

Overview of the Central Region

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

February 2007

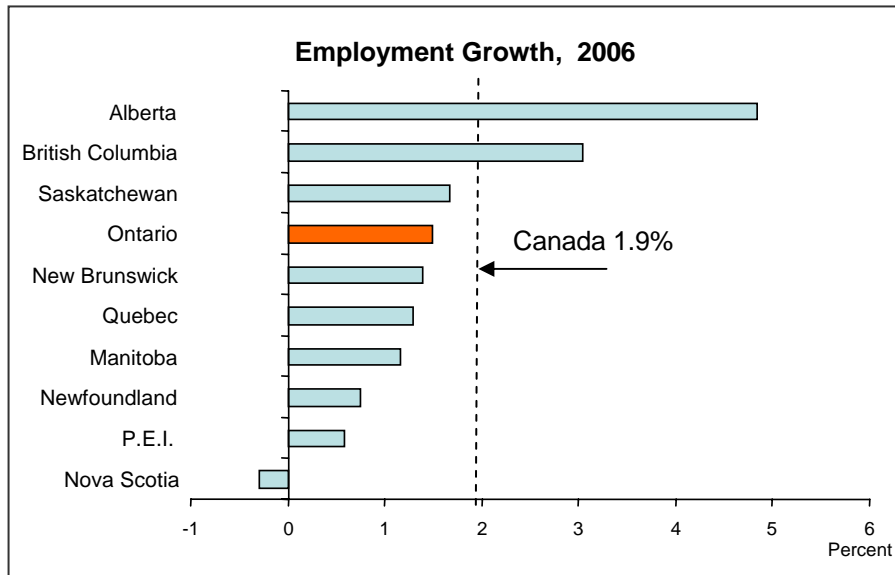
Information & Research

Labour Market Policy Branch, MTCU

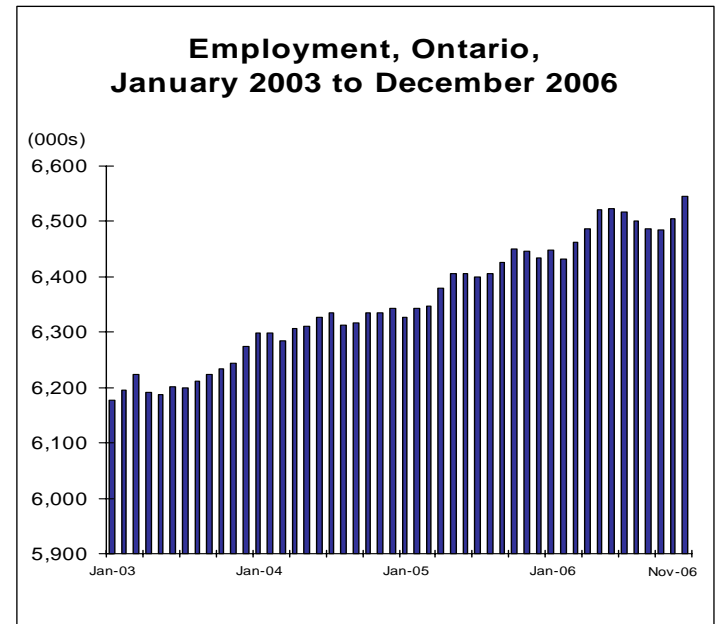
ONTARIO'S LABOUR MARKET

Ontario's labour market

- Over the last 10 years, Ontario employment increased by an average of 129,800 jobs per year.
- However, the rate of employment growth in Ontario in 2006 (1.5%) was below the national average (1.9%) and well below that of Alberta (4.8%) and British Columbia (3.1%).



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

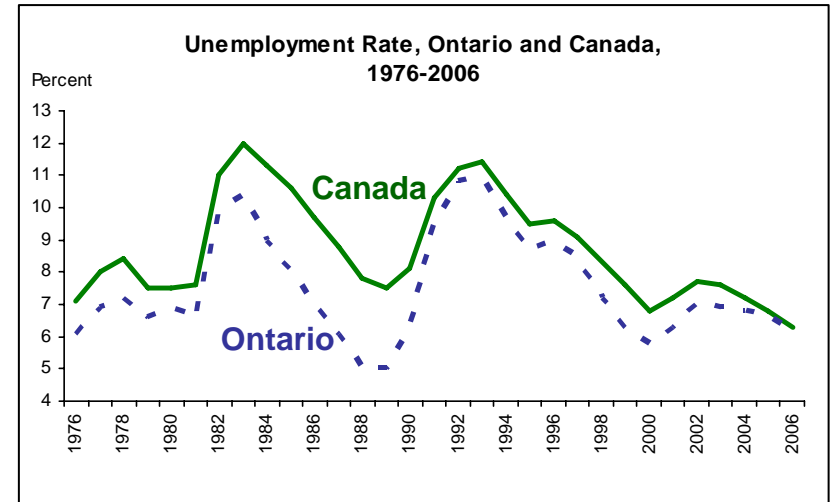


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

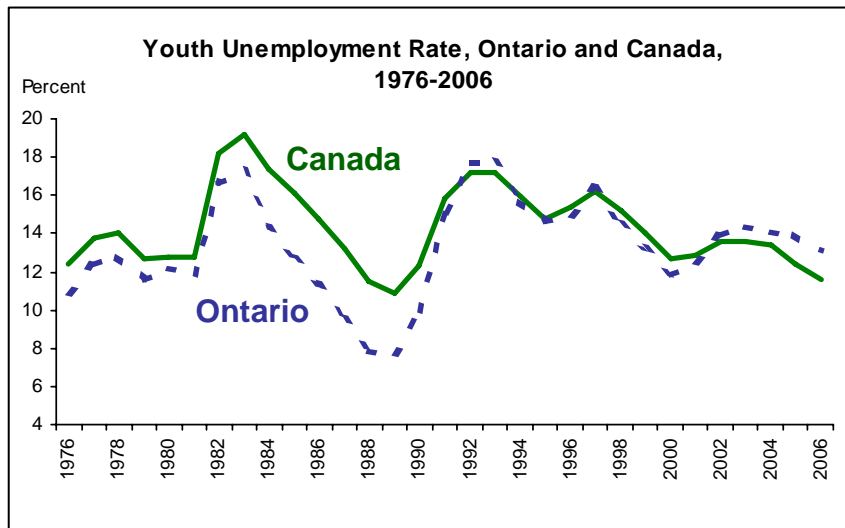
- The Ministry of Finance forecasts that Ontario's employment will increase by 1.2% or 76,000 jobs in 2007. Employment growth is expected to accelerate to 1.6% per year in 2008 and 2009.

ONTARIO'S LABOUR MARKET

- Historically Ontario's unemployment rate has been lower than the national average. However, the gap has narrowed since the peak of 2.8 percentage points in 1988, and has more recently disappeared.
- Ontario's unemployment rate was 6.3% in 2006, the lowest rate since 2001.



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

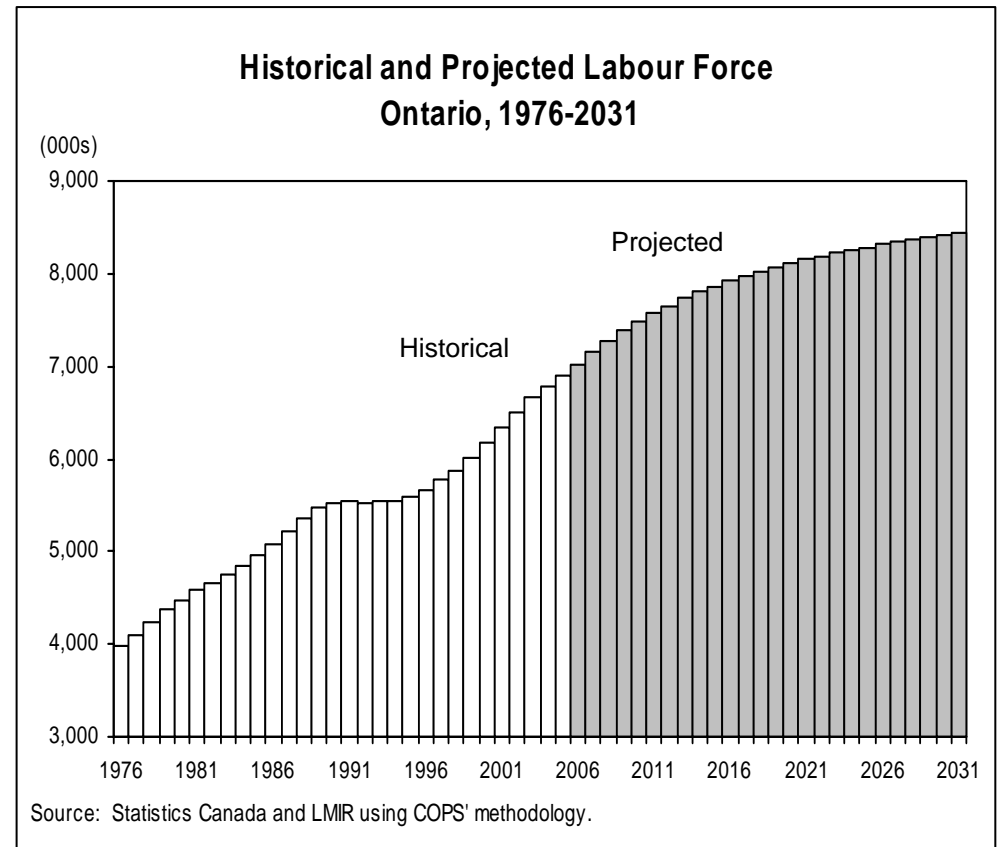


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

- The unemployment rate for youth (15-24) has typically been twice as high as the adult unemployment rate.
- In recent years, the situation for youth in Ontario has worsened relative to their counterparts across Canada. Prior to 2002, the unemployment rate for Ontario youth was below or close to the Canadian average, but it has exceeded the national unemployment rate for youth since that time.

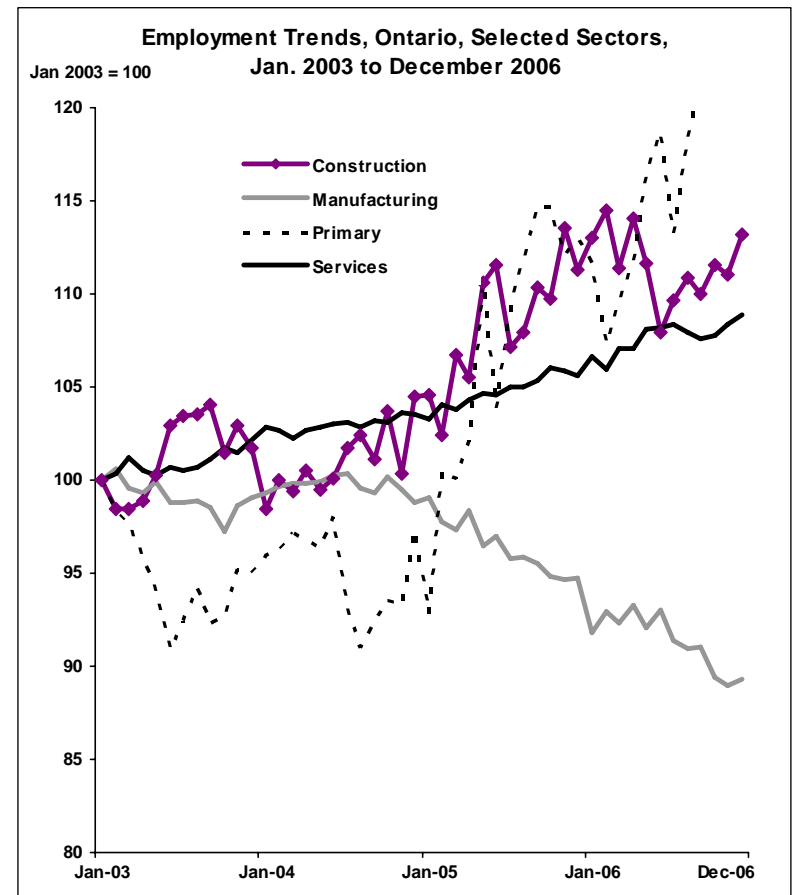
LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES: SLOWER LABOUR FORCE GROWTH

- The population of Ontario is ageing, driven by the large baby boom cohort (born between 1946 and 1965). This will lead to a slower rate of labour force growth in future.
- Over the next quarter century, Ontario's labour force will continue to grow but at a slower rate with most of this growth coming from immigration.
- The labour force growth rate is forecast to increase by only 0.8 to 1.0% annually in future, compared to an average rate of 1.9% over the 1976-2004 period.
- Slower labour force growth could lead to a tight labour market and a slower pace of employment growth.



LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

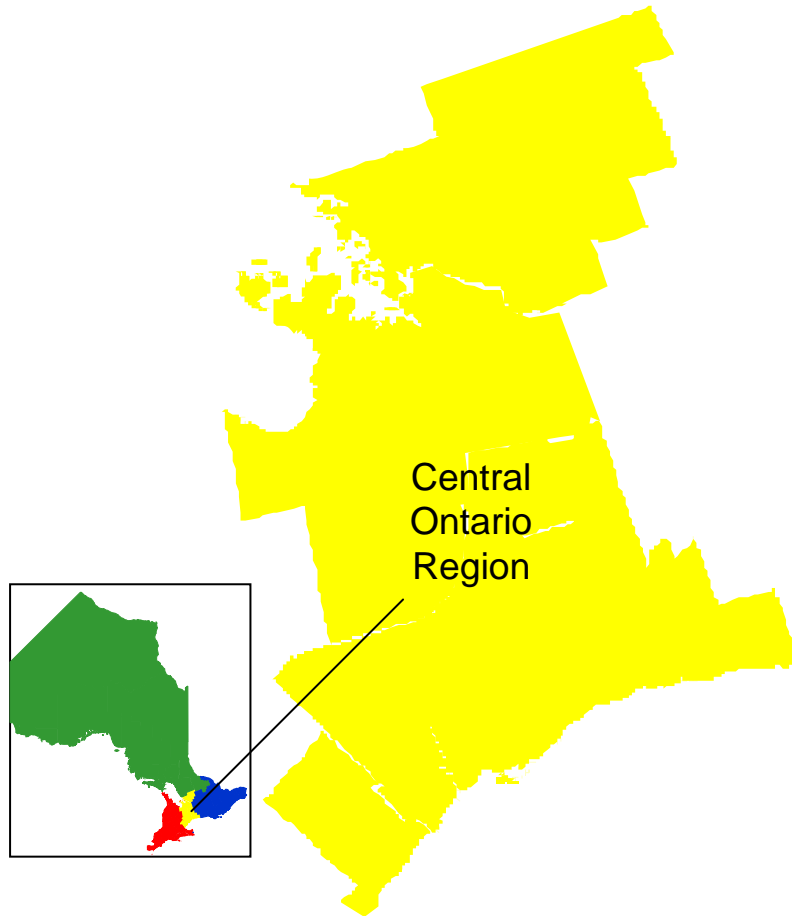
- While Ontario's labour market has been performing well, certain industries, geographic regions, and demographic groups in Ontario have been experiencing challenges.
- At the provincial level, service industries have been growing strongly and creating jobs, while the manufacturing and forestry sectors are experiencing significant pressures and layoffs.
- There are also weaker labour market outcomes for certain groups including immigrants, youth, Aboriginal People, persons with disabilities, less-educated workers, and those with poor literacy skills.
- In addition, there are regional differences in labour market performance with certain communities facing high rates of unemployment and low rates of employment growth.



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

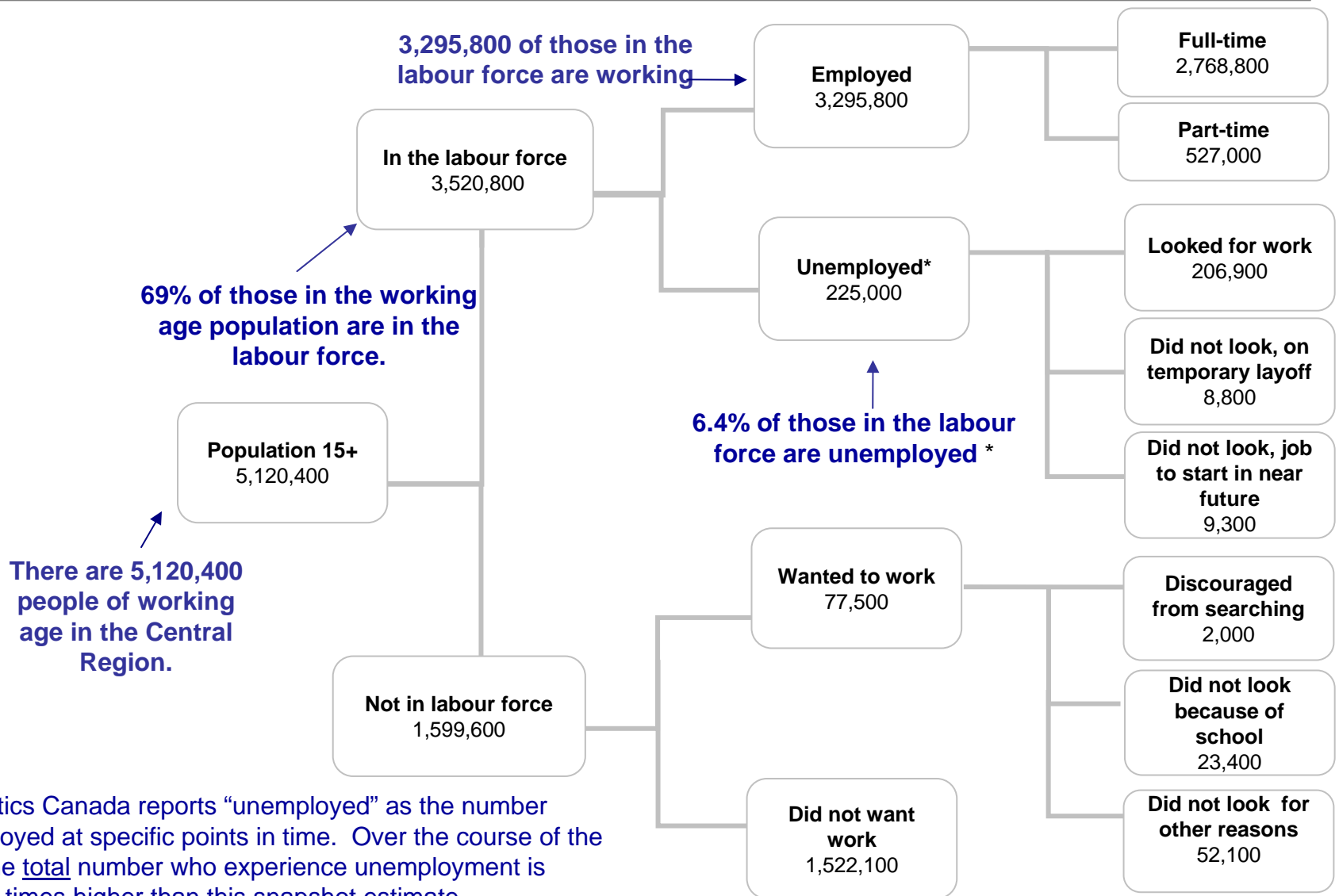
OVERVIEW: CENTRAL ONTARIO'S LABOUR MARKET

- There are 5.1 million people of working age (15 years and over) in the Central Ontario Region. Over 3.5 million people are in the labour force, most of whom (3.3 million) are employed.



- About 64% of the working-age population in the Central Ontario Region had jobs in 2006.
- 84% of employed workers in the Central Ontario Region work full-time.
- Approximately 225,000 people in the Central Ontario Region are unemployed.
- In 2006, the average unemployment rate of the Central Ontario Region was 6.4% which was close to the average for Ontario, 6.3%.

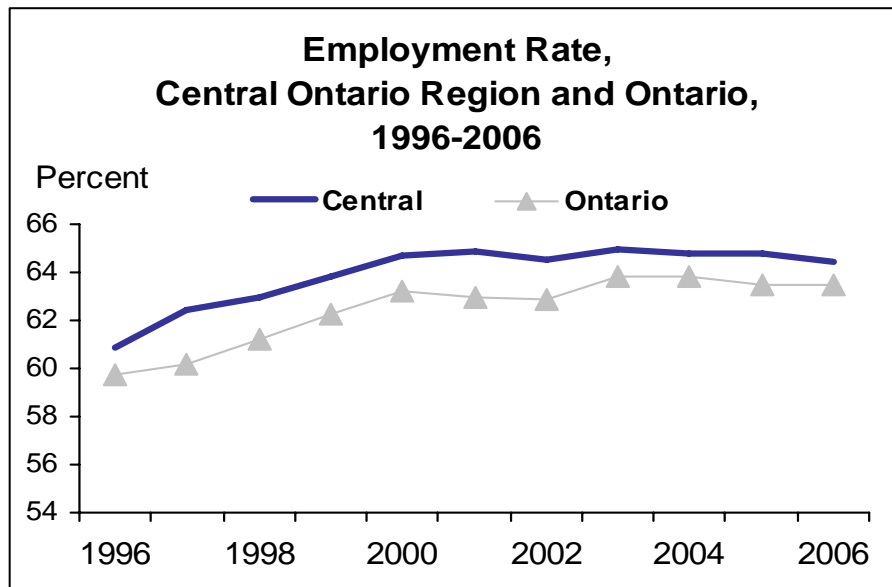
CENTRAL ONTARIO'S LABOUR MARKET 2006



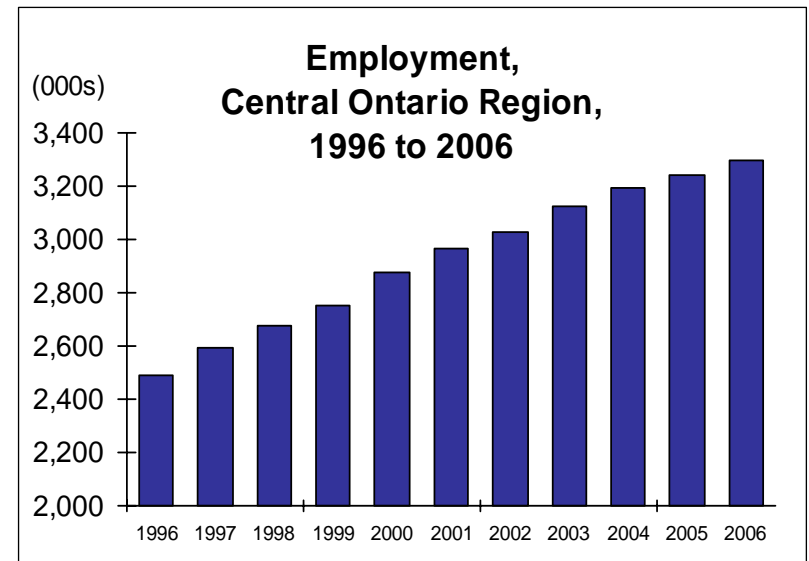
* Statistics Canada reports “unemployed” as the number unemployed at specific points in time. Over the course of the year, the total number who experience unemployment is several times higher than this snapshot estimate.

CENTRAL ONTARIO'S EMPLOYMENT

- The Central Ontario Region has experienced steady employment growth over the past 10 years, adding around 807,4000 jobs between 1996 and 2006.
- However, during this period employment growth slowed from a peak of 4.5% in 2000 to a low of 1.6% in 2005 and 2006.



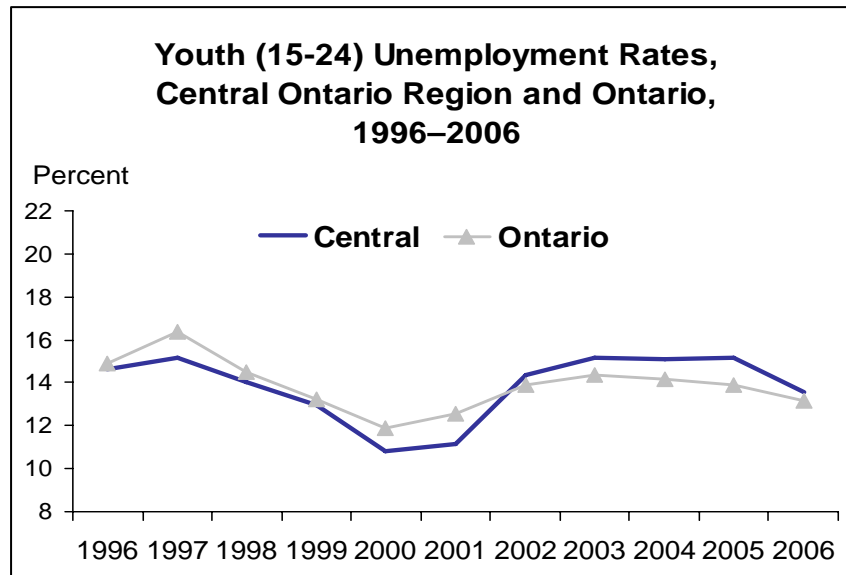
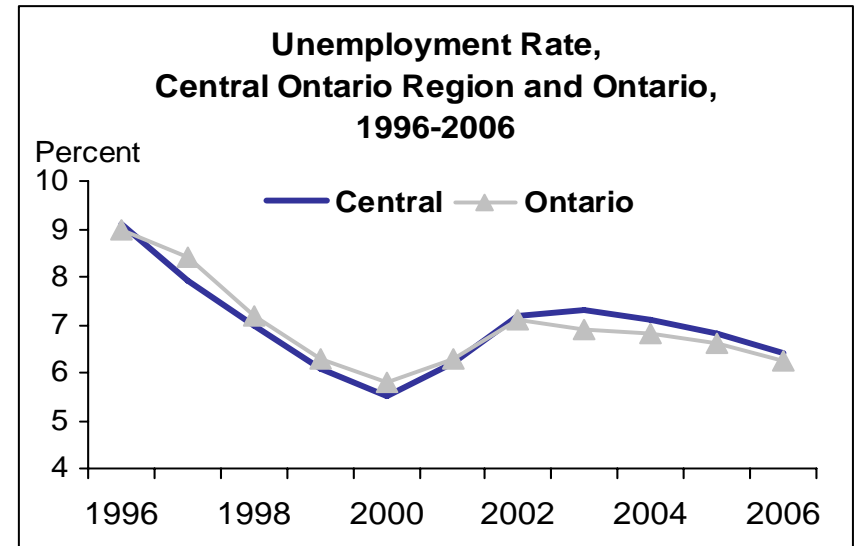
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



- One of the best indicators of labour market health is the employment rate – the share of the working-age population that is working.
- Historically employment rates in Central Ontario have been higher than the Ontario average. The gap between the Central Ontario and the province overall is currently 0.9 percentage points.

CENTRAL ONTARIO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- The unemployment rate for the Central Ontario Region has been fairly close to the Ontario unemployment rate since 1996. It currently is 6.4%, compared to 6.3% for Ontario.

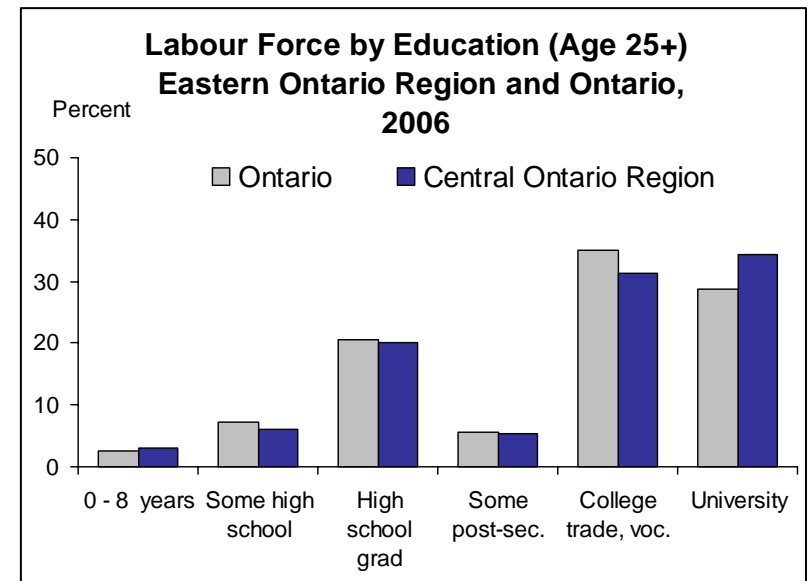
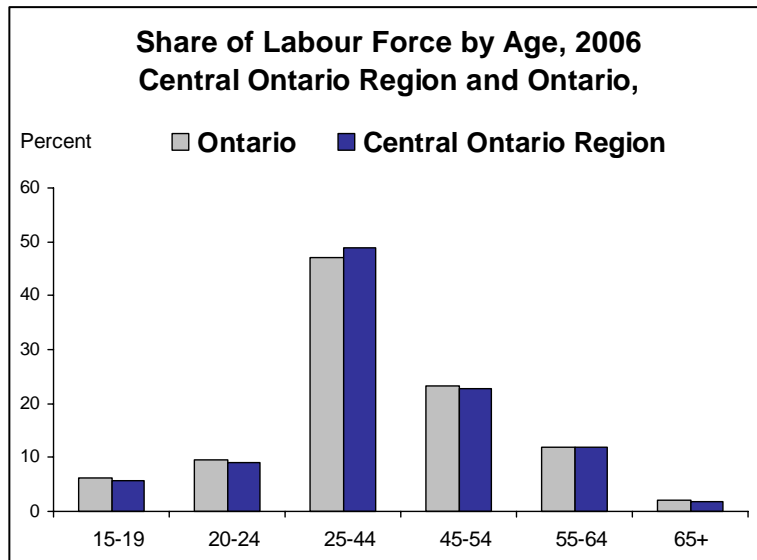


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

- Prior to 2002 youth in the Central Ontario Region generally had lower unemployment rates than youth in Ontario. Since then, the youth unemployment rate in Central Ontario has risen above the provincial average. In 2006, the youth unemployment rate in Central Ontario declined to 13.5%, similar to the Ontario level (13.1%).

CENTRAL ONTARIO'S LABOUR FORCE BY AGE AND EDUCATION

- Two thirds (66%) of the labour force in Central Ontario had post-secondary education credentials in 2006.
- Fewer adults (31%) in the Central Ontario Region have attained a college, trade or vocational education credential compared to their provincial counterparts, but a higher share (34%) has a university degree.

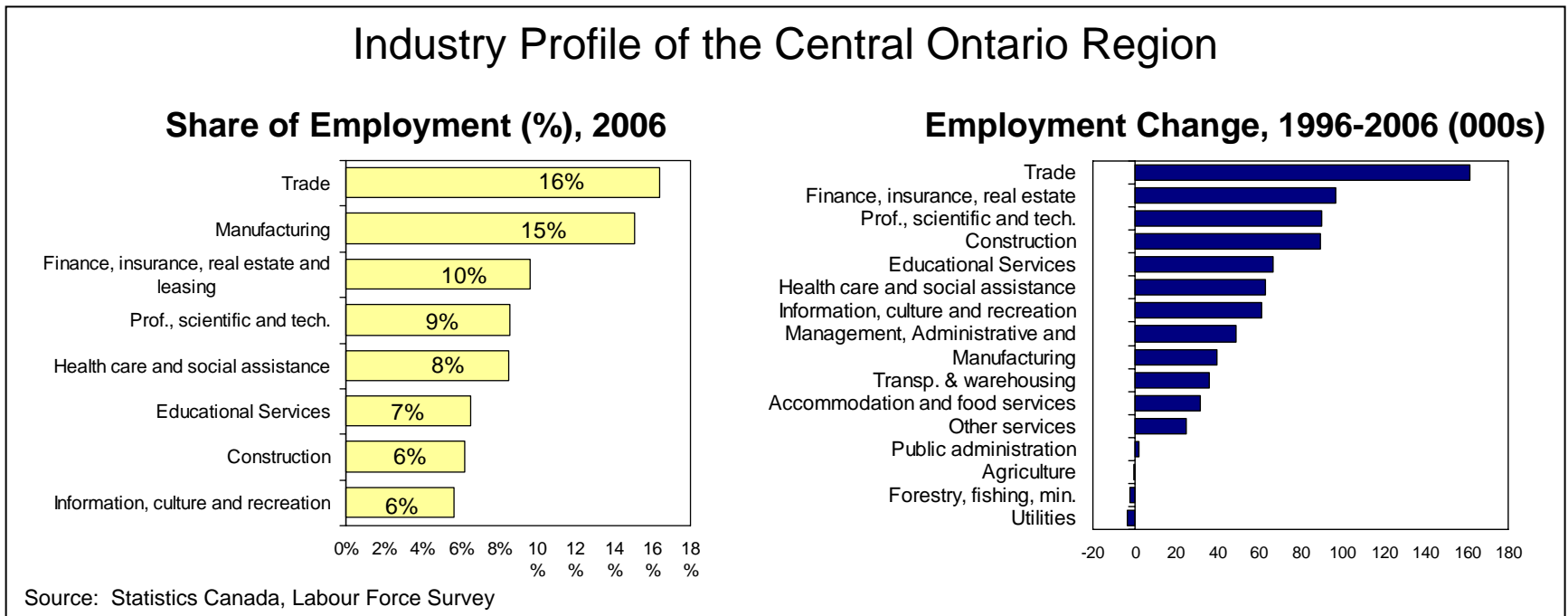


- In terms of age, Central Ontario has a similar labour force profile to the province, with the close to half (49%) of the labour force between the age of 25 to 44.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

CENTRAL ONTARIO'S INDUSTRY PROFILE

- The largest industries in Central Ontario are: trade, manufacturing, and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing.
- Most job creation in the past decade occurred in: trade (161,700), finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (97,200), and professional, scientific and technical services (90,400). The job losses were in primary sectors: utilities (-3,500), forestry, and fishing, mining, oil and gas (-2,000), and agriculture (-300).

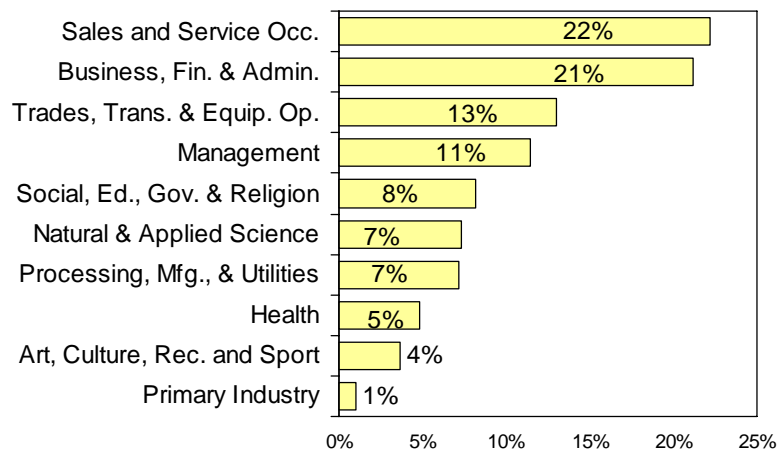


CENTRAL ONTARIO'S OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE

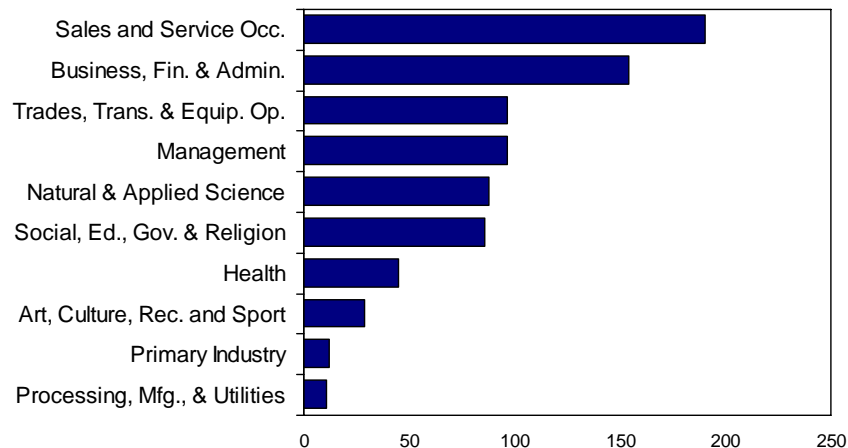
- The largest occupational groups in Central Ontario are: sales and service, and business, finance and administrative occupations.
- All major occupation all groups experienced job gains between 1996 and 2006 with sales and service occupations (190,600) leading the growth. Large employment growth also occurred in business, finance and administrative occupations (154,100) during the past decade.

Occupational Profile of the Central Ontario Region

Share of Employment (%), 2006



Employment Change, 1996-2006 (000s)



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey