



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

November 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 – The Ontario unemployment rate climbed up in November 2019

- Employment in the province expanded by 15,400 (+0.2%) in November
- However, unemployment increased sharply by 19,700 (+4.7%) over the same period
- As a result, the Ontario unemployment rate climbed up from 5.3% to 5.6% for November

Employment in Ontario expanded by 15,400 (+0.2%) from October to November 2019, to reach 7.52 million. While full-time employment (+30,900; +0.5%) observed a strong rebound after a decrease the previous month, part-time employment (-15,500; -1.1%) fell for the first time in four months.

In addition, unemployment in the province increased sharply (+19,700; +4.7%) in November, also for the first time in four months. This resulted in the unemployment rate climbing up from 5.3% to 5.6%, as the provincial labour market negated the recent decreases in the unemployment rate the last few months. The Ontario participation rate inched up slightly from 64.9% to 65.1% over the month, as the labour force expanded by 35,100 (+0.4%).

Youth employment figures gained 5,900 (+0.6%) in November, as full-time youth employment bounced back strongly (+14,600; +3.0%) after two months of declines. Youth employment among males rose by 7,100 (+1.5%), while female youth employment fell by 1,100 (-0.2%).

Correspondingly, the youth unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to 12.5% in November. This was accompanied by an expansion in the youth labour force, as well as a rise in the participation rate from 60.7% to 61.2%. Between November 2018 and November 2019, estimates show stronger employment conditions for youth, with gains of 53,400 (+5.7%) over the year.

Overall Canadian employment was down (-71,200; -0.4%) from October to November 2019, the largest decrease in a number of years. Total employment was dragged down by a decline in both full-time employment (-38,400; -

0.2%) and part-time employment (-32,800; -0.9%). Ontario (+15,400; +0.2%) was in fact the only contributor to employment gains in Canada. Employment fell or remained flat in all other nine provinces, with the largest employment losses observed in Quebec (-45,100; -1.0%), followed by Alberta (-18,200; -0.8%) and British Columbia (-18,200; -0.7%).

Across Canada, the labour force remained flat in November with unemployment climbing by 71,600 (+6.4%), raising the national unemployment rate from 5.5% to 5.9% over the month, reflecting the highest level since August 2018. Meanwhile, the participation rate (65.6%) and employment rate (61.7%) fell over this period.

Between November 2018 and November 2019, employment in Ontario increased by 234,000 (+3.2%), with gains being observed in both full-time (+172,700; +2.9%) and part-time employment (+61,200; +4.6%). The unemployment rate remained flat at 5.6% when comparing year-over-year, while both the participation rate and employment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points (p.p.) during this period.

The United States (U.S.) total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 266,000 (+0.2%) in November to reach 152.3 million, while the unemployment rate fell slightly to 3.5%.¹ Notable job gains occurred in health care and in professional and technical services. Employment also rose in manufacturing, possibly reflecting the return of workers from strike activity at GM plants in Michigan and Kentucky. Ontario exports to the U.S. declined by 1.7% between August and September 2019, after an increase of 14.1% 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.²

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

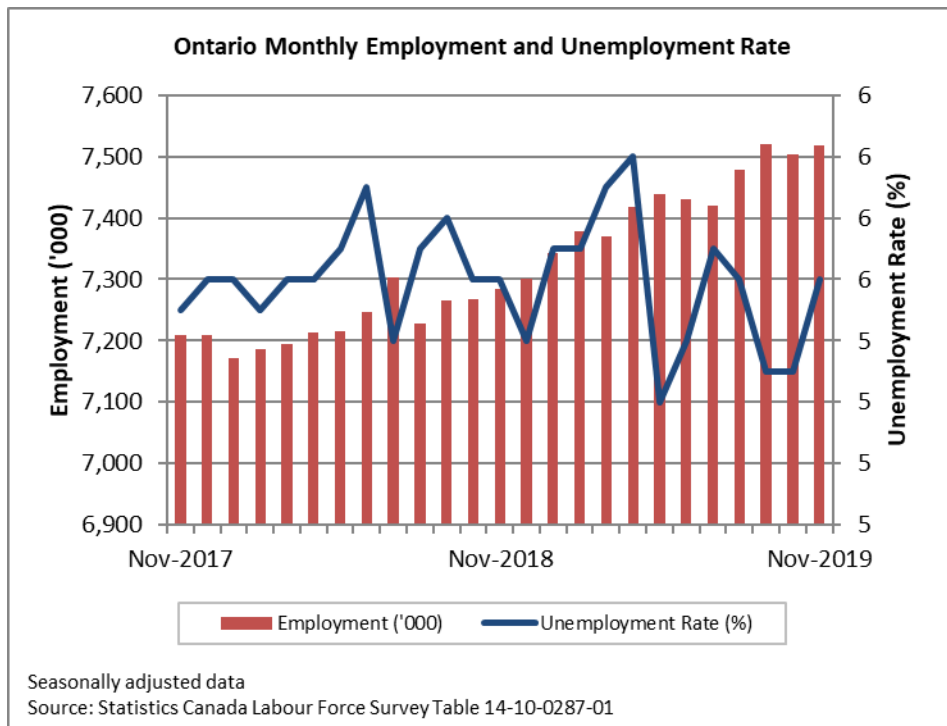
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,224.6	12,207.4	11,981.9	17.2	0.1	242.7	2.0
Labour Force ('000)	7,960.3	7,925.2	7,712.9	35.1	0.4	247.4	3.2
Employment ('000)	7,518.4	7,503.0	7,284.4	15.4	0.2	234.0	3.2
Full-Time ('000)	6,120.2	6,089.3	5,947.5	30.9	0.5	172.7	2.9
Part-Time ('000)	1,398.2	1,413.7	1,337.0	-15.5	-1.1	61.2	4.6
Unemployment ('000)	441.9	422.2	428.5	19.7	4.7	13.4	3.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.3	5.6	0.3	-	0.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.1	64.9	64.4	0.2	-	0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.5	61.5	60.8	0.0	-	0.7	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Staff. (2019, December 6). Employment Situation Summary. *U.S. Department of Labor*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

² Statistics Canada Staff. (2019, November 5). 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	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.6	5.3	5.6	0.3	0.0
25 years and over	4.4	4.2	4.5	0.2	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	4.5	4.2	4.7	0.3	-0.2
Women - 25 years and over	4.3	4.2	4.3	0.1	0.0
15 to 24 years	12.5	12.2	12.1	0.3	0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.5	13.4	13.6	0.1	-0.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.5	11.0	10.6	0.5	0.9

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 decline in the goods-producing sector due to losses in construction and manufacturing

Ontario's **goods-producing** sector experienced an employment decrease of 3,500 (-0.2%) in November, with employment losses reported in construction (-4,200; -0.8%) and manufacturing (-3,300; -0.4%). The utilities industry had the largest employment increase (+1,700; +3.3%) among the goods-producing sector.

Various indicators in the Ontario **manufacturing** sector point to a moderating industry in flux. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose for the third consecutive month, reaching 51.4 in November, below market expectations. Other manufacturing indicators that Markit Canada examined for its index, including factory output and new orders, increased slightly on the strength of domestic demand. However, exports sales

remain weak, influenced by lower demand from the USA after a prolonged period of trade negotiations and disputes.^{3,4} In addition, manufacturing sales in Ontario edged lower in September compared to August, and has remained flat when comparing September 2018 to September 2019.⁵

November was a mixed bag for some of Ontario's largest transportation equipment manufacturers. In early November, Bombardier Inc. carried out the first wave of a planned layoff, affecting about 122 workers at its Rail Vehicles Production Site in Thunder Bay. The other layoffs are expected to occur in December, but the total staff retrenchment of 550 previously announced in July could eventually be lessened by retirements, or with workers securing employment at other locations. With provincial support, the Bombardier Labour Action Centre opened at the end of November to assist the affected workers.^{6,7}

Employment weakened in **construction** for the second consecutive month. Yet, news events from the provincial sector were generally positive and included a significant ramping up of activities in the non-residential construction segment. On the industrial side, Corbec Inc., a Quebec steel company, will build a galvanizing plant in Hamilton that is expected to be completed late 2020.⁸ Meanwhile, NextBridge Infrastructure broke ground on the \$777M East-West Tie Line Transmission Project in Northwestern Ontario. Over 200 Indigenous people have been trained to work on the project, which is expected to be completed in 2021.⁹ In addition, Wataynikaneyap Power and Valard LP will begin construction of the \$1.9B Transmission Project, which will connect 17 remote First Nations communities to the Ontario power grid, resulting in approximately 769 construction jobs in northwestern Ontario.¹⁰

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the **goods-producing** sector remained level (-1,100; -0.1%) overall. There were declines in the manufacturing (-18,900; -2.5%) and utilities (-6,000; -10.0%) sectors. Employment increased in three industries, notably in construction (+9,900; +1.9%) and agriculture (+9,600; +14.0%).

The services-producing sector experienced fourth consecutive month of employment gains

Employment increased in the **services-producing** sector for the fourth consecutive month, with 18,900 (+0.3%) added between October and November. The largest gains were in business, building and other support services (+13,100; +4.2%), and transportation and warehousing (+8,300; +2.1%). Five industries reported employment losses, including wholesale and retail trade (-6,300; -0.6%), and public administration (-5,000; -1.3%).

³ IHS Markit. (2019, December 2). *Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI*. IHS Markit. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/353a7614da3c4c9fb2f778a691f4b387>

⁴ Trading Economics. Canada Manufacturing PMI. Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

⁵ Statistics Canada. Table 16-10-0048-01 - Manufacturing sales by industry and province, monthly. Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1610004801>

⁶ Vis, M. (2019, November 7). Bombardier layoffs in Thunder Bay to start at end of the week. *CBC News*. Retrieved <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/bombardier-layoffs-1.5350676>

⁷ CBC News Staff. (2019, November 29). Province steps up with \$613K for Bombardier workers. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-bombardier-labour-centre-1.5378883>

⁸ Hogue, T. (2019, November 4). Quebec steel company building \$50M plant in Hamilton's Red Hill Business Park. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/9673088-quebec-steel-company-building-50m-plant-in-hamilton-s-red-hill-business-park/>

⁹ Cameron, G. (2019, November 5). \$777-million northwestern Ontario transmission line project works begin. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2019/11/777-million-northwestern-ontario-transmission-line-project-works-begin>

¹⁰ Wataynikaneyap Power. (2019, October 29). Wataynikaneyap Power Announces Financial Close and Issues Notice to Proceed on Transmission Project. Watay Power. Retrieved from <https://www.wataypower.ca/updates/wataynikaneyap-power-announces-financial-close-and-issues-notice-to-proceed-on-wataynikaneyap-power-transmission-project>

Employment in **transportation and warehousing** should continue to benefit from business expansions and investments in the sector, including the opening of an advanced Purolator Inc. sorting facility in North York.¹¹ Adding to the positive news, Skyservice purchased a 60,000-sq.-ft. hangar at the Muskoka Airport to provide aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services.¹²

On the downside, the Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Company intends to lay off about 1,600 workers in North America, as demand for rail transportation is being affected by less disposable consumption. The impact of these layoffs in Ontario is unknown at the time. The month also saw an eight-day strike action by various company staff in Canada over issues such as working conditions and health care benefits. The strike ended after a tentative deal was reached on November 26.¹³

Employment fell in the Ontario retail and wholesale **trade** sector in November, as several companies announced significant layoffs to take place in coming months. Lowe's Canada will close nine stores across its Rona, Lowe's and Reno-Depot banners in Ontario on January 31, 2020, although affected employees will be offered opportunities to transfer to other stores.¹⁴ In addition, Motherhood Maternity will close 13 of its Canadian stores, including four in Ontario, with one each in Kitchener, Ottawa, Pickering and Sudbury.¹⁵

The **services-producing** sector posted a year-over-year employment growth of 235,000 (+4.0%). The increase was led by health care and social assistance (+58,900; +6.8%), professional, scientific and technical services (+51,300 +8.0%), and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+47,600; +8.5%). Two sectors recorded losses, including business, building and other support services (-10,300; -3.1%).

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,518.4	7,503.0	7,284.4	15.4	0.2	234.0	3.2
Goods-producing sector	1,455.7	1,459.2	1,456.8	-3.5	-0.2	-1.1	-0.1
Agriculture	78.0	76.5	68.4	1.5	2.0	9.6	14.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.6	35.8	32.3	0.8	2.2	4.3	13.3
Utilities	53.8	52.1	59.8	1.7	3.3	-6.0	-10.0
Construction	542.6	546.8	532.7	-4.2	-0.8	9.9	1.9

¹¹ Toronto.com Staff. (2019, November 14). Purolator opens advanced sorting facility in North York. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9699844-purolator-opens-advanced-sorting-facility-in-north-york/>

¹² HBR. (2019, October 29). Skyservice Moves Into Muskoka Airport. 88.7FM The Bay Muskoka. Retrieved from <https://muskokaradio.com/news/article/skyservice-moves-into-muskoka-airport>

¹³ Jackson, E. (2019, December 3). CN Rail says workers' strike to hurt profit growth in 2019. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <https://business.financialpost.com/transportation/rail/update-1-cn-rail-says-workers-strike-to-hurt-profit-growth-in-2019>

¹⁴ Lowe's Canada Staff. (2019, November 20). Lowe's Canada announces the closure of 34 underperforming stores across the country (26 Ronas, 6 Lowe's, and 2 Reno-Depots). *Cision Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/lowe-s-canada-announces-the-closure-of-34-underperforming-stores-across-the-country-26-ronas-6-lowes-and-2-reno-depots--856432590.html>

¹⁵ Retail Insider Staff. (2019, October 28). Motherhood Maternity Closing Canadian Stores, Spanish Fragrance Retailer to Enter Canada. Retail Insider. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/10/brief-motherhood-maternity-closing-canadian-stores-spanish-fragrance-retailer-to-enter-canada-pilgrim-arlene-dickinson-shutter-professionals-costco-business-centre>

Manufacturing	744.7	748.0	763.6	-3.3	-0.4	-18.9	-2.5
Services-producing sector	6,062.7	6,043.8	5,827.7	18.9	0.3	235.0	4.0
Trade	1,103.9	1,110.2	1,079.7	-6.3	-0.6	24.2	2.2
Transportation and warehousing	405.5	397.2	392.0	8.3	2.1	13.5	3.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	606.3	605.3	558.7	1.0	0.2	47.6	8.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	696.0	699.0	644.7	-3.0	-0.4	51.3	8.0
Business, building and other support services	322.9	309.8	333.2	13.1	4.2	-10.3	-3.1
Educational services	556.1	559.2	532.9	-3.1	-0.6	23.2	4.4
Health care and social assistance	927.2	922.5	868.3	4.7	0.5	58.9	6.8
Information, culture and recreation	303.0	303.1	297.5	-0.1	0.0	5.5	1.8
Accommodation and food services	461.9	454.6	463.8	7.3	1.6	-1.9	-0.4
Other services	297.5	295.4	293.5	2.1	0.7	4.0	1.4
Public administration	382.5	387.5	363.3	-5.0	-1.3	19.2	5.3

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 lead employment growth in the province

Employment grew by 160,200 (+4.6%) in the **Toronto** economic region between November 2018 and November 2019 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis), as gains were made in both full-time (+124,700; +4.3%) and part-time employment (+35,500; +5.8%). The regional unemployment rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points (p.p.) to 5.3%, while the labour force participation rate increased by 0.8 p.p. to 66.2%.

The region saw a number of announcements in November that will continue to support employment growth in future months. In the construction sector, Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Mississauga opened its 315-room hotel in the Mississauga City Centre,¹⁶ while work started on the Canadian headquarters of GF Machining Solutions and GF Piping Systems, which will occupy a 67,000-sq.-ft. facility in Vaughan.¹⁷ The Toronto retail sector also saw some positive news with the opening of a number of new stores. Winners opened a 28,000-sq.-ft. store at Heartland Town Centre in Mississauga,¹⁸ while Giant Tiger opened a 17,000-sq.-ft. store in Brampton.¹⁹ As well, Concentrix Corp. is looking to fill almost 300 full-time customer service positions at its call centre in Mississauga.²⁰

¹⁶ Kostuch Media Ltd. (2019, November 5). Delta Hotel opens in Mississauga. *Hotelier Magazine*. Retrieved from <https://www.hoteliermagazine.com/delta-hotel-opens-in-mississauga/>

¹⁷ Canadian Manufacturing Staff. (2019, November 7). GF divisions expand in Canada with new Vaughan facility. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/gf-divisions-expand-in-canada-with-new-vaughan-facility-241937/>

¹⁸ Vertolli, R. (2019, November 3). New Winners at Heartland Town Centre in Mississauga. *Mississauga.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/9674130-new-winners-at-heartland-town-centre-in-mississauga/>

¹⁹ Canadian Grocer Staff. (2019, November 1). Giant Tiger continues Ontario expansion. *Canadian Grocer*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadiangrocer.com/top-stories/giant-tiger-continues-ontario-expansion-90799>

²⁰ Newport, A. (2019, November 4). Company creating close to 300 new jobs in Mississauga. *insauga.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/company-creating-close-to-300-new-jobs-in-mississauga>

However, a number of layoff announcements were also noted in the Toronto region. Toronto-based financial planning service start-up Planswell closed its offices, resulting in 57 job losses;²¹ while Looka Inc., an artificial intelligence and machine learning graphics design company in Toronto, laid off 32 employees.²² In the regional media sector, TorStar Corp. announced it will shutter its StarMetro newspaper in December and will lay off 73 employees in the editorial, advertising and distribution departments across Canada;²³ while the Canadian Broadcasting Company's news division announced a workforce reduction of 35 positions, most of them in the broadcaster's Toronto newsroom.²⁴

The **Ottawa** economic region recorded the sharpest increase in employment among the eleven regions in Ontario. It saw a notable increase in employment (+60,600; +8.6%), with significant gains in both full-time (+50,000; +8.7%) and part-time (+10,600; +8.2%) employment. The regional unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 3.7%, the second lowest rate in the province, while the participation rate increased from 64.4% to 68.3%. Some job creation announcements in November included the start of the Stage 2 of the Ottawa LRT project, with expected completion in 2025,²⁵ as well as the Ottawa Police Service hiring 12 new police officers.²⁶

Employment rose by 27,300 (+3.6%) in the **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region, with the majority in full-time employment (+20,900; +3.5%), while the regional unemployment rate declined from 5.2% to 4.4% between November 2018 and November 2019. Goldleaf Pharm Inc., a cannabis producer and subsidiary of FIGR Norfolk Inc., received approval for a major expansion in the north end of Simcoe.²⁷ Construction also started on a cannabis facility under the name Greenherb Farms in Fort Erie, creating about 40 jobs once open.²⁸ On the retail front, Farm Boy will open a new location in Burlington at the start of December, creating 120 jobs.²⁹

The **Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie** economic region experienced employment growth of 12,700 (+1.7%), with gains in part-time employment (+10,800; +7.9%) leading the way. Positive job news in the region included VVDN Technologies Pvt Ltd., an international technology manufacturing company, opening a production facility in Waterloo,

²¹ Soltys, D. (2019, November 4). Planswell Shuts Down. *betakit.com*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/planswell-shuts-down/>

²² Simpson, M. (2019, November 7). Looka lays off 80% of staff as failed rebrand from Logojoy cut revenue in half. *betakit.com*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/looka-lays-off-80-percent-of-staff-as-failed-rebrand-from-logojoy-cut-revenue-in-half/>

²³ Patil, A. (2019, November 19). Toronto Star shutting down StarMetro newspapers. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/toronto-star-star-metro-closing-1.5365326>

²⁴ Craig, S. (2019, November 15). Layoffs hit CBC News amid operating budget decline. *Canadian National Observer*. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2019/11/15/news/layoffs-hit-cbc-news-amid-operating-budget-decline>

²⁵ Crawford, B. (2019, November 13). Construction of LRT Stage 2 leaving its mark on the city. *Ottawa Citizen*. Retrieved from <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/construction-of-lrt-phase-2-leaving-its-mark-on-the-city>

²⁶ Pritchard, J. (2019, November 12). Ottawa police use video 'job-posals' to announce new batch of officers. *OttawaMatters.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.ottawamatters.com/local-news/ottawa-police-use-video-job-posals-to-announce-new-batch-of-officers-1844143>

²⁷ Sonnenberg, M. (2019, November 12). Cannabis expansion good to go. *Simcoe Reformer*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoereformer.ca/news/local-news/cannabis-expansion-good-to-go>

²⁸ Culic, J. (2019, November 16). Neighbours fuming over new cannabis farm in Fort Erie. *Fort Erie Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9698470-neighbours-fuming-over-new-cannabis-farm-in-fort-erie/>

²⁹ Cilliers, R. (2019, November 14). Farm Boy sets opening date for Burlington store. *Burlington Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/9702464-farm-boy-sets-opening-date-for-burlington-store/>

with plans to hire between 250 to 300 engineers.³⁰ Construction has also started on VETTA Nordic Spa at the Horseshoe Valley Resort in Oro-Medonte.³¹

The **Stratford-Bruce Peninsula** economic region continues to display signs of economic expansion. The region experienced a notable increase in employment (+11,600; +7.6%). However, this growth occurred mostly in part-time employment (+10,200; +35.5%). The unemployment rate fell 1.2 p.p. to 2.4%, the lowest regional unemployment rate in the province. Notable employment news from the region include Stevcon Packaging & Logistics Ltd. opening their new office and warehouse in Owen Sound,³² and Siemens Canada Limited opening an office in Port Elgin.³³ Both companies will provide support to the Bruce Power's Life Extension Program. In retail news, both Marshalls and PetSmart will open in the Orangeville Mall.³⁴

Year-over-year employment growth was also seen in the **Kingston-Pembroke** (+2,600; +1.2%) and **London** (+8,400; +2.5%) economic regions.

Muskoka-Kawarthas records the largest employment loss and Northern Ontario continues to experience losses

For the second consecutive month, the **Muskoka-Kawarthas** economic region posted the largest employment decrease (-15,400; -8.2%) in Ontario (year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted), with the bulk of the losses observed in full-time employment (-13,400; -9.0%). However, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.1% year-over-year, as labour force conditions were dominated by a drop in the participation rate, which fell 5.7 p.p. to 54.2%, the lowest rate in the province. Despite the decline in the labour force figures, some positive news announcements were seen throughout the region. Skyservice purchased a 60,000-sq.-ft. hangar at the Muskoka Airport to provide aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services.³⁵ In addition, Tedescon Infrastructure Ltd. began construction on the \$4M Salmon Ave. road extension project in Bracebridge to be completed by September 2020.³⁶

The **Northeast** economic region suffered the second largest drop in employment in the province (-8,100; -3.2%), with the majority of losses being realized in full-time employment (-7,800; -3.8%). While the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5%, the participation rate fell by 1.7 percentage points to 57.6%, as the number of people in

³⁰ CBC News Staff. (2019, November 19). Indian tech company VVDN to open in Waterloo region, hire 250 people. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/tech-company-vvdn-moving-waterloo-region-1.5363882>

³¹ OrilliaMatters Staff. (2019, November 15). Ground broken on luxurious, outdoor, year-round day spa. *OrilliaMatters*. Retrieved from <https://www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/ground-broken-on-luxurious-outdoor-year-round-day-spa-1849933>

³² Lindsay, S. (2019, November 14). Another Bruce Power supplier opens new office and warehouse in Owen Sound. *Saugeen Times*. Retrieved from <https://saugeentimes.com/another-bruce-power-supplier-opens-new-office-and-warehouse-in-owen-sound/>

³³ Lindsay, S. (2019, November 19). Siemens Canada Limited establishes local presence. *Kincardine Times*. Retrieved from <https://kincardinetimes.com/siemens-canada-limited-establishes-local-presence/>

³⁴ Young, J. (2019, November 19). Orangeville Mall Changes Underway. *Bayshore Broadcasting*. Retrieved from https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=113358

³⁵ Muskoka Radio Staff. (2019, October 29). Skyservice Moves Into Muskoka Airport. *88.7FM The Bay Muskoka*. Retrieved from <https://muskokaradio.com/news/article/skyservice-moves-into-muskoka-airport>

³⁶ Crosse, D. (2019, November 18). What's going on here? Salmon Avenue extension underway. *MuskokaRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/9707863-what-s-going-on-here-salmon-avenue-extension-underway/>

the regional labour force dropped significantly. Within the region, CarePartners, a health home care service, announced it is closing its Sudbury office and laying off 29 employees.³⁷

The **Northwest** economic region also experienced an employment loss, of 3,500 (-3.4%). However, some positive news came from NextBridge Infrastructure, which broke ground on the \$777M East-West Tie Line Transmission Project in Northwestern Ontario. Over 200 Indigenous people have been trained to work on the project which is expected to be completed in 2021.³⁸ Furthermore, Wataynikaneyap Power and Valard LP will start construction of the \$1.9B Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project, which will connect 17 remote First Nations communities to the Ontario power grid, resulting in approximately 769 construction jobs in northwestern Ontario.³⁹ On a negative note, Barrick Gold Corporation will downsize operations at its Hemlo gold mine in Thunder Bay.⁴⁰

The **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region also noted a decrease in employment (-5,000; -1.6%), stemming largely from a sizable drop in full-time employment (-10,800; -4.4%), partially offset by gains in part-time employment (+5,800; +9.3%). The unemployment rate rose significantly by 1.1 p.p. to 6.0%, while the participation rate fell a full percentage point to 59.4%. Nevertheless, Gateway Casinos and Entertainment will open a new gaming facility at Hiawatha Horse Park in Sarnia in late January 2020 and employ 60 people,⁴¹ while construction started on the \$3.5M renovation and expansion at Chatham-Kent Secondary School.⁴²

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	November 2019 ('000)	November 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	November 2019 (%)	November 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,530.1	7,279.0	3.4	4.9	5.2	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	768.6	708.0	8.6	3.7	4.2	-0.5
Kingston - Pembroke	211.0	208.4	1.2	5.4	4.6	0.8
Muskoka - Kawarthas	173.3	188.7	-8.2	6.1	6.1	0.0
Toronto	3,681.0	3,520.8	4.6	5.3	5.9	-0.6
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	758.4	745.7	1.7	4.9	3.7	1.2
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	780.4	753.1	3.6	4.4	5.2	-0.8

³⁷ Crosse, D. (2019, November 12). CarePartners closes Sudbury office, cuts workers, following labour dispute. *Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/carepartners-closes-sudbury-office-cuts-workers-following-labour-dispute>

³⁸ Cameron, G. (2019, November 5). \$777-million northwestern Ontario transmission line project works begin. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2019/11/777-million-northwestern-ontario-transmission-line-project-works-begin>

³⁹ Wataynikaneyap Power. (2019, October 29). Wataynikaneyap Power Announces Financial Close and Issues Notice to Proceed on Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project. *Watay Power*. Retrieved from <https://www.wataypower.ca/updates/wataynikaneyap-power-announces-financial-close-and-issues-notice-to-proceed-on-wataynikaneyap-power-transmission-project>

⁴⁰ Rinne, G. (2019, October 31). Job cuts coming to Barrick's Hemlo gold mine. *TBNewswatch.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/job-cuts-coming-to-barricks-hemlo-gold-mine-1780064>

⁴¹ Dobson, C. (2019, November 16). Reborn slots facility to open with 60 new jobs and "huge" investment buzz. *The Sarnia Journal*. Retrieved from <https://thesarniajournal.ca/reborn-slots-facility-to-open-with-60-new-jobs-and-huge-investment-buzz/>

⁴² Shreve, E. (2019, November 4). Early ceremonial ground-breaking for CKSS renovation. *Chatham This Week*. Retrieved from <https://www.chathamthisweek.com/news/local-news/early-ceremonial-ground-breaking-for-ckss-renovation>

London	343.8	335.4	2.5	4.6	4.9	-0.3
Windsor - Sarnia	302.2	307.2	-1.6	6.0	4.9	1.1
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	163.5	151.9	7.6	2.4	3.6	-1.2
Northeast	247.3	255.4	-3.2	5.5	5.5	0.0
Northwest	100.8	104.3	-3.4	4.3	4.7	-0.4

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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