



# Introduction to the FAO

Presentation to the Delegation  
from the Parliament of the  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

May 9, 2024



**FAO**

Financial Accountability  
Office of Ontario

# Organizational Overview of the FAO

- The Financial Accountability Officer is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.
- The FAO was created through legislation passed in 2013 and the first Financial Accountability Officer was appointed in 2015.
- The FAO has 20 staff members who are mostly economists or financial analysts with graduate degrees.



# The FAO's Mandate

- The FAO provides MPPs and committees of the Assembly with independent analysis of the Province's finances and trends in the economy.
- We also respond to requests from MPPs and committees to research:
  - the Province's finances and the economy;
  - the Expenditure Estimates submitted to the Legislature; or
  - the financial costs or financial benefits of any public bill or proposal, including any proposal made by the Government or any member of the Assembly.



# Mission Statement

“ To support the members and committees of the Legislative Assembly by providing independent, authoritative, accessible and timely financial and economic analysis. ”



**FAO**

Financial Accountability  
Office of Ontario



# How We Do Our Work



# The FAO's Work Covers Four Basic Areas

---

1

Ontario's economy



2

Province's finances and budget



3

Spending plans



4

Financial analysis of government programs and policies



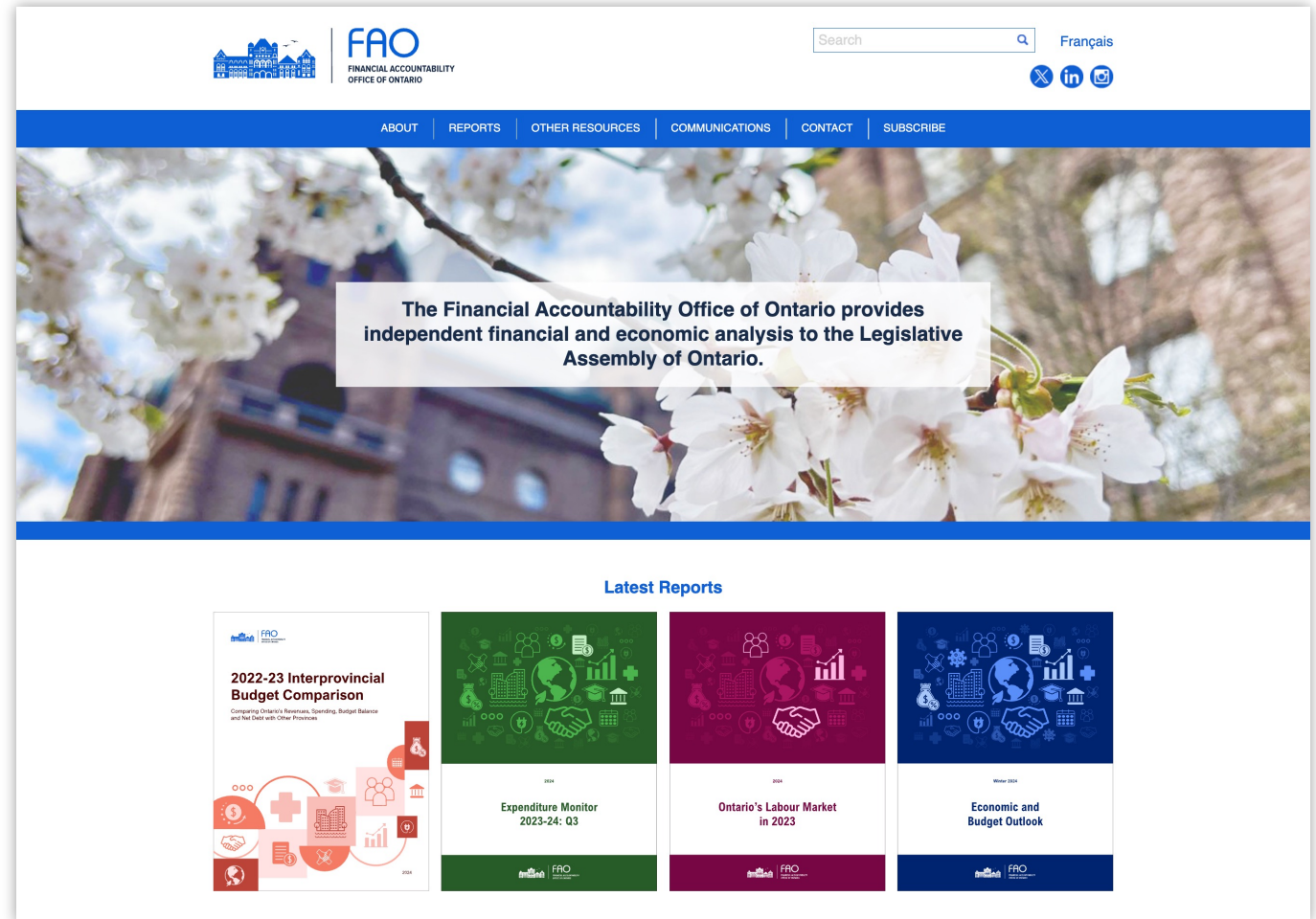
**FAO**

Financial Accountability  
Office of Ontario

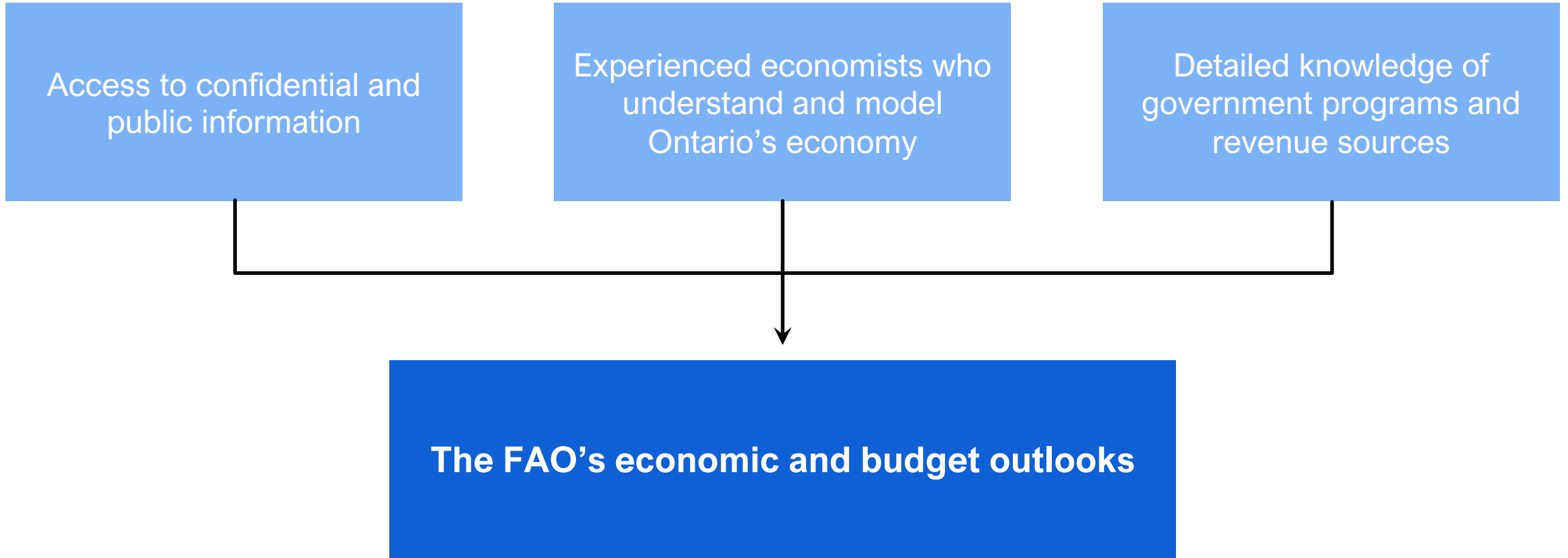


# Independent

- The FAO does not make policy recommendations.
- All of our work is publicly available.



# Authoritative





# Transparent

- We are open about our assumptions and how we model.
- The government civil service have opportunities to review and comment on draft copies of our work prior to publication.
- We report on our forecasting accuracy and what has changed in our projections.



# How We Support MPPs



**FAO**

Financial Accountability  
Office of Ontario



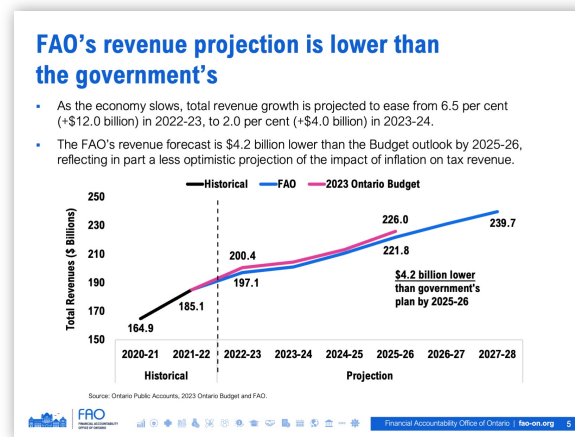
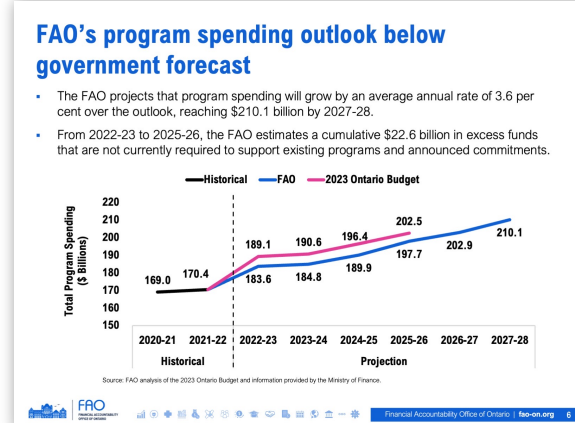
# Briefings

- For each report we hold briefings for interested MPPs and staff. Report briefings are also available on request.



## Economic and Budget Outlook

Briefing Deck

# Media Releases

- Each report is accompanied by a media release which summarizes the key findings of the report.

DEC 19, 2023

## Media Release: FAO releases Expenditure Monitor 2023-24: Q2

Posted in: [Media Releases](#)

### FAO RELEASES EXPENDITURE MONITOR 2023-24: Q2

**TORONTO, December 19, 2023** – Today, the [Financial Accountability Office of Ontario \(FAO\)](#) released its Expenditure Monitor 2023-24: Q2 report. This report provides an update on the Province's 2023-24 spending plan and reviews actual unaudited spending by the government over the first two quarters of the 2023-24 fiscal year (April 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023).

The Province may change its spending plan throughout the year, either by requesting additional spending authority from the Legislature or by reallocating spending among different programs. As of the end of the second quarter, September 30, 2023, the Province's total spending plan was down \$32 million to \$197.3 billion. By sector, the largest spending plan increase during the second quarter was in health, at \$180 million, followed by other programs at \$76 million and justice at \$21 million. These spending plan increases were fully offset by a \$277 million drawdown from the Contingency Fund.

In order to manage and monitor its program spending during the fiscal year, the Province divides its spending plan into expected spending by quarter, which reflects historical spending patterns, seasonality and other factors. Over the first two quarters of 2023-24, the Province planned to spend \$85.6 billion. However, actual unaudited spending was \$83.6 billion. This was \$2.0 billion (2.3 per cent) less than planned. Most sectors spent less than planned, led by other programs (-\$1,530 million), interest on debt (-\$861 million), children, community and social services (-\$209 million), education (\$129 million) and postsecondary education (-\$127 million). Two sectors spent more than planned: health (\$811 million) and justice (\$63 million).

Compared to the previous year, spending in the first half of the 2023-24 fiscal year was \$3.1 billion (3.8 per cent) higher than during the same period in 2022-23. The largest year-over-year spending increase was in health (\$1,625 million), followed by education (\$611 million), children, community and social services (\$495 million), other programs (\$462 million), justice (\$146 million) and postsecondary education (\$39 million). Conversely, interest on debt spending was \$302 million less than during the same period in 2022-23.

To learn more, read the full report [here](#).

#### Quick Facts:

- Key programs with less-than-planned actual unaudited spending include electricity subsidy programs (-\$583 million), Ministry of Infrastructure capital programs (-\$253 million), social assistance programs (-\$183 million), the health capital program (-\$143 million) and child care (-\$127 million).
- Key programs with higher-than-planned actual unaudited spending include health services (hospitals, home care, community services) (\$428 million) and Ministry of Health drug programs (\$279 million).
- Interest on debt spending was \$861 million less than planned during the first half of the 2023-24 fiscal year as a result of higher than planned interest revenue on the Province's cash reserves.
- Programs with the largest year-over-year spending increases include Metrolinx infrastructure projects (\$1,086 million), the operation of long-term care homes (\$586 million), school board operating grants (\$401 million), payments to physicians (\$397 million), child care (\$344 million) and Ministry of Health drug programs (\$334 million).
- The Province started the 2023-24 fiscal year with a total of \$4.0 billion in the Contingency Fund. In the first and second quarters, the Province transferred \$849 million and \$277 million, respectively, from the Contingency Fund to various programs. The remaining balance in the Contingency Fund, as of September 30, 2023, was \$2.9 billion.
- In the 2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, the Province added \$2.5 billion to the Contingency Fund. However, this top-up occurred after the end of the second quarter, September 30, 2023. It is expected to be reflected in the government's financial accounts in the third quarter of 2023-24.

#### About the FAO

Under the *Financial Accountability Officer Act, 2013*, the Financial Accountability Officer provides independent analysis on the state of the Province's finances, trends in the provincial economy, and related matters important to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

-30-

#### For further information, please contact:

Sophia Zhu | 416 931 5498 | [SZhu@fao-on.org](mailto:SZhu@fao-on.org) | [fao-on.org](http://fao-on.org)

## Report summary

## Key facts



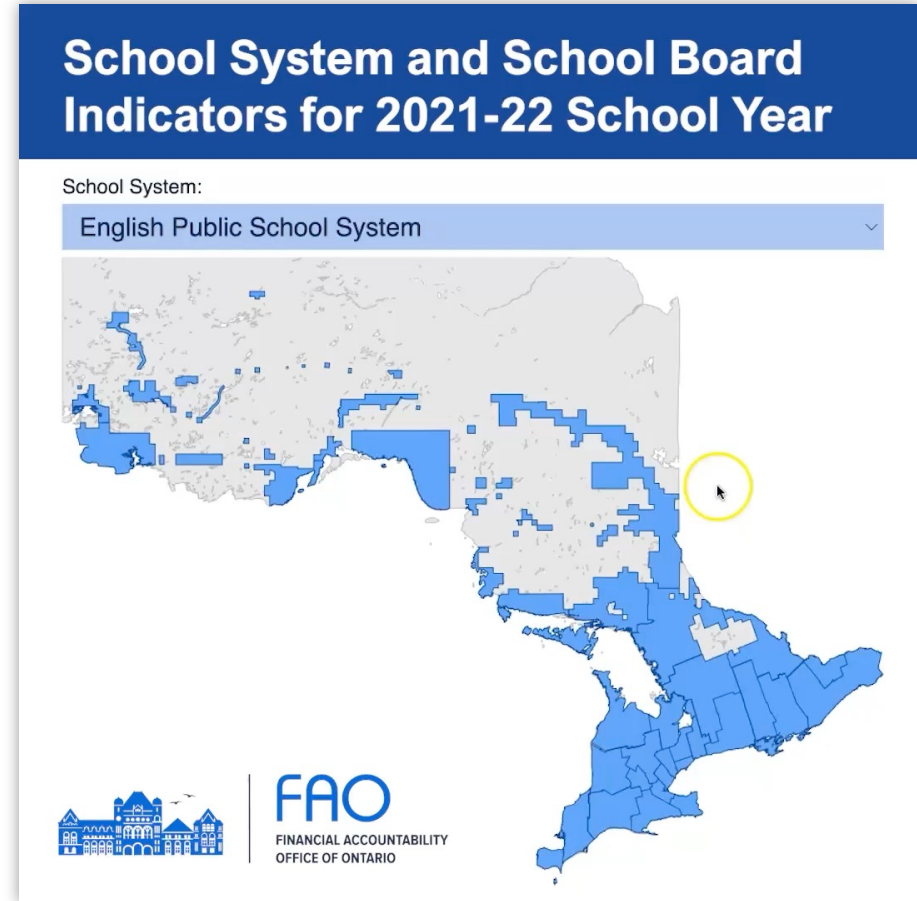
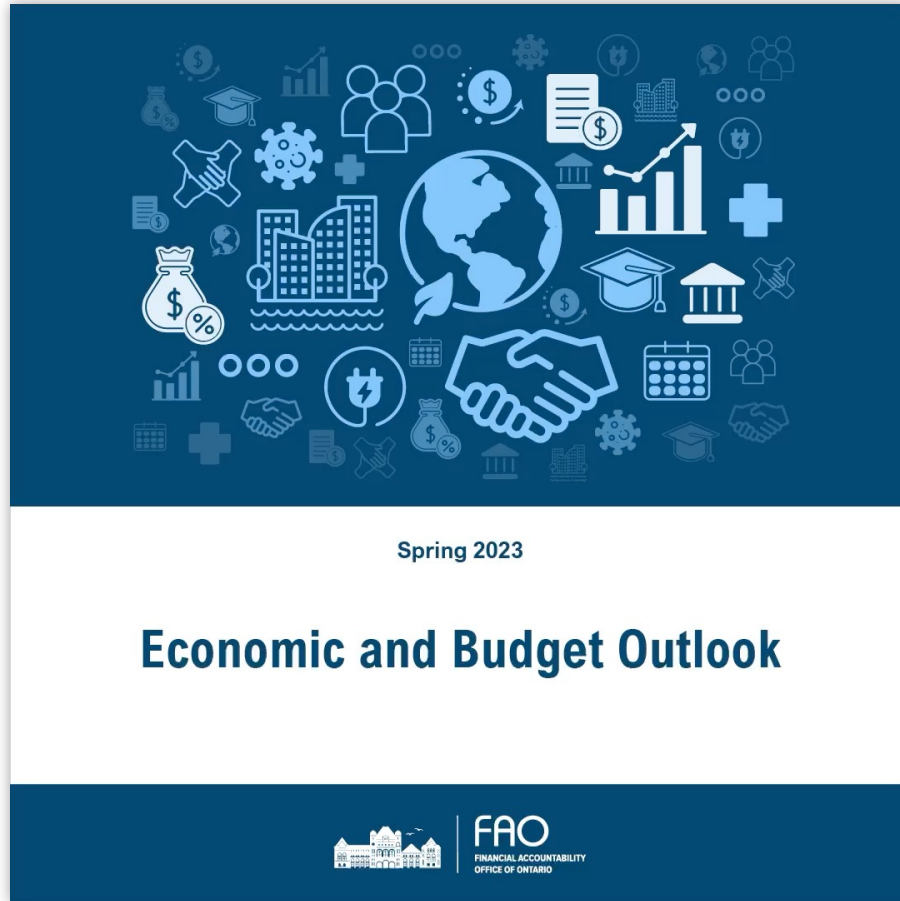
**FAO**

Financial Accountability  
Office of Ontario



# Report Videos and Interactive Graphics

- To improve accessibility, our reports are often accompanied by videos or interactive graphics.



# Learning Modules

- The FAO produces learning modules to help MPPs and staff better understand Ontario's finances and other topics within the FAO's mandate.

## Government Finances 101 Module

Q1 Finances Report

What is updated at the first quarterly fiscal update?

Revenues

Expenses

Ontario's Fiscal Outlook

All of the Above

prev next



# Website

- All of our work can be found on our website.

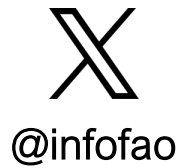
## Quick links {

The screenshot shows the FAO website page for the report 'Ontario School Boards: Enrolment, Finances and Student Outcomes'. The page includes a navigation menu with links for ABOUT, PUBLICATIONS, MODULE, MEDIA, FAQ, CONTACT, and SUBSCRIBE. The report title is prominently displayed, along with the date DEC 12, 2023. Below the title, there are quick links for PDF, Media Release, Briefing Deck, and Interactive Map. A table of contents is provided, listing sections from Summary to Student Outcomes. The main content area features a summary and a section on School Boards and Enrolment, which includes detailed statistics on student enrolment and funding across different school systems.



# Social Media and Newsletter

## FAO Social Media Platforms



Financial Accountability  
Office of Ontario (FAO)

## FAO Quarterly Newsletters

FAO | BRF

### Quarterly Newsletter

January to March 2024

#### RELEASES THIS QUARTER

**Expenditure Monitor 2023-24: Q3**  
This report provides information on spending by the Province through the first three quarters of the 2023-24 fiscal year (April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023).  
[View Report](#) [Media Release](#)

**Ontario's Labour Market in 2023**  
This report reviews Ontario's labour market performance in 2023.  
[View Report](#) [Media Release](#)

**Economic and Budget Outlook, Winter 2024**  
This report provides the FAO's outlook for the provincial economy and the Province's finances over the 2023-24 to 2027-28 period.  
[View Report](#) [Media Release](#)

#### FAO WORK IN PROGRESS

- 2022-23 Interprovincial Budget Comparison**  
This report provides a comparison of Ontario government revenues, spending, budget balance and net debt with the other Canadian provinces based on Statistics Canada's Government

 [fao-on.org/subscribe](https://fao-on.org/subscribe)





# Thank you!



# FAO

Financial Accountability  
Office of Ontario

2 Bloor Street West, Suite 900  
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3E2  
416.644.0702

[info@fao-on.org](mailto:info@fao-on.org)

[fao-on.org](http://fao-on.org)

