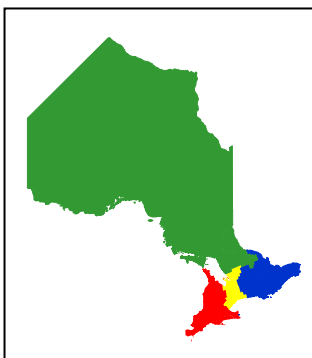


**Employment Ontario Northern Region
Labour Market Report
Second Quarter 2008**



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The Labour Force Survey collects monthly information on the labour market activities of Canada's working age population. The data is collected from a sample of 53,500 households (15,500 in Ontario) each month. The primary objective of the survey is to provide reliable estimates of employment and unemployment for Canada and the provinces, and to provide descriptive and explanatory data for each group. Data is also available for sub-provincial geographies.

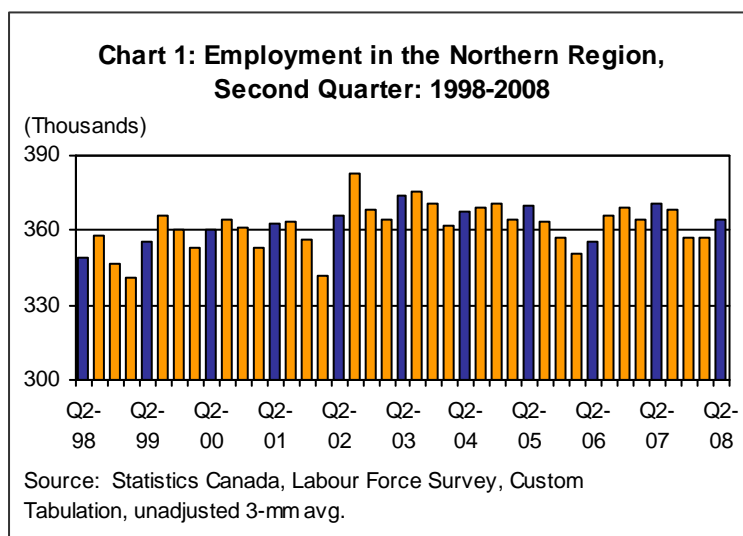
Although the LFS is a valuable source for labour market information, caution should be used in interpreting period to period changes, especially for small geographic areas or for small data cells. All survey data is subject to sampling and non-sampling type errors that may result in misleading estimates. Documentation on LFS data quality is available from Statistics Canada's website at www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/document/3701_D4_T2_V3_E.pdf.

Cette publication est disponible en français sous le nom de:

RAPPORT SUR LE MARCHÉ DU TRAVAIL EN ONTARIO

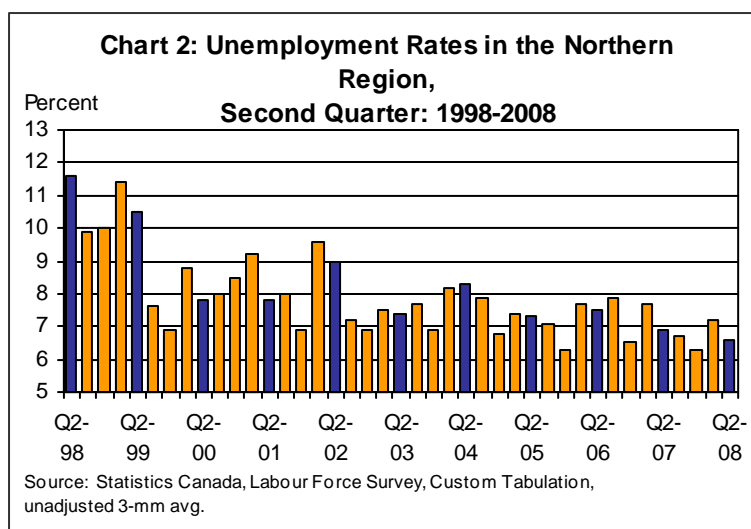
Labour Market Highlights Second Quarter (April-June) 2008

- In the second quarter of 2008, the working-age population (15 years and over) of the Northern Region was estimated at 629,000, relatively unchanged from the second quarter of 2007 (see Table 1).
- Across age groups, the prime working-age population (aged 25-54) declined by 10,400 individuals or 3.2%. This decline was partially offset by an increase (8,600 or 4.0%) in the population of workers aged 55 and over in the region.
- Slow population growth in the region is affecting growth of the working-age population. Since 1998, the Northern Region's working-age population has declined an average of 0.2% per year.
- The labour force (the number of employed individuals and job seekers) of the Northern Region totalled 390,200 in the second quarter of 2008, a decrease of 8,000 individuals or 2.0% from the second quarter of 2007. There were 11,800 or 4.3% fewer people in the prime working-age group in the labour force, representing the largest decline among all the age groups. The prime working-age group accounted for 67.5% of the region's labour force in the second quarter of 2008. A total of 7,900 individuals aged 55 and over were added to the region's labour force, representing a 14% increase from the second quarter of 2007.
- By comparison, Ontario's labour force grew by 139,900 in the second quarter of 2008, a 2.0% increase since the second quarter of 2007.
- An estimated 364,300 people were employed in the Northern Region in the second quarter of 2008, a decline of 6,500 individuals or 1.8% from the second quarter of 2007.
- By comparison, employment in Ontario increased by 130,700 (2.0%) positions between the second quarters of 2007 and 2008.
- On an annual basis, employment has grown by just 0.2% per year in the Northern Region since 1998, while employment in Ontario has grown an average of 2.2% per year.



- Between the second quarter of 2007 and the second quarter of 2008, the number of part-time positions declined (-2,000 or -2.6%), while the number of full-time positions declined (-4,500 or -1.5%) in the region. Part-time positions accounted for 20.6% of total employment in the region, compared with 18.5% in the province.
- There has been a downward trend in the share of part-time employment in the region since 1999, when part-time employment peaked at 24.1%.
- The participation rate (the number of people in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the working age population) was 62.0% in the Northern Region during the second quarter of 2008, down from 63.3% in the second quarter of 2007.
- Departures from the labour force among individuals aged 25 to 54 and youth aged 15 to 24 (see Table 1) contributed to the decline in the participation rate over the 12-month period.
- The share of the working-age population that worked in the second quarter of 2008 was 57.9%, a decrease in the employment rate from 58.9% in the second quarter of 2007. There were fewer (-6,500 or -1.8%) people working in the second quarter of 2008 compared with the second quarter of 2007, while the working-age population was relatively unchanged. This pushed the employment rate downward.

- The unemployment rate in the Northern Region was 6.6% in the second quarter of 2008, which was marginally lower than the 6.9% rate posted in the second quarter of 2007. The current unemployment rate is a decrease from the unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2008 (7.2%).



- By comparison, Ontario's unemployment rate was 6.5% in the second quarter of 2008, which was unchanged from the second quarter of 2007.
- The unemployment rate in the Northern Region has declined five percentage points between the second quarters of 1998 and 2008, due in part to overall labour force decline, modest job creation and reforms to the Employment Insurance (EI) system since 1996. These reforms tightened up EI eligibility criteria considerably.
- The unemployment rate (13.1%) in the Northern Region of the youth population (aged 15-24) was more than twice the average unemployment rate. The rate was lowest (4.8%) for the prime working-age population (aged 25-54).

- The majority of the decline in employment in the Northern Region in the second quarter of 2008 occurred in the service-producing sector (-10,300 or -3.7%), with wholesale and retail trade (-6,900 or -11.7%), public administration (-4,300 or -15.2%) and accommodation and food services (-2,900 or -11.5%) leading the decline in both the sector and the region (see Table 2).
- The goods-producing sector had 3,600 or 4.2% more positions in the second quarter of 2008 than in the second quarter of 2007. Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas led employment gains (3,800 or 17.5%) in all industries in the region in the second quarter of 2008, while manufacturing employment declined by 1,500 positions or 4.7% from the second quarter of 2007.
- Employment in most occupational groups in the Northern Region fell in the second quarter of 2008 (see Table 3). The largest occupational decline was in sales and service occupations (-7,800 or -7.9%), followed by natural and applied sciences and related occupations (-3,700 or -15.9%) and trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (-2,400 or -4.0%).
- Occupations in social science, education, government services and religion (6,300 or 18.8%) and business, finance and administration occupations (4,100 or 6.9%) had the largest gains in employment in the region in the second quarter of 2008.

Note: The Labour Force Survey data in this report are unadjusted, 3-month moving averages.

TABLE 1: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS BY AGE GROUPS								
	2003	2004	2005	2006	Northern Region		Ontario	
					Q2-2007	Q2-2008	Q2-2007	Q2-2008
All Ages (15+ years)								
Population (000s)	629.5	630.0	630.5	629.6	629.5	629.0	10,342.3	10,488.3
Labour Force (000s)	398.3	391.4	388.9	392.1	398.2	390.2	7,059.3	7,199.2
Employment (000s)	367.2	364.0	360.3	365.1	370.8	364.3	6,603.0	6,733.7
Full-time (000s)	290.9	286.7	288.7	288.8	293.7	289.2	5,426.4	5,485.7
Part-time (000s)	76.3	77.4	71.6	76.2	77.1	75.1	1,176.6	1,248.0
Unemployment (000s)	31.0	27.4	28.7	27.0	27.4	25.9	456.3	465.5
Not in Labour Force (000s)	231.2	238.6	241.5	237.5	231.3	238.8	3,283.0	3,289.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	7.0	7.4	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.5
Participation Rate (%)	63.3	62.1	61.7	62.3	63.3	62.0	68.3	68.6
Employment Rate (%)	58.3	57.8	57.1	58.0	58.9	57.9	63.8	64.2
15-24 years								
Population (000s)	100.3	104.7	97.4	95.3	93.3	94.6	1,718.4	1,731.5
Labour Force (000s)	67.4	68.2	61.4	64.6	66.7	62.5	1,145.8	1,159.9
Employment (000s)	55.4	57.4	51.7	55.9	57.2	54.3	991.9	989.8
Full-time (000s)	26.4	28.0	26.3	27.7	28.6	27.3	531.0	517.6
Part-time (000s)	29.0	29.4	25.3	28.2	28.6	27.0	460.9	472.3
Unemployment (000s)	12.0	10.8	9.7	8.7	9.5	8.2	153.9	170.1
Not in Labour Force (000s)	32.9	36.4	36.0	30.6	26.6	32.1	572.6	571.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	17.8	15.8	15.8	13.5	14.2	13.1	13.4	14.7
Participation Rate (%)	67.2	65.1	63.0	67.8	71.5	66.1	66.7	67.0
Employment Rate (%)	55.2	54.8	53.1	58.7	61.3	57.4	57.7	57.2
25-54 years								
Population (000s)	339.1	323.4	322.3	317.5	322.0	311.6	5,649.6	5,686.1
Labour Force (000s)	286.9	270.9	269.8	270.2	275.2	263.4	4,900.3	4,954.9
Employment (000s)	270.4	257.1	254.4	255.2	260.4	250.8	4,644.9	4,713.4
Full-time (000s)	234.1	221.8	222.8	220.6	225.5	217.0	4,139.5	4,189.3
Part-time (000s)	36.3	35.3	31.7	34.6	34.9	33.9	505.3	524.1
Unemployment (000s)	16.5	13.8	15.4	15.1	14.8	12.6	255.4	241.5
Not in Labour Force (000s)	52.1	52.5	52.4	47.3	46.8	48.2	749.3	731.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.8	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.4	4.8	5.2	4.9
Participation Rate (%)	84.6	83.8	83.7	85.1	85.5	84.5	86.7	87.1
Employment Rate (%)	79.7	79.5	78.9	80.4	80.9	80.5	82.2	82.9
55 years and over								
Population (000s)	190.1	202	210.8	216.8	214.2	222.8	2,974.2	3,070.7
Labour Force (000s)	43.9	52.2	57.7	57.2	56.4	64.3	1,013.2	1,084.4
Employment (000s)	41.4	49.5	54.1	54	53.3	59.2	966.2	1,030.4
Full-time (000s)	30.4	36.9	39.6	40.6	39.6	45.0	755.9	778.8
Part-time (000s)	11	12.7	14.5	13.4	13.6	14.2	210.4	251.7
Unemployment (000s)	2.5	2.7	3.6	3.2	2.9	4.8	46.9	53.9
Not in Labour Force (000s)	146.2	149.7	153.1	159.6	157.9	158.5	1,961.0	1,986.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	5.2	6.2	5.6	5.1	7.5	4.6	5.0
Participation Rate (%)	23.1	25.8	27.4	26.4	26.3	28.9	34.1	35.3
Employment Rate (%)	21.8	24.5	25.7	24.9	24.9	26.6	32.5	33.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 3-mm avg. unadjusted
 Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	Northern Region		
					Q2-2007	Q2-2008	Change (Absolute)
All Industries (000s)	367.2	364.0	360.3	365.1	370.8	364.3	-6.5
Goods-Producing Sector	85.3	83.4	89.3	81.0	82.2	85.8	3.6
Agriculture	2.7	3.9	4.7	3.0	3.2	4.1	0.9
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	21.5	20.4	22.8	21.3	21.7	25.5	3.8
Utilities	4.6	3.4	3.8	4.2	4.0	4.1	0.1
Construction	21.7	19.8	23.2	21.6	21.5	21.9	0.4
Manufacturing	34.8	35.9	34.9	30.9	31.8	30.3	-1.5
Services-Producing Sector	281.9	280.7	270.9	284.0	288.7	278.4	-10.3
Trade	60.1	59.2	53.9	58.0	59.2	52.3	-6.9
Transportation and Warehousing	19.5	20.5	21.7	20.5	20.1	18.1	-2.0
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	15.4	15.3	13.4	12.7	11.6	12.1	0.5
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	13.1	11.1	12.2	15.1	17.6	15.0	-2.6
Management, Administrative and Other Support	13.6	14.6	15.4	14.2	14.4	16.5	2.1
Educational Services	27.7	29.5	29.8	31.2	32.2	35.3	3.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	52.0	53.3	50.2	53.1	52.2	55.4	3.2
Information, culture and recreation	14.2	15.2	12.3	13.8	15.1	13.9	-1.2
Accommodation and food services	29.1	23.6	21.9	25.2	25.1	22.2	-2.9
Other services	14.0	15.5	14.3	13.2	12.8	13.7	0.9
Public administration	23.1	22.9	25.9	27.1	28.3	24.0	-4.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 3-mm avg. unadjusted
 Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	Northern Region		
					Q2-2007	Q2-2008	Change (Absolute)
All Occupations (000s)	367.2	364.0	360.3	365.1	370.8	364.3	-6.5
Management Occupations	31.2	29.6	29.6	28.0	29.2	28.6	-0.6
Business, Finance and Administration Occupations	61.7	58.2	57.7	57.3	59.0	63.1	4.1
Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occ.	16.6	18.3	20.5	21.7	23.3	19.6	-3.7
Health Occupations	28.3	27.8	26.3	28.4	28.1	26.2	-1.9
Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Service and Religion	32.1	33.1	31.3	34.5	33.5	39.8	6.3
Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	6.2	7.0	6.7	6.1	6.1	5.7	-0.4
Sales and Service Occupations	96.5	94.3	87.9	97.0	98.9	91.1	-7.8
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations	63.7	60.9	64.6	61.4	60.2	57.8	-2.4
Occupations Unique to Primary Industry	15.5	16.2	17.6	16.5	17.8	18.9	1.1
Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	15.6	18.5	18.2	14.1	14.8	13.5	-1.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 3-mm avg. unadjusted
 Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.