

Ontario youth employment rates

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Highlights

- For non-students 20 to 24 year of age in non-metro Ontario, the employment rate gap has increased from about 3% before 2007 to about 6% since 2007 (compared to the work force 25 to 54 years of age).
- The employment rate for non-students 25 to 29 years of age in non-metro Ontario tracks very closely to the rate of employment in the core work force.

Why look at youth employment rates?

Youth employment has drawn increased attention since the recession. Employment opportunities are often cited as a factor in rural youth out-migration. The objective of this [Focus on Rural Ontario](#) fact sheet is to document the employment rates¹ of non-metro² youth who are not students over a 17-year period. It shows the employment rates during the school year (an average of the months from September to April).

Findings

Among the non-metro population in 2014, the proportion of individuals that were not students was 17% for those 15 to 19 years, 68% for 20 to 24 years and 92% for 25 to 29 years³ (Table 1, Row 35, 44 and 53). The percentage of non-students in these age groups is substantially lower in metro Ontario (11%, 55% and 86% respectively).

The employment rate of non-students has fluctuated over time (Figure 1). In the 1997 to 2014 period, the fluctuation was 16 percentage points for 15 to 19 year old non-students and about 10 percentage points for each of 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 year old non-students. These fluctuations follow the performance of the economy: a recovery after the downturn of the mid-1990s; a downturn from 2000 to 2002; and another downturn from 2008 to 2010.

One indicator of the difficulty of finding employment is the gap in the employment rate of each age group compared to the employment rate of the core age work force (25 to 54 years of age).

For non-students 15 to 19 years, the gap varied between 13 and 23 percentage points with no clear

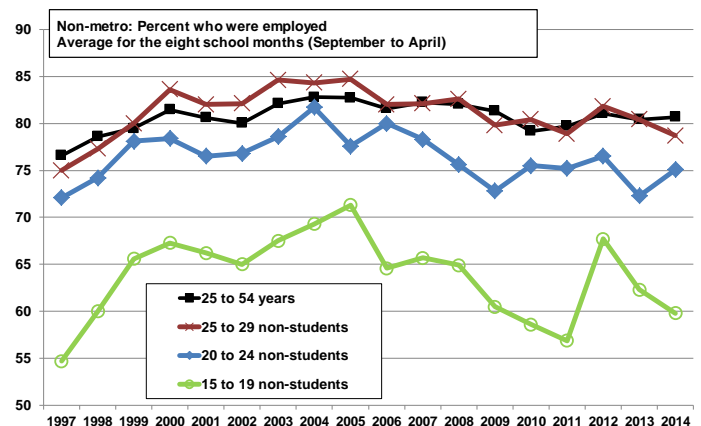
evidence of a trend⁴ (Table 1, Row 37).

For non-students 20 to 24 years old, the gap varied by 1 to 9 percentage points and has not been below 4 percentage points since 2006 (Table 1, Row 46).

For non-students 25 to 29 years, the employment rate has been similar to that for all individuals 25 to 54 years, with a gap that has varied between -2% and +2% over this period (Table 1, Row 55).

Figure 1

Non-metro non-students 20 to 24 years of age, were 6% less likely to be employed in 2014, compared to non-metro individuals, 25 to 54 years of age



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, special request.

Summary

Non-student individuals under 25 years are less likely to be employed than 25 to 54 year individuals.

Among 20 to 24 year non-students, the employment rate gap from 2007 to 2014 was slightly larger compared to the earlier period (about 6 percentage points versus about 3 percentage points).

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¹ Employment rate is the percent of individuals in an age group who are employed.

² Non-metro areas refer to areas outside Census Metropolitan Areas. For definitions, see the [Focus on Rural Ontario](#) entitled "Overview of Ontario's rural geography."

³ By contrast, metro youth are more likely to be students (Table 1, Row# 7, 16 and 25).

⁴ Non-students are a relatively small share of this group and some may be transitioning to post-secondary studies.

Table 1

| Employment rate ¹ during the school year (September to April) for the population under 30 years of age, metro and non-metro Ontario, 1997 to 2014 | | | | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|----|
| Row # | | | | Metropolitan areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Population, 15 to 19 years of age | All individuals | Number (,000) | 550 | 560 | 562 | 588 | 602 | 623 | 626 | 644 | 658 | 665 | 681 | 683 | 688 | 696 | 693 | 677 | 678 | 678 | | |
| 2 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 36 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 45 | 41 | 42 | 39 | 39 | 37 | 40 | 39 | 38 | 34 | 32 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 3 | | Students | Number | 487 | 491 | 483 | 510 | 517 | 542 | 534 | 550 | 570 | 579 | 589 | 598 | 600 | 615 | 616 | 601 | 607 | 600 | 600 | |
| 4 | | | Percent of total | 89 | 88 | 86 | 87 | 86 | 87 | 85 | 85 | 87 | 87 | 86 | 88 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 |
| 5 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 34 | 32 | 34 | 36 | 41 | 38 | 39 | 35 | 35 | 34 | 36 | 36 | 34 | 30 | 29 | 26 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 28 |
| 6 | | Non-students | Number (,000) | 63 | 69 | 79 | 78 | 86 | 81 | 92 | 94 | 88 | 86 | 93 | 85 | 89 | 81 | 77 | 76 | 71 | 78 | 78 | |
| 7 | | | Percent of total | 11 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| 8 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 58 | 58 | 64 | 61 | 66 | 63 | 64 | 60 | 65 | 60 | 62 | 63 | 59 | 58 | 57 | 56 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| 9 | | Employment rate gap: 25- 54 years vs. 15 -19 year non-students | | | 20 | 22 | 17 | 20 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 22 | 17 | 22 | 20 | 19 | 23 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| 10 | Population, 20 to 24 years of age | All individuals | Number (,000) | 596 | 593 | 605 | 613 | 634 | 642 | 658 | 680 | 689 | 710 | 728 | 734 | 740 | 751 | 759 | 777 | 798 | 809 | 809 | |
| 11 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 63 | 64 | 65 | 68 | 67 | 66 | 68 | 67 | 66 | 67 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 62 | 61 | 62 | 60 | 61 | 61 | 61 |
| 12 | | Students | Number | 268 | 270 | 265 | 260 | 272 | 284 | 284 | 301 | 328 | 328 | 337 | 351 | 325 | 361 | 364 | 374 | 402 | 380 | 380 | |
| 13 | | | Percent of total | 45 | 45 | 44 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 43 | 44 | 48 | 46 | 46 | 48 | 44 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 50 | 47 | 47 |
| 14 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 46 | 48 | 47 | 48 | 51 | 46 | 50 | 50 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 49 | 45 | 47 | 45 | 45 | 45 |
| 15 | | Non-students | Number (,000) | 328 | 323 | 339 | 353 | 362 | 358 | 374 | 379 | 361 | 381 | 391 | 382 | 415 | 390 | 396 | 403 | 397 | 429 | 429 | |
| 16 | | | Percent of total | 55 | 55 | 56 | 58 | 57 | 56 | 57 | 56 | 52 | 54 | 54 | 52 | 56 | 52 | 52 | 52 | 50 | 53 | 53 | 53 |
| 17 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 77 | 78 | 79 | 82 | 80 | 81 | 81 | 80 | 79 | 81 | 78 | 79 | 78 | 73 | 76 | 77 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| 18 | | Employment rate gap: 25- 54 years vs. 20-24 non-students | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | -1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| 19 | Population, 25 to 29 years of age | All individuals | Number (,000) | 677 | 658 | 662 | 661 | 651 | 667 | 675 | 671 | 672 | 670 | 691 | 716 | 723 | 753 | 760 | 775 | 801 | 807 | 807 | |
| 20 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 76 | 80 | 80 | 81 | 83 | 79 | 81 | 81 | 79 | 81 | 79 | 81 | 79 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 77 | 77 |
| 21 | | Students | Number | 92 | 86 | 89 | 83 | 86 | 101 | 90 | 87 | 101 | 96 | 100 | 107 | 108 | 117 | 102 | 114 | 128 | 113 | 113 | |
| 22 | | | Percent of total | 14 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| 23 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 50 | 57 | 52 | 53 | 59 | 56 | 55 | 57 | 58 | 62 | 53 | 56 | 57 | 53 | 54 | 49 | 52 | 48 | 48 | 48 |
| 24 | | Non-students | Number (,000) | 585 | 572 | 572 | 578 | 565 | 566 | 584 | 584 | 570 | 574 | 592 | 608 | 615 | 636 | 658 | 661 | 673 | 695 | 695 | |
| 25 | | | Percent of total | 86 | 87 | 86 | 87 | 87 | 85 | 87 | 87 | 85 | 86 | 86 | 86 | 85 | 85 | 84 | 87 | 85 | 84 | 86 | 86 |
| 26 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 80 | 83 | 85 | 85 | 86 | 83 | 85 | 84 | 83 | 84 | 84 | 85 | 83 | 83 | 82 | 83 | 83 | 83 | 82 | 82 |
| 27 | | Employment rate gap: 25- 54 years vs. 25-29 non-students | | | -2 | -3 | -4 | -4 | -4 | -2 | -3 | -2 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -3 | -2 | -3 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -1 |
| 28 | | | | | Non-metropolitan areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Population, 15 to 19 years of age | All individuals | Number (,000) | 167 | 170 | 185 | 178 | 184 | 180 | 189 | 182 | 182 | 191 | 185 | 191 | 188 | 177 | 171 | 177 | 165 | 152 | 152 | |
| 30 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 38 | 40 | 44 | 47 | 46 | 46 | 48 | 49 | 48 | 47 | 46 | 48 | 45 | 41 | 40 | 44 | 40 | 43 | 43 | 43 |
| 31 | | Students | Number | 141 | 142 | 152 | 148 | 153 | 148 | 153 | 148 | 149 | 157 | 149 | 154 | 152 | 142 | 138 | 143 | 140 | 127 | 127 | |
| 32 | | | Percent of total | 85 | 83 | 83 | 83 | 83 | 82 | 81 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 80 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 81 | 80 | 85 | 83 | 83 |
| 33 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 35 | 36 | 39 | 43 | 42 | 42 | 43 | 45 | 42 | 43 | 41 | 44 | 41 | 37 | 36 | 38 | 36 | 39 | 39 | 39 |
| 34 | | Non-students | Number (,000) | 26 | 29 | 32 | 29 | 31 | 32 | 36 | 34 | 33 | 33 | 36 | 37 | 36 | 34 | 33 | 35 | 25 | 26 | 26 | |
| 35 | | | Percent of total | 15 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 15 | 17 | 17 |
| 36 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 55 | 60 | 66 | 67 | 66 | 65 | 68 | 69 | 71 | 65 | 66 | 65 | 61 | 59 | 57 | 68 | 62 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| 37 | | Employment rate gap: 25- 54 years vs. 15 -19 year non-students | | | 22 | 19 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 21 | 21 | 23 | 13 | 18 | 21 | 21 |
| 38 | Population, 20 to 24 years of age | All individuals | Number (,000) | 139 | 140 | 132 | 133 | 128 | 139 | 141 | 139 | 151 | 147 | 143 | 148 | 151 | 153 | 157 | 154 | 147 | 141 | 141 | |
| 39 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 63 | 62 | 66 | 67 | 65 | 67 | 67 | 71 | 66 | 68 | 68 | 68 | 63 | 66 | 63 | 66 | 63 | 62 | 62 | 62 |
| 40 | | Students | Number | 40 | 47 | 41 | 44 | 42 | 38 | 44 | 40 | 46 | 45 | 46 | 39 | 45 | 41 | 52 | 47 | 46 | 45 | 45 | |
| 41 | | | Percent of total | 29 | 34 | 31 | 33 | 33 | 27 | 31 | 29 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 27 | 30 | 27 | 33 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| 42 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 39 | 37 | 40 | 44 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 43 | 39 | 39 | 46 | 47 | 39 | 39 | 38 | 43 | 44 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| 43 | | Non-students | Number (,000) | 99 | 93 | 90 | 89 | 86 | 101 | 97 | 99 | 104 | 102 | 97 | 109 | 106 | 112 | 105 | 107 | 101 | 96 | 96 | |
| 44 | | | Percent of total | 71 | 66 | 69 | 67 | 67 | 73 | 69 | 71 | 69 | 69 | 68 | 73 | 70 | 73 | 67 | 70 | 69 | 68 | 68 | 68 |
| 45 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 72 | 74 | 78 | 78 | 77 | 77 | 79 | 82 | 78 | 80 | 78 | 76 | 73 | 76 | 75 | 77 | 72 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| 46 | | Employment rate gap: 25- 54 years vs. 20-24 non-students | | | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| 47 | Population, 25 to 29 years of age | All individuals | Number (,000) | 132 | 145 | 133 | 131 | 143 | 132 | 126 | 133 | 137 | 144 | 133 | 129 | 144 | 137 | 149 | 151 | 139 | 141 | 141 | |
| 48 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 73 | 76 | 79 | 82 | 80 | 79 | 82 | 82 | 83 | 81 | 80 | 81 | 78 | 78 | 76 | 79 | 79 | 76 | 76 | 76 |
| 49 | | Students | Number | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 11 | |
| 50 | | | Percent of total | 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 51 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 49 | 51 | 64 | 66 | 50 | 43 | 51 | 54 | 57 | 60 | 53 | 66 | 54 | 47 | 48 | 45 | 64 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| 52 | | Non-students | Number (,000) | 123 | 136 | 123 | 122 | 133 | 120 | 116 | 124 | 127 | 136 | 125 | 119 | 133 | 126 | 136 | 139 | 129 | 129 | 129 | |
| 53 | | | Percent of total | 93 | 94 | 92 | 93 | 93 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 93 | 95 | 94 | 93 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 93 | 92 | 92 | 92 |
| 54 | | | Employment rate ¹ | 75 | 77 | 80 | 84 | 82 | 82 | 85 | 84 | 85 | 82 | 82 | 83 | 80 | 79 | 82 | 80 | 79 | 82 | 80 | 79 |
| 55 | | Employment rate gap: 25- 54 years vs. 25-29 non-students | | | 2 | 1 | -1 | -2 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -2 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 2 | -1 | 1 | -1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |

1. Employment rate is the percent of individuals in the age group who are employed.
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, special tabulation.