



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

July 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 July 2020

- Employment increased by 150,700 in Ontario in July 2020
- Most of the employment gains were in part-time work (+145,100)
- The unemployment rate decreased to 11.3%
- The unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 declined to 28.4%
- As the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues, employment increased in both sectors in July, with strong gains in the services-producing sector.

Employment in Ontario increased by 150,700 in July 2020, as the economy continued to reopen and restrictions from COVID-19 eased. Most of the July employment gains were in part-time employment (+145,100). The unemployment rate decreased by 0.9 percentage points to 11.3%. This marks the second month in a row that the province experienced declines in the unemployment rate – which signals the labour market is starting to recover from the fallout due to COVID-19. Additionally, both the participation (63.4%) and employment (56.2%) rate increased in July.

Youth employment increased in Ontario by 58,600 in July, with all of the gains occurring in part-time work (+78,200). The unemployment rate declined by 1.6 percentage points to 28.4%. This marks the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic that the youth unemployment rate is below 30%. On a yearly basis, the youth job market is still reeling from the impacts of the pandemic and the ensuing shutdown – with employment down 184,400 (-19.0%) from July 2019. Nationally, the youth unemployment rate stood at 24.2%.

Employment grew in Canada by 418,500 in July 2020. Gains were reflected in both full-time and part-time work, with the majority of them coming in part-time employment (+345,300). Employment increased across all provinces, with the bulk of them occurring in Ontario and Quebec. These provinces may be experiencing accelerated employment growth since COVID-19 measures are being lifted at a more gradual pace than the rest of the country. Ontario and Quebec accounted for nearly 60% of overall employment gains in July, with other large gains occurring

in British Columbia and Alberta. The national unemployment rate continues to recover and declined a further 1.4 percentage points to 10.9%. The participation rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 64.3% and the employment rate increased by 1.3 percentage points to 57.3%. Between July 2019 and July 2020, average hourly wages declined by 1.0% in Canada.¹

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1,800,000 in the United States in July 2020 and the unemployment rate declined to 10.2%, as improvements in the labour market reflect the continued resumption of economic activity.² Employment rose sharply in leisure and hospitality, public administration, retail trade, and professional services. The number of unemployed persons who were on temporary layoff decreased by 1,300,000. Additionally, the number of permanent job losses were virtually unchanged at 2,900,000.

The provincial labour market is still struggling and has deteriorated over the past twelve months. Employment in Ontario fell by 503,100 between July 2019 and July 2020 and losses were realized in both full-time (-440,600) and part-time work (-62,600). The unemployment rate increased by 5.6 percentage points and the participation rate declined to 63.4 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 104,900 from July to June 2020. The unemployment rate for students declined by 1.5 percentage points to 29% on a monthly basis, which was above the national rate of 24.1%. Additionally, the participation rate increased by 6.7 percentage points to 69.5%. The student job market has gradually improved as the provincial economy continued to reopen in July. It is expected that this trend will continue throughout the summer.

¹ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0320-01 Average usual hours and wages by selected characteristics, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality, last 5 months (x 1,000)

² Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020, August 7). Employment Situation Summary. *United States Department of Labor*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

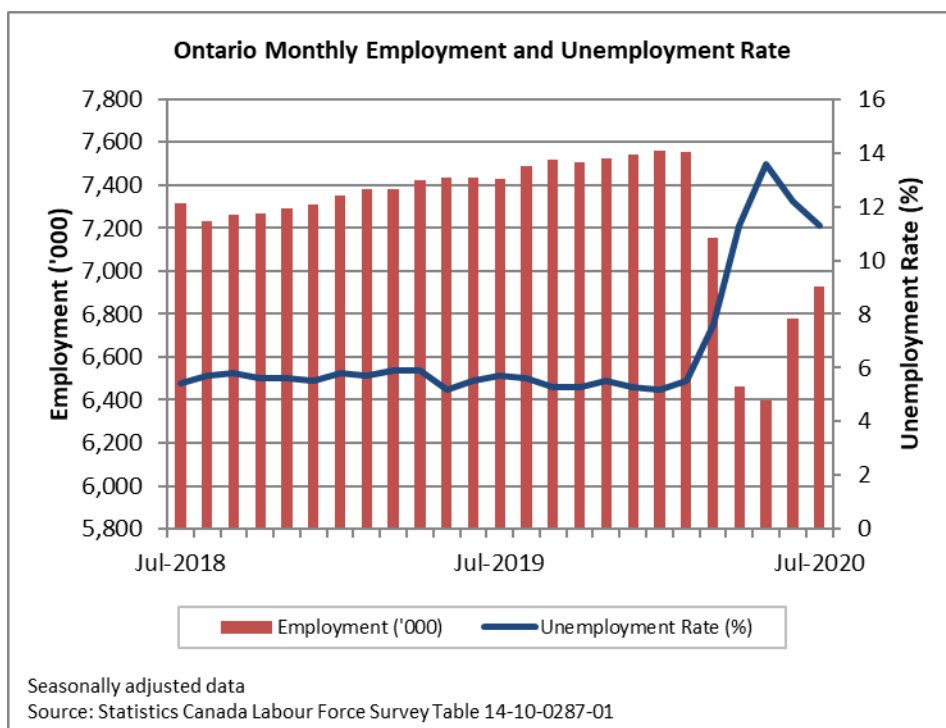
³ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0286-03 Labour force characteristics by province and type of student during summer months, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,333.1	12,321.6	12,141.8	11.5	0.1	191.3	1.6
Labour Force ('000)	7,813.8	7,719.9	7,877.7	93.9	1.2	-63.9	-0.8
Employment ('000)	6,927.2	6,776.5	7,430.3	150.7	2.2	-503.1	-6.8
Full-Time ('000)	5,647.0	5,641.4	6,087.6	5.6	0.1	-440.6	-7.2
Part-Time ('000)	1,280.2	1,135.1	1,342.8	145.1	12.8	-62.6	-4.7
Unemployment ('000)	886.6	943.4	447.4	-56.8	-6.0	439.2	98.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	11.3	12.2	5.7	-0.9	-	5.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	63.4	62.7	64.9	0.7	-	-1.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.2	55.0	61.2	1.2	-	-5.0	-

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	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	11.3	12.2	5.7	-0.9	5.6
25 years and over	8.5	9.5	4.5	-1.0	4.0
Men - 25 years and over	8.4	8.4	4.5	0.0	3.9
Women - 25 years and over	8.8	10.7	4.4	-1.9	4.4
15 to 24 years	28.4	30.0	12.9	-1.6	15.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	31.2	28.8	13.8	2.4	17.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	25.3	31.5	11.9	-6.2	13.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment edges up in the goods-producing sector due to gains in construction and manufacturing

Employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector increased 20,900 (+1.5%) in July 2020. Employment went up in all goods-producing sectors with the exception of utilities (-1,400; -2.8%). The construction industry posted the largest gain (+13,400; +2.7%), followed by manufacturing (+5,800; +0.8%), forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+2,300; +6.8%), and agriculture (+800; 1.1%).

Employment in the **construction** sector continued to rebound in July after plunging earlier this year due to the COVID-19 economic shutdown. Housing starts and new house prices in Ontario were up year-over-year in June,^{4,5} while the total value of building permits was down over the same period, mostly reflected by a decline in commercial permits.⁶ The Government of Ontario announced several investments in July, including \$625 million to expand and improve highways, roads and bridges across Northern Ontario⁷ and \$500 million to build 30 new schools and make permanent additions to 15 existing facilities.⁸ Furthermore, IAMGOLD Corporation announced the Côté Gold Project has received approval to start construction at its Gogama-area site, which will create over 1,300 construction jobs over the next few years.⁹

Employment in the **manufacturing** sector also continued to rebound in July. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 52.9 in July from 47.8 in June, marking the first expansion in factory activity in five months and the sharpest since January last year.¹⁰ Ontario manufacturing sales also show signs of a rebound, rising 17.5% in May 2020 following a record 37.0% decline in April 2020.¹¹ The gains mostly reflect higher sales of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, as the automotive industry largely resumed operations following shutdowns in April.

The manufacturing sector experienced a notable layoff this month, as the ever-looming elimination of the third shift at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' Windsor Assembly Plant officially materialized, affecting roughly 1,500 workers, including 700 that accepted buyout packages.¹² Further, Cascades Inc. announced it would permanently close its

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 Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. (2020, July 17). Ontario Improves Highways, Roads and Bridges in the North. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2020/07/ontario-improves-highways-roads-and-bridges-in-the-north.html>

⁸ Office of the Premier. (2020, July 23). Ontario Building and Expanding Schools across the Province. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/07/ontario-building-and-expanding-schools-across-the-province.html>

⁹ Timmins Daily Press News Staff. (2020, July 21). IAMGOLD announces Côté Gold Project approved to start. *Timmins Daily Press*. Retrieved from <https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/iamgold-announces-cote-gold-project-approved-to-start>

¹⁰ IHS Markit. (2020, August 4). IHS Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. Manufacturing recovery gains momentum in July. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/f3cd4acd094a429d9faf1a0053a07ae1>

¹¹ Statistics Canada. Table 16-10-0048 Manufacturing sales by industry and province, monthly (dollars unless otherwise noted) (x 1,000) – seasonally adjusted data

¹² Waddell, D. (2020, July 10). Sense of loss hangs heavy as third shift ends at Windsor Assembly Plant. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/sense-of-loss-hangs-heavy-as-third-shift-ends-at-windsor-assembly-plant>

containerboard packaging facility in Etobicoke before August 31, 2021, affecting 125 employees.¹³ Meanwhile, Edmonton-based CNTNR Inc., a company that turns old shipping containers into homes, is opening a 125,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Welland, creating up to 200 jobs.¹⁴ In addition, the barbecue grill manufacturer Napoleon Canada announced it would hire 110 more workers at its Barrie facility, while federal government investment to Molded Precision Components in Oro-Medonte will help create 30 high-skilled jobs.^{15,16}

Employment in the goods-producing sector is inching closer to pre-pandemic levels. When compared year-over-year, employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector declined 77,700 (-5.3%). Employment losses were led by manufacturing (-46,800; -6.1%) and construction (-25,900; -4.8%). The forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas sector experienced moderate year-over-year employment growth (+2,700; +8.1%).

Trade industry boosts employment in the services-producing sector

Employment in Ontario's services-producing sector rose by 129,800 (+2.4%) in July. The largest gains occurred in trade (+57,300; +5.8%), health care and social assistance (+28,800; +3.4%), and other services (except public administration) (+23,500; +9.3%), while the largest decline occurred in educational services (-7,200; -1.4%). Notable gains also occurred in professional, scientific and technical services (+17,700; +2.8%) and accommodation and food services (+12,400; +4.4%).

Employment in the **trade** industry grew in July 2020, bringing employment to 94.4% of its pre-COVID February level. Retail sales and wholesale trade figures both improved in May, but still remain over a quarter below pre-pandemic levels.^{17,18} Despite recent employment and sales growth, the drawn out recovery from the pandemic continues to weigh on the retail trade industry with many retailers filing for bankruptcy and permanently closing stores, including General Nutrition Centres (GNC),¹⁹ Ascena Retail Group,²⁰ and Mendocino.²¹ However, retail trade is receiving a bit of a boost as many cannabis stores begin to open after being delayed by the pandemic. Northern

¹³ Packaging Gateway Staff. (2020, July 29). Cascades plans to shut Etobicoke Containerboard packaging operations. *Packaging Gateway*. Retrieved from <https://www.packaging-gateway.com/news/cascades-plans-to-shut-etobicoke-containerboard-packaging-operations/>

¹⁴ Johnson, D. (2020, July 14). Up to 200 jobs to be created by company moving to Welland. *Niagara Falls Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news/niagara-region/2020/07/14/up-to-200-jobs-to-be-created-by-company-moving-to-welland.html>

¹⁵ Vanderlinde, R. (2020, July 15). Napoleon looking for 110 workers as Barrie company's business heats up. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10076654-napoleon-looking-for-110-workers-as-barrie-company-s-business-heats-up/>

¹⁶ Vanderlinde, R. (2020, July 15). Oro-Medonte company gets \$2.9-million injection from federal agency. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10076753-oro-medonte-company-gets-2-9-million-injection-from-federal-agency/>

¹⁷ Statistics Canada. Table 20-10-0008-01 Retail trade sales by province and territory (x 1,000)

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. Table 20-10-0019-01 Historical (real-time) releases of wholesale trade, sales (x 1,000)

¹⁹ Flanagan, R. (2020, June 24). Health retailer GNC files for bankruptcy; 29 Canadian stores to close. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/health-retailer-gnc-files-for-bankruptcy-29-canadian-stores-to-close-1.4997658>

²⁰ Patterson, C. (2020, July 24). All Ann Taylor, LOFT and Justice Stores Closing in Canada as US Parent Ascena Files. *Retailer Inside*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2020/7/all-ann-taylor-loft-and-justice-stores-closing-in-canada-as-us-parent-ascena-files>

²¹ Robertson, B. (2020, July 21). Mendocino files for insolvency and is closing stores in Toronto. *BlogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/fashion_style/2020/07/mendocino-insolvency-closing-stores-toronto/

Zen Cannabis near North Bay,²² Cannaco in Milton,²³ Bud Heaven in Bracebridge,²⁴ and Shiny Bud in Cornwall all opened recently.²⁵

Employment in **health care and social assistance** expanded in July as non-essential health-care providers and child-centres continue to reopen throughout the province. In particular, 68 summer child-care centres in Hamilton were expected to reopen in July.²⁶ The Ontario government allowed many health-care providers, including dentists and massage therapists, to return to work at the end of May with health and safety guidelines in place,²⁷ while all licensed child-care centres in Ontario were allowed to re-open in mid-June.²⁸

Employment in the **transportation and warehousing** sector remained steady in July. However, there were some significant developments in the sector. The large drop in travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic has the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) eliminating 500 positions,²⁹ and Via Rail is temporarily laying off roughly 1,000 unionized workers nationwide.³⁰ On a more positive note, Amazon announced it is hiring more than 700 full-time employees at their Scarborough fulfillment centre,³¹ and Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) recalled some of its 4,000 laid off workers as automotive and lumber shipments begin to pick up.³²

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the services-producing sector in Ontario decreased 425,400 (-7.1%). The largest losses occurred in accommodation and food services (-155,900; -34.4%), transportation and warehousing (-52,500; -13.0%), and educational services (-48,700; -9.0%). Year-over-year gains occurred in finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+18,900; +3.2%) and public administration (+2,900; +0.8%).

²² Holmes, L. (2020, June 29). First Indigenous cannabis licence holder can finally turn the lights on at new dispensary. *Bay-Today.ca*. Retrieved from <http://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/first-indigenous-cannabis-licence-holder-can-finally-turn-the-lights-on-at-new-dispensary-2525254>

²³ Sadewo, B. (2020, July 17). First cannabis store in Milton offers a 'friendly' vibe. *InsideHalton.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/10078758-first-cannabis-store-in-milton-offers-a-friendly-vibe/>

²⁴ Bracebridge Examiner Staff. (2020, July 10). Legal Ontario cannabis store Bud Heaven now open in Bracebridge. *MuskokaRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/10073604-legal-ontario-cannabis-store-bud-heaven-now-open-in-bracebridge/>

²⁵ Santos, J. (2020, July 21). Shiny Bud cannabis opens Cornwall outlet. *Standard-Freeholder*. Retrieved from <https://www.standard-freeholder.com/news/local-news/shiny-bud-cannabis-opens-cornwall-outlet>

²⁶ Hewitt, F. (2020, July 3). More than half of Hamilton's summer child-care centres to reopen this month. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2020/07/03/more-than-half-of-hamiltons-summer-child-care-centres-to-reopen-this-month.html>

²⁷ Davidson, S. (2020, May 27). Ontario allows dozens of health-care providers, including dentists, to reopen. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-allows-dozens-of-health-care-providers-including-dentists-to-reopen-1.4957541>

²⁸ Goodfield, K. (2020, June 9). All child care centres in Ontario can reopen Friday amid COVID-19 pandemic. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/all-child-care-centres-in-ontario-can-reopen-friday-amid-covid-19-pandemic-1.4975799>

²⁹ The Canadian Press Staff. (2020, July 14). GTAA cutting 500 positions at Pearson Airport. *680 News*. Retrieved from <https://www.680news.com/2020/07/14/gtaa-cutting-500-positions-at-pearson-airport/>

³⁰ CBC News Staff. (2020, July 8). Via Rail cutting about 1,000 jobs amid struggles over COVID-19 pandemic. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/via-rail-layoffs-covid-19-pandemic-1.5642501>

³¹ Lavery, I. (2020, July 8). Amazon to hire over 700 full-time employees in Scarborough. *Daily Hive*. Retrieved from <https://dailyhive.com/toronto/amazon-hiring-scarborough>

³² Reynolds, C. (2020, July 21). CN recalling some of its 4,000 laid off staff. *Mississauga.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/10111282-cn-recalling-some-of-its-4-000-laid-off-staff/>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	6,927.2	6,776.5	7,430.3	150.7	2.2	-503.1	-6.8
Goods-producing sector	1,386.5	1,365.6	1,464.2	20.9	1.5	-77.7	-5.3
Agriculture	71.8	71.0	74.5	0.8	1.1	-2.7	-3.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.1	33.8	33.4	2.3	6.8	2.7	8.1
Utilities	49.0	50.4	54.1	-1.4	-2.8	-5.1	-9.4
Construction	515.0	501.6	540.9	13.4	2.7	-25.9	-4.8
Manufacturing	714.6	708.8	761.4	5.8	0.8	-46.8	-6.1
Services-producing sector	5,540.7	5,410.9	5,966.1	129.8	2.4	-425.4	-7.1
Trade	1,053.5	996.2	1,085.2	57.3	5.8	-31.7	-2.9
Transportation and warehousing	351.8	351.0	404.3	0.8	0.2	-52.5	-13.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	603.5	604.9	584.6	-1.4	-0.2	18.9	3.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	649.6	631.9	687.5	17.7	2.8	-37.9	-5.5
Business, building and other support services	291.4	293.1	315.3	-1.7	-0.6	-23.9	-7.6
Educational services	491.0	498.2	539.7	-7.2	-1.4	-48.7	-9.0
Health care and social assistance	876.1	847.3	907.3	28.8	3.4	-31.2	-3.4
Information, culture and recreation	264.1	265.6	310.5	-1.5	-0.6	-46.4	-14.9
Accommodation and food services	296.9	284.5	452.8	12.4	4.4	-155.9	-34.4
Other services	274.9	251.4	294.0	23.5	9.3	-19.1	-6.5
Public administration	387.8	386.9	384.9	0.9	0.2	2.9	0.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment declined and the unemployment rate rose in all economic regions

In the **Toronto** economic region, employment decreased by 403,100 (-10.9%) between July 2019 and July 2020. The unemployment rate increased to 14.8% in July 2020 representing both the highest and the largest increase in the unemployment rate across economic regions. Nearly three-quarters of job losses were in full-time employment (-299,900) compared with part-time employment.

The accommodation and food services sector in Toronto continued to suffer from pandemic-related closures. Canis³³, Brothers Food & Wine³⁴, BB's Diner³⁵, Universal Grill³⁶, and The Beaver³⁷ were among the permanent closures. Under the City of Toronto's CaféTO program³⁸ 65 restaurants opened or extended patios, expanding the availability of outdoor dining space³⁹.

Job losses occurred in many sectors. The Greater Toronto Airport Authority will reduce its workforce at Pearson International Airport by 27% over the next few months to adjust to the decline in air traffic volumes. Of the 500 positions affected, 300 will involve layoffs and/or voluntary exits.⁴⁰ Cascades will shutter its Containerboard Packaging facility in Etobicoke by August 2021, affecting 125 employees.⁴¹ Finally, Global News announced several programming cuts and laid-off an unspecified number of staff in Toronto.⁴²

On the upside, there were several positive developments in construction and transportation and warehousing. Construction began on York University's \$275M Markham Centre Campus. The 400,000-sq.-ft. building is scheduled to be completed by fall 2023 and will create over 2,000 jobs during construction.⁴³ Wal-Mart Canada announced plans to build a new 550,000-sq.-ft. distribution centre in Vaughan to open in 2024.⁴⁴ Finally, Amazon announced it is looking to hire more than 700 full-time employees at its fulfillment centre in Scarborough.⁴⁵

³³ Carlberg, A. (2020, July 30). 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/

³⁴ Huras, J. (2020, July 14). Critically-acclaimed restaurant Brothers is closing its doors. *TRNTO*. Retrieved from <https://trnto.com/brothers-toronto-closing/>

³⁵ Mok, T. (2020, July 30). Popular brunch restaurant in Toronto permanently shuts down. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/07/popular-brunch-restaurant-toronto-shuts-down/

³⁶ Mok, T. (2020, July 21). Beloved Toronto diner is closing after 24 years. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/07/beloved-diner-universal-grill-closing-after-24-years-toronto/

³⁷ Slingerland, C. (2020, July 14). Toronto Venue the Beaver Is Closing Permanently. *exclaim.ca*. Retrieved from <https://exclaim.ca/music/article/toronto-venue-the-beaver-is-closing-permanently>

³⁸ City of Toronto Staff. (2020, July 11). City to launch a CaféTO blitz tomorrow to accelerate curb lane patio installations. City of Toronto. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-to-launch-a-cafetoblitz-tomorrow-to-accelerate-curb-lane-patio-installations/>

³⁹ Carlberg, A. (2020, x). 65 new patios in Toronto now open for the summer. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/07/new-patios-toronto-open-summer/

⁴⁰ The Canadian Press Staff. GTAA cutting 500 positions at Pearson Airport. *680news.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.680news.com/2020/07/14/gtaa-cutting-500-positions-at-pearson-airport/>

⁴¹ Packaging Gateway Staff. (2020, July 29). Cascades plans to shut Etobicoke Containerboard packaging operations. *Packaging Gateway*. Retrieved from <https://www.packaging-gateway.com/news/cascades-plans-to-shut-etobicoke-container-board-packaging-operations/>

⁴² The Canadian Press Staff. (2020, July 23). Global News lays off unspecified number of staff in 'significant' restructuring in Toronto. *CTVNews.ca*. Retrieved from <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/global-news-lays-off-unspecified-number-of-staff-in-significant-restructuring-in-toronto-1.5036458>

⁴³ Link2Build Ontario Staff. (2020, July 28). Construction to begin on Markham Centre Campus. *Link2Build Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://www.link2build.ca/news/articles/2020/july/construction-to-begin-on-markham-centre-campus/>

⁴⁴ RENX Staff. (2020, July 20). WalMart plans new GTA warehouse, part of \$3.5B in investment. *RENX.ca*. Retrieved from <https://renx.ca/walmart-plans-new-gta-distribution-centre-3-5b-investment/>

⁴⁵ Lavery, I. (2020, July 8). Amazon to hire over 700 full-time employees in Scarborough. *Daily Hive*. Retrieved from <https://dailyhive.com/toronto/amazon-hiring-scarborough>

There were also positive developments in the hard-hit retail sector. QuanU, a Chinese furniture retailer with operations across Asia, opened its first Canadian store in Toronto⁴⁶ and discount retailer BiWay announced plans to open a store in the fall⁴⁷.

Employment declined by 47,700 (-15.7%) in the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region between July 2019 and July 2020, the largest decrease among all economic regions. Losses were spread out between full-time (-26,600) and part-time employment (-21,000). The unemployment rate rose 6.9 percentage points to 13.1% in July 2020. After several reprints, the third shift at the Fiat Chrysler Automobile assembly plant in Windsor ended on July 10, eliminating about a third of the plant's workforce.⁴⁸ On a positive note, three new companies entered the Windsor-area market. Crawford Packaging broke ground on a 25,000-sq.-ft. commercial facility⁴⁹; Mexican-based engineering consulting services firm Eltromex chose to establish its Canadian headquarters in Windsor⁵⁰; and Sleep Country Canada opened two stores⁵¹.

The unemployment rate for the **London** economic region was 10.1% in July 2020. While employment declined by 4,100 (-1.2%) the participation rate rose 1.3 percentage points to 61.4% between July 2019 and July 2020. In a boon to the region's agri-food industry, Aspire Food Group will begin construction on a food-grade automated cricket processing facility in August. The operation is scheduled to open by the end of 2021 and will create 60 jobs.⁵² Furthermore, NP Aerospace, a manufacturer of personal and vehicle armour for the defense industry opened a 10,000-sq.-ft. facility in London.⁵³ However, in St. Thomas, employees of Marriot International received notice that the Starwood call centre would close in September.⁵⁴

Employment in the **Kitcher–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region declined 75,400 (-9.9%) from July 2019 to July 2020. The unemployment rate rose to 11.5% in July 2020 from 5.3% in July 2019. The Government of Canada announced nearly \$30 million in funding for eight companies in the Waterloo Region. The total investment of \$95 million is expected to create 500 high-skilled jobs in advanced manufacturing, software engineering, medical and

⁴⁶ Toneguzzi, M. (2020, July 16). Chinese Furniture Retailer QuanU Expanding into Canada with 1st Store. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2020/7/chinese-furniture-retailer-quanu-expanding-into-canada-with-1st-store>

⁴⁷ O'Neil, L. (2020, July 22). Toronto's first new BiWay store is finally opening this fall. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/fashion_style/2020/07/new-biway-store-toronto-opening-this-fall/

⁴⁸ CBC News Staff. (2020, July 10). Some workers leave Windsor Assembly Plant as retires after FCA ends third shift. CBC News. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/fca-third-shift-ends-auto-industry-windsor-1.5644274>

⁴⁹ Hadadean, A. (2020, July 8). New commercial development coming to Essex. *CTVNews.ca*. Retrieved from <https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/new-commercial-development-coming-to-essex-1.5016664>

⁵⁰ Charlton, L. (2020, July 6). Eltromex Company to establish Canadian headquarters in Windsor-Essex. *CTVNews.ca*. Retrieved from <https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/eltromex-company-to-establish-canadian-headquarters-in-windsor-essex-1.5012872>

⁵¹ Waddell, D. (2020, July 4). Sleep Country Canada jumps into Windsor market with two locations. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/sleep-country-canada-jumps-into-windsor-market-with-two-locations>

⁵² Chant, M. (2020, July 20). World's largest cricket processing plant being built in London. *Blackburnnews.com*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/london/london-news/2020/07/20/worlds-largest-cricket-processing-plant-built-london/>

⁵³ London Economic Development Corporation Staff. (2020, July 14). Global Armour Manufacturer Opens New Canadian Facility. London Economic Development Corporation. Retrieved from <https://www.ledc.com/news/global-armour-manufacturer-opens-new-canadian-facility>

⁵⁴ CTVNewsLondon.ca Staff. (2020, June 29). St. Thomas call centre closure leaves hundreds out of work. *CTVNewsLondon.ca*. Retrieved from <https://london.ctvnews.ca/st-thomas-call-centre-closure-leaves-hundreds-out-of-work-1.5004595>

information communications technology.⁵⁵ Personal protective equipment manufacturers, Molded Precision Components in Oro-Medonte⁵⁶ and Eclipse Innovations in Cambridge⁵⁷ also received federal funding to expand operations and hire workers.

In the **Northwest** economic region, employment declined 162,000 (-15.3%) between July 2019 and July 2020. The unemployment rate rose to 9.7% and was driven by full-time job losses (11,700). Several construction projects are underway in northwestern Ontario. Construction is progressing on Pure Gold Mining's Red Lake mine and commercial production could begin later this year. The company expects to add another 100 employees by September.⁵⁸ Additionally, the provincial government announced \$625 million in funding to expand and improve roads and bridges across Northern Ontario including the advancement of the four-laning of Highway 17 between Kenora and the Manitoba border.⁵⁹

The employment decline in the **Northeast** economic region was relatively modest at 7,800 (-3.1%) between July 2019 and July 2020. Almost three-quarters of the job losses were in part-time employment. The unemployment rate rose to 9.3% in July 2020 from 6.8% in July 2019. The IAMGOLD Corporation received approval to begin construction on the Côté Gold open pit mine southwest of Gogoma. The project is expected to create more than 1,300 jobs during construction and 450 full-time jobs when operational.⁶⁰

⁵⁵ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2020, July 29). *Government of Canada* invests in Waterloo Region companies to help them scale up and succeed. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-waterloo-region-companies-to-help-them-scale-up-and-succeed.html>

⁵⁶ Vanderlinde, R. (2020, July 15). Oro-Medonte company gets \$2.9-million injection from federal agency. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10076753-oro-medonte-company-gets-2-9-million-injection-from-federal-agency/>

⁵⁷ Banger, C. (2020, July 14). Premier Ford lauds Cambridge mask manufacturers as he kicks off province-wide tour. *CTVNews.ca*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/premier-ford-lauds-cambridge-mask-manufacturer-as-he-kicks-off-province-wide-tour-1.5023811>

⁵⁸ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2020, June 25). Red Lake mine developer is in hiring mode. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/red-lake-mine-developer-is-in-hiring-mode-2518884>

⁵⁹ Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. (2020, July 17). Ontario Improves Highways, Roads and Bridges in the North. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2020/07/ontario-improves-highways-roads-and-bridges-in-the-north.html>

⁶⁰ The Daily Press Staff. (2020, July 21). IAMGOLD announces Côté Gold Project approved to start. *TimminsPress.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/iamgold-announces-cote-gold-project-approved-to-start>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2020 ('000)	July 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2020 (%)	July 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	6,777.0	7,524.4	-9.9	12.8	5.7	7.1
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	688.7	749.9	-8.2	9.6	5.0	4.6
Kingston - Pembroke	194.7	223.2	-12.8	10.0	5.1	4.9
Muskoka - Kawarthas	167.5	176.3	-5.0	10.9	5.9	5.0
Toronto	3,290.3	3,693.4	-10.9	14.8	6.0	8.8
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	688.8	764.2	-9.9	11.5	5.3	6.2
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	688.1	765.3	-10.1	11.7	5.3	6.4
London	326.4	330.5	-1.2	10.1	5.7	4.4
Windsor - Sarnia	255.5	303.2	-15.7	13.1	6.2	6.9
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	144.2	161.7	-10.8	8.6	3.8	4.8
Northeast	243.0	250.8	-3.1	9.3	6.8	2.5
Northwest	89.8	106.0	-15.3	9.7	5.6	4.1

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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