



# Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

December 2021



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Ontario and its regions.

## SUMMARY

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

- Employment increased by 46,900 (+0.6%) in Ontario in December 2021, with the majority of gains in full-time work (+39,700; +0.6%).
- The overall unemployment rate declined to 6.0% while the unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 decreased to 10.8%.
- Employment increased in both the goods-producing and services-producing sectors.

## LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Employment in Ontario increased for the seventh consecutive month in December 2021, exceeding pre-pandemic employment levels.

- Employment gains (+46,900; +0.6%) were largely concentrated in full-time work (+39,700; +0.6%).
- Males accounted for the majority of job gains (+36,200; +0.9%) compared to females (+10,800; +0.3%).
- Across Canada, employment increased by 54,700 (+0.3%) with the largest gains in Ontario and Alberta (+11,100; +0.5%).

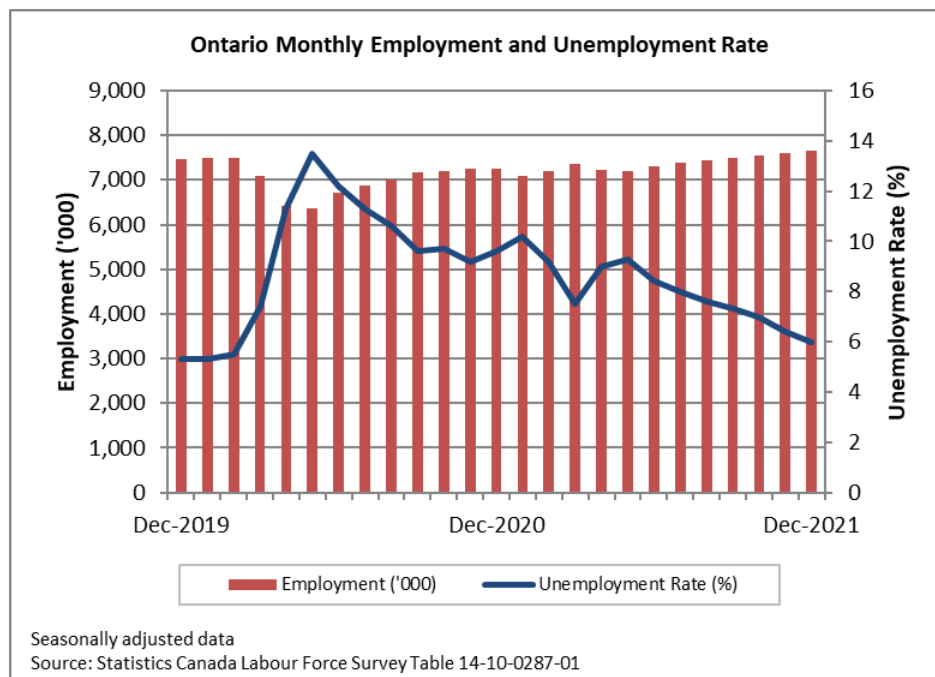
### Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15+ ('000)</b>	12,420.0	12,399.2	12,274.5	20.8	0.2	145.5	1.2
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	8,143.6	8,123.8	8,011.3	19.8	0.2	132.3	1.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	7,651.7	7,604.8	7,239.0	46.9	0.6	412.7	5.7
Full-Time ('000)	6,270.1	6,230.4	5,966.8	39.7	0.6	303.3	5.1
Part-Time ('000)	1,381.7	1,374.3	1,272.3	7.4	0.5	109.4	8.6
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	491.9	519.1	772.3	-27.2	-5.2	-280.4	-36.3
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	6.0	6.4	9.6	-0.4	-	-3.6	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	65.6	65.5	65.3	0.1	-	0.3	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	61.6	61.3	59.0	0.3	-	2.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

- In December, Ontario’s unemployment rate declined 0.4 percentage points to 6.0%.
- The participation rate inched up to 65.6% and the employment rate rose to 61.6%.
- Though Ontario’s unemployment rate has trended higher than the national figure for most of the year, it currently sits just above the national rate of 5.9%.
- The provincial unemployment rate reached its lowest figure since February 2020, and total employment continued to surpass pre-pandemic levels for the fourth month in a row.



## Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.0	6.4	9.6	-0.4	-3.6
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.3	5.6	7.6	-0.3	-2.3
Men - 25 years and over	4.8	5.4	7.4	-0.6	-2.6
Women - 25 years and over	5.8	5.7	7.8	0.1	-2.0
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	10.8	11.4	21.2	-0.6	-10.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.1	14.2	18.4	-3.1	-7.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.4	8.5	24.1	1.9	-13.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment increased in Ontario's **goods-producing sector** by 20,000 (+1.4%) in December 2021. The largest gains were in manufacturing (+16,200; +2.1%) and utilities (+3,100; +5.6%), and the only decline was in agriculture (-2,800; -4.1%).

**Manufacturing**

- The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which provides a measure of the overall health of the economy, fell to 56.5 in December from 57.2 in November.<sup>1</sup>
- In Canada, output levels remain strong driven by new orders stemming from domestic and global demand, though delivery challenges and material shortages continue to weigh on the industry.

Employment increased in Ontario's **services-producing sector** by 26,900 (+0.4%) in December 2021. The largest gains were in trade (+17,900; +1.6%) and educational services (+10,000; +1.8%), and the largest declines were in information, culture and recreation (-7,300; -2.1%) and health care and social assistance (-5,400; -0.6%).

**Wholesale and retail trade**

- Employment rose for the third consecutive month, likely spurred by holiday shopping and greater in-person retail traffic.<sup>2</sup>
- Several upscale brands opened stores in Toronto, increasing the region's luxury shopping footprint.

## Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	7,651.7	7,604.8	7,239.0	46.9	0.6	412.7	5.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	1,500.3	1,480.3	1,493.1	20.0	1.4	7.2	0.5
Agriculture	65.7	68.5	73.4	-2.8	-4.1	-7.7	-10.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	39.2	37.3	36.9	1.9	5.1	2.3	6.2
Utilities	58.4	55.3	50.5	3.1	5.6	7.9	15.6
Construction	546.1	544.4	539.6	1.7	0.3	6.5	1.2
Manufacturing	791.1	774.9	792.7	16.2	2.1	-1.6	-0.2
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	6,151.4	6,124.5	5,746.0	26.9	0.4	405.4	7.1
Trade	1,159.7	1,141.8	1,066.1	17.9	1.6	93.6	8.8
Transportation and warehousing	384.4	382.1	349.4	2.3	0.6	35.0	10.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	640.7	637.0	630.9	3.7	0.6	9.8	1.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	767.1	768.8	697.5	-1.7	-0.2	69.6	10.0
Business, building and other support services	292.8	291.3	274.5	1.5	0.5	18.3	6.7
Educational services	563.0	553.0	535.5	10.0	1.8	27.5	5.1
Health care and social assistance	931.4	936.8	885.0	-5.4	-0.6	46.4	5.2
Information, culture and recreation	341.4	348.7	286.2	-7.3	-2.1	55.2	19.3
Accommodation and food services	392.5	392.7	337.8	-0.2	-0.1	54.7	16.2
Other services	258.4	254.6	294.0	3.8	1.5	-35.6	-12.1
Public administration	420.1	417.8	388.9	2.3	0.6	31.2	8.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - Table 14-10-0355

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour Force Survey data for economic regions are three-month non-seasonally adjusted moving averages. The December data therefore corresponds to an average of October, November, and December and comparisons are year-over-year.

All economic regions in Ontario, except Muskoka-Kawarthas, reported a year-over-year increase in employment in December 2021, as businesses increased activity. However, some of these employment gains may be short-lived as the provincial government announced new COVID-19 restrictions to curb the spread of the Omicron variant, affecting many operations. Compared to pre-pandemic levels in December 2019, employment increased in five economic regions, namely, London, Kingston-Pembroke, Toronto, Windsor-Sarnia, and Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie.

All economic regions saw a decline in unemployment rates compared to December 2020. However, the Muskoka-Kawarthas, Kingston-Pembroke, Northeast and Windsor-Sarnia economic regions reported lower unemployment rates compared to pre-pandemic levels in December 2019.

## Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	December 2021 ('000)	December 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	December 2021 (%)	December 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Ontario</b>	7,601.7	7,236.4	365.3	5.8	8.6	-2.8
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Ottawa	724.2	712.8	11.4	4.1	6.3	-2.2
Kingston-Pembroke	228.6	211.3	17.3	4.5	6.3	-1.8
Muskoka-Kawarthas	160.4	184.4	-24.0	5.9	7.3	-1.4
Toronto	3,723.7	3,504.0	219.7	6.6	10.1	-3.5
Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie	784.8	746.5	38.3	4.9	7.5	-2.6
Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula	766.5	736.7	29.8	5.8	7.4	-1.6
London	386.5	351.2	35.3	5.4	7.1	-1.7
Windsor-Sarnia	318.5	285.4	33.1	6.0	8.7	-2.7
Stratford-Bruce Peninsula	159.2	158.6	0.6	3.0	5.9	-2.9
Northeast	250.5	247.6	2.9	4.9	6.9	-2.0
Northwest	98.8	97.9	0.9	5.4	6.2	-0.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - Table 14-10-0293

Notable changes between December 2020 and December 2021 include:

- The labour force increased in the **Toronto** economic region by 91,600 (+2.4%) and the participation rate rose by 0.8 percentage points to 68.1%.
- Employment in the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region increased by 11.6% (+33,100), mainly driven by gains in full-time employment (+27,700; +12.2%).
- In the **Muskoka-Kawarthas** economic region, the employment rate fell by 7.4 percentage points to 45.7%, the lowest of all economic regions in Ontario.

**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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<sup>1</sup> Patel, S. (2022, January 04). IHS Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/819a4beb9ae248ce83036d8bf1ec1edf>

<sup>2</sup> Toneguzzi, M. (2021, December 20). In-Person Retail Traffic Rebounds Substantially in Canada from Year Prior: Avison Young. *Retail Insider Media Ltd*. Retrieved from [In-Person Retail Traffic Rebounds Substantially in Canada from Year Prior: Avison Young \(retail-insider.com\)](https://www.retail-insider.com/in-person-retail-traffic-rebounds-substantially-in-canada-from-year-prior/)