



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

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

OVERVIEW

Labour Force Trends – Employment Losses in Ontario continued in May 2020

- Employment decreased by 64,500 in Ontario in May 2020
- Most of the job losses were in full-time work (-59,200)
- The unemployment rate increased to 13.6%
- The unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 soared to 30.0%
- All employment losses were in the services-producing sector in May, although some sectors hit hardest by the COVID-19 shut down saw improvements

According to Statistics Canada's Guide to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), people who are on temporary layoff due to business conditions, such as the mandatory shut down from the COVID-19 pandemic, with an expectation of recall, and were available for work, are considered unemployed. This is different from people who had a job but were not at work due to illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, vacation or labour dispute who are all considered employed.¹

Employment in Ontario decreased by 64,500 in May 2020, as restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19 continue to affect the labour market. Small losses in part-time employment (-5,200) were overshadowed by the drop in full-time work (-59,200). The unemployment rate grew by 2.3 percentage points to 13.6%. This marks the fourth month in a row that the province experienced employment losses in 2020, however, the damages were a vast improvement over those experienced in March and April. The participation rate recuperated slightly to 60.1% although the employment rate was marked down to 52.0% over the month.

¹ Statistics Canada Staff. (2018, September 7). Guide to the Labour Force Survey, 2018. *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-543-g/71-543-g2018001-eng.htm>

Youth employment decreased in Ontario by 30,100 in May with all of the losses in full-time work (-33,600). The unemployment rate soared by 6.0 percentage points to reach 30.0%. Over the past year, estimates show employment conditions for youth have deteriorated, with job losses of 340,100 (-34.4%) and a decrease in the participation rate from 61.3% in May 2019 to 50.3% in May 2020. Nationally, the youth unemployment rate stood at 29.4%.

In sharp contrast, employment grew by 289,600 in Canada in May 2020. This increase marked a sign of recovery for the country. Gains were reflected in both full-time work (219,400) and part-time work (70,300) as economies partially opened. Ontario was the only province to experience employment losses over the month. This is consistent with the fact that most restrictions on economic activity remained in place in Ontario when the labour force survey took place from May 10 to May 16. Quebec accounted for nearly 80% of overall employment gains in May with other large gains in British Columbia and Alberta. Although the national unemployment rate increased to 13.7%, the employment rate recovered by 0.8 percentage points to 52.9% this month. Between May 2019 and May 2020, average hourly wages also grew by 2.3% in Canada.²

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 2,500,000 in the United States in May 2020 and the unemployment rate declined to 13.3%, reflecting a partial reopening of economic activity.³ Employment rose sharply in leisure and hospitality, construction, education and health services, and retail trade. The number of unemployed persons who were on temporary layoff decreased by 2,700,000, following a surge in April. However, the number of permanent job losses continued to rise in May by 295,000.

The provincial labour market has been substantially downgraded over the past twelve months. Employment in Ontario fell by 1,036,800 between May 2019 and May 2020 and the losses were realized in both full-time work (-629,600) and in part-time work (-407,100). The unemployment rate climbed by 8.4 percentage points and the participation rate decreased from 64.9% to 60.1% 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.⁴ Full-time student summer employment dropped by 230,100 in Ontario between May 2019 and May 2020. The unemployment rate for students jumped 25.9 percentage points to 42.0%, which was above the national rate of 39.4%. The participation and employment rates for Ontario summer students tumbled to 44.8%, and 26.0% indicating issues with available work this summer. This being said, labour market conditions for the summer job market will likely improve for students as the provincial economy continues to open.

² 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)

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020, June 05). Employment Situation Summary. *United States Department of Labor*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

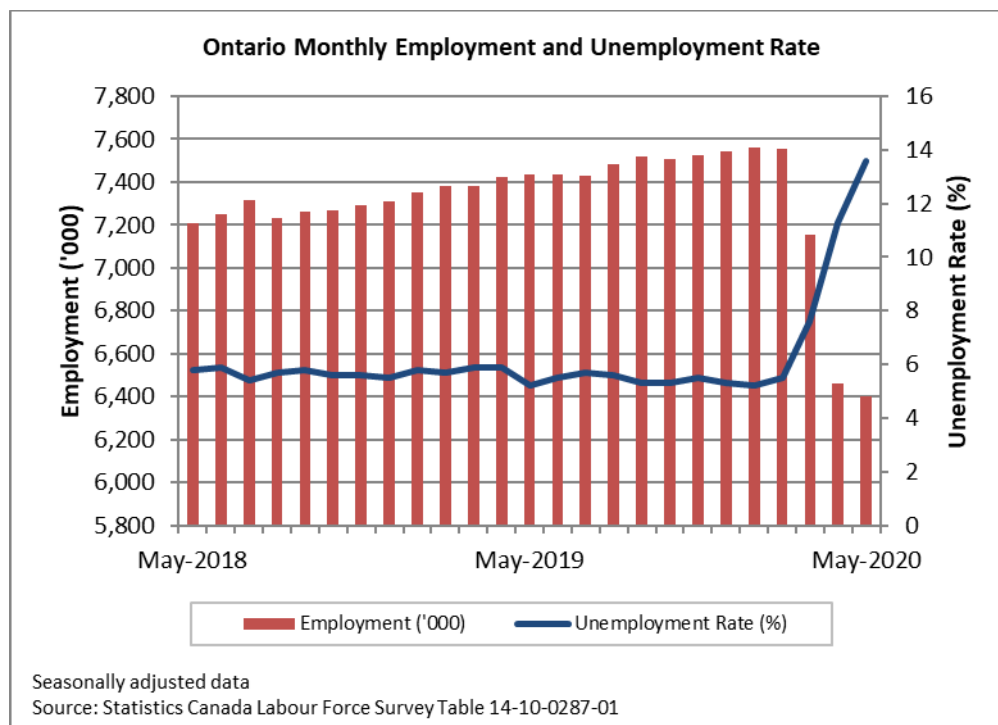
⁴ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0286-03 Labour force characteristics by province and type of student during summer months, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,307.2	12,298.2	12,093.3	9.0	0.1	213.9	1.8
Labour Force ('000)	7,402.1	7,285.6	7,844.6	116.5	1.6	-442.5	-5.6
Employment ('000)	6,398.6	6,463.1	7,435.4	-64.5	-1.0	-1,036.8	-13.9
Full-Time ('000)	5,421.9	5,481.1	6,051.5	-59.2	-1.1	-629.6	-10.4
Part-Time ('000)	976.8	982.0	1,383.9	-5.2	-0.5	-407.1	-29.4
Unemployment ('000)	1,003.4	822.4	409.2	181.0	22.0	594.2	145.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.6	11.3	5.2	2.3	-	8.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	60.1	59.2	64.9	0.9	-	-4.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	52.0	52.6	61.5	-0.6	-	-9.5	-

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	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	13.6	11.3	5.2	2.3	8.4
25 years and over	11.2	9.5	4.2	1.7	7.0
Men - 25 years and over	10.5	9.1	4.3	1.4	6.2
Women - 25 years and over	12.0	10.0	4.0	2.0	8.0
15 to 24 years	30.0	24.0	11.5	6.0	18.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	30.6	24.4	11.9	6.2	18.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	29.2	23.6	11.0	5.6	18.2

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

Modest gains in manufacturing and construction increased employment in the goods producing sector

Employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector increased by 15,300 (+1.2%) in May 2020. The increase was mostly attributed to employment gains in manufacturing (+13,700; +2.2%), and construction (+3,100; +0.7%). Significant gains were made in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+2,300; +7.1%). Additionally, employment losses occurred in agriculture (-3,700; -5.0%) and utilities (-200; -0.4%).

Employment in the Ontario **manufacturing** sector rebounded in May following a month of significant losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) recorded 40.6 in May 2020, up from 33.0 in April 2020, still registering well below the neutral 50.0 threshold.⁵ This indicates the manufacturing sector is slightly improving but still reeling from the impact ensuing from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, provincial manufacturing sales declined by 14.3% from February 2020 to March 2020.⁶ The declines were primarily attributed to durable goods, which saw a decrease of 21.1% over the period.⁷ Furthermore, the manufacturing sector may struggle going forward as the ensuing economic repercussions arising from the pandemic continue to take hold.

The Ontario manufacturing sector continued to experience layoffs and closures throughout the month of May, including Continental AG in West Perth announcing the shuttering of its automotive parts plant in March 2021, impacting more than 150 employees.⁸ Algoma Steel laid off 70 staff in Sault Ste. Marie, and Torstar Corp announced it will close the Performance printing plant in Smiths Falls, affecting 46 employees.^{9,10} On the positive front, multiple manufacturers announced a return to production. General Motors restarted some operations at its St. Catharines plant, Magna Autosystems in Belleville resumed production with approximately 250 employees, and the

⁵ Markit Economics. (2020, June 1). IHS Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. Sharp downturn in manufacturing conditions recorded in May. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/ffdaafe535324be39868a3bd1c1cad99>

⁶ Statistics Canada. Table 16-10-0048-01 Manufacturing sales by industry and province, monthly (dollars unless otherwise noted) (x 1,000)

⁷ Statistics Canada. Table 16-10-0048-01 Manufacturing sales by industry and province, monthly (dollars unless otherwise noted) (x 1,000)

⁸ Bader, A. (2020, May 1). Struggling autoparts plant in Mitchell closing. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/the-london-free-press/20200501/281625307462766>

⁹ SooToday Staff. (2020, April 30). Algoma Steel to lay off 70 full-time employees. *Sootoday*. Retrieved from <https://www.sootoday.com/coronavirus-covid-19-sault-ste-marie-news/algoma-steel-to-layoff-70-full-time-employees-2295691>

¹⁰ Pringle, J. (2020, May 20). Performance printing in Smiths Falls set to close. *CTVnews*. Retrieved from <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/performance-printing-in-smiths-falls-set-to-close-1.4950759>

General Motors plant in Oshawa recalled 60 employees to begin manufacturing of personal protective equipment.^{11,12,13} In addition, the Government of Ontario invested in Virox Technologies, which will help double production, create 20 jobs, and retain 120 positions.¹⁴

The **construction** sector witnessed a steep increase in employment in May. The increase can be attributed to provincial government easing restrictions and granting a complete return to work for the sector.¹⁵ Total building permit construction value experienced a steep decline compared to last year, led by non-residential permits.¹⁶ However, housing starts in Ontario increased by 9.8% year-over-year in April, whilst the new housing price index increased by 1.8% year-over-year.^{17,18} Several key infrastructure maintenance projects were announced or began in May. These projects included a repair and expansion on the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex,¹⁹ commencement on seasonal construction in Sudbury,²⁰ and the Government of Ontario announcing the widening of Highway 401 near Cambridge.²¹

Activity in the **mining** sector picked up as multiple outfits announced a resumption of production. Alamos Gold Inc. resumed some operations at its Island Gold Mine in Dubreuilville,²² Kirkland Gold began a gradual recall of its

¹¹ The Canadian Press Staff. (2020, May 6). General Motors to restart some Ontario production next week, most week after. *Ottawa Matters*. Retrieved from <https://www.ottawamatters.com/national-business/general-motors-to-restart-some-ontario-production-next-week-most-week-after-2328763>

¹² Smith, A. (2020, May 14). Magna Autosystems starting backup. *QuinteNews*. Retrieved from <https://www.quinte-news.com/2020/05/14/magna-autosystems-starting-back-up/>

¹³ Szekely, R. (2020, May 26). Oshawa GM plant begins production of 10 million face masks, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces. *DurhamRegion*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/9997185-video-oshawa-gm-plant-begins-production-of-10-million-face-masks-primie-minister-justin-trudeau-announces/>

¹⁴ Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. (2020, May 6). Ontario Funds Innovative Company to Help Fight COVID-19. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2020/05/ontario-funds-innovative-company-to-help-fight-covid-19.html>

¹⁵ GCR Staff. (2020, May 20). All construction resumes in Ontario, Canada. *Global Construction Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.globalconstructionreview.com/news/ontario-announces-cautious-reopening-all-construct/>

¹⁶ Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0066-01 Building permits, by type of structure and type of work (x 1,000)

¹⁷ Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0152-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, by type of dwelling unit and market type in all centres of 50,000 and over for Canada and provinces

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

¹⁹ CBC News. (2020, May 4). Urgent repair work starts on Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex on Monday. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/waterloo-memorial-recreation-complex-repairs-roof-start-1.5553867>

²⁰ Keown, M. (2020, May 20). Sudbury's construction seasons springing to life. *The Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/sudburys-construction-season-springing-to-life>

²¹ Ministry of Transportation (2020, May 20). Canada and Ontario Move Forward with Widening Highway 401 in Cambridge. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2020/05/canada-and-ontario-move-forward-with-widening-highway-401-in-cambridge.html>

²² Kelly, B. (2020, April 30). Work to restart at Dubreuilville mine. *The Sault Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/work-to-restart-at-dubreuilville-mine>

pandemic-furloughed workforce at its operations near Kirkland Lake and Cochrane,²³ and Impala Canada Ltd. announced plans to restart production at its rare metals mine in Lac des Iles near Thunder Bay by the end of May.²⁴

The labour market in the goods-producing sector continued to witness unparalleled deterioration when compared year-over-year with an employment decline of 210,400 (-14.3%). Industry losses were led by manufacturing (-125,600; -16.3%) and construction (-75,700; -13.9%). The forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas sector experienced a modest employment growth (+1,700; +5.1%).

Services-producing sector employment slumps for a third month in a row led by losses in other support services

Services-producing sector employment in Ontario decreased by 79,800 (-1.5%) in May, with the largest losses stemming from the business, building and other support sector (-33,200; -10.9%), professional, scientific and technical services (-20,200; -3.1%), and educational services (-16,900; -3.5%). In contrast, accommodation and food services (+10,200; +4.4%); finance, insurance, and real estate (+5,800; +1.0%); and public administration (+4,600; +1.2%) posted the largest gains in the province.

Employment in the **business, building and other support industry** posted the largest losses in the services sector in May, and administration and support services is the main driver, representing the majority of GDP.²⁵ Companies in this sector engage in employment services, services to buildings, and office administrative services. The provincial stay at home order, and social distancing guidelines, have heavily affected employment in this sector – as much of the work cannot be transitioned to an at-home setting. The underutilization of office space has limited the demand for building services and the slowdown in hiring has negatively affected recruiting firms.

Transportation and warehousing experienced modest employment losses in Ontario in May. A significant slowdown in air travel forced Air Canada to announce the lay-off of 20,000 employees effective June 7.²⁶ Greyhound Canada Transportation temporarily closed all bus routes and services in Canada, affecting 400 employees.²⁷ On the upside, Goodfood Market Corp. announced plans to open a fulfilment centre in Mississauga by the end of summer 2021, creating over 2,000 jobs.²⁸

²³ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2020, May 6). Kirkland Lake Gold begins workforce recall. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/kirkland-lake-gold-begins-workforce-recall-2329948>

²⁴ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2020, May 8). Impala aims for late May production restart at Lac des Iles Mine. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/thunder-bay/impala-aims-for-late-may-production-restart-at-lac-des-iles-mine-2335374>

²⁵ Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0402-01 Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories (x 1,000,000).

²⁶ CBC News. (2020, May 15). Air Canada to lay off 20,000 workers as pandemic collapses travel industry. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/air-canada-layoffs-1.5572596>

²⁷ Evans, P. (2020, May 7). Greyhound Canada suspends all bus routes in Canada due to COVID-19. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/greyhound-canada-coronavirus-1.5559180>

²⁸ Goodfood Market Corp. (2020, May 28). Goodfood Announces Flagship Fulfilment Centre in the Greater Toronto Area to Accelerate Growth of its Grocery E-Commerce Platform. *Global Newswire*. Retrieved from <http://www.globenews-wire.com/news-release/2020/05/28/2040083/0/en/Goodfood-Announces-Flagship-Fulfilment-Centre-in-the-Greater-Toronto-Area-to-Accelerate-Growth-of-its-Grocery-E-Commerce-Platform.html>

Employment in the Ontario **accommodation and food services** industry increased in May. The sector experienced a modest rebound from the devastating affects of COVID-19 and the social distancing directives from various levels of government. May saw a pattern of hotels and restaurants re-opening or announcing re-opening. The Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa will reopen on July 1,²⁹ McDonalds Canada will reopen 14 restaurants in Ontario for in-person takeout,³⁰ and the Brookstreet Hotel in Ottawa was planning to recall 60 employees as it re-opened on June 1.³¹ However, the food services industry continues to struggle as more small businesses are forced to close permanently, becoming casualties of the pandemic.

Workforce numbers in the **trade** industry edged up in Ontario in May – led almost entirely by gains in wholesale trade. An uptick in demand for home delivered goods has led to expansions and hiring at various fulfillment centres in Ontario which are all tied to the wholesale and retail sales chain. Amazon Canada Inc. is hiring over 5,000 workers across Canada in their warehouse and delivery networks, with the majority in Ontario,³² and Goodfood Market is hiring for a new fulfillment centre in the GTA.³³ Various retail stores have reopened following the provincial directive easing restrictions in the sector including Toronto Premium Outlets,³⁴ Winners, Marshalls, and Homesense.³⁵ However, various high profile closures and layoffs occurred in the retail sector. L Brands announced a permanent closure of 13 Victoria's Secret locations and one Bath & Body Works store in Canada due to the COVID-19 pandemic,³⁶ and Solutions Your Organized Living stores will permanently close nine stores in Ontario, affecting 150 employees.³⁷

The services sector experienced large employment losses when compared year-over-year (-826,400; -13.9%). The largest losses occurred in the accommodation and food services (-214,100; -46.8%), wholesale and retail trade (-211,400; -19.2%), and Information, culture and recreation (-79,100; -25.4%) industries. Finance, insurance, and real estate witnessed modest growth (+16,400, +2.8%), along with public administration (+9,600; +2.5%).

²⁹ Sali, D. (2020, May 6). O Canada! Chateau Laurier to reopen July 1, GM says. *Ottawa Business Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.obj.ca/article/o-canada-chateau-laurier-reopen-july-1-gm-says>

³⁰ CBC News. (2020, May 14). McDonald's to restart takeout service at 30 locations across Canada. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/mcdonalds-takeout-covid-1.5569517>

³¹ Thi bedeau, H. (2020, May 26). Devastated by the pandemic, Canada's hotels make plans to reopen. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/pandemic-coronavirus-covid-hotels-1.5585215>

³² Leggett, C. (2020, May 15). Amazon Is Hiring For Over 5,000 Positions Across Canada. *Narcity*. Retrieved from <https://www.narcity.com/money/ca/amazon-canada-is-hiring-over-5000-new-employees-across-the-country>

³³ Kirkwood, I. (2020, May 5). Online Grocery Startup Goodfood To Open New Fulfillment centre in Toronto. *Betakit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/online-grocery-startup-goodfood-to-open-new-fulfillment-centre-in-toronto/>

³⁴ Urciuoli, A. (2020, May 20). Major mall in Halton announces reopening amid COVID-19 pandemic. *Inhalton*. Retrieved From <https://www.inhalton.com/major-mall-in-halton-announces-reopening-amid-covid-19-pandemic>

³⁵ Raymond, T. (2020, May 26). Winners, Marshalls, HomeSense stores reopening Wednesday in Ontario, Quebec, N.S. *CTVnews*. Retrieved from <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/winners-marshalls-homesense-stores-reopening-wednesday-in-ontario-quebec-n-s-1.4954640>

³⁶ Dunham, J. (2020, May 21). Victoria's Secret, Bath & Body Works closing stores in Canada, U.S. as retailers struggle. *CTVnews*. Retrieved From <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/victoria-s-secret-bath-body-works-closing-stores-in-canada-u-s-as-retailers-struggle-1.4948122>

³⁷ Marychuk, M. (2020, May 13). Mississauga-based Solutions Your Organized Living Store lays off 150 workers. *Mississauga.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/9986404-mississauga-based-solutions-your-organized-living-store-lays-off-150-workers/>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	6,398.6	6,463.1	7,435.4	-64.5	-1.0	-1,036.8	-13.9
Goods-producing sector	1,264.0	1,248.7	1,474.4	15.3	1.2	-210.4	-14.3
Agriculture	70.4	74.1	74.1	-3.7	-5.0	-3.7	-5.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	34.8	32.5	33.1	2.3	7.1	1.7	5.1
Utilities	48.7	48.9	55.9	-0.2	-0.4	-7.2	-12.9
Construction	467.5	464.4	543.2	3.1	0.7	-75.7	-13.9
Manufacturing	642.6	628.9	768.2	13.7	2.2	-125.6	-16.3
Services-producing sector	5,134.6	5,214.4	5,961.0	-79.8	-1.5	-826.4	-13.9
Trade	888.8	885.0	1,100.2	3.8	0.4	-211.4	-19.2
Transportation and warehousing	345.3	351.9	402.4	-6.6	-1.9	-57.1	-14.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	601.0	595.2	584.6	5.8	1.0	16.4	2.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	637.6	657.8	674.3	-20.2	-3.1	-36.7	-5.4
Business, building and other support services	270.7	303.9	308.5	-33.2	-10.9	-37.8	-12.3
Educational services	469.6	486.5	540.9	-16.9	-3.5	-71.3	-13.2
Health care and social assistance	816.8	830.5	896.9	-13.7	-1.6	-80.1	-8.9
Information, culture and recreation	232.3	244.9	311.4	-12.6	-5.1	-79.1	-25.4
Accommodation and food services	242.9	232.7	457.0	10.2	4.4	-214.1	-46.8
Other services	243.3	244.4	308.1	-1.1	-0.5	-64.8	-21.0
Public administration	386.3	381.7	376.7	4.6	1.2	9.6	2.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment Losses Across All Regions in Ontario in May

Employment in the **Toronto** economic region (ER) decreased by 386,500 (-10.7%) between May 2019 and May 2020 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). Most of these job losses were in full-time employment (-226,200; -7.6%), with significant part-time employment loss as well (-160,300; -25.5%). The regional unemployment rate jumped 5.2 percentage points to 11.5%. Significant layoffs stem from many permanent closures in the accommodation and food services sector, including numerous pizzerias, cafés, and restaurants such

as Pappas Grill,³⁸ Plentea,³⁹ and The Dock on Queen.^{40,41,42,43,44,45} In the information and cultural industries, several software firms laid off employees, including Loopio,⁴⁶ Intersect,⁴⁷ and Top Hat.⁴⁸ In the transportation sector, the Toronto Transit Commission laid off another 450 employees⁴⁹ after layoffs in April. Further cuts in the public administration sector included the City of Oshawa laying off more than 400 employees.⁵⁰ In positive news, Goodfood Market Corp. is setting up a new fulfillment centre in Mississauga, which is expected to create 2,000 positions when completed.⁵¹ Furthermore, the manufacturing industry saw several hiring instances, including Canada Mask Supply opening, and hiring 90 workers.⁵²

The **Hamilton-Niagara** economic region had the second highest employment decrease in Ontario, losing 83,100 (-11.1%) jobs from May 2019 to May 2020, with the majority of losses in full-time (-57,900) employment. The regional unemployment rate continued to worsen, jumping 6.5 percentage points to 11.4%, while the participation decreased from 62.5% to 58.8% in the same period. The manufacturing industry had some negative news with the

³⁸ Monk, T. (2020, May 19). Greek restaurant shuts down permanently after more than 30 years in Toronto. *blogTO.com*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/05/greek-restaurant-shuts-down-toronto/

³⁹ Vyas, Kirti. (2020, May 18). Popular tea cafe in Toronto says it's permanently shutting down. *blogTO.com*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/05/tea-cafe-permanently-shutting-down-toronto/

⁴⁰ Carlberg, A. (2020, May 14). Toronto cafe that was like a cottage in the city has shut down permanently. *blogTO.com*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/05/toronto-cafe-cottage-city-shut-down-permanently/

⁴¹ Bond, M. (2020, May 7). Coronavirus: Restaurants across the city forced to permanently close its doors. *680NEWS*. Retrieved from <https://www.680news.com/2020/05/07/coronavirus-toronto-restaurants/>

⁴² D'Andrea, A. (2020, May 11). Crocodile Rock announces permanent closure amid COVID-19 pandemic. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/9985775-crocodile-rock-announces-permanent-closure-amid-covid-19-pandemic/>

⁴³ Mok, T. (2020, May 9). Beloved Toronto bar is closing after more than a decade. *blogTO.com*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/05/beloved-toronto-bar-closing-decade/

⁴⁴ Rubin, J. (2020, May 13). 'Devastating' loss for Toronto's LGBTQ community as Church St.'s Club 120 closes for good. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2020/05/13/devastating-loss-for-torontos-lgbtq-community-as-church-sts-club-120-closes-for-good.html>

⁴⁵ Carlberg, A. (2020, May 15). Italian restaurant known for its bustling patio shuts down in Toronto after 60 years. *blogTO.com*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/05/italian-restaurant-shuts-down-toronto-after-60-years/

⁴⁶ Kirkwood, I. (2020, May 13). Loopio lays off 11 staff as it sees increased "scrutiny" from buyers during pandemic. *Betakit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/loopio-lays-off-11-staff-as-it-sees-increased-scrutiny-from-buyers-during-pandemic/>

⁴⁷ Simpson, M. (2020, May 13). Intersect CEO departs company following recent layoffs. *Betakit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/intersect-ceo-departs-company-following-recent-layoffs/>

⁴⁸ Kirkwood, I. (2020, May 12). Top Hat restructures, makes staff reductions as COVID-19 affects higher education. *Betakit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/top-hat-restructures-makes-staff-reductions-as-covid-19-affects-higher-education/>

⁴⁹ Feinstein, C. (2020, May 27). 450 more TTC employees temporarily laid off. *Daily Hive*. Retrieved from <https://dailyhive.com/toronto/450-more-ttc-employees-temporarily-laid-off-toronto-transit>

⁵⁰ Szekely, R. (2020, May 11). More than 400 layoffs and \$2M: the cost of the coronavirus to the City of Oshawa. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/9973593-more-than-400-layoffs-and-2m-the-cost-of-the-coronavirus-to-the-city-of-oshawa/>

⁵¹ Goodfood Market Corp. (2020, May 28). Goodfood Announces Flagship Fulfillment Centre in the Greater Toronto Area to Accelerate Growth of its Grocery E-Commerce Platform. *Global Newswire*. Retrieved from <http://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2020/05/28/2040083/0/en/Goodfood-Announces-Flagship-Fulfillment-Centre-in-the-Greater-Toronto-Area-to-Accelerate-Growth-of-its-Grocery-E-Commerce-Platform.html>

⁵² Leysecki, S. (2020, May 23). Face mask production a lifeline for Toronto small business. *NOW Toronto*. Retrieved from <https://nowtoronto.com/lifestyle/finance/face-masks-toronto-business-lifeline/>

permanent closure of Cascades Inc., affecting 45 employees,⁵³ and Big Head Wines laid off 10 employees.⁵⁴ Some positive news included Sitel Group hiring 400 employees for its St. Catharines call centre,⁵⁵ Niagara region hired additional homeless outreach workers,⁵⁶ and a new Canadian Tire store opened in Niagara Falls.⁵⁷

Employment fell in the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region (-66,000; -21.6%) from May 2019 to May 2020, with the majority of these in full-time work (-43,900; -18.2%). The unemployment rate jumped 9.5 percentage points to 15.4%, the highest in Ontario, as the participation rate fell 8.3 percentage points to 52.2%, the lowest in Ontario. Some negative news from the region included the agricultural sector, as cannabis producer Tilray closed a greenhouse in Leamington,⁵⁸ and Aphria Inc. laid off 12 workers.⁵⁹ Positive employment news includes Essex-Windsor EMS hiring 12 doffing assistants,⁶⁰ and Agway of Cape Cod hiring part-time workers for its nurseries and greenhouses.⁶¹

The fourth highest loss of employment from May 2019 to May 2020 was in the **Kitchener-Waterloo** economic region (-64,400; -8.6%), where the unemployment rate jumped 5.0 percentage points to 10.8%. The food and accommodation industry had several permanent closures, including Ledger's Tap & Grill,⁶² Burger Royale Oro,⁶³ and Pie Wood Fired Pizza.⁶⁴ Other closures include Plasticity Labs,⁶⁵ as well as Dis-A-Ray Antiques, The Truth Beauty

⁵³ The Canadian Press Staff. (2020, May 27). Cascades to close containerboard plant in Burlington affecting 45 workers. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/burlington-containerboard-1.5586229>

⁵⁴ Chandler, J. (2020, May 21). COVID-19 isn't giving Ontario wineries time to breathe. *TVO*. Retrieved from <https://www.tvo.org/node/424088>

⁵⁵ Niagara Falls Review Staff. (2020, May 13). Sitel hiring 400+ at St. Catharines call centre. *Niagara Falls Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/9987221-sitel-hiring-400-at-st-catharines-call-centre/>

⁵⁶ Benner, A. (2020, May 8). Niagara triples its team of outreach workers to assist homeless. *Niagara Falls Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/9973636-niagara-triples-its-team-of-outreach-workers-to-assist-homeless/>

⁵⁷ Langley, A. (2020, May 11). New Canadian Tire store open for business in Niagara Falls. *St. Catharines Standard*. Retrieved from <https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/9985438-new-canadian-tire-store-open-for-business-in-niagara-falls/>

⁵⁸ David George-Cosh (2020, May 26). Tilray to save \$7.5M, layoffs expected from greenhouse closure. *BNN Bloomberg*. Retrieved from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/tilray-to-save-7-5m-layoffs-expected-from-greenhouse-closure-1.1441343>

⁵⁹ David George-Cosh. (2020, May 08). Aphria sheds staff, including marketing boss, amid strategic shift. *BNN Bloomberg*. Retrieved from <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/aphria-sheds-staff-including-marketing-boss-amid-strategic-shift-1.1433586>

⁶⁰ Dale Molnar. (2020, May 07). Essex-Windsor EMS hiring 12 'doffing' assistants to help staff remove, wash PPE. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/essex-windsor-ems-hire-12-doffing-assistants-remove-wash-ppe-1.5559023>

⁶¹ Justin Saunders. (2020, May 13). Agway of Cape Cod Hiring for Seasonal Positions. *Windsor News*. Retrieved from <https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/agway-of-cape-cod-hiring-for-seasonal-positions/>

⁶² Gueph Mercury Staff. (2020, May 8). Guelph bar and restaurant closes doors during coronavirus pandemic. *Guelph Mercury Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/9972818-guelph-bar-and-restaurant-closes-doors-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

⁶³ Matys, F. (2020, May 8). Burger Royale Oro shutting down due to COVID-19 impacts. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/9972903-burger-royale-oro-shutting-down-due-to-covid-19-impacts/>

⁶⁴ Edwards, J. (2020, May 27). COVID-19 forces Pie Wood Fired Pizza Joint to close Collingwood location. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/9997544-covid-19-forces-pie-wood-fired-pizza-joint-to-close-collingwood-location/>

⁶⁵ Verolatto, T. (2020, April 30). Kitchener's Plasticity Labs says it is closing permanently. *CTV News Kitchener*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/kitchener-s-plasticity-labs-says-it-is-closing-permanently-1.4919064>

Company, and Shibui Yoga Studio.⁶⁶ Bingemans Grand Experiences,⁶⁷ and the Grand River Conservation Authority⁶⁸ also laid off significant portions of their staff. Some positive employment news comes from the construction industry, as several projects got underway, including a \$30M expansion project on the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex,⁶⁹ MennoHomes broke ground on a \$15M affordable housing project,⁷⁰ and a \$1.2M road and infrastructure repair project in Orangeville began.⁷¹ Further, several cannabis retail businesses are coming online, including Starbuds Cannabis Company opening 5 regional stores,⁷² and Sessions Cannabis opening a store in Kitchener.⁷³

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2020 (‘000)	May 2019 (‘000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2020 (%)	May 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	6,632.0	7,376.9	-10.1	11.0	5.9	5.1
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	676.2	723.2	-6.5	8.1	5.4	2.7
Kingston - Pembroke	192.3	225.6	-14.8	11.8	5.1	6.7
Muskoka - Kawarthas	162.1	173.3	-6.5	10.9	6.1	4.8
Toronto	3,234.6	3,621.1	-10.7	11.5	6.3	5.2
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	682.7	747.1	-8.6	10.8	5.8	5.0
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	665.4	748.5	-11.1	11.4	4.9	6.5
London	313.6	329.5	-4.8	10.9	5.0	5.9
Windsor - Sarnia	239.8	305.8	-21.6	15.4	5.9	9.5
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	145.9	151.2	-3.5	9.3	4.7	4.6
Northeast	232.9	248.4	-6.2	9.6	7.0	2.6
Northwest	86.4	103.2	-16.3	10.9	5.8	5.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

⁶⁶ Sharpe, K. (2020, May 12). Small businesses in Guelph forced to shutter permanently amid COVID-19 closures. *CTV Kitchener*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/small-businesses-in-guelph-forced-to-shutter-permanently-amid-covid-19-closures-1.4935330>

⁶⁷ Jackson, B. (2020, May 5). ‘Some will not recover’: Seasonal sector needs help and guidance, and fast, says explore Waterloo region. *CambridgeTimes.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/9969500--some-will-not-recover-seasonal-sector-needs-help-and-guidance-and-fast-says-explore-waterloo-region/>

⁶⁸ Silva, E. (2020, May 13). GRCA announces layoffs, projects close to \$5 million loss due to COVID-19. *CTV News Kitchener*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/grca-announces-layoffs-projects-close-to-5-million-loss-due-to-covid-19-1.4938794>

⁶⁹ CBC News Staff. (2020, May 4). Urgent repair work starts on Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex on Monday. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/waterloo-memorial-recreation-complex-repairs-roof-start-1.5553867>

⁷⁰ Adams, B. (2020, May 27). Construction begins on affordable housing project. *Kitchener Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenertoday.com/local-news/construction-begins-on-affordable-housing-project-2389476>

⁷¹ Halliday, C. (2020, April 30). ‘Essential’ construction work on Orangeville street to begin in May. *Orangeville.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.orangeville.com/news-story/9966116--essential-construction-work-on-orangeville-street-to-begin-in-may/>

⁷² Pritchard, B. (2020, May 12).

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⁷³ Adams, B. (2020, May 19). Kitchener getting second pot shop. *Kitchener Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenertoday.com/local-news/kitchener-getting-second-pot-shop-2360361>

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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