

Ontario Labour Market Report

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September 24, 2020



[Click Here to Register for the October Labour Market Briefing on September 24th at 3pm](#)

Registration closes Wed. Sept. 23rd at 3pm



Minimum wage going up to \$14.25 on October 1st

Employment Standards / Regulations

While Ontario businesses struggle with a multitude of challenges, the Province of Ontario is proceeding with legislated increases to the minimum wage under the **Ontario Employment Standards Act (ESA)**. For Ontario employers this means an increase in the general minimum wage from \$14.00 to \$14.25 as of October 1, 2020.

The Minimum wage is defined as the lowest wage rate an employer may pay an employee. Most employees are eligible for minimum wage, whether they are full-time, part-time, casual employees, or are paid an hourly rate, commission, piece rate, flat rate or salary.

If an employee's pay is based completely or partly on commission, their pay must amount to at least the minimum wage for each hour the employee has worked.

Minimum wage rates may vary depending on the type of work being performed. Below is a table of minimum wage rates under the ESA from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021:

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Ontario Labour Market Report

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- General minimum wage: \$14.25 per hour
- Student minimum wage: \$13.40 per hour
- Liquor servers minimum wage: \$12.45 per hour
- Homeworkers wage: \$15.70 per hour
- Hunting, fishing and wilderness guides minimum wage: a \$71.30 rate for working less than five consecutive hours in a day or a \$142.60 rate for working five or more hours in a day whether or not the hours are consecutive

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If a change to the minimum wage rate comes into effect partway through an employee's pay period, the pay period will be treated as if it were two separate pay periods and the employee will be entitled to at least the minimum wage that applies in each of those periods.

Minimum wage rules in Ontario apply to employees who are employed in positions covered by the ESA. As such, individuals that are correctly categorized as independent contractors are exempt from the minimum wage provisions of the ESA.

Further, certain employees have jobs that are exempt from the minimum wage provisions of the ESA because of the type of work or industry involved. Those jobs are listed below.

- Secondary school students working in co-operative programs authorized by their school board;
- People participating in the Community Participation program as part of the Ontario Works program;
- Police officers (with the exception of lie detector sections in Part XVI of the ESA);
- Inmates taking part in work or rehabilitation programs;
- Young offenders who perform work as part of a sentence or court order;
- Politicians, judges, religious officials or elected trade union officials;
- Post-secondary students working in co-operative or work experience programs approved by their college or university; or

Also, Employees whose jobs are regulated by federal employment laws and standards are subject to federal employment standards including:

- airlines;
- banks;
- the federal civil service;
- post offices;
- radio and television stations;
- inter-provincial railways; and
- inter-provincial trucking.

Click here for more information on the: [Ontario Employment Standards Act](#)

Canadians welcome technology at work - but not everybody is benefiting

Research / Automation

A new **Environics Institute** survey reveals that Canadians generally take a favourable view of technology in the workplace. Two-thirds of Canadians in the labour force report that computer technology has changed the way they do their jobs, with most rating the effects of technology as positive or neutral.

The **2020 Survey on Employment and Skills**, conducted by the **Environics Institute for Survey Research** in partnership with the **Future Skills Centre** and **Ryerson University's Diversity Institute**, follows up

on preliminary findings released in May of this year. The Survey found that a majority of workers described their jobs as easier or even more enjoyable, thanks to new technology, while only a minority said their jobs had become less enjoyable, more difficult, less well-paid or less secure.

As welcome as those results might seem, they come with a qualification: the effects of technology in the workplace are uneven. Men are more likely than women to report higher income and higher job security as a result of new technology, and managerial workers are more likely than those in sales and retail to have experienced an increase in earnings.

The Survey revealed that Canadians also have positive views of the skills training they receive. Half of Canadians in the labour force participated in a work-related training course over the past five years, and up to 90% judged it useful in developing skills that helped them do their work better. But again, the impact of training is uneven. Those who least need it are the most likely to access it—notably full-time workers, professionals, executives, managers and the university-educated.

The survey of 5,000 adults in all jurisdictions across Canada was conducted either online (provinces) or by telephone (territories) between February 28 and April 4, 2020.

Key Findings

- Most Canadians say that new computer or information technologies have changed the way they do their jobs, and this change is more likely to be seen as being positive than negative.
- A majority of college and university graduates in all major fields of study say that their programs prepared them very or somewhat well for the jobs that they have worked in after graduation. However, the proportion of graduates saying they were very well prepared for their jobs is higher among those who completed their studies before 2000 than among more recent graduates.
- Canadians have become much more skeptical about the wider economic benefits of new technologies. Only half as many Canadians today as in 1985 expect the introduction of more automation and new technology into the workplace to lead to a stronger Canadian economy and lower prices for consumers.
- When Canadians think about what is needed to succeed in the modern workplace, they have in mind a broad range of skills—such as those related to communication, collaboration and leadership—and not just technical know-how.
- A majority say the lack of the required education or training for unemployed workers is currently an important cause of unemployment in Canada. However, the proportion holding this view has not changed over time.
- The most common way for Canadians in the labour force to personally learn new work-related skills is by learning from co-workers on the job.
- Two in five Canadians think it is likely that they would receive a grant from the government to help pay for training so they can improve their work-related skills.

Click here to: [Download the Report](#);

Over 1,000 people needed to work on two major power projects in the north

Powerline Transmission / Construction

Valard, a Calgary-based construction company, has been selected as the contractor for both the **East-West Tie Line** and **Wataynikaneyap Power**

line in Northwestern Ontario.

"These are large jobs, yes. Very large jobs," said Carey Kostyk, a senior executive vice president at Valard.

"Both together, it's over a billion dollars of work. Between all the jobs, those two jobs that we're doing, we have over 1,000 people in the area working."

The **East-West Tie Line**, a 450-kilometre line stretching from Wawa to Thunder Bay, is a \$777 million project.

Kostyk said Valard is using Thunder Bay as a staging location for many of its trucks and crews. The company is using the former Abitibi Lakeshore mill for its equipment in Thunder Bay.

Construction on the East-West Tie Line is slated to be completed by the end of 2021.

Work on the Wataynikaneyap project for Valard includes the line's engineering, procurement and construction.

The work is being done in two phases; one is the construction of a transmission line from Wabigoon to Pickle Lake, and the second phase is lines from Pickle Lake and Red Lake to 17 remote communities, requiring over 1,600 kilometres of line.

The scale of the project means 22 temporary work camps will be set up and dismantled. Currently, camps are already constructed near Sioux Lookout, Pickle Lake and north of Pickle Lake.

Most First Nations are expected to be hooked up to the provincial grid by 2023. Pikangikum was the first remote community to be connected to the grid in December 2018.

Kostyk said there are more than 1,000 Valard employees now in the northwest, and that figure does not include other contractors.

"Hiring local is a drive that we have, and we're trying to develop. Right now we have over 20 per cent of our workforce is local."

This Week in Social Media

Please take the time to *'like'* or *'follow'*:

- Ontario Public Service Launches Third-Party Review of Inclusive Workplace Policies and Programs ([Click Here](#))
- 66 per cent of Ottawa's COVID-19 cases are from racialized communities ([Click Here](#))
- Stoney Creek window and door manufacturer hoping to add 30 skilled jobs ([Click Here](#))
- Immigration lawyers welcome proposed changes to provincial nominee program ([Click Here](#))

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***** QUALITY GUARANTEE *****

On our social media feeds we only post labour market and job search information, research and the occasional ironic observation. You can trust our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds. We carefully evaluate social media posts to see if they would be valuable to you.

For instance, we're not going to post articles like: [Dr. Phil Begs TikTok Followers To Stop Calling Him 'Daddy'](#), *thus marking the 43rd most creepy thing Dr. Phil has ever said.*

Your time is valuable and we wouldn't want to waste it, follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) today.

Community Calendar Career Development Events

Warehouse Associate Job Fair**Fri Sept 25th | 1pm onwards**

**If you are interested in attending, send your resume and contact details, and they will connect with you and send you the details of the job fair.

Link: [Please Click Here](#)

CANNEXUS21**January 25 & 27, February 1 & 3, 2021**

Virtual Conference

Details: cannexus.ceric.ca

Job Postings

Career Development Employment

To post a job here, please email: OntarioLMR@Outlook.com
(When you write your cover letter, please mention you saw this advertisement in the Ontario Labour Market Report.)

Youth Employment Councillor & Youth Worker

Routes Youth Centre

Dundas, Ontario

Closes: September 25, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Job Developer/Workforce Specialist**

NEW Employment Services by Newcomer Women's Services Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

Closes: September 25, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Apatisiwin Employment Counsellor *NEW***

Timmins Native Friendship Centre

Timmins, Ontario

Closes: October 2, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)**Job Coach/ Job Developer *NEW***

YMCA of Simcoe/ Muskoka

Midland, Ontario

Closes: October 4, 2020

Link: [Please Click Here](#)

Job Developer

Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services
Toronto, Ontario
Closes: October 6, 2020
Link: [Please Click Here](#)

Executive Assistant *NEW*

NPAAMB
Ohsweken, Ontario
Closes: October 9, 2020
Link: [Please Click Here](#)

Job Developer (Employment Recruiter/Job Coaching)

Interval House
Toronto, Ontario
Closes: October 15, 2020
Link: [Please Click Here](#)

Job Coach

Meta Vocational Services Inc.
Bancroft, Ontario
Closes: Unknown
Link: [Please Click Here](#)

Did you know?

Fascinating Facts

The majority of workers faced at least some risk of automation, including 10.6 per cent who are at high risk and 29.1 per cent at moderate risk. Among occupational categories, office support workers are the most at risk of automation-related job transformation, while professionals are the least.

Quote of the Week

Career Inspiration

"In any democracy, there is always a tug-of-war between policies to achieve equality and policies to promote excellence. I am certain that Canada can achieve both equality and excellence."

- John Turner

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