



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

January 2021



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

- Employment decreased by 153,500 in January 2021
- The reduction was mainly due to losses in part-time employment (-152,700)
- The provincial unemployment rate rose to 10.2%, and is above the national rate

Ontario's job market suffered a setback this month after stabilising in the previous month, based on seasonally adjusted data. Total employment declined by 153,500 (2.1%) in January 2021, due to a large loss in part-time employment (-152,700; -12.0%). The unemployment rate rose to 10.2%, a 0.6 percentage point difference from the previous month, even though less people participated in the workforce. The participation rate reached 64.2% in January, down from 65.3% in December 2020.

Currently, the province has nearly 409,000 fewer jobs (-5.5%) compared to January 2020.

Youth employment in Ontario fell by 90,100 (-9.6%) in January, with the 6,100 gain in full-time employment far outpaced by losses in part-time employment (-96,200). The youth unemployment rate moved up to 21.8% in January 2021, and is more than double the rate reported in January 2020. Sectors where a higher share of youth are usually employed, such as retail and restaurants, continue to scale back operations due to COVID-19, and this is having a significant impact on these workers.

Employment in Canada decreased by 212,800 (-1.2%), and the unemployment rate edged up by 0.6 percentage points to reach 9.4%, performing well below analysts' expectations.¹ The employment loss was led by Ontario (-153,500) and Quebec (-97,900), while Alberta reported the highest gain (+20,800).

¹ Hagan, S. (2021, February 4). Fewer Job Losses Seen in January as Canada Adapts to Lockdowns. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-04/canada-s-labor-market-likely-handled-lockdowns-better-in-january

The United States (US) total nonfarm payroll employment changed slightly (+49,000) in January. Significant employment gains were reported in professional and business services, and in both public and private education, but these were offset by losses in leisure and hospitality, retail trade, health care, and transportation and warehousing.²

The month saw important developments in the United States-Canada relations. An initial discussion took place on January 22nd between Canada and the new US administration, and among other points, was focussed on working closely to defeat COVID-19 guided by expert advice, and in future, consulting closely to avoid measures that may constrain bilateral trade, supply chains, and economic growth.³ On a challenging note, the US revoked the permit that would allow the Keystone XL pipeline expansion project to continue, citing environmental concerns.⁴ This infrastructure project with a 1,947km line from Hardisty, Alberta, to Steele City in Nebraska was expected to contribute over \$2B to the Canadian economy if completed.⁵

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2021	December 2020	January 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,280.5	12,274.5	12,158.5	6.0	0.0	122.0	1.0
Labour Force ('000)	7,887.9	8,011.3	7,909.7	-123.4	-1.5	-21.8	-0.3
Employment ('000)	7,085.5	7,239.0	7,494.1	-153.5	-2.1	-408.6	-5.5
Full-Time ('000)	5,965.9	5,966.8	6,120.6	-0.9	0.0	-154.7	-2.5
Part-Time ('000)	1,119.6	1,272.3	1,373.5	-152.7	-12.0	-253.9	-
						18.5	
Unemployment ('000)	802.4	772.3	415.6	30.1	3.9	386.8	93.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.2	9.6	5.3	0.6	-	4.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.2	65.3	65.1	-1.1	-	-0.9	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.7	59.0	61.6	-1.3	-	-3.9	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

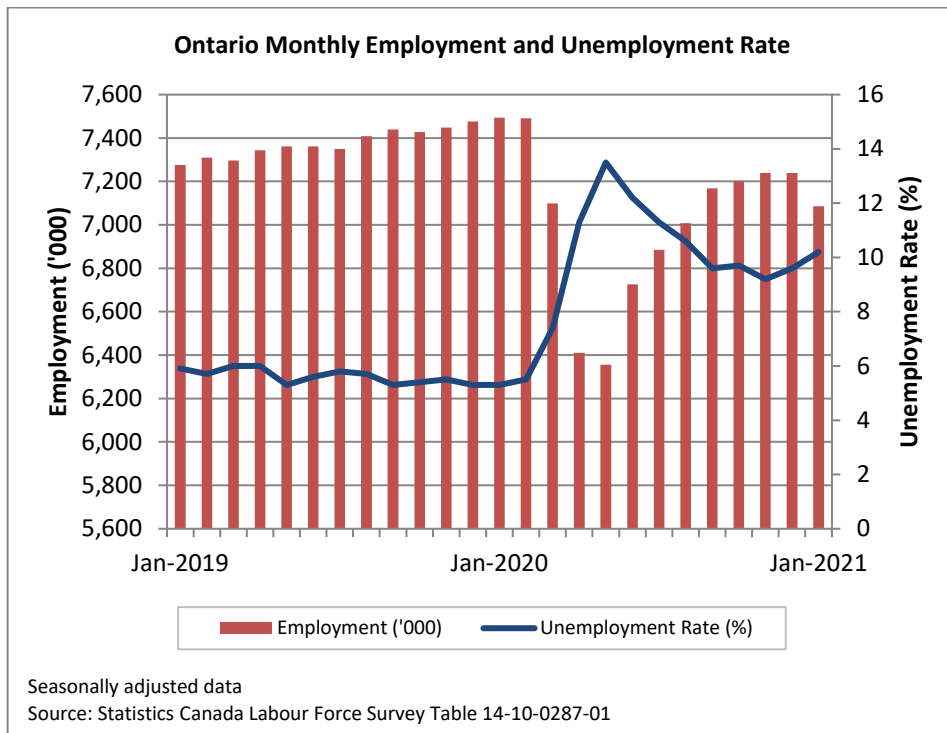
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

² Bureau of Labor Statistics. Page 1. *United States Department of Labour*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>

³(2021, January 22). Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States of America Joe Biden. *Office of the Prime Minister of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

⁴ Jackson, H. (2021, January 20). Biden revokes presidential permit for Keystone XL pipeline expansion on 1st day. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/7588853/biden-cancels-keystone-xl>

⁵Government of Alberta. Investing in Keystone XL pipeline. Retrieved from <https://www.alberta.ca/investing-in-keystone-xl-pipeline.aspx#jumplinks-1>



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2021	December 2020	January 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	10.2	9.6	5.3	0.6	4.9
25 years and over	8.3	7.6	4.4	0.7	3.9
Men - 25 years and over	8.0	7.4	4.2	0.6	3.8
Women - 25 years and over	8.7	7.8	4.6	0.9	4.1
15 to 24 years	21.8	21.2	10.4	0.6	11.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.9	18.4	10.7	3.5	11.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	21.6	24.1	10.0	-2.5	11.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment fell in the goods-producing sector with losses across all industries

Employment decreased in Ontario’s **goods-producing sector** by 28,400 (-1.9%) in January 2021, driven by losses in manufacturing (-17,700; -2.2%). Construction reported a slight decline (-4,200; -0.8%), followed by agriculture (-4,000; -5.4%). Compared to pre-pandemic levels in February 2020, total employment in the goods-producing sector was down 30,100 in Ontario.

Employment has largely trended upwards in the **manufacturing** industry over the last several months but moderated to start the year with losses of 17,700 in January. The Canadian Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) decreased to 54.4 in January as well.⁶ Though growth softened, overall activity was positive with output and new order volumes rising while higher operating and input costs, restrictions, and border disruptions continue to hamper manufacturers. The automotive industry is currently facing a global shortage of semiconductors, causing several automakers to idle or curtail production worldwide. Some of the facilities in Ontario that have been affected so far include the FCA Brampton Assembly Plant,⁷ and the Honda of Canada Mfg. plant in Alliston,⁸ with additional facilities set to cut production in February. This has placed thousands of assembly plant workers on temporary layoff and may disrupt production at parts suppliers and downstream companies in the province. Despite this production lag, the Ontario automotive industry continues to see positive developments in electric vehicle manufacturing. In mid-January, General Motors of Canada Company announced that it would invest \$1B in its CAMI Assembly Plant in Ingersoll to produce its BrightDrop all-electric delivery van, slated to roll off the line by early 2022.⁹

Employment in the **construction** industry was relatively unchanged in January 2021. The total value of building permits issued decreased by 13.2% to \$3.8B in Ontario in December 2020, following a strong showing in the previous month.¹⁰ Over the past year, the total value of building permits rose 4.8%, driven exclusively by gains in residential construction. Industry forecasts suggest that the housing market will remain quite robust into 2021 led by lower borrowing costs, pent-up demand, and improved confidence. A large number of construction sites remained open during the state of emergency order allowing work to continue and new projects to get underway including a \$65M cold storage and food processing facility in Hamilton.¹¹

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** decreased by 16,700 (-1.1%) between January 2020 and January 2021. Construction saw the biggest drop at 25,100 (-4.5%), followed by agriculture (-9,200; -11.7%), and utilities (-6,000; -10.7%). In contrast, the manufacturing industry saw a notable gain of 23,400 (+3.1%) during this period.

Employment dropped significantly in the services-producing sector in January

Employment in Ontario's **services-producing sector** decreased sharply by 125,200 (-2.2%) between December 2020 and January 2021, as new public health measures came into effect across the province. The biggest losses were in industries most affected by these restrictions – trade (-81,200; -7.6%), accommodation and food services (-51,600; -15.3%), and information, culture and recreation (-18,000; -6.3%). Meanwhile, the largest gains were in health care and social assistance (+17,400; +2.0%), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+8,700; +1.4%), and transportation and warehousing (+7,400; +2.1%). Employment in the services-producing sector is down by 375,400 compared to February 2020, just prior to the onset of the pandemic.

The **trade** industry bore the brunt of employment losses (-81,200) this month as restrictions on non-essential shopping came into effect across Ontario at the end of December. Several retailers announced cutbacks in an

⁶ IHS Markit. (2021, February 01). IHS Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Public/Release/PressReleases>

⁷ Pecar, S. (2021, January 8). Shutdown leads to layoffs at Chrysler Brampton Assembly Plant. *insauga*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/shutdown-leads-to-layoffs-at-chrysler-brampton-assembly-plant>

⁸ Phillips, K. (2021, January 13). Parts shortage forces Alliston Honda plant to close production line for one week. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/parts-shortage-forces-alliston-honda-plant-to-close-production-line-for-one-week-1.5265710>

⁹ Bettencourt, M. (2021, January 19). GM invests \$1 billion in Ingersoll to start commercial EV production. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/autos/2021/01/19/gm-invests-1-billion-in-ingersoll-to-start-commercial-ev-production.html>

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

¹¹ PerishableNews.com. (2021, January 18). Tippmann Innovation Breaks Ground on \$65M Cold Storage Facility in Ontario, Canada. *PerishableNews.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.perishablenews.com/retailfoodservice/tippmann-innovation-breaks-ground-on-65m-cold-storage-facility-in-ontario-canada/>

effort to rein in costs, adjust to online platforms, and re-evaluate future operations. In January, Hudson's Bay Company announced that it would permanently lay off more than 600 workers across Canada amid ongoing store closures due to lockdown measures.¹² Godiva announced that it would close all of its North American stores by the end of March including seven locations in Ontario,¹³ and Kiehl's announced that it would close eight locations across Canada this year.¹⁴ The restrictions have been particularly hard on small independent retailers and may have weighed heavier on youth employment as well as overall part-time employment.

Employment in **accommodation and food services** has consistently weakened over the past four months in Ontario with a sizeable drop in January. The industry continues to grapple with ongoing restrictions on in-person dining and travel and tourism. In early January, Canyon Creek announced that it would close two locations in the Greater Toronto Area¹⁵ while several smaller establishments announced that they would close temporarily in hopes of reopening once lockdown measures ease.¹⁶

The **information, culture and recreation** industry reported its biggest employment loss (-18,000) since April 2020 in Ontario. Several ski hills and alpine resorts cut staff amid public health restrictions. In January, Snow Valley Ski Resort near Barrie laid off 600 employees,¹⁷ Chicopee Ski & Summer Resort in Kitchener let go more than 600 staff,¹⁸ Horseshoe Resort in Barrie laid off more than 600 workers,¹⁹ and Mount Pakenham Ski Resort near Ottawa let go 250 employees.²⁰ The ski hill industry is struggling to stay afloat as restrictions coincide with its busiest time of year. Many operators invested prior to the lockdown for the upcoming winter season further straining financial resources.

While employment in **transportation and warehousing** increased in Ontario in January, several air carriers announced staffing cuts and flight suspensions because of new Canada-wide travel restrictions. Air Canada announced that it would cut capacity by 25 per cent and lay off about 1,900 employees across its operations.²¹ WestJet Group announced that it would eliminate the equivalent of 1,000 positions through a combination of

¹² Bundale, B. (2021, January 30). Hudson's Bay permanently laying off more than 600 workers across Canada. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/hudson-s-bay-layoffs-workers-canada-1.5894922>

¹³ The Canadian Press. (2021, January 22). Godiva closing 128 stores in North America, including all 11 in Canada. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/godiva-stores-1.5883575>

¹⁴ Patterson, C. (2021, January 27). Kiehl's to Shut 1/3 of its Canadian Stores as it Focuses on Ecommerce and Multi-Brand Retail Distribution. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2021/01/kiehls-to-shut-1-3-of-its-canadian-stores-as-it-focuses-on-ecommerce-and-multi-brand-retail-distribution/>

¹⁵ Steveson, J. (2021, January 07). Canyon Creek closes two GTA locations due to COVID-19 uncertainty. *Toronto Sun*. Retrieved from <https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/canyon-creek-closes-2-gta-locations-due-to-covid-19-uncertainty>

¹⁶ Carlberg, A. (2021, January). A new wave of Toronto restaurants temporarily closing due to stay-at-home order. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2021/01/toronto-restaurants-temporarily-closing-stay-home-order/

¹⁷ Simon, C. (2021, January 11). 'Immeasurable impact': What Barrie area's ski industry risks losing through month-long COVID-19 shutdown. *toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/10302694--immeasurable-impact-what-barrie-area-s-ski-industry-risks-losing-through-month-long-covid-19-shutdown/>

¹⁸ Schulz, L. (2021, January 06). 'We were really sideswiped': Chicopee at a loss as provincial lockdown halts ski hill operations. *Kitchenertoday.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenertoday.com/local-news/we-were-really-sideswiped-chicopee-at-a-loss-as-provincial-lockdown-halts-ski-hill-operations-3236162>

¹⁹ Benedict, L. (2021, January 13). 'It's literally millions of dollars in revenue,' Ontario extends ski hill closure. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/it-s-literally-millions-of-dollars-in-revenue-ontario-extends-ski-hill-closure-1.5265785?cache=icnhvwwuoz>

²⁰ Sali, D. (2021, January 08). 'A tough pill to swallow': Ottawa-area ski hill operators slam Ontario shutdown. *Ottawa Business Journal*. Retrieved from <https://obj.ca/index.php/article/local/sports-and-entertainment/tough-pill-swallow-ottawa-area-ski-hill-operators-slam>

²¹ D'Amore, R. (2021, January 13). Air Canada to cut approximately 1,700 jobs. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://global-news.ca/news/7573287/air-canada-job-cuts-january/>

furloughs, temporary layoffs, unpaid leaves and reduced hours.²² In addition, Air Transat A.T. Inc. announced that it would temporarily lay off its cabin crews and pilots,²³ and Porter Airlines Inc. has further suspended flights.²⁴ Passenger volumes have plummeted over the year, as airplanes sit idle across Canadian airports and air carriers wait for vaccine rollouts to lift restrictions.

Employment in the **services-producing sector** decreased by 391,900 (-6.5%) between January 2020 and January 2021. Employment fell in the majority of industries with the largest declines in accommodation and food services (-168,000; -37.0%), trade (-112,400; -10.2%), business, building and other support services (-50,400; -15.8%) and transportation and warehousing (-37,700; -9.6%). Meanwhile, the finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing industry saw a sizeable gain of 37,100 (+6.2%) during this period.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2021	December 2020	January 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,085.5	7,239.0	7,494.1	-153.5	-2.1	-408.6	-5.5
Goods-producing sector	1,464.7	1,493.1	1,481.4	-28.4	-1.9	-16.7	-1.1
Agriculture	69.4	73.4	78.6	-4.0	-5.4	-9.2	-11.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	34.7	36.9	34.4	-2.2	-6.0	0.3	0.9
Utilities	50.3	50.5	56.3	-0.2	-0.4	-6.0	-10.7
Construction	535.4	539.6	560.5	-4.2	-0.8	-25.1	-4.5
Manufacturing	775.0	792.7	751.6	-17.7	-2.2	23.4	3.1
Services-producing sector	5,620.8	5,746.0	6,012.7	-125.2	-2.2	-391.9	-6.5
Trade	984.9	1,066.1	1,097.3	-81.2	-7.6	-112.4	-10.2
Transportation and warehousing	356.8	349.4	394.5	7.4	2.1	-37.7	-9.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	639.6	630.9	602.5	8.7	1.4	37.1	6.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	703.0	697.5	689.1	5.5	0.8	13.9	2.0
Business, building and other support services	269.0	274.5	319.4	-5.5	-2.0	-50.4	-15.8
Educational services	530.5	535.5	546.8	-5.0	-0.9	-16.3	-3.0
Health care and social assistance	902.4	885.0	917.9	17.4	2.0	-15.5	-1.7
Information, culture and recreation	268.2	286.2	301.9	-18.0	-6.3	-33.7	-11.2
Accommodation and food services	286.2	337.8	454.2	-51.6	-15.3	-168.0	-37.0
Other services	288.7	294.0	303.3	-5.3	-1.8	-14.6	-4.8
Public administration	391.6	388.9	385.8	2.7	0.7	5.8	1.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

²² Dangerfield, K. (2021, January 08). WestJet slashing jobs, cutting 100s of flights amid coronavirus restrictions. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/7563331/westjet-job-cuts-flights-coronavirus/>

²³ Talbot, M. (2021, January 09). Air Transat announces temporary layoffs after federal travel restrictions. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/air-transat-announces-temporary-layoffs-after-federal-travel-restrictions-1.5288578>

²⁴ DeClerq, K. (2021, January 11). Porter Airlines extends temporary flight suspension, marking a year since service halted due to COVID-19. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/porter-airlines-extends-temporary-flight-suspension-marking-a-year-since-service-halted-due-to-covid-19-1.5261843>

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment losses in all regions except Muskoka-Kawarthas

The **Toronto** economic region saw the largest employment decrease of 132,800 (-3.7%) from January 2020 to January 2021 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). The decline was seen in both full-time (-87,300; -2.9%) and part-time employment (-45,500; -7.2%), while the unemployment rate increased by 5.3 percentage points to 10.4%. Leading the job loss news in the region was a 500-employee layoff by the security services company GardaWorld at Toronto Pearson Airport.²⁵ The accommodation and food services industry continued to see closures, as several were announced including: Stratengers,²⁶ Bacon Nation,²⁷ The Grow Op,²⁸ Canyon Creek,²⁹ and Prairie Girl Bakery.³⁰ Positive employment news for the region came from Prodigy Education Inc. in Oakville which announced a plan to hire 400 new educational technology staff.³¹ Several new cannabis retailers opened such as POTery,³² Central Plains Cannabis,³³ and Grand Cannabis.³⁴

The second largest job loss in the province occurred in the **Hamilton-Niagara Peninsular** economic region, where employment decreased by 41,000 (-5.4%) from January 2020 to January 2021. This fall in employment was felt in both part-time (-20,500; -12.5%) and full-time (-20,500; -3.4%), while the unemployment rate rose 3.4 percentage points to 8.1%. Recent good news from the region came from the provincial government's investment in dispensing products manufacturer OPHARDT Hygiene Technologies Inc., creating 75 new jobs,³⁵ while Tippman Innovation began construction on a storage and food processing facility in Hamilton.³⁶

²⁵ News Staff (2021, January 19). GardaWorld lays off 500 screening officers at Pearson airport. *CityNews*. Retrieved from <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2021/01/19/gardaworld-lays-off-500-screening-officers-at-pearson-airport/>

²⁶ Carlberg, A. (2021, January 25). Toronto neighbourhood pub famous for its patio closing after 32 years. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2021/01/toronto-neighbourhood-pub-patio-closing/

²⁷ Carlberg, A. (2021, January 18). Toronto's bacon-themed restaurant has permanently closed. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2021/01/bacon-themed-restaurant-toronto-permanently-closed/

²⁸ Mok, T. (2021, January 9). Toronto juice bar closes after 5 years and is now up for sale. *blogTO*. Retrieved from https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2021/01/grow-op-toronto-closed/

²⁹ Stevenson, J. (2021, January 7). Canyon Creek closes two GTA locations due to COVID-19 uncertainty. *Toronto Sun*. Retrieved from <https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/canyon-creek-closes-2-gta-locations-due-to-covid-19-uncertainty>

³⁰ DeClerq, K. (2021, January 7). Popular Toronto bakery closes its doors after 10 years in business. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/popular-toronto-bakery-closes-its-doors-after-10-years-in-business-1.5257587>

³¹ Silcoff, S and O'Kane, J. (2021, January 13). Oakville maker of Prodigy math game to hire 400 after raising \$159-million from U.S. private equity. *Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-online-math-learning-provider-prodigy-eyes-expansion-after-raising-159/>

³² Frisque, G. (2021, January 25). The POTery opens doors in Brampton, becoming city's third licensed cannabis shop. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/10316307-the-potery-opens-doors-in-brampton-becoming-city-s-third-licensed-cannabis-shop/>

³³ O'Meara, J. (2021, January 5). Newcastle's 1st cannabis store opens. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/10300868-newcastle-s-1st-cannabis-store-opens/>

³⁴ Myers, B. (2021, January 12). Halton hills' first cannabis retailer will be open for business this week. *TheIFP.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.theifp.ca/news-story/10306671-halton-hills-first-cannabis-retailer-will-be-open-for-business-this-week/>

³⁵ Singh, S. (2021, January 23). Beamsville manufacturer receives \$2 million from province to expand production of sanitizer dispensers. *NiagaraThisWeek.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/10315073-beamsville-manufacturer-receives-2-million-from-province-to-expand-production-of-sanitizer-dispensers/>

³⁶ Cision Staff. (2021, January 18). Tippmann innovation breaks ground on \$65-Million cold storage facility in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, marking continued cold storage development sector growth. *PR Newswire*. Retrieved from <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/tippmann-innovation-breaks-ground-on-65-million-cold-storage-facility-in-hamilton-ontario-canada-marking-continued-cold-storage-development-sector-growth-301209650.html>

The **Ottawa** economic region also saw a significant fall in employment of 38,000 (-5.0%) over the year, with a stronger impact seen in part-time employment (-23,000; -15.9%) than full-time (-15,000; -2.5%). The unemployment rate rose 2.4 percentage points to 6.3%. One of the significant news of losses was the combined layoff of 350 workers from Calabogie Peaks Resort and Mount Pakenham Ski Resort.³⁷ Some positive employment news in the region came from Cornwall, where ShinyBud Inc.,³⁸ a cannabis retailer, opened, and two new restaurants, Flavour Kingdom³⁹ and Rudy's Pizzeria,⁴⁰ began operations.

The **Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie** economic region saw a fall in employment of 35,500 (-4.6%) from January 2020 to January 2021, with losses in both part-time (-20,000; -13.0%) and full-time employment (-15,500; -2.5%). The region saw the second greatest jump in the unemployment rate over that period, increasing 4.1 percentage points to 8.7%. Major news came from Snow Valley Ski Resort⁴¹ and Chicopee Ski and Summer Resort,⁴² with each laying off 600 employees, while the Loblaws Cambridge Distribution Centre announced a layoff of 150 transport drivers.⁴³ Positive employment news in the region came from the federal government's investment in O2 Canada to design respirators, creating 50 design jobs and 25 manufacturing jobs at Jomi Technical Services. The federal government also invested in Swenco Ltd. to support a new surgical mask production facility, creating 24 new jobs.⁴⁴

The **London** economic region saw a slight decrease in employment from January 2020 to January 2021, falling by 1,600 (-0.4%) while the unemployment rate rose 3.1 percentage points to 7.2% over the same period. Positive employment news from the region came with the General Motors of Canada investment in the assembly plant in Ingersoll, providing stability and job growth for more than 2,000 workers.⁴⁵ The federal government also invested \$7.2M in the Western Fair Association to expand London's agrifood sector, maintaining 100 positions while creating 550 new jobs.⁴⁶

In the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region, employment fell by 14,100 (-4.8%), with the majority of the loss in part-time employment of 12,500 (-18.1%), and was the highest rate of decrease in part-time jobs in the province. Conversely, the **Stratford-Bruce Peninsula** economic region saw an employment drop of 10,400 (-6.3%) from

³⁷ CBC Staff (2021, January 5). Ottawa-area ski hills struggling during Ontario's lockdown. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-ski-hills-covid-19-lock-down-1.5861262>

³⁸ Malyon, A. (2021, January 22). Shiny bud blooms across the city. *Choose Cornwall*. Retrieved from <https://choosecornwall.ca/news-english/shiny-bud-blooms-across-the-city/>

³⁹ Lajoie, K. (2021, January 14). Flavour kingdom adds taste of India to Cornwall's culinary scene. *Choose Cornwall*. Retrieved from <https://choosecornwall.ca/news-english/flavour-kingdom-adds-taste-of-india-t45o-cornwalls-culinary-scene/>

⁴⁰ Lajoie, K. (2021, January 13). Rudy's Pizzeria adds new Slice to Cornwall's delicious pizza scene. *Choose Cornwall*. Retrieved from <https://choosecornwall.ca/news-english/rudys-pizzeria-adds-new-slice-to-cornwalls-delicious-pizza-scene/>

⁴¹ Simon, C. (2020, January 11). 'Immeasurable impact': What Barrie area's ski industry risks losing through month-long COVID-19 shutdown. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10302694--immeasurable-impact-what-barrie-area-s-ski-industry-risks-losing-through-month-long-covid-19-shutdown/>

⁴² Schulz, L. (2021, January 6). 'We were really sideswiped': Chicopee at a loss as provincial lockdown halts ski hill operations. *KitchenerToday.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenertoday.com/local-news/we-were-really-sideswiped-chicopee-at-a-loss-as-provincial-lockdown-halts-ski-hill-operations-3236162>

⁴³ Davis, B. (2021, January 5). 150 Loblaws drivers losing jobs at Cambridge distribution centre. *CambridgeTimes.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/10302432-150-loblaw-drivers-losing-jobs-at-cambridge-distribution-centre/>

⁴⁴ Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. (2020, December 9). Province Expanding Homegrown Capacity with Made-In-Ontario Respirators and Masks. *Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59531/province-expanding-homegrown-capacity-with-made-in-ontario-respirators-and-masks>

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⁴⁶ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2021, January 21). FedDev Ontario invests in the growth of London agrifood innovation sector. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/01/feddev-ontario-invests-in-the-growth-of-london-agri-food-innovation-sector.html>

January 2020 to January 2021, though the majority came from full-time employment loss of 8,700 (-6.8%), the highest rate of decline in full-time employment in the province over that time period.

The **Muskoka-Kawarthas** economic region had the only positive employment growth seen in the province from January 2020 to January 2021, increasing by 9,100 (+5.2%). The change in employment was uneven: full-time employment grew by 11,900 (+8.9%), while part-time employment fell by 2,800 (-7.1%), and the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 8.1%. Recent positive employment news from Peterborough include an investment from the provincial government in Merit Precision's hand sanitizer bottle manufacturing plant creating 10 new jobs,⁴⁷ as well as the opening of a Domino's Pizza franchise.⁴⁸

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2021 ('000)	January 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2021 (%)	January 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,159.0	7,437.3	-3.7	9.0	5.0	4.0
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	716.6	754.6	-5.0	6.3	3.9	2.4
Kingston - Pembroke	212.7	214.4	-0.8	7.9	5.6	2.3
Muskoka - Kawarthas	183.1	174.0	5.2	8.1	8.2	-0.1
Toronto	3,458.7	3,591.5	-3.7	10.4	5.1	5.3
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	729.6	765.1	-4.6	8.7	4.6	4.1
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	725.1	766.1	-5.4	8.1	4.7	3.4
London	354.9	356.5	-0.4	7.2	4.1	3.1
Windsor - Sarnia	282.4	296.5	-4.8	8.8	7.1	1.7
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	154.8	165.2	-6.3	6.3	4.1	2.2
Northeast	243.8	252.4	-3.4	7.4	5.3	2.1
Northwest	97.3	101.0	-3.7	6.8	5.1	1.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287-01

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

⁴⁷ Government of Ontario. (2021, January 18). Ontario Investing in Peterborough-Based Producer of Hand Sanitizer and Disinfectant Bottles. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59986/ontario-investing-in-peterborough-based-producer-of-hand-sanitizer-and-disinfectant-bottles>

⁴⁸ Law S. (2021, January 19). 'I'm happy to be here': Domino's Pizza opens in Gravenhurst. *Muskoka Region*. Retrieved from <https://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/10310936--i-m-happy-to-be-here-domino-s-pizza-opens-in-gravenhurst/>

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