



**FAO**

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
OFFICE OF ONTARIO

# **Ontario's Regional Labour Markets During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

June 2020

# Key Points

- The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a significant deterioration in labour markets across all of Ontario's major cities, with large declines in employment and corresponding increases in unemployment rates.<sup>1</sup>
- Among Ontario's major cities, Windsor was the most affected by the pandemic, with employment declining by 19.1 per cent from February to May, followed by St. Catharines-Niagara (-15.6 per cent) and Thunder Bay (-15.2 per cent). Guelph was the least affected by the pandemic, with employment down 4.9 per cent.
- Province-wide, Ontario continued to experience job losses in May, with employment declining by 64,500 (or -1.0 per cent), adding to the much larger job losses posted in March and April.<sup>2</sup>
- Since the pandemic shutdowns began three months ago, Ontario employment has fallen by 1.2 million workers (or -15.3 per cent), the sharpest job loss among all of the Canadian provinces.
- Ontario's unemployment rate jumped to a record high of 13.6 per cent in May, as more people returned to the labour market looking for work and employment continued to decline.
- Over the February to May period, an estimated 2.2 million Ontario workers have been directly affected by the pandemic-related shutdowns, either through lost jobs or sharply reduced hours.
- In May, there were some early signs of recovery, with employment increasing modestly in manufacturing, accommodation and food services, wholesale and retail trade, and construction.
- Ontario is likely to see an increase in employment in June, reflecting the gradual reopening of the economy through the month. However, given the different timing of the reopening across the province, the pace of job creation may vary among the CMAs.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ontario cities included in this report are based on Statistics Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs). Statistics Canada defines a CMA as a large population centre together with adjacent fringe and rural areas that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the centres. A CMA must have a population of at least 100,000. Statistics Canada publishes the main labour force statistics of CMAs as three-month moving averages to reduce irregular movements caused by relatively small sample sizes. This means that CMA data for May is the average of March, April, and May. The labour force data published in May provides a fuller indication of the initial impact of the COVID-19 shutdowns on the CMAs in Ontario during the March to May 2020 period. The Ontario data in the section on regional labour markets are also on a three-month moving average basis and differ from the results presented in other sections of this report. It is important to note that CMA employment data is based on where employees live and not the location of their workplace.

<sup>2</sup> All the data used in this report are based on Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS). The monthly LFS is based on a sample of about 15,000 Ontario households who report on their employment status, hours worked, and wages. The survey provides broad coverage of labour market information, including industry, demographic and regional data. The monthly data used in this report are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise noted. Statistics Canada's current Labour Force Survey was introduced in 1976.

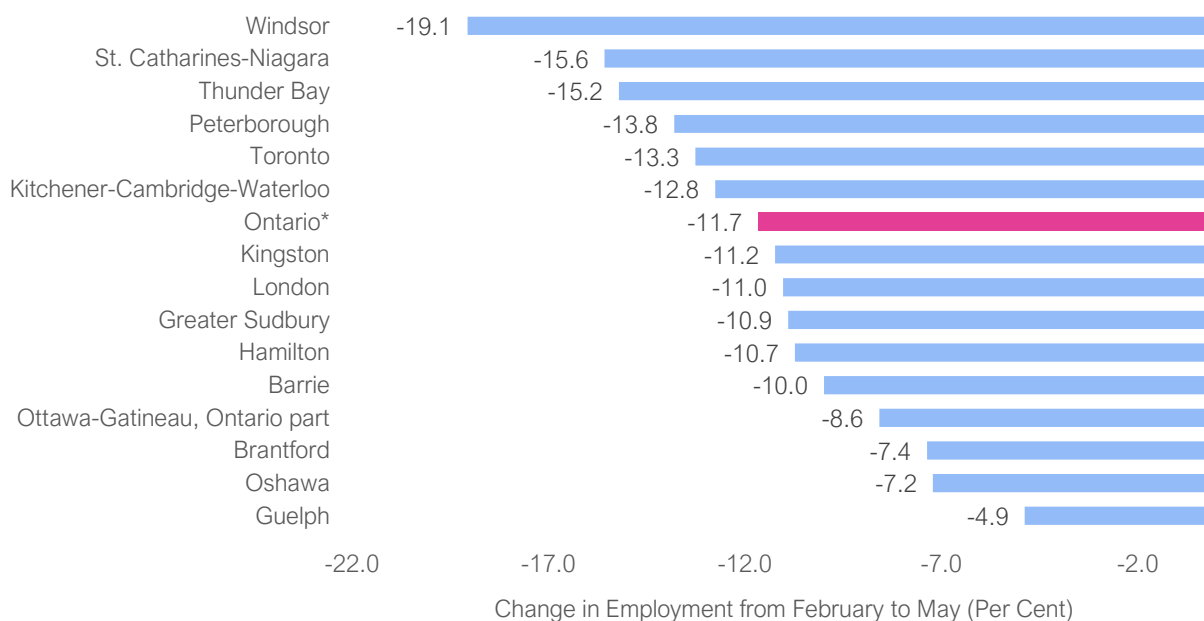
<sup>3</sup> For details on the regional approach of reopening in Ontario, see [A Framework for Reopening our Province: Stage 2](#).

# Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Ontario's Regional Labour Markets

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a broad, mandated shutdown of non-essential activities in Ontario that began in mid-March. The pandemic-related shutdowns have had significant impacts on the province's economy and labour markets. This report highlights the pandemic's impact on labour markets in Ontario's major cities, based on Statistics Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs). All major cities saw sharp and sudden employment losses during the February to May period, although the extent varied. In almost all the cities, accommodation and food services, and wholesale and retail trade industries experienced significant job losses.

In some of the hardest hit CMAs, COVID-19 related job losses have exacerbated already difficult labour markets.<sup>4</sup> On a proportional basis, job losses were the sharpest in Windsor (-19.1 per cent) which was already experiencing weakness in the manufacturing sector, compounded by temporary auto plant closures due to COVID-19. In Peterborough, the pace of manufacturing job losses was the fastest compared to the other CMAs, leading to a 13.8 per cent decline in total employment. For St. Catharines-Niagara, nearly two-fifths of the 15.6 per cent drop in total employment occurred in the accommodation and food services industry, even though the pandemic-related shutdowns and travel bans began before peak tourism season.

**Figure 1: All CMAs have had large employment loss since the beginning of the pandemic**



\*Ontario total is based on three-month moving averages and is different than the total decline based on single-month data reported elsewhere in this report. Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.

<sup>4</sup> Peterborough, Thunder Bay, and St. Catharines-Niagara, three of the most affected labour markets during the pandemic, also saw a decline in employment in 2019, even as the province recorded largest annual job gain on record. For details, see the FAO's [Labour Market Report 2019](#).

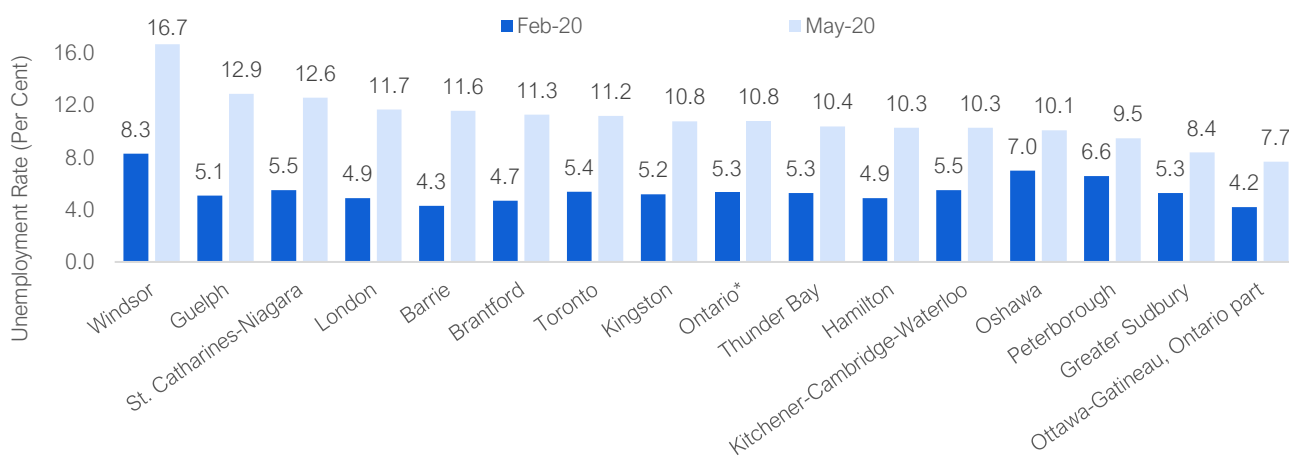
Toronto, which accounted for more than half the province-wide decline in employment, saw job losses of 13.3 per cent over the February to May period. In Ottawa, employment declined by a smaller 8.6 per cent, reflecting the heavy concentration of public administration jobs. In Kingston, the pace of job loss was 11.2 per cent, one-fourth in the accommodation and food industry. Within Northern Ontario, Thunder Bay recorded a steep 15.2 per cent decline in employment, with job losses in all major sectors. In contrast, Greater Sudbury recorded a relatively smaller loss (-10.9 per cent), supported by job gains in its public administration, and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing sectors.

London (-11.0 per cent), Hamilton (-10.7 per cent), and Barrie (-10.0 per cent) posted a similar pace of job losses over the past three months. Nearly two-fifths of the jobs lost in London and Hamilton were in manufacturing, and accommodation and food services industries. Barrie’s hardest hit industry was unique compared to other CMAs, with the business, building, and other support services sector representing more than one-third of the job losses. Guelph experienced the smallest rate of job loss among CMAs over the February to May period, with employment declining by 4.9 per cent. In neighboring Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, job losses (-12.8 per cent) were more significant, with large declines in educational services, and transportation and warehousing industries. Brantford (-7.4 per cent) and Oshawa (-7.2 per cent) experienced relatively moderate employment declines compared to other CMAs, as both areas saw small job gains in select sectors.

### Unemployment Rates Rise Across all CMAs

Over the February to May period, all CMAs experienced sharp increases in unemployment rates. In nine of 15 CMAs, unemployment rates more than doubled. Windsor had the highest unemployment rate among CMAs in May at 16.7 per cent, up sharply from 8.3 per cent in February. Guelph, which had an unemployment rate (5.1 per cent) below the provincial average in February, saw a significant spike in its jobless rate in May, jumping to 12.9 per cent, the second highest in the province. The relatively large rise in Guelph’s unemployment rate reflects an increase in the number of people actively looking for work over the period. Notable increases in the unemployment rate also occurred in St. Catharines-Niagara (5.5 per cent in February to 12.6 per cent in May), London (from 4.9 per cent to 11.7 per cent), and Barrie (from 4.3 per cent to 11.6 per cent).

**Figure 2: All CMAs saw significant increase in unemployment rates**

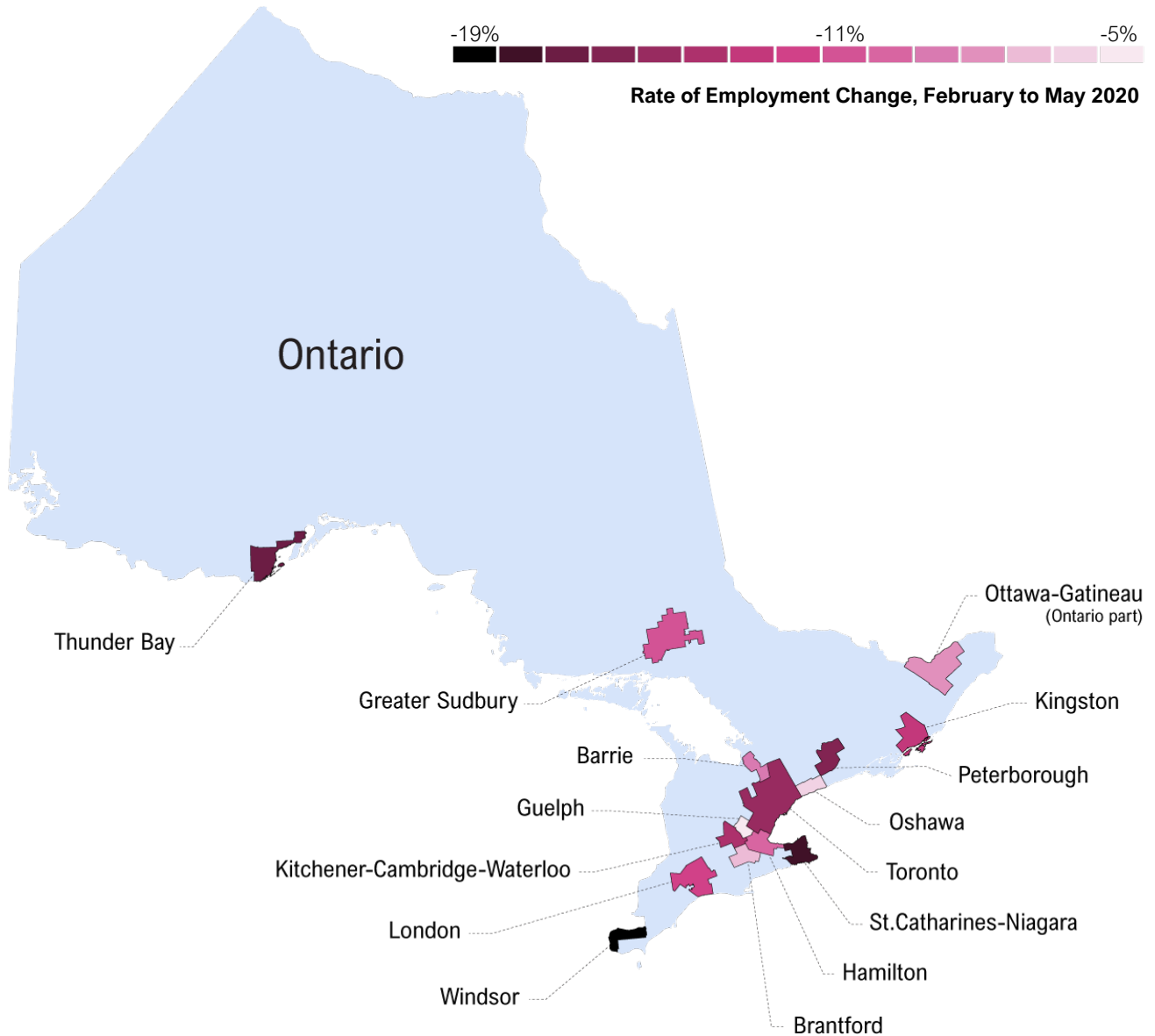


\*Based on three-month moving averages and is different than the single-month unemployment rate reported elsewhere in this report. Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.

Ottawa-Gatineau, which recorded the fourth smallest rate of employment loss among the CMAs, had the lowest unemployment rate at 7.7 per cent in May, up from 4.2 per cent in February. Ottawa's relatively smaller job loss and lower unemployment rate during the pandemic reflect its sectoral composition and the relatively high proportion of employees who can work from home.

Refer to the Appendix for detailed information on each of Ontario's 15 CMAs and five regions, including employment impacts by industry.

### A Snapshot of the Pandemic's Impact on Ontario's Regional Labour Markets

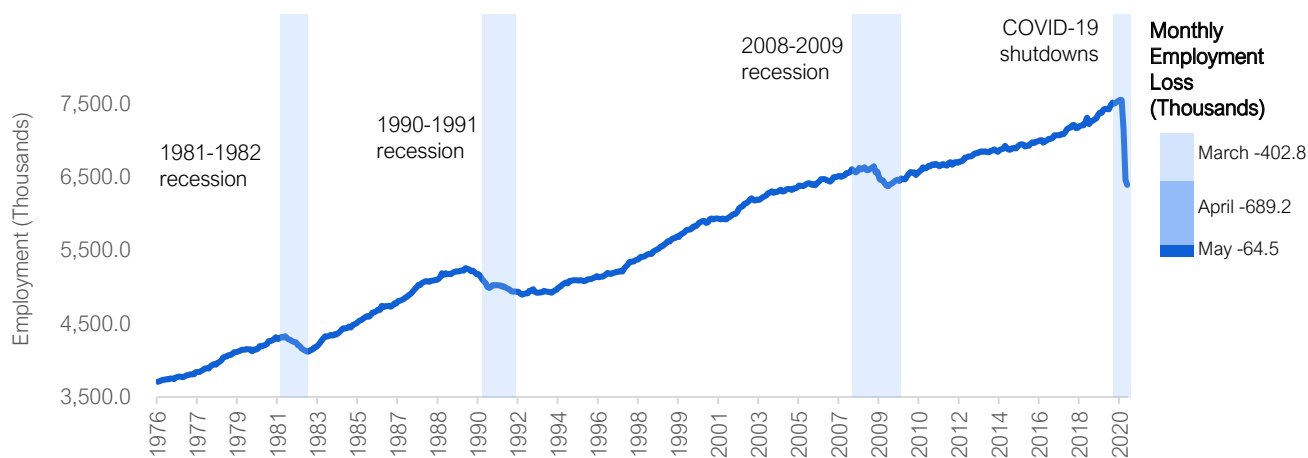


Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.

# Ontario Job Losses Continued in May, but at a Slower Pace

According to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, Ontario employment declined by 64,500 jobs (or -1.0 per cent) in May, significantly slower than the pace of job losses in March (-402,800) and April (-689,200). Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the number of workers who have been directly affected by the shutdowns was unchanged at 2.2 million in May, as the decline in employment was largely offset by an increase in the number of employees working more hours.

**Figure 3: Ontario's employment declines continued in May**



Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.

Ontario's unemployment rate reached a record 13.6 per cent in May, as more people returned to the labour market looking for work and employment continued to decline. Ontario's labour force increased by 116,500 (or 1.6 per cent), the largest single-month increase on record, leading to an improvement in the labour force participation rate from 59.2 per cent in April to 60.1 per cent in May. Despite the increase in May, the rate of labour market participation remained five percentage points lower than the February rate of 65.1 per cent.

**Table 1: Key employment indicators in Ontario**

	2019			2020				May	Annual Average	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		2018	2019
Total employment change (Thousands)	-11.9	17.9	17.1	15.9	-3.2	-402.8	-689.2	-64.5	114.4	210.2
Unemployment rate (Per Cent)	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.5	7.6	11.3	13.6	5.6	5.6
<b>Employment change by category (Thousands)</b>										
Full-time	-17.5	32.5	35.5	10.0	20.3	-248.5	-464.4	-59.2	130.3	156.8
Part-time	5.6	-14.6	-18.5	6.0	-23.5	-154.3	-224.8	-5.2	-15.9	53.4
Public sector employees	20.2	6.4	-3.5	-6.0	5.3	-43.5	-45.2	-59.1	47.6	9.2
Private sector employees	-36.1	37.4	34.3	9.3	-18.1	-319.5	-628.0	1.4	50.0	122.8
Self-employed	3.9	-25.9	-13.8	12.7	9.5	-39.7	-16.0	-6.8	16.8	78.2

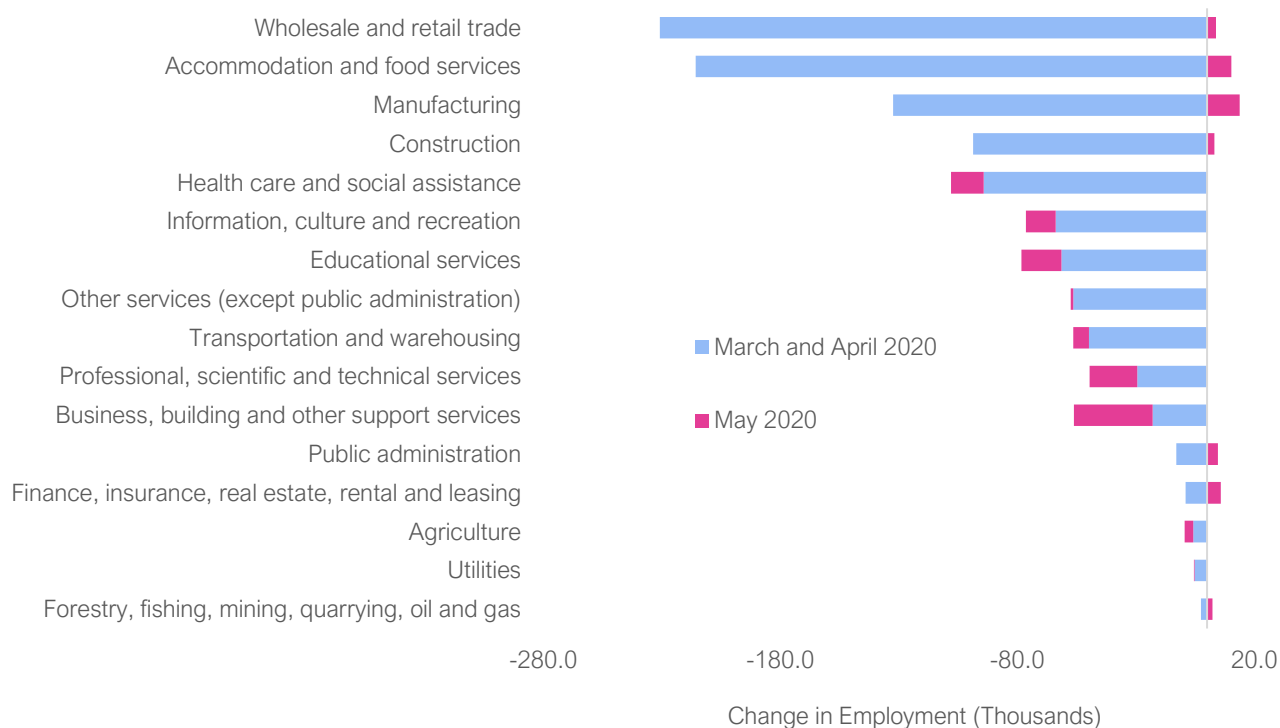
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.

For young workers (aged 15 to 24 years), many of whom are employed in temporary or part-time positions, employment declined by 4.4 per cent (or -30,100 jobs) in May. Since February, young workers have experienced almost three times the rate of job loss compared to older workers (25 years and older).<sup>5</sup> Similarly, female workers have experienced more severe job losses, with employment down by 17.2 per cent (or -616,900) since February compared to a 13.6 per cent (or -539,600) drop for males.

### Reopened Industries Show Early Signs of Recovery

Employment gains in May occurred in industries that have been gradually reopening, including manufacturing (13,700, or 2.2 per cent), accommodation and food services (10,200, or 4.4 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (3,800, or 0.4 per cent), and construction (3,100, or 0.7 per cent).<sup>6</sup> However, these gains were outweighed by continuing job losses among service-producing industries, notably business, building and other support (-33,200 or -10.9 per cent), professional, scientific and technical (-20,200, or -3.1 per cent), and education (-16,900 or -3.5 per cent).

**Figure 4: Reopening industries show small job gains in May**



Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.

<sup>5</sup> From February to May 2020, employment among young workers (aged 15 to 24 years) declined by 35.4 per cent, compared to a 12.2 per cent decrease for older workers (aged 25 years and over).

<sup>6</sup> The Ontario government allowed a gradual reopening in several industries including the construction sector and retail stores with a street entrance to offer curbside pickup and delivery in early May, which were likely reflected in the May Labour Force Survey (LFS). For details, see [Reopening Ontario: what's in each stage](#).

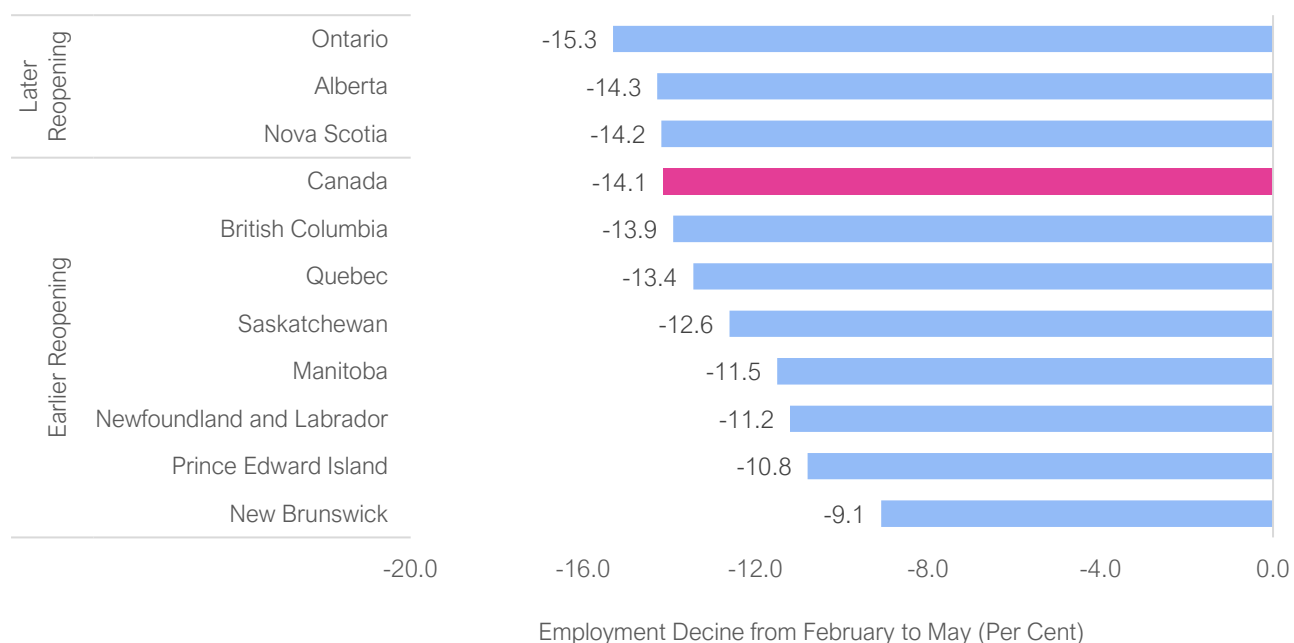
Although some industries saw gains in employment in May, the extent of the recovery was small compared to the large job losses recorded in March and April. For example, while manufacturing jobs increased by 13,700 in May, the level of employment is still 15.6 per cent lower than in February. Similarly, despite modest job gains in May in wholesale and retail trade, and accommodation and food services, the level of employment in those industries remains far below February levels (-20.4 per cent, and -45.8 per cent, respectively).

Industries that saw relatively smaller employment declines during the pandemic shutdown have so far recovered a greater share of the jobs lost compared to other sectors. For example, while finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing has recovered nearly two-thirds of the employment decline from February to April, its pandemic-related job loss was relatively small at -9,000 jobs, or -1.5 per cent.

### Ontario's Job Losses Steeper Than All Other Provinces

Ontario was the only province to record a net decline in employment in May, as restrictions on economic activity in Ontario remained largely in place during the Labour Force Survey (LFS) survey week of May 10 to 16. Over the past three months, employment in Ontario has declined by 15.3 per cent, the steepest job loss among all provinces. In addition to Ontario, Alberta (-14.3 per cent) and Nova Scotia (-14.2 per cent) have also posted job declines above the national average. In contrast, the other three Atlantic provinces, where re-openings occurred earlier, have experienced more modest job losses.

**Figure 5: Rate of employment decline reflects the extent of reopening across provinces**



Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.



## Looking Ahead

Ontario is likely to see an increase in employment in June, given the gradual re-openings that have continued throughout the month. However, because the timing of the reopening differed between regions of the province, the pace of job gains may vary by CMA.

The Financial Accountability Office will release an update of its economic and budget outlook report in early fall which will include an updated assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ontario's labour market.

# Appendix

## Contents

<b>Appendix—Labour Market Results by CMA</b>	<b>11</b>
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part	12
Kingston	13
Peterborough	14
Oshawa	15
Toronto	16
Hamilton	17
St. Catharines-Niagara	18
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	19
Brantford	20
Guelph	21
London	22
Windsor	23
Barrie	24
Greater Sudbury	25
Thunder Bay	26
<b>Appendix—Labour Market Results by Region</b>	<b>27</b>
Eastern Ontario	28
Central Ontario	29
Greater Toronto Area	30
Southwest Ontario	31
Northern Ontario	32

## Appendix—Labour Market Results by CMA






# Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario part

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	1,095
Population share of Ontario	7.5%
Employment (Thousands)	590
Employment share of Ontario	7.9%
Median age	39.3



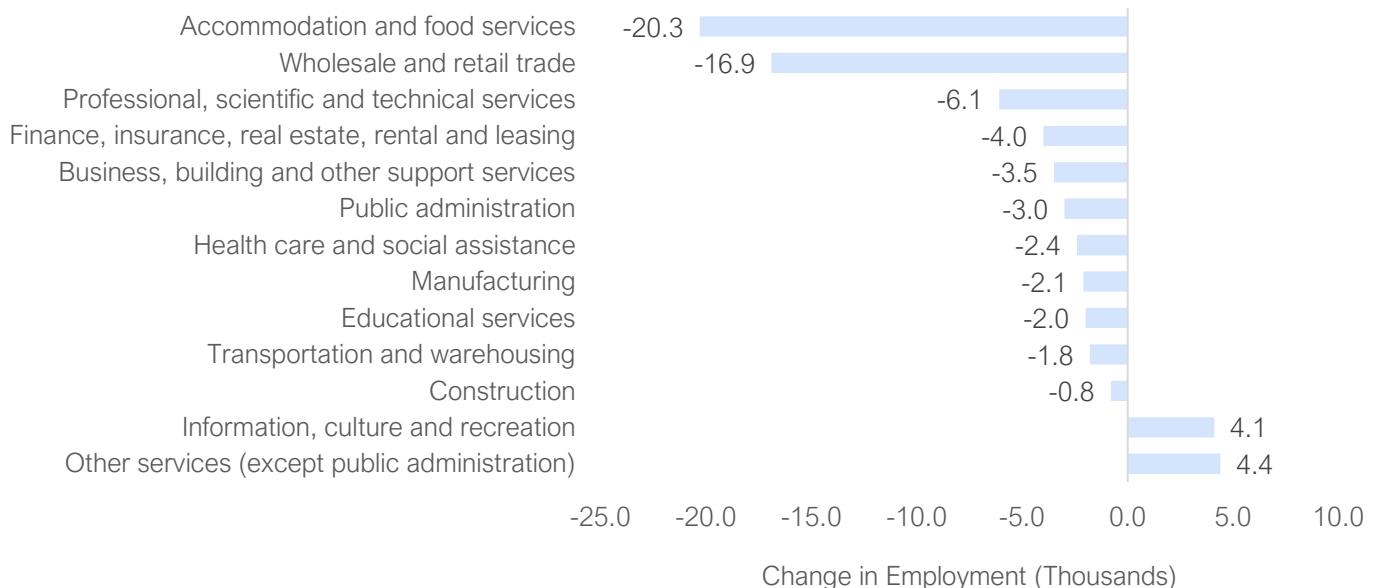
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Public administration	Professional, scientific and technical services	Wholesale and retail trade	Health care and social assistance	Educational services
Employment	125,600	72,000	69,400	68,900	47,400
(Share of Total Employment)	(21.3%)	(12.2%)	(11.8%)	(11.7%)	(8.0%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	10.9	32.5	-8.9	-9.5	-15.3	-20.3	-15.5	-51.1 (-8.6%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	4.6	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.9	6.3	7.7	3.5
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	67.2	69.6	70.1	69.0	67.5	66.0	65.1	-3.9

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Kingston

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	176
Population share of Ontario	1.2%
Employment (Thousands)	88
Employment share of Ontario	1.2%
Median age	41.9



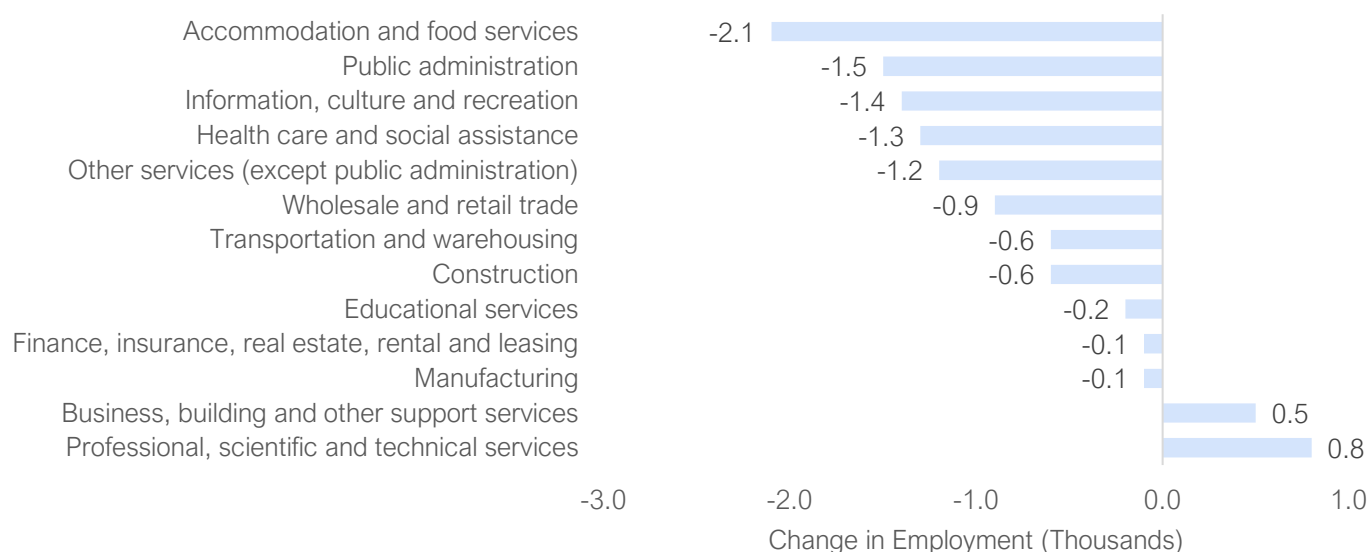
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Health care and social assistance	Wholesale and retail trade	Educational Service	Public Administration	Accommodation and food services
Employment	18,400	11,400	10,300	7,800	6,900
(Share of Total Employment)	(21.0%)	(13.0%)	(11.8%)	(8.9%)	(7.9%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	-0.9	1.1	0.2	0.5	-1.3	-4.5	-4.0	-9.8 (-11.2%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.2	5.7	7.9	10.8	5.6
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	63.7	63.4	62.4	62.5	61.8	59.9	58.8	-3.7

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Peterborough

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	131
Population share of Ontario	0.9%
Employment (Thousands)	61
Employment share of Ontario	0.8%
Median age	44.1



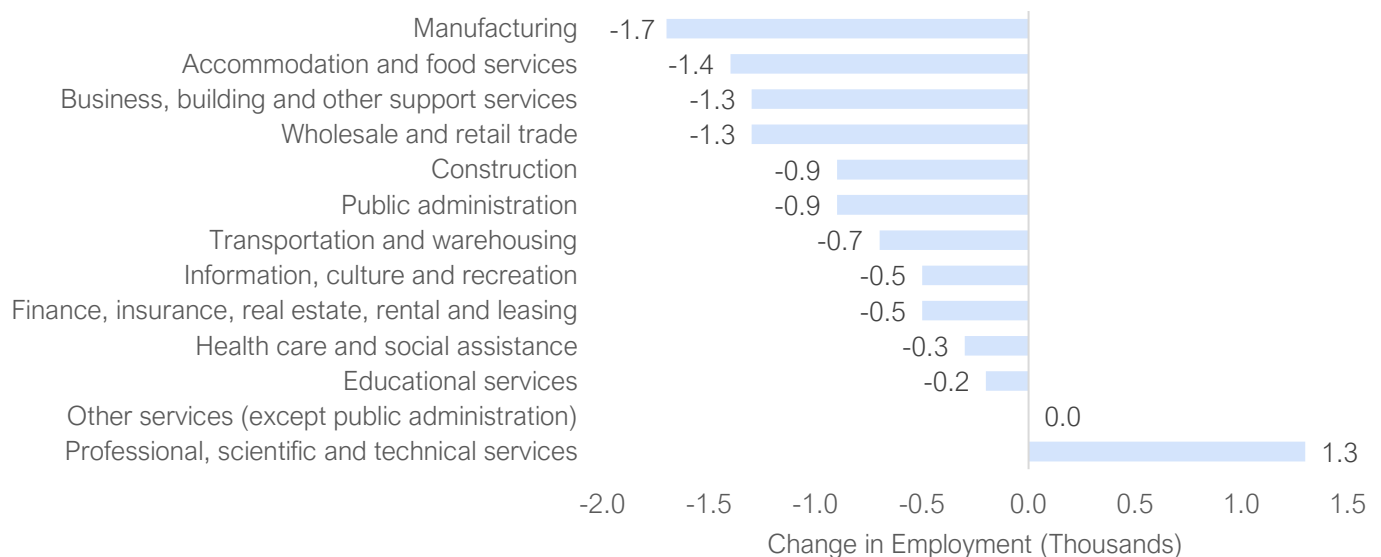
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Health care and social assistance	Wholesale and retail trade	Construction	Educational services	Manufacturing
Employment	10,000	9,300	6,400	5,200	4,400
(Share of Total Employment)	(16.4%)	(15.2%)	(10.5%)	(8.5%)	(7.2%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	2.4	-2.5	-0.7	0.4	-2.3	-2.4	-3.1	-7.8 (-13.8%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	4.8	6.0	7.6	6.6	6.7	7.7	9.5	2.9
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	63.0	60.4	56.0	56.0	53.6	51.7	49.5	-6.5

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Oshawa

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	414
Population share of Ontario	2.8%
Employment (Thousands)	219
Employment share of Ontario	2.9%
Median age	39.5



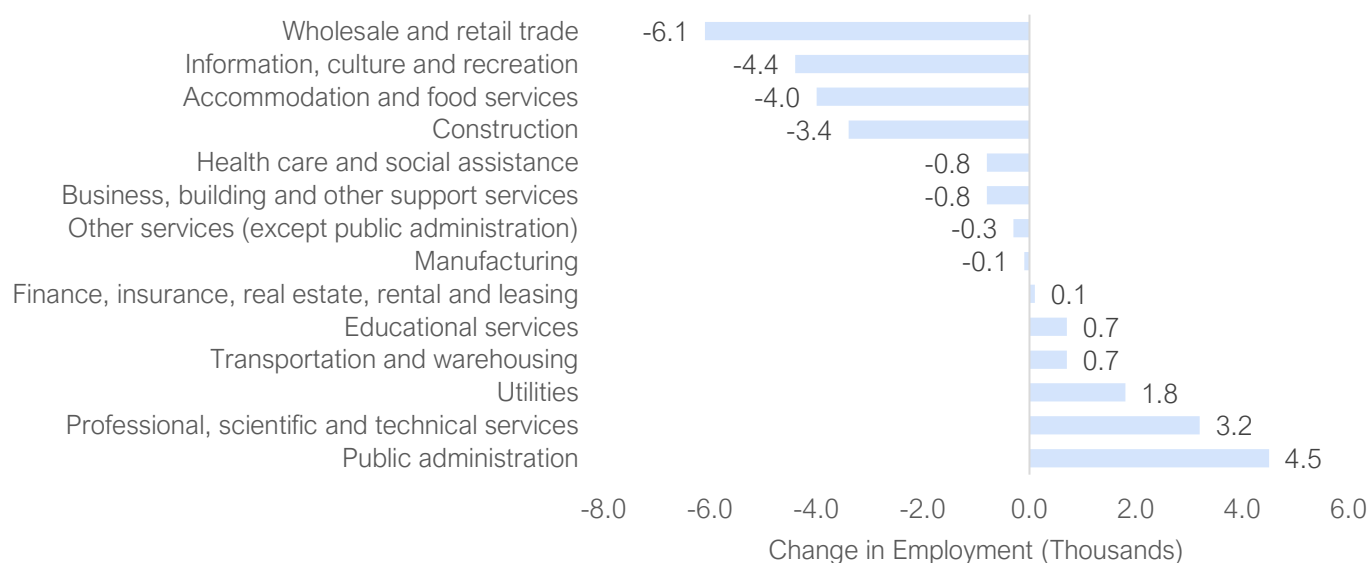
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Wholesale and retail trade	Health care and social assistance	Construction	Manufacturing	Educational services
Employment	36,600	27,800	20,000	17,000	17,000
(Share of Total Employment)	(16.7%)	(12.7%)	(9.1%)	(7.8%)	(7.8%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	10.2	-2.0	0.9	3.6	-0.6	-5.4	-9.7	-15.7 (-7.2%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	5.1	5.4	6.7	7.0	7.8	8.5	10.1	3.1
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	68.6	66.8	65.7	66.9	67.3	66.0	64.0	-2.9

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.








# Toronto

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	6,472
Population share of Ontario	44.4%
Employment (Thousands)	3,492
Employment share of Ontario	46.8%
Median age	38.6



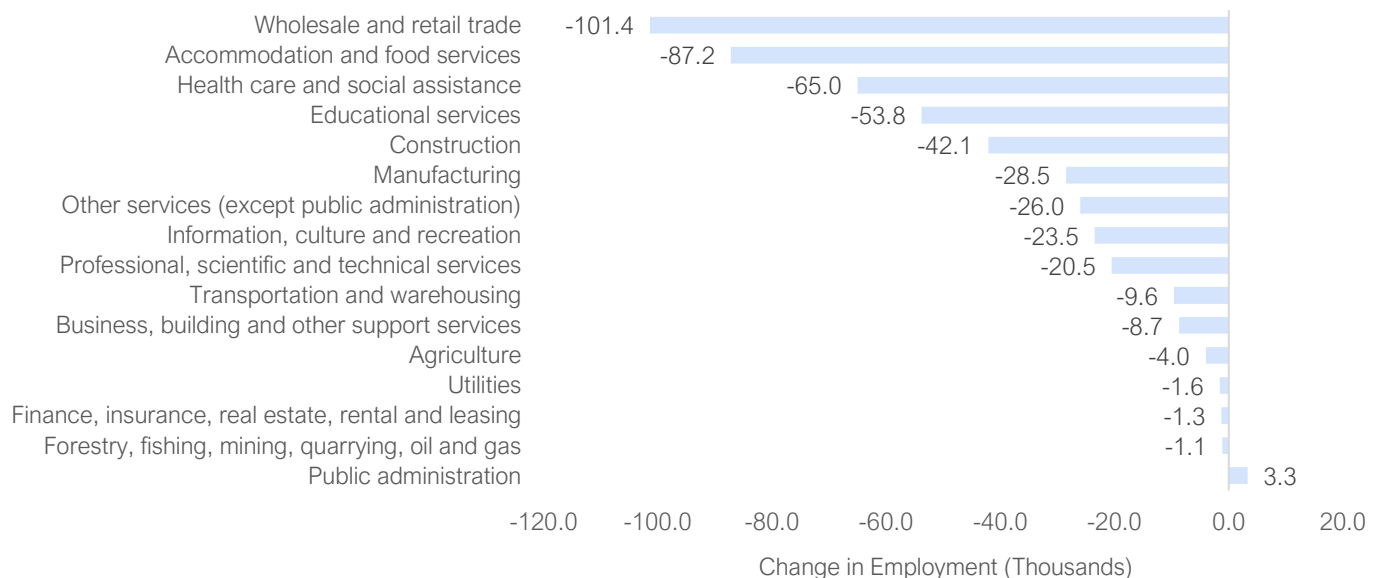
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

	 Wholesale and retail trade	 Professional, scientific and technical services	 Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	 Health care and social assistance	 Manufacturing
Employment (Share of Total Employment)	515,600 (14.8%)	425,400 (12.2%)	381,800 (10.9%)	372,300 (10.7%)	328,400 (9.4%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	63.4	138.5	23.9	6.2	-72.6	-190.6	-209.2	-472.4 (-13.3%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.4	6.0	7.9	11.2	5.8
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	65.8	66.7	66.9	66.8	65.7	63.3	61.4	-5.4

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Hamilton

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	795
Population share of Ontario	5.5%
Employment (Thousands)	423
Employment share of Ontario	5.7%
Median age	41.5



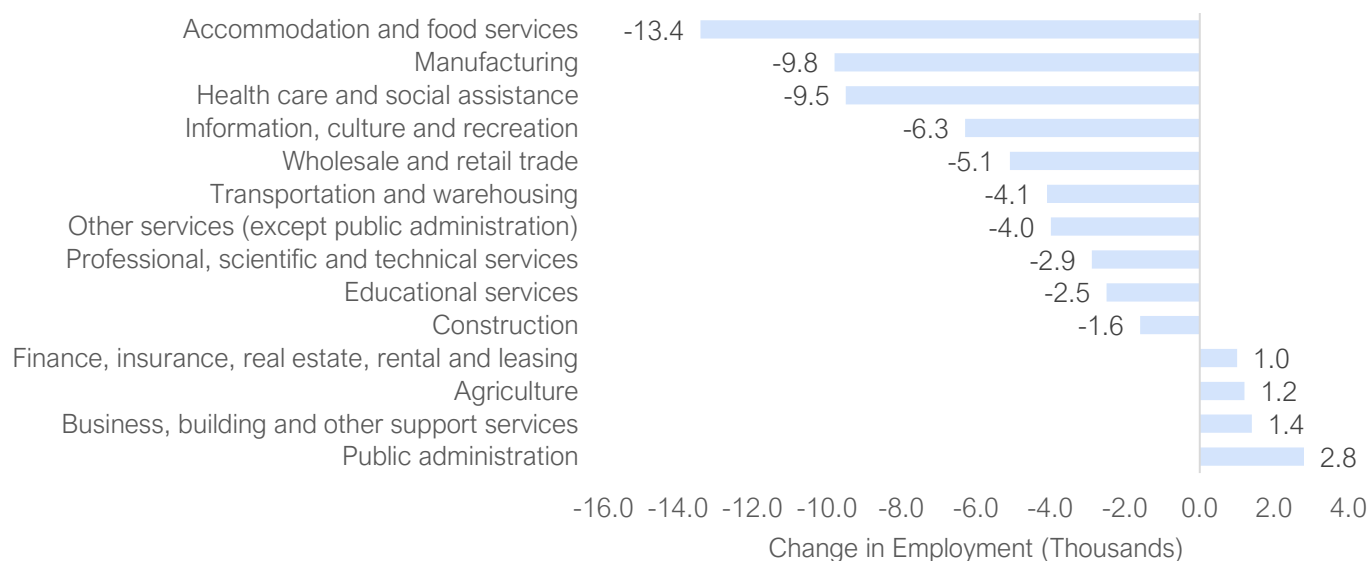
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Wholesale and retail trade	Health care and social assistance	Manufacturing	Educational services	Professional, scientific and technical services
Employment	67,300	57,900	50,200	33,900	31,100
(Share of Total Employment)	(15.9%)	(13.7%)	(11.9%)	(8.0%)	(7.4%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	-4.1	9.0	-2.8	1.2	-3.9	-16.6	-25.4	-45.9 (-10.7%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	4.9	4.3	4.8	4.9	5.7	7.5	10.3	5.4
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	65.0	65.1	65.6	65.8	65.6	64.3	62.1	-3.7

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*

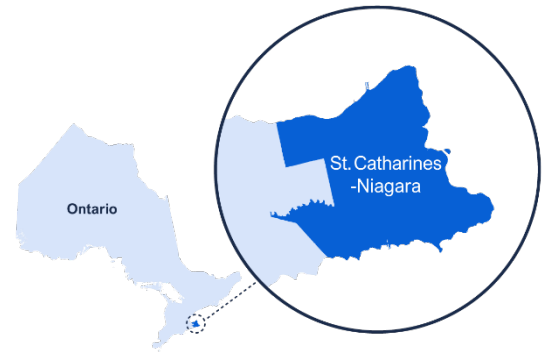


\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# St. Catharines-Niagara

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	435
Population share of Ontario	3.0%
Employment (Thousands)	200
Employment share of Ontario	2.7%
Median age	45.4



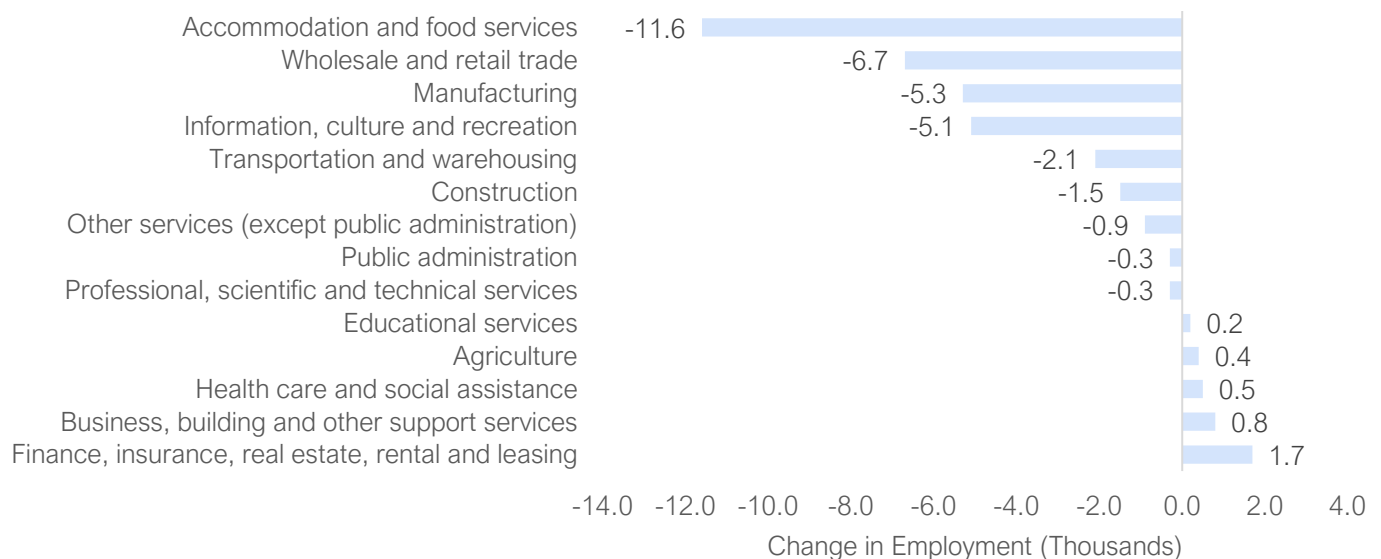
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Wholesale and retail trade	Health care and social assistance	Accommodation and food services	Manufacturing	Construction
Employment	31,100	26,000	24,000	18,500	18,300
(Share of Total Employment)	(15.6%)	(13.0%)	(12.0%)	(9.3%)	(9.2%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	4.1	-2.1	-1.5	-2.1	-9.2	-10.4	-12.0	-31.6 (-15.6%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	6.6	5.8	5.2	5.5	7.8	9.9	12.6	7.1
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	61.2	59.3	60.1	59.6	58.4	56.4	54.3	-5.3

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*

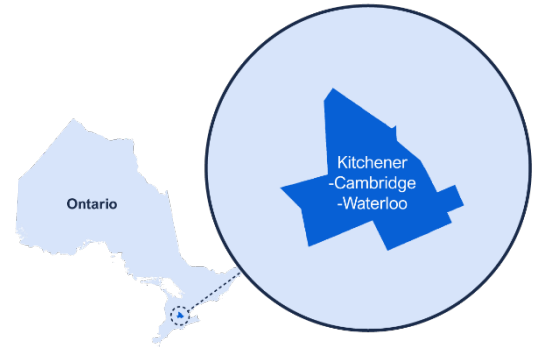


\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	584
Population share of Ontario	4.0%
Employment (Thousands)	302
Employment share of Ontario	4.1%
Median age	37.4



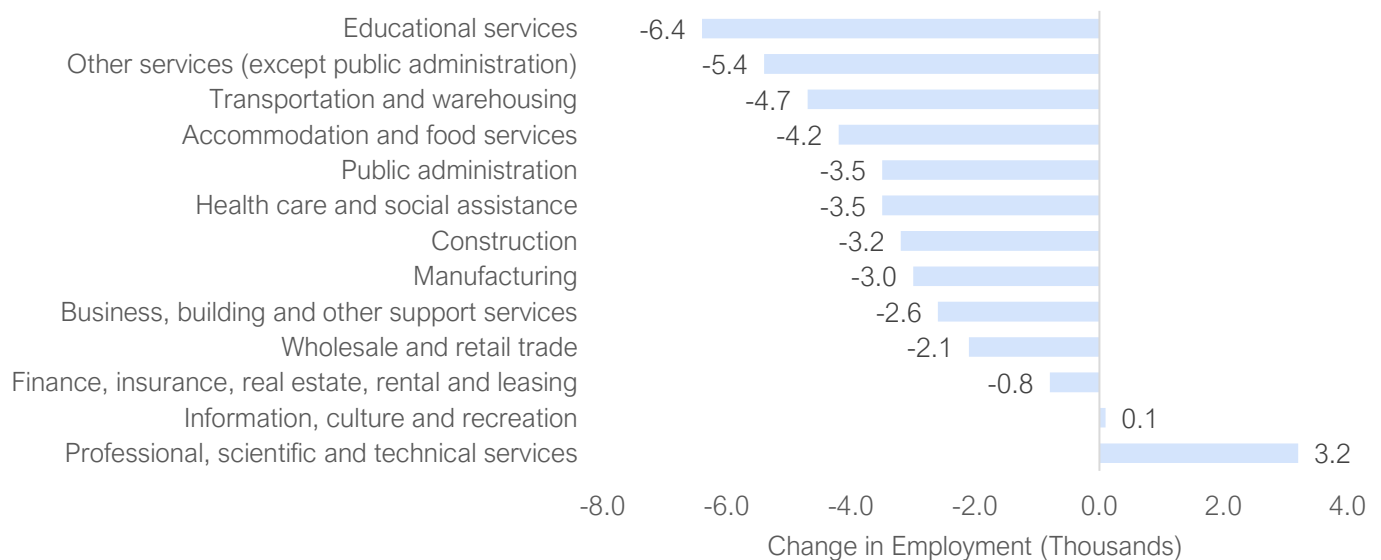
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Manufacturing	Wholesale and retail trade	Health care and social assistance	Professional, scientific and technical services	Educational services
Employment	51,100	42,800	29,600	26,800	24,800
(Share of Total Employment)	(16.9%)	(14.2%)	(9.8%)	(8.9%)	(8.2%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	4.4	9.9	0.1	3.6	-2.9	-16.4	-20.2	-39.5 (-12.8%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.5	6.0	7.8	10.3	4.8
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	70.0	71.1	71.3	72.3	71.8	69.2	66.1	-6.2

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*

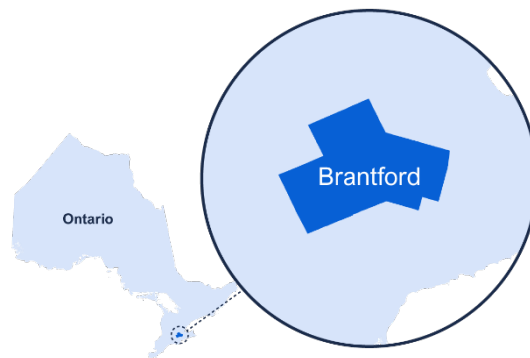


\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Brantford

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	149
Population share of Ontario	1.0%
Employment (Thousands)	79
Employment share of Ontario	1.1%
Median age	41.2



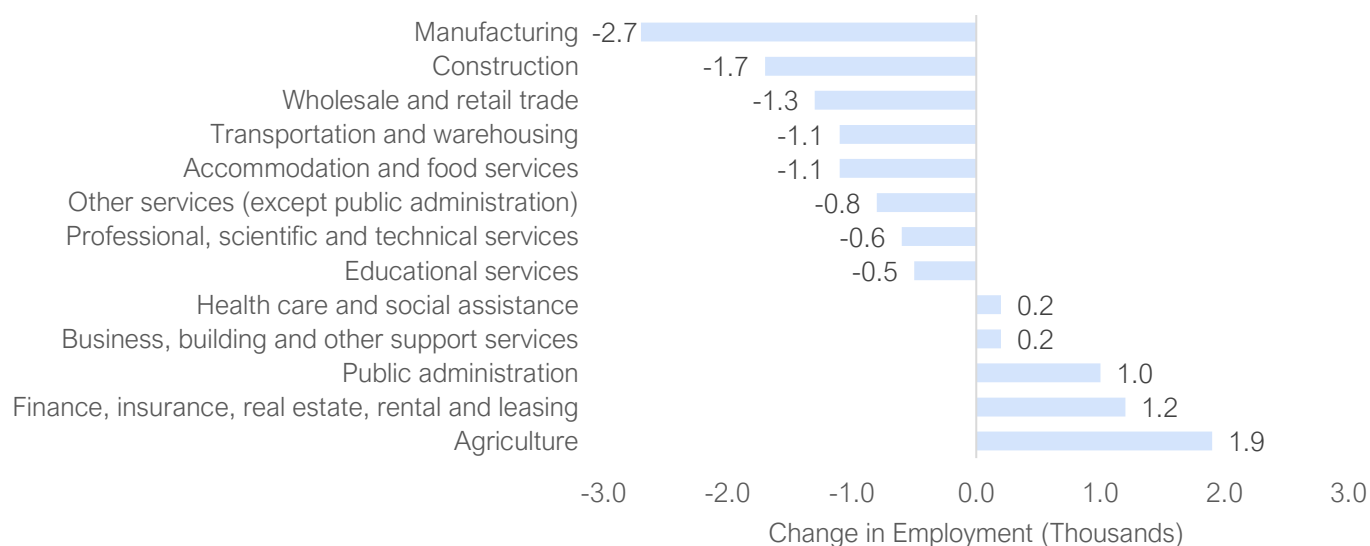
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>Wholesale and retail trade</b>	<b>Health care and social assistance</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Educational services</b>
Employment	14,700	13,100	9,800	6,200	5,400
(Share of Total Employment)	(18.7%)	(16.6%)	(12.5%)	(7.9%)	(6.9%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	-2.3	8.7	-1.0	-1.8	-1.7	-3.0	-0.8	-5.5 (-7.4%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	6.2	4.3	4.3	4.7	5.9	9.4	11.3	6.6
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	64.1	69.5	67.1	65.8	65.1	64.7	65.3	-0.5

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*

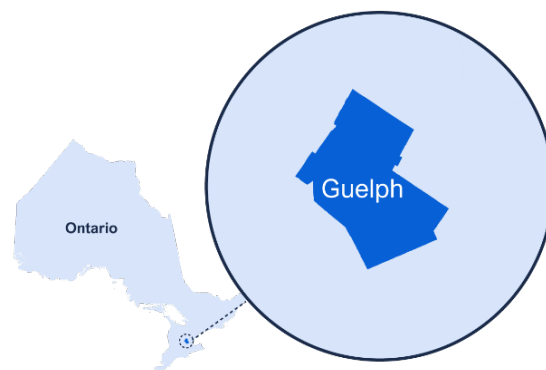


\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Guelph

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	165
Population share of Ontario	1.1%
Employment (Thousands)	93
Employment share of Ontario	1.2%
Median age	39.0



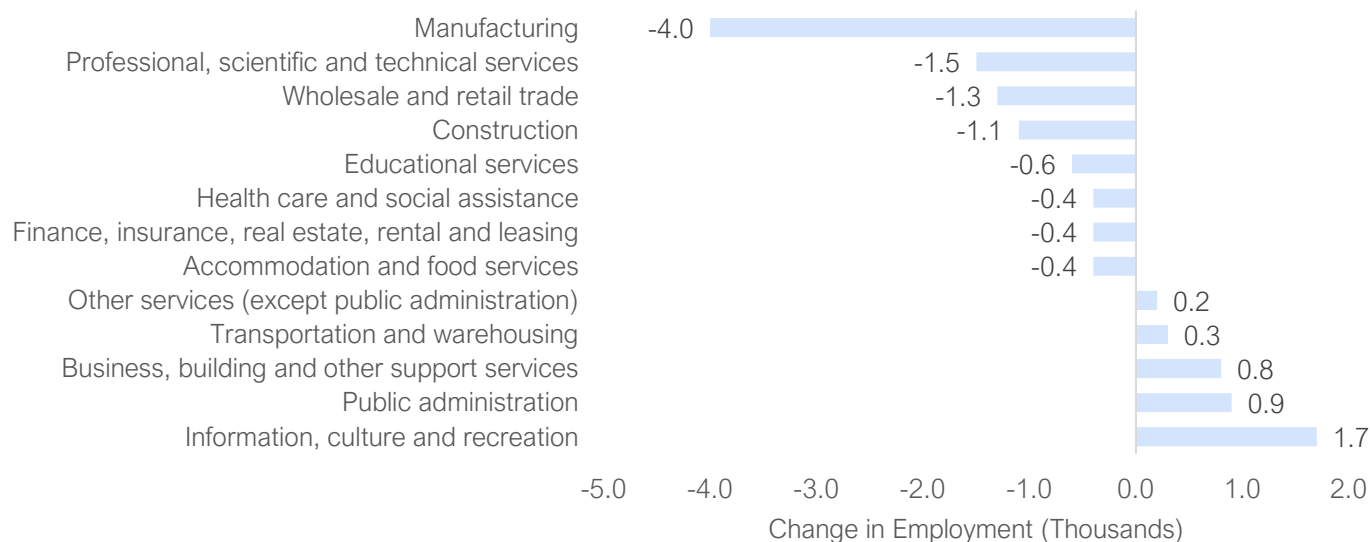
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Manufacturing	Wholesale and retail trade	Educational services	Health care and social assistance	Professional, scientific and technical services
Employment	18,800	14,800	12,300	9,000	6,200
(Share of Total Employment)	(20.3%)	(16.0%)	(13.3%)	(9.7%)	(6.7%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	-2.0	3.8	0.1	0.4	0.4	-2.7	-2.0	-4.3 (-4.9%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	3.8	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.3	8.6	12.9	7.8
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	68.0	69.7	65.5	65.7	66.1	66.3	67.7	2.0

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# London

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	545
Population share of Ontario	3.7%
Employment (Thousands)	251
Employment share of Ontario	3.4%
Median age	39.5



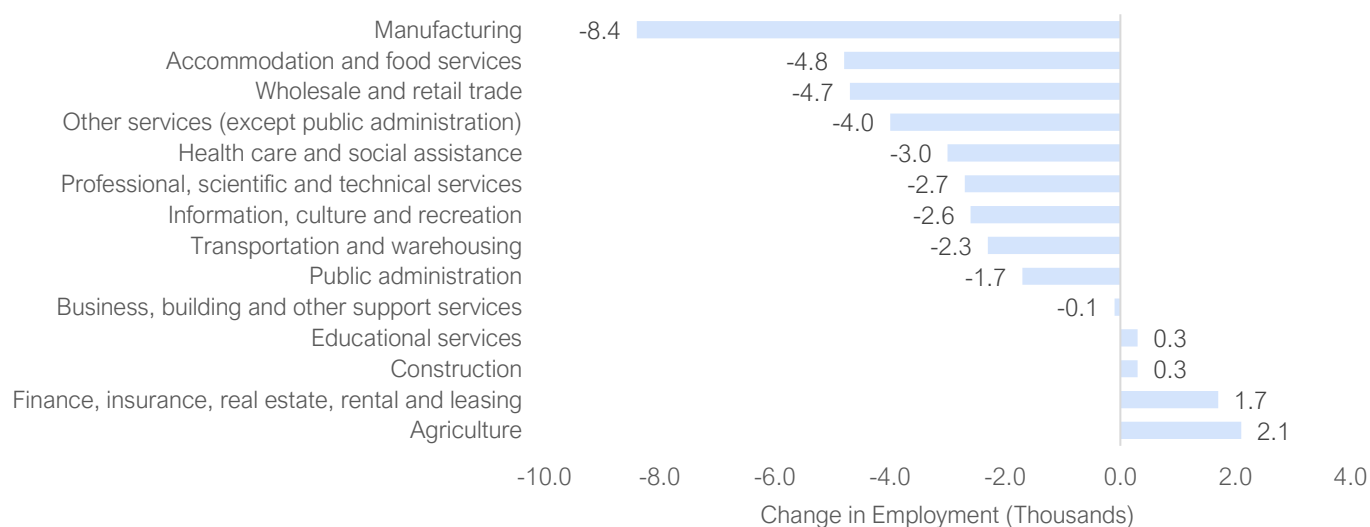
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Health care and social assistance	Wholesale and retail trade	Manufacturing	Educational services	Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing
Employment	37,500	37,400	34,300	21,700	18,100
(Share of Total Employment)	(14.9%)	(14.9%)	(13.7%)	(8.6%)	(7.2%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	7.1	-1.7	3.7	0.8	-1.9	-16.3	-11.0	-29.2 (-11.0%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	5.6	5.5	5.0	4.9	5.8	8.9	11.7	6.8
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	61.0	59.4	61.5	61.5	61.6	59.7	58.8	-2.7

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Windsor

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	355
Population share of Ontario	2.4%
Employment (Thousands)	170
Employment share of Ontario	2.3%
Median age	40.9



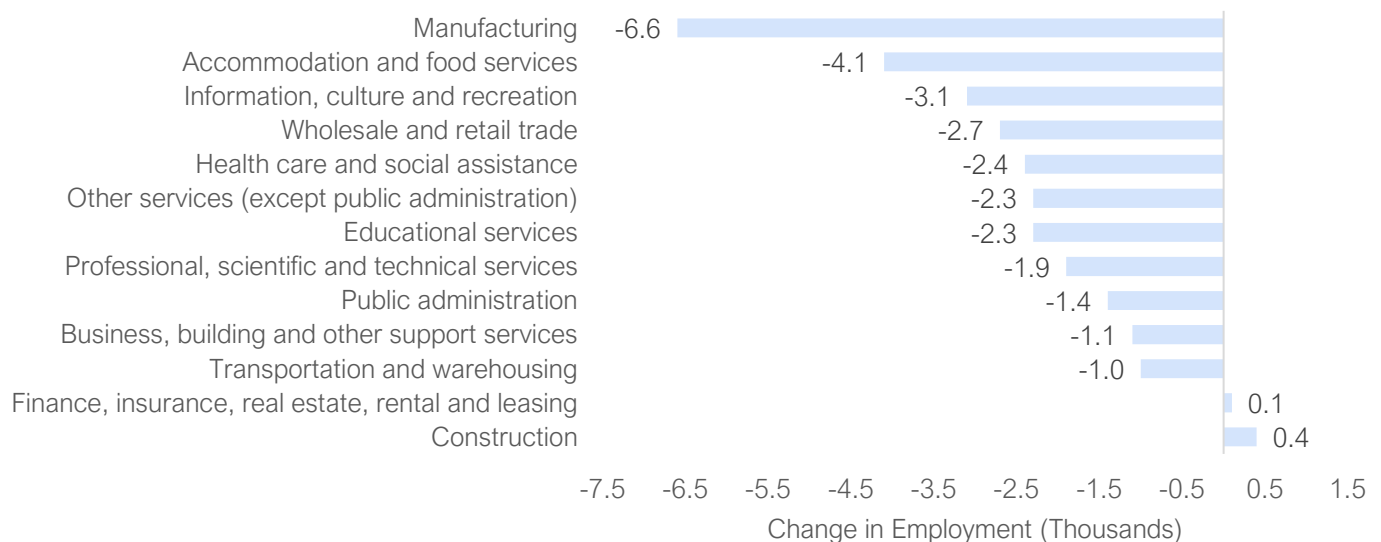
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

	 Manufacturing	 Health care and social assistance	 Wholesale and retail trade	 Accommodation and food services	 Construction
Employment	36,000	22,400	22,200	12,100	11,500
(Share of Total Employment)	(21.1%)	(13.1%)	(13.0%)	(7.1%)	(6.7%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	1.7	5.9	-1.5	2.0	-6.1	-13.4	-12.4	-31.9 (-19.1%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	6.0	6.4	8.3	8.3	10.5	12.9	16.7	8.4
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	60.3	61.7	60.6	61.2	60.4	56.8	54.4	-6.8

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



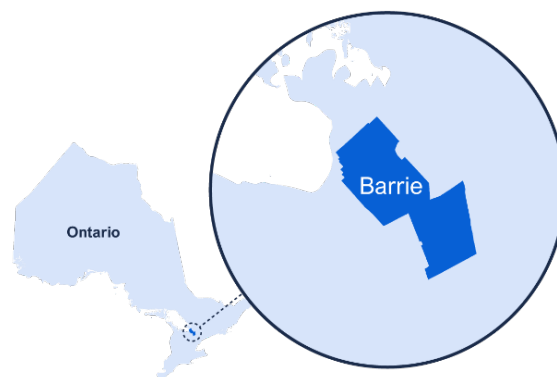
\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.








# Barrie

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	214
Population share of Ontario	1.5%
Employment (Thousands)	119
Employment share of Ontario	1.6%
Median age	39.5



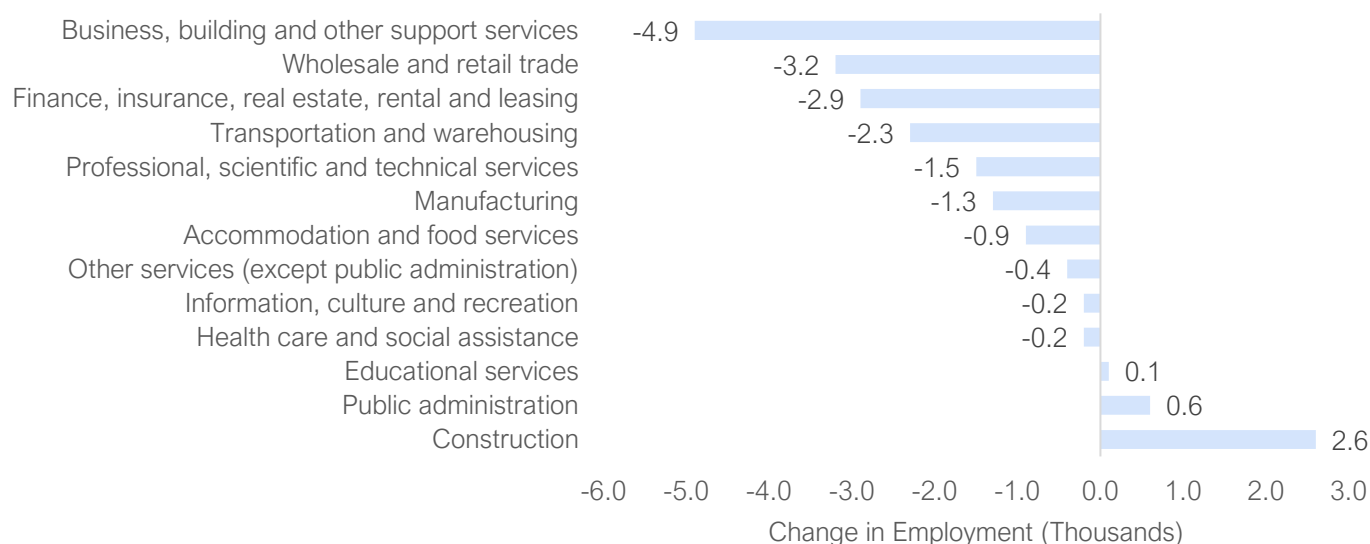
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

	 Wholesale and retail trade	 Health care and social assistance	 Manufacturing	 Construction	 Educational services
Employment	19,000	16,700	13,300	12,800	9,800
(Share of Total Employment)	(15.9%)	(14.0%)	(11.2%)	(10.7%)	(8.2%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	-1.0	4.6	0.9	3.3	-1.1	-5.4	-6.4	-12.9 (-10.0%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	6.5	5.9	5.0	4.3	5.7	9.1	11.6	7.3
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	69.5	70.3	72.8	74.0	74.4	73.8	71.9	-2.1

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*

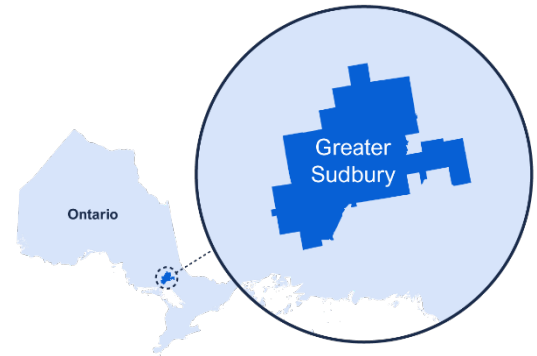


\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Greater Sudbury

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	172
Population share of Ontario	1.2%
Employment (Thousands)	85
Employment share of Ontario	1.1%
Median age	42.6



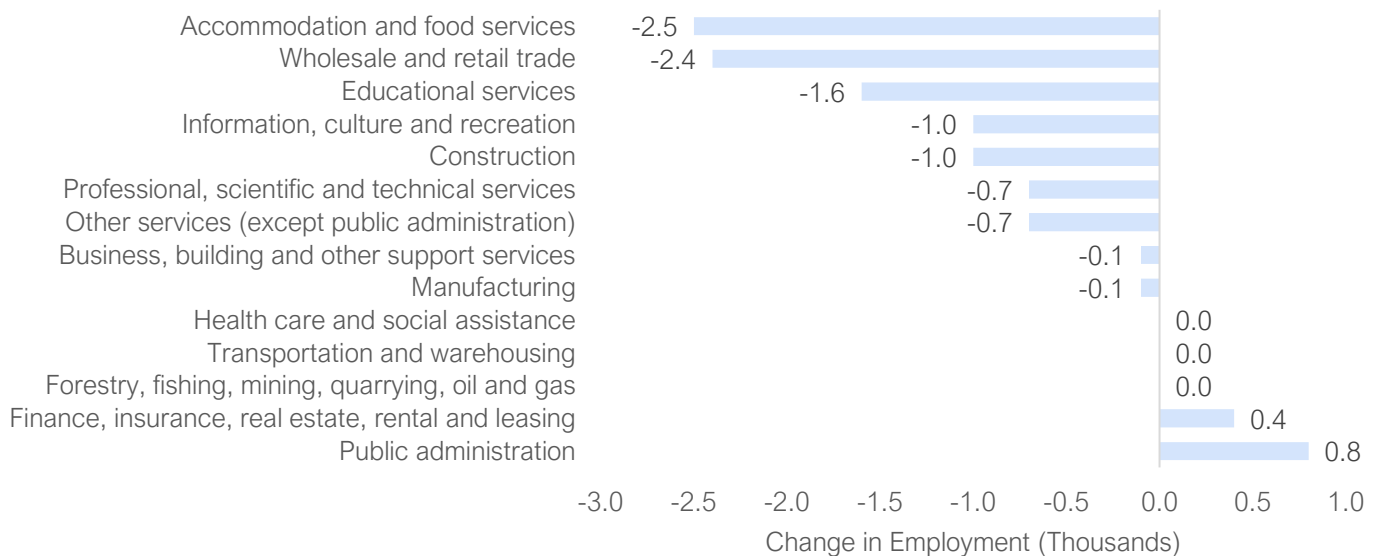
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Health care and social assistance	Wholesale and retail trade	Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	Construction	Educational services
Employment	14,200	12,200	8,000	7,700	6,900
(Share of Total Employment)	(16.7%)	(14.3%)	(9.4%)	(9.0%)	(8.1%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	0.3	3.8	0.4	0.3	-1.7	-4.2	-3.4	-9.3 (-10.9%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	6.4	5.4	5.0	5.3	5.6	6.8	8.4	3.1
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	61.8	63.9	63.3	63.8	62.7	60.3	58.8	-5.0

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*

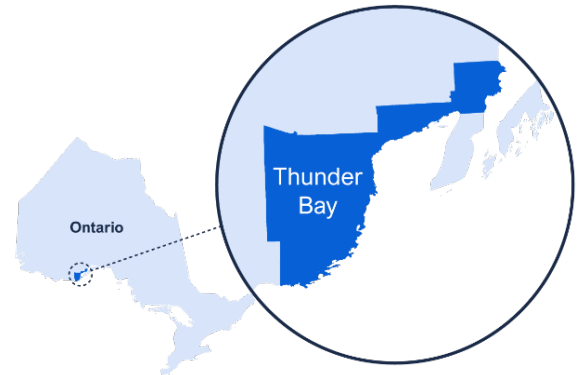


\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Thunder Bay

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	127
Population share of Ontario	0.9%
Employment (Thousands)	62
Employment share of Ontario	0.8%
Median age	43.5



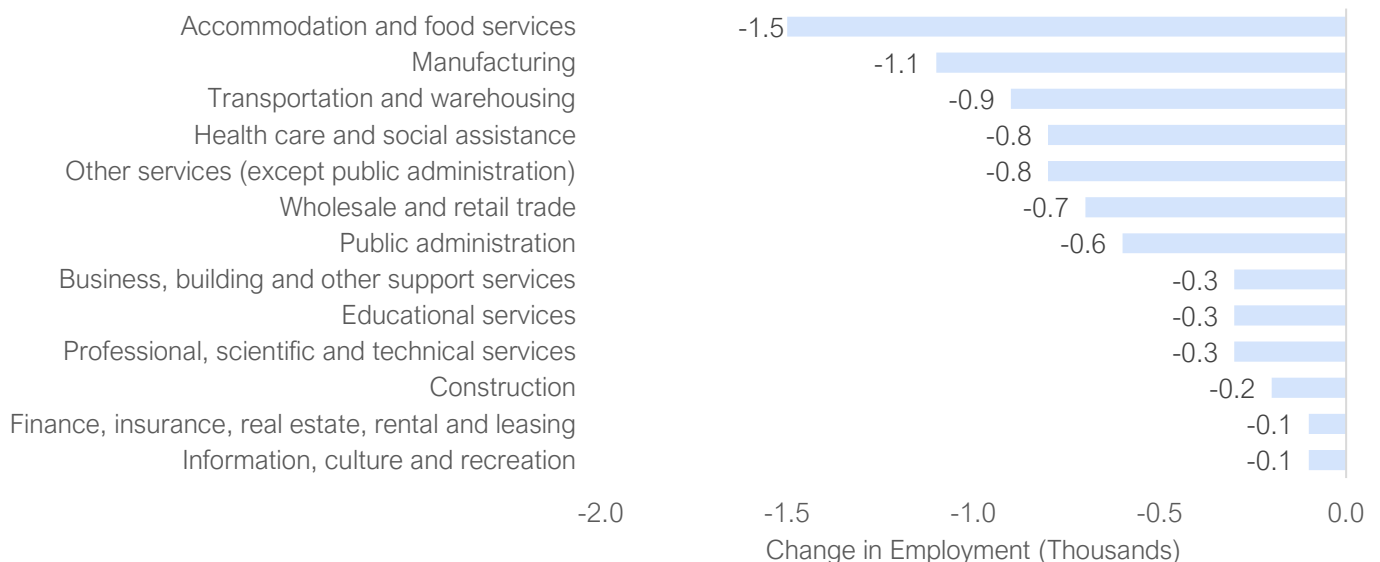
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Health care and social assistance	Wholesale and retail trade	Educational services	Construction	Accommodation and food services
Employment	12,600	8,700	5,200	4,700	4,200
(Share of Total Employment)	(20.4%)	(14.1%)	(8.4%)	(7.6%)	(6.8%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	2.2	-2.0	-0.1	0.1	-1.9	-3.7	-4.0	-9.6 (-15.2%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.3	6.1	8.3	10.4	5.1
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	64.0	62.5	63.4	63.5	62.3	59.9	57.1	-6.4

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.

## Appendix—Labour Market Results by Region






# Eastern Ontario

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	1,271
Population share of Ontario	8.7%
Employment (Thousands)	678
Employment share of Ontario	9.1%
Median age	39.7



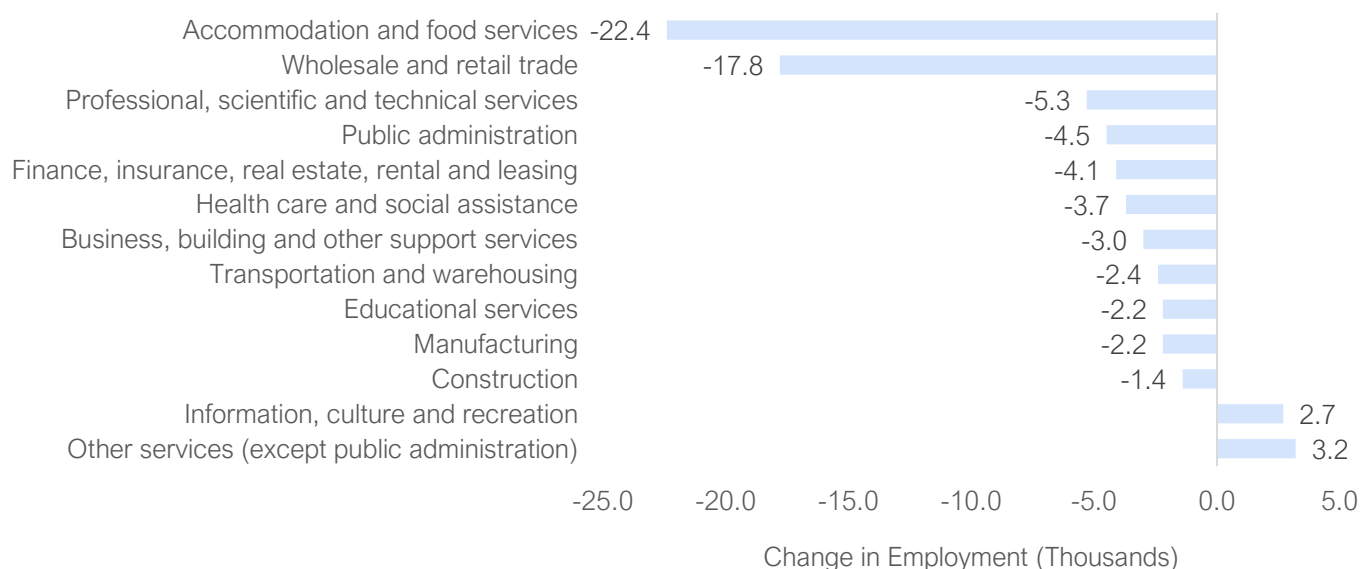
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

	 Public administration	 Health care and social assistance	 Wholesale and retail trade	 Professional, scientific and technical services	 Educational services
Employment (Share of Total Employment)	133,400 (19.7%)	87,300 (12.9%)	80,800 (11.9%)	76,100 (11.2%)	57,700 (8.5%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	10.0	33.6	-8.7	-9.0	-16.6	-24.8	-19.5	-60.9 (-8.9%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.3	5.0	6.5	8.1	3.7
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	66.7	68.7	69.0	68.0	66.7	65.2	64.2	-3.8

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.  
Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Central Ontario

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	2,473
Population share of Ontario	17.0%
Employment (Thousands)	1,276
Employment share of Ontario	17.1%
Median age	41.0



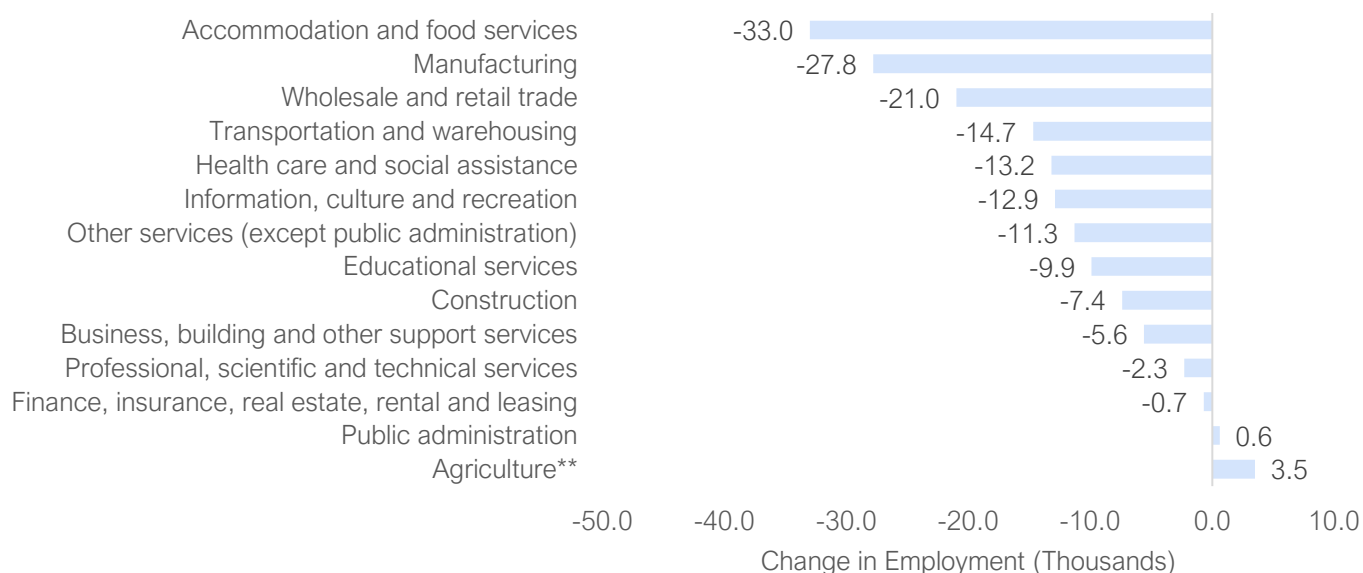
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

	 Wholesale and retail trade	 Manufacturing	 Health care and social assistance	 Educational services	 Construction
Employment (Share of Total Employment)	197,400 (15.5%)	171,000 (13.4%)	159,000 (12.5%)	105,600 (8.3%)	101,600 (8.0%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	1.5	31.4	-4.9	5.0	-20.7	-56.9	-69.9	-147.5 (-11.4%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	5.4	5.0	5.1	5.1	6.1	8.3	11.0	5.9
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	65.9	66.2	66.1	66.3	65.9	64.3	62.4	-3.9

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.

\*\*Includes Hamilton, St. Catharines-Niagara, and Brantford only.

Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Greater Toronto Area

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	6,886
Population share of Ontario	47.3%
Employment (Thousands)	3,710
Employment share of Ontario	49.8%
Median age	38.7



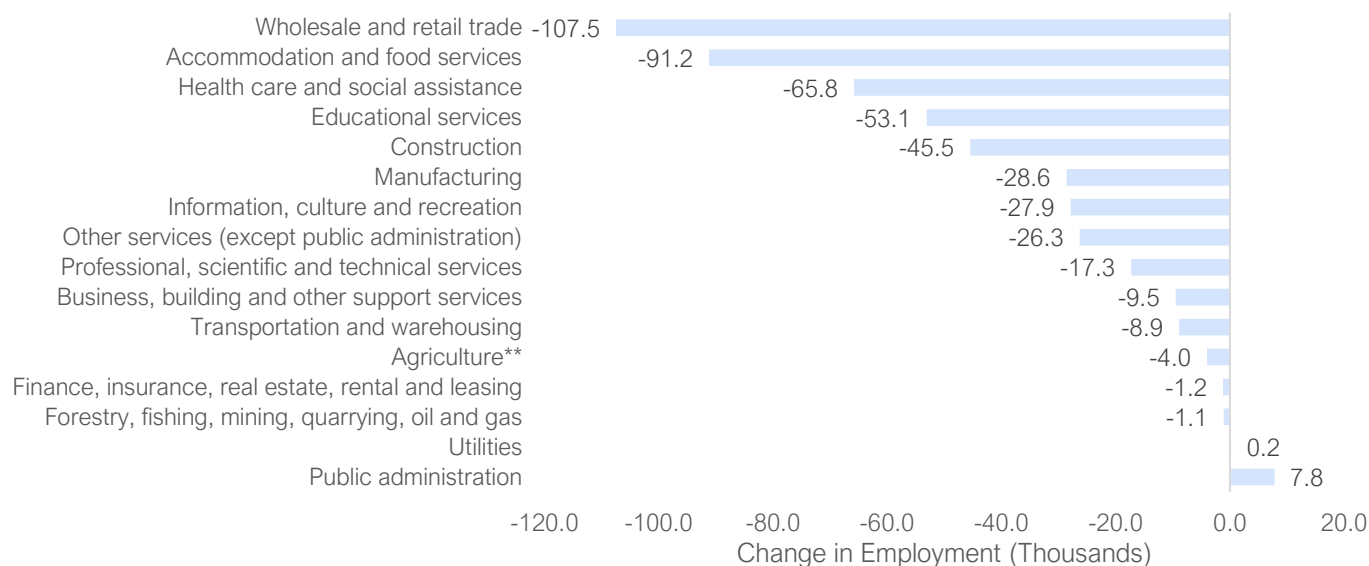
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Wholesale and retail trade	Professional, scientific and technical services	Health care and social assistance	Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	Manufacturing
Employment	552,200	440,200	400,100	396,400	345,400
(Share of Total Employment)	(14.9%)	(11.9%)	(10.8%)	(10.7%)	(9.3%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	73.6	136.5	24.8	9.8	-73.2	-196.0	-218.9	-488.1 (-12.9%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.5	6.1	7.9	11.2	5.7
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	66.0	66.7	66.8	66.8	65.8	63.4	61.6	-5.2

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.

\*\*Includes Toronto only.

Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.






# Southwest Ontario

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	900
Population share of Ontario	6.2%
Employment (Thousands)	422
Employment share of Ontario	5.7%
Median age	40.1



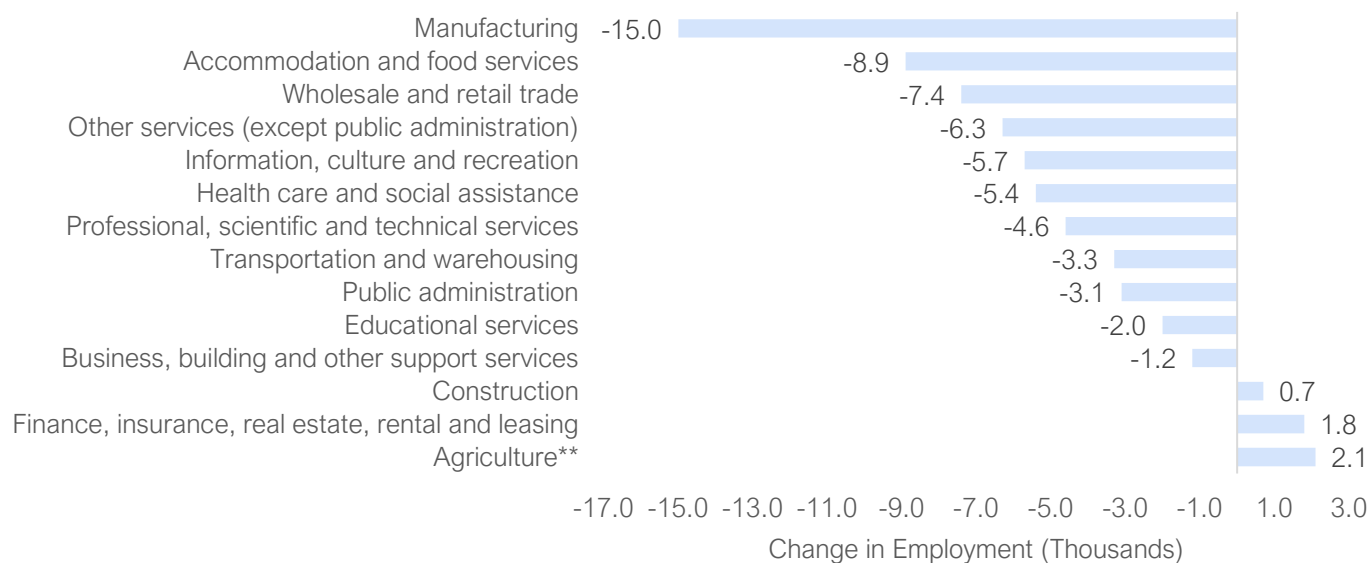
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Manufacturing	Health care and social assistance	Wholesale and retail trade	Educational services	Construction
Employment	70,300	59,900	59,600	32,600	29,100
(Share of Total Employment)	(16.7%)	(14.2%)	(14.1%)	(7.7%)	(6.9%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	8.8	4.2	2.2	2.8	-8.0	-29.7	-23.4	-61.1 (-14.1%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	5.7	5.9	6.3	6.3	7.7	10.4	13.6	7.4
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	60.7	60.3	61.1	61.4	61.1	58.6	57.0	-4.4

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.

\*\* Includes London only.

Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.








# Northern Ontario

## Key Statistics (2019)

Population (Thousands)	299
Population share of Ontario	2.1%
Employment (Thousands)	147
Employment share of Ontario	2.0%
Median age	43.0



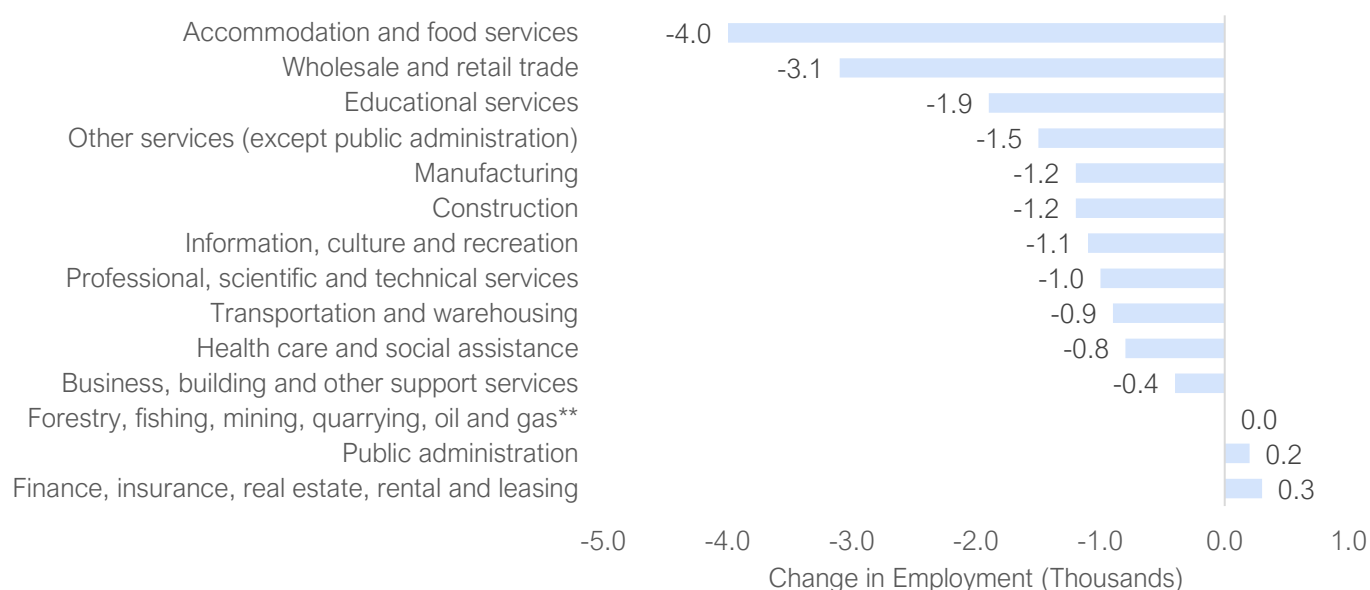
## Top Five Industries by Employment (2019)

					
	Health care and social assistance	Wholesale and retail trade	Construction	Educational services	Public administration
Employment	26,800	20,900	12,400	12,100	10,800
(Share of Total Employment)	(18.2%)	(14.2%)	(8.4%)	(8.2%)	(7.4%)

## Key Labour Market Indicators

	2018	2019	2020					Feb to May 2020
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Employment Change (Thousands)	2.5	1.8	0.3	0.4	-3.6	-7.9	-7.4	-18.9 (-12.7%)
Unemployment Rate (Per Cent)	5.8	5.5	5.1	5.3	5.9	7.4	9.3	4.0
Participation Rate (Per Cent)	62.7	63.3	63.4	63.7	62.5	60.2	58.1	-5.6

## Industry Breakdown of Job Losses During the Pandemic (February to May 2020)\*



\*Not seasonally adjusted.

\*\* Includes Greater Sudbury only.

Source: Statistics Canada and FAO.

## About this Document

Established by the *Financial Accountability Officer Act, 2013*, the Financial Accountability Office (FAO) provides independent analysis on the state of the Province's finances, trends in the provincial economy and related matters important to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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ISSN 2560-9432 (Online)

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