



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

August 2020



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 – Employment increased in August 2020

- Employment increased by 141,800 in Ontario in August 2020
- Most of the employment gains were in full-time work (+113,600)
- The unemployment rate decreased to 10.6%
- The unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 declined to 27.7%
- Employment continued to recover in the services-producing sector (+146,600), while the goods-producing sector experienced a small decrease (-4,800).

Employment in Ontario increased by 141,800 in August 2020, as the labour market continues to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the August employment gains were in full-time employment (+113,600). The unemployment rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points to 10.6%. This marks the third consecutive month that the province experienced declines in the unemployment rate. Additionally, both the participation (64.1%) and employment (57.3%) rate increased in August.

Youth employment increased in Ontario by 16,400 in August, with gains occurring in both full-time (+6,400) and part-time work (+10,100). The unemployment rate declined by 0.7 percentage points to 27.7%. On a yearly basis, the youth job market is still reeling from the impacts of the pandemic and the ensuing shutdown – with the unemployment rate standing at nearly double the amount from August 2019. Nationally, the youth unemployment rate stood at 23.1%.

Employment grew in Canada by 245,800 in August 2020. Gains were reflected in both full-time and part-time work, with the majority of them coming in full-time employment (+205,800). Employment increased in all provinces except New Brunswick, with the bulk of them occurring in Ontario and Quebec. The two provinces accounted for nearly 80% of overall employment gains in August. The national unemployment rate continues to recover and declined a further 0.7 percentage points to 10.2%. The participation rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to

64.6% and the employment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points to 58%. Between August 2019 and August 2020, average hourly wages increased by 6.5% in Canada.¹

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1,400,000 in the United States in August 2020 and the unemployment rate declined to 8.4%, as improvements in the labour market reflect the continued resumption of economic activity.² Employment rose significantly in public administration, retail trade, professional services, and leisure and hospitality. The number of unemployed persons who were on temporary layoff decreased by 3,100,000. Additionally, the number of permanent job losses increased by 534,000 to 3,400,000.

In comparison to last year, the provincial labour market is struggling due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Employment in Ontario fell by 416,400 between August 2019 and August 2020 with losses incurred in both full-time (-324,500) and part-time work (-92,000). The unemployment rate increased by 5 percentage points and the participation rate declined to 64.1 over the year.

Throughout the summer months, Statistics Canada collects labour market data on youth aged 15 to 24 who attended school full-time in March.³ Full-time student summer employment increased by 19,500 from August to July 2020. The unemployment rate for students declined by 2 percentage points to 27% on a monthly basis, which was above the national rate of 22.5%. Additionally, the participation rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 69.1%.

¹ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0320-01 Average usual hours and wages by selected characteristics, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality, last 5 months

² Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020, September 4). Employment Situation Summary. *United States Department of Labor*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.nr0.htm>

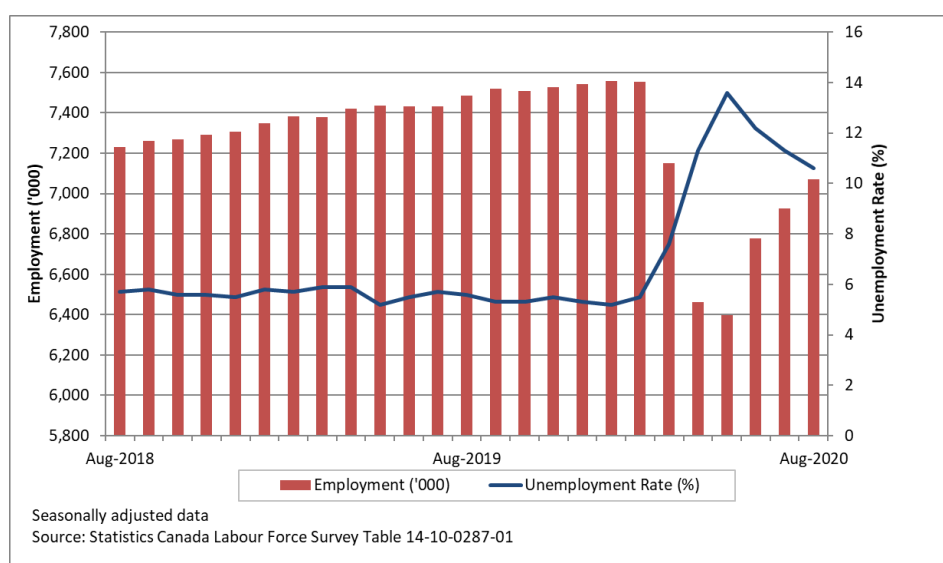
³ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0286-03 Labour force characteristics by province and type of student during summer months, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,341.6	12,333.1	12,162.2	8.5	0.1	179.4	1.5
Labour Force ('000)	7,910.4	7,813.8	7,928.2	96.6	1.2	-17.8	-0.2
Employment ('000)	7,069.0	6,927.2	7,485.4	141.8	2.0	-416.4	-5.6
Full-Time ('000)	5,760.6	5,647.0	6,085.1	113.6	2.0	-324.5	-5.3
Part-Time ('000)	1,308.3	1,280.2	1,400.3	28.1	2.2	-92.0	-6.6
Unemployment ('000)	841.4	886.6	442.9	-45.2	-5.1	398.5	90.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.6	11.3	5.6	-0.7	-	5.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.1	63.4	65.2	0.7	-	-1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.3	56.2	61.5	1.1	-	-4.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	10.6	11.3	5.6	-0.7	5.0
25 years and over	7.8	8.5	4.5	-0.7	3.3
Men - 25 years and over	8.3	8.4	4.5	-0.1	3.8
Women - 25 years and over	7.4	8.8	4.5	-1.4	2.9
15 to 24 years	27.7	28.4	12.2	-0.7	15.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	30.7	31.2	13.8	-0.5	16.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	24.5	25.3	10.6	-0.8	13.9

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 declined slightly in the goods-producing sector owing mainly to losses in construction

Employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector decreased by 4,800 (-0.3%) in August. Employment went up in manufacturing (+12,500; +1.7%) and utilities (+500; +1.0%). The construction industry posted the largest losses (-15,200; -3.0%), followed by forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-2,200; -6.1%), and agriculture (-400; -0.6%).

Employment in the **construction** sector dropped in August after two consecutive months of gains following the COVID-19 economic shutdown. Housing starts and new house prices in Ontario were up year-over-year in July,^{4,5} while the total value of building permits was down over the same period, mostly reflected by a decline in industrial permits.⁶ Residential construction benefitted from several government investments in affordable housing projects including \$7.6M for a 25-unit affordable housing project in Peterborough;⁷ \$475K towards the construction of affordable housing for Indigenous peoples in Thorold and St. Catharines;⁸ and \$625K for an affordable housing development in Kingston.⁹

In non-residential construction news, construction got underway on a new Walmart Canada distribution centre in Vaughan¹⁰ as well as Oro Station, an automotive innovation park near Barrie, which is expected to create 1,800 construction jobs.¹¹ Also of note is the announced construction of a new \$30M manufacturing facility in the GTA by Nexii Building Solutions Inc.¹² Several government investments were announced in infrastructure in August including \$75M to support public transit infrastructure in the City of Ottawa; \$1.5M to widen the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport runway; \$1.2M to build and develop the Van Norman Innovation Park in Tillsonburg; \$1.5M to increase capacity at the Port of Sarnia; and \$13M to construct a second access road for Fort William Historical

⁴ 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 metropolitan areas

⁵ Statistics Canada. Table 18-10-0205-01 New housing price index, monthly

⁶ Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0066-01 Building permits, by type of structure and type of work (x 1,000)

⁷ Barker, M. P. (2020, August 25). Feds funding 25-unit apartment building in north end of Peterborough. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/2020/08/25/feds-funding-25-unit-apartment-building-in-north-end-of-peterborough.html>

⁸ Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. (2020, July 29). Canada and Ontario provide new affordable housing for Indigenous individuals and families in Niagara region. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/57818/canada-and-ontario-provide-new-affordable-housing-for-indigenous-individuals-and-families-in-niagara>

⁹ Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. (2020, July 31). Canada and Ontario invest in affordable housing in Kingston. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/57854/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-affordable-housing-in-kingston>

¹⁰ Al-Shibeeb, D. (2020, August 12). Walmart Canada to break ground for huge distribution centre in Vaughan. *YorkRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10135621-walmart-canada-to-break-ground-for-huge-distribution-centre-in-vaughan/>

¹¹ Simon, C. (2020, August 20). 'APEX of art and engineering': Ontario premier, MPPs break ground on automotive innovation hub near Barrie. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10143015--apex-of-art-and-engineering-ontario-premier-mpp>

¹² DCN-JOC News Services (2020, July 27). Vancouver green construction company expands into Ontario, Alberta and the U.S. (2020, July 27). *Daily Construction News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/economic/2020/07/vancouver-green-c>

Park.^{13,14,15} The construction sector will receive a significant boost in the coming months from a new \$3.3B funding stream that accelerates spending under the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program which will fund COVID-19 related projects such as retrofits of school, hospitals and long-term care facilities, and more bike lanes and walking paths.¹⁶

Employment in the **manufacturing** sector continued to rebound in August, registering gains for the fourth consecutive month. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 55.1 in August from 52.9 in July, marking the sharpest improvement in business conditions since August 2018.¹⁷ The improvement was attributed to a strong rise in production and a solid increase in new orders following a recovering market. Ontario manufacturing sales continued to rebound, rising by 35.8% in June 2020 following an 18.7% increase in May. However, sales were still 16.1% lower than June 2019.¹⁸ The gains mostly reflect higher sales of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, as the automotive industry largely resumed operations following shutdowns in April.

While the transportation equipment manufacturing sector has seen significant gains in sales, the subsector faces layoffs in the future with Bombardier announcing that it will be laying off 40% of its workforce in Thunder Bay by Q1 2021, affecting 200 workers.¹⁹ This was countered by some positive news as National Steel Car Ltd. received a \$150M contract to manufacture 1,150-grain cars for Canadian National Railway.²⁰ Additionally more than 30 businesses across Canada are benefitting from the \$137M in subcontracts offered by General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada to support the production of Armoured Combat Support Vehicles (ACSV), including Ontario-based J/E Bearing and Machine Ltd., Abuma Manufacturing Limited, Cornell Welding & Fabricating Ltd., and China Steel Inc.²¹

The manufacturing sector benefitted from several major investments that focused on combatting COVID-19. Notably, the Governments of Canada and Ontario announced joint investments of \$23.3M each to support 3M Canada's expansion of its Brockville manufacturing facility to produce made-in-Ontario N95 respirators.²² Additionally, PRIMED Medical Products announced that it will be establishing a facility in Cambridge in fall 2020 to produce

¹³ CBC News Staff. (2020, August 12). City to get \$124M in pandemic support. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-to-receive-124-million-part-of-provincial-federal-safe-restart-agreement-1.5684113>

¹⁴ Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. (2020, August 14). Ontario supports municipalities with critical infrastructure investments. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58003/ontario-supports-municipalities-with-critical-infrastructure-investments>

¹⁵ Diaczuk, D. (2020, August 21). Province invests \$13 million into Fort William Historical Park. *TBNewsWatch.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.tbnewsWatch.com/local-news/province-invests-13-million-into-fort-william-historical-park-2654793>

¹⁶ Harris, K. (2020, August 5). Government carves out \$3B to help communities with pandemic infrastructure projects. *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/infrastructure-mckenna-covid19-pandemic-communities-1.5674929>

¹⁷ IHS Markit. (2020, September 1). Manufacturing PMI signals fastest growth since August 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/1053fa2e45494a858623b807f95c0bbb>

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. Table 16-10-0048 Manufacturing sales by industry and province, monthly (dollars unless otherwise noted) (x 1,000) – seasonally adjusted data

¹⁹ Turner, L. (2020, August 26). More layoffs coming to Thunder Bay's Bombardier plant. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/bombardier-tbay-layoffs-2020-1.5700773>

²⁰ The Canadian Press. (2020, August 28). Hamilton's National Steel Car awarded \$150M contract with Canadian National Railway. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/national-steel-cn-1.5702277>

²¹ CTV News London Staff. (2020, August 4). Work begins earlier than expected on GDLS combat support vehicle. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://london.ctvnews.ca/work-begins-earlier-than-expected-on-gdls-combat-support-vehicle-1.5050835>

²² Office of the Premier. (2020, August 21). Ontario Partners with Federal Government and 3M Canada on New N95 Respirator Manufacturing Facility. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58102/ontario-partners-with-federal-government-and-3m-canada-on-new-n95-respirator-manufacturing-facility>

ASTM-rated surgical masks and N95 respirators to meet Canadian acute care's surgical mask requirements.²³ Other notable provincial government investments included \$2M to Clean Works Corp. to increase production of its sanitizing devices;²⁴ \$455K to Dairy Distillery to retool its operations and increase hand sanitizer production capacity;²⁵ and \$294K to New Ontario Brewing Co. to retool its operations to produce PureNorth hand sanitizer.²⁶

The sector was further bolstered by multiple federal investments including \$7.8M in advanced manufacturers Vision Profile Extrusions, Axiom Group and Durock, to scale up, increase capacity and create 116 new jobs;²⁷ and \$10M to support scale up and growth of renewable fuel producers FORGE Hydrocarbons and IGPC Ethanol Inc., creating 57 jobs.²⁸ Despite much positive news, the sector was hit by the re-imposition of 10% tariffs by U.S. on imports of Canadian non-alloyed, unwrought aluminum products, which took effect on August 16, 2020.²⁹

When compared year-over-year, employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector declined 90,000 (-6.1%). Employment losses were observed in all sub-sectors with largest losses recorded in construction (-44,000; -8.1%) and manufacturing (-35,400; -4.6%).

Accommodation and food services and education services boost gains in services-producing sector

Employment in Ontario's services-producing sector rose by 146,000 (+2.6%) in August. Gains were observed in all subsectors except finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (-6,200; -1.0%) and transportation and warehousing (-1,400; -0.4%). The largest gains occurred in accommodation and food services (+32,800; +11.0%), educational services (+30,100; +6.1%) and professional, scientific and technical services (+21,500; +3.3%). Notable gains were also recorded in health care and social assistance (+19,900; +2.3%), information, culture and recreation (+17,500; +6.6%); and wholesale and retail trade (+17,200; +1.6%).

Employment in the **trade** industry grew for the fourth consecutive month. Retail sales and wholesale trade figures both improved in June, returning to pre-pandemic levels.^{30,31} Despite recent employment and sales growth, the

²³ PRIMED. (2020, August 26). PRIMED Medical Products Announces Medical Manufacturing Facility in Canada. *Global News-wire*. Retrieved from <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2020/08/26/2084213/0/en/PRIMED-Medical-Products-Announces-Location-of-Major-Medical-Manufacturing-Facility-in-Canada.html>

²⁴ Benner, A. (2020, August 4). Beamsville company receives \$2M to expand production of sanitizing device. *St. Catharines Standard*. Retrieved from <https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2020/08/04/beamsville-company-clean-works-receives-2m-from-province-to-expand-production-of-sanitizing-device.html>

²⁵ Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. (2020, August 25). Ontario Supports Local Distillery in the Fight Against COVID-19. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2020/08/ontario-supports-local-distillery-in-the-fight-against-covid-19.html>

²⁶ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2020, August 24). Funds helping North Bay brewery retool to produce hand sanitizer. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/north-bay/funds-will-help-north-bay-brewery-retool-to-produce-hand-sanitizer-2659474>

²⁷ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2020, August 25). Government of Canada invests in York Region's advanced manufacturers. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-york-regions-advanced-manufacturers.html>

²⁸ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2020, August 12). Two renewable fuel producers scale up to increase productivity and economic growth in rural southwestern Ontario. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/07/two-renewable-fuel-producers-scale-up-to-increase-productivity-and-economic-growth-in-rural-southwestern-ontario.html>

²⁹ Neustaeter, B. (2020, August 16). New U.S. aluminum tariff on Canada now in effect. *CTV News*. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/new-u-s-aluminum-tariff-on-canada-now-in-effect-1.5066333>

³⁰ Statistics Canada. Table 20-10-0008-01 Retail trade sales by province and territory (x 1,000)

³¹ Statistics Canada. Table 20-10-0019-01 Historical (real-time) releases of wholesale trade, sales (x 1,000)

retail trade industry continues to struggle with recovery during the pandemic with many retailers filing for bankruptcy and permanently closing stores, including Chico's FAS Canada³² and Gospel Lighthouse Christian Bookstore.³³ However, retail trade is receiving a boost from the opening of cannabis stores including Dutch Love in Ottawa,³⁴ Tokyo Smoke in Toronto,³⁵ Happy Dayz in Peterborough,³⁶ One Plant in Bradford,³⁷ and Takeoff Cannabis in Thorold³⁸

Employment in **health care and social assistance** continued its upward trend for the third consecutive month. In anticipation of schools reopening in the fall, the Government of Ontario announced \$50M to hire 500 school-focused public health nurses.³⁹ Following this announcement, several health regions announced the hiring of additional nurses to support COVID-19 guidelines in schools, including Ottawa Public Health hiring 36 nurses,⁴⁰ Waterloo Region hiring about 20 nurses,⁴¹ Niagara Region Public Health hiring about 16 nurses,⁴² and Hastings Prince Edward Public Health Headquarters hiring up to 6 nurses.⁴³ As childcare centres continue to reopen across the province, the Government of Ontario and Government of Canada announced \$234.6M in joint funding to licensed child care and early years programs to support enhanced cleaning costs and meet health and safety requirements for safe reopening.⁴⁴ In light of the impact of COVID-19 on the operation of non-profit organizations, the Government of Ontario announced an investment of \$83M to help eligible non-profit organizations, including food banks,

³² Fibre2Fashion News Desk. (2020, August 4). Chico's FAS Canada files for bankruptcy, to close stores. *Fibre2Fashion.com* Retrieved from <https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-news/chico-s-fas-canada-files-for-bankruptcy-to-close-stores-269024-newsdetails.htm>

³³ Abbott, C. (2020, August 10). Gospel lighthouse to close remaining stores. *Tillsonburg News*. Retrieved from <https://www.norfolkandtillsonburgnews.com/news/local-news/gospel-lighthouse-to-close-remaining-stores>

³⁴ Williston, V. (2020, August 13). Controversial Hobo Cannabis rebrands as 'Dutch Love Cannabis'. *OttawaMatters.com* Retrieved from <https://www.ottawamatters.com/local-news/controversial-hobo-cannabis-rebrands-as-dutch-love-cannabis-2634263>

³⁵ Toronto.com Staff (2020, July 27). Tokyo smoke opens new location at Yonge and Bloor. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/10057682-tokyo-smoke-opens-new-location-at-yonge-and-bloor/>

³⁶ Barker, M. P. (2020, August 13). Second marijuana store poised to open in downtown Peterborough. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/cannabis/2020/08/12/second-marijuana-store-poised-to-open-in-downtown-peterborough.html>

³⁷ Kozak, J. (2020, August 16). One Plant cannabis shop opens in Bradford. *NewmarketToday.com* Retrieved from <https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/one-plant-cannabis-shop-opens-in-bradford-2641926>

³⁸ Drevfjall, L. (2020, August 14). Thorold is getting its first legal weed store. *ThoroldNews.com* Retrieved from <https://www.thoroldnews.com/local-news/thorold-is-getting-its-first-legal-weed-store-2638209>

³⁹ Bieman J. (2020, August 07). Middlesex-London health unit hiring to be ready for school return. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from; <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/middlesex-london-health-unit-hiring-to-be-ready-for-school-return>

⁴⁰ Dubé, D. (2020, August 16). Ottawa public health hiring 36 nurses to help out in schools. *Ottawa Matters*. Retrieved from <https://www.ottawamatters.com/local-news/oph-hiring-36-nurses-to-help-out-in-schools-2641426>

⁴¹ Weidner, J. (2020, August 18). New public health nurses will support school reopening. *therecord.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/2020/08/18/new-public-health-nurses-will-support-school-reopening.html>

⁴² Walter, K. (2020, August 19). Niagara public health to hire 16 nurses to help with safe return to school. *stcatharinesstandard.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2020/08/19/niagara-public-health-to-hire-16-nurses-to-help-with-safe-return-to-school.html>

⁴³ Smith, A. (2020, August 14). HPEPH receives funding to hire up to six school-focused nurses. *Quinte News*. Retrieved from <https://www.quintenews.com/2020/08/14/hpeph-receives-funding-to-hire-more-nurses/>

⁴⁴ Office of the Premier. (2020, August 7). Historic Agreement Delivers Over \$230 Million for Child Care. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/57928/historic-agreement-delivers-over-230-million-for-child-care>

child and youth programs and Royal Canadian Legion branches, to continue the delivery of vital programming in their communities.⁴⁵

Employment in the **educational services** showed significant gains after several months of declines. As schools prepare to reopen in the fall with added health and safety precautions, several school boards have announced the hiring of additional teachers, support staff and custodians including the Toronto District School Board hiring 366 elementary;⁴⁶ the Upper Grand District School Board hiring 160 teachers;⁴⁷ the Lambton Kent District School Board hiring about 25 elementary teachers and 15 early childhood educators;⁴⁸ the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board investing \$5.5M for extra precautions including the hiring of additional custodial staff and teachers;⁴⁹ Durham Catholic District School Board hiring about 20 additional teachers;⁵⁰ and Hamilton Wentworth District School Board hiring 56 teachers;⁵¹

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the services-producing sector in Ontario decreased by 326,400 (-5.4%). The largest losses occurred in accommodation and food services (-125,000; -27.5%) and transportation and warehousing (-54,600; -13.5%). Year-over-year gains occurred in finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+600; +0.1%) and public administration (+3,900; +1.0%).

⁴⁵ Office of the Premier. (2020, August 5). Ontario Supporting Non-Profits as Province Recovers from COVID-19. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/57896/ontario-supporting-non-profits-as-province-recovers-from-covid-19>

⁴⁶ 680News Staff. (2020, August 20). TDSB approves delayed school start, \$38.7M plan for smaller class sizes. *680News*. Retrieved from <https://www.680news.com/2020/08/20/tdsb-plan-for-smaller-class-sizes/>

⁴⁷ Duncan, J. (2020, August 19). Guelph public board hiring 160 teachers, reducing in-person time for high school students. *Guelph Mercury*. Retrieved from <https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/10142242-guelph-public-board-hiring-160-teachers-reducing-in-person-time-for-high-school-students/>

⁴⁸ Staff (2020, August 13). LKDSB to hire more teachers for new school year. *CTV News*. Retrieved from; <https://wind-sor.ctvnews.ca/lkdsb-to-hire-more-teachers-for-new-school-year-1.5063554>

⁴⁹ Spitters, J. (2020, August 19). School board investing in safety. *Quinte News*. Retrieved from <https://www.quinte-news.com/2020/08/19/school-board-investing-in-safety/>

⁵⁰ Follert, J. (2020, August 18). Durham Catholic board will use reserves to hire about 20 additional teachers. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/10140676-durham-catholic-board-will-use-reserves-to-hire-about-20-additional-teachers/>

⁵¹ Mitchell, D. (2020, August 25). Hamilton public school board reduces class sizes, staggers start for fall return. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/7296239/hwdsb-reduce-class-stagger-start/>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,069.0	6,927.2	7,485.4	141.8	2.0	-416.4	-5.6
Goods-producing sector	1,381.7	1,386.5	1,471.7	-4.8	-0.3	-90.0	-6.1
Agriculture	71.4	71.8	75.9	-0.4	-0.6	-4.5	-5.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	33.9	36.1	36.3	-2.2	-6.1	-2.4	-6.6
Utilities	49.5	49.0	53.2	0.5	1.0	-3.7	-7.0
Construction	499.8	515.0	543.8	-15.2	-3.0	-44.0	-8.1
Manufacturing	727.1	714.6	762.5	12.5	1.7	-35.4	-4.6
Services-producing sector	5,687.3	5,540.7	6,013.7	146.6	2.6	-326.4	-5.4
Trade	1,070.7	1,053.5	1,103.3	17.2	1.6	-32.6	-3.0
Transportation and warehousing	350.4	351.8	405.0	-1.4	-0.4	-54.6	-13.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	597.3	603.5	596.7	-6.2	-1.0	0.6	0.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	671.1	649.6	695.5	21.5	3.3	-24.4	-3.5
Business, building and other support services	293.7	291.4	307.6	2.3	0.8	-13.9	-4.5
Educational services	521.1	491.0	537.9	30.1	6.1	-16.8	-3.1
Health care and social assistance	896.0	876.1	918.2	19.9	2.3	-22.2	-2.4
Information, culture and recreation	281.6	264.1	307.8	17.5	6.6	-26.2	-8.5
Accommodation and food services	329.7	296.9	454.7	32.8	11.0	-125.0	-27.5
Other services	283.0	274.9	298.2	8.1	2.9	-15.2	-5.1
Public administration	392.6	387.8	388.7	4.8	1.2	3.9	1.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Unemployment rate rises in all economic regions

In the **London** economic region, employment increased by 2,200 (+0.6%) between August 2019 and August 2020. The increase in employment was close, with an increase of 1,200 in full-time employment and 800 in part-time employment. The unemployment rate rose 2.5 percentage points to 9%, the second smallest increase in Ontario. Leading the rise in employment was a funding announcement by FedDev Ontario, providing \$10M in funding to FORGE Hydrocarbons and IGPC Ethanol Inc. to increase productivity and growth, creating 57 new jobs.⁵²

The **Muskoka-Kawarthas** economic region had the only other increase in employment from August 2019 to August 2020, rising by 1,900 (+1.1%). The strong jump in full-time employment (+4,800) was offset somewhat by the fall in part-time employment (-3,000). The unemployment rate rose 3.2 percentage points to 9.1%.

The **Toronto** economic region saw employment decrease from August 2019 to August 2020 by -277,900 (-7.5%). The unemployment rate increased 7.9 percentage points in the same time span to 14.2%, the highest in Ontario. The decrease in employment was proportional between full-time employment (-232,000; -7.5%) and part-time employment (-45,700; -7.7%). The accommodation and food services industry continued to lead employment losses, where a number of restaurants closed, including: Frankie Tomatto,⁵³ The Stones Place,⁵⁴ Don Alfonso,⁵⁵ Jersey Giant,⁵⁶ The Paddock Tavern,⁵⁷ Moo Frites⁵⁸ and Canis.⁵⁹ Municipal layoffs due to the COVID-19 pandemic

⁵² FedDev Ontario. (2020, August 12). Two renewable fuel producers scale up to increase productivity and economic growth in rural southwestern Ontario. *Canada.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/07/two-renewable-fuel-producers-scale-up-to-increase-productivity-and-economic-growth-in-rural-southwestern-ontario.html>

⁵³ Doradea, K. (2020, August 26). Frankie Tomatto Italian buffet shuts down after 25 years. *Daily Hive*. Retrieved from <https://dailyhive.com/toronto/frankie-tomatto-closing>

⁵⁴ Miller, M. (2020, August 25). Toronto bar with ties to the Rolling Stones closes after 20 years. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/08/toronto-bar-rolling-stones-closing-20-years/

⁵⁵ Carlberg, A. (2020, August 12). Award-winning Toronto restaurant helmed by michelin star chefs has closed. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/08/award-winning-toronto-restaurant-closed/

⁵⁶ Carlberg, A. (2020, August 18). Toronto pub known for its beer and chicken wings has closed after 35 years. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/08/toronto-pub-closed-35-years/

⁵⁷ Robertson, B. (2020, August 13). Toronto bar says it's permanently closing after 74 years. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/08/toronto-bar-closing-74-years/

⁵⁸ Carlberg, A. (2020, July 29). Toronto restaurant known for its Belgian-style fries has permanently closed. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/07/belgian-style-fries-restaurant-closed/

⁵⁹ Carlberg, A. (2020, July 28). Toronto restaurant known for its tasting menus permanently closes. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/07/toronto-restaurant-tasting-menus-permanently-closes/

continue, as the City of Vaughan temporarily laid off 1,100 city employees.⁶⁰ On a positive employment note, several retail openings were announced, including a new Loblaws and Shoppers Drug Mart location,⁶¹ while Tokyo Smoke,⁶² Fuzz Wax Bar,⁶³ Sleep Country,⁶⁴ and Canada Goose⁶⁵ all opened new stores.

The second highest loss of employment from August 2019 to August 2020 in Ontario was in the **Ottawa** economic region, with employment falling by -59,600 (-7.8%). The loss in full-time employment of -36,200 (-5.7%) was matched by the loss in part-time employment of -23,500 (-18.9%), while the unemployment rate increased 4.6 percentage points to 9.8%. Employment news in the region includes Ottawa Public Health hiring 36 nurses for schools,⁶⁶ as well as retail stores the Global Culture Trading Post⁶⁷ and Vinyl Destination opening.⁶⁸

Employment in the **Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula** economic region fell by 57,600 (-7.5%) from August 2019 to August 2020, with losses of 57,600 (-5.9%) in full-time employment and 20,900 (-14.3%) in part-time employment. The unemployment rate rose 5.3 percentage points to 10.6%. Positive employment news includes new location openings of the following businesses: Flux Brewing Co,⁶⁹ Wild Wings,⁷⁰ Dundas Power and Powersports,⁷¹ Tabone Academy of Music,⁷² and Front Row Sports.⁷³ The Niagara Region Public Health is also hiring about 16 nurses to assist schools respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁴

⁶⁰ Al-Shibeeb, D. (2020, August 10). Vaughan temporarily lays off about 1,100 city employees amid COVID-19. *YorkRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10133212-vaughan-temporarily-lays-off-about-1-100-city-employees-amid-covid-19/>

⁶¹ Landau, J. (2020, August 25). Loblaws about to return to west block retail, office, residential complex. *Urban Toronto*. Retrieved from <https://urbantoronto.ca/news/2020/08/loblaws-about-return-west-block-retail-office-and-residential-complex>

⁶² Toronto.com Staff (2020, July 27). Tokyo smoke opens new location at Yonge and Bloor. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/10057682-tokyo-smoke-opens-new-location-at-yonge-and-bloor/>

⁶³ Toneguzzi, M. (2020, July 31). Fuzz wax bar plans major Cross-Canada expansion over 5 years. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2020/7/fuzz-wax-bar-plans-major-cross-canada-expansion-over-5-years>

⁶⁴ Toronto.com Staff. (2020, August 3). Mattress retailer Sleep Country opens store in Don Mills. *Toronto.Com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/10111341-mattress-retailer-sleep-country-opens-new-store-in-don-mills/>

⁶⁵ Osman, L. (2020, August 1). Canada Goose opens new store in downtown Toronto. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/10129046-canada-goose-opens-new-store-in-downtown-toronto/>

⁶⁶ Dubé, D. (2020, August 16). Ottawa public health hiring 36 nurses to help out in schools. *Ottawa Matters*. Retrieved from <https://www.ottawamatters.com/local-news/oph-hiring-36-nurses-to-help-out-in-schools-2641426>

⁶⁷ Hrebacka, P. (2020, August 14). ‘So much more than a store’: Global culture trading post a multi-purpose community hub for smiths falls. *Inside Ottawa Valley*. Retrieved from <https://www.insideottawavalley.com/news-story/10137947--so-much-more-than-a-store-global-culture-trading-post-a-multi-purpose-community-hub-for-smiths-falls/>

⁶⁸ Thomson, H. (2020, August 16). Merrickville’s vinyl destination drops the needle on new, larger location. *Inside Ottawa Valley*. Retrieved from <https://www.insideottawavalley.com/news-story/10139271-merrickville-s-vinyl-destination-drops-the-needle-on-new-larger-location/>

⁶⁹ Thompson, B. (2020, July 30). Something new brewing in Scotland. *Brantford Expositor*. Retrieved from <https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/something-new-brewing-in-scotland>

⁷⁰ Taylor, A. (2020, August 6). Wild wing taking flight in Simcoe. *Simcoe Reformer*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoereformer.ca/news/local-news/wild-wing-taking-flight-in-simcoe>

⁷¹ Campbell, C. (2020, August 20). Dundas cycle & Powersports opens in former garage. *HamiltonNews.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/10142949-dundas-cycle-powersports-opens-in-former-garage/>

⁷² Pearson, M. (2020, August 6). Tabone Academy of music prepares to open at giant tiger plaza on Hamilton mountain. *HamiltonNews.com*. <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/10132590-tabone-academy-of-music-prepares-to-open-at-giant-tiger-plaza-on-hamilton-mountain/>

⁷³ Hutton, R. (2020, August 23). New sporting goods store offers view from the front row. *NiagaraThisWeek.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/10141953-new-sporting-goods-store-offers-view-from-the-front-row/>

⁷⁴ Walter, K. (2020, August 19). Niagara public health to hire 16 nurses to help with safe return to school. *Stcatharinesstandard.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2020/08/19/niagara-public-health-to-hire-16-nurses-to-help-with-safe-return-to-school.html>

The **Kitchener-Waterloo** economic region saw a fall in employment of 53,400 (-7%) from August 2019 to August 2020, with significant losses in full-time employment of 38,000 (-6.1%) and 15,300 (-11.1%) in part-time employment. Several retail closures occurred, including Lumus and Nox Breakfast House and Chamber of Spirits,⁷⁵ Saunders Bakery,⁷⁶ and all Gospel Lighthouse Christian Bookstore locations.⁷⁷ Positive employment news included construction beginning on the Oro Station automotive innovation park, which is expected to create 1,800 construction jobs.⁷⁸ Waterloo Region is hiring 20 nurses to assist with COVID-19 response in schools,⁷⁹ while the Upper Grand District School Board is also hiring 160 teachers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁰ There was further positive news with Amazon announcing that it will open a new delivery station in Cambridge by late 2020, creating hundreds of jobs in the region.⁸¹

In the **Northeast** economic region, employment fell by 3,700 (-1.5%) from August 2019 to August 2020, all in full-time jobs while the unemployment rate increased by 1.9 percentage points to 8.6%, the second lowest in Ontario. Construction began on the West Link multi-use pathway connecting the north and south ends of North Bay,⁸² while the Government of Ontario provided over \$1M in funding to FloSonic Medical and Medior Research to drive innovation, creating eight new jobs.⁸³ Kashechewan Health Services is also building six youth, cultural and healing camps, creating around 20 full-time positions.⁸⁴ On a further positive note, the sector received significant government investments in transit systems across the province which included over \$99M for five public transit and active transportation projects in Greater Sudbury;⁸⁵ \$400M in funding for the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC);⁸⁶ and over \$4M for North Bay to support transit operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁷

⁷⁵ Guelph Mercury Staff. (2020, August 4). Downtown Guelph eatery shuts up shop. *GuelphMercury.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/10129986-downtown-guelph-eatery-shuts-up-shop/>

⁷⁶ Wellington Advertiser Staff. (2020, August 5). Iconic Saunders bakery in Rockwood to close for good. *Wellington Advertiser*. Retrieved from <https://www.wellingtonadvertiser.com/rockwoods-saunders-bakery-to-close-after-26-years/>

⁷⁷ Abbott, C. (2020, August 10). Gospel lighthouse to close remaining stores. *Tillsonburg News*. Retrieved from <https://www.norfolkandtillsonburgnews.com/news/local-news/gospel-lighthouse-to-close-remaining-stores>

⁷⁸ Simon, C. (2020, August 20). 'APEX of art and engineering': Ontario premier, MPPs break ground on automotive innovation hub near Barrie. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10143015--apex-of-art-and-engineering-ontario-premier-mpps-break-ground-on-automotive-innovation-hub-near-barrie/>

⁷⁹ Weidner, J. (2020, August 18). New public health nurses will support school reopening. *therecord.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/2020/08/18/new-public-health-nurses-will-support-school-reopening.html>

⁸⁰ Duncan, J. (2020, August 19). Guelph public board hiring 160 teachers, reducing in-person time for high school students. *Guelph Mercury*. <https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/10142242-guelph-public-board-hiring-160-teachers-reducing-in-person-time-for-high-school-students/>

⁸¹ Doucet, B. (2020, August 17). Hundreds of jobs headed for Cambridge as Amazon set to open new delivery station. *CambridgeTimes.ca* Retrieved from <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/10140038-hundreds-of-jobs-headed-for-cambridge-as-amazon-set-to-open-new-delivery-station/>

⁸² North Bay Nugget Staff. (2020, August 30). West Link pathway construction about to begin. *North Bay Nugget*. Retrieved from <https://www.nugget.ca/news/local-news/west-link-pathway-construction-about-to-begin>

⁸³ Sudbury Star Staff. (2020, August 6). Sudbury medical companies get \$1 million boost. *Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/sudbury-medical-companies-get-1-million-boost>

⁸⁴ Baiguzhiyeva, D. (2020, August 12). Construction underway for six healing camps in Kashechewan. *TimminsToday.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.timminstoday.com/local-news/construction-underway-for-six-healing-camps-in-kashechewan-7-photos-2631624>

⁸⁵ Romaniuk, C. (2020, August 6). Sudbury gets over \$99 million for transit projects. *Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/sudbury-gets-over-99-million-for-transit-projects>

⁸⁶ News Staff (2020, August 12). Toronto to receive \$400M in provincial funding for the TTC. *680 News*. Retrieved from <https://www.680news.com/2020/08/12/ttc-funding-ontario-coronavirus/>

⁸⁷ Turl, J. (2020, August 12). City gets over \$4 million in emergency COVID relief. *BayToday.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/city-gets-over-4-million-in-emergency-covid-relief-2632681>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2020 ('000)	August 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2020 (%)	August 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,003.5	7,540.9	-7.1	12.1	6.0	6.1
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	701.6	761.2	-7.8	9.8	5.2	4.6
Kingston - Pembroke	198.4	218.6	-9.2	10.1	6.0	4.1
Muskoka - Kawarthas	178.1	176.2	1.1	9.1	5.9	3.2
Toronto	3,421.1	3,699.0	-7.5	14.2	6.3	7.9
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	706.8	760.2	-7.0	10.7	5.5	5.2
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	713.5	771.1	-7.5	10.6	5.3	5.3
London	336.8	334.6	0.7	9.0	6.5	2.5
Windsor - Sarnia	266.9	301.8	-11.6	11.3	7.0	4.3
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	140.8	161.0	-12.5	8.7	4.3	4.4
Northeast	247.7	251.4	-1.5	8.6	6.7	1.9
Northwest	91.9	105.8	-13.1	8.4	5.5	2.9

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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