

THE SUMMER STUDENT WORKFORCE & COVID

SEPTEMBER 2020



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The younger workforce has been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with job losses and unemployment rates far greater than that of the core (aged 25-54) and older (aged 55+) age groups. Students planning for summer employment experienced not only challenges due to the pandemic and shutdown, but losses in job prospects, income, and workplace experience.

STUDENT UNEMPLOYMENT

Students among the youth age group faced greater unemployment rates than the group as a whole in August 2020 (Table 1), with those in Ontario having been impacted greater than in other provinces (restrictions eased later in Ontario than in other provinces). Of those students, the 20-24 age group had the greatest increase to unemployment compared to the younger age groups, as well as non-students.

Table 1. Unemployment Rate (%) Percentage Point Change Over Last Year

Location	Youth 15-24 Years			Returning Students 15-24 Years		
	August 2019	August 2020	August 2019 to August 2020	August 2019	August 2020	August 2019 to August 2020
Canada	11.4%	22.5%	11.1	12.8%	26.3%	13.5
Ontario	12.0%	27.0%	15.0	12.7%	31.8%	19.1

PART-TIME VS. FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

In Canada and Ontario, youth and student employment decreased from August 2019 to August 2020 for both full- and part-time work. However, youth employment in Sault Ste. Marie increased over last year, along with an increase in full-time employment and a decrease in part-time (Table 2). Students returning to school in the fall had an overall greater decrease to employment than non-students, with losses greatest in full-time employment (Table 3).

Table 2. Youth - August Percentage Change Over Previous Year

Youth 15-24 Years		August 2018	August 2019	August 2020	August 2018 to August 2019	August 2019 to August 2020
Location	Characteristic	Persons (x1,000)			Percentage Change	
Canada	Employment	2758.1	2845.3	2465.1	3.5%	-13.4%
	Full-time	1783.5	1804.7	1484.2	1.4%	-17.8%
	Part-time	974.6	1040.6	980.9	6.7%	-5.7%
Ontario	Employment	1086.2	1136.9	929.3	5.5%	-18.3%
	Full-time	690.1	694.4	565.2	0.8%	-18.6%
	Part-time	396.0	442.5	364.1	12.8%	-17.7%
Sault Ste. Marie	Employment	5.9	5.8	6.2	-1.6%	6.9%
	Full-time	3.3	3.2	3.7	-2.7%	15.6%
	Part-time	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0%	-3.8%

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01

Table 3. Returning Students - August Percentage Change Over Previous Year

Youth 15-24 Years		August 2018	August 2019	August 2020	August 2018 to August 2019	August 2019 to August 2020
Location	Characteristic	Persons (x1,000)			Percentage Change	
Canada	Employment	1252.8	1329.8	1178.1	6.1%	-11.4%
	Full-time	588.9	601.1	516.0	2.1%	-14.2%
	Part-time	663.9	728.7	662.1	9.8%	-9.1%
Ontario	Employment	506.4	558.5	423.4	10.3%	-24.2%
	Full-time	235.4	251.8	179.7	7.0%	-28.6%
	Part-Time	271.0	306.7	243.7	13.2%	-20.5%

Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0286-02

CONCLUSION

The young workforce, including students who hold jobs in the summer months, saw the largest decrease in full-time positions from August 2019 to August 2020, especially compared to the core-age group. In Canada and Ontario, returning students experienced a greater increase to their unemployment rate than non-students and the young workforce as a whole group. In Sault Ste. Marie, however, youth full-time employment increased over last August, with a percentage increase near that of the core-age group (15.6% increased compared to 18.4%).



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