



# Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario



Annual Edition 2015

The Annual Edition of the Labour Market Bulletin is a look back over the past year, providing an analysis of annual Labour Force Survey results for the province of Ontario, including the regions of Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula, Kingston—Pembroke, Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie, London, Muskoka—Kawarthas, Northeast, Northwest, Ottawa, Stratford—Bruce Peninsula, Toronto and Windsor—Sarnia.

## OVERVIEW

### Labour Force Trends – employment in Ontario increased for the sixth consecutive year in 2015

- Employment in Ontario increased by 45,300 in 2015, after growing by 54,500 in 2014
- Employment gains in full-time work (+78,200) more than offset losses in part-time work (-32,900)
- The unemployment rate fell for the third consecutive year, decreasing by 0.5 percentage points to 6.8%

Employment rose by 45,300 in Ontario in 2015, marking the province's sixth consecutive yearly increase. The gains were driven by strength in full-time employment, which increased by 78,200, as part-time employment observed losses of 32,900, its first decrease in the province since 2006.

The unemployment rate declined by 0.5 percentage points to improve to 6.8%, its lowest rate since 2008, as unemployment fell for the third consecutive year (-7.0%). The youth unemployment rate also fell to 14.7%. However, there was a slight decrease in both the provincial participation rate and employment rate, as increases in the labour force and employment lagged that of the overall working-age population.

The labour market in Ontario is expected to strengthen in 2016, with the emphasis of economic growth having shifted away from provinces such as Alberta that have struggled in light of the fall in crude oil prices. Employment in Ontario is expected to grow by about 1.1% in 2016, according to various forecasters, on account of rising export activity to the United States for manufactured goods and an improvement in retail spending from a confident household sector, while the provincial unemployment rate is expected to average 6.7%.

In Canada, employment increased by 144,400 (+0.8%) in 2015, but the employment rate dropped slightly over the year due to a larger growth in the population aged 15 and over. There were other similarities between the Canadian and Ontario labour markets, with all of the gains in national employment coming from full-time work (+1.3%) as part-time employment fell by 1.3%. However, the unemployment rate remained steady at 6.9% in 2015 in Canada as the number of unemployed increased, particularly in the western provinces, due to the

decline in oil prices. Looking forward to 2016, employment is projected to increase by about 0.6% while the national unemployment rate is expected to average 7.1%.

In contrast with the modest employment gains in Ontario and Canada, total non-farm payroll employment in the United States strengthened considerably, increasing by 2.94 million (+2.1%) in 2015.<sup>1</sup> According to the Current Population Survey, the federal unemployment rate fell to 5.3%, its lowest unemployment rate since 2007.<sup>2</sup> While the federal participation rate continues to hover at a low level, overall, the optimistic mood around the American labour market is expected to translate into continued strength in 2016, with the unemployment rate projected to fall to around 4.8%.

### Annual Labour Force Statistics, for Ontario

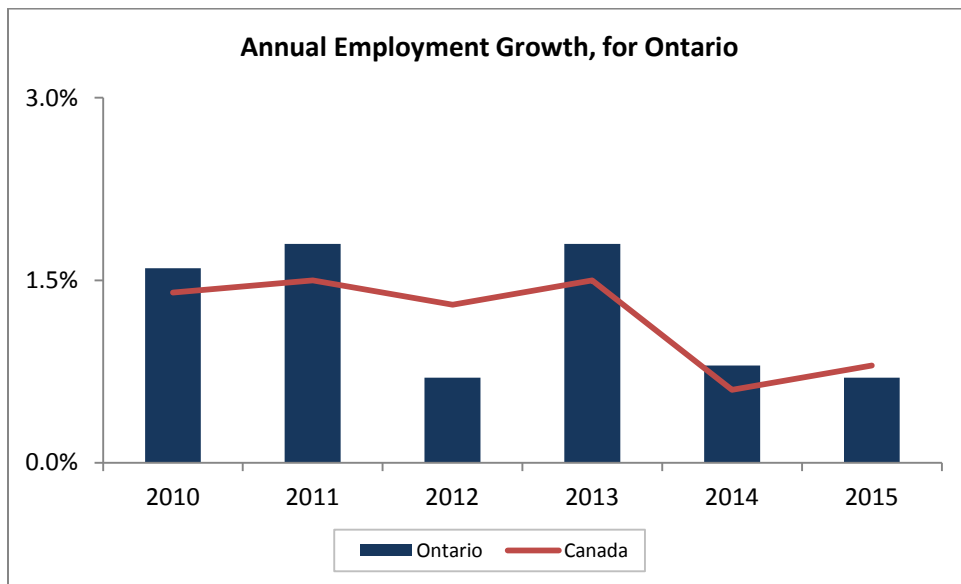
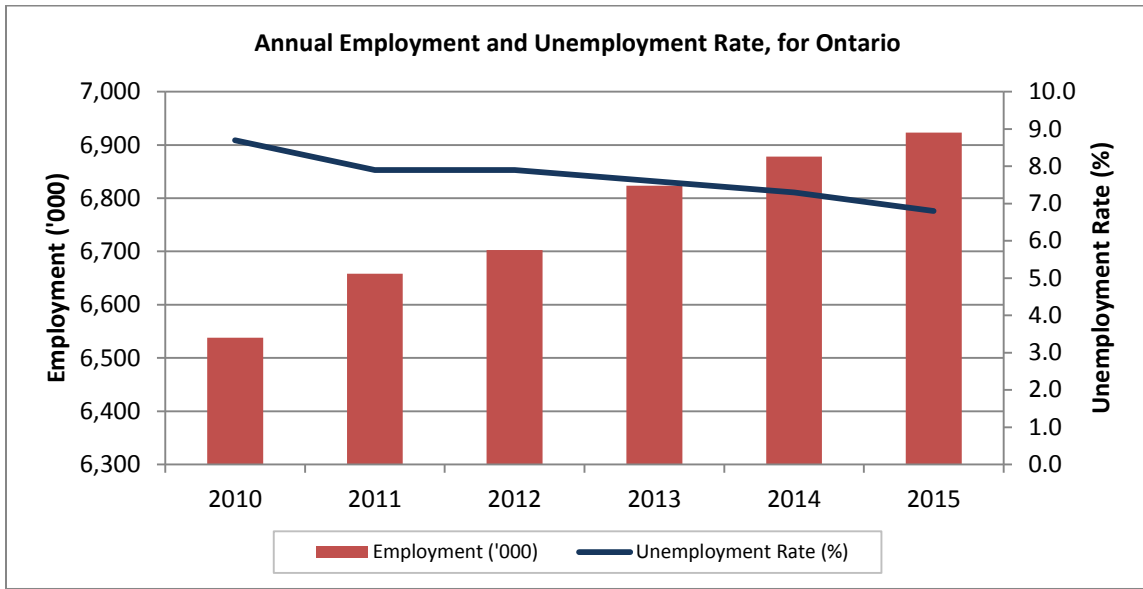
Seasonally unadjusted data	Year			2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
	2015	2014	2013	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	11,385.6	11,269.3	11,142.1	116.3	1.0	127.2	1.1
<b>Labour force ('000)</b>	7,426.1	7,418.6	7,383.8	7.5	0.1	34.8	0.5
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	6,923.2	6,877.9	6,823.4	45.3	0.7	54.5	0.8
Full-time ('000)	5,618.2	5,540.0	5,489.5	78.2	1.4	50.5	0.9
Part-time ('000)	1,305.0	1,337.9	1,334.0	-32.9	-2.5	3.9	0.3
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	502.9	540.7	560.3	-37.8	-7.0	-19.6	-3.5
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>	6.8	7.3	7.6	-0.5	-	-0.3	-
<b>Participation rate (%)</b>	65.2	65.8	66.3	-0.6	-	-0.5	-
<b>Employment rate (%)</b>	60.8	61.0	61.2	-0.2	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (January 8, 2016). [The Employment Situation – December 2015](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_01082016.htm). U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved from [http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit\\_01082016.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_01082016.htm)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (January 8, 2016). [The Employment Situation – December 2015](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_01082016.htm). U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved from [http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit\\_01082016.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_01082016.htm)



### Annual Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age, for Ontario

Seasonally unadjusted data	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015	2013 to 2014
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.8	7.3	7.6	-0.5	-0.3
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.4	5.8	6.1	-0.4	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	5.5	5.9	6.3	-0.4	-0.4
Women - 25 years and over	5.3	5.6	5.8	-0.3	-0.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.7	15.7	16.2	-1.0	-0.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.3	16.7	17.3	-0.4	-0.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.1	14.7	15.0	-1.6	-0.3

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

### Employment in the goods-producing sector increased for the first time since 2012

For the first time in three years, employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector rose with job gains of 19,400 in 2015. The construction industry led the way for the goods-producing sector with a gain of 20,000 in 2015. Housing starts were much higher than in 2014 with most of the gains in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area.<sup>3</sup> The value of building permits was also up in both residential and non-residential construction in 2015.<sup>4</sup> Some of the larger projects that broke ground in the province included the Highway 407 East Phase 2 project in the eastern Greater Toronto Area at a cost of \$1.2B.<sup>5</sup> The new Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station in Cochrane District valued at \$300M.<sup>6</sup> The replacement of bridges and other infrastructure along the Trent-Severn Waterway expected to cost about \$285M.<sup>7</sup> And construction on the new Health Sciences Building at Carleton University in Ottawa at a cost of \$52M.<sup>8</sup> Upcoming investments in infrastructure from the federal and provincial governments may lead to more projects across Ontario in the near term.<sup>9,10</sup>

Employment declined in manufacturing for the third year in a row in Ontario in 2015. Although employment growth remains soft, other related indicators are showing some promising signs, especially in the second half of 2015. The value of exports has grown steadily topping 2014 figures,<sup>11</sup> and manufacturing sales have increased so far in 2015 compared to the previous year.<sup>12</sup> Some of this gain has come from higher automotive

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. (January 11, 2016). CANSIM Table 027-0001 - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions in centres 10,000 and over, Canada, provinces, selected census metropolitan areas, monthly (units). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=270001>

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. (January 11, 2016). CANSIM Table 026-0006 – Building permits, by type of structure and area, seasonally adjusted, monthly (dollars unless otherwise noted). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=0260006&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=50&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

<sup>5</sup> Brennan, R. (April 7, 2015). \$1.2 billion contract awarded to extend Highway 407 in Durham. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2015/04/07/12-billion-contract-awarded-to-extend-407-in-durham.html>

<sup>6</sup> CNW Staff. (August 27, 2015). Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station Project Underway. *Canada Newswire*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/peter-sutherland-sr-generating-station-project-underway-523117421.html>

<sup>7</sup> Daily Commercial News. (July 10, 2015). \$285 million planned for Trent-Severn Waterway. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <http://dailycommercialnews.com/Government/News/2015/7/285-million-planned-for-Trent-Severn-Waterway-1008822W/>

<sup>8</sup> Carleton University. (December 14, 2015). Carleton Announces New Health Sciences Building. *Carleton University*. Retrieved from <http://research.carleton.ca/2015/carleton-announces-new-health-sciences-building/>

<sup>9</sup> Bryden, J. (January 14, 2016). Trudeau's government set to speed up, double down infrastructure. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/infrastructure-acceleration-sohi-1.3403450>,

<sup>10</sup> Benzie, R. (April 23, 2015). Province unveils \$130B infrastructure push in Ontario budget. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/04/23/province-unveils-130b-infrastructure-push-in-ontario-budget.html>

<sup>11</sup> Statistics Canada. (January 11, 2016). CANSIM Table 228-0060 - Merchandise imports and domestic exports, customs-based, by North American Product Classification System (NAPCS), Canada, provinces and territories, monthly (dollars). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=2280060&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=50&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

<sup>12</sup> Statistics Canada. (January 11, 2016). CANSIM Table 304-0015 - Manufacturing sales, by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and province, monthly (dollars). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=3040015&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=50&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

sales in Canada and the United States.<sup>13</sup> In 2015, the provincial automotive industry saw some of its largest investments in recent time. Several assembly plants and automotive parts suppliers along the southern Ontario corridor geared up for more work. FCA Canada Inc. retooled its Windsor Assembly Plant for its next generation of minivans at a cost of \$2B.<sup>14</sup> The automaker is planning to add at least 600 new workers to its production line. Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited retooled its Oakville Assembly Complex in early 2015 to prepare for the global launch of the Ford Edge crossover vehicle.<sup>15</sup> To prepare for the new line, Ford boosted its workforce at the plant by adding 400 new workers. Despite production of the Camaro vehicle moving to Michigan, General Motors of Canada Company (GM) invested in its facilities as well. GM announced that it would invest \$560M in its Ingersoll CAMI Automotive plant,<sup>16</sup> and another \$12M in its Oshawa Vehicle Assembly site to keep the Consolidated Line running for at least one more year, providing some relief to workers.<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. announced that it would invest \$421M in its Woodstock and Cambridge sites.<sup>18</sup> The automaker will also invest \$500M to start building the RAV4 at its Cambridge North Assembly plant after it transfers production of the Corolla to Mexico in 2019.<sup>19</sup> Honda Canada Inc. had its own milestone in Alliston in 2015.<sup>20</sup> For the first time, a plant outside of Japan has become the lead supplier for a new global model—the 2016 Honda Civic. These positive steps have spurred some local parts suppliers and tool, die, and mold shops to sustain and expand operations helping Ontario's manufacturing heartland.<sup>21,22</sup>

Most analysts view the effects of lower oil prices and its impact on the Canadian dollar as beneficial for local manufacturers. But not all producers are benefitting in Ontario. ContiTech AG will close its plant in Bowmanville in mid-2016 because of less demand for conveyor belts used by the oil, mining, and coal

<sup>13</sup> Keenan, G. (January 5, 2016). **Canada and U.S. both set records for auto sales in 2015**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/canada-and-us-both-set-records-for-auto-sales-in-2015/article28027802/>

<sup>14</sup> Macaluso, G. (December 8, 2015). **Windsor Assembly gears up for new minivan: 'You're going to love it'**. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/business/local-business/windsor-assembly-plant-in-final-preparations-for-launch-of-next-generation-minivan>

<sup>15</sup> Keenan, G. (February 26, 2015). **Ford adds 400 jobs at Oakville plant in global push of Edge model**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/ford-adds-400-jobs-at-oakville-plant-to-push-global-sales-of-edge/article23206956/>

<sup>16</sup> Chase, S. and Keenan, G. (February 12, 2015). **General Motors to invest \$560-million in Ontario's Ingersoll plant**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/gm-to-invest-450-million-in-ontarios-ingersoll-plant/article22933182/>

<sup>17</sup> The Canadian Press. (August 19, 2015). **GM Canada to invest \$12M to up Chevrolet Equinox production**. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <http://www.ctvnews.ca/autos/gm-canada-to-invest-12m-to-up-chevrolet-equinox-production-1.2524311>

<sup>18</sup> Simone, R. (July 31, 2015). **Toyota's \$421-million investment bodes well for future of local plants**. *Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5769256-toyota-s-421-million-investment-bodes-well-for-future-of-local-plants/>

<sup>19</sup> Keenan, G. (November 10, 2015). **Toyota's Cambridge plant gets \$500-million to boost RAV4 production**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/toyota-to-build-compact-suv-at-cambridge-plant-replaces-lost-corolla-production/article27186145/>

<sup>20</sup> Kennedy, D. (October 21, 2015). **Honda launches 2016 Civic into mass production at Alliston, Ont. plant**. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/honda-launches-2016-civic-into-mass-production-at-alliston-ont-plant-156299/>

<sup>21</sup> DeBono, N. (December 16, 2015). **London area automotive industry running in high gear despite Canada's slumping energy sector**. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2015/12/16/london-area-automotive-industry-running-in-high-gear-despite-canadas-slumping-energy-sector>

<sup>22</sup> Debono, N. (November 12, 2015). **Low buck helps keep economy motorin'**. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2015/11/12/low-buck-helps-keep-economy-motorin>

industries.<sup>23</sup> In northern Ontario, Tenaris AlgomaTubes Inc. has gone through a series of challenges because of less demand for steel pipes.<sup>24</sup> The oil and gas industry is a large market for steel goods. With lower steel prices, and greater foreign competition, steelmakers such as Essar Steel Algoma Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie and U.S. Steel Canada in Hamilton may be entering an uncertain time.<sup>25</sup> Elsewhere in the energy sector, the multibillion-dollar planned refurbishments of the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station and the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station have already created new opportunities for local companies.<sup>26</sup> Laker Energy Products Ltd. signed a contract with Bruce Power to support refurbishment activities valued at \$35M.<sup>27</sup> Aecon Group Inc., ATS Automation Tooling Systems Inc., and BWXT Canada Ltd. are also preparing to support work at the Darlington site.<sup>28</sup> The upcoming refurbishment projects will be some of the largest infrastructure investments to take place in the province.

### Employment in the services-producing sector continues to grow in Ontario

Employment in the services-producing sector grew by 25,800 in 2015. Employment in this sector has been rising since 2010. However, over the past couple of years, employment seems to be growing at a slower pace. In 2015, employment fell in the majority of industries in the services-producing sector but strong gains in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, educational services, professional, scientific and technical services, and health care and social assistance were able to offset these losses.

Most of the gains in the finance, insurance, real estate and leasing industry came from greater real estate and leasing activity in the province. Improving economic conditions in Ontario may continue to increase leasing activity for industrial and commercial space, and machinery and equipment. The housing market also remains strong but changes to mortgage regulations may affect sales growth, especially in the Greater Toronto Area, when the new rules take effect in mid-February 2016.<sup>29</sup> Meanwhile, some of Canada's largest banks restructured to lower costs and streamline services because of new technologies in the industry.<sup>30</sup> To help keep

<sup>23</sup> Tire Review Staff. (November 20, 2015). [ContiTech Closing Bowmanville Plant in 2016](http://www.tirereview.com/contitech-closing-bowmanville-plant-in-2016/). *Tire Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.tirereview.com/contitech-closing-bowmanville-plant-in-2016/>

<sup>24</sup> Armstrong, K. (October 14, 2015). [Additional layoffs may come in November, says union](http://www.sootoday.com/content/news/details.asp?c=99256). *SooToday*. Retrieved from <http://www.sootoday.com/content/news/details.asp?c=99256>

<sup>25</sup> Keenan, G. (November 13, 2015). [Industry crisis testing the mettle of steel makers](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/industry-crisis-testing-the-mettle-of-steel-makers/article27258381/). *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/industry-crisis-testing-the-mettle-of-steel-makers/article27258381/>

<sup>26</sup> Benzie, R. (December 3, 2015). [Bruce Power to invest \\$13 billion to refurbish nuclear station on Lake Huron](http://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2015/12/03/bruce-power-to-invest-13b-in-nuclear-station-creating-23000-jobs.html). *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2015/12/03/bruce-power-to-invest-13b-in-nuclear-station-creating-23000-jobs.html>

<sup>27</sup> Bruce Power Staff. (December 4, 2015). [Bruce Power signs \\$35 million agreement with Laker Energy Products](http://www.brucepower.com/bruce-power-signs-35-million-agreement-with-laker-energy-products/). *Bruce Power*. Retrieved from <http://www.brucepower.com/bruce-power-signs-35-million-agreement-with-laker-energy-products/>

<sup>28</sup> Davis, B. (November 17, 2015). [Cambridge firms playing key role in Darlington nuclear refurbishment](http://www.therecord.com/news-story/6122538-cambridge-firms-playing-key-role-in-darlington-nuclear-refurbishment/). *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <http://www.therecord.com/news-story/6122538-cambridge-firms-playing-key-role-in-darlington-nuclear-refurbishment/>

<sup>29</sup> Marr, G. (December 15, 2015). [CREA worries Ottawa's new mortgage rules will dampen home sales in 2016](http://business.financialpost.com/personal-finance/mortgages-real-estate/even-realtors-caught-off-guard-by-strength-of-canadian-housing-numbers-this-year). *The National Post*. Retrieved from <http://business.financialpost.com/personal-finance/mortgages-real-estate/even-realtors-caught-off-guard-by-strength-of-canadian-housing-numbers-this-year>

<sup>30</sup> Freeman, S. (October 23, 2015). [More bank job cuts to follow Scotiabank, TD: analyst](http://www.thestar.com/business/2015/10/23/more-bank-job-cuts-to-follow-scotiabank-td-analyst.html). *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/business/2015/10/23/more-bank-job-cuts-to-follow-scotiabank-td-analyst.html>

pace with new banking concepts, the Bank of Nova Scotia is investing in a digital factory in Toronto<sup>31</sup> and TD Bank Group is setting up a technology centre in Waterloo.<sup>32</sup>

There were quite a few developments in some of the scientific and technical hubs in the province. The Guelph area is a key centre for the agri-food industry in Ontario. In 2015, NSF-GFTC started construction on its new Canadian site<sup>33</sup> and the Livestock Research and Innovation Centre Dairy Facility opened just outside of Elora at a cost of \$25M.<sup>34</sup> To further research in power generation, two laboratories opened in the Kingston area in 2015. The Canadian Nuclear Laboratories opened a new centre to study hydrogen technologies in Chalk River at a cost of \$55M<sup>35</sup> and Queen's University opened its Reactor Materials Testing Laboratory at a cost of \$17M.<sup>36</sup> The technology cluster in Waterloo Region also received a boost. Communitech Corporation announced that it would create an Open Data Exchange<sup>37</sup> and Shopify Inc. announced that it would expand operations in the area.<sup>38</sup>

Employment fell in transportation and warehousing in Ontario in 2015. The nation's two largest railway companies are coping with lower freight volumes because of fewer commodity shipments. Canadian National Railway Company issued layoff notices and is currently under a hiring freeze while Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. cut workers across its operations in 2015.<sup>39</sup> Reduced shipments of oil are hurting the demand for railway tankers as well. National Steel Car Limited issued layoff notices in late 2015 but expects to recall most of the workers when it starts production on two new lines.<sup>40</sup> There was some positive news in air transportation though. The John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport opened a new cargo centre at a cost of \$12M<sup>41</sup> and the Sioux Lookout Municipal Airport will undergo a large renovation at a cost of more than \$12M.<sup>42</sup> Some

<sup>31</sup> Posadzki, A. (October 16, 2015). **Scotiabank launches 'digital factory' that will house 350 tech jobs.** *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/scotiabank-launches-digital-factory-that-will-house-350-tech-jobs/article26843317/>

<sup>32</sup> Davis, B. (October 1, 2015). **TD Bank technology centre to employ 120 in Waterloo.** *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <http://www.therecord.com/news-story/5939945-td-bank-technology-centre-to-employ-120-in-waterloo/>

<sup>33</sup> O'Flanagan, R. (February 19, 2015). **Global food safety building facility in Guelph.** *Guelph Mercury*. Retrieved from <http://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/5347312-global-food-safety-firm-building-facility-in-guelph/>

<sup>34</sup> Saxon, T. (May 28, 2015). **Elora-area dairy research centre draws a crowd.** *Guelph Mercury*. Retrieved from <http://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/5650599-elora-area-dairy-research-centre-draws-a-crowd/>

<sup>35</sup> Canadian Nuclear Association Staff. **CNL Invests in Hydrogen to Power the Future.** *Canadian Nuclear Association*. Retrieved from <https://cna.ca/news/cnl-invests-hydrogen-power-future/>

<sup>36</sup> Craig, A. (September 1, 2015). **Queen's University opens unique research facility.** *Queen's Gazette*. Retrieved from <http://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/queen-s-university-opens-unique-research-facility>

<sup>37</sup> Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario Staff. (May 19, 2015). **Harper Government Announces Funding to Establish the Open Data Exchange.** *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=975799>

<sup>38</sup> Friend, D. (October 1, 2015). **Shopify Inc to expand Waterloo presence with bigger office, hire more staff.** *The National Post*. Retrieved from <http://business.financialpost.com/fp-tech-desk/shopify-inc-to-expand-waterloo-presence-with-bigger-office-hire-more-staff>

<sup>39</sup> Bickis, I. (July 21, 2015). **CN Rail, CP Rail cut jobs as shipping volumes fall.** *Huffington Post*. Retrieved from [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/07/22/canadas-two-largest-rail\\_n\\_7839752.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/07/22/canadas-two-largest-rail_n_7839752.html)

<sup>40</sup> Arnold, S. (December 4, 2015). **National Steel Car to lay off 500 before Christmas.** *Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6157921-national-steel-car-to-lay-off-500-before-christmas/>

<sup>41</sup> Werner, K. (July 30, 2015). **Hamilton International Airport's \$12-million facility launches economic benefits.** *Hamilton Community News*. Retrieved from <http://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/5768485-hamilton-international-airport-s-12-million-facility-launches-economic-benefits/>

<sup>42</sup> Ross, I. (July 31, 2015). **Terminal expansion finally coming for Sioux Lookout Airport.** *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from

analysts expect that airline passenger traffic will more than double over the next few decades in southern Ontario.<sup>43</sup> To help meet this growth, some of the smaller airports in the province may need to increase capacity to support operations at Toronto Pearson International Airport.

The trade industry saw large retailers exit the market, cut staff, and consolidate operations. Despite higher retail sales in 2015, the industry continues to face more competition and greater use of online and digital offerings.<sup>44</sup> The largest news came from Target Canada Co. The American-based retailer announced that it would close all of its stores by April 2015 after less than two years in the Canadian market.<sup>45</sup> The closure affected thousands of employees at retail stores, distribution centres, and head office functions in Ontario. Other large closures came from Best Buy Canada Ltd.,<sup>46</sup> Black's Photo Corporation,<sup>47</sup> and Mexx Canada affecting hundreds of workers throughout the province.<sup>48</sup>

Employment dropped in accommodation and food services as well. The entire decline was in full-time work.<sup>49</sup> Part-time employment rose with the majority of the gains in the Toronto area. In the summer of 2015, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area hosted the Toronto 2015 Pan Am / Parapan Am Games.<sup>50</sup> This was the largest multisport event in Canadian history.<sup>51</sup> The lower Canadian dollar and improving economic conditions in the United States could lead to greater tourism activity going forward, which may help local employers in this industry.

Ongoing shifts in the media industry continue to weigh down on employment in the information, culture and recreation industry. Layoff notices came from all three of Canada's largest multimedia providers—Bell Media,<sup>52</sup>

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<http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/construction/2015/07/Terminal-expansion-finally-coming-for-Sioux-Lookout-Airport.aspx>

<sup>43</sup> Keenan, G. (October 8, 2015). Southern Ontario airport capacity to be challenged by surging passenger traffic: report. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/southern-ontario-airports-must-integrate-to-meet-demand-report/article26710785/>

<sup>44</sup> Statistics Canada. (January 14, 2016). CANSIM Table 080-0020 - Retail trade, sales by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), monthly (dollars). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=0800020&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=50&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

<sup>45</sup> CTV News Staff. (April 12, 2015). Target Canada closing, ending 2-year foray. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <http://www.ctvnews.ca/business/target-canada-closing-ending-2-year-foray-1.2323222>

<sup>46</sup> Flavelle, D. (April 6, 2015). Future Shop stores re-open under Best Buy name. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/business/2015/04/06/future-shop-stores-re-open-under-best-buy-name.html>

<sup>47</sup> Strauss, M. (June 9, 2015). Blacks Photography falls victim to digital industry. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/blacks-photography-to-close-all-stores/article24873218/>

<sup>48</sup> Canadian Press Staff. (January 14, 2015) Mexx Canada liquidating stores before closing doors the end of February. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/business/2015/01/14/mexx-canada-liquidating-stores-before-closing-doors-the-end-of-february.html>

<sup>49</sup> Statistics Canada. (January 11, 2016). CANSIM Table 282-0008 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), sex and age group, annual. *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=2820008>

<sup>50</sup> Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games Staff (August 2015). About the Pan Am Games. *Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games*. Retrieved from <http://www.toronto2015.org/about-us/pan-am-games>

<sup>51</sup> Province of Ontario Staff (August 2015). About the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. *Province of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://www.ontario.ca/page/about-pan-amparapan-am-games>

<sup>52</sup> Bateman, D. (November 18, 2015). Bell Media mass job cut affects TV personalities. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/business/2015/11/18/bell-media-mass-job-cut-affects-tv-personalities.html>



TELUS Communications Company,<sup>53</sup> and Rogers Media Inc.<sup>54</sup> There were also ongoing cuts to local newspapers and publications because of the move to more digital content.<sup>55,56</sup>

### Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Industry, for Ontario

Employment ('000)	Year			2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
	2015	2014	2013	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	6,923.2	6,877.9	6,823.4	45.3	0.7	54.5	0.8
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	1,401.4	1,382.0	1,397.5	19.4	1.4	-15.5	-1.1
Agriculture	76.9	81.8	83.8	-4.9	-6.0	-2.0	-2.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	43.3	33.2	35.9	10.1	30.4	-2.7	-7.5
Utilities	49.4	51.1	51.8	-1.7	-3.3	-0.7	-1.4
Construction	487.3	467.3	459.1	20.0	4.3	8.2	1.8
Manufacturing	744.6	748.6	767.0	-4.0	-0.5	-18.4	-2.4
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	5,521.7	5,495.9	5,425.9	25.8	0.5	70.0	1.3
Trade	1,042.3	1,047.0	1,019.0	-4.7	-0.4	28.0	2.7
Transportation and warehousing	321.3	329.0	336.3	-7.7	-2.3	-7.3	-2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	543.5	512.1	510.3	31.4	6.1	1.8	0.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	579.6	559.9	542.7	19.7	3.5	17.2	3.2
Business, building and other support services	333.4	334.7	327.7	-1.3	-0.4	7.0	2.1
Educational services	514.9	494.6	483.3	20.3	4.1	11.3	2.3
Health care and social assistance	812.5	798.2	790.8	14.3	1.8	7.4	0.9
Information, culture and recreation	309.5	316.5	311.5	-7.0	-2.2	5.0	1.6
Accommodation and food services	444.3	450.3	440.6	-6.0	-1.3	9.7	2.2
Other services	276.3	286.8	291.9	-10.5	-3.7	-5.1	-1.7
Public administration	344.0	366.8	371.6	-22.8	-6.2	-4.8	-1.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0008

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

### Employment growth for 2015 was strongest in Toronto

After stagnating in 2014, employment in the **Toronto** economic region regained its momentum from previous years, rising by 79,300 in 2015. Gains in full-time employment more than offset losses in part-time, driving the region's unemployment rate lower; from 8.0% to 7.1%.

<sup>53</sup> Friend, D. (November 5, 2015). **Telus cuts 1,500 jobs but boosts dividend 5%**. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/business/2015/11/05/telecom-giant-telus-cuts-1500-jobs.html>

<sup>54</sup> Friend, D. (May 7, 2015). **Rogers Media to Cut 110 Jobs, Mostly At Omni TV**. *Huffington Post Canada*. Retrieved from [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/05/07/rogers-media-cutting-about\\_n\\_7234880.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/05/07/rogers-media-cutting-about_n_7234880.html)

<sup>55</sup> Bay Today Staff. (September 25, 2015). **Local newspaper shutting down**. *Bay Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/local-newspaper-shutting-down-66094>

<sup>56</sup> Bradshaw, J. (June 22, 2015). **New round of buyouts coming for Postmedia Network**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/more-job-cuts-could-be-coming-for-postmedia-network/article25066108/>

Gains in the professional, scientific and technical services sector continued to cement Toronto's reputation as a research and technology powerhouse.<sup>57</sup> Baycrest Health Sciences' brain aging research centre opened in 2015, helped by \$65.5M in government funding.<sup>58</sup> Meanwhile, The Bank of Nova Scotia is expanding its technological services to clients and will open a 'digital factory' in 2016, employing 350 people.<sup>59</sup> This was particularly encouraging in light of announced layoffs in the finance sector in 2015 at British HSBC Holdings PLC<sup>60</sup> and at some of the big Canadian banks.<sup>61,62</sup>

Good news also came from the transportation and warehousing industry in Toronto. Despite challenges at the national rail carriers, expansions in warehousing at SCI Logistics Ltd.<sup>63</sup> and IKEA Canada<sup>64</sup> helped grow industry employment. The region's transit and ground transportation sub-industry looks primed for growth over the next few years as large infrastructure construction projects were announced in 2015. These included \$1.2B for the Highway 407 East extension, an \$859.2M contract to build and operate the GO Transit East Rail Maintenance Facility in Whitby,<sup>65</sup> and the start in 2016 of the \$333.2M next phase of the York Viva Bus Rapid Transit rapidway.<sup>66</sup>

Residential construction permits surged to match the non-residential segment over the year.<sup>67</sup> The Daniels Corporation plans to build a \$700M development for Toronto's waterfront, which will include condos, offices

<sup>57</sup> Statistics Canada. (January 11, 2016). CANSIM Table 282-0125 – Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by economic region based on 2011 Census boundaries and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), Annual. *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=2820125&&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=50&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

<sup>58</sup> Canadian Press. (May 22, 2015). Brain aging research centre to open in Toronto this fall. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/brain-aging-research-centre-to-open-in-toronto-this-fall/article24572128/>

<sup>59</sup> Posadzki, A. (October 16, 2015). Scotiabank launches 'digital factory' that will house 350 tech jobs. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/scotiabank-launches-digital-factory-that-will-house-350-tech-jobs/article26843317/>

<sup>60</sup> Pylas, P. (July 9, 2015). HSBC Layoffs to Hit 25,000 as Bank Aims to Save \$5 Billion. *Huffington Post Canada*. Retrieved from [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/06/09/hsbc-cutting-staff-by-up- n\\_7541420.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/06/09/hsbc-cutting-staff-by-up- n_7541420.html)

<sup>61</sup> Huffington Post Staff. (October 19, 2015). TD Bank Lays Off Canada, U.S. Staff After Review: Sources. *Huffington Post Canada*. Retrieved from [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/10/19/td-bank-layoffs-job-cuts n\\_8330190.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/10/19/td-bank-layoffs-job-cuts n_8330190.html)

<sup>62</sup> Canadian Press. (January 30, 2015). CIBC slashes 500 jobs in two weeks as banks face consumer borrowing lull. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5295058-cibc-slashes-500-jobs-in-two-weeks-as-banks-face-consumer-borrowing-lull/>

<sup>63</sup> CNW Staff. (May 12, 2015). SCI Logistics opens a new healthcare-dedicated facility in Greater Toronto Area. *Canada Newswire*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/sci-logistics-opens-a-new-healthcare-dedicated-facility-in-greater-toronto-area-517709081.html>

<sup>64</sup> Chin, J. (May 21, 2015). IKEA to create 150 new jobs in Mississauga. *Mississauga News*. Retrieved from <http://www.mississauga.com/news-story/5638020-ikea-to-create-150-new-jobs-in-mississauga/>

<sup>65</sup> Kalinowski, T. (March 29, 2015). Metrolinx to build 22-train facility in Whitby. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/transportation/2015/03/29/metrolinx-to-build-22-train-facility-in-whitby.html>

<sup>66</sup> Ministry of Transportation. (September 28, 2015). Ontario Making Progress on York Viva Bus Rapid Transit. *Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2015/09/ontario-making-progress-on-york-viva-bus-rapid-transit.html>

<sup>67</sup> Statistics Canada. (January 11, 2016). CANSIM Table 026-0006 - Building permits, by type of structure and area, seasonally adjusted, monthly (dollars unless otherwise noted). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=0260006&&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=50&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

and retail space<sup>68</sup> and further uptown the Gupta Group / Easton's Group of Hotels announced it would begin construction on a \$300M mixed-use development at the corner of Yonge St. and York Mills Rd. in 2016.<sup>69</sup>

Infrastructure spending across the province will also benefit the **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region as the City of Hamilton is set to receive up to \$1B from the Government of Ontario to start construction on a cross-town Light Rail Transit line in 2019.<sup>70</sup> Employment grew in the economic region in 2015 by 12,700 over last year. All gains were in full-time, and the unemployment rate decreased from 6.5% to 6.0%.

The region's manufacturing sector saw mixed news over 2015 but 2016 holds some promise of recovery. PowerBlades Inc. closed its turbine blade plant in Welland, affecting 136 employees, after opening only two years ago,<sup>71</sup> and National Steel Car Limited in Hamilton temporarily laid off 500 workers in December until early 2016 due to slumping demand for rail tanker cars.<sup>72</sup> Later in 2016, PaperWorks Industries Inc. will be relocating its Hamilton folding carton plant by July. While the move will lead to the loss of 180 jobs, the company hopes to rehire more than half of these in Kitchener where it will be consolidating its production facilities.<sup>73</sup> On a brighter note, St. Catharines saw an additional 200 jobs in pre-cast concrete manufacturing through early 2016, producing parts for Niagara Region Wind Corp.'s wind-turbine towers.<sup>74</sup> Also supporting the utilities industry, Fibrecast Inc. is expected to employ about 100 once it completes its new water treatment membrane factory in Stoney Creek.<sup>75</sup> Another 50 high-tech manufacturing jobs will be added by Mitsui High-tec Inc.'s new precision machine tools facility in Brantford, set to break ground in the first quarter of 2016.<sup>76</sup>

Employment gains were also recorded in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** and **London** economic regions in 2015. While Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie's employment growth was moderate, the economic region continues to have a robust labour market. Its participation rate declined slightly in 2015 but remains the highest in the province at 69.7% and the region's unemployment rate is the lowest in Ontario, at 5.4%.

### Employment losses centred in eastern and northern Ontario in 2015

Even though employment grew in Ontario, the majority of economic regions experienced losses in 2015. There was a clear divide in employment growth in the province. Economic regions in central Ontario were at the forefront of job growth while areas in eastern and northern Ontario trailed behind.

<sup>68</sup> Shum, D. (March 31, 2015). **Daniels Corporation unveils waterfront mixed-use condo project**. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <http://globalnews.ca/news/1904704/daniels-corporation-to-unveil-waterfront-mixed-use-condo-project/>

<sup>69</sup> Pigg, S. (January 14, 2015). **York Mills TTC parking lot slated for hotel, office complex**. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from: <http://www.thestar.com/business/2015/01/14/york-mills-ttc-parking-lot-slated-for-hotel-office-complex.html>

<sup>70</sup> Morrow, A. (May 26, 2015). **Ontario pledges up to \$1-billion for Hamilton LRT, work to start in 2019**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/hamiltons-lrt-construction-to-begin-in-2019/article24613385/>

<sup>71</sup> Ikeman, F. (November 16, 2015). **PowerBlades closes, 136 jobs lost**. *Welland Tribune*. Retrieved from: <http://www.wellandtribune.ca/2015/11/16/powerblades-closes-136-jobs-lost>

<sup>72</sup> Arnold, S. (December 4, 2015). **National Steel Car to lay off 500 before Christmas**. *Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from: <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6157921-national-steel-car-to-lay-off-500-before-christmas/>

<sup>73</sup> Arnold, S. (October 23, 2015). **180 jobs lost as Hamilton box factory closes its doors**. *Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from: <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5974053-180-jobs-lost-as-hamilton-box-factory-closes-its-doors/>

<sup>74</sup> Fraser, D. (August 4, 2015). **Turbine plant to create up to 200 positions**. *St. Catharines Standard*. Retrieved from: <http://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/2015/08/04/wind-turbine-parts-plant-to-create-up-to-200-jobs>

<sup>75</sup> Macleod, M. (July 17, 2015). **New water facility will bring 100 jobs to Hamilton**. *Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from: <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5738935-new-water-facility-will-bring-100-jobs-to-hamilton/>

<sup>76</sup> Ruby, M. (December 12, 2015). **Brantford to be home to Mitsui High-tech, a parts manufacturer for eco-friendly vehicles**. *Brantford Expositor*. Retrieved from: <http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/2015/12/11/brantford-to-be-home-to-mitsui-high-tech-a-parts-manufacturer-for-eco-friendly-vehicles-2>

The largest drop in employment was in the **Muskoka–Kawartha** economic region. The regional unemployment rate climbed as the number of unemployed residents rose in 2015. The area continues to see lower participation and employment rates likely because of its older population and large number of retirees. There were several layoffs in the public sector including job cuts at the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board,<sup>77</sup> South Muskoka Memorial Hospital,<sup>78</sup> Municipality of Port Hope,<sup>79</sup> and Nipissing University's Muskoka Campus.<sup>80</sup> Some local manufacturers cut back as well. Viceroy Homes Limited suspended work at its Port Hope plant<sup>81</sup> and ESCO Corporation issued layoff notices in its mining division because of less demand for industry-related goods.<sup>82</sup> One area that is seeing growth though is the local aerospace industry. The Peterborough Airport has become one of the busiest small airports in the country. Construction started on a two-year expansion project of the Airport at a cost of \$4.1M in September 2015.<sup>83</sup> Sciens Industries Inc. landed a multimillion-dollar contract to supply parts for the Boeing 777.<sup>84</sup> And The Loomex Group opened its new site at the Airport to support local operations.<sup>85</sup>

Employment in the easternmost economic regions of **Ottawa** and **Kingston–Pembroke** fell in 2015 as well. Both regions saw some losses in local manufacturing. Eastway911 Emergency Vehicles Ltd. shut its plant in Carleton Place near Ottawa in November 2015.<sup>86</sup> G.H. Metals closed its manufacturing facility in Smiths Falls in October 2015.<sup>87</sup> And Vétoquinol Canada Inc. will close its plant in Belleville over the next three years.<sup>88</sup> However, there was some bright news for both regions as large-scale utility projects got underway in 2015. Hydro Ottawa started construction on a new 29-megawatt hydroelectric generating station near Chaudière

<sup>77</sup> Gordon, K. (April 7, 2015). **Public board lays off 118 secondary school teachers**. *Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2015/04/07/public-board-lays-off-118-secondary-school-teachers>

<sup>78</sup> Steel, P. (April 16, 2015). **Beds closing, staff cuts at Bracebridge hospital**. *Bracebridge Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/5561594-beds-closing-staff-cuts-at-bracebridge-hospital/>

<sup>79</sup> McEwen, T. (April 23, 2015). **Port Hope hands out pink slips at Town Hall with mass dismissals**. *Northumberland News*. Retrieved from <http://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/5573856-port-hope-hands-out-pink-slips-at-town-hall-with-mass-dismissals/>

<sup>80</sup> Hartill, M. (June 5, 2015). **Muskoka Nipissing Campus closing its doors**. *Bracebridge Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/5663543-muskoka-nipissing-campus-closing-its-doors/>

<sup>81</sup> Torstar News Staff. (June 18, 2015). **Viceroy Homes in Port Hope aims to avoid bankruptcy, owes more than \$24.7 million**. *Northumberland News*. Retrieved from <http://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/5684545-viceroy-homes-in-port-hope-aims-to-avoid-bankruptcy-owes-more-than-24-7-million/>

<sup>82</sup> Longwell, K. (August 7, 2015). **Port Hope Esco eliminates 33 jobs**. *Northumberland News*. Retrieved from <http://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/5788883-port-hope-esco-eliminates-33-jobs/>

<sup>83</sup> Nyznik, J. (September 4, 2015). **\$4.1M expansion for Peterborough Airport to add new apron, taxiway by end of 2016**. *Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2015/09/04/41m-expansion-for-peterborough-airport-to-add-new-apron-taxiway-by-end-of-2016>

<sup>84</sup> Metroland Media Staff. (April 15, 2015). **Sciens Industries awarded contract for the Boeing 777 landing gear components**. *Peterborough This Week*. Retrieved from <http://www.mykawartha.com/news-story/5559074-sciens-industries-awarded-contract-for-the-boeing-777-landing-gear-components/>

<sup>85</sup> Bain, J. (September 10, 2015). **Loomex Group, operator of the Peterborough Airport, moves into new office/hangar facility at airport**. *Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2015/09/10/loomex-group-operator-of-the-peterborough-airport-moves-into-new-officehangar-facility-at-airport>

<sup>86</sup> CBC News Staff. (November 11, 2015). **Eastway911 shuts down suddenly, leaving employees 'blindsided'**. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/carleton-place-company-shuts-down-suddenly-1.3314864>

<sup>87</sup> Smiths Falls Record News Staff. (October 27, 2015). **GH Metals closes doors in Smiths Falls**. *Inside Ottawa Valley*. Retrieved from <http://www.insideottawavalley.com/news-story/6047386-gh-metals-closes-doors-in-smiths-falls/>

<sup>88</sup> Hendry, L. (April 17, 2015). **More than 40 jobs lost in city**. *The Belleville Intelligencer*. Retrieved from <http://www.intelligencer.ca/2015/04/17/more-than-40-jobs-lost-in-city>

Falls.<sup>89</sup> The station will be operational in 2017 and is valued at \$150M. In the Kingston–Pembroke region, TransCanada PipeLines Limited started construction on the Napanee Generating Station. The project will create hundreds of construction jobs over the next few years and will cost about \$1.2B.<sup>90</sup>

Employment in the **Northeast** and **Northwest** economic regions declined in 2015. Northern Ontario felt the pinch of lower commodity prices causing a slowdown in the mining industry. First Nickel Inc. suspended operations at its Lockerby Mine in Sudbury.<sup>91</sup> KGHM International Ltd. shut its McCreedy West Mine in Sudbury because of weaker copper and nickel prices.<sup>92</sup> IAMGOLD Corporation suspended its Côté Gold Project south of Timmins.<sup>93</sup> And North American Palladium Ltd. cut staff at its Lac Des Iles mine north of Thunder Bay as the miner copes with lower metal prices.<sup>94</sup> The drop in commodity prices has also affected companies that serve the mining industry. Boart Longyear Canada issued temporary layoffs at its plant in North Bay in early 2015<sup>95</sup> and Metso Minerals Canada Inc. cut staff at its facility in North Bay because of less demand for mining goods.<sup>96</sup> An excess supply of metals and minerals, and less demand for these goods from the world's largest buyer China, may keep prices weak in the near term. Elsewhere in the resources sector, there were a few promising developments in wood manufacturing because of stronger growth in the American housing market. Resolute Forest Products opened a new sawmill in Sapawe near Atikokan in April 2015 creating about 90 jobs.<sup>97</sup> Prendiville Industries Ltd. was actively recruiting labourers and tradespersons for the restart of its Kenora Forest Products sawmill.<sup>98</sup> And Rentech, Inc. should reach full production at its wood pellet manufacturing facility in Wawa by mid-2016.<sup>99</sup>

In southwestern Ontario, employment fell in the **Windsor–Sarnia** and **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic regions. A few long-standing manufacturers announced plans to close operations in both regions in 2015. Monarch Mattress Mfg. Co. closed its facility in Windsor after more than 65 years<sup>100</sup> and Crown Metal

<sup>89</sup> Pearson, M. (November 16, 2015). **Hydro Ottawa unveils plans for new Chaudière Falls facility**. *The Ottawa Citizen*.

Retrieved from <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/hydro-ottawa-unveils-plans-for-new-chaudiere-falls-facility>

<sup>90</sup> O'Hagan, D. (October 1, 2015). **New Napanee generating plant brings local jobs**. *QNet News*. Retrieved from <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=57587>

<sup>91</sup> Topf, A. (August 23, 2015). **First Nickel locks gates to Sudbury mine**. *Mining.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.mining.com/first-nickel-locks-gates-to-sudbury-mine/>

<sup>92</sup> Reuters Staff. (September 21, 2015). **Miner KGHM International to cut 48 jobs at Sudbury, Ontario**. *Reuters*. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/article/kgmh-polska-redundancies-idUSL4N11R4KN20150921>

<sup>93</sup> Gillis, L. (August 22, 2015). **IAMGOLD confirms shutdown in Gogama**. *The Timmins Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.timminspress.com/2015/08/22/iamgold-confirms-shutdown-in-gogama>

<sup>94</sup> Walters, J. (September 30, 2015). **North American Palladium lays off 44 employees at Lac Des Iles mine**. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/north-american-palladium-lays-off-44-employees-at-lac-des-iles-mine-1.3251046>

<sup>95</sup> Hamilton-McCharles, J. (February 27, 2015). **Layoffs at Boart Longyear**. *North Bay Nugget*. Retrieved from <http://www.nugget.ca/2015/02/27/layoffs-at-boart-longyear>

<sup>96</sup> Young, G. (August 28, 2015). **Metso laying off 25 due to mining downturn**. *North Bay Nugget*. Retrieved from <http://www.nugget.ca/2015/08/28/metso-laying-off-25-due-mining-downturn>

<sup>97</sup> IHB News Staff. (May 4, 2015). **Resolute starts production at Atikokan sawmill**. *IHB News*. Retrieved from [http://www.ihb.de/wood/news/Resolute\\_Atikokan\\_sawmill\\_production\\_41664.html](http://www.ihb.de/wood/news/Resolute_Atikokan_sawmill_production_41664.html)

<sup>98</sup> Northern Ontario Business Staff. (July 30, 2015). **Kenora Forest Products is restarting this fall after a seven-year shutdown**. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/forestry/2015/08/Kenora-Forest-Products-is-restarting-this-fall-after-a-seven-year-shutdown.aspx>

<sup>99</sup> Voegelé, E. (November 25, 2015). **Rentech restarts Wawa plant, achieves record week at Atikokan**. *Biomass Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/12615/rentech-restarts-wawa-plant-achieves-record-week-at-atikokan>

<sup>100</sup> Nixon, G. (August 22, 2015). **Monarch Mattress era coming to an end in Windsor**. *CBC News Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/monarch-mattress-era-coming-to-an-end-in-windsor-1.3197713>

Packaging Canada LP closed its plant in Chatham in October 2015.<sup>101</sup> While Windsor–Sarnia continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the province, labour market conditions may start to improve going forward. Several producers of automotive parts and metal goods announced plans to expand operations and hire new workers to keep up with growing demand. In the Stratford–Bruce region, the Town of St. Marys received some disappointing news in 2015. The Kraft Heinz Company will close its facility in St. Marys over the next two years affecting 214 workers.<sup>102</sup> The plant is one of the largest employers in the community and has been in operation since the 1950s. But a new local manufacturer may help fill some of this void. Green Arc Tire Manufacturing Inc. is planning to open a new plant in St. Marys, creating 340 jobs.<sup>103</sup>

### Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region, for Ontario

Employment ('000) Seasonally unadjusted data	Year			2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
	2015	2014	2013	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Ontario</b>	6,923.2	6,877.9	6,823.4	45.3	0.7	54.5	0.8
<b>Economic Regions</b>							
Ottawa	688.2	697.8	684.5	-9.6	-1.4	13.3	1.9
Kingston—Pembroke	201.0	210.1	213.9	-9.1	-4.3	-3.8	-1.8
Muskoka—Kawarthas	167.8	186.3	168.5	-18.5	-9.9	17.8	10.6
Toronto	3,320.4	3,241.1	3,240.2	79.3	2.4	0.9	0.0
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	710.6	704.5	693.5	6.1	0.9	11.0	1.6
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	719.1	706.4	697.5	12.7	1.8	8.9	1.3
London	330.4	324.8	323.7	5.6	1.7	1.1	0.3
Windsor—Sarnia	295.1	299.1	295.1	-4.0	-1.3	4.0	1.4
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	145.0	151.1	150.6	-6.1	-4.0	0.5	0.3
Northeast	248.1	256.8	253.7	-8.7	-3.4	3.1	1.2
Northwest	97.4	99.8	102.2	-2.4	-2.4	-2.4	-2.3

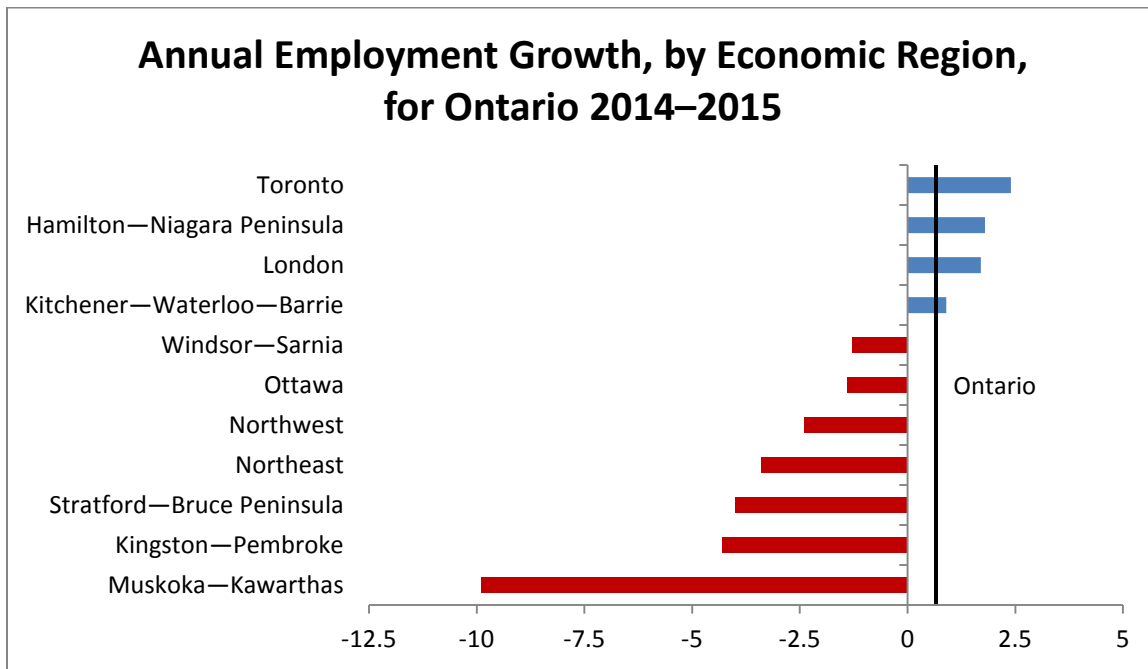
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0123

<sup>101</sup> Gough, V. (August 19, 2015). [Crown Metal Packaging shifting operations](http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2015/08/19/crown-metal-packaging-shifting-operations). *Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2015/08/19/crown-metal-packaging-shifting-operations>

<sup>102</sup> CBC News Staff. (November 4, 2015). [Kraft Heinz plant in St. Marys, Ont., set for closure](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/kraft-heinz-plant-in-st-marys-ont-set-for-closure-1.3304276). *CBC News Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/kraft-heinz-plant-in-st-marys-ont-set-for-closure-1.3304276>

<sup>103</sup> Cudworth, L. (July 14, 2015). [Recycled tire manufacturer gets Ministry of Environment permits](http://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/2015/07/14/recycled-tire-manufacturer-gets-ministry-of-environment-permits). *Woodstock Sentinel Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/2015/07/14/recycled-tire-manufacturer-gets-ministry-of-environment-permits>



**Note:** In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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