>

²⁷Humber College Staff. (2019, September 25). Humber College to close Orangeville Campus as of June 2021. *Humber College*. Retrieved from <https://humber.ca/today/media-releases/humber-college-close-orangeville-campus-june-2021>

²⁸Bruce Power Communique. (2019, October 04). Contract signed for radiation protection services on Canada's largest infrastructure project. *Kincardine Times*. Retrieved from <https://kincardinetimes.com/contract-signed-for-radiation-protection-services-on-canadas-largest-infrastructure-project/>

²⁹Howard, G. (2019, October 28). Accenture projects 500 workers will be based in Corbloc building. *Niagara Falls Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/9666120-accenture-projects-500-workers-will-be-based-in-corbloc-building/>

³⁰Jackson, J. (2019, October 17). Equity management software firm Carta hires former Kik employees. *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9649959-equity-management-software-firm-carta-hires-former-kik-employees/>

Ste. Marie, and travel difficulties posed by the remote location as reasons for the change. The local operations will move to facilities in the USA.³¹

Employment declined by 2000 (-0.5%) in **transportation and warehousing**. The warehousing sector was boosted with Porsche Cars Canada, Ltd. opening a 100,000-sq.-ft. parts distribution centre in Mississauga.³² On the transportation side, Uber Technologies Ltd. is reorganising and laid off about 350 employees, the majority of whom are based in Canada and the United States. The company's self-driving car unit was among the departments affected in this recent layoff.³³

The **services-producing** sector posted stronger year-over-year employment growth of 234,700 (+4.0%). The increase was led by professional, scientific and technical services (+70,000; +11.1%) and health care and social assistance (+60,500; +7.0%). Three sectors recorded losses, the largest of which was business, building and other support services (-21,800; -6.6%).

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,503.0	7,519.2	7,267.5	-16.2	-0.2	235.5	3.2
Goods-producing sector	1,459.2	1,481.7	1,458.4	-22.5	-1.5	0.8	0.1
Agriculture	76.5	73.0	67.6	3.5	4.8	8.9	13.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	35.8	36.1	32.4	-0.3	-0.8	3.4	10.5
Utilities	52.1	53.0	60.1	-0.9	-1.7	-8.0	-13.3
Construction	546.8	554.2	529.2	-7.4	-1.3	17.6	3.3
Manufacturing	748.0	765.5	769.1	-17.5	-2.3	-21.1	-2.7
Services-producing sector	6,043.8	6,037.5	5,809.1	6.3	0.1	234.7	4.0
Trade	1,110.2	1,107.2	1,077.3	3.0	0.3	32.9	3.1
Transportation and warehousing	397.2	399.2	385.4	-2.0	-0.5	11.8	3.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	605.3	590.5	566.1	14.8	2.5	39.2	6.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	699.0	699.0	629.0	0.0	0.0	70.0	11.1
Business, building and other support services	309.8	312.5	331.6	-2.7	-0.9	-21.8	-6.6
Educational services	559.2	553.1	535.9	6.1	1.1	23.3	4.3
Health care and social assistance	922.5	931.9	862.0	-9.4	-1.0	60.5	7.0
Information, culture and recreation	303.1	300.5	307.0	2.6	0.9	-3.9	-1.3
Accommodation and food services	454.6	460.8	463.8	-6.2	-1.3	-9.2	-2.0
Other services	295.4	295.6	284.9	-0.2	-0.1	10.5	3.7
Public administration	387.5	387.3	366.0	0.2	0.1	21.5	5.9

³¹ Helwig, D. (2019, October 28). Why Agero is moving all 300 of its Sault jobs to the U.S. *SooToday*. Retrieved from <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/why-agero-is-moving-all-300-of-its-sault-jobs-to-the-us-1773778>

³² Layson, G. (2019, October 02). Porsche Canada opens national distribution centre in Ontario. *Automotive News Canada*. Retrieved from https://canada.autonews.com/retail/porsche-canada-opens-national-distribution-centre-ontario?utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20191002&utm_content=article2-headline

³³ Dickey, M. R. (2019, October 14). Uber lays off another ~350 across Eats, self-driving and other departments. *TechCrunch*. Retrieved from <https://techcrunch.com/2019/10/14/uber-lays-off-another-350-across-eats-self-driving-and-other-departments/>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Toronto continues to dominate much of the employment growth in the province

Employment grew by a robust 173,400 (+4.9%) in the **Toronto** economic region between October 2018 and October 2019 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). Gains were made in both full-time (+116,500; 4%) and part-time employment (+57,000; 9.9%). The regional unemployment rate dropped by 0.8 percentage points to 5.7% while the labour force participation rate increased by 1 percentage point to 66.8%.

The region saw some announcements over the past month that will continue to promote employment growth. In the construction industry, several projects got underway. Devron Developments broke ground on The Winslow condominium project;³⁴ Panattoni Development broke ground on a new distribution centre for Canadian Tire in Brampton which is expected to create 670 positions;³⁵ and the Hospital for Sick Children began construction on a new Patient Support Centre in Toronto.³⁶ Further, the City of Toronto has partnered with Context Development to build 750 mixed-use homes beginning in 2020,³⁷ while Lanterra Development will break ground for a 41-storey condominium at 50 Scollard at the end of November.³⁸ In the accommodation and food services sector, a significant opening is taking place with the Italian food marketplace Eataly opening its first Canadian location in Toronto,³⁹ creating more than 300 positions.⁴⁰ Amazon announced it is filling 800 seasonal positions at its newest fulfillment centre in Caledon providing a major boost to the regional transportation and warehousing industry.⁴¹ The announcement of several significant layoffs moderated the region's positive outlook. Notable announce-

³⁴ Landau, J. (2019, September 30). Devron Celebrates Ground Breaking for The Winslow. *Urban Toronto*. Retrieved from <https://urbantoronto.ca/news/2019/09/devron-celebrates-ground-breaking-winslow>

³⁵ Persaud, T. (2019, October 23). Canadian Tire Is Constructing a New Location in Brampton. *Bramptonist*. Retrieved from <https://bramptonist.com/canadian-tire-is-constructing-a-new-location-in-brampton/>

³⁶ Gismondj, A. (2019, October 28). First phase of SickKids campus redevelopment underway. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2019/10/first-phase-of-sickkids-campus-redevelopment-underway>

³⁷ CBC News Staff. (2019, October 28). Toronto inks new partnership to build hundreds of affordable and rental homes in Queen East. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/queen-coxwell-affordable-housing-project-1.5338038>

³⁸ McLean, S. (2019, October 25). Lanterra Developments: 15,000 GTA condos, still going strong. *Real Estate News Exchange*. Retrieved from <https://renx.ca/lanterra-15000-condo-units-and-still-going-strong/>

³⁹ Patterson, C. (2019, October 22). Eataly announces Toronto opening date as it kicks off Canadian retail expansion. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/10/eataly-announces-toronto-opening-date/>

⁴⁰ Charlebois, S. (2019, November 6). Is Toronto too downmarket for Eataly? *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-is-toronto-too-downmarket-for-eataly/>

⁴¹ DH Toronto Staff. (2019, October 02). New Amazon fulfillment centre hiring for more than 800 seasonal positions in Ontario. *Daily Hive*. Retrieved from <https://dailyhive.com/toronto/amazon-bolton-fulfillment-centre-jobs-ontario>

ments included Ford Motor Company's discontinuation of two models at its Oakville plant, affecting 450 positions,⁴² and cannabis producer CannTrust Holdings Inc. announcing plans to layoff a further 140 employees before the end of the year.⁴³

The **Ottawa** economic region registered an increase in employment (+61,000; +8.7%), with significant gains in both full-time (+49,300; +8.4%) and part-time (+12,300; +10%) employment. The regional unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage points to 4.1% while the labour force participation rate increased from 64.8% to 68.7% between October 2018 and October 2019. The region's labour market was dotted with several job creating announcements in October. Notably, Era Cannabis broke ground on a production facility in Kemptville, creating 400 new positions,⁴⁴ while OC Transpo reversed a 2018 layoff announcement, and is now transitioning 339 bus drivers to the new LRT system.⁴⁵ Also, Happy Goat Coffee Company also announced plans to open four new locations along the new Confederation LRT line.⁴⁶ The region saw some bad news with the layoff of 50 workers by Kindly Beast, a Canadian video game developer located in Ottawa.⁴⁷

Employment rose by 27,400 (+3.6%) in the **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region with the majority in full-time employment (+23,400; +3.9%), while the regional unemployment rate declined from 5.7% to 4.7% between October 2018 and October 2019. The construction industry was a bright spot for the region with several new projects receiving funding or getting underway in October. Everstrong Construction Ltd. was awarded a \$13.6M contract to build a new elementary school in Hamilton,⁴⁸ while Bromac Construction was awarded a \$7.2M contract for a new fire station in Niagara Falls.⁴⁹ Some construction projects got underway in the region, with Panattoni Development beginning construction on a \$30M warehouse near the Hamilton airport and Vicano Construction beginning work on Brantford's new \$5.4M replacement fire hall.⁵⁰ Work also began on a \$40M residence building at Brock University. The regional manufacturing sector received a boost from Mondelez Canada which is investing \$40M in its Hamilton candy plant, creating 50 full time jobs.⁵¹ In other employment news, Accenture plc will open

⁴² CBC News Staff. (2019, October 28). Ford to cut 450 more jobs at Oakville assembly plant. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ford-jobs-oakville-assembly-plant-1.5338114>

⁴³ Canadian Press Staff. (2019, October 25). CannTrust laying off up to 140 people as it works to regain cannabis licenses. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/operations/canntrust-laying-off-up-to-140-people-as-it-works-to-regain-cannabis-licenses-240997/>

⁴⁴ Westendorp, J. (2019, October 23). Era Cannabis plans 10,000 square foot facility in Kemptville. *MyPrescottNow*. Retrieved from <https://www.myprescottnow.com/24189/era-cannabis-plans-10000-square-foot-facility-in-kemptville/>

⁴⁵ Tumilty, R. (2019, October 03). OC Transpo layoffs averted as city shifts to LRT. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/oc-transpo-layoffs-drivers-1.5308110>

⁴⁶ Ramlakhan, K. (2019, September 26). Local coffee chain to set up shop at LRT stations. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/local-coffee-shop-company-happy-goat-lrt-confederation-line-ottawa-1.5298002>

⁴⁷ Brightman, J. (2019, October 15). Bendy developer Kindly Beast axes majority of staff. *Yahoo Finance*. Retrieved from <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/bendy-developer-kindly-beast-axes-202200246.html>

⁴⁸ Leitner, R. (2019, October 07). Hamilton board awards contract for new Glendale campus school. *Stoney Creek News*. Retrieved from <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/9634281-hamilton-board-awards-contract-for-new-glendale-campus-school/>

⁴⁹ Spiteri, R. (2019, October 23). Construction contract for new Niagara Fire fire station approved. *The Niagara Falls Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/9657557-construction-contract-for-new-niagara-fire-fire-station-approved/>

⁵⁰ Bell, V. (2019, October 08). Preliminary work begins on site for new fire hall. *The Brantford Expositor*. Retrieved from <https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/preliminary-work-begins-on-site-for-new-fire-hall>

⁵¹ Mann, K. (2019, October 23). Candy production soars in Hamilton after \$40 million investment. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/6072838/mondelez-candy-plant-jobs/>

an office in St. Catharines, employing approximately 500 workers.⁵² On a less positive note, Hexo Corp. announced a layoff of 100 workers as it closes one of its cannabis production facilities in Beamsville.⁵³

The **Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie** economic region also experienced strong employment growth of 18,600 (2.5%), with gains in both full-time (+7,600; 1.2%) and part-time (+11,100; +8.7%) employment. Major employment news included the unveiling of the Ford Connectivity and Innovation Centre in Waterloo⁵⁴ and Carta Inc. opening an office in the Waterloo Region and hiring more than 50 former employees impacted by layoffs at Kik Interactive Inc.⁵⁵ The cannabis industry continued to be a source of growth for the region, as NWN Scientific Inc. began work on a large cannabis farm in Melancthon which will employ approximately 100 people,⁵⁶ and James E. Wagner Cultivation hiring 50 people to work in their cannabis facility in Kitchener.⁵⁷

Employment also grew in the **Stratford-Bruce Peninsula** economic region (+7,800; +5%). However, this growth was observed exclusively in part-time employment (+11,200; +41.3%), as full-time employment fell by 3,500 (-2.7%). The unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 3.1%, the lowest regional unemployment rate in the province. Notable employment news from the region includes Globotech Inc.⁵⁸ and KEPCO Engineering and Construction⁵⁹ both opening operations in Port Elgin.

Year-over-year employment growth was also seen in the **Kingston-Pembroke** (+5,200; +2.5%) and **Windsor-Sarnia** (+900, +0.3%) economic regions.

Four economic regions saw annual employment losses in October, with Muskoka-Kawarthas registering the bulk of these losses

The **Muskoka-Kawarthas** economic region posted the largest employment decrease (-15,700; -8.3%) in Ontario (year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted), with the main drop being observed in full-time employment (10,900; -7.4%). The unemployment rate also declined from 7.3% to 5.4% during this period. Labour force conditions were dominated by a drop in the participation rate, which fell 6.9 percentage points to 53.6%, the lowest in the province.

⁵² Howard, G. (2019, October 28). Accenture projects 500 workers will be based in Corbloc building. *Niagara Falls Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/9666120-accenture-projects-500-workers-will-be-based-in-corbloc-building/>

⁵³ Hogue, T. (2019, October 25). Beamsville cannabis operation closes, 100 staff laid off. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/9660580-beamsville-cannabis-operation-closes-100-staff-laid-off/>

⁵⁴ Davis, B. (2019, October 23). Ford Motor Company unveils innovation centre in Waterloo. *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9659129-ford-motor-company-unveils-innovation-centre-in-waterloo/>

⁵⁵ Jackson, J. (2019, October 17). Equity management software firm Carta hires former Kik employees. *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9649959-equity-management-software-firm-carta-hires-former-kik-employees/>

⁵⁶ Lockhart, B. (2019, October 24). Melancthon cannabis farm plans to plant first crop in the spring. *Orangeville Citizen*. Retrieved from <http://citizen.on.ca/?p=16159>

⁵⁷ Williams, P. (2019, October 07). Former Kitchener, Ont. auto parts plant gets retrofitted for cannabis cultivation. *ConstructConnect*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2019/10/former-kitchener-ont-auto-parts-plant-gets-retrofitted-for-cannabis-cultivation>

⁵⁸ Lindsay, S. (2019, October 22). Globotech, Inc. opens Port Elgin office to support Bruce Power's MCR project. *Saugeen Times*. Retrieved from <https://saugeentimes.com/globotech-inc-opens-port-elgin-office-to-support-bruce-powers-mcr-project/>

⁵⁹ Lindsay, S. (2019, October 29). KEPCO Engineering & Construction opens Canadian office in Port Elgin. *Saugeen Times*. Retrieved from <https://saugeentimes.com/kepc-engineering-construction-opens-canadian-office-in-port-elgin/>

Despite these dismal labour force figures, the region received much positive employment news including provincial investments of \$413K in Post Foods Canada Inc., to expand operations and create 47 new jobs,⁶⁰ as well as \$400K in the Port Hope Business Park to help improve business growth and local infrastructure.⁶¹ The construction industry in the region was bolstered by Parks Canada's five year investment in several infrastructure projects in Peterborough,⁶² and the commencement of the University Terrace condominium development project in Cobourg.⁶³

The **Northeast** economic region experienced a drop in employment (-8,100; -3.2%), with the majority of losses being realised in full-time employment (-7,000; -3.3%). The unemployment rate also rose by 0.5 percentage points to 6% while the participation rate fell by 1.5 percentage points to 58.2%. The region was hit hard by the announced closure of Agero Inc.'s call centre facility in Sault Ste. Marie which will affect approximately 300 employees.⁶⁴ There was some positive news, however, with the Government of Ontario announcing a \$1M investment to develop a light industrial park in the Manitoulin district,⁶⁵ as well as the completion of the Henvey Inlet Wind power facility on the Henvey Inlet First Nation Reserve No. 2, creating 20 full-time positions and 100 indirect jobs.⁶⁶

The **London** economic region had a small drop in employment (-3,900; -1.1%), stemming largely from a significant drop in part-time employment (-8,200; -12%). Full-time employment, on the other hand, rose by 4,300 (+1.6%) year-over-year. The unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points to 5.7% while the participation rate fell by 1.4 percentage points to 61.2%. Despite these disappointing labour force figures, employment in the region should receive a boost from the opening of LiveFit, a prepared meal manufacturer, which expects to create 200 positions in the coming months.⁶⁷

The **Northwest** economic region also experienced an employment loss.

⁶⁰ Davies, G. (2019, October 16). Ontario government funding to expand Post Foods Canada plants in Cobourg, Niagara Falls. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/6035517/post-foods-canada-funding/>

⁶¹ Heeger, S. (2019, October 22). Port Hope Business Park gets \$400K boost for expansion. *North Humberland News*. Retrieved from <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/9653770-port-hope-business-park-gets-400k-boost-for-expansion/>

⁶² Hodgins, B. (2019, October 09). What's going on here? Scotts Mills Dam replacement could take 3 years. *Peterborough This Week*. Retrieved from <https://www.mykawartha.com/news-story/9636409-what-s-going-on-here-scotts-mills-dam-replacement-could-take-3-years/>

⁶³ Wisniewski, D. (2019, October 16). What's Going on Here? Condo development taking shape in Cobourg. *Northumberland News*. Retrieved from <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/community-story/9640905-what-s-going-on-here-condo-development-taking-shape-in-cobourg/>

⁶⁴ Hewig, D. (2019, October 29). Sault call centre moving 300 jobs to the U.S. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/sault-call-centre-moving-300-jobs-to-the-us-1775004>

⁶⁵ Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. (2019, October 08). Ontario Supporting Infrastructure and Small Business Projects in Manitoulin District. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/10/ontario-supporting-infrastructure-and-small-business-projects-in-manitoulin-district.html>

⁶⁶ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2019, October 16). Construction completed on the largest First Nation wind project in the country. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/aboriginal-businesses/construction-completed-on-the-largest-first-nation-wind-project-in-the-country-1749065>

⁶⁷ Sutherland, M. (2019, October 10). The Western Fair Association announces a new Agri-Business Hub. *CTV News London*. Retrieved from <https://london.ctvnews.ca/the-western-fair-association-announces-a-new-agri-business-hub-1.4632819>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2019 ('000)	October 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2019 (%)	October 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,538.5	7,274.4	3.6	5.4	5.8	-0.4
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	769.1	707.5	8.7	4.1	4.7	-0.6
Kingston - Pembroke	212.5	207.3	2.5	6.4	5.0	1.4
Muskoka - Kawarthas	172.4	188.1	-8.3	5.4	7.3	-1.9
Toronto	3,685.5	3,512.1	4.9	5.7	6.5	-0.8
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	760.7	742.1	2.5	5.1	4.1	1.0
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	779.9	752.5	3.6	4.7	5.7	-1.0
London	338.2	342.1	-1.1	5.7	5.1	0.6
Windsor - Sarnia	305.0	304.1	0.3	6.4	5.9	0.5
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	163.9	156.1	5.0	3.1	3.5	-0.4
Northeast	248.6	256.7	-3.2	6.0	5.5	0.5
Northwest	102.6	105.5	-2.7	4.5	5.0	-0.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

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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