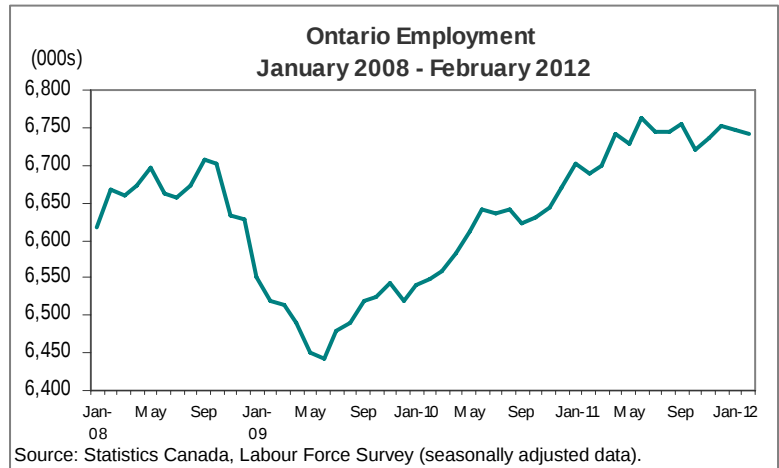


Ontario Labour Market Statistics for February 2012

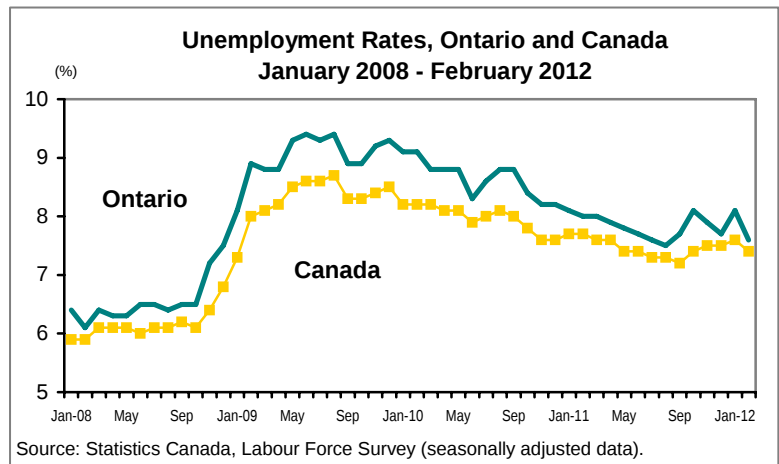
Ontario Employment Edges down

- Employment in Ontario declined by 3,900 net jobs in February, following a decrease of 7,500 in January. Part-time employment gains of 1,500 were offset by a 5,400 decline in full-time jobs.
- Since the recessionary low in June 2009, employment in Ontario has risen by 299,300 (+4.6%) net jobs. Employment in February was 33,500 (+0.5%) above the pre-recession peak level reached in September 2008.
- In recent months, employment growth in Ontario has been volatile. However, employment grew strongly by 121,300 net jobs in 2011 as a whole.



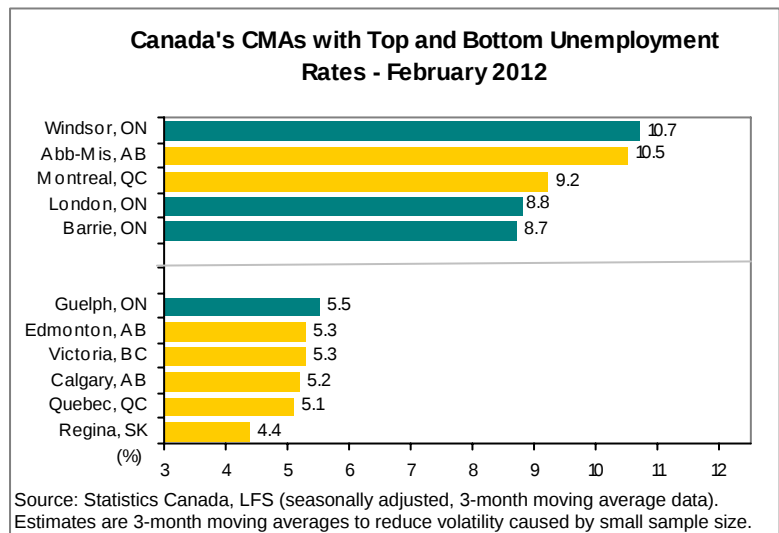
Unemployment Rate Decreases to 7.6%

- The unemployment rate in Ontario dropped to 7.6% in February from 8.1% in January, as the number of people looking for work decreased by 36,600.
- In February, Ontario's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage points higher than the Canadian average rate and has consistently exceeded the national average since January 2007.
- Although 1.8 percentage points below the peak rate of 9.4% recorded in June 2009, the unemployment rate in February was above the recent low of 7.5% reached in August 2011. Ontario's unemployment rate remains significantly higher than the 6.5% rate reported before the start of the economic downturn.



High Unemployment Rates in Ontario CMAs

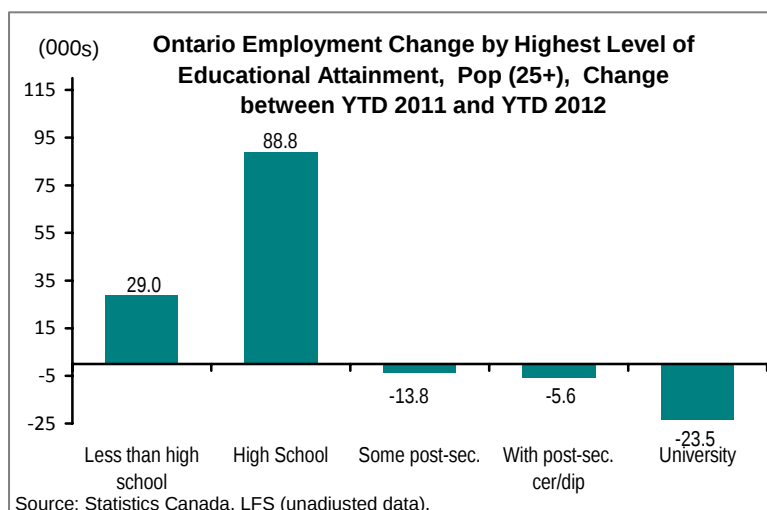
- In February, Ontario continued to dominate the list of Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) with the highest unemployment rates in Canada.
- At 10.7%, Windsor had the highest jobless rate across Canada. London ranked third among the CMAs with the highest unemployment rates (8.8%), followed by Barrie (8.7%).
- At 5.5%, Guelph had the lowest unemployment rate among Ontario's CMAs and the fifth lowest across Canada.



Year-over-Year Comparisons

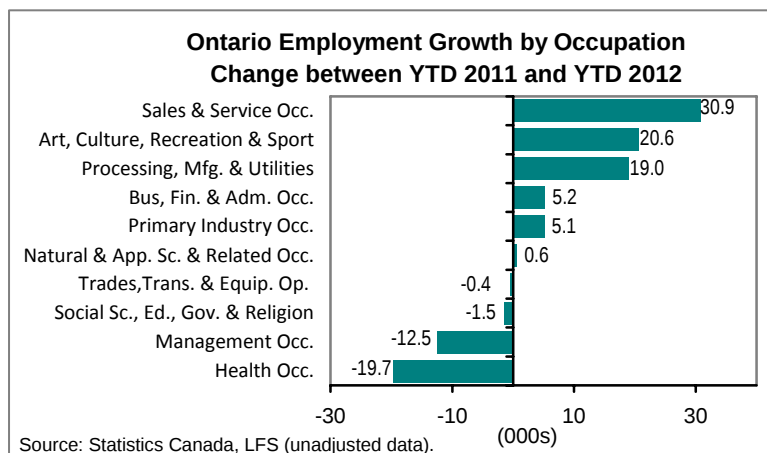
Employment Growth by Educational Attainment

- In the first two months of 2012, employment increased by 75,100 net jobs for adults 25 years and over compared to the first two months of 2011. There was a large increase in employment (+104,000) among adults without post-secondary education (PSE), while adults with PSE posted a decline of 29,100 net jobs.
- Despite this recent loss in jobs for adults with PSE credentials, employment gains for this group have accounted for 75% of Ontario job gains over the past two years. From February 2010 to February 2012, employment has increased by 157,200 (+4.2%) for adults with PSE compared to job gains of 53,400 (+2.9%) for those without a PSE credential.
- Over the first two months of 2012, those with PSE recorded a significantly lower unemployment rate compared to those without PSE. The unemployment rate for adults with PSE has averaged 5.7% compared to an unemployment rate of 8.1% for adults without PSE.



Occupational Employment Growth

- Six of the ten major occupational groups in Ontario recorded employment growth over the first two months of 2012 compared the first two months of 2011. The largest job gains occurred in Sales and Service (+30,900) and in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport (+20,600) Occupations.
- Over the same period, the largest employment decline was in Health (-19,700) and Management (-12,500) Occupations.



Long-Term Unemployment

- The number of people unemployed for 27 weeks or more remains high compared to pre-recessionary levels, but lower than the previous two years:
 - Over the first two months of 2012, an average of 135,800 people faced long-term unemployment, significantly higher than the number recorded over the first two months of 2008 (52,400). This group now represents 23.9% of all unemployed workers in Ontario.
- At 23 weeks, the average duration of unemployment was notably higher over the first two months of 2012 compared to the pre-recessionary average of 14 weeks reported in the January-February period of 2008.

