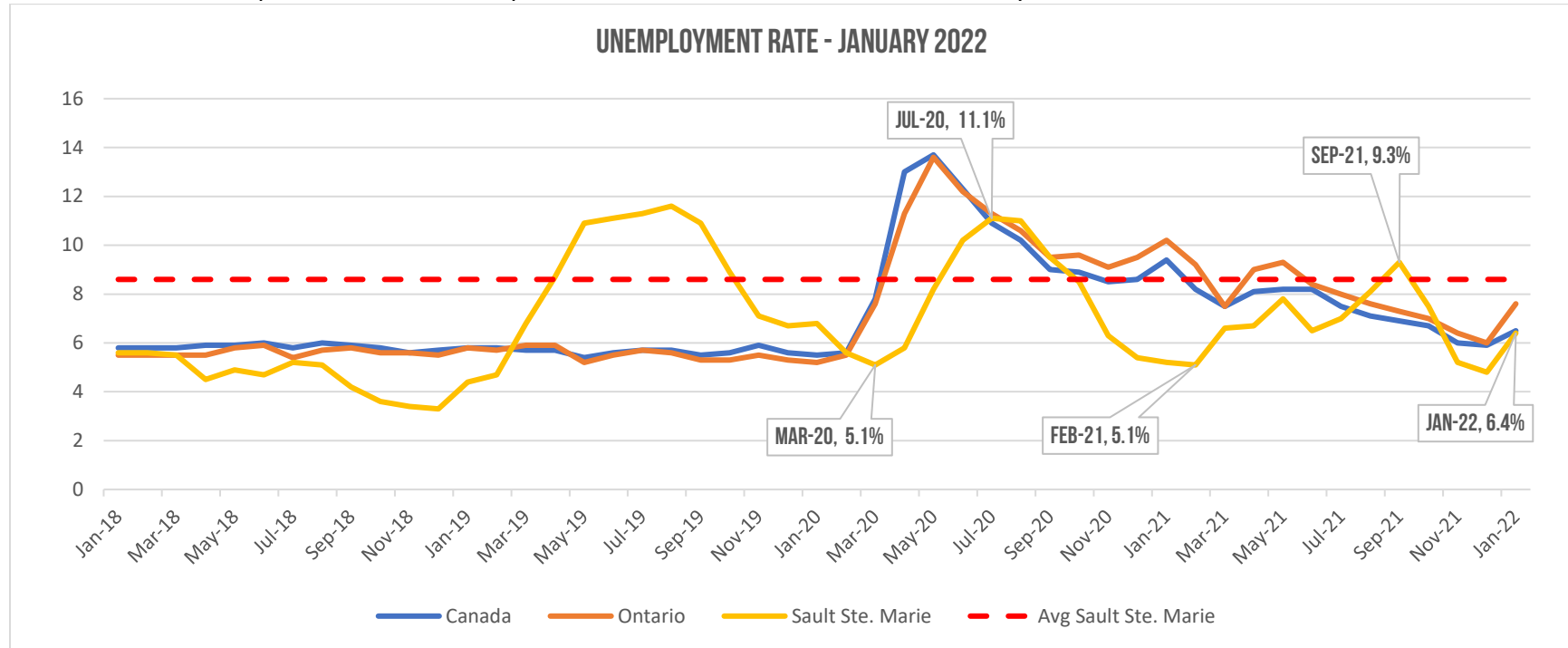


Unemployment Rate

- Sault Ste. Marie’s unemployment rate in January 2022 was 6.4% (Canada 6.5%, Ontario 7.3%)
- This represents an increase from 6.4% in December 2021 and lower than the recent high of 9.3% in Sept 2021.
- 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, fell steadily in 2021 and have risen in recent months.

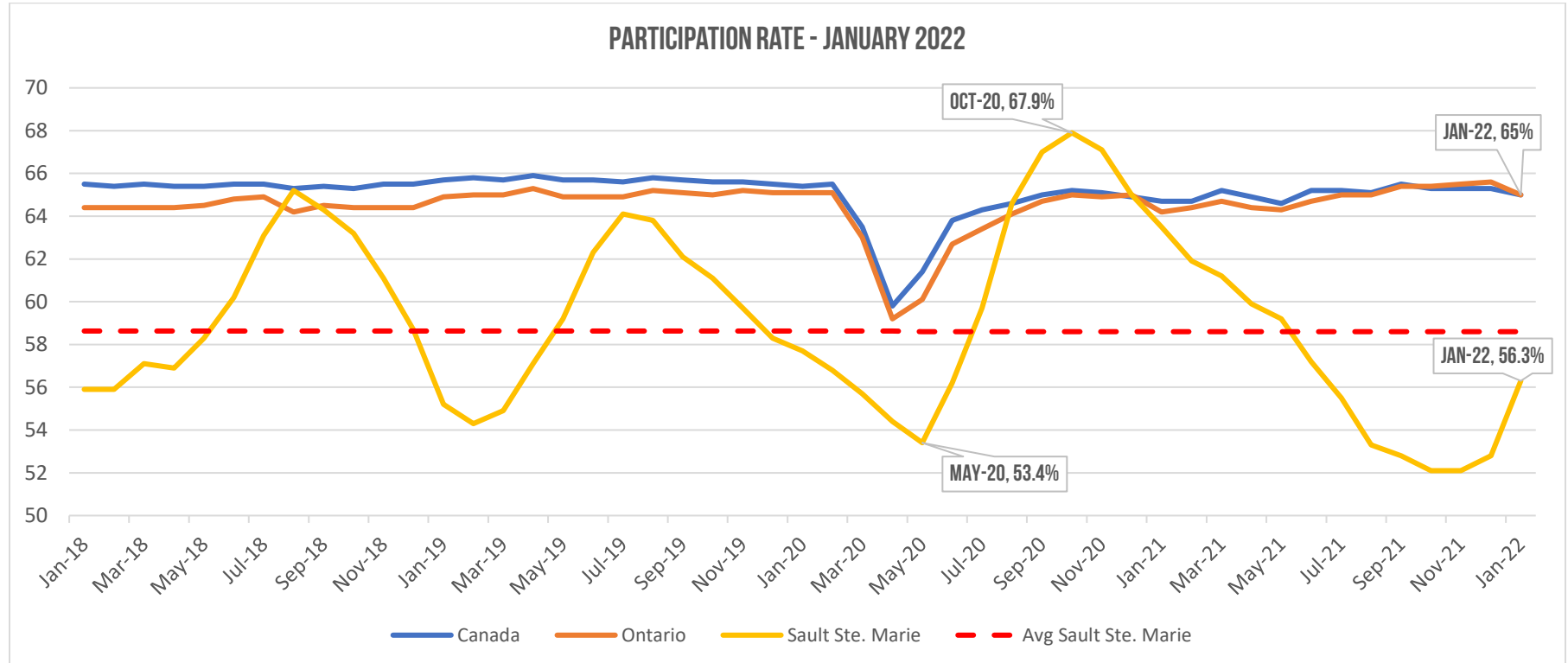


- Sault Ste. Marie’s Labour Force Survey results are based on 3-month rolling average which means the Unemployment rate is an average of the previous 3 months’ rates. This can delay the real time changes to the rates appearing in the monthly rates.
- We can also compare Unemployment Rates by age group and here we see that Sault Ste. Marie’s unemployment rates are in line with than Provincial and National rates across a variety of age ranges.
- The exception is those 15 to 24 years who are looking for work have slightly higher unemployment rate.

Unemployment Rate by age	15 years and over	15 to 24 years	25 to 54 years	55 years and over
Canada	6.5%	13.6%	5%	6.4%
Ontario	7.3%	16.6%	5.7%	6.3%
Sault Ste. Marie	6.4%	20%	6%	4.9%

Participation Rate

- Sault Ste. Marie’s Participation Rate has climbed slightly again this month to 56.3%.
- In general, a low Participation Rate means a tighter Labour Market, which will continue to make it difficult for employers to find employees.
- 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). (Canada 65%, Ontario 65%)
- This could also be partially an indication that people are slow to reenter the job market after COVID restrictions.

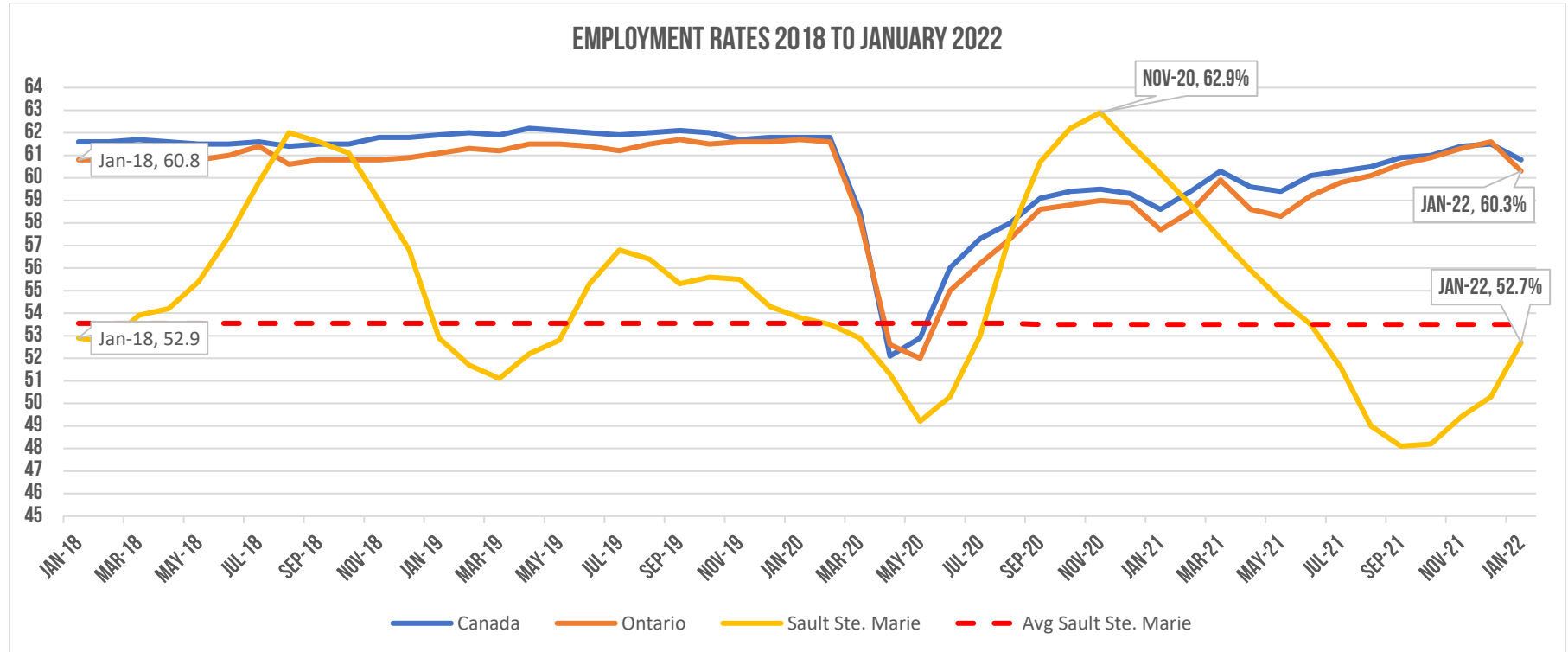


- If we compare Participation Rates by age groups, we can isolate the older population and see that Sault Ste. Marie is generally in line with the Provincial and National rates in the core working age range (25-54 years), but significantly lower in the 55+ age range.

Participation Rate	15 years and over	15 to 24 years	25 to 54 years	55 years and over
Canada	65%	64.2%	88.2%	36.6%
Ontario	65%	60.1%	87.5%	38.2%
Sault Ste. Marie	56.3%	71.4%	93.3%	27.9%

Employment Rate

- Sault Ste. Marie’s employment rate in December 2021 was 52.7%. (Canada 60.8%, Ontario 60.3%)
- The employment has fallen from a high of 62.9% in November 2020, but has started to climb over the past 3 months.
- The national and provincial rates have rebounded from earlier lows, but they are still slightly 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.

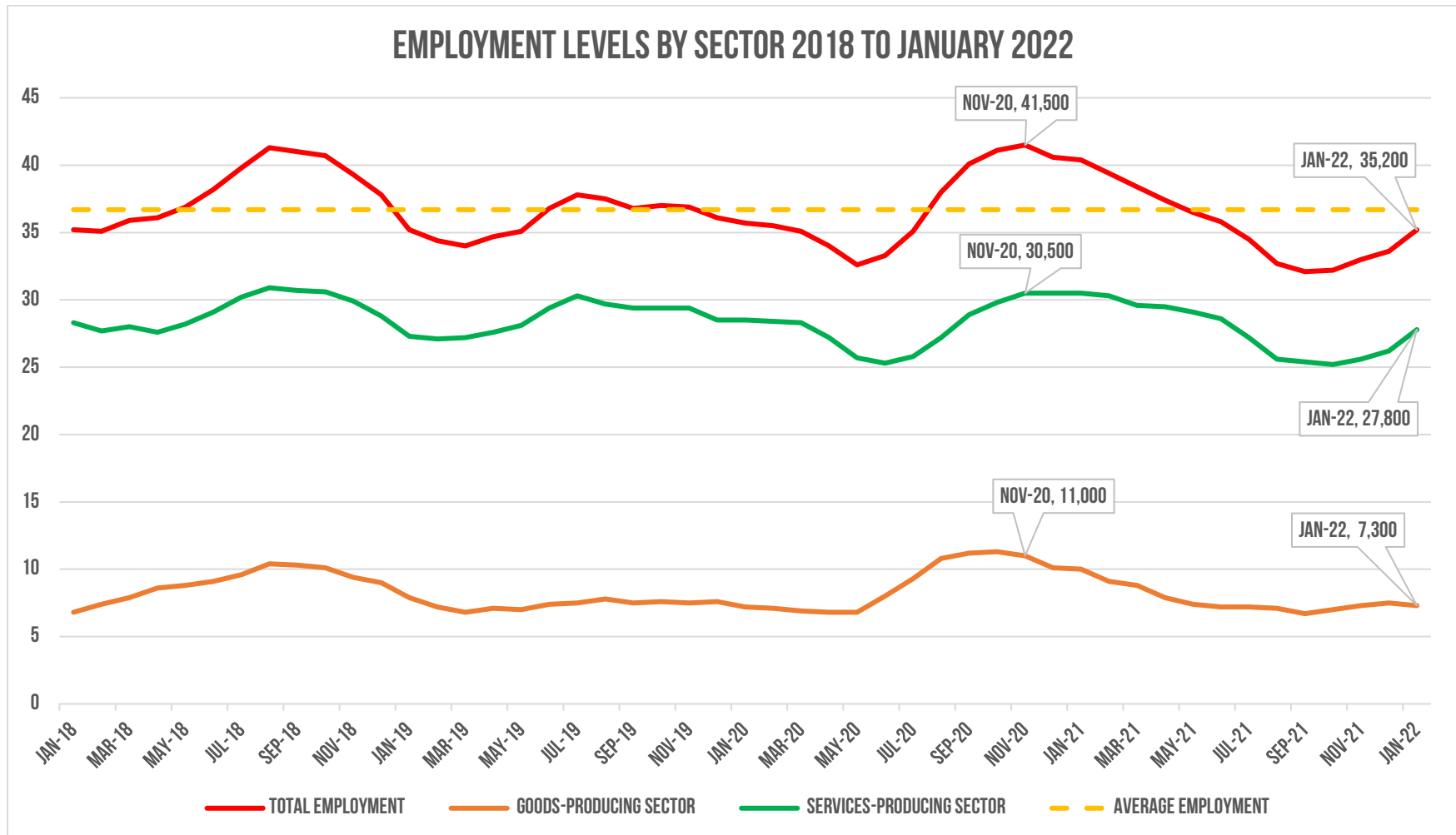


- If we compare Employment Rates by age groups, we can isolate the older population and see that Sault Ste. Marie is in line with the Provincial and National rates in the younger and core working age ranges.

Employment Rate	15 years and over	15 to 24 years	25 to 54 years	55 years and over
Canada	60.8%	55.4%	83.7%	34.2%
Ontario	60.3%	50.1%	82.6%	35.8%
Sault Ste. Marie	52.7%	57.1%	87.6%	26.5%

Employment Numbers

- Overall Employment in Sault Ste. Marie climbed slightly to 35,200 jobs in December since falling from a high of 41,500 jobs in November 2020. (The average level of employment over past 20 years is 36,700)
- Employment in the Goods-Producing Sector held steady at 7,300 jobs due to an increase in employment in the Manufacturer sector even though employment in the Construction sector fell.
- Employment in the Services-Producing Sector rose to 27,800 mainly due to a bounce back of employment in the Retail and Accommodation/Food Services sector.



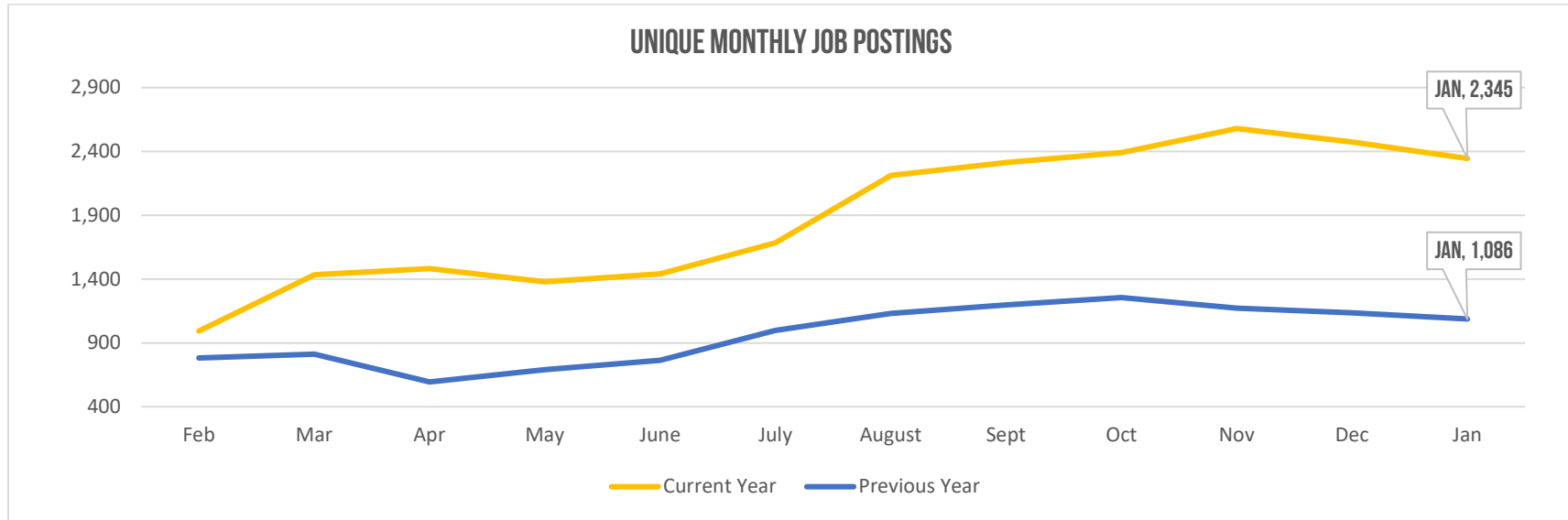
- Comparing employment levels in key sectors in January 2022 to January 2020 (pre-COVID) and January 2021, we can see the impacts COVID restrictions had on employment over the past 2 years and how much.
- Comparing January 2020 to January 2022, Sault Ste. Marie is down 2% in overall employment, so we are actually closing in on the pre-pandemic level of employment.
- The lower level of Construction employment is mainly attributed to the seasonal nature of the sector, where as lower Retail employment can be attribute to the impacts of COVID restrictions.
- Comparing December 2021 to January 2022, we saw a 5% increase in overall employment.

	January-20	January-21	January-22	% Change Jan 2020 to Jan 2022
Total, all industries	36.1	40.4	35.2	-2%
Goods-producing sector	7.2	10	7.3	1%
Construction	3	1.7	1.7	-43%
Manufacturing	3.4	7.2	4.3	26%
Services-producing sector	28.9	30.5	27.8	-4%
Wholesale and retail trade	5.5	7.8	4.1	-25%
Educational services	3.3	3.3	3.7	12%
Health care and social assistance	6.4	8.6	6.1	-5%
Information, culture and recreation	1.9	n/a	2.1	11%
Accommodation and food services	1.5	n/a	1.9	27%
Public administration	2.1	n/a	2.7	29%

	December-21	January-22	% Change Nov 2021 to Dec 2021
Total, all industries	33.6	35.2	5%
Goods-producing sector	7.5	7.3	-3%
Construction	2.1	1.7	-19%
Manufacturing	4.2	4.3	2%
Services-producing sector	26.2	27.8	6%
Wholesale and retail trade	3.8	4.1	8%
Educational services	3.4	3.7	9%
Health care and social assistance	5.4	6.1	13%
Information, culture and recreation	1.9	2.1	11%
Accommodation and food services	1.6	1.9	19%
Public administration	2.6	2.7	4%

Job Postings

- Online job postings in Sault Ste. Marie continue to be strong compared to the previous year.
- Overall job postings decreased slightly from January, but new job postings increased.
- We continue to see strong demand in Healthcare, Retail and Restaurants.



JANUARY 2022

Registered Nurses
Retail Salesperson
Delivery and Courier Drivers
Home Support workers & Housekeepers
Other Customer and Information Services
Bus Drivers and Transit Operators
Food Counter and Kitchen Helpers
General Office Support Workers
Cooks
Social and Community Service Workers

Top 10 Postings by Job Title 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/>