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STAR GRAPHICS

Ontario’s budget in 5 charts: From the COVID-19 deficit to small business grants, here are the highlights

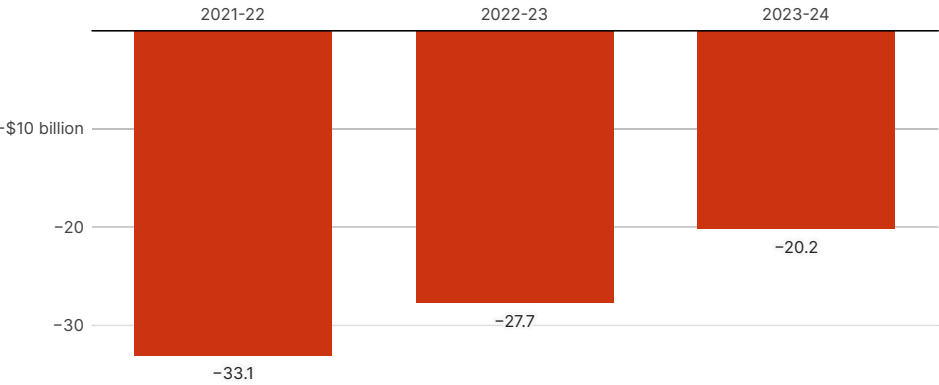
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Ontario is projecting a deficit for years to come. Here are five graphics that help illustrate what’s in this year’s \$186.1 billion provincial budget.

By **Star staff**
Wed., March 24, 2021 | 1 min. read

Article was updated 3 hrs ago

Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy has unveiled a \$186.1 billion spending plan that signals Ontario will be [spending much more than it takes in](#) for years and years to come. But the Progressive Conservatives, citing the [COVID-19](#) emergency, make no apologies for that.

2021 Budget deficit outlook for Ontario



SOURCE: 2021 ONTARIO BUDGET

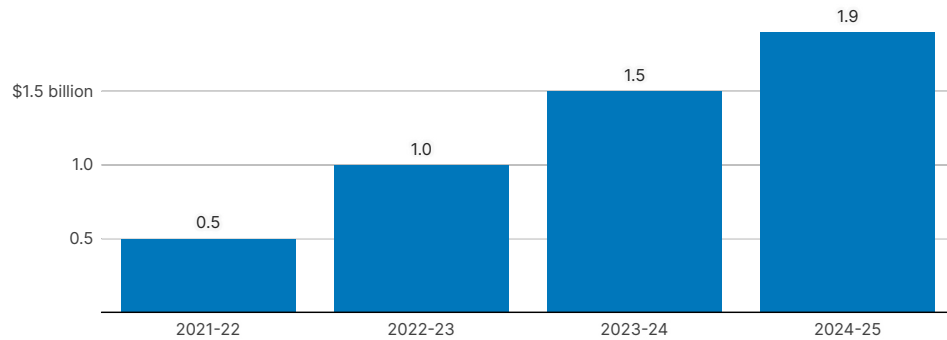
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Ontario will not be back in the black until the end of the decade. With a deficit in 2021-22 forecast to be \$33.1 billion — though if economic growth picks up it could be \$30.3 billion but if it sputters it could jump to \$34.9 billion — the red ink will flow for years. In the very best-case scenario, the province could balance the books in 2026-27.

Ontario is spending \$4.9 billion over the next four years to increase staffing of nurses, personal support workers and others in the province’s 626 nursing homes to give residents four hours of daily, hands-on care — up from 2.75 hours now.

Investments to achieve an average of four hours of direct care in long-term care homes

The government has committed to investing an additional \$4.9 billion over the next four years.



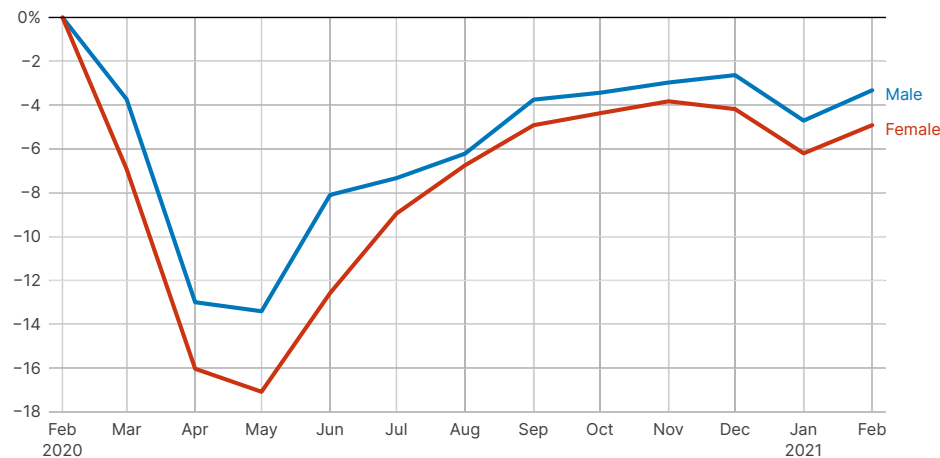
SOURCE: 2021 ONTARIO BUDGET

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Women, facing higher levels of unemployment during the pandemic, will be the focus of a new "she-cession" task force looking at how to ensure they aren't left behind as Ontario's economy recovers.

Female employment has been hit harder by COVID-19

The percentage change in employment for men and women from Feb. 2020 levels.



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

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The Ontario government is providing more CARE — by expanding its Child-care Access and Relief from Expenses tax credit so that 300,000 eligible families can receive an additional 20 per cent, from an average of \$1,250 to \$1,500.

How additional child care support in 2021 would benefit three different types of families

Proposed temporary CARE tax credit top-up (2021) Ontario CARE tax credit Provincial and federal tax relief from the Child Care Expenses Deduction

Mirjana, a single parent with one child (age 8), annual earnings of \$40,000 and child care expenses of \$1,000.



Chris and Sophie, a couple with one child (age 2), annual earnings of \$45,000 and \$50,000 respectively, and child care expenses of \$8,000.



Alex and Robin, a couple with two children (age 6 and 9), annual earnings of \$55,000 and \$70,000 respectively, and child care expenses of \$13,000.



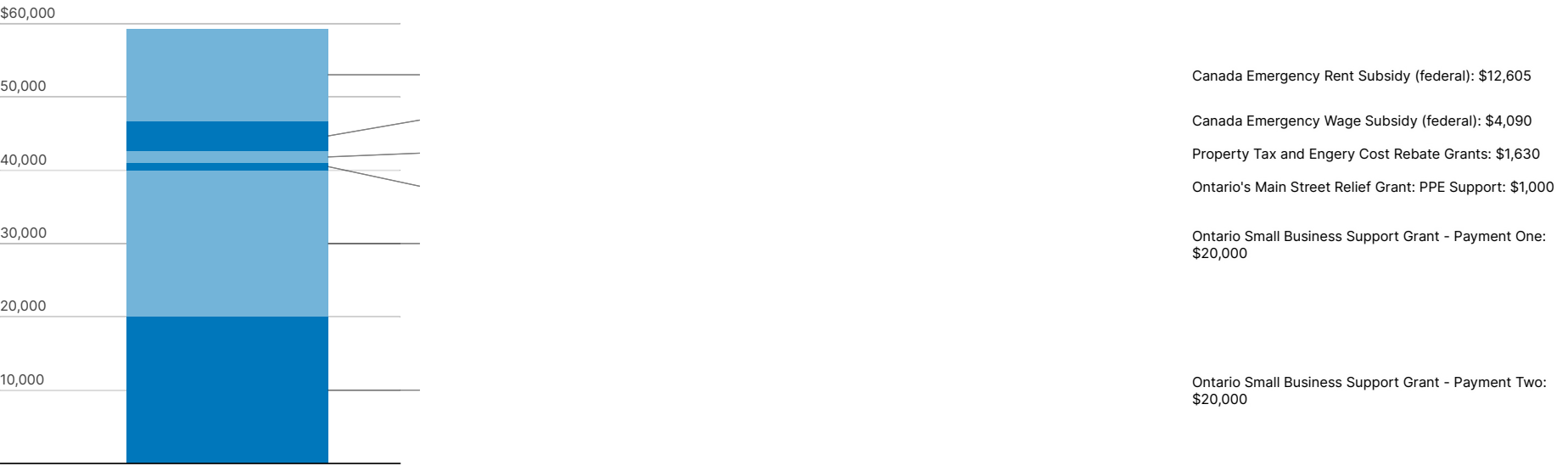
SOURCE: 2021 ONTARIO BUDGET

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Small businesses welcomed the budget's announcement of a second instalment of the Ontario Small Business Support Grant. That was the biggest single bit of aid for small businesses announced Wednesday. The second instalment will be the same size as the first — a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$20,000 for eligible businesses.

How \$59,325 in relief for the first three months of 2021 breaks down

A small retail store in Markham which experiences a 70 per cent revenue loss due to COVID-19 public health restrictions would be eligible for the following relief programs.



SOURCE: 2021 ONTARIO BUDGET

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Have your say: Do you think Doug Ford delivered a good provincial budget?

- ☐ Yes, he is spending at an appropriate level given the crisis Ontario is facing
- ☐ No, he is running up the debt far too high
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ No opinion

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