

Ontario Labour Market Statistics for April 2012

Ontario Employment Declines

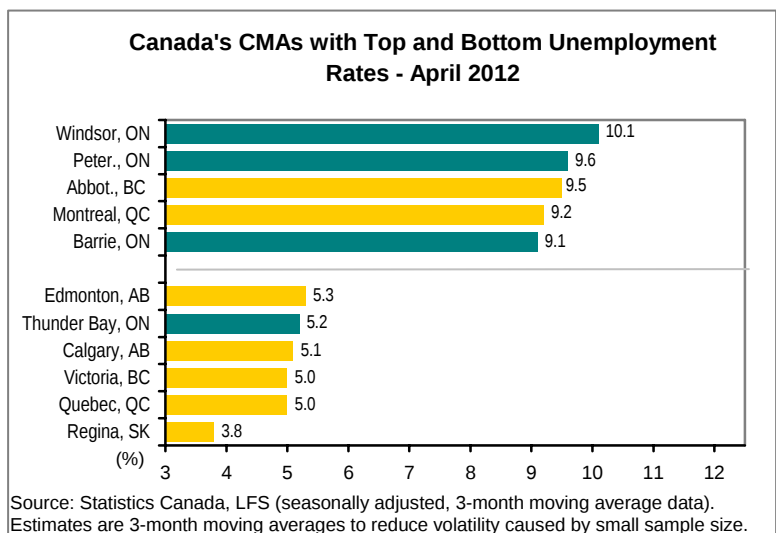
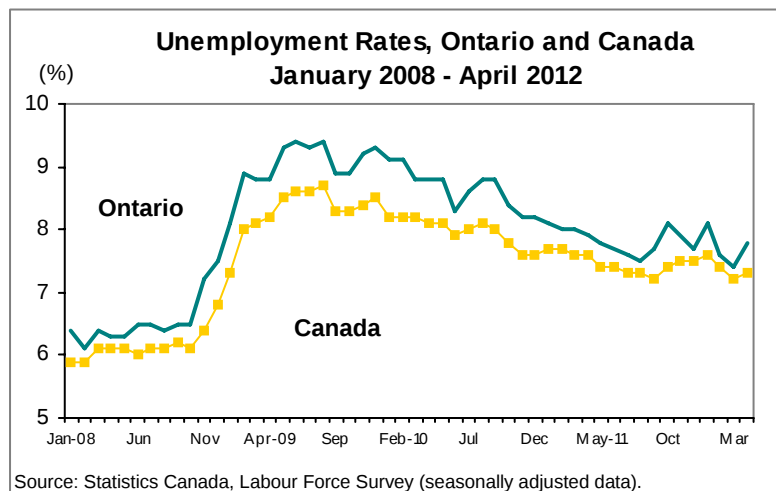
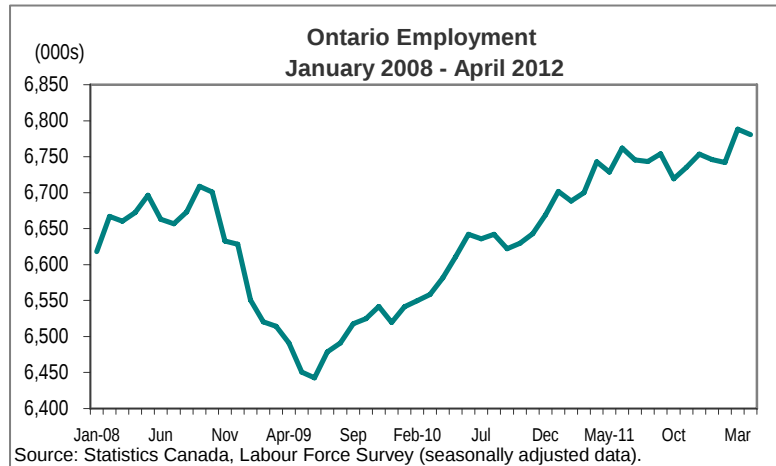
- Employment in Ontario fell by 7,700 net jobs in April, following a strong gain of 46,100 in March. Full-time employment continued to post employment growth (+23,100) after recording a solid increase of 47,900 in April. Part-time employment fell by 30,800 in April.
- Since the recessionary low in June 2009, employment in Ontario has risen by 337,700 (+5.2%) net jobs. Employment in April was 71,900 (+1.1%) above the pre-recession peak level reached in September 2008.
- In recent months, employment growth in Ontario has been volatile. Despite recent volatility, employment in Ontario was up by 59,000 over the first four months of 2012 compared to the same period last year. For 2011 as a whole, employment grew strongly by 121,300 net jobs in Ontario.

Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.8%

- Ontario's unemployment rate increased to 7.8% in April from 7.4% in March, as the number of individuals looking for work increased by 32,800.
- At 7.8%, April's unemployment rate was 1.6 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 April, Ontario's unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage points higher than the Canadian average rate and has exceeded the national average for five consecutive years.

High Unemployment Rates in Ontario CMAs

- Ontario's Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) recorded three of the top five highest unemployment rates in Canada in April.
- At 10.1%, Windsor had the highest jobless rate across Canada, followed by Peterborough at 9.6%. Barrie ranked fifth among CMAs with the highest unemployment rate (9.1%) in Canada.
- At 5.2%, Thunder Bay had the lowest unemployment rate among Ontario's CMAs and the fourth lowest across Canada. The unemployment rate for Thunder Bay has declined sharply in the past year, falling by 2.8 percentage points, the largest decline among Ontario's CMAs.



Year-over-Year Comparisons

Employment Growth by Educational Attainment

- Over the first four months of 2012, employment increased by 81,400 net jobs for adults 25 years and over compared to the first four months of 2011. There was a large increase in employment (+85,700) among adults without post-secondary education (PSE), while adults with PSE posted a small decline of 4,400 net jobs.
- Despite the recent loss in jobs for adults with PSE credentials, employment gains for this group have accounted for 86% of Ontario job gains over the past two years. From April 2010 to April 2012, employment has increased by 194,300 (+5.1%) for adults with PSE compared to job gains of 32,800 (+1.8%) for those without a PSE credential.
- Over the January to April 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 5.7% compared to an unemployment rate of 8.1% for adults without PSE.

Occupational Employment Growth

- Five of the ten major occupational groups in Ontario recorded employment growth over the first four months of 2012 compared to the same period last year. The largest job gains occurred in Sales and Service (+43,100) and in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities (+24,200) Occupations.
- Over the same period, the largest employment declines were in Health (-21,200) and Management (-18,800) 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 four months of 2012, an average of 127,600 people faced long-term unemployment, significantly higher than the number recorded over the first four months of 2008 (56,500). This group now represents 22.5% of all unemployed workers in Ontario.
- At 22 weeks, the average duration of unemployment was notably higher over the first four months of 2012 compared to the pre-recessionary average of 15 weeks reported in the January-April period of 2008.

