

Ontario Labour Market Statistics for March 2015

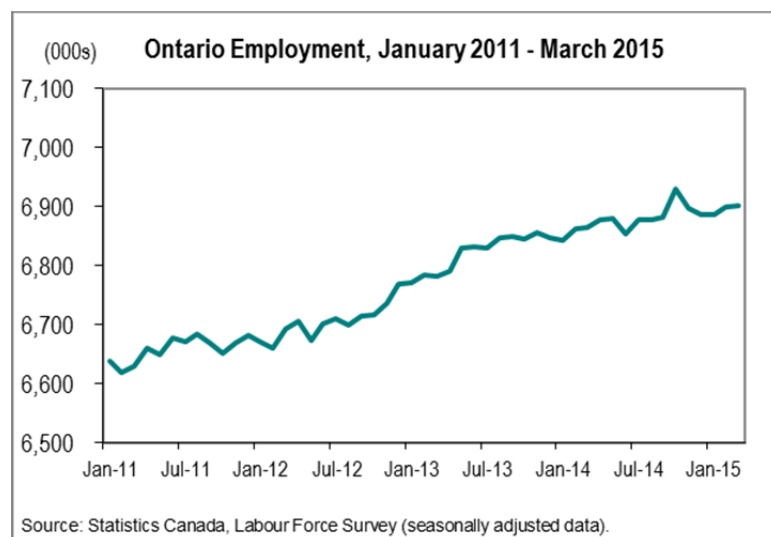
Employment Fairly Flat in March

Ontario employment was little changed in March 2015, rising by 2,000 net new jobs. The gain was entirely due to an increase in part-time positions of 27,500 which was partly offset by a decrease of 25,700 full-time jobs.

Across Canada, employment increased by 28,700 in March following a 1,000 decline in February.

By age group, employment decreased for youth (ages 15-24) by 7,800 in March following a 3,200 increase in February. Employment dropped by 4,400 among workers aged 25 to 54 and increased by 14,100 for those aged 55 and over.

Ontario has recovered all of the jobs lost during the recession and employment is now 3.8% or 252,000 above the pre-recession peak.

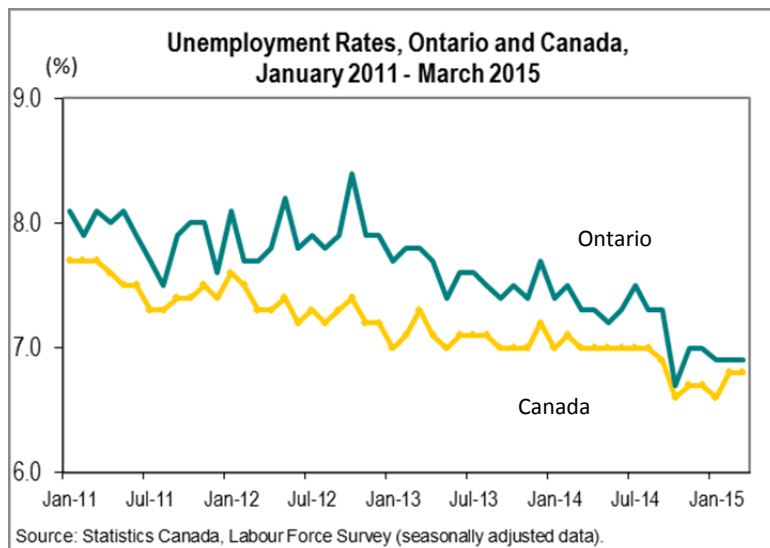


Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 6.9%

The unemployment rate in Ontario was unchanged at 6.9% in March. This is the third consecutive month at 6.9%.

In March, the unemployment rate was unchanged for both youth (at 14.9%) and for workers aged 25 to 54 (at 5.7%).

The unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage points for those aged 55 and over, falling from 5.0% to 4.6%.

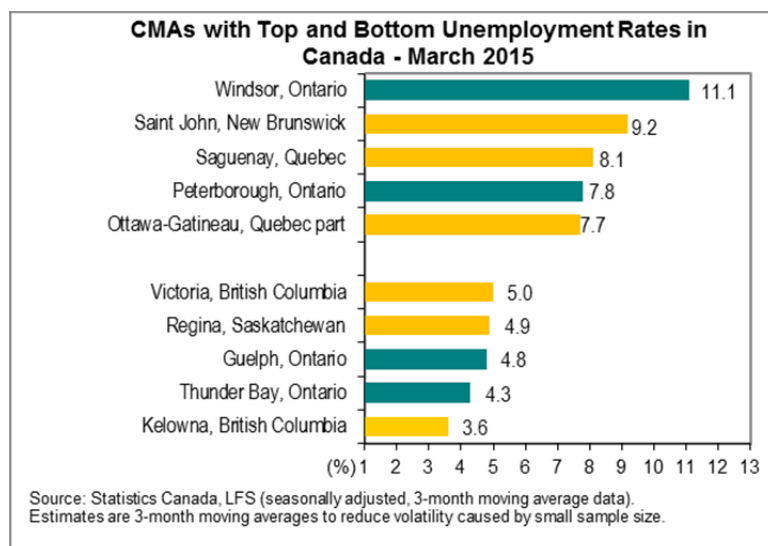


Mixed Unemployment Rates in Ontario CMAs

Ontario's Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) continued to show mixed unemployment rates with representation across both ends of the spectrum.

At 11.1%, Windsor had the highest unemployment rate in Canada while Oshawa and Peterborough also had relatively high rates at 7.5% and 7.8% respectively.

On the other hand, a number of Ontario CMAs had relatively low unemployment rates including Thunder Bay (4.3%), Guelph (4.8%), Brantford (5.4%), Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo (5.5%) and Hamilton (5.6%).



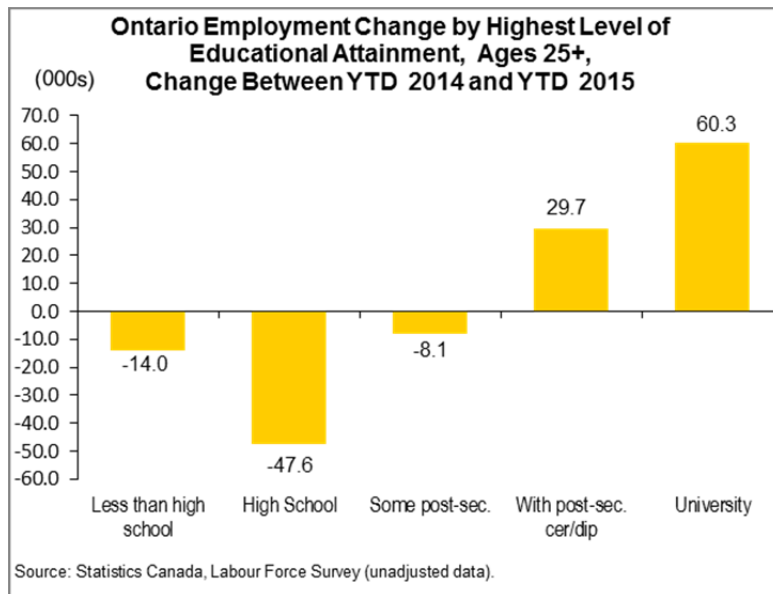
Year-over-Year Comparisons

Employment Gains by Educational Attainment

Over January to March 2015, employment increased by 20,300 for adults 25 years and over compared to the first three months of 2014.

All of the job gains were concentrated among those with postsecondary (PSE) credentials. Employment rose by a strong 60,300 for adults with a university degree. Adults without PSE credentials recorded a decline of 69,700.

The unemployment rate for adults 25 years and over with PSE credentials was 4.8% over the first three months of 2015, down from 5.4% a year earlier. In comparison, the unemployment rate fell for adults without PSE fell from 8.4% to 8.1%.

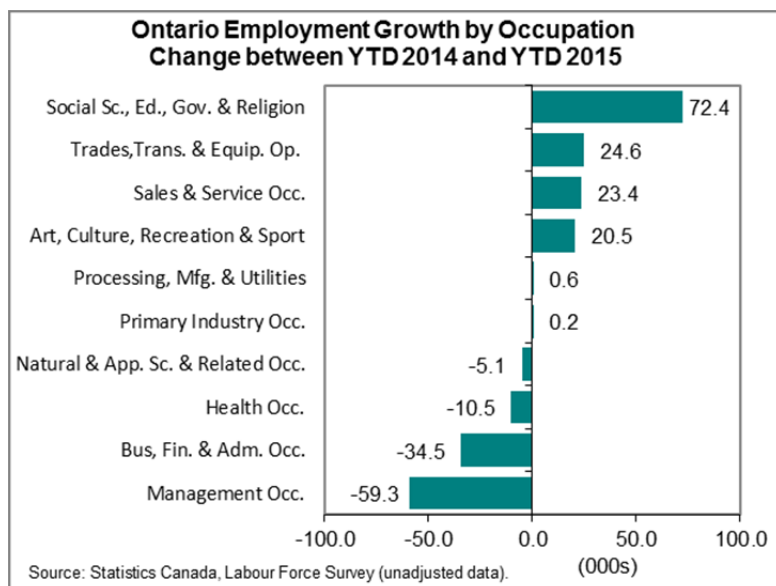


Occupational Employment Gains

Six of the ten major occupational groups in Ontario recorded employment growth over the first three months of 2015 compared to 2014.

The largest job gains were in Social Science, Education, Government and Religion (+72,400), Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations (+24,600), Sales and Service Occupations (+23,400) and Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport (+20,500).

Over the same period, there were large declines in Business, Finance and Administrative Occupations (-34,500) and Management Occupations (-59,300).

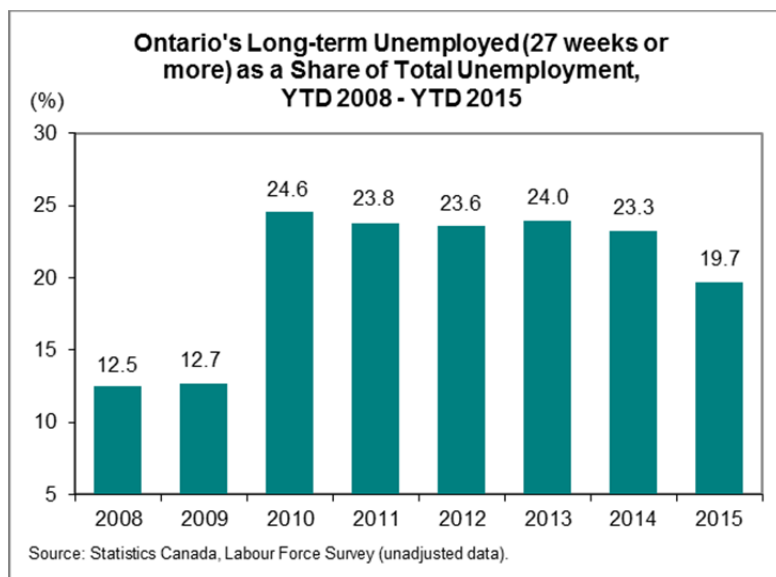


Long-Term Unemployment High but Falling

Long-term unemployment continues to exceed pre-recessionary levels but is decreasing.

Over the January to March period of 2015, an average of 101,500 people faced long-term unemployment (27 weeks or more), down from 128,700 in 2014 but well above the 2008 pre-recessionary level of 56,800. The share of long-term unemployed has recently fallen (from 24.0% in early 2013 to 19.7% in early 2015) but is still relatively elevated.

The average duration of unemployment has also fallen recently, from 23.0 weeks in early 2014 to 19.5 weeks in early 2015, but similar to long-term share, remains above pre-recessionary levels (e.g., 14.4 weeks in early 2008).



For detailed labour market data tables, please contact ResearchStrategy@ontario.ca