

Ontario Labour Market Statistics for March 2012

Ontario Employment Increases

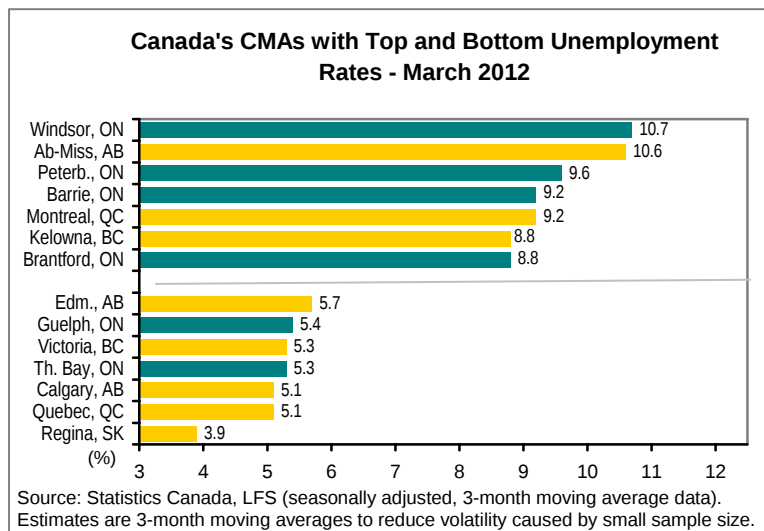
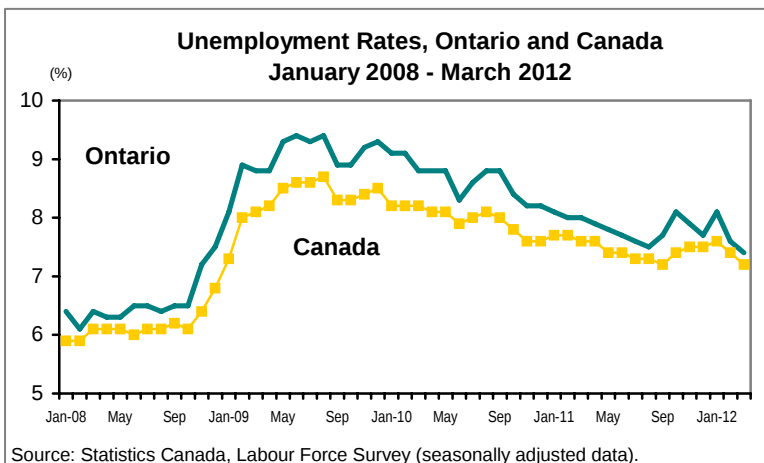
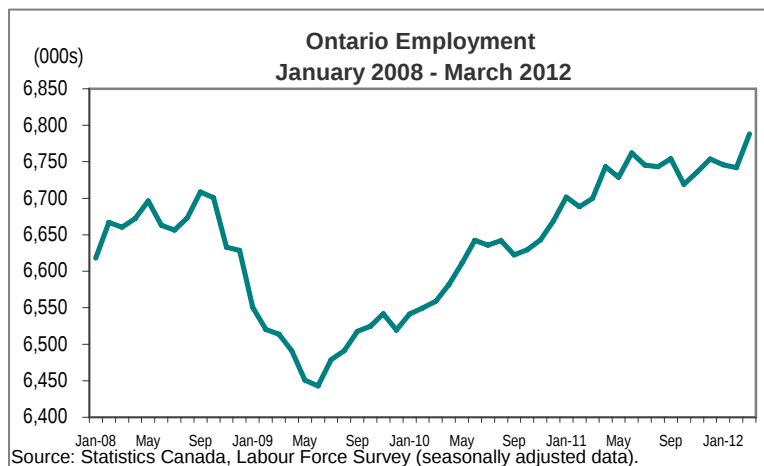
- Employment in Ontario posted a strong gain of 46,100 net jobs in March, the largest monthly gain in over four years. The March increase was concentrated in full-time employment (+47,900), while the number of part-time positions edged down by 1,800.
- Since the recessionary low in June 2009, employment in Ontario has risen by 345,400 (+5.4%) net jobs. Employment in March was 79,600 (+1.2%) 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 7.4%

- The job gains in March pushed Ontario's unemployment rate down to 7.4%, the lowest rate in over three years.
- At 7.4%, Ontario's unemployment rate in March was two percentage points below the peak rate of 9.4% recorded in June 2009. However, the unemployment rate remains above the 6.5% rate recorded in September 2008 before the start of the economic downturn.
- In March, Ontario's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage points higher than the Canadian average rate and has exceeded the national average for five consecutive years.

High Unemployment Rates in Ontario CMAs

- In March, 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. Peterborough ranked third among CMAs with the highest unemployment rates (9.6%), followed by Barrie (9.2%).
- At 5.3%, Thunder Bay had the lowest unemployment rate among Ontario's CMAs and the third lowest across Canada.



Year-over-Year Comparisons

Employment Growth by Educational Attainment

- In the first three months of 2012, employment increased by 86,100 net jobs for adults 25 years and over compared to the first three months of 2011. There was a large increase in employment (+88,400) among adults without post-secondary education (PSE), while adults with PSE posted a small decline of 2,300 net jobs.
- Despite the recent loss in jobs for adults with PSE credentials, employment gains for this group have accounted for 80% of Ontario job gains over the past two years. From March 2010 to March 2012, employment has increased by 189,600 (+5.0%) for adults with PSE compared to job gains of 53,400 (+2.6%) for those without a PSE credential.
- Over the January to March period 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 5.8% 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 three months of 2012 compared to the same period last year. The largest job gains occurred in Sales and Service (+28,800) and in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities (+24,800) Occupations.
- Over the same period, the largest employment declines were in Health (-22,600) and Management (-13,400) 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 three months of 2012, an average of 130,600 people faced long-term unemployment, significantly higher than the number recorded over the first three months of 2008 (53,400). This group now represents 23.0% of all unemployed workers in Ontario.
- At 23 weeks, the average duration of unemployment was notably higher over the first three months of 2012 compared to the pre-recessionary average of 14 weeks reported in the January-March period of 2008.

