



Highlights

- Ontario employment level edged down in October
- Full-time employment contributed to lower hiring
- Exports grow slightly, while imports decline

Ontario labour market growth paused

Ivy Ruan, Economic Analyst

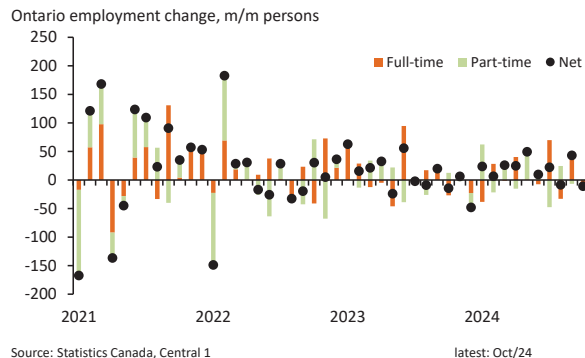
Ontario's labour market was flat in October following an increase in the previous month as employment edged down by 10,900 persons (-0.1 per cent). Year-over-year employment growth of 1.9 per cent outpaced the national performance (1.5 per cent). The population continued to grow in Ontario (0.3 per cent), and the provincial labour participation rate in October dropped to 64.6 per cent from 65.0 per cent. The province's unemployment rate dropped 0.1 per cent to 6.8 per cent as the labour force contracted 0.2 per cent from last month.

In the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area, a labour force expansion of 0.1 per cent came along with an increase in hiring (0.3 per cent) during the same period, resulting in the unemployment rate falling 0.2 per cent to 7.5 per cent in October. During the same month last year, Toronto Census Metropolitan Area reported an unemployment rate of 6.8 per cent.

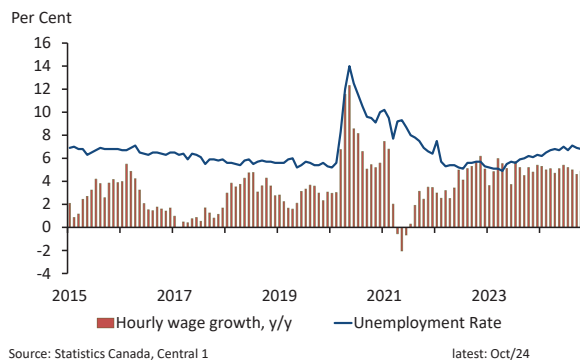
At the provincial level, the decreases in full-time hiring (-0.2 per cent or 11,200 persons) led the overall decline. Part-time employment was flat from the previous month.

On an industry level, employment decline was concentrated in the services-producing sectors (-0.2 per cent or 15,900 persons), while the goods-producing sectors reported increases in employment (0.3 per cent or 5,000 persons). Specifically, employment increases in construction (1.3 per cent or 7,500 persons) partially offset the declines in utilities (-4.5 per cent or 2,800 persons) and manufacturing (-0.2 per cent or 2,900 persons). In the services-producing sector, decrease

Ontario labour market positive momentum paused in October



Ontario unemployment rate dropped



was led by finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing, where employment lost 12,700 people (-1.7 per cent), erasing the gain seen in last month. Lower employment was also reported in the transportation and warehousing category (-2.4 per cent or 10,000 persons). Among the rest of the service-producing sectors, notable growth in employment was seen in the business, building and other support services sector (6.6 per cent or 18,700 persons) and wholesale and retail trade sector (0.5 per cent or 5,800 persons).

Exports up marginally, imports decline

Alan Chow, Business Economist

In September 2024, the value of Ontario exports rose marginally, up 0.3 per cent on a monthly basis to \$20.5 b while the volume of imports declined 2.5 per cent to \$38.8 b. As a result, the trade deficit declined to \$18.3 b, which is the narrowest monthly deficit this year. Over the last 12 months, exports were up 0.6 per

cent while imports were up 0.8 per cent. Year to date though, exports are down 2.0 per cent while imports are up by 0.4 per cent.

An increase in monthly exports was seen in eight out of the 11 categories. Leading the way was:

- Motor vehicle and parts, up 6.2 per cent to \$5.7 b
- Industrial machinery, equipment and parts, up 11.6 per cent to \$1.8 b
- Electronic and electrical equipment and parts, up 14.0 per cent to \$1.2 b

Of the three sectors that saw a decline, a majority was in metal and non-metallic mineral products, which was down 15.9 per cent to \$4.1 b. This metal is mainly unwrought gold, silver, and platinum group metals, and their alloys

Year to date, five categories are seeing higher volumes of exports, led by:

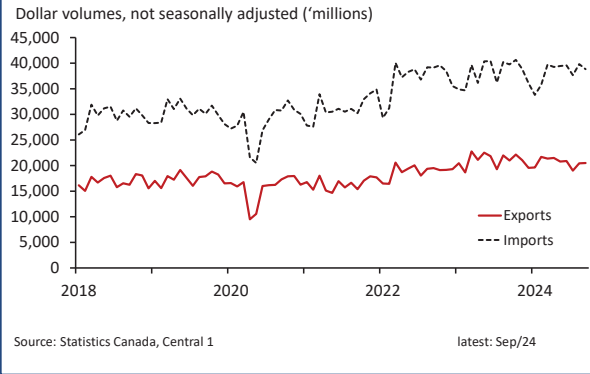
- Metal ores and non-metallic minerals, up 8.2 per cent or \$3.0 b
- Energy products, up 21.3 per cent or \$423 m
- Forestry products and building and packaging materials, up 3.8 per cent or \$354 m

Lower volume of exports year to date was seen in:

- Motor vehicles and parts, down 9.8 per cent or \$5.6 b
- Consumer goods, down 2.9 per cent or \$904 m
- Industrial machinery, equipment and parts, down 5.7 per cent or \$959 m
- On the imports side, eight out of the 11 categories declined on a monthly basis. The largest drop was in metal and non-metallic mineral products, which was down 25.5 per cent to \$3.2 b. August experienced a spike in this category, specifically in the imports of unwrought gold, silver, and platinum group metals, and their alloys. Other categories include: Electronic and electrical equipment and parts, down 10.8 per cent to \$4.8 b
- Industrial machinery, equipment and parts, down 6.9 per cent to \$3.5 b

On the other hand, higher import volumes were seen in motor vehicle and parts, which were up 1.8 per cent to \$9.5 b.

Imports decline while exports flat in September



*Imports label as "special transaction" rose significantly this month to 2.4 b. However, Statistics Canada notes that a significant portion will be reallocated to other product categories in future revisions.

Year to date, seven categories are seeing higher import volumes. They are led by:

- Motor vehicle and parts, up 1.4 per cent or \$1.0 b
- Farm, fishing and intermediate food products, up 7.9 per cent or \$845 m
- Metal ores and non-metallic minerals, up 7.5 per cent or \$663 m

Lower import volumes were led by far and large by energy products, which were down 30.6 per cent or \$2.3 b.

For more information, contact economics@central1.com.