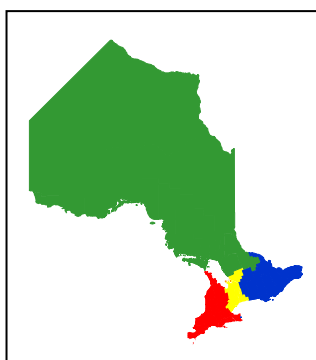


**Employment Ontario Northern Region
Labour Market Report
First Quarter 2009**



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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.

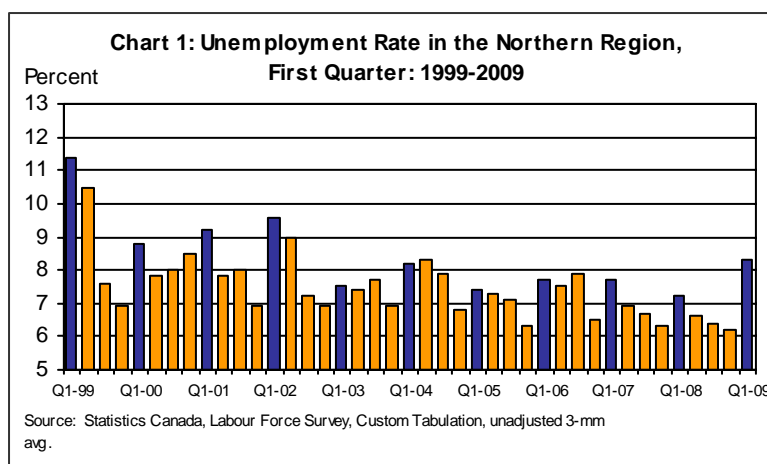
Although the LFS is a valuable source for labour market information, caution should be used in interpreting period-to-period changes, especially for small geographic areas or for small data cells. All survey data is subject to sampling and non-sampling type errors that may result in misleading estimates. 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.

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RAPPORT SUR LE MARCHÉ DU TRAVAIL EN ONTARIO

Labour Market Highlights First Quarter (January-March) 2009

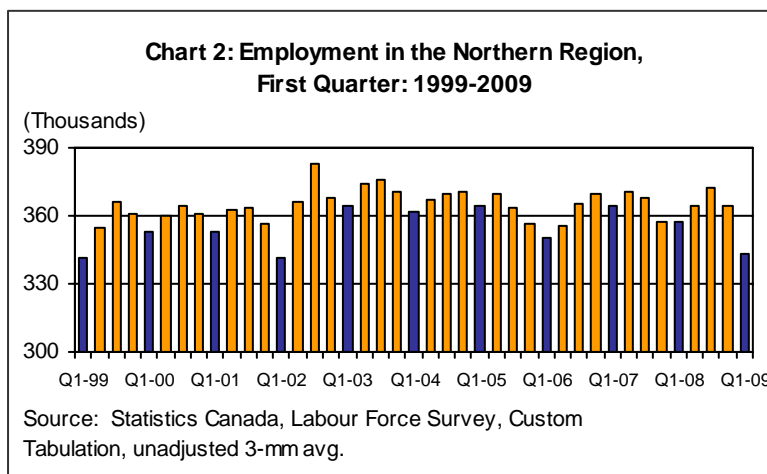
- The Northern Region unemployment rate was 8.3% in the first quarter of 2009, up from 7.2% compared with the first quarter of 2008. Employment declined by 13,500 jobs, or 3.8%, while the labour force decreased by 10,200 (down 2.7%) over the 1-year period (see Table 1).



- There were 31,000 unemployed individuals in the Northern Region in the first quarter of 2009, an increase of 3,200 individuals (up 11.5%) since the first quarter of 2008.
- The Greater Sudbury census metropolitan area (CMA) unemployment rate was 8% in the first quarter of 2009, compared with 5.8% a year earlier. In the Thunder Bay CMA, the unemployment rate rose from 5.8% to 8.6% during the same period.
- The Northern Region unemployment rate was below the provincial average unemployment rate, which increased from 6.5% in the first quarter of 2008 to 8.9% in the first quarter of 2009.
- There were 629,300 people unemployment in all of Ontario in the first quarter of 2009, an increase of 175,000 people (up 38.5%) since the first quarter of 2008. Ontario's labour force increased by 53,400 (up 0.76%), while employment declined by 121,700 positions (down 1.9%) during the year-over-year period.
- In the Northern Region, the unemployment rate (14.5%) of the youth population (aged 15-24) was 1.6 percentage points lower in the first quarter of 2009 compared with a year earlier. However, the youth unemployment rate was almost twice that of the Region's overall unemployment rate.
- The unemployment rate in the Region was lowest (6.4%) for workers 55 years and older. The labour force for workers aged 55 and older decreased (down 1,700 or 2.8%), as did employment (down 600) for this cohort, but their labour force decreased at a faster pace. This put downward pressure on the unemployment rate of workers aged 55 and older.
- The unemployment rate of the prime working-age population (aged 25-54) was 7.4%, up 2.1 percentage points from 5.3% in the first quarter of 2008.

- Employment (see Chart 2) in the Northern Region totalled 343,600 in the first quarter of 2009, a decline of 13,500 positions (down 3.8%) since first quarter of 2008. All but 200 of the job losses during the period were full-time positions and the losses were concentrated in prime working-age population. For Ontario overall, full-time positions accounted for the entire 121,700 job losses, which were also concentrated in prime working-age population during the year-over-year period.

- Part-time positions accounted for 21.2% of total employment in the Region in the first quarter of 2009, compared with 20.4% in the first quarter of 2008. The Region had experienced a downward trend the share of part-time positions since 1999, when part-time employment peaked at 24.1%.



- The share of part-time positions in the province overall was 20.1% in the quarter of 2009, up from 19.2% in the first quarter of 2008.

- Employment losses in the goods-producing sector totalled approximately 4,200 positions (down 5.5%) in the Region in the first quarter of 2009, while net job losses in the service-producing sector totalled about 9,300 positions (down 3.3%) over the same period (see Table 2). The goods-producing sector accounted for 31% of the total employment losses and 21% of employment, compared with the service sector's 69% share of the job losses and 79% share of employment in the first quarter of 2009.

- Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (down 4,800 positions or 20.9%) and manufacturing (down 3,400 positions or 11.6%) led employment losses in the goods-producing sector in the first quarter of 2009, while construction (up 5,200 positions or 32.5%) was the only industry in the sector that experienced job growth.

- Employment losses in the service-producing sector were highest in management, administrative and other support services (down 7,100) and transportation and warehousing (down 4,600), with declines of 42.3% and 21% respectively. Employment in the health and social assistance industry increased by 5,700 positions (up 11.0%) over the period, followed by 3,100 (up 15.2%) new jobs in accommodation and food services.

- The occupations accounting for the majority of the 13,500 job losses in the Northern Region in the first quarter were trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (down 4,500 positions or 7.4%) and occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities (down 3,900 positions or 29.5%). Employment increased in occupations in social science, education, government service and religion (up 3,000 positions or 7.5%) and health occupation (up 2,700 positions or 11.4%).

- Overall in Ontario, employment losses were highest in manufacturing (down 87,200 positions or 9.7%) and educational services (down 22,200 positions or 4.4%), while the occupations with the largest declines in the quarter were sales and service occupations (down 38,700 positions or 2.5%) and trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (down 36,200 positions or 3.9%).
- The working-age population (15 years and over) of the Northern Region was estimated at 627,200 in the first quarter of 2009, down 1,300 or 0.2% from the first quarter of 2008 (see Table 1).
- Since 1999, the Northern Region's working-age population has declined an average of 0.2% per year.
- Across age groups, the prime working-age population decreased by 5,000 individuals or 1.6%, while there was a notable increase in the youth population, up 3,500 individuals or 3.7%.
- The labour force (the number of employed individuals and job seekers) of the Northern Region totalled 374,700 in the first quarter of 2009, a decrease of 10,200 individuals or 2.7% from the first quarter of 2008. There were 8,500 fewer prime working-age individuals, down 3.1%, while the number of individuals aged 55 and older decreased by 1,700 or 2.9%.
- The Region's labour force participation rate (the number of people in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the working age population) decreased from 61.2% in the first quarter of 2008 to 59.7% in the first quarter of 2009. This compared with a decrease from 67.2% to 66.8% in the labour force participation rate for all of Ontario over the same period.
- The share of the working-age population in the Northern Region that worked in the first quarter of 2009 was 54.7%, a decrease in the employment rate from 56.8% in the first quarter of 2008. Ontario's overall employment rate decreased from 62.9% to 60.8% over the same period.

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

TABLE 1: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS BY AGE GROUPS

	2005	2006	2007	2008	Northern Region		Ontario	
					Q1-2008	Q1-2009	Q1-2008	Q1-2009
All Ages (15+ years)								
Population (000s)	630.0	630.5	629.6	629.0	629.2	627.9	10,449.2	10,603.6
Labour Force (000s)	391.4	388.9	392.1	390.3	384.9	374.7	7,026.2	7,079.6
Employment (000s)	364.0	360.3	365.1	364.5	357.1	343.6	6,572.0	6,450.3
Full-time (000s)	286.7	288.7	288.8	288.9	284.1	270.9	5,310.9	5,156.1
Part-time (000s)	77.4	71.6	76.2	75.6	73.0	72.8	1,261.0	1,294.2
Unemployment (000s)	27.4	28.7	27.0	25.9	27.8	31.0	454.3	629.3
Not in Labour Force (000s)	238.6	241.5	237.5	238.6	244.3	253.2	3,423.0	3,524.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.0	7.4	6.9	6.6	7.2	8.3	6.5	8.9
Participation Rate (%)	62.1	61.7	62.3	62.1	61.2	59.7	67.2	66.8
Employment Rate (%)	57.8	57.1	58.0	57.9	56.8	54.7	62.9	60.8
15-24 years								
Population (000s)	104.7	97.4	95.3	95.6	94.7	98.2	1,729.2	1,741.1
Labour Force (000s)	68.2	61.4	64.6	61.8	55.2	55.2	1,038.1	1,026.0
Employment (000s)	57.4	51.7	55.9	53.4	46.3	47.2	900.9	859.0
Full-time (000s)	28.0	26.3	27.7	25.3	21.2	18.1	397.1	385.1
Part-time (000s)	29.4	25.3	28.2	28.1	25.1	29.1	503.7	473.9
Unemployment (000s)	10.8	9.7	8.7	8.4	8.9	8.0	137.2	167.0
Not in Labour Force (000s)	36.4	36.0	30.6	33.8	39.5	43.0	691.1	715.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	15.8	15.8	13.5	13.6	16.1	14.5	13.2	16.3
Participation Rate (%)	65.1	63.0	67.8	64.6	58.3	56.2	60.0	58.9
Employment Rate (%)	54.8	53.1	58.7	55.9	48.9	48.1	52.1	49.3
25-54 years								
Population (000s)	323.4	322.3	317.5	316.2	315.7	310.7	5,675.2	5,713.1
Labour Force (000s)	270.9	269.8	270.2	267.8	270.1	261.6	4,906.3	4,930.9
Employment (000s)	257.1	254.4	255.2	254.2	255.9	242.3	4,644.6	4,543.8
Full-time (000s)	221.8	222.8	220.6	220.0	221.3	211.0	4,115.9	3,974.8
Part-time (000s)	35.3	31.7	34.6	34.2	34.6	31.3	528.8	568.9
Unemployment (000s)	13.8	15.4	15.1	13.6	14.2	19.3	261.7	387.2
Not in Labour Force (000s)	52.5	52.4	47.3	48.4	45.5	49.1	768.9	782.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.1	5.3	7.4	5.3	7.9
Participation Rate (%)	83.8	83.7	85.1	84.7	85.6	84.2	86.5	86.3
Employment Rate (%)	79.5	78.9	80.4	80.4	81.1	78.0	81.8	79.5
55 years and over								
Population (000s)	202	210.8	216.8	217.2	218.8	219.0	3,044.8	3,149.4
Labour Force (000s)	52.2	57.7	57.2	60.7	59.6	57.9	1,081.9	1,122.7
Employment (000s)	49.5	54.1	54	56.9	54.8	54.2	1,026.4	1,047.5
Full-time (000s)	36.9	39.6	40.6	43.5	41.5	41.8	797.9	796.1
Part-time (000s)	12.7	14.5	13.4	13.4	13.3	12.4	228.5	251.3
Unemployment (000s)	2.7	3.6	3.2	3.8	4.7	3.7	55.4	75.2
Not in Labour Force (000s)	149.7	153.1	159.6	156.5	159.3	161.1	1,962.9	2,026.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.2	6.2	5.6	6.3	7.9	6.4	5.1	6.7
Participation Rate (%)	25.8	27.4	26.4	27.9	27.2	26.4	35.5	35.6
Employment Rate (%)	24.5	25.7	24.9	26.2	25.0	24.7	33.7	33.3

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

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

	2005	2006	2007	2008	Northern Region		
					Q1-2008	Q1-2009	Change (Absolute)
All Industries (000s)	364.0	360.3	365.1	364.5	357.1	343.6	-13.5
Goods-Producing Sector	83.4	89.3	81.0	85.3	76.4	72.2	-4.2
Agriculture	3.9	4.7	3.0	4.2	3.7	3.1	-0.6
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	20.4	22.8	21.3	23.8	23.0	18.2	-4.8
Utilities	3.4	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.4	3.8	-0.6
Construction	19.8	23.2	21.6	23.5	16.0	21.2	5.2
Manufacturing	35.9	34.9	30.9	29.7	29.3	25.9	-3.4
Services-Producing Sector	280.7	270.9	284.0	279.2	280.6	271.3	-9.3
Trade	59.2	53.9	58.0	54.1	55.9	53.3	-2.6
Transportation and Warehousing	20.5	21.7	20.5	19.8	21.9	17.3	-4.6
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	15.3	13.4	12.7	12.4	12.2	13.1	0.9
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	11.1	12.2	15.1	14.3	14.6	11.9	-2.7
Management, Administrative and Other Support	14.6	15.4	14.2	14.6	16.8	9.7	-7.1
Educational Services	29.5	29.8	31.2	32.5	34.2	34.1	-0.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	53.3	50.2	53.1	56.9	51.6	57.3	5.7
Information, culture and recreation	15.2	12.3	13.8	14.0	13.2	12.7	-0.5
Accommodation and food services	23.6	21.9	25.2	22.8	20.4	23.5	3.1
Other services	15.5	14.3	13.2	13.7	14.9	14.3	-0.6
Public administration	22.9	25.9	27.1	24.0	24.9	24.1	-0.8

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

TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

	2005	2006	2007	2008	Northern Region		
					Q1-2008	Q1-2009	Change (Absolute)
All Occupations (000s)	364.0	360.3	365.1	364.5	357.1	343.6	-13.5
Management Occupations	29.6	29.6	28.0	28.0	27.1	25.8	-1.3
Business, Finance and Administration Occupations	58.2	57.7	57.3	61.0	59.2	58.4	-0.8
Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occ.	18.3	20.5	21.7	18.7	17.8	14.8	-3.0
Health Occupations	27.8	26.3	28.4	27.3	23.6	26.3	2.7
Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Service and Religion	33.1	31.3	34.5	39.9	39.8	42.8	3.0
Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	7.0	6.7	6.1	6.2	5.1	5.8	0.7
Sales and Service Occupations	94.3	87.9	97.0	92.2	94.5	91.0	-3.5
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations	60.9	64.6	61.4	61.3	60.6	56.1	-4.5
Occupations Unique to Primary Industry	16.2	17.6	16.5	17.1	16.1	13.3	-2.8
Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	18.5	18.2	14.1	12.8	13.2	9.3	-3.9

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