

Ontario Labour Market Statistics for May 2012

Ontario Employment Declines

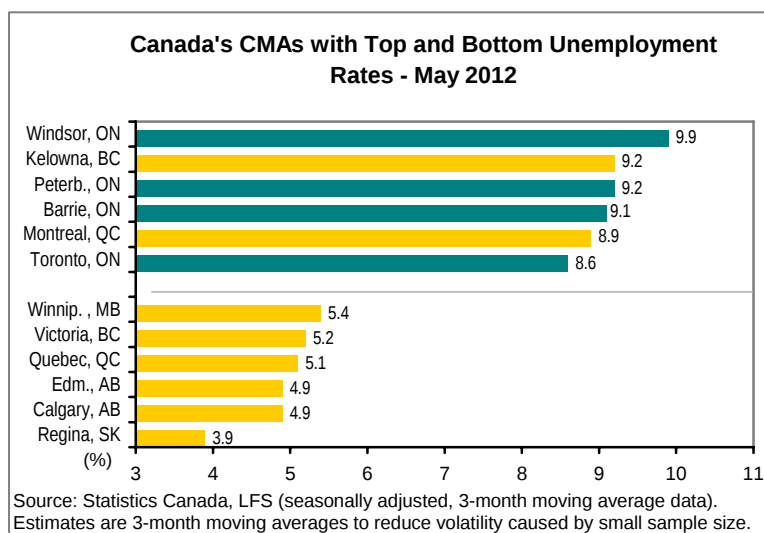
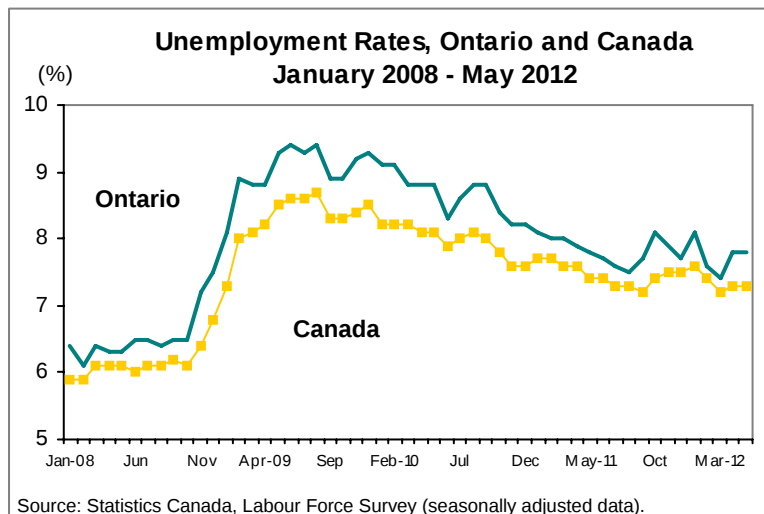
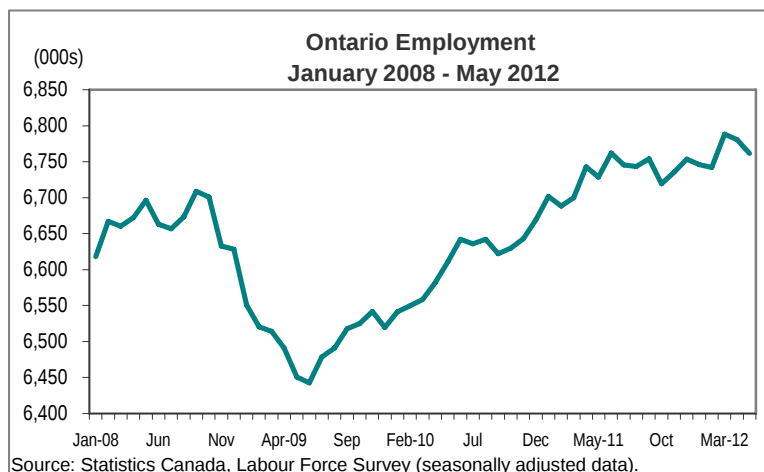
- Employment in Ontario fell by 18,700 net jobs in May, the largest decline since October 2011. May's employment loss followed a decline of 7,700 in April. Ontario's employment decline over the past two months was the largest back-to-back drop since June 2009.
- Full-time employment dropped by 30,700 in May, following two consecutive months of employment increases. This loss was partially offset by a rise in part-time employment (+12,000).
- Since the recessionary low in June 2009, employment in Ontario has risen by 319,000 (+5.0%) net jobs. Employment in May was 53,200 (+0.8%) 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 52,300 over the first five months of 2012 compared to the same period last year.

Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 7.8%

- In May, Ontario's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.8%.
- May's unemployment rate was 1.6 percentage points below the peak rate of 9.4% recorded in June 2009. However, the unemployment rate remained above the 6.5% rate recorded in September 2008 before the start of the economic downturn.
- In May, 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 four of the top five highest unemployment rates in Canada in May.
 - At 9.9%, Windsor had the highest unemployment rate across Canada, followed by Peterborough which tied with Kelowna at 9.2%. Barrie ranked third (9.1%) and Toronto ranked fifth (8.6%).
- Guelph (5.5%) and Thunder Bay (5.7%) recorded the lowest unemployment rates in Ontario. However, their unemployment rates did not rank among the five lowest in Canada.



Year-over-Year Comparisons

Employment Growth by Educational Attainment

- Over the first five months of 2012, employment increased by 79,500 net jobs for adults 25 years and over compared to the first five months of 2011. There was a large increase in employment (+75,500) among adults without post-secondary education (PSE), while adults with PSE posted a small increase of 4,000 net jobs.
- Despite the limited increase in jobs for adults with PSE credentials, employment gains for this group have accounted for 87.6% of Ontario job gains over the past two years. From May 2010 to May 2012, employment has increased by 228,200 (+6.0%) for adults with PSE compared to job losses of 32,300 (-1.7%) for those without a PSE credential.
- Over the January to May 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 8.0% for adults without PSE.

Occupational Employment Growth

- Five of the ten major occupational groups in Ontario recorded employment growth over the first five months of 2012 compared to the same period last year. The largest job gains occurred in Sales and Service (+41,500) and in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities (+20,200) Occupations.
- Over the same period, the largest employment declines were in Health (-21,100) and Management (-10,100) 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 five months of 2012, an average of 127,000 people faced long-term unemployment, significantly higher than the number recorded over the first five months of 2008 (58,000). This group now represents 22.0% of all unemployed workers in Ontario.
- At 22 weeks, the average duration of unemployment was notably higher over the first five months of 2012 compared to the pre-recessionary average of 15 weeks reported in the January-May period of 2008.

