

Ontario Labour Market Statistics for December 2012

Ontario Employment Increases

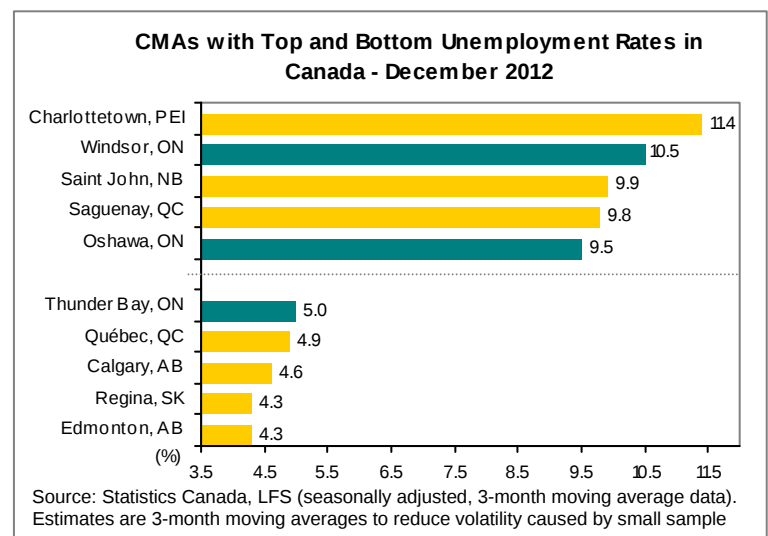
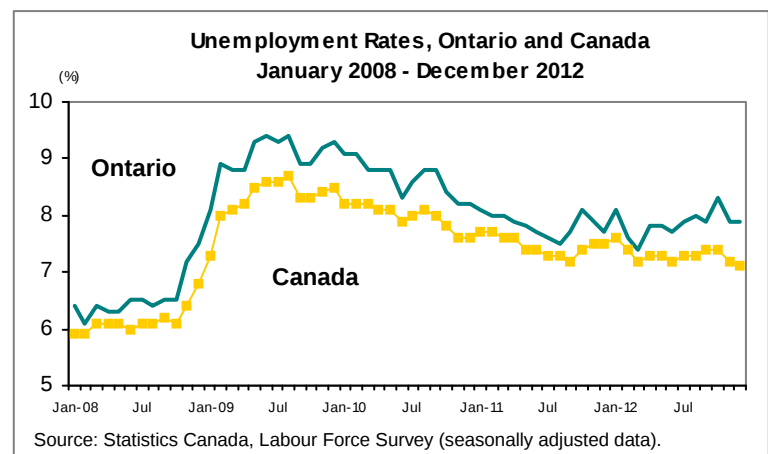
- Employment in Ontario rose by 32,900 net jobs in December, the largest monthly gain since March 2012. This follows an increase of 32,000 in November, and represents the largest back-to-back gain in six years (December 2006). Most of the employment gains in December were in part-time positions (+26,500), while full-time employment recorded a smaller increase of 6,300.
- Since the recessionary low in June 2009, employment in Ontario has risen by 411,000 (+6.4%) net jobs. Employment in December was 145,200 (+2.2%) above the pre-recession peak level reached in September 2008.
- On an annual basis, employment in Ontario was up by 52,400 (+0.8%) compared with 2011. Most of the job gains in 2012 were in full-time positions (44,700 or 85%).

Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 7.9%

- The unemployment rate in Ontario remained at 7.9% in December, unchanged from November.
- In December, Ontario's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage points higher than the Canadian average rate (7.1%) and has exceeded the national average since January 2007.
- Ontario's unemployment rate averaged 7.8% in 2012, unchanged from 2011. Nationally, the unemployment rate averaged 7.2% in 2012.
- Although 1.5 percentage points below the peak rate of 9.4% recorded in June 2009, the unemployment rate in December was above the recent low of 7.4% reached in March 2012. Ontario's unemployment rate remains well above the 6.5% rate recorded in September 2008 before the start of the economic downturn.

High Unemployment Rates in Ontario CMAs

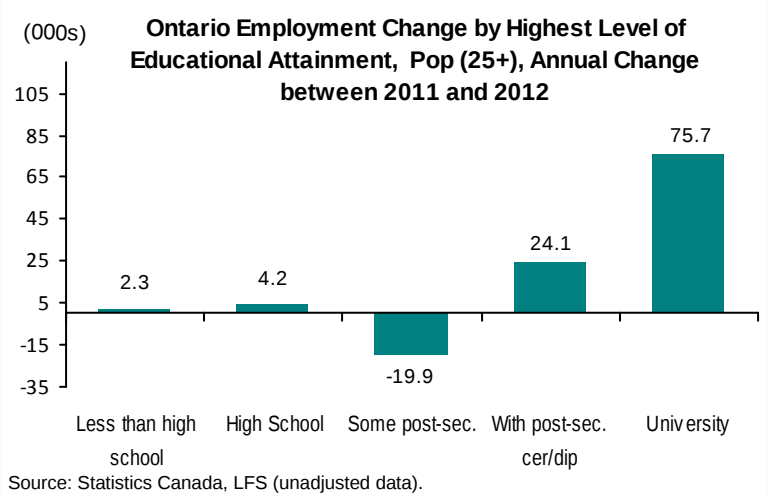
- In December, Ontario Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) recorded five of the top 10 unemployment rates in Canada:
 - At 10.5%, Windsor recorded the second highest unemployment rate across all CMAs. Oshawa's unemployment rate was the fifth highest at 9.5%.
- At 5.0%, Thunder Bay had the lowest unemployment rate among Ontario's CMAs, ranking fifth lowest in Canada.



Year-over-Year Comparisons

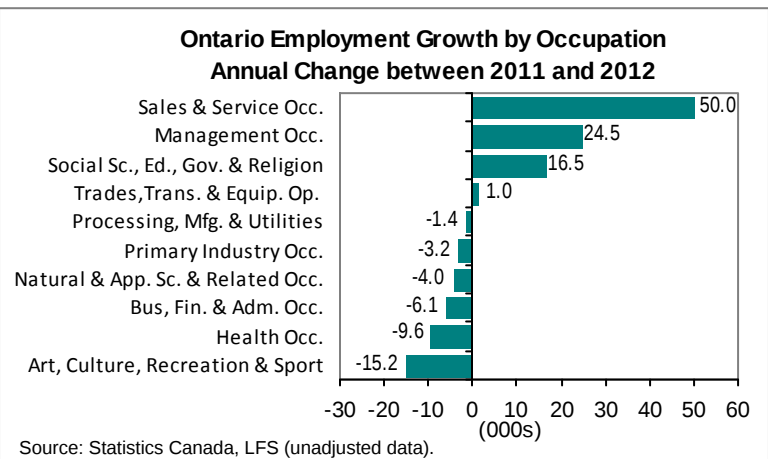
Employment Growth by Educational Attainment

- On average, all of the job gains in 2012 were concentrated among those with postsecondary education (PSE). The adult population 25 years and over recorded job gains of 86,300 net jobs compared with 2011. Job gains totalled 99,800 among adults with PSE credentials, with employment rising by 24,100 for adults with a postsecondary certificate or diploma and by 75,700 for those with a university degree. In contrast, employment declined by 13,400 for adults without PSE over the same period.
- In 2012, those with PSE recorded a significantly lower unemployment rate compared to those without PSE. The unemployment rate for adults with PSE averaged 5.5% in 2012 compared to an unemployment rate of 7.8% for adults without PSE.



Occupational Employment Growth

- Four of the ten major occupational groups in Ontario recorded employment growth in 2012 compared to 2011. Sales and Service Occupations recorded significant job gains (+50,000), followed by Management Occupations (+24,500).
- The largest employment declines in 2012 were in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport (-15,200) and in Health Occupations (-9,600).



Long-Term Unemployment

- The number of people unemployed for 27 weeks or more is lower than the previous two years, but continues to remain higher than pre-recessionary levels:
 - During 2012, an average of 126,800 people faced long-term unemployment, significantly higher than the number recorded in 2008 (62,100). This group now represents 22.1% of all unemployed workers in Ontario.
- At 21.8 weeks, the average duration of unemployment in 2012 dropped slightly from 2011 (22.1 weeks), but was notably higher compared to the pre-recessionary average of 14.6 weeks reported in 2008.

