

December 2023

OMERS & its Members

# Ontario Economic Contribution 2023



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# Results at a Glance

## Introduction

With more than half a million active and retired members, OMERS is one of the largest defined benefit pension plans in Canada. Members of OMERS include union and non-union employees of municipalities, school boards, transit systems, electrical utilities, emergency services, and children's aid societies across Ontario. The plan contributions of members and employers are invested around the world by OMERS to provide each member with a stable and secure source of retirement income. OMERS investments are found across the globe and in most communities in Ontario. All across the province, Ontarians benefit from the economic activity generated by these investments and by the activities of OMERS pension recipients.

## Objectives and Approach

This study quantifies and describes the 2023 economic contribution of OMERS activities to Ontario, including regional breakdowns. These contributions include all the economic activity generated from the following sources:

1. OMERS members spending their retirement benefits payments in Ontario.
2. OMERS operations and investments in Ontario, including salaries and wages to employees residing in Ontario.

These economic activities generate demand for labour and subsequent spending, which ripples through the economy. Throughout the report, economic contributions are grouped by the source of OMERS-driven economic activity. "Contribution from pension spending" includes all economic activity supported by OMERS members when they spend their retirement benefits payments, and "contribution from operations and investments" includes both the economic activity driven by OMERS investments in Ontario, adjusted for the share of ownership by OMERS and its operations.

Using the long-term growth trend of the economy as a baseline for 2023, OMERS economic contributions are reported in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), jobs and government revenue supported in Ontario and regionally.

The next two pages provide some of the key results of the analysis performed. Thereafter, the total economic contribution, its sources and regional results are provided.

# Ontario Economic Activity Supported By OMERS

## Members

There are 522,000 members that live in Ontario of which 336,200 are currently working (active members) and 185,800 are retired members. Total annual retirement payments amount to \$5.3 billion, a significant source of private retirement income in the province (9.3%). These payments have important direct, indirect, and induced contributions to the economy.



## GDP Supported

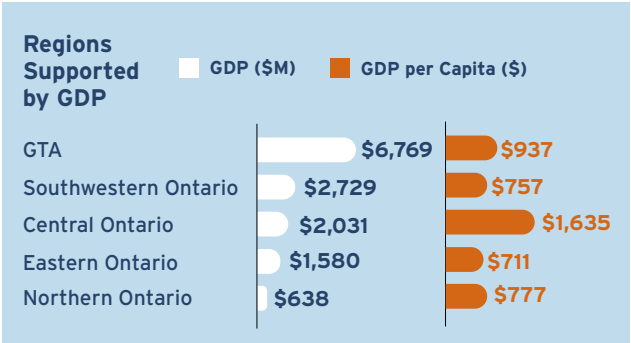
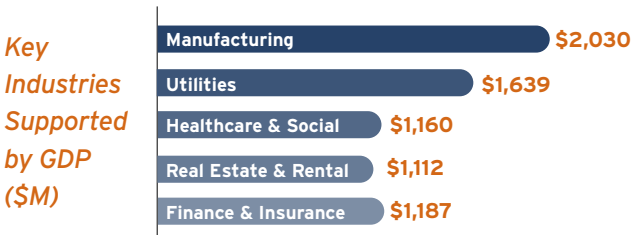
Economic activity supported by OMERS amounts to \$13.7 billion which represents about 1.5% of the economy.

\$8.7 billion of this activity is due to the way the pension payments are spent, and the resulting indirect and induced economic activity. For every \$10 of pension payment, \$16.4 of economic activity is supported.

The balance of economic activity of \$5.0 billion is from OMERS operations and specific and unique OMERS investments in Ontario.

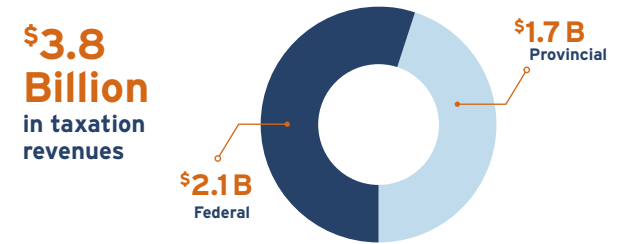
Economic activity is distributed across all industry sectors with key contributions to manufacturing, utilities, healthcare and social assistance, finance and insurance and retail trade.

OMERS retirement benefits were an important source of income for rural regions, comprising up to 20% of the population's private retirement income in some regions. This is an important contribution to rural economies of which the GDP benefit is more than 5.8% more than urban economies when considered on a per capita basis. Such a contribution is essential for the sustainability of many rural areas in Ontario.



## Tax

Economic contribution generates about \$3.8 billion of taxation revenues for government of which \$2.1 billion is federal government and \$1.7 billion is provincial government taxation revenues.

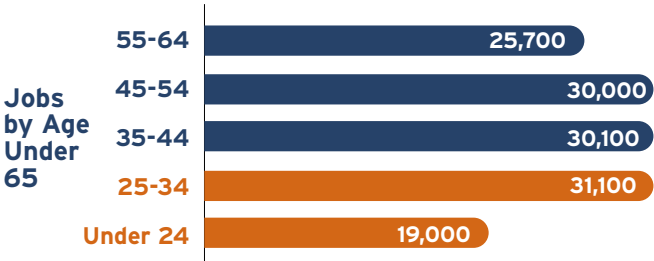
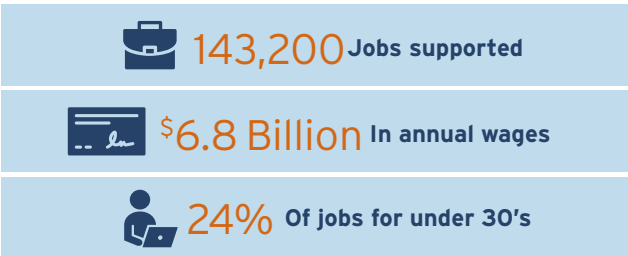


# Ontario Employment Supported By OMERS

OMERS activities support over 143,200 jobs with an aggregate wage income of \$6.8 billion. This is equivalent to one year of job growth ordinarily experienced by the province.

Total employment contribution is distributed across all industries. The industries that are the largest source of jobs include retail, health services, manufacturing, food service and accommodation, and finance and real estate.

Jobs supported by OMERS activities are held by individuals ranging in age and family composition. Of the people whose employment is supported, over 34,200 are filled by people under 30 years of age (24% of all jobs).



## Top 5 Industries by Jobs Supported:

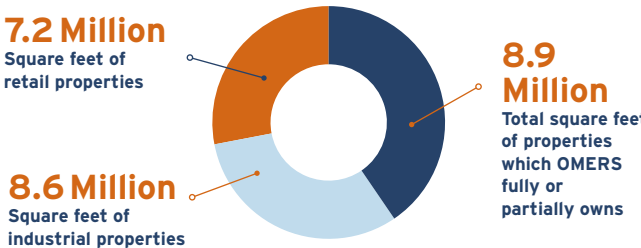
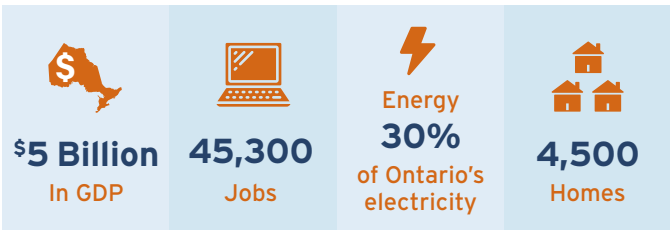


The employment supported by OMERS activities contributed to the wages of almost 128,900 households which included 66,100 households with children. The number of people that OMERS activities affect beyond the 522,000 active and retired members is vast, amounting to 334,200 additional Ontarians that are not OMERS members.



# Ontario Economic Capacity Supported by OMERS

OMERS operations and investments in Ontario make a substantial contribution to economic activity in the province. In 2023, OMERS investments were located in rural areas as well as major cities in sectors including health services, energy, transportation, technology and real estate. These investments were found in 215 locations across Ontario and included physical assets such as office space, apartment buildings, warehouses, shopping malls, and utilities operated by companies partially or entirely owned by OMERS.



# Total Economic Contribution & its Sources

OMERS contributed over \$13.7 billion to provincial GDP in 2023 through its activities in Ontario. This supported over 143,200 jobs and \$6.8 billion in wages for Ontarians, as well as nearly \$3.8 billion in combined federal and provincial government revenue through corporate, income and consumption taxes.

The impact of OMERS activities on Ontario's population is widespread. OMERS activities support the employment of many Ontarians, and this provides a benefit to the people with whom they share a household as well since OMERS-supported employment contributes to each household's total income. In total, there were over 856,200 Ontarians who benefitted from OMERS activities in 2023, counting all those living in households with a person whose wage or retirement income is supported by OMERS. In total, more than one in eleven households in Ontario are impacted by OMERS in some way, whether directly through OMERS membership, or indirectly through the economic impact of its investment and pension payments.

The industries that received the largest GDP benefit from OMERS and its members' activities in Ontario in 2023 included utilities, manufacturing, health care and financial services.

## Sources of Total Economic Contribution

**Pension spending:** OMERS retirement benefits represented an important source of retirement income in Ontario in 2023, accounting for 9.3% of all private retirement income<sup>1</sup> in the province. Retired members of OMERS live all around Ontario and spend much of their retirement benefits payments in their local communities and surrounding areas. Through this pension spending alone, OMERS members supported over 97,900 jobs across the province (68% of the total contribution of OMERS) and contributed approximately \$8.7 billion to Ontario's GDP, which averages over \$16.40 of GDP for every \$10 of retirement benefits payments received in 2023.

**Operations and investments:** OMERS operations and investments in Ontario make a substantial contribution to economic activity in the province. In 2023, OMERS investments were located in rural areas as well as major cities in sectors including health services, energy, transportation, technology and real estate. These investments were found in 215 locations across Ontario and included physical assets such as office space, apartment buildings, warehouses, shopping malls, and utilities operated by companies partially or entirely owned by OMERS. Together, OMERS operations and its investments supported over 45,300 jobs in Ontario (32% of the total contribution of OMERS) and over \$5.0 billion in GDP.

OMERS, as one of the world's largest direct investors, plays a role in strengthening and energizing Ontario's financial sector. By employing many investment professionals, OMERS contributes to Ontario's standing as a hub of investment expertise and knowledge. The connections that OMERS builds through its investing activities create a ripple effect through Ontario's financial system, both enhancing the financial sector's capabilities and helping to make Ontario a more competitive destination to work.

Beyond this economic contribution, OMERS investments in Ontario provided significant economic capacity to the province in 2023. The real estate properties, either wholly or partially owned by OMERS, provide space for businesses and homes

*Through this **pension spending** alone, OMERS members supported over **97,900 jobs** across the province (68% of the total contribution of OMERS) and contributed approximately **\$8.7 billion** to Ontario's GDP*

*OMERS **operations and its investments** supported over **45,300 jobs** in Ontario (32% of the total contribution of OMERS) and over **\$5.0 billion** in GDP*

<sup>1</sup>Private retirement income comprises all formal retirement savings vehicles utilized by Ontarians, including defined benefit and contribution plans, Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA) and Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP). It excludes public supports.



to Ontarians, including 4,500 homes, 8.9 million square feet of office properties, 8.6 million square feet of industrial properties and 7.2 million square feet of retail properties. In addition, OMERS energy investments powered Ontario businesses and distributed energy to residents. More specifically, Bruce Power supplied over 30% of the province's electricity.

## Regional Economic Contributions of OMERS

The size of the contribution of OMERS and the main industries benefitting from the contribution differ between regions depending on each region's economic base and on the type of OMERS investments that are present in each region. The following tables summarize the key contributions of OMERS in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Southwestern Ontario, Eastern Ontario, Central Ontario and Northern Ontario in 2023.<sup>2</sup> Each region is a grouping of census divisions, which are defined in Section 2.4 of the report.

### Economic Contribution to Greater Toronto Area in 2023

<b>200,500</b> OMERS members	<b>138,900</b> active members and <b>61,600</b> retired members
<b>\$1.9 billion</b> Retirement benefits paid	<b>9.5%</b> of total private retirement income
<b>70,600</b> Total jobs supported	<b>\$3.4 billion</b> in wage income <b>68%</b> by pension spending, <b>32%</b> by operations and investments
<b>\$6.8 billion</b> GDP supported	<b>64%</b> by pension spending <b>36%</b> by operations and investments

OMERS retirement benefits payments represented 9.5% of the GTA's private retirement income. Every \$10 of pension paid generated \$23.18 of GDP In 2023, being the most significant generator of GDP from pensions in all regions.

### Economic Contribution to Southwestern Ontario in 2023

<b>136,000</b> OMERS members	<b>85,000</b> active members and <b>51,000</b> retired members
<b>\$1.4 billion</b> Retirement benefits paid	<b>10%</b> of total private retirement income
<b>30,700</b> Total jobs supported	<b>\$1.4 billion</b> in wage income <b>69%</b> by pension spending, <b>31%</b> by operations and investments
<b>\$2.7 billion</b> GDP supported	<b>67%</b> by pension spending <b>33%</b> by operations and investments

OMERS retirement benefits payments made up 10% of Southwestern Ontario's private retirement income. This significant source of income supported the economic vitality of the region, as every \$10 of pension paid generated \$12.77 of GDP. Investments by OMERS in the region in the health, technology and transportation sectors supported 31% of the total employment contribution.

<sup>2</sup>Note that numbers in these summary charts and throughout the report have been rounded for clarity. Therefore, there may be slight discrepancies due to rounding between the reported totals and the sum of regional breakdowns.

## Economic Contribution to Eastern Ontario in 2023

<b>88,000</b> OMERS members	<b>53,000</b> active members and <b>35,000</b> retired members
<b>\$0.9 billion</b> Retirement benefits paid	<b>7.2%</b> of total private retirement income
<b>17,200</b> Total jobs supported	<b>\$0.8</b> billion in wage income <b>89%</b> by pension spending, <b>11%</b> by operations and investments
<b>\$1.6 billion</b> GDP supported	<b>85%</b> by pension spending <b>15%</b> by operations and investments

OMERS retirement benefits payments represented 7.2% of Eastern Ontario's private retirement income. In some Eastern Ontario communities, with 1.6% of the population receive OMERS retirement benefits payments, which is a significant source of income that helps sustain these smaller communities. On average, every \$10 of pension paid in Eastern Ontario generated \$14.46 of GDP. Recipients of OMERS retirement benefits payments supported a significant 89% of the jobs contributed to the region by OMERS.

## Economic Contribution to Central Ontario in 2023

<b>55,300</b> OMERS members	<b>33,200</b> active members and <b>22,100</b> retired members
<b>\$0.6 billion</b> Retirement benefits paid	<b>11%</b> of total private retirement income
<b>16,900</b> Total jobs supported	<b>\$0.87</b> billion in wage income <b>44%</b> by pension spending, <b>56%</b> by operations and investments
<b>\$2 billion</b> GDP supported	<b>31.5%</b> by pension spending <b>68.5%</b> by operations and investments

OMERS retirement benefits represented 11% of Central Ontario's private retirement income. In almost 60% of the communities in Central Ontario, over 2% of the population received OMERS retirement benefits payments, which helps sustain these smaller communities. The region where OMERS makes the largest economic contribution from investments, particularly OMERS investments in the energy sector, supported 56% of the 16,900 jobs contributed to the region by OMERS. This contribution was in large part driven by Bruce Power, a power plant that generates over 30% of Ontario's energy.

Economic Contribution to Northern Ontario in 2023

<b>42,600</b> OMERS members	<b>25,900</b> active members and <b>16,700</b> retired members
<b>\$0.4 billion</b> Retirement benefits paid	<b>10%</b> of total private retirement income
<b>7,700</b> Total jobs supported	<b>\$0.34</b> billion in wage income <b>79%</b> by pension spending, <b>21%</b> by operations and investments
<b>\$0.6 billion</b> GDP supported	<b>82%</b> by pension spending <b>18%</b> by operations and investments

In 2023, 2% of the total population of Northern Ontario received OMERS retirement benefits, making it the region with the largest number of OMERS retirement benefits recipients relative to its population. OMERS retirement benefits were therefore a significant source of income in this region, cushioning against volatility in employment income. For every \$10 of pension paid, \$12.33 of GDP was generated, which is particularly important in smaller, rural communities. Recipients of OMERS retirement benefits payments supported 79% of the 7,700 jobs contributed to the region by OMERS.



# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

In 2023, more than half a million people were members of OMERS, one of Canada's largest defined benefits pension plans. OMERS members help build communities through their work as union and non-union employees of municipalities, school boards, transit systems, electrical utilities, emergency services and children's aid societies across Ontario. Members' pension plan contributions, as well as the contributions made by over 1000 participating employers, are invested by OMERS to provide members with a stable and secure retirement income. These funds are invested by OMERS in Ontario and around the globe to ensure diversity by both asset type and geography. OMERS investment portfolio includes real estate, infrastructure, private and public equity, and fixed income.

The economy of every community in Ontario is positively impacted by OMERS, whether through the work of active members, retired members' pension-related spending, or through the local investment activities that OMERS performs on its members' behalf.

## 1.2 Objective & Approach

The objective of this study is to quantify and describe the economic contribution that OMERS had in Ontario and at the regional level in 2023. Using the long-term growth trend of the economy as a baseline for 2023, economic contribution encompasses all economic activity that occurs through the income generated by OMERS and its members and the subsequent spending and investments made in Ontario's economy. These contributions are quantified in terms of economic metrics, including GDP, jobs, and federal and provincial government revenue supported.

When the report refers to the number of people and households sharing in the economic contributions, it is important to keep in mind that these are statistical estimates of person and household equivalents. This means that a contribution that is partially split over many people or households will be aggregated to form one person or household equivalent. For example, if 10% of the incomes of 10 individual households are supported by OMERS, this makes one household equivalent.

### 1.2.1 Economic Contribution Explained

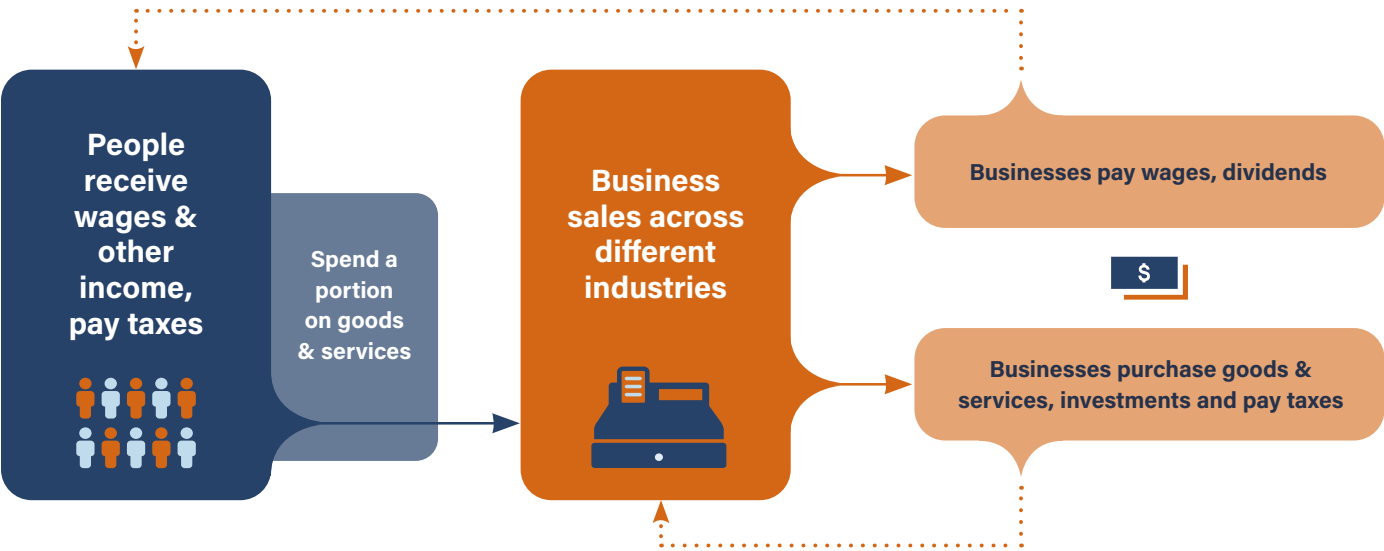
The economic contribution of a company's activities is the economic footprint of the company in the region. It includes the economic activity directly generated by operations and investment activities ("direct effects"), as well as the economic activity generated indirectly through business-to-business transactions with other companies that provide goods and services to the first company ("indirect effects"). Finally, it includes the contribution that people whose incomes are supported by these economic activities make to the regional economy through spending their wages ("induced effects").

More detailed information about the economics underpinning the methodology of this study can be found in the Appendices.

The interactions between people and businesses that enable economic activity to spread throughout the economy are presented in Figure 1. In general terms, the economy can be described as consisting of people, businesses and governments who interact with one another through financial transactions.




<b>People</b>	Receive wages from the organizations for which they work. They spend these wages with businesses on goods and services and pay part of their wage to their governments in taxes.
<b>Businesses</b>	Pay wages and dividends to people, they purchase goods and services from other businesses and make investments, and they pay taxes to the government.
<b>Governments</b>	Collect revenue through income, corporate and consumption taxes.

**Figure 1** Interactions between people and businesses in an economy



1.2.2 Sources of OMERS Economic Contribution

The primary sources of the total economic contribution of OMERS to Ontario are the following:

-  **OMERS retirement benefits** paid to members, which are spent by Ontarian households in their local communities and within the province.
-  **OMERS operations** including salaries and wages to OMERS employees residing in Ontario.
-  **Private investments** made by OMERS in companies, utilities, properties, etc. in Ontario that generate economic activity, which can take the form of investments, wages, goods and services purchased and intellectual property. Investment-driven contributions are adjusted for percentage ownership by OMERS.

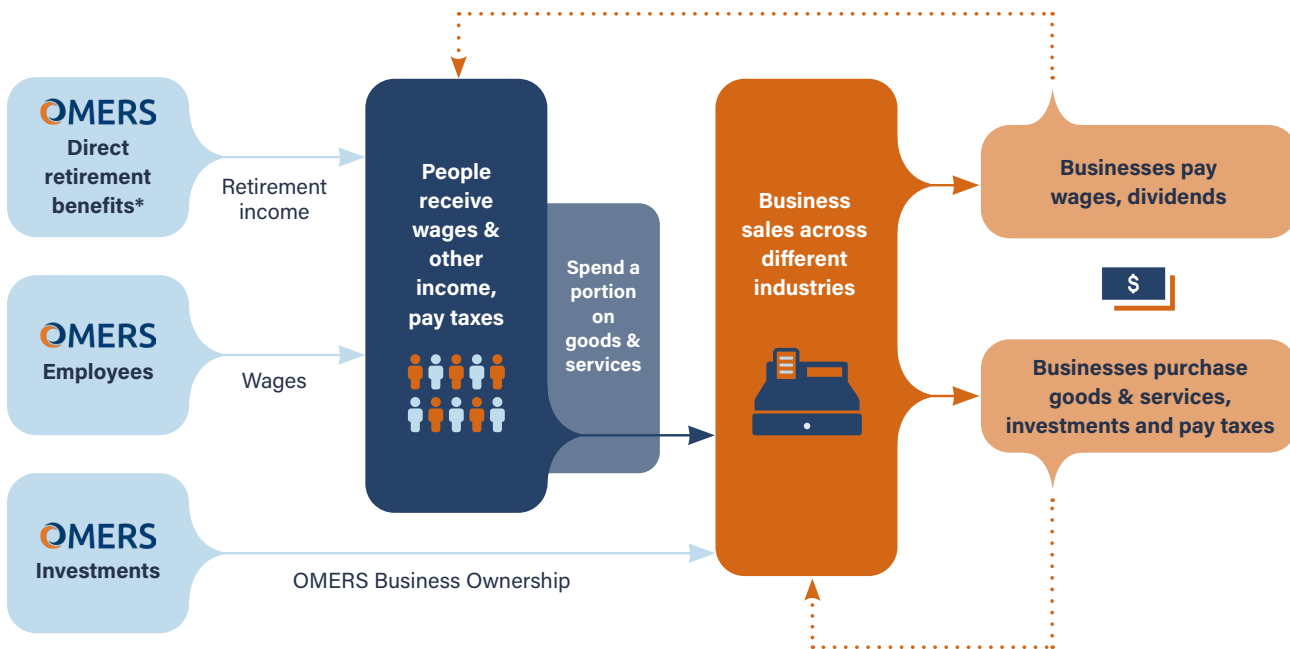
Of all OMERS pension payments, this study focuses on the retirement benefits paid to OMERS members and follows the conservative assumption of not including death benefits, transfers to other plans and commuted value payments. Retirement benefits represented the majority of all pensions paid by OMERS, constituting about 85% of all payments



made. Other payment types are, such as transfers to other plans, commuted value payments, or other types of benefit payments excluded because these payments are likely subject to a significant degree of reinvestment rather than being spent in the economy like regular retirement benefits.

Figure 2 shows how the sources of OMERS economic activity enter into the calculation of economic contribution. OMERS retirement benefit payments are part of the individual income that people allocate to goods, services and taxes, as are the wages of OMERS employees. OMERS investments enter into the calculation as business investments.

**Figure 2** The sources of OMERS economic activity and interactions in the economy



In the following sections, the economic contribution of OMERS is reported and broken down as follows:

- **Total Economic Contribution:** All the economic activity in Ontario attributed to OMERS activities.
- **Contribution from Pension Spending:** The share of the total economic contribution that is attributed to OMERS members spending their retirement benefits payments.
- **Contribution from Operations and Investments:** The share of the total economic contribution that is attributed to the operations of OMERS and its investment activities. This can be further broken down to show how much is contributed by each type of investment, i.e. by the sectors of the investments.

Breaking results down in this way highlights the different sources of OMERS economic contribution in each region and enables comparisons.

\*This study only considers the defined retirement benefits paid by OMERS and therefore does not include transfers and other payments made by OMERS or non-retirement benefits payments.

### 1.2.3 Economic Capacity Provided by OMERS Investments

OMERS investments in Ontario provide economic capacity to the provincial economy in the form of energy, technology, infrastructure, homes, commercial space for firms and employees, as well as health and well-being. The use of these investments supports the regional economy by providing necessary infrastructure and services to households and businesses.

The use of these assets does not enter into the calculations of economic contribution by OMERS since any contribution to the economy originates from the businesses and households that use these assets. The capacity provided by OMERS investments in 2023 is highlighted in qualitative terms throughout the report.



# 2.0 Findings of the Contribution Analysis

## 2.1 Provincial Overview

### 2.1.1 OMERS Members in Ontario

In 2023, there were approximately 522,100 OMERS members that live in Ontario<sup>4</sup>, of which 336,200 were employed, active members and 185,800 received OMERS retirement benefits. This makes 1.8 active members per member who received retirement benefits.

In Ontario, OMERS retirement benefits represent an important source of retirement income. In 2023, they accounted for 9.3% of residents' private retirement income, which comprises all formal retirement savings vehicles utilized by Ontarians, including defined benefit and contribution plans, Tax-Free Savings Accounts and Registered Retirement Savings Plans. OMERS retirement benefits also accounted for 4.9% of total retirement income, which includes public supports such as the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, as well as all private retirement income.

The importance of OMERS retirement benefits as a source of retirement income at the regional level is shown in Figure 3. In many smaller communities outside of the Greater Toronto Area, OMERS retirement benefits were an important source of income for the retired population, comprising anywhere between 5% and 20% of the population's private retirement income in 2023. In communities where the median population age is higher, OMERS pensions can be particularly important to the local economy. In some communities, including Kawartha Lakes, Grey County, Northumberland and Thunder Bay, 2% or more of the population received OMERS pensions.

This stable, guaranteed income provides a cushion against volatility in employment income in smaller communities and rural regions. Recipients of OMERS retirement benefits living in Ontario spend this income in their local communities and the surrounding areas, which supports employment, GDP and federal and provincial government revenue.

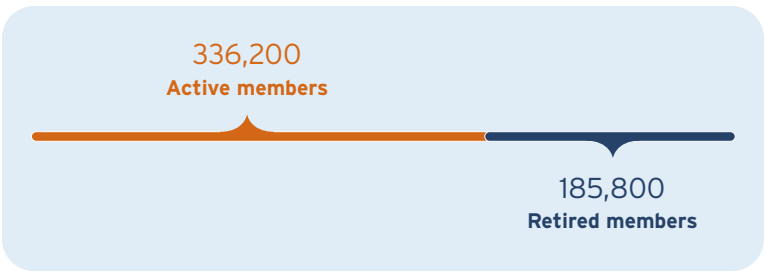
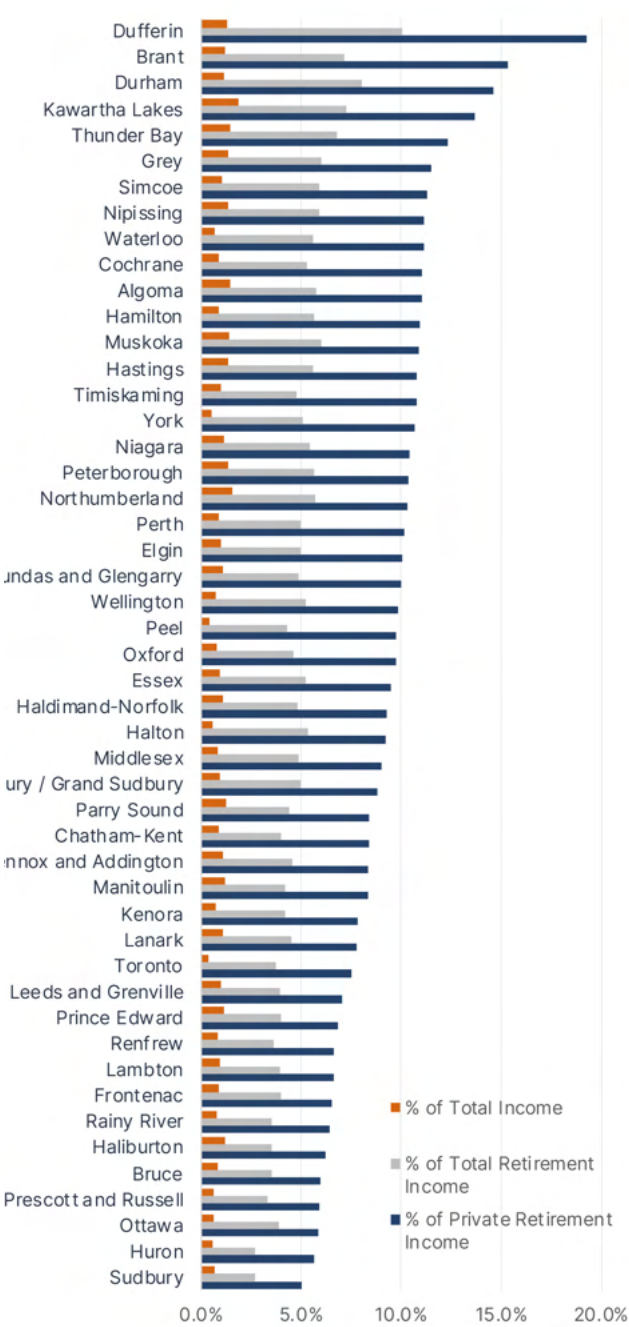


Figure 3 OMERS retirement benefits contributions to local incomes, 2023



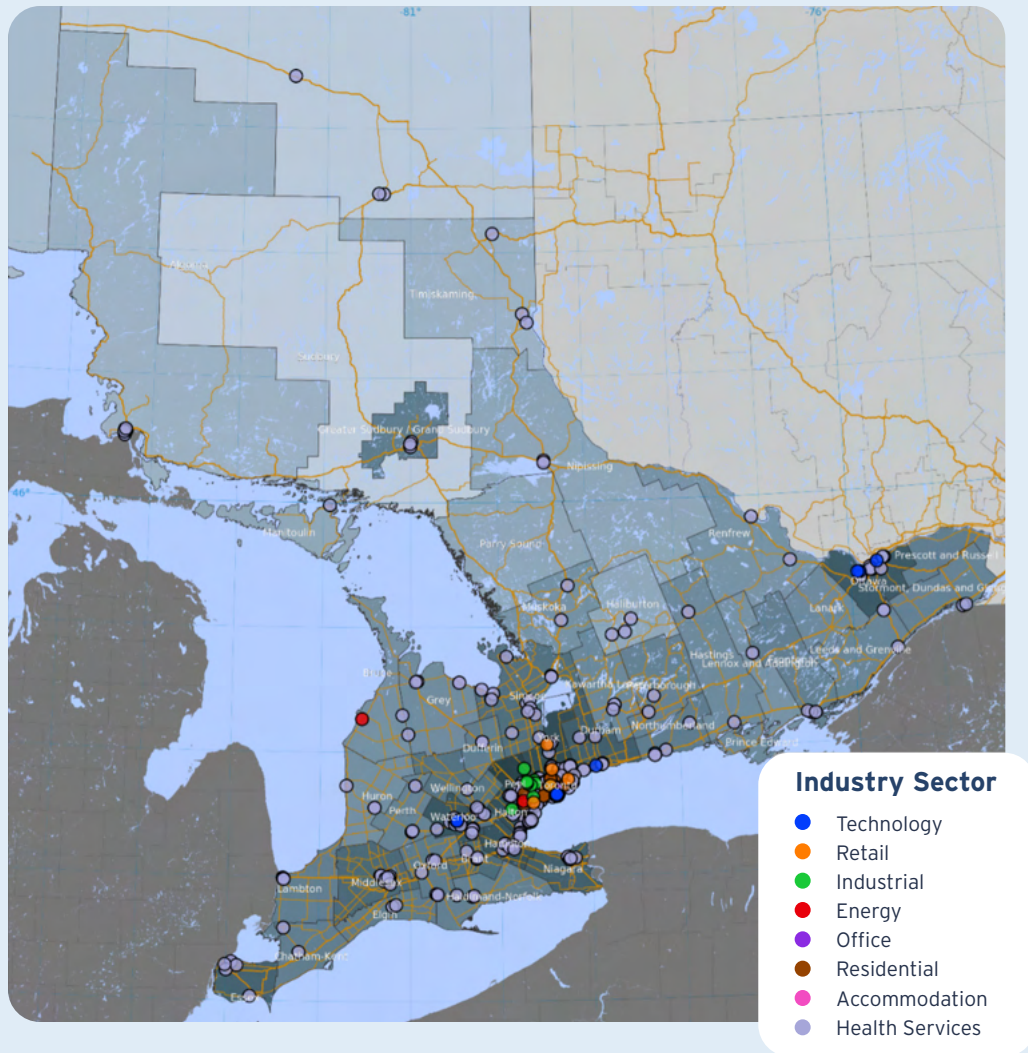
<sup>4</sup> OMERS has more than 559,000 members. Of those, approximately 522,100 live in Ontario.



### 2.1.2 Investments

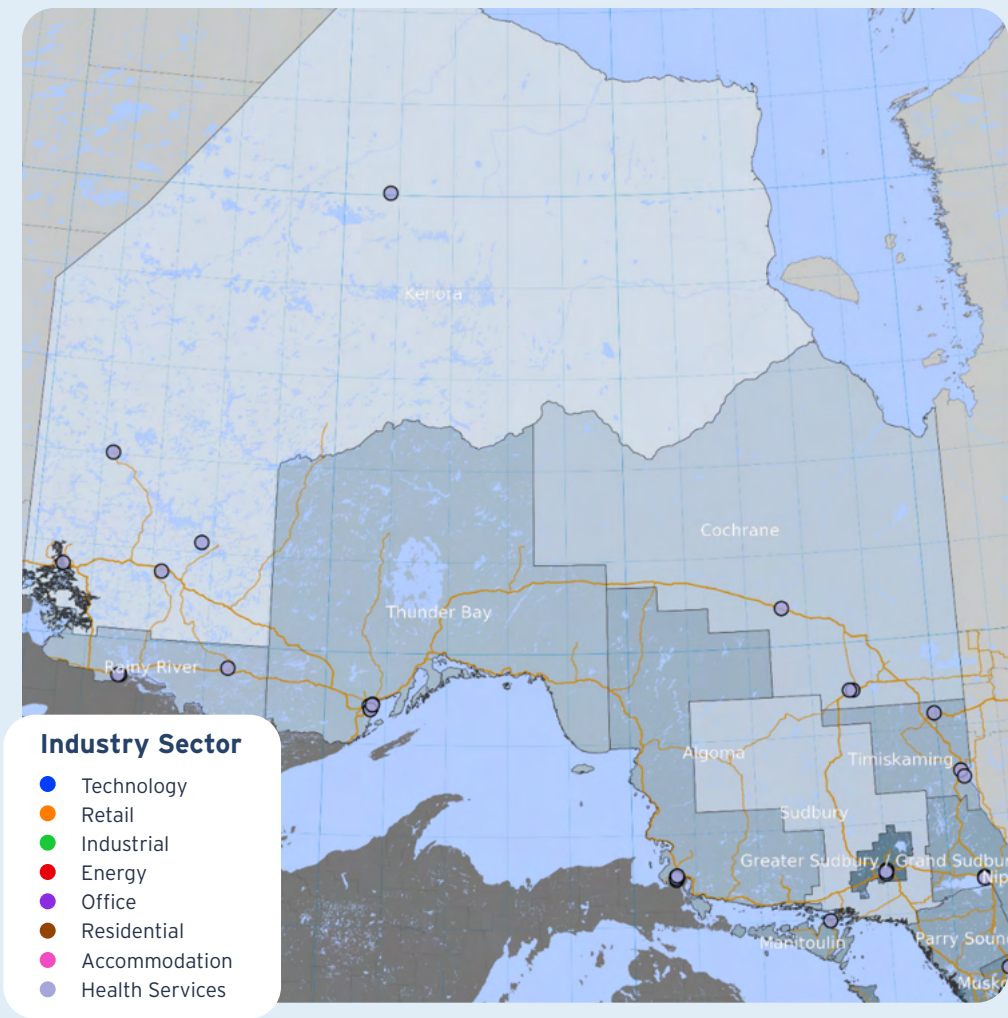
To provide members with stable and secure retirement income, the OMERS portfolio of global investments is diversified by geography and type of asset. In addition to providing stable returns, investments in Ontario support jobs and build capacity for the economy of Ontario.

**Figure 4** Distribution of OMERS investments in the south of Ontario, 2023



In 2023, OMERS investments in Ontario were in the energy, health, financial, technology, infrastructure, and real estate sectors. OMERS investments in the technology sector supported Ontario’s thriving technology ecosystem. OMERS real estate investments include office, retail, industrial, residential and hotel properties. OMERS investments can be found across Ontario. Figure 4 and Figure 5 map the locations of each OMERS investment (fully or partially owned) by type in 2023.

**Figure 5** Distribution of OMERS investments in the north of Ontario, 2023





In 2023, OMERS health sector investments were located in communities across Ontario and were the most widespread in the province, as can be seen by the number of violet dots in Figure 4 and Figure 5. These were mostly providers of medical services such as laboratory tests, home health and outpatient rehabilitation. In 2023, OMERS health sector investments touched the health and well-being of a large number of people in both urban and rural centres who interact with the healthcare system. Investments in other sectors, including energy, transportation, technology, and real estate, were concentrated in urban areas, notably in the GTA, Ottawa, Waterloo and Windsor. A notable exception is Bruce Power, a nuclear power plant located in Bruce County, which supplies over 30% of the province's electricity.<sup>5</sup>

OMERS diversified real estate investments provide significant commercial and residential capacity to the cities in which they are located. Together, OMERS Ontario commercial real estate portfolio includes investments in buildings providing over 24 million square feet of office, retail, and industrial space. The accommodation and residential properties invested in by OMERS in Ontario contain over 800 hotel rooms and nearly 4,500 homes, respectively.

Each of these investments, whether properties, utilities or private companies, had a significant economic impact on their communities. In addition to providing capacity, they generated local employment and economic activity through their demand for labour, goods and services. In total, OMERS and its investments directly employed about 18,630 people in Ontario in 2023 (after adjusting for the share by which each investment is owned by OMERS).

OMERS and its  
investments directly  
employed about **18,630**  
**people** in Ontario in 2023



<sup>5</sup> The Ontario Energy Report. Bruce Power. CS190484A R001 Jan2020.

2.2 OMERS Contribution to Ontario Employment

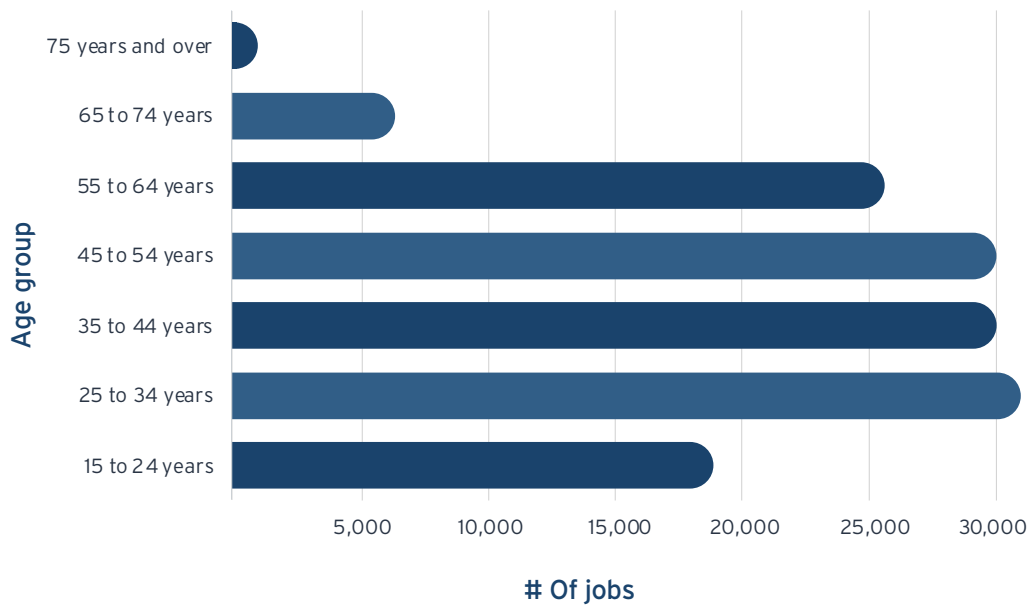
The economic contribution of OMERS to employment in Ontario occurs through members spending their retirement benefits payments in Ontario and through the economic activity generated by OMERS operations and local investments. This section reports the aggregate economic contributions of OMERS to employment in Ontario. These effects are further broken down to understand which demographic groups, regions and industries<sup>6</sup> in Ontario are the main beneficiaries of the employment contribution. All results are reported for the year 2023.

2.2.1 Total Employment Contribution

OMERS activities contributed over 143,200 jobs to Ontario, with an associated \$6.8 billion in wages. In total, this contribution affected over 856,000 people in Ontario, including each person living in a household with someone whose wage was supported by OMERS and each person who received OMERS retirement benefits payments. The number of people affected represents almost 5.5% of the population.

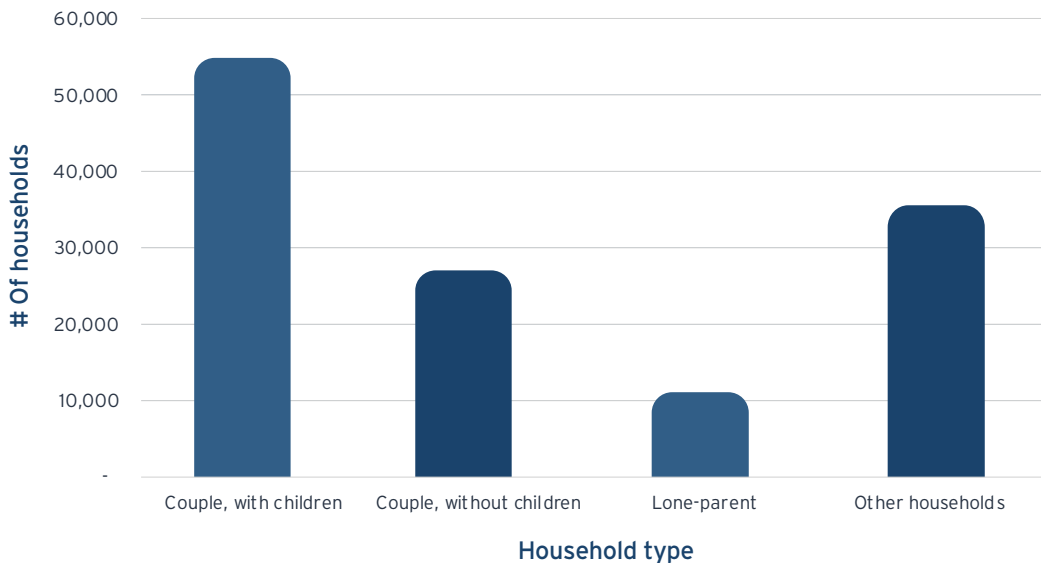
The jobs supported by OMERS were held by individuals ranging in age and family composition. Of the people whose employment was supported by OMERS, over 34,200 were young people under the age of 30 (24% of the total), although the employment contribution is significant across all age groups, as shown in Figure 6. The employment supported by OMERS contributed to the wages of almost 66,100 households with children, as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 6 Employment supported by OMERS, 2023

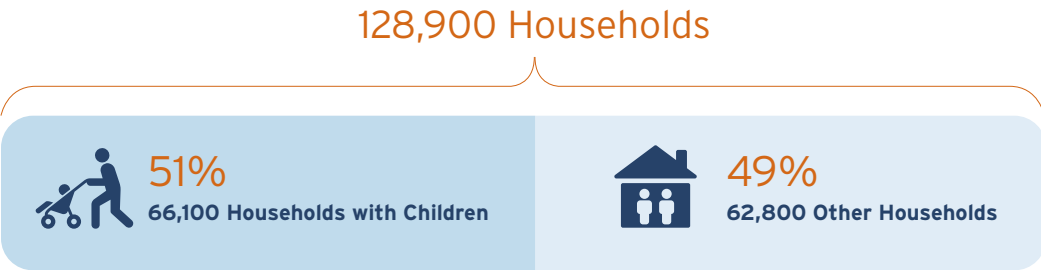


<sup>6</sup>The full list of Canadian industries used in this report can found in Table 5 in the Appendices.

**Figure 7** Households with wage income supported by OMERS by type, 2023



**Figure 8** Households affected by OMERS contributions through wage income, 2023



The total employment contribution of OMERS in 2023 was distributed across all industries in Ontario. The industries which saw the largest benefit, and together accounted for half the total jobs, were:



OMERS activities supported employment in municipalities all across Ontario. The number of jobs supported in each region is shown in Table 1. Supported employment tends to correlate to the size of the local population, meaning that more jobs are supported in places where there are more residents and employed people overall. Province-wide, OMERS supports about 1 in 56 jobs. Just over 1/3 of all jobs supported are in rural regions and smaller towns.

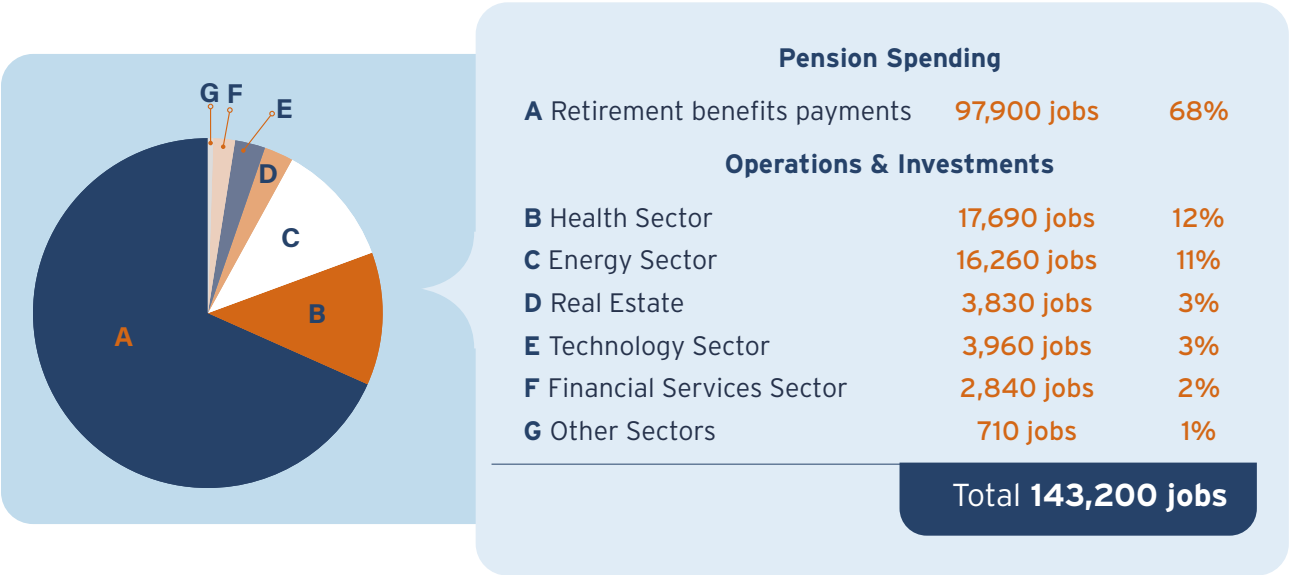
**Table 1** Number of jobs supported by OMERS across Ontario, 2023

Algoma	<b>1,560</b>	Middlesex	<b>4,900</b>
Brant	<b>1,220</b>	Muskoka	<b>370</b>
Bruce	<b>5,250</b>	Niagara	<b>2,970</b>
Chatham-Kent	<b>880</b>	Nipissing	<b>680</b>
Cochrane	<b>640</b>	Northumberland	<b>770</b>
Dufferin	<b>540</b>	Ottawa	<b>8,760</b>
Durham	<b>6,960</b>	Oxford	<b>1,210</b>
Elgin	<b>820</b>	Parry Sound	<b>230</b>
Essex	<b>2,860</b>	Peel	<b>14,870</b>
Frontenac	<b>1,240</b>	Perth	<b>1,120</b>
Greater Sudbury	<b>1,760</b>	Peterborough	<b>1,340</b>
Grey	<b>1,510</b>	Prescott and Russell	<b>490</b>
Haldimand-Norfolk	<b>620</b>	Prince Edward	<b>150</b>
Haliburton	<b>220</b>	Rainy River	<b>130</b>
Halton	<b>6,390</b>	Renfrew	<b>590</b>
Hamilton	<b>4,820</b>	Simcoe	<b>4,740</b>
Hastings	<b>1,300</b>	Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	<b>670</b>
Huron	<b>820</b>	Sudbury	<b>140</b>
Kawartha Lakes	<b>600</b>	Thunder Bay	<b>1,890</b>
Kenora	<b>410</b>	Timiskaming	<b>220</b>
Lambton	<b>1,070</b>	Toronto	<b>30,670</b>
Lanark	<b>680</b>	Waterloo	<b>7,420</b>
Leeds and Grenville	<b>910</b>	Wellington	<b>3,640</b>
Lennox and Addington	<b>360</b>	York	<b>11,690</b>
Manitoulin	<b>70</b>	<b>Total 143,200</b>	

The main source of the total contribution to employment by OMERS was pension spending, which supported 68% of the total jobs contributed by OMERS in Ontario in 2023. An overview of the breakdown by the source of the contribution is presented in Figure 9, and the following sections provide more detail on this breakdown. The sources of the contribution refer to whether the economic contribution is supported by OMERS retirement benefits payments (pension spending) or by its operations and investments.

Contributions from OMERS operations and investments are further broken down by the sectors of the OMERS investments that are the source of the contribution. Sectors include health, energy, real estate and building services, technology, financial services, industrial and transportation.<sup>7</sup>

Figure 9 Employment contributions by source sector, 2023



2.2.2 Employment Contribution from Pension Spending

In 2023, pension spending was the main source of OMERS total employment contribution to Ontario. Over 97,900 jobs (68% of the total contribution) were supported by OMERS members spending their retirement benefit payments. When OMERS members receive these payments, they will generally spend a large proportion on goods and services in their local communities. This demand for goods and services, in turn, supports regional business and industry and drives the contribution to employment.

Table 2 Top 5 industries supported by pension spending, 2023

Beneficiary Industry	Jobs Supported by OMERS pension spending	% of all jobs supported by OMERS pension spending
1 Retail Trade	16,470	17%
2 Manufacturing	12,910	13%
3 Accommodation & food	11,700	12%
4 Finance	6,940	7%
5 Healthcare	6,060	2%

Over half of the jobs contributed from pension spending (55.3%) were in the retail trade, manufacturing, hospitality, finance and health care industries (Table 3). These are industries that require many workers to provide the goods and services that OMERS members spend much of their retirement benefits on. To illustrate: when an OMERS member spends a day shopping in their local community, the retirement benefits they spend on Ontario-made goods in local shops will help support the wages of local shopkeepers (retail trade) and factory workers (manufacturing). If they dine out, they support the wages of the servers and other restaurant staff (hospitality), as well as the incomes of local producers (agriculture and manufacturing) who supplied the ingredients.

<sup>7</sup> Note that we use the term ‘sectors’ here to refer to the investments that are the source of the economic contribution to distinguish from the industries in Ontario that benefit from the contributions.



2.2.3 Employment Contribution from OMERS Operations & Investments

OMERS operations and investments supported the remaining 45,300 (31.6%) of the total job contribution from OMERS activities in Ontario in 2023. Investments in the health and energy sectors were the main sources of this contribution and supported more than 10,440 jobs (23%) and 5,700 jobs (13%), respectively, in Ontario.

OMERS operations and investments contributed to employment by directly employing Ontarians. As reported in section 2.1.2, OMERS investments in all sectors directly employed a total of 18,634 people in Ontario in 2023, adjusting for the share of ownership by OMERS. They also contributed to employment through their demand for goods and services from other businesses, which supported employment in the industries to which OMERS investments are linked. Part of the wages of the employees whose jobs were supported by OMERS investments was spent in their communities, and this demand for goods and services supported additional jobs. The industries that were the main beneficiaries of OMERS operations and investments are health care, utilities and retail trade, as listed in Table 4.

Table 3 Top 5 industries supported by OMERS operations and investments, 2023

Beneficiary Industry	Jobs Supported by OMERS operations and investments	% Of all jobs supported by OMERS operations and investments
1 Healthcare	10,440	23%
2 Utilities	5,700	13%
3 Retail trade	4,490	10%
4 Manufacturing	3,520	8%
5 Accommodation & Food	3,190	7%



2.3 OMERS Contribution to Ontario GDP

This section reports OMERS economic contribution to Ontario’s GDP as well as to federal and provincial tax revenue. These effects are further broken down to understand which regions and industries are the main beneficiaries of this GDP contribution. All results are reported for the year 2023.

2.3.1 Total GDP Contribution

Through its members and investments, OMERS contributed over \$13.7 billion to Ontario’s GDP in 2023. The 20 communities that saw the largest GDP contribution (in dollars) from OMERS activities are shown in Figure 10.

Figure 10 GDP supported by OMERS by community, top 20 (\$M), 2023

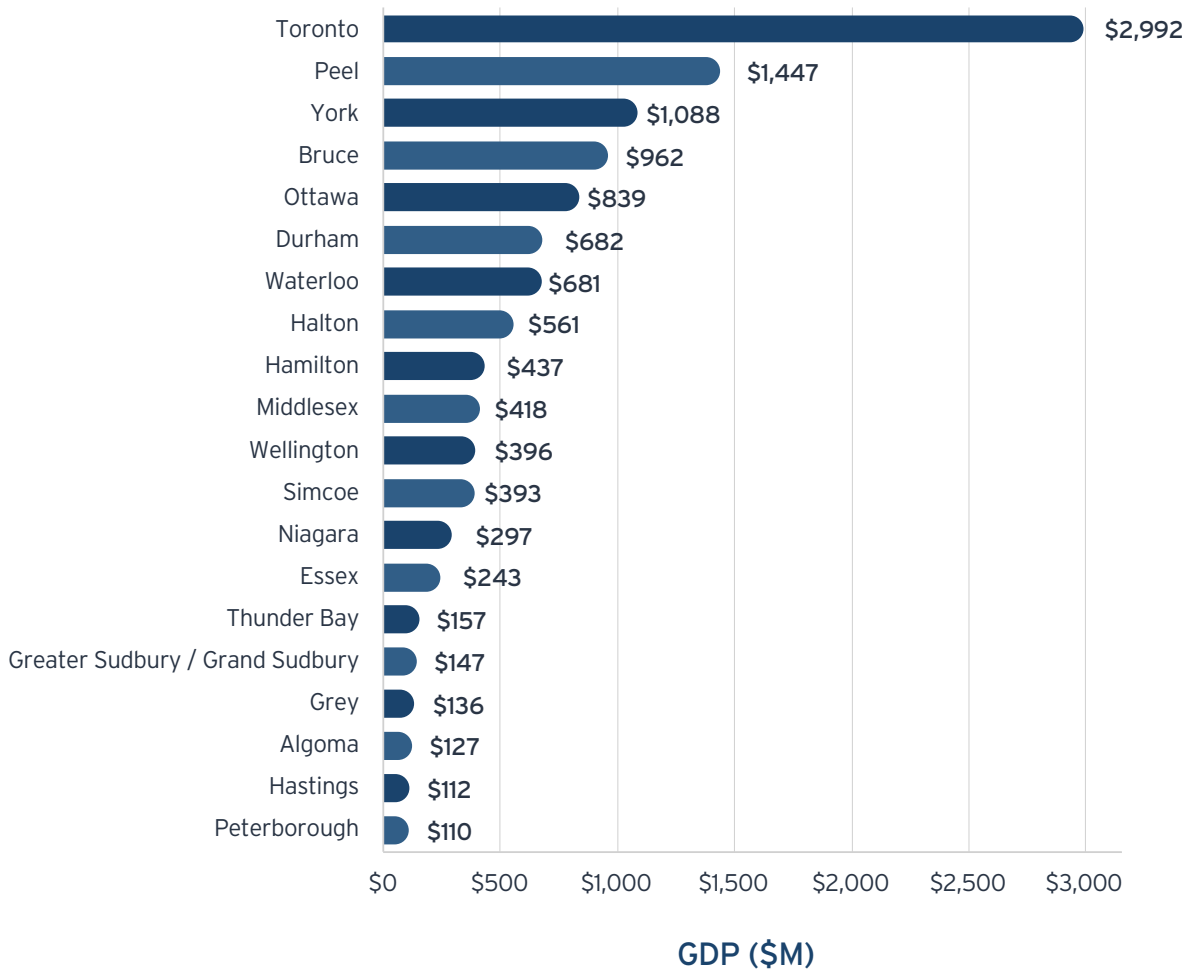
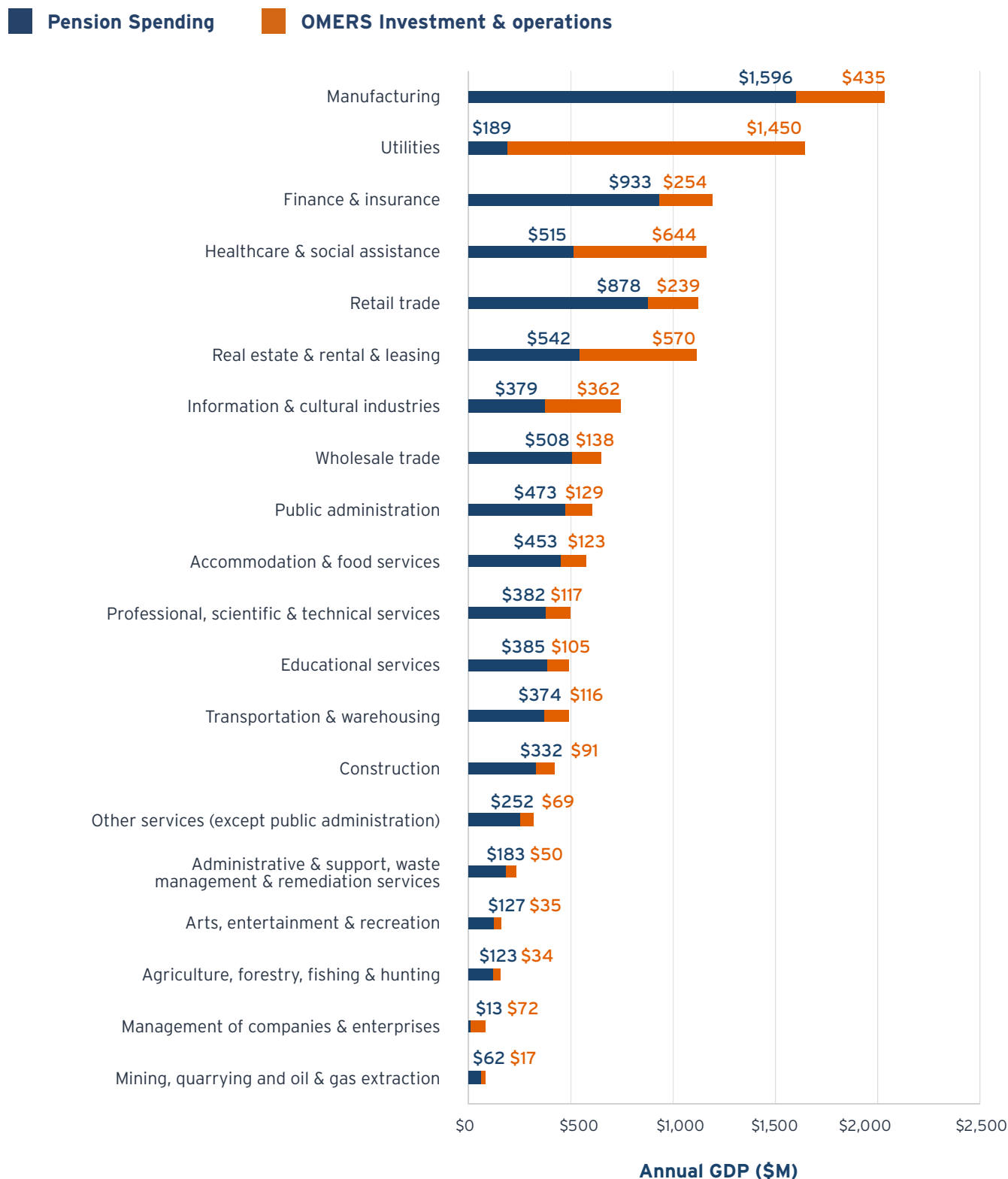


Figure 11 presents the GDP contributions of OMERS activities by industry. Over \$3.7 billion of the GDP supported by OMERS was in the manufacturing and utilities industries combined. Outside these two industries, the finance services, health care, and retail trade industries were the main beneficiaries of the economic activity of OMERS.

**Figure 11** GDP supported by OMERS by industry (\$M), 2023



### 2.3.2 GDP Contribution from Pension Spending

Pension spending supported 63% of the total GDP contribution from OMERS activities in 2023, amounting to \$8.7 billion. Every \$10 of OMERS retirement benefits payments (\$5.3 billion in total), therefore contributed \$16.40 to Ontario's GDP. The main industry that benefited from pension spending in Ontario was manufacturing. Manufacturing is a broad category that includes food and beverage products and other staples of households' day-to-day spending up to complex components for industrial uses, which helps explain its significance. OMERS members' pension spending alone supported \$1.6 billion in GDP in this industry. This provided much-needed support to an industry that has seen a persistent decline over the years in Ontario. After manufacturing, the finance and insurance industry and the retail trade industry saw the next largest benefit from OMERS pension spending, with a combined \$1.8 billion in GDP supported.

### 2.3.3 GDP Contribution from OMERS Operations & Investments

OMERS operations and investments are the sources of the remaining \$5.0 billion contribution to Ontario's GDP (37% of the total GDP contributed by OMERS). This includes all the value added to Ontario's economy by OMERS operations and investments, as well as the additional value added by other businesses through business-to-business transactions with OMERS and its investments in 2023. The main industries that benefitted from OMERS operations and investment activities in Ontario were utilities, with a \$1.45 billion contribution to GDP, health care (\$0.6 billion), and real estate and leasing (\$0.6 billion). These industries provide essential services for doing business in Ontario (electricity and commercial space, in particular) and also correspond to the sectors in which OMERS has made significant investments (energy and real estate).

### 2.3.4 OMERS Contribution to Government Revenue

The economic activity supported by OMERS generated federal and provincial government revenue through personal, corporate and consumption taxes. Income tax is collected on retirement benefits payments and the wages of people whose employment is supported by OMERS activities, while OMERS and its investments contribute to corporate tax revenue. The spending of OMERS retirement benefits and the income earned through OMERS-supported employment in Ontario also generates consumption tax revenue for the government.<sup>8</sup>

In 2023, the combined federal and provincial government revenue generated by OMERS activities amounted to over \$3.8 billion.<sup>9</sup> Of this total, over \$2.1 billion was federal government revenue (55% of which came from income taxes), and almost \$1.7 was provincial government revenue (40% from income taxes).

*The main industries that benefitted from OMERS operations and investment activities in Ontario were*  
**utilities, with a \$1.45 billion contribution to GDP, healthcare (\$0.6 billion), and real estate and leasing (\$0.6 billion)**

<sup>8</sup>Details about the methodology employed to estimate the revenue from each type of tax are provided in the Appendices.

<sup>9</sup>This analysis estimates government revenue from income, corporate and consumption tax which are collected by the provincial and federal governments. It does not include municipal government revenue.

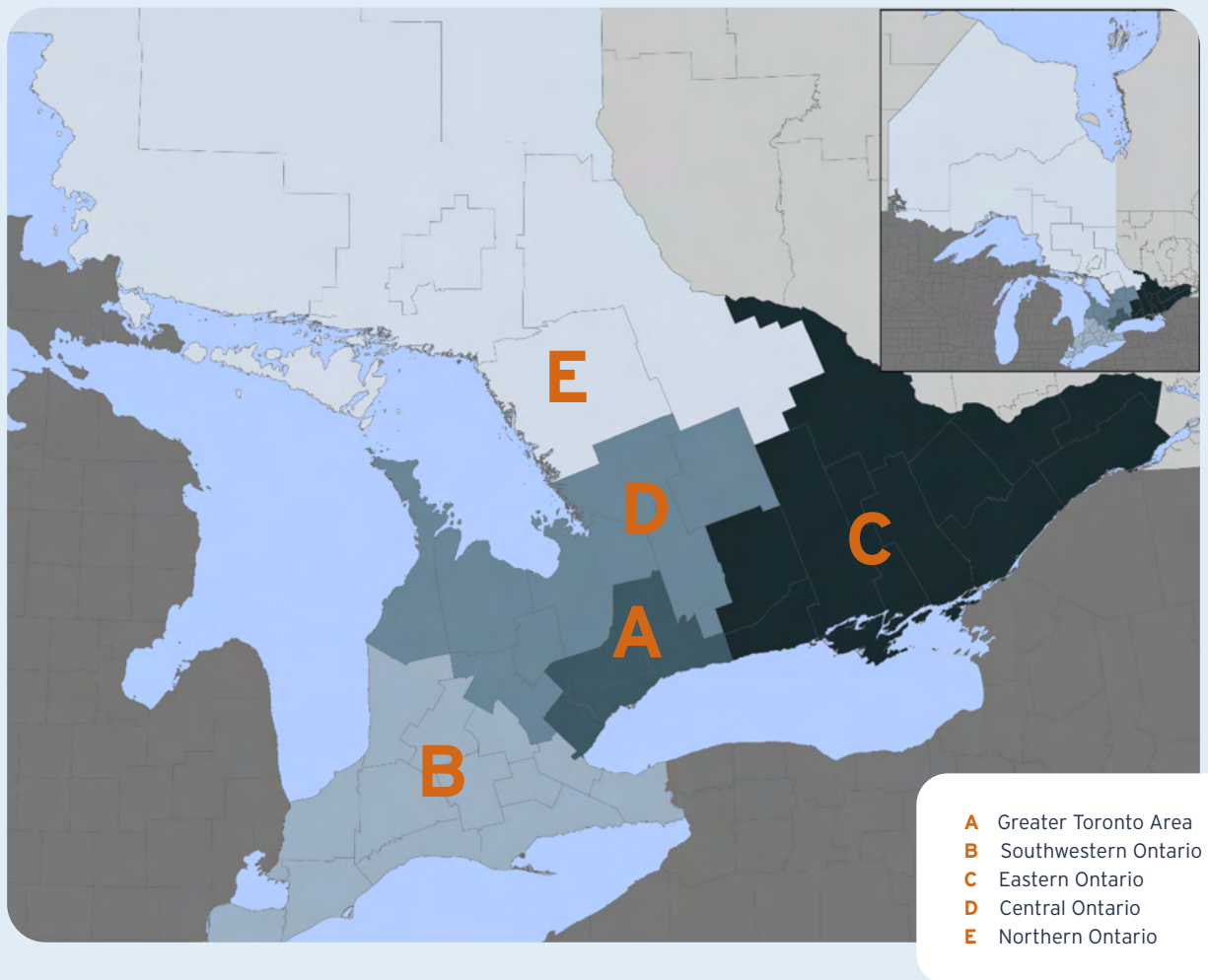
## 2.4 Regional Importance of OMERS Economic Contribution

Ontario is made up of diverse regions with different industries and local socio-economic characteristics. This section will consider the economic contributions of OMERS activities at the regional level. In Figure 12, each region is shown in a different shade of blue as follows:

- A. Greater Toronto Area,
- B. Southwestern Ontario,
- C. Eastern Ontario,
- D. Central Ontario and
- E. Northern Ontario

OMERS members live in every one of these regions, and OMERS investments are made throughout the province. As such, OMERS economic contributions in 2023 were measurable in every community.

The following sub-sections detail these contributions to the five major regions shown in figure 12.





2.4.1 Greater Toronto area

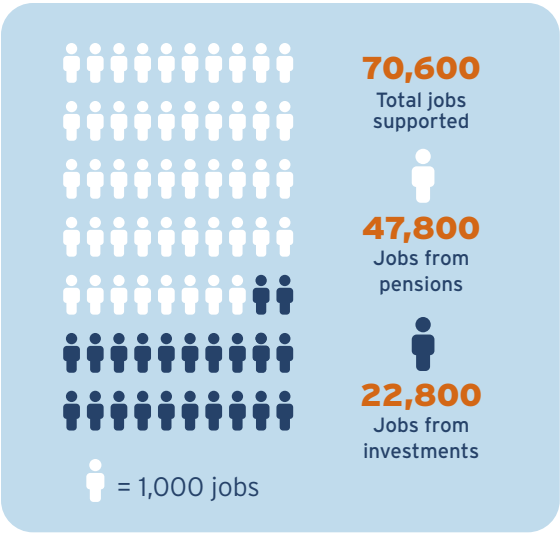
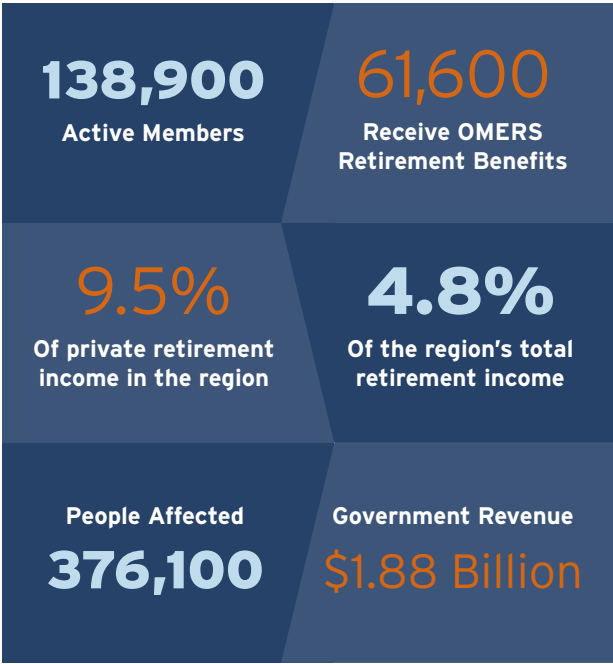
OMERS Membership

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is the most densely populated region of Canada and is the second-largest financial centre in North America. With a population of 7.2 million people, the GTA is home to just under half of all Ontarians. In total, there were about 138,900 active members of OMERS and 61,600 pension recipients in the area in 2023 (i.e. 2.26 active members per person receiving a pension).

OMERS investments

OMERS investments were found in 131 locations within the GTA in 2023 predominantly in health care, real estate and technology. These investments supported 22,750 jobs.

12 residential properties with 4,500 homes	12 office properties (8.8 million square feet)	13 industrial properties (8.6 million square feet)	5 retail properties (7.2 million square feet)
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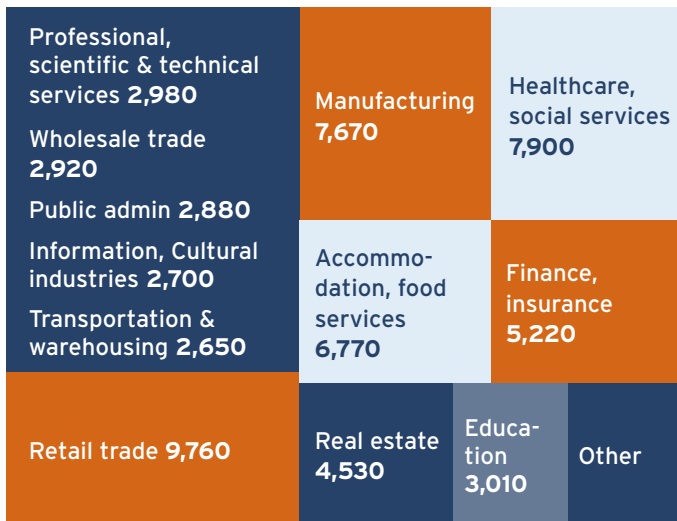
Employment contribution

OMERS activities supported almost 70,600 jobs within the region, which represented about one in 54 jobs in the GTA, with an aggregate wage income of \$3.36 billion. In total, OMERS activities affected over 376,100 people in the GTA, including each person living in a household with someone whose wage was supported by OMERS and everyone who received OMERS retirement benefits payments.

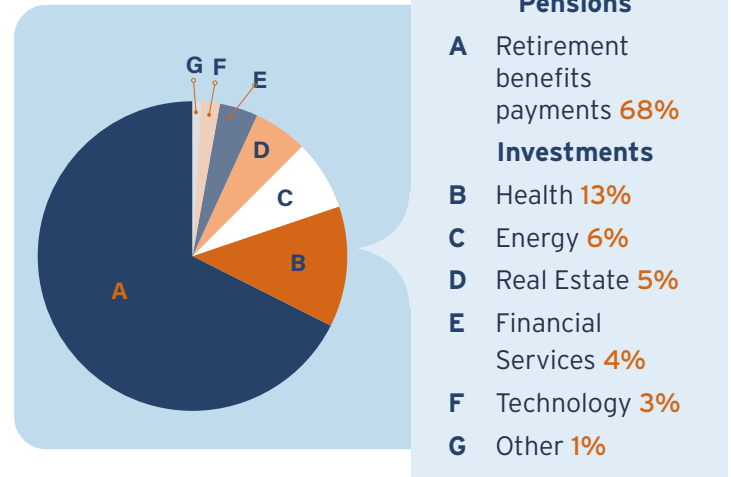
Of all jobs supported in the region, over 15,900 were filled by people under 30 years of age (23% of all jobs), while over 34,800 were held by members of households with children. Residents of the GTA whose employment was supported by OMERS worked primarily in the retail trade, manufacturing and health care industry, as shown in the *Jobs supported by benefitting industry* figure on the top left side of the following page. Note that manufacturing is a very broad category that includes food and beverage products and other staples of households' day-to-day spending, which helps explain its significance.

OMERS members supported regional business and industry and also contributed to local employment by spending their retirement benefits payments on goods and services in Ontario. Their pension spending drove 68% of OMERS total employment contribution in the GTA. The remaining 32% was driven by OMERS investments, especially those in the health and energy sectors. These investments supported the local economy, as their activity and operations require goods and services from other Ontario businesses, contributing to employment in related industries.

### Jobs supported by benefitting industry



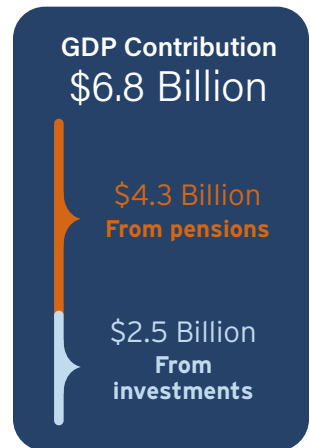
### Employment supported by source



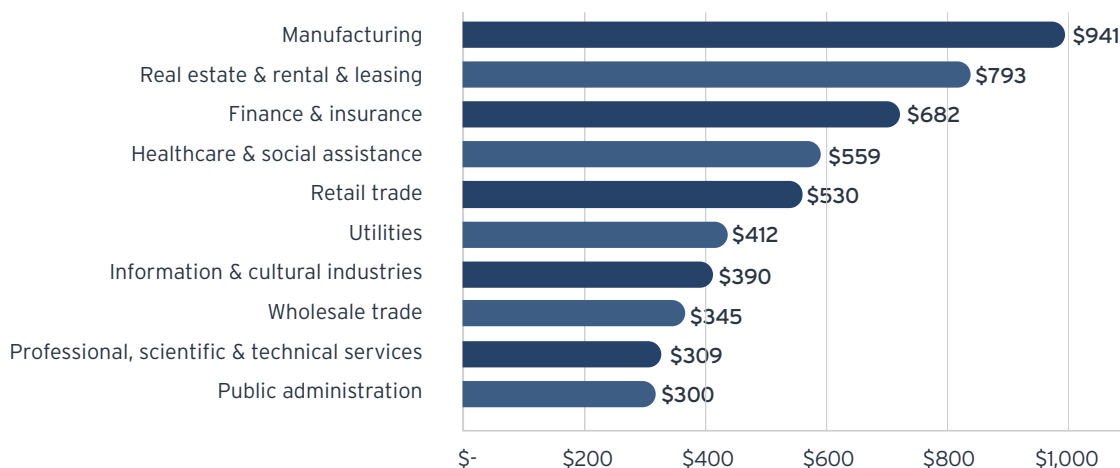
### Economic contribution

Across the GTA, OMERS supported over \$6.8 billion in GDP in 2023. Of this total, \$4.3 billion (64%) was generated by members spending their pensions, which means that every \$10 disbursed in pensions in the region contributed \$23.20 to GDP, on average.

Per person living in the region, OMERS supported \$937 of regional GDP in 2023. This is a measure of the importance of the OMERS contribution to the region at the individual level since it accounts for the size of the population. At the sub-regional level, the OMERS per capita GDP contribution was most important for Toronto and Durham. The industries that were the main beneficiaries of this economic activity were the manufacturing, real estate, financial services and healthcare industries.



### Annual GDP contribution by industry (\$ millions), GTA



### Per capita GDP contribution

Toronto **\$989**  
 Durham **\$914**  
 Peel **\$904**  
 Halton **\$894**  
 York **\$889**

### Taxation

The wage income supported by OMERS, as well as the pension spending and corporate profits generated by OMERS investments contributed to the provincial and federal governments' revenues through taxes. As a whole, the economic activity in the GTA supported by OMERS generated almost \$1.9 billion in personal, corporate and consumption taxes in 2023. Of this total, \$1.1 billion was a contribution to federal government revenue (55% through income tax) and \$0.8 billion to provincial revenue (39% through income tax).

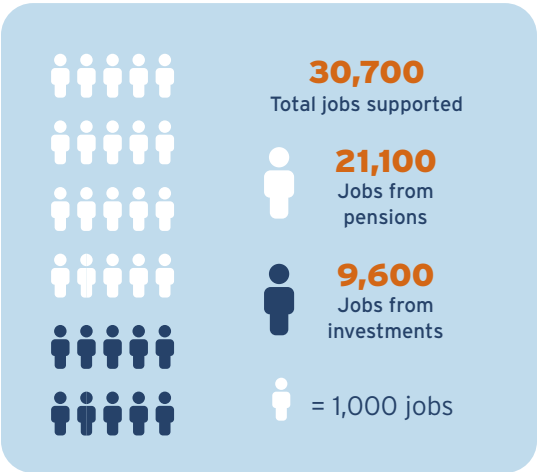
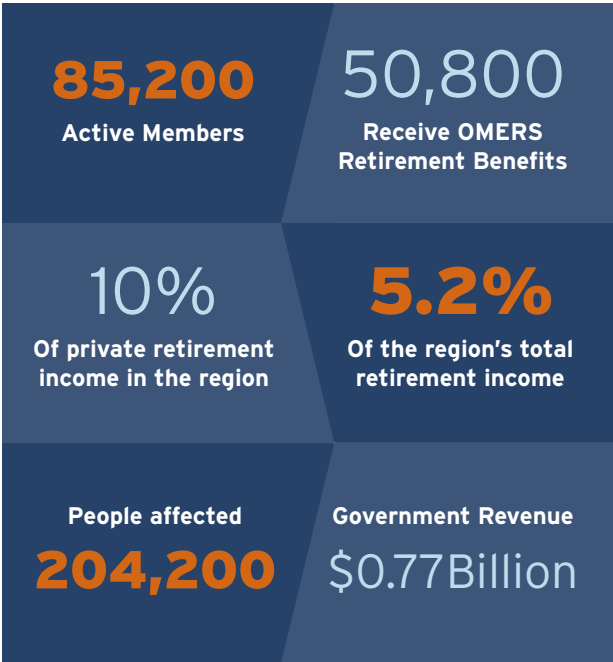
2.4.2 Southwestern Ontario

OMERS Membership

Southwestern Ontario includes the cities of Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, London and Windsor. It is home to 3.6 million people or about one-quarter of Ontarians. Important industries include manufacturing, agriculture, technology in Kitchener-Waterloo; and tourism in Niagara. In total, there were 85,200 active OMERS members and about 50,800 people receiving OMERS retirement benefits in 2023. For every person receiving retirement benefits in the region, there were 1.68 active members.

OMERS investments

OMERS investments were found in 45 locations, predominantly in health care and technology in 2023. Investments in these sectors supported 5,570 jobs.



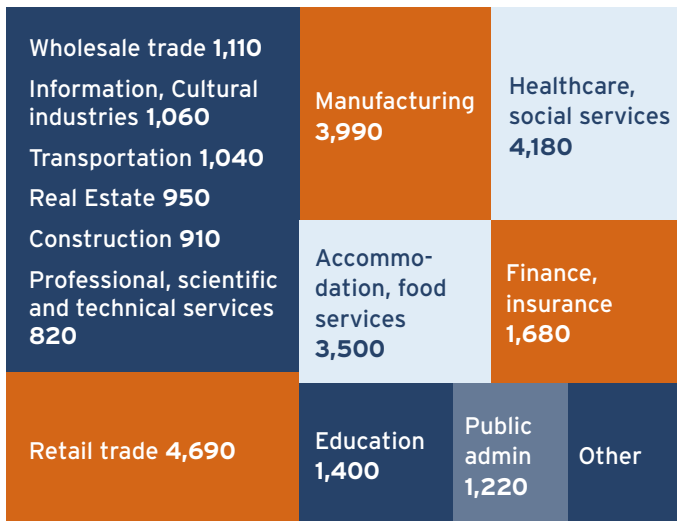
Employment contribution

OMERS activities supported over 30,700 jobs within the region, which represented about one in every 60 jobs in Southwestern Ontario, with an aggregate wage income of \$1.4 billion. In total, OMERS activity affected almost 204,200 people in Southwestern Ontario, including each person living in a household with someone whose wage was supported by OMERS and everyone who received OMERS retirement benefits payments.

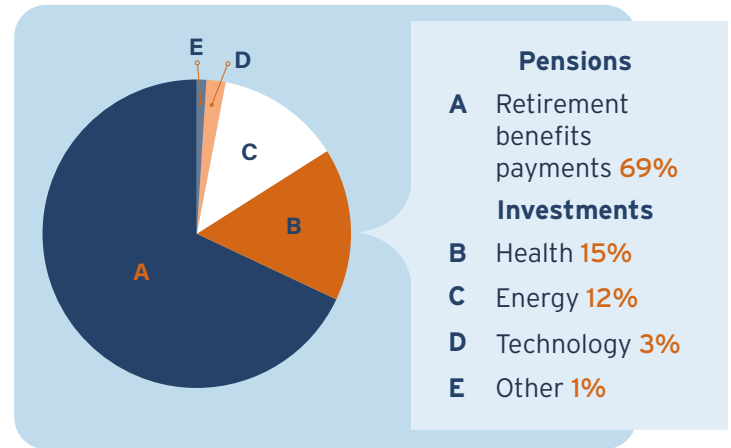
Of all jobs supported in the region, over 8,150 were filled by people under 30 years of age (27% of all jobs), while nearly 13,800 were held by members of households with children. Residents of Southwestern Ontario whose employment was supported by OMERS worked primarily in the retail trade, health care and manufacturing industries, as shown in the *jobs supported by benefitting industry* figure on the top left side of the following page. Note that manufacturing is a very broad category that includes food and beverage products and other staples of households' day-to-day spending, which helps explain its significance.

OMERS members supported regional business and industry and also contributed to local employment by spending their pension income on goods and services in Ontario. Their pension spending drove 69% of OMERS total employment contribution in Southwestern Ontario. The remaining 31% was driven by OMERS investments, especially those in the health and energy sectors. These investments support the local economy, as their activities and operations require goods and services from other Ontario businesses, contributing to employment in related industries.

### Jobs supported by benefitting industry



### Employment supported by source



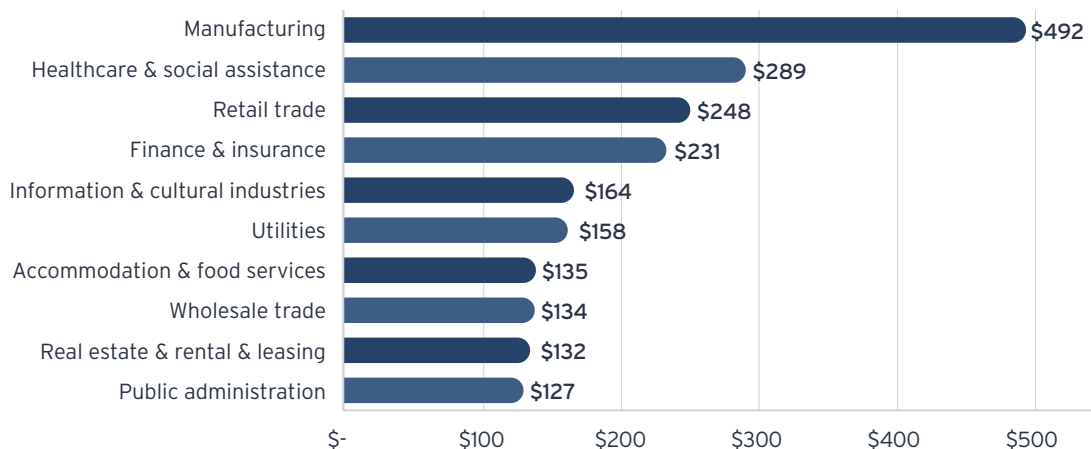
### Economic contribution

Across Southwestern Ontario, OMERS supported over \$2.7 billion in GDP through its pension payments and investments in 2023. Of this total, about \$1.8 billion (67%) was generated by members spending their pensions, which means that every \$10 disbursed in pensions in the region contributed \$12.80 to GDP, on average. Per person living in the region, OMERS contributed \$757 to regional GDP in 2023. This is a measure of the importance of the OMERS contribution to the region at the individual level since it accounts for the size of the population. At the sub-regional level, the OMERS per capita GDP contribution was most important for the counties of Perth, Huron and Waterloo. The industries that were the main beneficiaries of this economic activity were the manufacturing, healthcare, retail trade and financial services industries.

### GDP Contribution \$2.7 Billion



### Annual GDP contribution by industry (\$ millions), Southwestern Ontario



### Per capita GDP contribution



### Taxation

The wage income supported by OMERS, as well as the pension spending and corporate profits generated by OMERS investments, contributed to the provincial and federal governments' revenue through taxes. As a whole, the economic activity supported by OMERS generated about \$0.77 billion in personal, corporate and consumption taxes in Southwestern Ontario in 2023. Of this total, \$0.43 billion was a contribution to federal government revenue (56% through income tax) and \$0.34 billion to provincial revenue (40% through income tax).

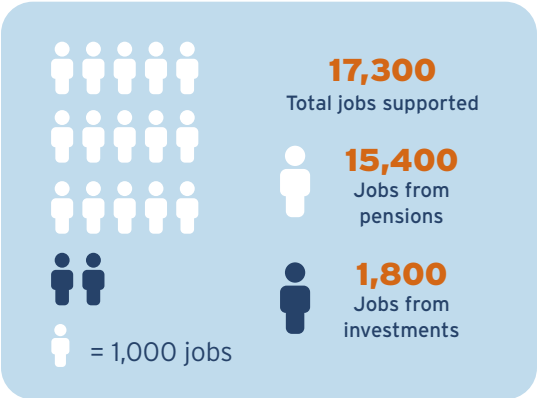
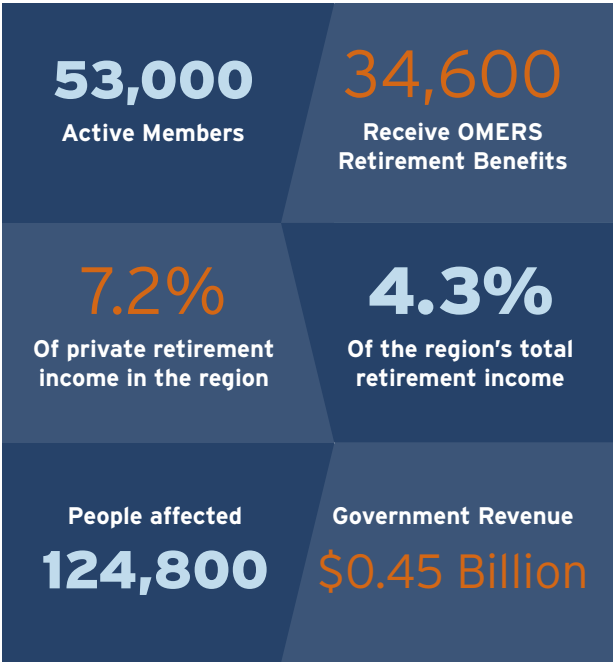
2.4.3 Eastern Ontario

OMERS Membership

Eastern Ontario is bordered by the GTA, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, and Quebec. Larger cities include Ottawa, Cornwall, Kingston, Belleville and Peterborough. It is home to the nation's capital and the federal public service, and professional services and technology, tourism, and agriculture are important to its economy as well. There were 53,000 active OMERS members and 34,600 people receiving OMERS retirement benefits in 2023. For every person receiving retirement benefits in the region, there were 1.53 active members.

OMERS investments

OMERS investments were found in 5 locations within Eastern Ontario in health care and technology in 2023. These investments supported 1,210 jobs.



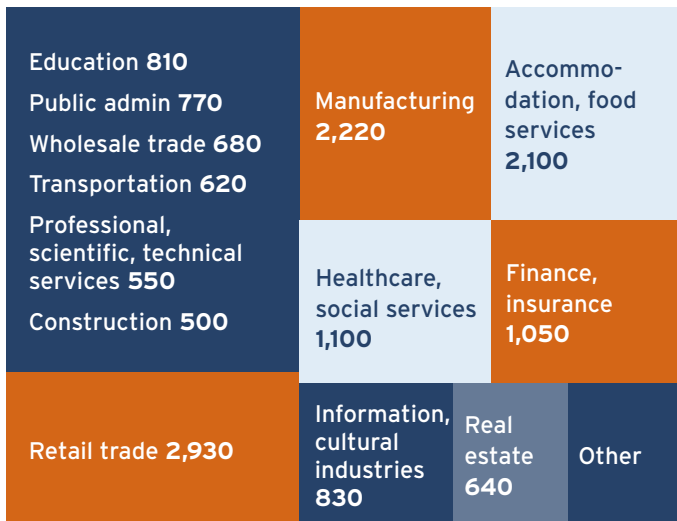
Employment contribution

OMERS activities supported almost 17,300 jobs within the region, which represented one in about 69 jobs in Eastern Ontario, with an aggregate wage income of \$0.8 billion. In total, OMERS activities affected 124,800 people in Eastern Ontario, including each person living in a household with someone whose wage was supported by OMERS and everyone who received OMERS retirement benefits payments.

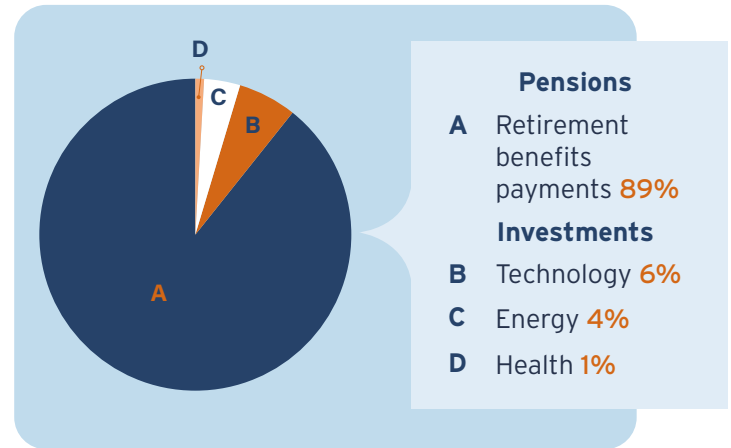
Of all jobs supported in the region, over 4,500 were filled by people under 30 years of age (26% of all jobs), while over 7,300 were members of households with children. Residents of Eastern Ontario whose employment was supported by OMERS worked primarily in the retail trade, health care and manufacturing industries, as shown in the *jobs supported by benefitting industry* figure on the top left side of the following page. Note that manufacturing is a very broad category that includes food and beverage products and other staples of households' day-to-day spending, which helps explain its significance.

OMERS members supported regional business and industry and also contributed to local employment by spending their pension income on goods and services in Ontario. Their pension spending drove 89% of OMERS total employment contribution in Eastern Ontario. The remaining 11% was driven by OMERS investments, especially in the health sector. These investments supported the local economy, as their activities and operations required goods and services from other Ontario businesses, contributing to employment in related industries.

### Jobs supported by benefitting industry



### Employment supported by source

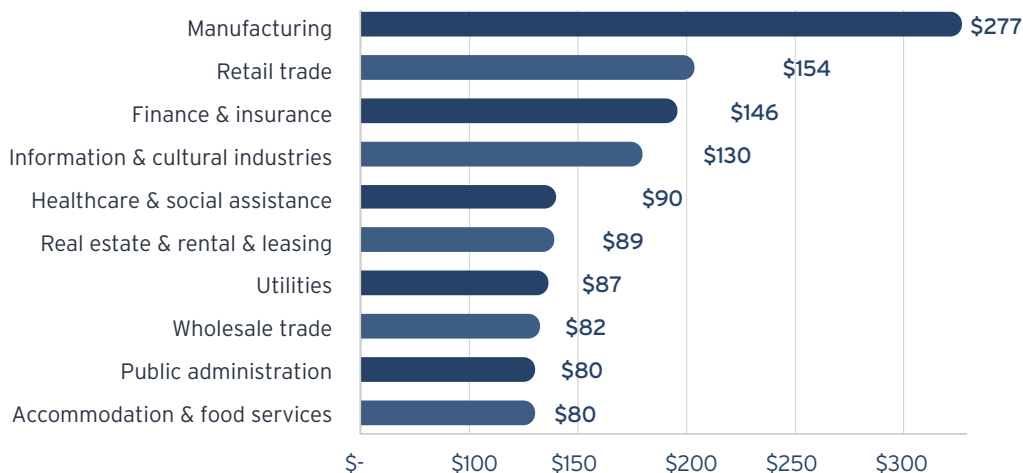


### Economic contribution

Across Eastern Ontario, OMERS supported nearly \$1.6 billion in GDP through its pension payments and investments in 2023. Of this total, \$1.3 billion (85%) was generated by members spending their pensions, which means that every \$10 disbursed in pensions in the region contributed \$14.50 to GDP, on average. Per person living in the region, OMERS contributed \$711 to regional GDP in 2023. This is a measure of the importance of the OMERS contribution to the region at the individual level since it accounts for the size of the population. At the sub-regional level, OMERS per capita GDP contribution was most important for the counties of Ottawa, Hastings, and Peterborough. The industries that were the main beneficiaries of this economic activity were the manufacturing, retail trade, and finance industries.



### Annual GDP contribution by industry (\$ millions), Eastern Ontario



### Per capita GDP contribution

Ottawa	\$783
Hastings	\$747
Peterborough	\$729
Frontenac	\$635
Leeds and Grenville	\$767
Northumberland	\$727
Stormont/Dundas/G.	\$506
Lanark	\$783
Renfrew	\$469
Prescott and Russell	\$433
Lennox and Addington	\$701
Prince Edward	\$497

### Taxation

As a whole, the economic activity supported by OMERS generated about \$0.45 billion in personal, corporate and consumption taxes in Eastern Ontario in 2023. Of this total, \$0.25 billion was a contribution to federal government revenue (55% through income tax) and \$0.2 billion to provincial revenue (40% through income tax).



2.4.4 Central Ontario

OMERS Membership

Central Ontario is bordered by the Bruce Peninsula and Georgian Bay, Wellington County, and the GTA. The area is mainly rural and includes the cities of Guelph and Barrie and tourist destinations such as Georgian Bay, Blue Mountain, and Muskoka. The population is about 1.2 million people.

There were 33,200 active OMERS members and 22,100 people receiving OMERS retirement benefits in 2023. For every person receiving retirement benefits, there are 1.50 active members. OMERS retirement benefits are an important source of retirement income for many communities in Central Ontario, including Grey County and Kawartha Lakes, where 2.5% and 2.9% of the population received OMERS retirement benefits in 2023, respectively. This guaranteed income provides a cushion against volatility in employment income.

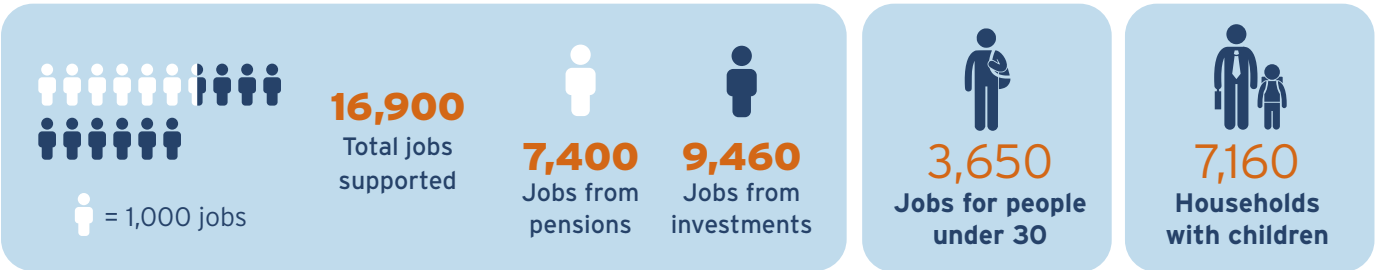
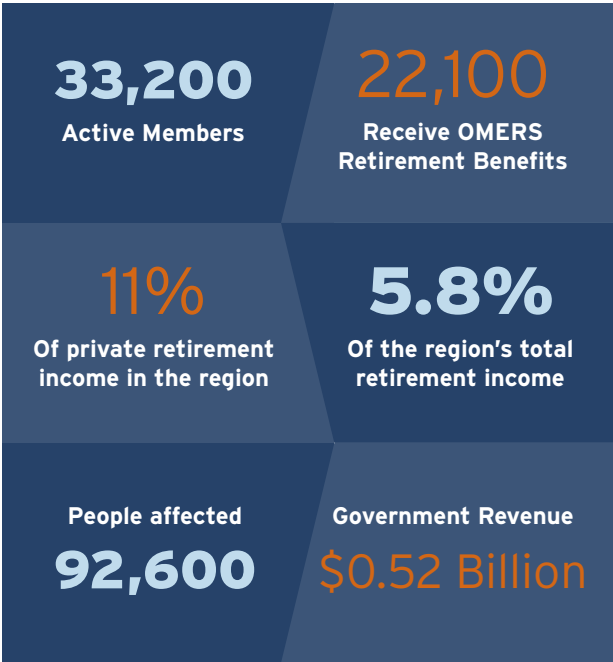
Employment contribution

OMERS pension and investment activities supported almost 16,900 jobs within the region, representing one in about 39 jobs in Central Ontario, with an aggregate wage income of \$0.87 billion. Central Ontario was the region with the largest employment contribution from OMERS relative to its population in 2023. This contribution was highest in Bruce County, the location of Bruce Power, where one in seven jobs was supported by OMERS, followed by Grey County, where it was one in 35 jobs. In total, OMERS activities affected almost 92,600 people in Central Ontario, including each person living in a household with someone whose wage was supported by OMERS and everyone who received OMERS retirement benefits payments.

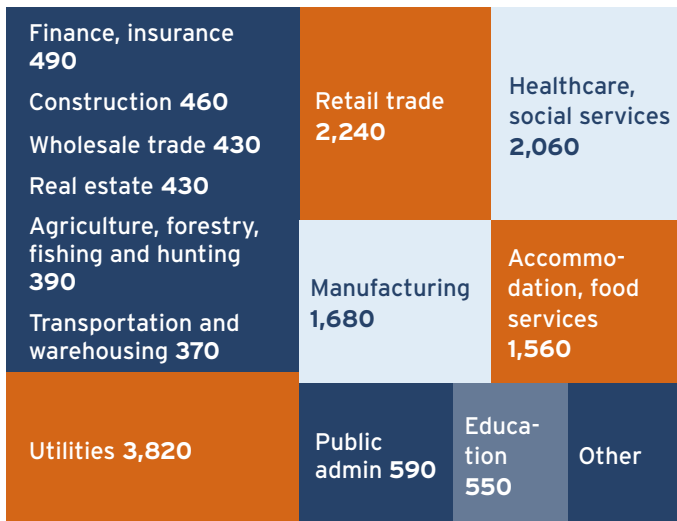
Of all jobs supported in the region, more than 3,650 were filled by people under 30 years of age (21.7% of all jobs), while about 7,160 were held by members of households with children.

Central Ontario is the region in which there were the most jobs supported by OMERS for young people and households with children, relative to the population in 2023. This is particularly important, given that predominantly rural regions can often have difficulties retaining young people and growing families. Residents of Central Ontario whose employment was supported by OMERS worked primarily in the utilities, manufacturing, and health care industries, as shown in the *jobs supported by benefitting industry* figure on the top left side of the following page.

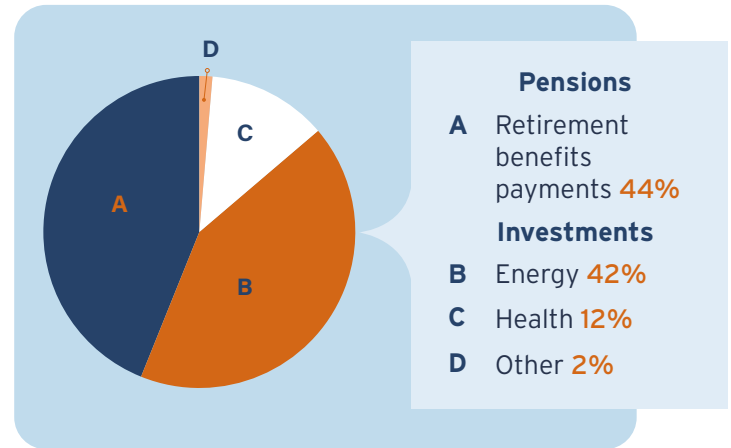
OMERS local investments were the main drivers of OMERS-supported employment in Central Ontario, particularly energy investments (due to Bruce Power). The activities and operations of these investments require goods and services from other Ontario businesses, which contributes to employment in related industries. Together these investments drove 56% of OMERS total employment contribution in Central Ontario. The remaining 46% was driven by OMERS members' pension spending. They supported regional business and industry and also contributed to local employment by spending their pension income on goods and services in Ontario.



### Jobs supported by benefitting industry



### Employment supported by source



### Economic contribution

Across Central Ontario, OMERS supported over \$2 billion in GDP through its investments and pension payments in 2023. Of this total, about \$1.4 billion (70%) was generated by OMERS local investments, and the rest was generated by members spending their pensions.

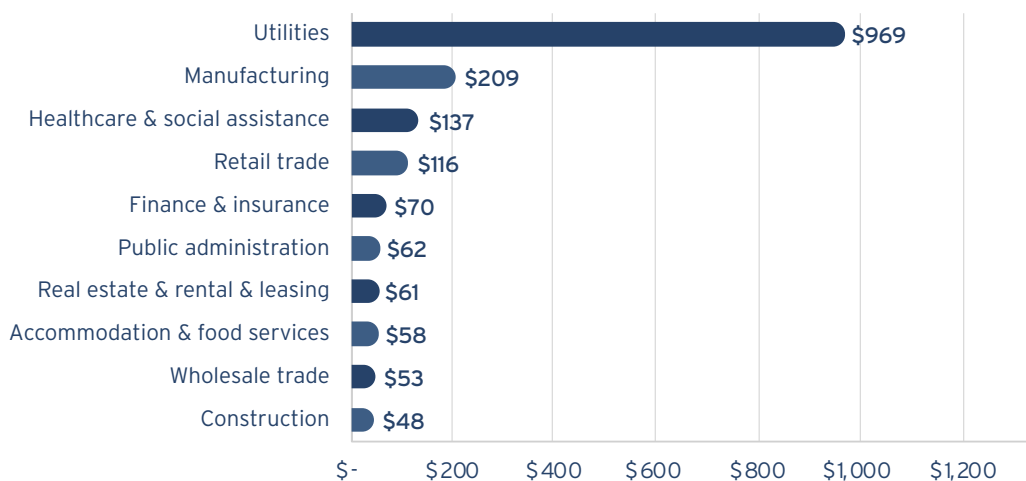
Per person living in the region, OMERS contributed \$1,635 to regional GDP in 2023. This is a measure of the importance of the OMERS contribution to the region at the individual level since it accounts for the size of the population. At the sub-regional level, the OMERS per capita GDP contribution differed significantly from county to county, with Bruce being the main beneficiary by a factor of ten due to the presence of Bruce Power. The utilities industry was the main beneficiary of this economic activity, with the manufacturing and health care industries as a distant second and third.

### GDP Contribution \$2.0 Billion

\$0.6 Billion  
From pensions

\$1.4 Billion  
From investments

### Annual GDP contribution by industry (\$ millions), Central Ontario



### Per capita GDP contribution

Bruce **\$12,461**  
Wellington **\$1,573**  
Simcoe **\$696**  
Grey **\$1,290**  
Kawartha Lakes **\$601**  
Dufferin **\$692**  
Muskoka **\$438**  
Haliburton **\$748**

### Taxation

As a whole, the economic activity supported by OMERS generated about \$0.52 billion in personal, corporate and consumption taxes in Central Ontario in 2023. Of this total, \$0.29 million was a contribution to federal government revenue (51% through income tax) and \$0.23 million to provincial revenue (37% through income tax).

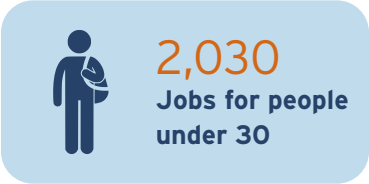
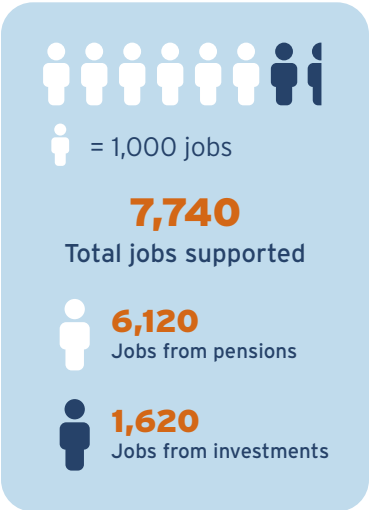
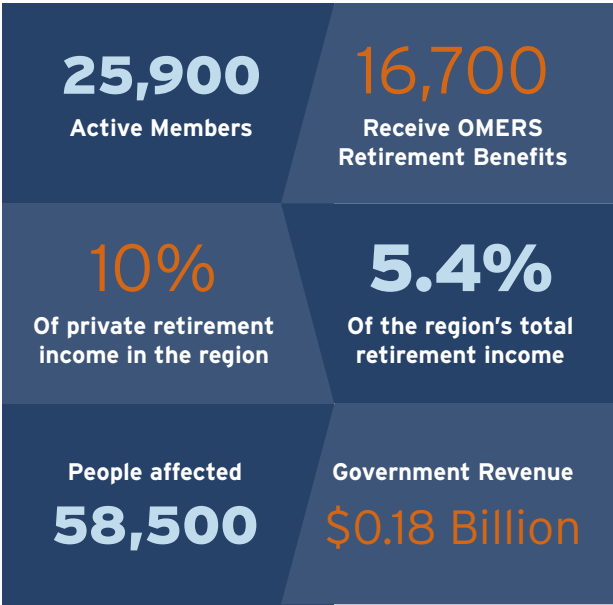
2.4.5 Northern Ontario

OMERS Membership

Northern Ontario is the region of Ontario with the largest land area, encompassing all counties and regions north of Muskoka, and the smallest population, representing only 6% of Ontario's population. Larger cities include Sudbury and Thunder Bay. Natural resources, particularly mining and forestry, play a large role in the region's economy. There were 25,900 active OMERS members and about 16,700 people receiving OMERS retirement benefits in 2023. For every person receiving retirement benefits, there were 1.55 active members. Northern Ontario was the region with the largest number of pension recipients relative to its population. This source of guaranteed income provides a cushion against volatility in employment income, which is especially important in smaller, rural communities.

OMERS Investments

OMERS investments were found in 13 locations within Northern Ontario in 2023. These investments, all of which were in health services, supported 1,524 jobs.



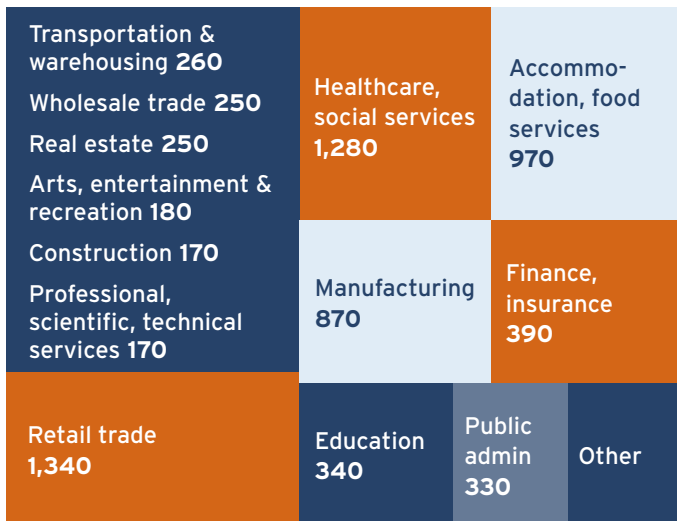
Employment contribution

OMERS activities supported over 7,740 jobs within the region, which represented about one in 53 jobs in Northern Ontario, with an aggregate wage income of \$0.34 billion. In total, OMERS activities affected over 58,500 people in Northern Ontario, including everyone living in a household with someone whose wage was supported by OMERS and those who received OMERS retirement benefits payments.

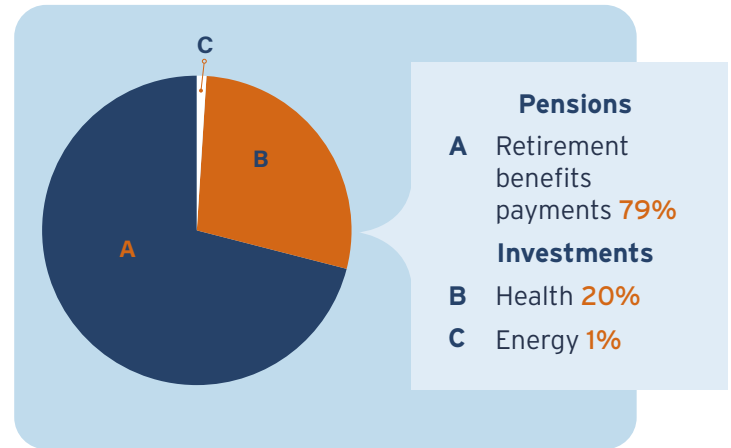
Of all jobs supported in the region, 2,030 were filled by people under 30 years of age (26% of all jobs), while 3,000 were held by members of households with children. Northern Ontario was one of the regions in which there were the most jobs supported by OMERS for young people and households with children relative to the population. This is particularly important, given that predominantly rural regions can often have difficulties retaining young people and growing families. Residents of Northern Ontario whose employment was supported by OMERS worked primarily in the health care, retail trade, and manufacturing industries, as shown in the *jobs supported by benefitting industry* figure on the top left side of the following page. Note that manufacturing is a very broad category that includes food and beverage products and other staples of households' day-to-day spending, which helps explain its significance.

OMERS members supported regional business and industry and also contributed to local employment by spending their pension income on goods and services in Ontario. Their pension spending drove 79% of OMERS total employment contribution in Northern Ontario in 2023. The remaining 21% was driven by OMERS investments, predominantly in the health sector. These investments supported the local economy, as their activities and operations require goods and services from other Ontario businesses, contributing to employment in related industries.

### Jobs supported by benefitting industry



### Employment supported by source



### Economic contribution

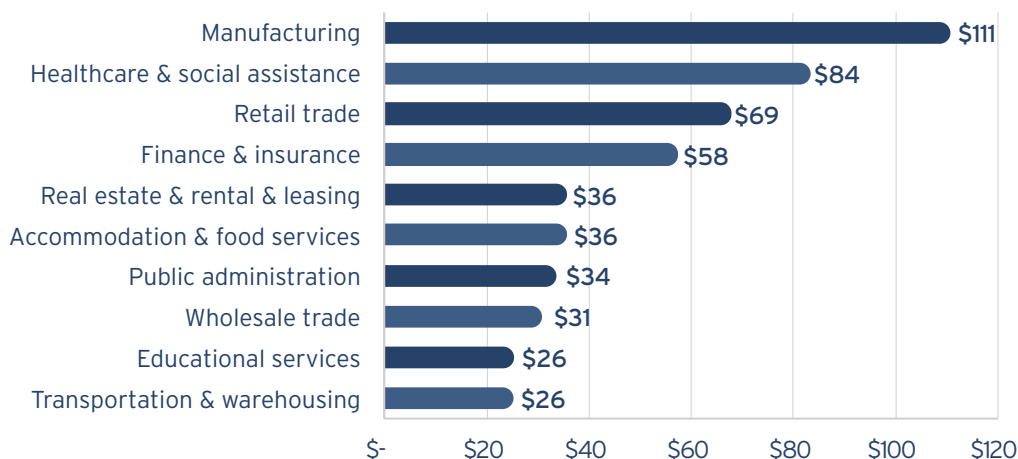
Across Northern Ontario, OMERS supported \$0.64 billion in GDP through its pension payments and investments in 2023. Of this total, \$0.52 billion (81%) was generated by members spending their pensions, which means that every \$10 disbursed in pensions in the region contributed \$12.30 to GDP, on average. Per person living in the region, OMERS contributed \$777 to regional GDP in 2023. This is a measure of the importance of the OMERS contribution to the region at the individual level since it accounts for the size of the population. At the sub-regional level, the OMERS per capita GDP contribution was most important in Algoma (which includes the city of Sault Ste. Marie) and Thunder Bay. The industries that were the main beneficiaries of this economic activity were the manufacturing, health care, retail trade and financial services industries.

**GDP Contribution**  
\$0.64 Billion

\$0.52 Billion  
From pensions

\$0.12 Billion  
From investments

### Annual GDP contribution by industry (\$ millions), Northern Ontario



### Per capita GDP contribution

Algoma **\$1,058**  
 Thunder Bay **\$1,046**  
 Greater Sudbury /  
 Grand Sudbury **\$857**  
 Cochrane **\$662**  
 Nipissing **\$597**  
 Sudbury **\$568**  
 Timiskaming **\$509**  
 Kenora **\$503**  
 Rainy River **\$486**  
 Parry Sound **\$420**  
 Manitoulin **\$379**

### Taxation

As a whole, the economic activity supported by OMERS generated over \$184 million in personal, corporate and consumption taxes in Northern Ontario in 2023.

## 3.0 Conclusions

In 2023, OMERS, with its operations and 186,000 retired members, significantly impacted Ontario's economy. It supported over 143,200 jobs and contributed \$13.7 billion to the provincial GDP. The spending of pension income by retired OMERS members alone bolstered around 97,900 jobs and added \$8.7 billion to the GDP. Furthermore, OMERS' investments in 215 Ontario locations created an additional 45,300 jobs and contributed \$5.0 billion to the province's GDP.

These economic activities also generated substantial government revenue through various taxes, amounting to over \$3.8 billion annually. This revenue aids in funding local public services. OMERS' pension and investment activities primarily boosted industries like utilities, manufacturing, financial services, health care, and retail trade. The specific industries supported varied across regions, depending on the local economic base and the nature of investments. Retail trade, health care, manufacturing, and hospitality consistently ranked among the top five industries for job support across all regions.

The impact on GDP and employment by region was largely proportional to the population size. For example, the Greater Toronto Area, home to nearly half of Ontario's population, generated about half of the GDP supported by OMERS. However, OMERS' contributions were particularly significant in less populated regions, such as Central and Northern Ontario. These areas saw the most significant impact on job support for young people and families with children relative to their population sizes. This support is crucial for rural areas in Ontario, which often struggle to retain their younger population, thereby playing a key role in maintaining the vibrancy and sustainability of these communities.

**The magnitude of these economic, employment and government revenue contributions highlight the significant and unique impact that OMERS activities have in the province.** While OMERS investments in energy, health services, infrastructure, real estate and technology play a significant role in supporting employment and economic activity where they are located, retired OMERS members living all over the province have an even larger impact. Having spent their careers building their communities, this study shows that OMERS members continue to support them through their pensions in their retirement years.

# Appendices

## A. Methodology

### A.1. Economic Contribution Analysis

Economic contributions arise from three main effects by economic convention:

#### Direct Effects

Include all economic activity directly attributable to the operations of OMERS and its investments, as well as the expenditures of OMERS retirement benefits by members. These include the direct spending of retirement benefits and OMERS employees' wages, as well as the value-added output of OMERS investments in Ontario.

#### Indirect Effects

Include all the economic activity supported by business-to-business interactions within the supply chain. They include spending on the goods and services required to conduct business by OMERS and its investments and the business-to-business transactions in local communities where OMERS members spend their retirement benefits. The latter would include additional wages paid to salespeople working in shops where families spend their retirement benefits and the inputs required to produce and supply the additional goods bought by these families.

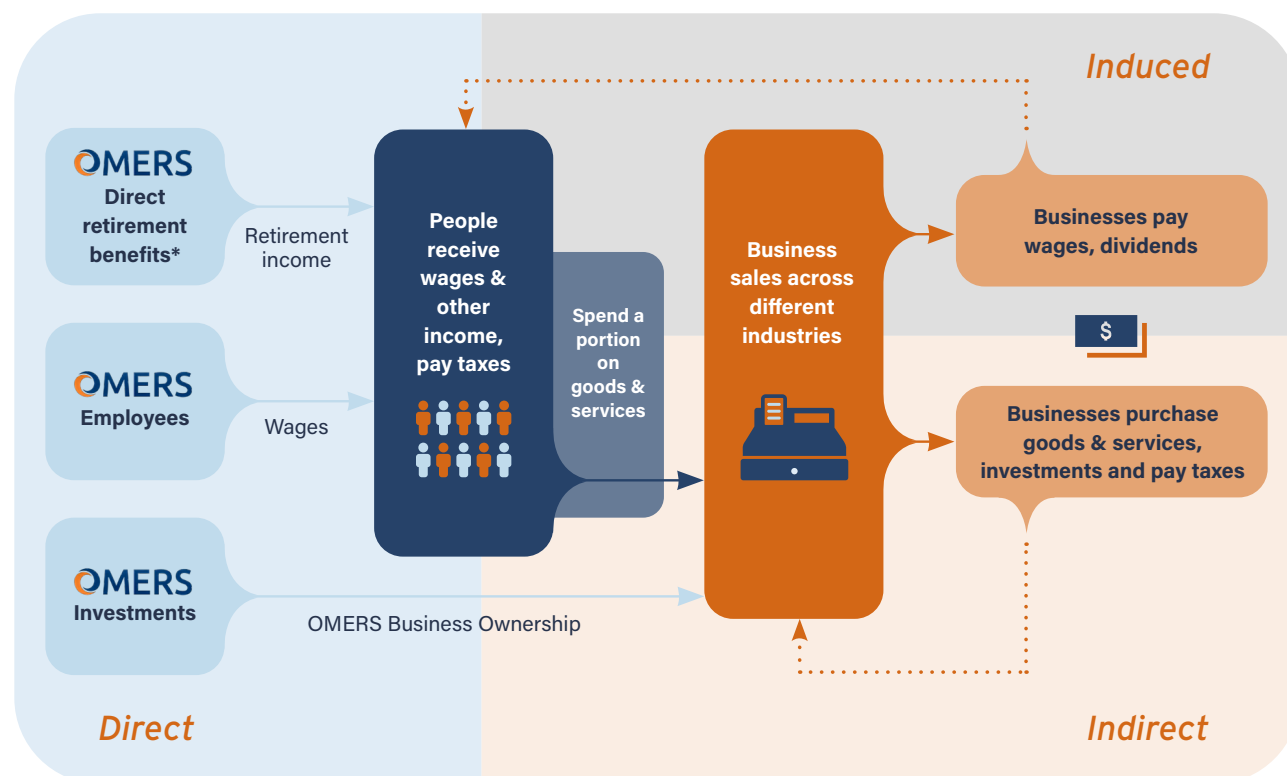
#### Induced Effects

Include all economic activity supported by the spending of wages earned by workers whose employment is supported by OMERS activity. For example employees of OMERS suppliers and employees of local businesses where retirement benefits are spent. Induced effects also include expenditures on increased capacity or the replacement of depreciating capital stock that result from reinvesting business profits. These purchases or activities can lead to further hiring, resulting in income and tax revenues.

The infographic in Figure 13 shows how the sources of OMERS economic activity enter into the calculation of economic contribution by the type of economic effect.



**Figure 13** Sources of OMERS economic activity, interactions and economic effects



## A.2. Computational Approach

Data provided by OMERS on pension payments<sup>10</sup>, operations and assets were used as inputs for this analysis. Where data was not available, e.g. the number of employees hired by certain OMERS assets, CANCEA generated estimates using Ontario-specific industry averages.

This analysis was conducted through an agent-based model developed by CANCEA and housed in its statistical analysis platform. This model simulates Ontario's economy by tracking how representative individuals, firms and governments interact with one another, given a set of characteristics and behavioural rules. Individuals are organized into households and work for firms. Individuals conduct financial transactions with firms, firms pay wages to individuals, and firms transact with one another. The government collects taxes from households and firms. The model is calibrated and regularly updated using primarily Statistics Canada data and other relevant publicly available data.

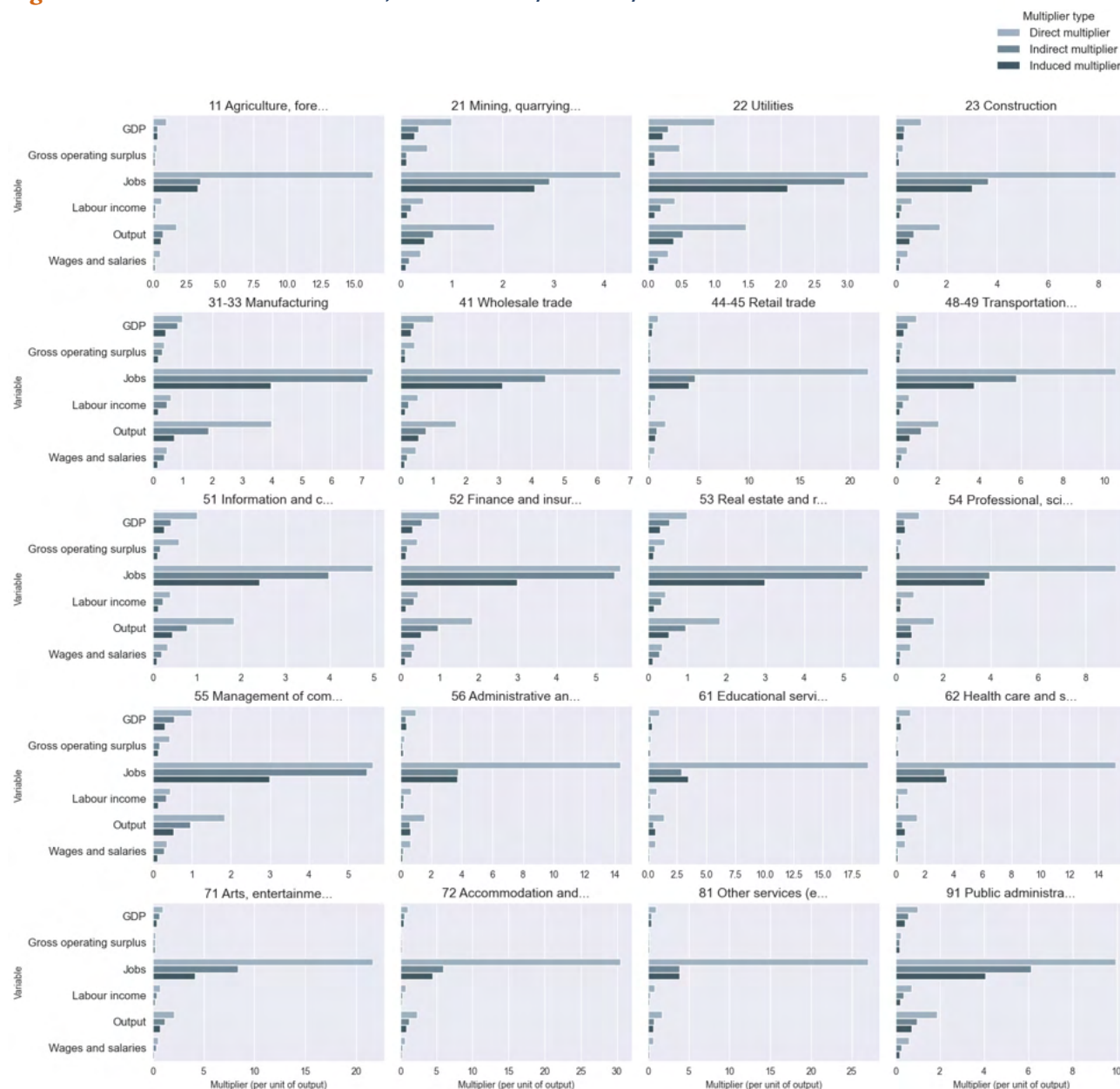
For this analysis, OMERS data was used to give certain individuals and firms in the model the characteristics of OMERS members who receive retirement benefits (e.g. location and income) and firms the characteristics of OMERS and its investments (e.g. location, industry, number of employees). The economic activity generated by these “agents” is then tracked to see how it affects employment and economic activity in the system as a whole, i.e. the whole of Ontario's economy. This activity generates direct, indirect and induced effects in the system, which are added up to obtain the total effect.

<sup>10</sup> No identifiable membership data was used in this analysis.

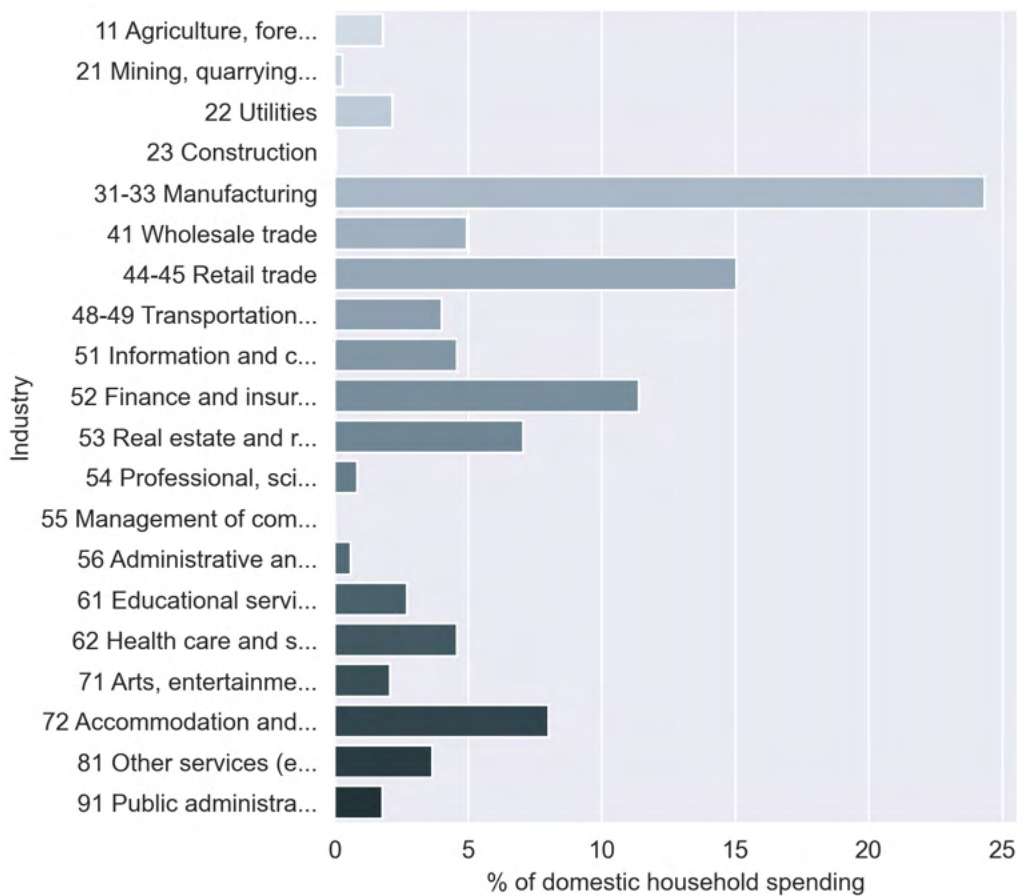
To calculate **direct effects**, the economic value of the direct output of OMERS-owned assets is estimated using the number of employees by industry and standard industry multipliers provided by Statistics Canada (see Figure 14). Household expenditures by industry are estimated based on household spending patterns (see Figure 15) and total income, whether from OMERS retirement benefits payments or the wages of OMERS employees.

**Indirect effects** are the economic activity generated by OMERS, its retired members and its investments in other industries through business-to-business interactions. The inputs used by OMERS and OMERS-owned assets and those required to supply the goods and services purchased by retired OMERS members (including the labour required to supply these inputs) are calculated using Statistics Canada symmetric input/output and multiplier tables. Jobs, i.e. labour, are filled in geographical proximity to the source of the original expenditure (Figure 16) based on the geographical distribution of jobs by industry (Figure 17). Wages, which generate additional economic activity called **induced effects**, are calculated using industry averages (Figure 18). The resulting government revenue from income, consumption and corporate taxes are then estimated using current tax rates.

**Figure 14** Ontario economic multiplier factors by industry

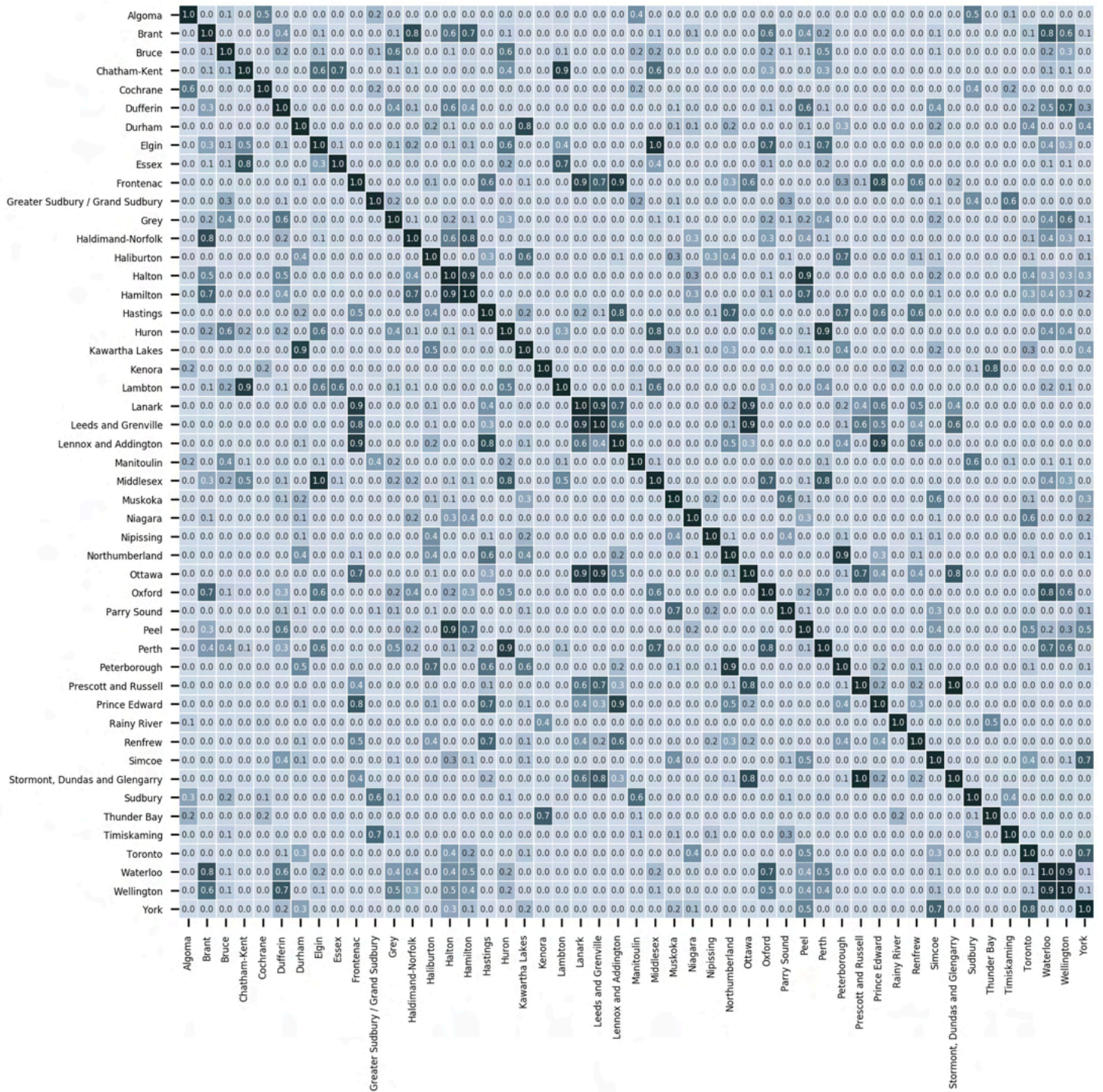


**Figure 15** Household spending by industry (basic prices)





**Figure 16** Regional relative proximity matrix



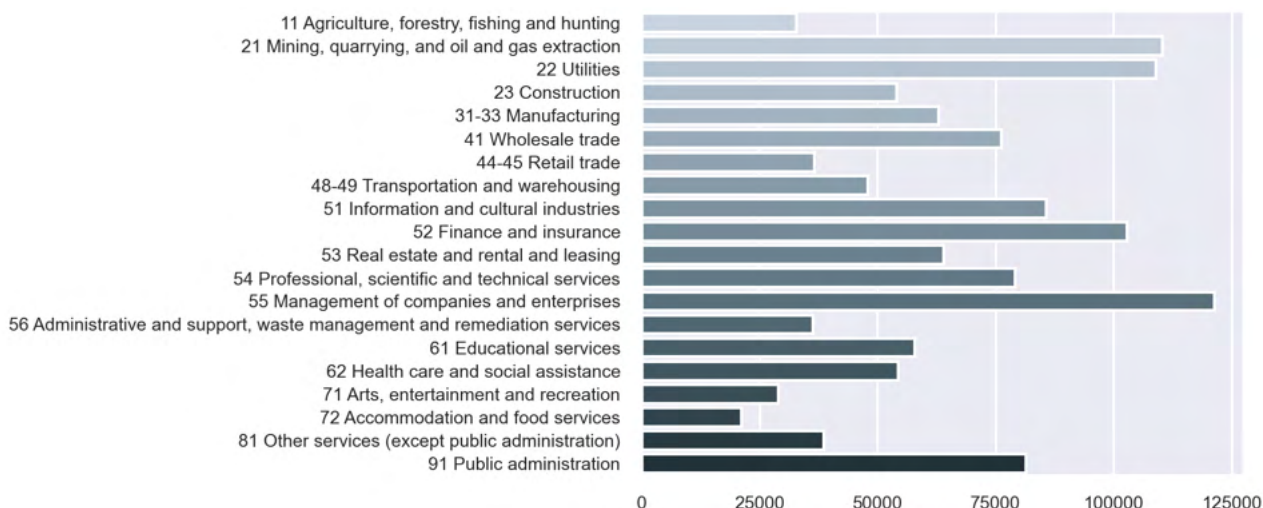


**Figure 17** Geographic distribution of jobs in Ontario by industry (thousands)

Census Division	Algoma	1.2	1.4	0.6	3.6	5.3	0.9	7.0	2.2	0.5	1.3	0.7	2.1	0.0	2.1	4.5	10.0	1.2	3.1	1.9	3.8
	Brant	1.8	0.2	0.5	6.6	14.2	3.2	8.6	5.3	0.9	2.4	1.3	4.2	0.1	3.6	5.7	10.2	0.7	3.9	3.0	3.4
	Bruce	3.3	0.3	5.9	4.2	2.6	0.7	4.3	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.6	2.1	0.0	1.1	1.9	4.6	0.5	1.7	1.7	1.3
	Chatham-Kent	4.1	0.2	1.1	4.4	6.9	1.8	6.5	2.5	0.9	1.2	0.5	1.9	0.0	2.3	3.5	7.8	0.5	2.9	2.0	2.5
	Cochrane	1.0	5.1	0.6	2.7	2.2	0.9	4.8	2.1	0.4	0.8	0.4	1.5	0.0	1.2	3.8	7.3	0.2	1.8	1.8	3.0
	Dufferin	1.2	0.1	0.3	4.7	5.0	2.0	4.6	2.6	0.5	1.3	0.7	2.3	0.1	1.9	2.9	4.5	0.5	1.8	1.6	2.1
	Durham	3.8	0.7	9.4	32.7	27.2	13.3	43.0	19.9	10.4	28.9	8.5	33.7	2.0	19.4	30.6	50.4	5.1	16.8	13.4	23.3
	Elgin	2.8	0.1	0.4	5.4	8.7	1.5	5.2	2.8	0.3	1.6	0.8	2.2	0.1	2.0	3.4	7.2	0.6	2.5	2.1	2.1
	Essex	7.3	0.7	1.4	15.5	37.7	5.6	22.2	10.0	1.8	7.3	3.2	12.3	0.3	8.5	16.2	29.9	2.5	11.9	7.7	8.2
	Frontenac	0.9	0.2	0.5	5.9	3.9	1.6	9.3	2.7	1.1	2.7	1.8	5.3	0.1	3.2	11.5	16.1	1.2	5.2	2.8	11.2
	Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	0.4	9.0	0.6	7.0	3.9	2.8	10.8	3.8	1.1	2.5	1.4	5.0	0.1	3.6	7.8	15.3	0.8	4.2	3.0	9.0
	Grey	3.3	0.3	1.0	6.2	5.7	1.3	6.8	2.0	0.8	1.5	1.0	3.4	0.1	2.2	2.7	7.9	0.9	2.1	2.3	2.0
	Haldimand-Norfolk	4.5	0.3	0.5	6.8	10.0	2.4	6.8	3.2	0.5	1.5	0.9	2.4	0.1	2.4	3.7	8.0	0.7	2.5	2.8	2.7
	Haliburton	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.5	0.3	0.2	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.6	1.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.5
	Halton	1.8	1.2	2.7	21.1	30.0	20.1	37.6	17.0	9.5	30.8	9.1	45.6	2.7	12.4	28.1	36.1	4.3	13.1	10.3	15.2
	Hamilton	3.2	0.5	1.9	24.1	34.8	11.8	34.1	15.4	6.1	13.4	6.1	23.1	0.8	14.7	28.3	48.8	4.0	15.1	11.6	14.5
	Hastings	1.8	0.2	0.8	6.3	8.7	2.0	8.9	3.7	0.8	1.5	0.9	3.1	0.1	3.7	4.7	10.6	0.8	3.8	2.6	7.7
	Huron	5.0	0.6	0.7	3.8	3.8	1.3	3.5	1.3	0.3	0.9	0.4	1.4	0.0	1.0	2.0	4.2	0.3	1.5	1.5	1.1
	Kawartha Lakes	1.5	0.2	0.7	5.4	3.0	1.2	4.9	1.7	0.4	1.1	0.7	2.1	0.0	1.9	2.6	5.5	0.6	1.8	1.6	2.7
	Kenora	0.8	1.2	0.5	2.6	1.2	0.3	3.6	1.7	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.9	3.6	7.2	0.3	1.6	1.0	4.3
	Lambton	3.5	0.9	0.8	7.2	7.3	1.7	6.9	2.9	0.5	1.5	1.1	3.4	0.0	3.0	4.4	10.3	0.7	3.8	2.3	2.7
	Lanark	1.1	0.2	0.4	5.2	3.0	1.0	5.0	1.3	0.7	1.0	0.6	3.2	0.1	1.8	2.4	5.7	0.7	1.9	1.8	4.5
	Leeds and Grenville	1.8	0.1	0.4	5.8	5.1	1.5	7.0	2.6	0.7	1.2	0.9	3.2	0.1	2.6	3.5	8.4	0.9	2.6	2.1	5.0
	Lennox and Addington	0.7	0.0	0.3	2.6	2.1	0.5	2.8	1.0	0.2	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.0	1.0	1.7	3.8	0.2	1.0	0.8	2.3
	Manitoulin	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.7
	Middlesex	5.7	0.4	1.5	21.2	28.6	8.6	30.2	13.4	4.1	15.8	4.8	20.8	0.6	11.7	25.7	44.0	3.3	14.3	9.4	10.6
	Muskoka	0.4	0.2	0.4	6.0	2.1	0.8	5.1	1.0	0.4	0.9	1.0	2.1	0.0	2.1	2.1	4.0	1.0	2.0	1.5	2.2
	Niagara	6.6	0.5	2.0	21.5	23.3	8.8	29.6	11.5	2.9	9.2	4.4	14.8	0.5	11.7	18.3	34.7	4.0	15.6	9.1	12.4
	Nipissing	0.5	1.4	0.5	3.2	2.2	0.8	5.4	2.3	0.5	1.0	0.6	1.9	0.0	1.8	4.0	8.0	0.4	2.5	1.6	3.9
	Northumberland	1.5	0.2	1.3	4.8	5.4	1.2	5.3	1.6	0.6	1.2	0.7	2.7	0.0	1.8	2.9	6.2	0.9	2.0	1.8	2.9
	Ottawa	2.7	0.6	1.9	31.6	18.8	12.8	55.0	20.5	14.7	21.8	10.1	72.5	1.0	24.3	47.5	73.6	8.1	25.7	20.6	139.9
	Oxford	4.7	0.2	0.5	6.3	14.1	2.7	7.0	4.3	0.7	2.4	0.9	2.9	0.1	2.4	3.5	8.2	0.6	2.9	2.6	2.3
	Parry Sound	0.6	0.3	0.2	3.2	1.7	0.5	3.2	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.2	3.6	0.5	1.0	0.9	1.6
	Peel	2.2	1.0	3.7	53.5	92.2	42.3	90.8	97.5	19.7	58.6	19.4	89.2	4.2	39.2	46.2	80.0	6.0	32.8	24.4	28.2
	Perth	4.7	0.1	0.2	4.8	9.0	2.1	5.0	1.8	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.1	1.3	2.7	5.9	0.9	1.8	1.9	1.4
	Peterborough	1.8	0.4	1.3	7.2	5.1	2.3	9.4	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.3	4.5	0.1	3.9	6.7	12.9	1.5	3.7	3.0	4.0
	Prescott and Russell	2.1	0.1	0.3	6.7	3.3	1.4	6.1	2.6	0.8	1.5	0.6	2.8	0.0	2.2	4.7	7.4	0.6	2.1	2.3	9.7
	Prince Edward	0.9	0.0	0.1	1.1	1.1	0.3	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.6	0.7	1.8	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.7
	Rainy River	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2	1.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	1.0	2.0	0.1	0.5	0.4	1.0
	Renfrew	1.6	0.2	0.9	5.3	3.5	0.9	6.4	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.6	4.6	0.0	2.3	3.6	8.0	0.5	2.8	1.7	9.9
	Simcoe	4.3	0.8	2.5	34.5	34.3	10.1	35.2	14.1	4.6	9.3	6.1	18.1	0.7	13.9	20.4	39.1	4.3	14.9	10.7	19.5
	Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	3.0	0.1	0.5	5.7	6.7	1.5	8.0	4.3	0.9	1.3	0.6	2.5	0.0	2.2	3.8	9.1	0.6	2.6	2.5	4.4
	Sudbury	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.9	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.7	1.5	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.9
	Thunder Bay	1.9	2.1	1.1	5.4	3.1	1.6	9.2	4.8	1.2	1.6	0.8	4.3	0.0	2.6	7.1	15.8	0.9	4.5	3.0	6.3
	Timiskaming	0.8	2.3	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.2	1.8	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.4	1.3	2.6	0.1	0.7	0.6	1.0
	Toronto	2.8	2.3	7.2	90.1	109.0	51.7	144.5	71.8	68.7	146.0	47.4	237.6	10.8	78.4	119.1	189.4	29.5	70.3	59.9	65.0
	Waterloo	5.1	0.4	1.8	25.6	54.9	13.2	34.9	16.9	9.6	21.3	5.6	34.0	1.4	14.1	30.6	37.2	3.3	14.9	10.7	11.9
	Wellington	6.0	0.3	0.9	11.3	24.9	6.3	14.3	6.3	2.1	5.8	2.5	12.0	0.3	4.8	13.7	16.3	2.0	5.5	5.1	6.4
	York	3.0	0.8	4.2	53.4	57.8	31.5	69.8	26.4	17.0	61.7	23.4	87.1	4.2	24.2	49.4	67.2	7.1	26.9	22.9	27.6
	11 Agriculture, fore...																				
	21 Mining, quarrying...																				
	22 Utilities																				
	23 Construction																				
	31-33 Manufacturing																				
	41 Wholesale trade																				
	44-45 Retail trade																				
	48-49 Transportation...																				
	51 Information and c...																				
	52 Finance and insur...																				
	53 Real estate and r...																				
	54 Professional, sci...																				
	55 Management of com...																				
	56 Administrative an...																				
	61 Educational servi...																				
	62 Health care and s...																				
	71 Arts, entertainme...																				
	72 Accommodation and...																				
	81 Other services (e...																				
	91 Public administra...																				



**Figure 18** Average wage in Ontario by industry



## B. List of industries

This report follows the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Table 5 below lists all industries by full name and NAICS code.

**Table 4** Full industry list

NAICS Code	Industry	NAICS Code	Industry
11	Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	54	Professional, scientific & technical services
21	Mining, quarrying, and oil & gas extraction	55	Management of companies & enterprises
22	Utilities	56	Administrative and support, waste management & remediation services
23	Construction	61	Educational services
31-33	Manufacturing	62	Healthcare and social assistance
41	Wholesale trade	71	Arts, entertainment and recreation
44-45	Retail trade	72	Accommodation and food services
48-49	Transportation and warehousing	81	Other services (except public administration)
51	Information and cultural industries	91	Public administration
52	Finance and insurance		
53	Real estate and rental and leasing		

## C. Data sources

OMERS provided the data required for this analysis, including:

- Detailed pension payment data by location
- A detailed list of assets including estimated market value, and number of employees (where available)
- Average wages and salaries of OMERS employees and employees of some investments, where available

Note that no identifiable membership data was used in this analysis.

Statistics Canada CANSIM tables used in this analysis include:

- **11-10-0012** Distribution of income by census type
- **11-10-0019** Economic dependency profile of census families by family type and source of income
- **11-10-0033** Economic dependency profile by income and sex
- **11-10-0223** Household spending by income quintile,
- **11-10-0224** Household spending by household type,
- **17-10-0139** Population estimates, July 1, by census division, 2016 boundaries
- **36-10-0001** Symmetric input-output tables, detail level
- **36-10-0013** Input-output multipliers, summary level
- **36-10-0084** Symmetric input-output tables, summary level
- **36-10-0113** Input-output multipliers, provincial and territorial, summary level
- **36-10-0221** Gross domestic product, income-based, provincial and territorial, annual
- **36-10-0222** Gross domestic product, expenditure-based, provincial and territorial, annual
- **36-10-0438** Supply and use tables, summary level, provincial and territorial
- **36-10-0450** Revenue, expenditure and budgetary balance - General governments, provincial and territorial economic account
- **36-10-0478** Supply and use tables, detail level, provincial and territorial (x 1,000)
- **36-10-0587** Distributions of household economic accounts, income, consumption and saving, by characteristic
- **36-10-0595** Input-output multipliers, provincial and territorial, detail level
- **98-400-X2016120** Income Sources and Taxes (34) and Income Statistics (5A) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2016 Census - 25% Sample Data
- **98-400-X2016149** Family MBM Low-income Status (5), Economic Family Structure (9), Family Size of Economic Family (5), Ages of Economic Family Members (18) and Number of Earners in the Economic Family (6) for Economic Families in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census - 25% Sample Data
- **98-400-X2016227** Age of Primary Household Maintainer (9), Tenure (4), Structural Type of Dwelling (10) and Household Type Including Census Family Structure (9) for Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2016 Census - 25% Sample Data
- **98-400-X2016292** Industry - North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2012 (427A), Class of Worker (7A), Labour Force Status (3), Age (13A) and Sex (3) for the Labour Force Aged 15 Years and Over in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories and Census Divisions, 2016 Census - 25% Sample Data

- **98-400-X2016358** Industry - North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2012 (425), Employment Income Statistics (3), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (7), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (10), Work Activity During the Reference Year (4), Age (5A) and Sex (3) for the Population Aged 15 Years and Over Who Worked in 2015 and Reported Employment Income in 2015, in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories and Census Metropolitan Areas, 2016 Census - 25% Sample Data
- **98-400-X2016390** Census Family Status and Household Living Arrangements (13), Household Type of Person (9), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 and 2011 Census - 100% data
- **Census Profile 2016 (Census Divisions)**
- **Census Profile 2021 (Census Divisions)**
- **98-10-0592** Class of worker by industry groups, labour force status, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories and census divisions
- **98-10-0597** Employment income statistics by industry sectors, highest level of education, immigrant status and period of immigration, work activity during the reference year, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts
- **98-10-0070** Income statistics for detailed income sources and taxes: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions
- **98-10-0232** Age of primary household maintainer by tenure: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions
- **98-10-0077** Economic family total income group by economic family structure: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts