



# Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

July 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

### Labour Force Trends – Employment increased in July 2021

- Employment increased by 72,400 in Ontario in July 2021
- Employment gains were relatively even between part-time (+38,500) and full-time (+33,900) employment
- The unemployment rate decreased to 8.0%
- The unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 declined to 14.5%
- The province entered Step Three of its Roadmap to Reopen plan on July 16<sup>th</sup>, further easing COVID-19 related restrictions

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Ontario moved the province into Step Three of its Roadmap to Reopen plan. Under this step, the size of indoor and outdoor gatherings was increased, and indoor dining and indoor religious services resumed with physical distancing in place. Indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities reopened with limited crowds of spectators. Essential and non-essential retail reopened with capacity restrictions, as did personal care services. Museums, galleries, amusement parks, outdoor fairs, exhibitions and festivals reopened with outdoor and indoor capacity restrictions in place, as did concert venues, cinemas, and theatres.<sup>1</sup>

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 shutdown 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.<sup>2</sup>

Employment in Ontario increased by 72,400 in July 2021, as the economy continued to reopen and restrictions from COVID-19 eased. Employment gains were evenly distributed between part-time employment (+38,500) and full-time employment (+33,900). The unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 8.0%. This marks the second month in a row that the province experienced declines in the unemployment rate – which signals the

labour market is on a path of recovery from the COVID-19 related closures imposed earlier this year. Additionally, both the participation (65.0%) and employment (59.8%) rates increased in July.

Youth employment increased in Ontario by 42,500 in July, with all of the gains occurring in part-time work (+43,400). The unemployment rate declined by 2.7 percentage points to 14.5%. This marks the lowest level of unemployment for youth since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In comparison, the youth unemployment rate in July 2020 was 28.0%. Both the participation (61.0%) and employment (52.2%) rates inched up this month. Nationally, the youth unemployment rate stood at 11.6%.

Employment grew in Canada by 94,000 in July 2021. Gains were reflected in both full-time and part-time work, with the majority of them coming in full-time employment (+83,000). Employment increased across six provinces, with the bulk occurring in Ontario and Alberta. Ontario and Alberta accounted for over 90% of overall employment gains in July. Ontario may be experiencing accelerated employment growth since many of the remaining COVID-19 related measures were lifted in July. Saskatchewan (-4,500), British Columbia (-3,500), and New Brunswick (-2,500) registered the largest employment losses. The national unemployment rate declined 0.3 percentage points to 7.5%. The participation rate remained steady at 65.2% and the employment rate moved up 0.2 percentage points to 60.3%. Between July 2020 and July 2021, average hourly wages increased by 0.5% in Canada,<sup>3</sup> while the June year-over-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 3.1%.<sup>4</sup> The Bank of Canada is anticipating strong growth as the economy reopens after the third wave of COVID-19, and the CPI inflation is likely to remain elevated throughout the rest of 2021.<sup>5</sup>

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 943,000 in the United States in July 2021 and the unemployment rate declined to 5.4%, as improvements in the labour market reflect the continued resumption of economic activity.<sup>6</sup> Notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, in local government education, and in professional and business services. The number of unemployed persons who were on temporary layoff decreased by 572,000. Additionally, the number of permanent jobs lost declined by 257,000 to 2,900,000. The labor force participation rate remained stable (61.7%).

Year-over-year, the provincial labour market is showing recovery, with employment increasing by 488,600 (7.1%) between July 2020 and July 2021. Gains were realized in both full-time work (387,000; 6.9%) and part-time work (101,600; 8.2%), with the unemployment rate decreasing 3.3 percentage points and the participation rate increasing from 64.3% to 65.0% over the year.

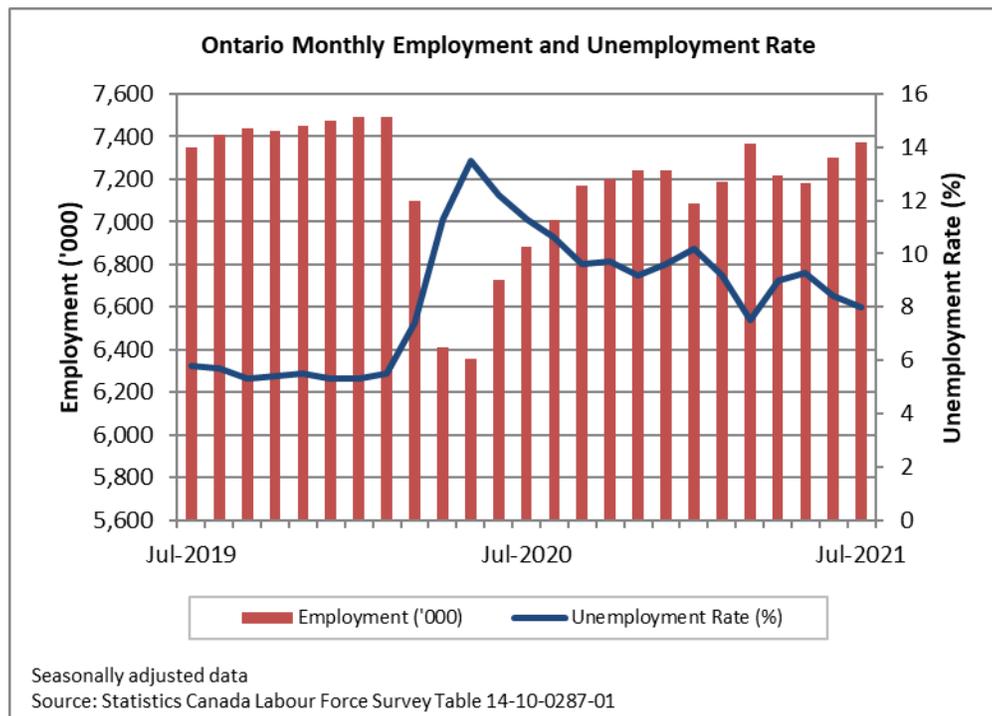
Throughout the summer months, Statistics Canada collects labour market data on youth aged 15 to 24 who attended school full-time in March.<sup>7</sup> Full-time student summer employment in Ontario increased by 106,300 (25.3%) from July 2020 to July 2021. The unemployment rate for students declined by 1.2 percentage points to 18.8% on a monthly basis, which was above the national rate of 14.2%. Additionally, the participation rate increased by 4.9 percentage points to 61.3%. The student job market has gradually improved as the provincial economy continued to reopen in July, particularly subsectors that offer seasonal employ to youth such as fairs, pools and amusement parks. It is expected that this trend will continue throughout the summer.

## Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	12,338.6	12,324.0	12,222.6	14.6	0.1	116.0	0.9
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	8,015.0	7,969.5	7,761.2	45.5	0.6	253.8	3.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	7,373.1	7,300.7	6,884.5	72.4	1.0	488.6	7.1
Full-Time ('000)	6,025.7	5,991.8	5,638.7	33.9	0.6	387.0	6.9
Part-Time ('000)	1,347.4	1,308.9	1,245.8	38.5	2.9	101.6	8.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	641.9	668.8	876.7	-26.9	-4.0	-234.8	-26.8
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.0	8.4	11.3	-0.4	-	-3.3	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	65.0	64.7	63.5	0.3	-	1.5	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	59.8	59.2	56.3	0.6	-	3.5	-

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	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.0	8.4	11.3	-0.4	-3.3
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.9	7.0	8.5	-0.1	-1.6
Men - 25 years and over	7.4	7.5	8.4	-0.1	-1.0
Women - 25 years and over	6.4	6.4	8.5	0.0	-2.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.5	17.2	28.0	-2.7	-13.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.8	17.2	30.5	-1.4	-14.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.2	17.2	25.2	-4.0	-12.0

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 utilities increased employment in the goods producing sector

Employment in Ontario's **goods-producing sector** increased by 20,300 (+1.4%) from June to July 2021. The increase was mostly attributed to employment gains in manufacturing (+26,000; +3.4%) and utilities (+4,700; +9.3%). Additionally, small losses occurred in construction (-7,100; -1.3%), agriculture (-2,100; -2.9%), and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-1,400; -3.8%).

Employment in the Ontario **manufacturing** sector increased in July by 26,000 (+3.4%), following quarterly losses partially due to the ongoing shortage of semiconductor chips. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) registered 56.2 in July 2021, down fractionally from 56.5 in June to signal a thirteenth consecutive increase in operating conditions.<sup>8</sup> This indicates manufacturers in Canada expect growth to continue with the vaccine rollout gaining momentum, and case numbers declining. Additionally, provincial manufacturing sales increased by 43.3% from May 2020 to May 2021.<sup>9</sup> The increases were primarily attributed to durable goods, which saw a 58.5% rise over the year and a small 2.1% growth over the month.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, firms in the manufacturing sector remain positive about their output growth over the coming year with continued easing of restrictions and plans to upgrade machinery.<sup>11</sup>

The Ontario manufacturing industry is still reeling from the effects of the ongoing global shortage of semiconductor chips. The shortage forced the Ford Motor Company of Canada to pause production of the Ford Edge crossover vehicle at its Oakville Assembly Plant for three weeks starting July 19<sup>th</sup>,<sup>12</sup> and Stellantis to halt production again at its Windsor Assembly Plant after idling for months.<sup>13</sup> Despite the shortages, notable expansions occurred within the sector. Four Brantford-area businesses, Elastochem Specialty Chemicals Inc, Grissin Bon Ltd, Synergy Mouldworks Inc and Rembos Inc are expanding operations, creating 38 new jobs and maintaining another 95.<sup>14</sup> CMP Advanced Mechanical Solutions Ltd. is establishing a new mechanical assembly operation in Cornwall, creating 25 new jobs.<sup>15</sup> Cardiff Products Corporation, a food and beverage packager in London, is expanding and expects to hire 10 to 15 employees in the next year.<sup>16</sup> StormFisher Environmental, a food waste-recovery company, is opening a new \$20M facility in Drumbo that will produce renewable energy and fertilizer from food waste.<sup>17</sup> Additionally, firms across the province announced large-scale investments in their facilities. Resolute Forest Product is investing \$13M in new equipment and process modifications at its Thunder Bay sawmill to increase production capacity<sup>18</sup> and Coreprint Patterns Inc., is receiving about \$860K from the provincial government to manufacture parts for COVID-19 PCR tests.<sup>19</sup> A noteworthy closure was announced as Nestlé Canada will shutter its Trenton food production facility in stages by the middle of 2022, eliminating about 200 jobs.<sup>20</sup>

Employment in the **construction** industry fell by 7,100 (-1.3%) from June 2021 to July 2021. Although modest declines were recorded, the month was defined by numerous project starts. Construction commenced on the new \$51M Extencicare long-term care home in Kingston. The 107,922 sq.-ft. building is expected to be complete in early 2023, creating 200 new jobs.<sup>21</sup> A new 100M residential sub-division broke ground in Belleville<sup>22</sup>, and Tri-Star Construction started work this month on a \$12.9M residential building with commercial space in Cornwall.<sup>23</sup> Additionally, various levels of government announced investments in affordable housing and infrastructure. The federal government is investing around \$22.4M for two affordable housing projects in London,<sup>24</sup> and \$32.7M to build 77 affordable housing units in Peel Region.<sup>25</sup> In regards to infrastructure, the federal and provincial governments, along with the City of Hamilton, are investing over \$518M in seven public transit projects in Hamilton,<sup>26</sup> and the federal and provincial governments invested \$4.5M in infrastructure and community centre upgrades in Glencoe.<sup>27</sup>

Total building permit construction value increased by 22.7% from May 2021 to June 2021. This is primarily due to residential building permits increasing by 30.6% between June and July 2021.<sup>28</sup>

In the **mining and forestry** sectors, Sudbury's Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation (CEMI) received \$40M in federal funding to create a national network of regional mining clusters, leveraging at least \$100M in private investment and creating up to 900 jobs.<sup>29</sup> Furthermore, the provincial government is investing over \$7.9M to create

112 jobs in the sectors in northeastern Ontario,<sup>30</sup> and \$10.5M in funding to three sector companies, creating up to 115 jobs in Timmins, Cochrane and Timiskaming Districts.<sup>31</sup> Unfortunately, the rampant forest fires burning across northern Ontario have pushed the provincial government to impose restrictions on the mining, rail, construction and transportation industries in the region in hopes of reducing the likelihood of human-caused fires.<sup>32</sup> These restrictions may slow down mining and forestry activities in the region.

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the **goods-producing sector** increased by 73,900 (+5.3%) between July 2020 to July 2021, led by gains in manufacturing (+62,200; 8.5%) and construction (+12,500; 2.4%).

### Employment grew in the services-producing sector in Ontario in July

Employment in the Ontario **services-producing sector** rose by 52,100 (+0.9%) between June and July 2021. The largest gains were in wholesale and retail trade (+22,300; +2.1%), accommodation and food services (+20,600; +6.0%), and business, building and other support services (+11,100; +3.8%). However, employment fell in information, culture and recreation (-5,800; -2.1%), public administration (-5,500; -1.3%), and professional, scientific and technical services (-2,700; -0.4%).

Employment in the provincial **trade** industry continued to recover, increasing by 22,300 (+2.1%). This can be attributed to easing public health restrictions. Retail sales experienced a small monthly decline in June, however, have rebounded by 24.1% year-over-year. The easing of restrictions this month led to a boost in activity for the sector as stores announced expansions and reopenings. Walmart reopened a store at CF Fairview Park Kitchener as a Supercentre after a yearlong renovation, creating around 200 jobs,<sup>33</sup> Lafayette 148, a women's fashion brand, is opening its first standalone store in Canada in Toronto this year,<sup>34</sup> and Giant Tiger, a discount retailer, opened an 18,044-sq.-ft. location in Ancaster and hired about 50 full- and part-time associates.<sup>35</sup>

Employment in the **accommodation and food services** industry increased in July. As vaccination rates and public health indicators improved, the province eased restrictions on indoor dining with no capacity limits except for maintaining social distancing between tables. This led to restaurant establishments across the province to expand hiring. Morty's Pub & Patio, a pub in Waterloo, is looking to hire 10-15 staff to meet the upcoming expected demand for dining services,<sup>36</sup> Turbo Espresso Bar, a café in Windsor, hired eight new workers and is looking to hire more to its staff,<sup>37</sup> and Tiger Chicken & Ribs opened a new restaurant in Belleville's downtown district, employing up to 15 people.<sup>38</sup>

Employment in **business, building and other support sector** posted modest gains in July. Administration and support services are the main driver in this sector, representing 72% of GDP.<sup>39</sup> 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 a home setting. With the easing of restrictions of indoor building capacity, many firms have implemented hybrid work models – which provided a boost to this sector.<sup>40</sup>

Employment in the services-producing sector increased significantly by 414,700 (+7.6%) between July 2020 and July 2021. All industries within the services sector reported year-over-year employment gains, with the largest increases in professional, scientific and technical services (+97,000; +15.1%), health care and social assistance (+65,800; +7.6%), and accommodation and food services (+62,400; +20.8%).

## Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	7,373.1	7,300.7	6,884.5	72.4	1.0	488.6	7.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	1,474.9	1,454.6	1,401.0	20.3	1.4	73.9	5.3
Agriculture	69.4	71.5	73.3	-2.1	-2.9	-3.9	-5.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	35.4	36.8	39.4	-1.4	-3.8	-4.0	-10.2
Utilities	55.4	50.7	48.4	4.7	9.3	7.0	14.5
Construction	524.7	531.8	512.2	-7.1	-1.3	12.5	2.4
Manufacturing	789.9	763.9	727.7	26.0	3.4	62.2	8.5
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	5,898.2	5,846.1	5,483.5	52.1	0.9	414.7	7.6
Trade	1,080.5	1,058.2	1,043.8	22.3	2.1	36.7	3.5
Transportation and warehousing	375.1	371.9	348.4	3.2	0.9	26.7	7.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	612.1	609.6	601.3	2.5	0.4	10.8	1.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	738.6	741.3	641.6	-2.7	-0.4	97.0	15.1
Business, building and other support services	301.9	290.8	293.1	11.1	3.8	8.8	3.0
Educational services	537.2	532.1	483.4	5.1	1.0	53.8	11.1
Health care and social assistance	927.3	925.7	861.5	1.6	0.2	65.8	7.6
Information, culture and recreation	271.1	276.9	253.2	-5.8	-2.1	17.9	7.1
Accommodation and food services	362.8	342.2	300.4	20.6	6.0	62.4	20.8
Other services	285.6	285.8	278.5	-0.2	-0.1	7.1	2.5
Public administration	406.1	411.6	378.3	-5.5	-1.3	27.8	7.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

## Employment increased in 10 economic regions as Ontario reopened in Stage 3

Employment increased by 320,500 (+10.0%) in the **Toronto** economic region between July 2020 and July 2021, mostly in full-time employment (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). Although the regional unemployment rate decreased by 4.8 percentage points to 10.1%, Toronto still had the highest unemployment rate in Ontario. However, the labour force in the region grew by 156,900 (+4.2%) entrants. Over the course of July, job creation news abounded from the arts, entertainment and recreation industry as various tourist attraction, including, Dave and Buster's,<sup>41</sup> The Toronto Gardiner Museum,<sup>42</sup> The CN Tower,<sup>43</sup> Ripley's Aquarium of Canada,<sup>44</sup> Wet'n'Wild waterpark,<sup>45</sup> the Art Gallery of Ontario reopened in the City.<sup>46</sup> Additionally, the Ontario Science Centre will reopen with restrictions in August.<sup>47</sup> Going forward for the Toronto arts, entertainment and recreation industry, the Government of Ontario announced details of its plan to revitalize Ontario Place. The transformation includes three new major attractions and an all-year adventure park.<sup>48</sup>

The accommodations and food services also received a large boost in the region as several restaurants,<sup>49,50,51,52,53,54</sup> shops,<sup>55,56</sup> and bars<sup>57,58</sup> announced new openings. The Park Hyatt Toronto has also completed its restoration project and will reopen in September.<sup>59</sup> However, the Toronto economic region was also plagued with layoff news in the accommodations and food services sector as East Thirty Six,<sup>60</sup> Cass Avenue,<sup>61</sup> Bergham,<sup>62</sup> and Bloor Jane Restaurant,<sup>63</sup> all restaurants and shops in Toronto, and Matcha Cafe Maiko, an ice cream parlour in Markham,<sup>64</sup> all permanently closed in July.

Retail also benefitted from the reopening plan as Hazukido, a Taiwanese bakery, opened a new location in Toronto,<sup>65</sup> COBS Bread Bakery announced a new location at Heartland Town Centre in Mississauga,<sup>66</sup> and Village Juicery, a plant-based beverage retailer, will expand into three new locations across Toronto and Oakville.<sup>67</sup> Clothing retailers also heard that Anne Fontaine, an upscale French fashion brand,<sup>68</sup> and Lafayette 148, a women's fashion brand,<sup>69</sup> will open their first stores in Canada in downtown Toronto this year.

The region also saw nearly \$75M in combined funding from the federal, provincial and municipal governments for construction projects including a Tamil Community Centre in Scarborough,<sup>70</sup> improvements to recreation and cultural facilities in North York,<sup>71</sup> the creation of 77 affordable housing units in Peel region,<sup>72</sup> and the training of about 400 youth in skilled trades in the GTA.<sup>73</sup> Additional construction projects include the building of the Runnymede Long-Term Care Home in Toronto,<sup>74</sup> and the \$50.2M recreation complex with two pools, a walking track and a library in the Town of Georgina,<sup>75</sup> which are both expected to be completed in 2023.

Manufacturing in the Toronto economic region also heard good news as General Assembly Pizza will start making frozen pizzas in a new Vaughan facility in 2022,<sup>76</sup> and Mitrex, a solar technology manufacturer, opened a new production facility in Toronto.<sup>77</sup> Furthermore, in the professional, scientific and technical services sector, GEH SMR Technologies Canada, Ltd., a nuclear energy company, is creating 80 highly skilled jobs in Markham<sup>78</sup> and Sledgehammer Games, a videogame developer, opened a new studio in Toronto.<sup>79</sup> Additionally, Pixomondo, a visual effects company, and William F. White International Inc., a production equipment provider, opened a virtual production studio in Toronto called Stage 6.<sup>80</sup> At the end of the month, Bombardier Inc. and members of Unifor Local 112 and 673 ratified new collective agreements ending the labour dispute, which affected about 1,500 aviation workers in Toronto. Contract negotiations between De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. and Unifor continue with 700 workers currently on strike.<sup>81</sup>

Employment increased year-over-year by 69,700 (+9.9%) in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region in July 2021. The majority of gains were in full-time employment (+65,500), and the regional unemployment rate declined by 4.8 percentage points from 11.6% to 6.8% over the year. Various industries in the region saw positive events in July, as pubs and restaurants opened in Waterloo<sup>82,83</sup> and Alliston,<sup>84</sup> and the Stratford Festival launched its 2021 season on July 13<sup>th</sup>.<sup>85</sup> Furthermore, three businesses in Barrie, Tempo Plastics Ltd., Matsu Manufacturing Inc., and Volatus Flight Systems Inc. are expanding with support from the provincial government and the South-western Ontario Development Fund, creating 72 jobs.<sup>86</sup>

Several construction projects were announced in the region in July, as Vive Development received an approval from the City of Kitchener committee to build a 10-storey building on a vacant property on King Street East,<sup>87</sup> and Steed and Evans Ltd. began construction on \$3.4M worth of paving projects in Woolwich, with expected completion in October.<sup>88</sup> Additionally, the provincial government is providing over \$29M towards a \$40M community hub in Barrie, operated by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, with construction expected to begin in spring 2022.<sup>89</sup> Furthermore, the federal government invested \$8.2M to establish Additive Manufacturing Alliance in the University of Waterloo. This will help nearly 100 businesses adopt advanced manufacturing technologies, and maintain over 275 jobs.<sup>90</sup>

Across the region, other developments included the announcement that Simcoe County LINX Transit Route 6, connecting Midland and Orillia with stops in between, will commence on August 3<sup>rd</sup>,<sup>91</sup> and Tulip, a mobile application platform for retail based in Waterloo, is expanding their sales and marketing team.<sup>92</sup> Additionally, after a yearlong renovation, Walmart reopened a store at CF Fairview Park Kitchener as a Supercentre, creating around 200 jobs.<sup>93</sup>

The Government of Ontario also activated the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians program in part of the City of Barrie to help those affected by tornadoes.<sup>94</sup> Damage to the affected areas of Barrie and surrounding areas

are estimated to be more than \$50M in claims. Signs of recovery are starting to appear as contractors and cleaning crews were on-site at many properties, working to rebuild.<sup>95</sup>

The **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region saw employment gains of 56,700 (+8.3%) in July 2021. The unemployment rate fell in the region, decreasing 3.5 percentage points from 11.8% to 8.3% year-over-year. Similar to the rest of Ontario, there were several construction projects announced in July in the region. Anthony's Excavating Central Inc. was awarded the \$290K contract for the replacement of the Gibson Pedestrian Bridge in Grimsby,<sup>96</sup> the Brantford Golf and Country Club is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation starting in September,<sup>97</sup> and Steed and Evans Ltd. was awarded a tender for more than \$1M for installation and modification of sidewalks in St. Catharines.<sup>98</sup> Furthermore, Touchstone Site Contractors Inc., CRL Campbell and D&R Landscaping were awarded tenders for about \$939K for upgrades at four parks in Welland.<sup>99</sup>

Additional projects are also benefitting from federal and provincial government funding. Investments include over \$16M for a multi-purpose infrastructure project on the Peach King Centre recreation facility in Grimsby,<sup>100</sup> \$9.4M to restore the Mohawk Institute Residential School site in Six Nations of the Grand River near Brantford,<sup>101</sup> and \$1.03M to fund the construction of new trails and upgrades in St. Catharines.<sup>102</sup> An additional \$7.43M will fund five projects in Hamilton for HVAC upgrades, public service counters upgrades, parks upgrades, and a cycling trail.<sup>103</sup> The federal and provincial governments, along with the City of Hamilton, are also investing over \$518M in seven public transit projects in the City.<sup>104</sup> The Government of Canada also announced an investment of \$2M for the Regional Municipality of Niagara to support the recovery of the Niagara Region tourism industry.<sup>105</sup> The funding will provide tourism-dependent businesses with up to \$20K to support costs associated with adapting and reopening.

At the end of the month, the Government of Canada announced that it would invest \$400M in ArcelorMittal Dofasco to support a \$1.77B investment in decarbonization technologies and new manufacturing processes at its Hamilton steelmaking facilities.<sup>106</sup> The project is expected to support up to 2,500 jobs during the engineering and construction phases. Retail in the region was also lifted in July as several new shops opened,<sup>107,108,109,110</sup> including She's Got Leggz Inc., a clothing business in Burlington that hired four warehouse workers.<sup>111</sup> On the accommodations and food services side, several new specialty food stores opened in Hamilton<sup>112,113</sup> and Thorold.<sup>114</sup>

Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort and Casino Niagara recalled about 1,000 employees as they reopened on July 23<sup>rd</sup>,<sup>115</sup> and Elements Casino in Brantford also called back employees to prepare for reopening.<sup>116</sup> Additional good news for manufacturing Coreprint Patterns Inc., a mold making business, is receiving about \$860K from the provincial government to manufacture parts for COVID-19 PCR tests.

As the return to in-class learning is expected in September, First Student, a school bus operator, is hiring up to 100 drivers in Hamilton before the start of school.<sup>117</sup> To assist in job seekers in finding employment in the region, the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie launched Grand Erie Jobs 2.0, an online portal consisting of a job board and other tools.<sup>118</sup> Furthermore, as hotels in Niagara Falls were experiencing a shortage of front-line positions,<sup>119</sup> Job Gym, John Howard Society of Niagara's Employment Services division, is offering a free three week Career Catalyst Program for those interested in working in hospitality and tourism in August.<sup>120</sup>

The **Kingston-Pembroke** economic region witnessed employment gains of 16,300 between July 2020 and July 2021. Despite the positive employment figures, the region received some difficult news that Nestlé Canada will close its Trenton food production facility in stages by middle of 2022, eliminating about 200 jobs.<sup>121</sup> Furthermore, Hastings Manor and Centennial Manor, long-term care homes in Belleville and Bancroft, are cutting five staff due to a decrease in annual operating funding,<sup>122</sup> and Hotel Belvedere in Kingston permanently closed after 35 years in business.<sup>123</sup> However, several construction projects promise a brighter outlook going forward as work began on

the new \$51M Extencare long-term care home in Kingston. The 107,922 sq.-ft. building is expected to be complete in early 2023, creating 200 new jobs.<sup>124</sup> Work also began on \$100M Parkville Greens subdivision,<sup>125</sup> and on the Humane Society Hastings Prince Edward's \$5M Animal Care and Adoption Centre in Belleville. The shelter is expected to be ready by fall of 2022.<sup>126</sup> Furthermore, Habitat for Humanity Kingston Limestone Region began construction on July 13 on four affordable housing units in Kingston,<sup>127</sup> and Cobourg Development Services Ltd. broke ground on the Orchard and Prince Drive reconstruction project in Belleville, which is expected to be completed in December.<sup>128</sup> Additional good news in the region comes as Frulact Canada expands their fruit processing plant in Kingston and is expecting to hire up to 15 individuals.<sup>129</sup>

The **Northwest** economic region witnessed employment gains of 8,500 between July 2020 and July 2021. The Governments of Canada and Ontario announced combined investments of over \$43M in agriculture,<sup>130</sup> construction,<sup>131,132</sup> and various other industries across the region in July.<sup>133</sup> Some larger projects included: funding the operation of remote airports in Northern Ontario in 2021/2022,<sup>134</sup> aiding in the creation or maintenance of up to 1,155 jobs at over 400 Kenora businesses,<sup>135</sup> and purchasing protective equipment for 215 Thunder Bay businesses adapting to COVID-19 public health guidelines.<sup>136</sup> The federal government also announced the support for the Kenora District Services Board with \$5M to expand the regional high-speed internet infrastructure for underserved people within the district. The project is expected to be rolled out over the next nine months.<sup>137</sup> Other positive news in the region included the reopening of Gateway Casinos Thunder Bay,<sup>138</sup> and The Thunder Bay Museum.<sup>139</sup> Furthermore, Green Adventures finalized a deal with the City of Kenora to run a shuttle to and from Coney Island, which will operate seven days a week.<sup>140</sup> On the manufacturing side, Resolute Forest Product is investing \$13M in new equipment and process modifications at its Thunder Bay sawmill to increase production capacity.<sup>141</sup> Additionally, the Government of Canada and the elected council of Grassy Narrows First Nation met in community to sign an amendment to the Mercury Care Home Framework Agreement to help ensure that residents who are living with methylmercury poisoning receive care while being able to stay closer to home. The government committed to providing \$19.5M towards the construction of a mercury care home.<sup>142</sup>

As of the end of the month, there were over 100 active fires in the region. The forest fire hazard is high across most of the northwestern Ontario with an area of low to moderate hazard in the southern portions of Nipigon and Thunder Bay districts. Several first nations in affected areas have evacuated, including Poplar Hill First Nation,<sup>143</sup> Deer Lake First Nation,<sup>144</sup> Pikangikum First Nation,<sup>145</sup> North Spirit Lake First Nation, and Cat Lake First Nation.<sup>146</sup>

Between July 2020 and July 2021, employment gains were also present in the **Ottawa** (+68,500; +9.9%), **Windsor–Sarnia** (+38,300; +14.6%), **London** (+36,700; +11.0%), **Muskoka–Kawartha** (+15,800; +9.3%) and **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** (+12,500; +8.3%) economic regions.

The **Northeast** was the only economic region to witness employment losses between July 2020 and July 2021. Although the overall decrease reduced employment from 249,300 to 246,600 (-2,700), the losses were entirely in full-time work (-7,600), as part-time work employment made substantial gains (+5,000). Several federal and provincial funding projects announced in July for a multitude of industries may help mitigate these losses going forward.<sup>147,148,149</sup>

FedNor is providing \$4.6M in funding to five institutions focused on business development in Northeastern Ontario, creating around 37 jobs and maintaining another 54 over five years,<sup>150</sup> and the provincial and federal government are investing over \$35M in 35 recreational and community infrastructure projects across the province.<sup>151</sup> Additional funding in the area came from the Government of Ontario with a \$7.3M investment that will support the film and television industry in North Bay, Sudbury and surrounding areas,<sup>152</sup> and \$5.8M into two high-speed internet projects in Mushkegowuk and Algoma-Manitoulin, expanding connectivity to about 6,783 households.<sup>153</sup> Sudbury's Science North will receive \$8.9M from the provincial government to support the 2021-22 operations.<sup>154</sup>

Metro Inc., a Canadian food retailer, is also investing \$3M in construction of a Food Basic grocery store in the South Porcupine neighbourhood of Timmins.<sup>155</sup>

Additional funding came in as the Governments of Canada and Ontario announced an investment of \$19M towards the operation of remote airports in northern Ontario in 2021 and 2022.<sup>156</sup> The Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corporation also received \$2.15M,<sup>157</sup> and the Sudbury Airport Community Development Corporation received \$3.5M through FedNor to help mitigate the financial strain caused by the pandemic.<sup>158</sup> Combined, the projects will help maintain 40 jobs.

### Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2021 ('000)	July 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2021 (%)	July 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Ontario</b>	7,372.5	6,731.6	9.5	8.9	12.8	-3.9
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Ottawa	759.9	691.4	9.9	7.7	9.7	-2.0
Kingston - Pembroke	212.5	196.2	8.3	8.3	9.9	-1.6
Muskoka - Kawarthas	185.2	169.4	9.3	8.0	11.0	-3.0
Toronto	3,518.7	3,198.2	10.0	10.1	14.9	-4.8
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	773.2	703.5	9.9	6.8	11.6	-4.8
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	740.9	684.2	8.3	8.3	11.8	-3.5
London	371.3	334.6	11.0	8.5	10.1	-1.6
Windsor - Sarnia	301.0	262.7	14.6	9.8	13.2	-3.4
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	162.8	150.3	8.3	3.6	8.7	-5.1
Northeast	246.6	249.3	-1.1	6.9	9.3	-2.4
Northwest	100.4	91.9	9.2	6.9	9.6	-2.7

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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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