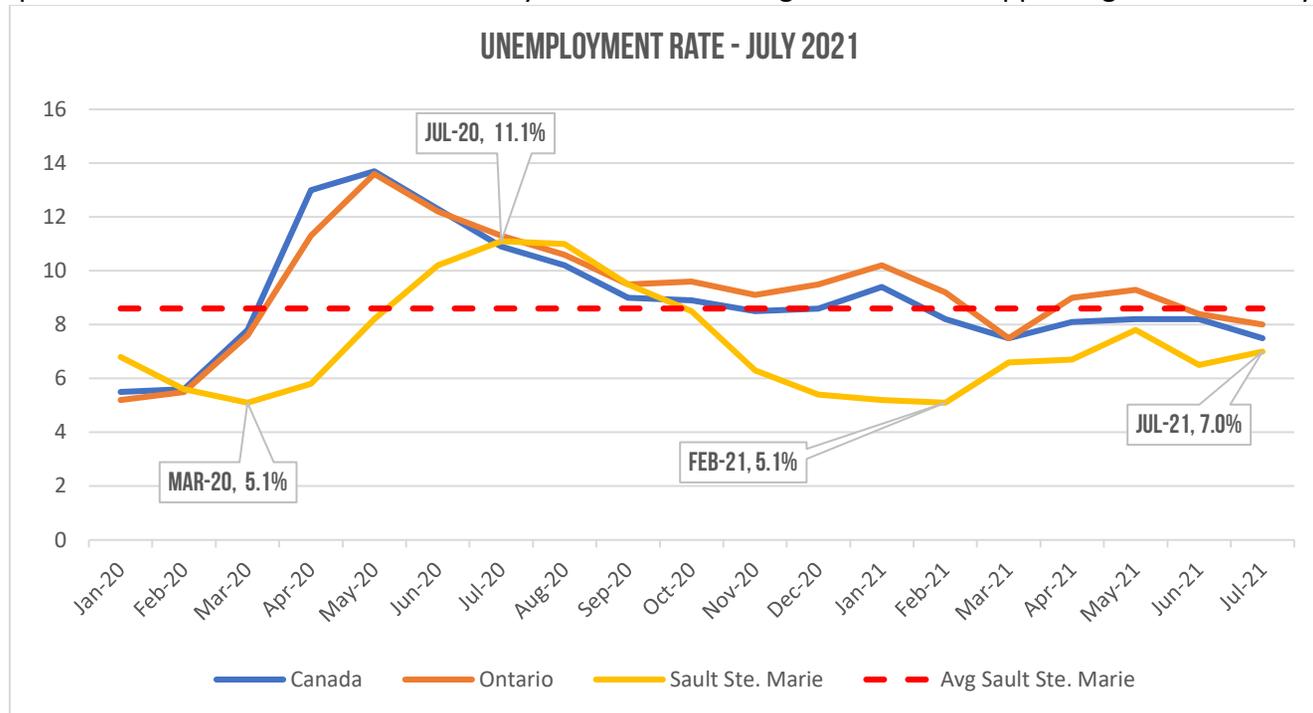


Unemployment Rate

- Sault Ste. Marie’s unemployment rate in July 2021 was 7% (Canada 7.5%, Ontario 8%)
- This represents an increase from 6.5% in June 2021 and but still significantly lower than a high of 11.1% in July 2020.
- Previous to COVID restrictions in March 2020, the unemployment rate was 5.1% and then climbed significantly.
- The national and provincial rates also spiked due to COVID restrictions, but have remained fairly consistent over recent months.
- Sault Ste. Marie’s Labour Force Survey results are based on 3-month rolling average which means the Unemployment rate is an average of the previous 3 months’ rates. This can delay the real time changes to the rates appearing in the monthly rates.

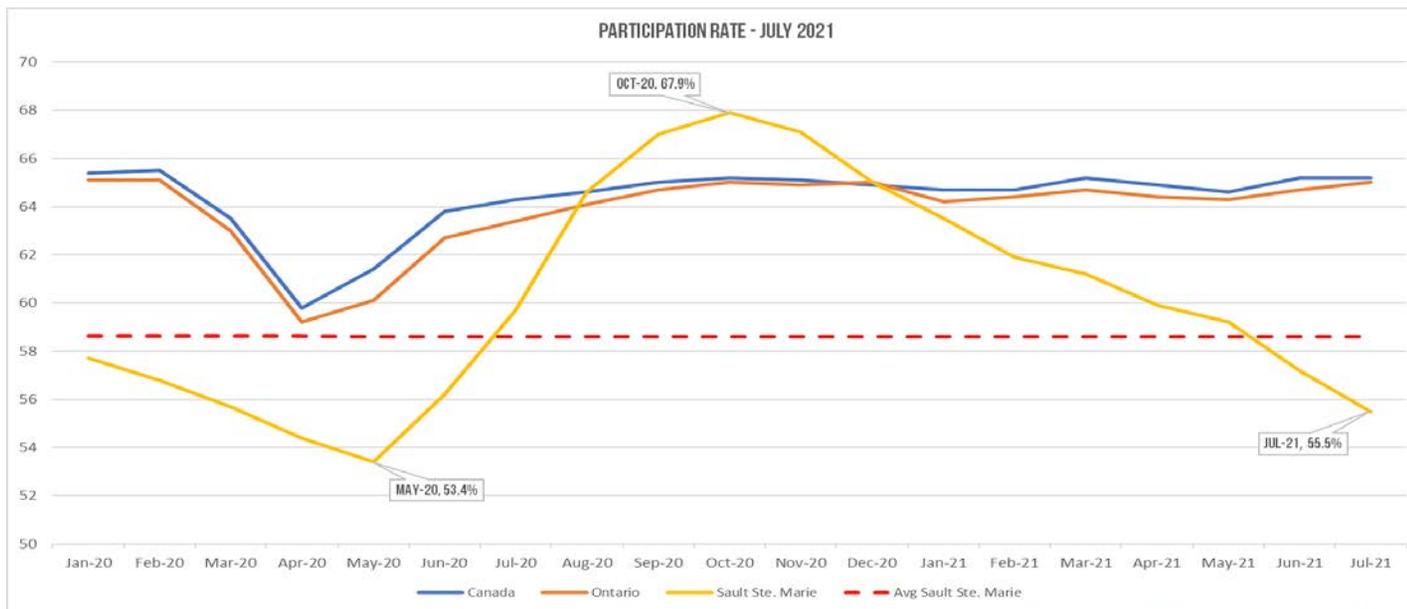


- We can also compare Unemployment Rates by age group and here we see that Sault Ste. Marie’s unemployment rates are generally in line with the Provincial and National rates, if not slightly lower.
- The exception is those 55 years or older who are looking for work.

Unemployment Rate by age	15 years and over	15 to 24 years	25 to 54 years	55 years and over
Canada	7.7%	12.5%	6.6%	7.6%
Ontario	8.7%	15.9%	7.0%	8.2%
Sault Ste. Marie	7.0%	9.0%	5.5%	9.3%

Participation Rate

- Sault Ste. Marie’s Participation Rate has fallen since October to the current level of 55.5% - which means that fewer people in Sault Ste. Marie’s working aged population (15 years and above) are working or actively looking for work.
- In general, a low Participation Rate means a tighter Labour Market, which will continue to make it difficult for employers to find employees and will drive down the Unemployment Rate.
- Sault Ste. Marie’s lower Participation Rate is mainly attributable to the fact that we have an older population and therefore more people in our general population have left the workforce (retired).
- This could also be partially an indication that people are slow to reenter the job market after COVID restrictions.



- If we compare Participation Rates by age groups, we can isolate the older population and see that Sault Ste. Marie is in line with the Provincial and National rates in the younger and core working age ranges.

Participation Rate	15 years and over	15 to 24 years	25 to 54 years	55 years and over
Canada	66.3%	74.2%	87.4%	37.0%
Ontario	66.1%	70.8%	86.7%	38.0%
Sault Ste. Marie	55.5%	78.8%	85.8%	26.1%

Employment Rate

- Sault Ste. Marie’s employment rate in June 2021 was 51.6%. (Canada 61.1%, Ontario 60.4%)
- The employment rate has rebounded from a low of 49.2% in May 2020 but fell from a high of 62.9% in November 2020.
- The national and provincial rates have also rebounded from earlier lows, but they are still lower than previous norms.
- Similar to the Participation Rate, the Employment Rate is based on general population 15 years and older. Therefore, Sault Ste. Marie’s relatively older population contributes to lower overall Employment Rates when compared to the Provincial and National rates.

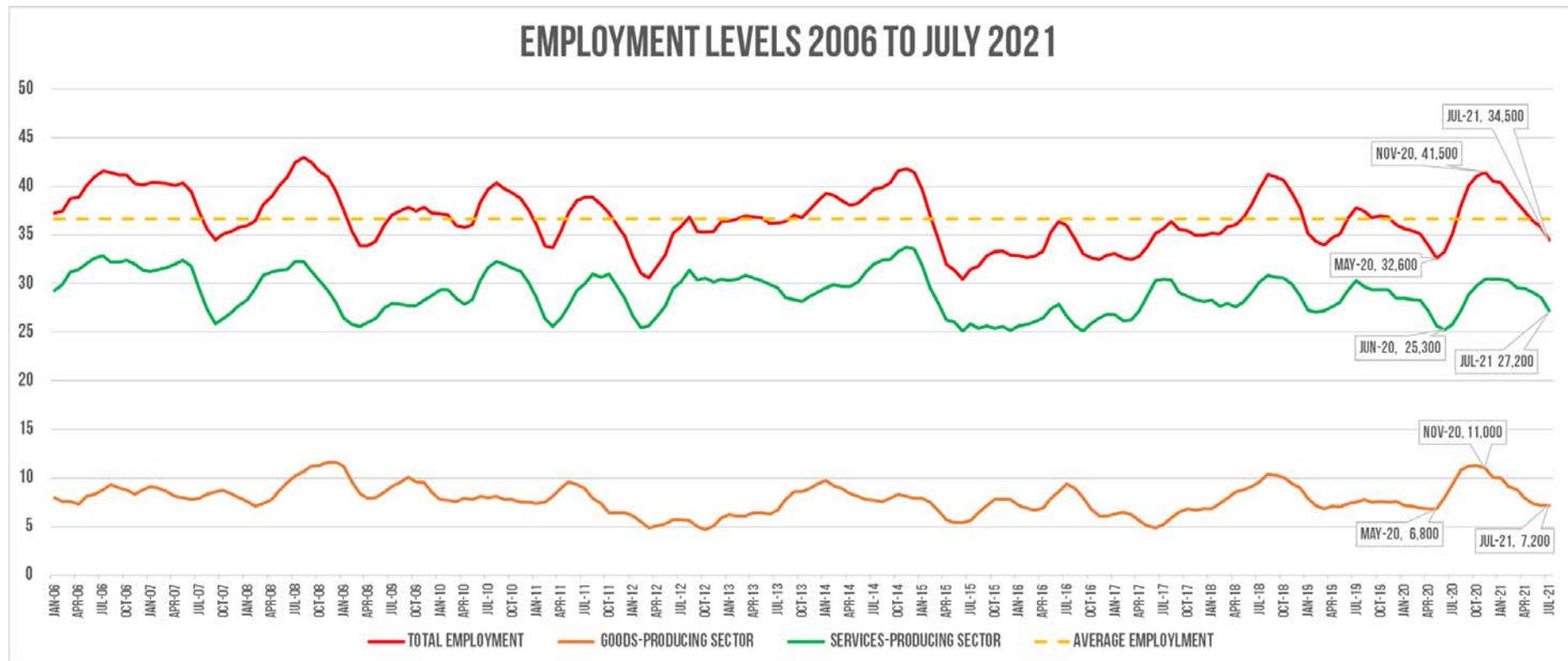


- If we compare Employment Rates by age groups, we can isolate the older population and see that Sault Ste. Marie is in line with the Provincial and National rates in the younger and core working age ranges.

Employment Rate	15 years and over	15 to 24 years	25 to 54 years	55 years and over
Canada	61.1%	64.9%	81.6%	34.2%
Ontario	60.4%	59.6%	80.6%	34.9%
Sault Ste. Marie	51.6%	71.8%	81.1%	23.6%

Employment Numbers

- Overall Employment in Sault Ste. Marie fell to 34,500 jobs in July from a high of 41,500 in November 2020. (The average level of employment over past 20 years is 36,700)
- Employment in the Goods-Producing Sector held steady at 7,200, which is still higher than pre-COVID levels and higher than overall employment numbers in 2019. These numbers are driven by consistent employment in the Construction and Manufacturing sectors.
- Employment in the Services-Producing Sector fell to 27,200, mainly due to falling levels of employment in the Retail Sector. Accommodation and Food Services employment has rebounded since the beginning of the year and have benefited from less COVID restrictions in the past month.
- About this same time last year, we saw employment numbers beginning to climb as we moved into the fall, so we will hopefully see a similar trend begin in August as we continue to see eased restrictions (such as the border opening).

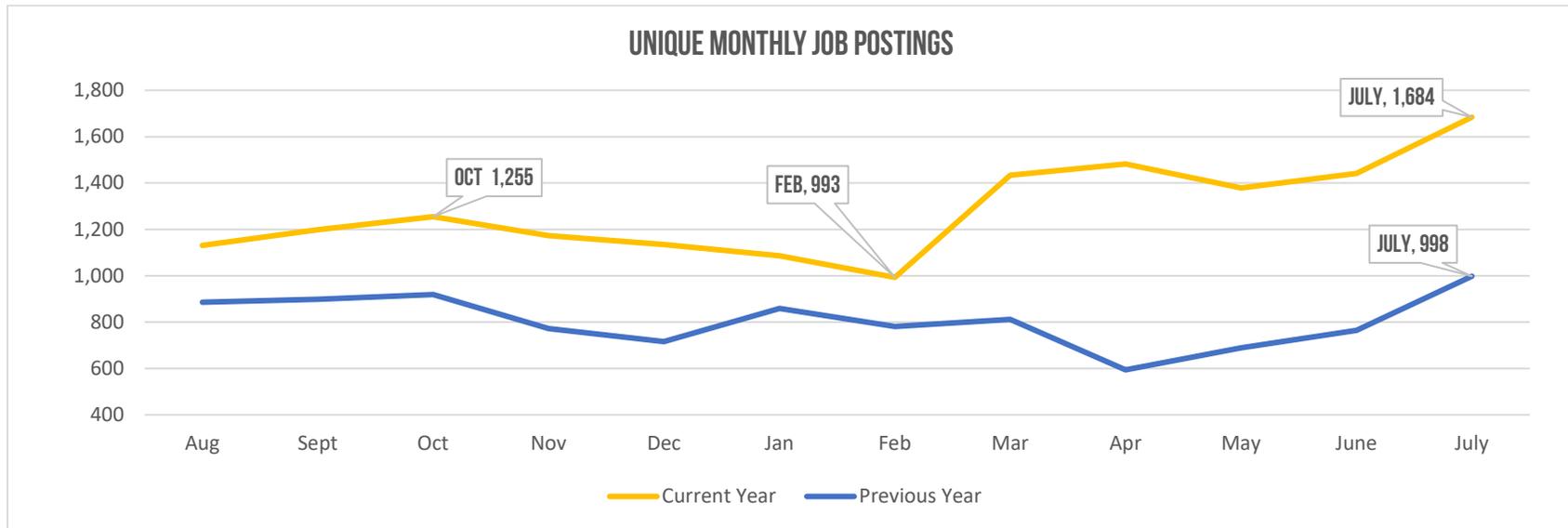


- Comparing employment levels in key sectors in July 2021 to July 2019 (pre-COVID) and July 2020, we can see the impacts COVID restrictions had on employment in 2020 and how much, in general, we have recovered to date.
- Comparing July 2019 to July 2021, Sault Ste. Marie is down 10% in overall employment, so we still have a way to go to fully recover and reach the same levels of employment.

	July-19	July-20	July-21	% Change July 2019 to July 2021
Total employment, all industries	38.4	35.8	34.5	-10%
Goods-producing sector	7.7	9.5	7.2	-6%
Construction	2.5	1.6	2.2	-12%
Manufacturing	4.3	6.8	4.1	-5%
Services-producing sector	30.7	26.4	27.2	-11%
Wholesale and retail trade	6.5	3.7	4.7	-28%
Professional, scientific and technical services	2	1.9	1.8	-10%
Educational services	4.6	2.1	2.2	-52%
Health care and social assistance	6	7.5	6.8	13%
Information, culture and recreation	2.5	x	2.2	-12%
Accommodation and food services	2.6	1.5	3	15%
Public administration	2.3	2.8	3.5	52%

Job Postings

- Online job postings in Sault Ste. Marie continue to be strong.
- As restrictions ease it has been difficult for businesses in Accommodation and Food Services to staff back up as indicated by the number of job postings in those sectors.
- Occupations related to Healthcare and Drivers also continue to have strong demand.



Top 10 Postings by Job Title

JULY 2021

Retail Salespersons
 Other Customer and Info Service Reps
 Food Counter Attendants/Kitchen Helpers
 Cooks
 Registered Nurses
 Home Support Workers
 Delivery and Courier Service Drivers
 Transport Truck Drivers
 Administrative Assistants
 Light Duty Cleaners

2020

Personal Support Workers
 Security Guards
 Registered Practical Nurses
 Sales Associates
 Administrative Assistants
 Retail Sales Associates
 Support Workers
 Registered Nurses
 Customer Service Representatives
 Delivery Drivers

2019

Personal Support Workers
 Sales Associates
 Customer Service Representatives
 Retail Sales Associates
 Administrative Assistants
 Delivery Drivers
 Store Managers
 Retail Merchandisers
 School Bus Drivers
 Cooks

How the Unemployment Rate is Calculated for Sault Ste. Marie

Sault Ste. Marie's monthly Labour Force Survey estimates are based on a sample of the working age population (the population 15 years and above). For example, the results in a typical month would be based on the survey completions of 205 households and these would be extrapolated for the entire working population of 66,500.

While labour force estimates are produced for Census Agglomerations such as Sault Ste. Marie, the Labour Force Survey sample is not allocated specifically at this level of geography. Sault Ste. Marie's data is captured within surveys of the entire North East region of Ontario. Regular sample rotation within the larger Economic Regions (ERs) that contain these communities may cause the sample size within CA boundaries to vary over time. As a result, data level movements may be due to real change, or they may be due to data variability from changes in sample size. Users are encouraged to use the employment rate and participation rate as their main variables of analysis. These estimates are the most reliable, while other estimates should be interpreted with caution.

Job Postings

The monthly Job Demand Report for the Algoma District and the Unorganized North Algoma District in Ontario is created using data collected by the Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation from national, provincial and locally-significant job boards as well as employer career pages.

For this report only job postings in Sault Ste. Marie are referenced.

Previous Job Demand Reports can be found at <https://awic.ca/job-demand-report/>