

Youth Employment in Ontario

KEY TAKEAWAY: Youth unemployment has risen across all ages, more notably in 2021 during COVID, with variations by immigration status, leading youth to pursue self-employment.

From 2016 to 2021, unemployment rates rose for youth of all ages in Ontario:



from 20.6% to 28% for youth aged 15-19

28%
15-19

24%
20-24

from 16% to 24% for youth aged 20-24

from 8.5% to 13% for youth aged 25-29

13%
25-29

In 2021, 20% of Ontario youth aged 15-29 were unemployed.

In 2021:

Immigrant youth in Ontario, especially those aged 15-19, had higher unemployment rates than Canadian-born youth.

Refugee youth aged 25-29 had a 21% unemployment rate, compared to 13% for Canadian-born youth.



11%
LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Non-permanent residents and economic immigrants aged 25-29 had an unemployment rate 11% lower than Canadian-born youth.

Pandemic Impacts:

From 2016 to 2021, self-employment rose among youth of all ages, likely due to limited employment during the pandemic:

from 1.3% to 3.4% for youth aged 15-19

3.4%
15-19

4.7%
20-24

from 2.5% to 4.7% for youth aged 20-24

from 5.5% to 7.8% for youth aged 25-29

7.8%
25-29