

Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

November 2016



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of 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 – Ontario employment increases again in November

- Ontario employment figures increased by 18,900 in November for a fourth consecutive monthly gain
- Both full-time (+10,900) and part-time (+7,900) employment experienced gains
- The unemployment rate inched lower to 6.3%, down 0.1 percentage points from the previous month.

In November, Ontario employment climbed by 18,900 for a fourth consecutive monthly increase. Unlike last month where the catalyst was entirely part-time employment gains, November saw gains in both full-time (+10,900) and part-time (+7,900) employment. The provincial unemployment rate inched lower by 0.1 percentage points, from October, to 6.3% as unemployment declined by 9,900 over the month. The labour force expanded by 8,900, as the participation rate remained steady at 64.8%. Apart from August 2016, when it was 64.6%, the participation rate remains at lows not previously seen since February 1978.

In Canada, employment increased by 10,700 in November which continued a four month run of employment growth and significantly beat out estimates which expected an employment decline of 20,000. However, as with last month, the gains came completely from part-time employment (+19,400) while full-time employment dropped (-8,700). National employment in November was driven mainly by gains in Ontario which offset losses in Alberta and British Columbia. The national unemployment rate in November was down to 6.8%.

In the United States, total non-farm payroll employment increased by 178,000 in November slightly beating out the expected 175,000. The private sector accounted for 156,000 of this job creation which in itself was below

¹ Trading Economics. (2016, November 4). Canada Employment Change. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from http://www.tradingeconomics.com/canada/employment-change



expectation². Also, the gain seen last month has been revised downwards. Despite this, November's numbers are positive overall, indicating a tightening U.S. labour market; the unemployment rate dropped to 4.6% in November from 4.9% in October and average hourly earnings was up by 2.5% from November 2015 to November 2016.³ These conditions may provide sufficient support for the U.S. Federal Reserve to raise its benchmark interest rate at its December meeting, which is expected by the vast majority of experts.⁴

Between November 2015 and November 2016, employment in Ontario increased by 104,500 year-over-year, with the majority of the gains coming from part-time employment. The unemployment rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points to 6.9%, due to a decrease of 42,100 in unemployment, year-over-year. However, the participation rate dropped by 0.3 percentage points, as the growth in population (+1.3%) continues to outpace the increase in labour force (+0.8%).

The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 in Ontario increased by 0.2 percentage points to 13.5% in November. The participation and employment rates also went up over the month, due to growth in youth labour force and employment figures. Youth employment in November was driven by full-time work (+4,300). Ontario's youth unemployment rate remained higher than the national youth unemployment rate of 12.9% in November.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	November 2016	October 2016	November	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
			2015	Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,581.3	11,569.8	11,436.0	11.5	0.1	145.3	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	7,508.5	7,499.6	7,446.2	8.9	0.1	62.3	0.8
Employment ('000)	7,037.6	7,018.7	6,933.1	18.9	0.3	104.5	1.5
Full-Time ('000)	5,670.7	5,659.8	5,647.7	10.9	0.2	23.0	0.4
Part-Time ('000)	1,366.8	1,358.9	1,285.4	7.9	0.6	81.4	6.3
Unemployment ('000)	471.0	480.9	513.1	-9.9	-2.1	-42.1	-8.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3	6.4	6.9	-0.1	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.8	64.8	65.1	0.0	-	-0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.8	60.7	60.6	0.1	-	0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

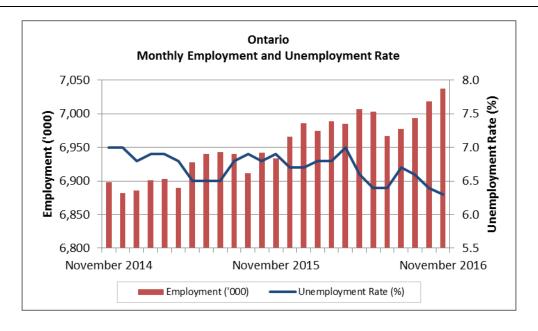
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

⁴ (2016, December 2). FedWatch Tool - Latest probabilities of FOMC rate moves. *CME Group*. Retrieved from http://www.cmegroup.com/trading/interest-rates/countdown-to-fomc.html



² Trading Economics. (2016, December 2). U.S.Non-Farm Payrolls. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/non-farm-payrolls

³ Trading Economics. (2016, December 2). U.S. Average Hourly Earnings. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/average-hourly-earnings



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	November 2016	October 2016	November 2015	Monthly Varia- tion	Yearly Varia- tion	
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)	
Total	6.3	6.4	6.9	-0.1	-0.6	
25 years and over	5.0	5.3	5.7	-0.3	-0.7	
Men - 25 years and over	5.2	5.4	5.6	-0.2	-0.4	
Women - 25 years and over	4.8	5.1	5.9	-0.3	-1.1	
15 to 24 years	13.5	13.3	13.8	0.2	-0.3	
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.8	14.6	15.3	0.2	-0.5	
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.2	11.9	12.4	0.3	-0.2	

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087



EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Softer manufacturing and construction dampen goods-producing sector employment

In November, Ontario's goods-producing sector registered its biggest monthly loss in the second half of 2016. Seasonally adjusted employment figures shed 8,500 positions (-0.6%), countering gains in the previous month. Softness in construction (-4,100) and manufacturing (-3,200) employment offset the gains in utilities (+1,500).

Losses in construction employment in November belie an industry still riding high since earlier in 2016. Building permit values were 16% higher in the 12 months ending September, as a surge in residential permits coincided with the tail-end of a peak in commercial and institutional/governmental activity. Ontario's housing starts grew at a faster rate than the national average for most of 2016. Recent construction news includes a 348-unit condominium project underway in Kitchener and a \$14.5M upgrade to a water treatment plant in Orillia is set to start by year-end. In institutional construction, infrastructure upgrades at Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology and at Carleton University are set to total \$43.5M in investments. Commercial projects include infrastructure expansion in Hamilton to support the \$85M Winona Crossing Development.

The province's faltering manufacturing industry on the other hand has struggled to register employment growth over the year. While the national Purchasing Managers Index showed higher expansionary sentiment and staffing in November, export sales were weaker in Ontario despite a lower CAD/USD exchange rate. ¹² Layoffs announced include the closure of the Cambridge Towel Company Inc. in Kitchener, set to affect 160 workers, ¹³ while the relocation of the Maple Leaf Foods Inc. Turkey processing plant is set to cost 400 jobs by early 2018. ¹⁴

¹⁴ Stacey, M. (2016, November 15). Maple leaf announces Thamesford plant will close; moving to Mitchell, Ont. *Woodstock Sentinel-Review via the London Free Press*. Retrieved from http://www.lfpress.com/2016/11/15/maple-leaf-announces-that-thamesford-plant-will-be-closed-and-fresh-turkey-processing-will-move-to-sofina-facility-in-mitchell-ont



Statistics Canada. (2016, November). CANSIM Table 026-0006, Building permits, by type of structure and area, seasonally adjusted monthly. *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=260006
Statistics Canada. (2016, November). CANSIM Table 027-0054, CMHC, housing starts, seasonally adjusted annual rates, (x1,000). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=0270054
Flanagan, R. (2016, October 31). One Hundred groundbreaking in of downtown Kitchener's boom. *CTV News*. Retrieved from: http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/one-hundred-groundbreaking-latest-sign-of-downtown-kitchener-s-boom-1.3139918
Orillia Packet Staff. (2016, October 28). City council awards tender. Orillia Packet. Retrieved from: http://www.orilliapacket.com/2016/10/28/city-council-awards-tender

⁹ Government of Canada. (2016, November 7). Canada and Ontario invest in post-secondary infrastructure at Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology. Government of Canada Newsroom. Retrieved from: http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=1&nid=1149039

¹⁰ Government of Canada. (2016, November 7). Canada and Ontario invest in post-secondary infrastructure at Carleton University. Government of Canada Newsroom. Retrieved from: http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=7&nid=1149079&crtr.tp1D=1

Pearson, M. (2016, November 15). Roadwork in Winona begins in anticipation of Costco development. Hamilton Community News. Stoney Creek News via Hamilton Community News. Retrieved from: http://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/6967878-roadwork-in-winona-begins-in-anticipation-of-costco-development/

¹² Markit Economics. (2016, December 1). Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *Markit Economics*. Retrieved from https://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/PressRelease.mvc/448c6920595c499fae0b6e1957816d6b

¹³ Vivan, R. (2016, November 3). UPDATE: Loss of Walmart contract preceded Cambridge Towel's pending closure. *The Cambridge Times*. Retrieved from http://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/6946277-update-loss-of-walmart-contract-preceded-cambridge-towel-s-pending-closure/

However, some positive announcements for wood products manufacturing ^{15, 16} were a silver lining in an otherwise cloudy November.

Year-over-year, goods-producing employment saw a decline of 700, weighed down by sizable drops in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-10,100) and agriculture (-5,600), and a decline in manufacturing (-4,900). Losses were undercut by growth in construction (+13,300) and utilities (+6,500).

Services-producing sector buoyed by FIRE despite losses in trade

The services-producing sector drove employment in Ontario, rising by 27,400 in November. Gains were recorded in most industries, led by the addition of 12,500 positions in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (FIRE) and 8,800 in information, culture and recreation. Trade, the largest industry in the sector, saw a decline (-7,200) as did educational services (-7,100) and transportation and warehousing (-4,000).

The FIRE industry led employment growth amid positive signs¹⁷ from real estate companies riding out heated property markets in Toronto and record profitability announcements by many of the major banks.¹⁸

The largest hiring announcements for the sector came from the federal public service as the Canada Revenue Agency announced it will hire 650 employees in Sudbury¹⁹ and Service Canada will hire over 80 for an operations and call centre, also in Sudbury.²⁰

Moderating retail sales growth in the second half of 2016²¹ likely impacted retail and wholesale trade as price growth in Canada ate into purchasing power.²² Consumer confidence in Ontario has also waned slightly since its recent highs halfway through the year.²³ In mid-November, Marathon's D. H. Foods, a 50-year old business, announced it would be closing²⁴ as did Sears Canada Inc.'s Cobourg location.²⁵

Compared to 12 months ago, services-producing employment was 105,300 higher. FIRE added some positions, but gains were mostly in health care and social assistance (+24,900), information, culture and recreation

²⁵ MacDonald, V. (2016, November 23). Cobourg Sears store to close in March. *Northumberland Today via The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2016/11/23/cobourg-sears-store-to-close-in-march



¹⁵ Fort Frances Times Staff. (2016, October 31). Kenora mill adds shift. *Fort Frances Times*. Retrieved from http://www.fftimes.com/news/local/news/kenora-mill-adds-shift

¹⁶ CBC News Staff. (2016, November 15). Hornepayne mill owner eyeing mid-December start-up. *CBC News*. Retrieved from http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/hornepayne-mill-restart-2016-1.3850469

Statistics Canada. (2016, September). CANSIM Table 281-0023, Employment by type and detailed NAICS, monthly unadstatistics Canada. Retrieved from http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=2810023

¹⁸ The Canadian Press. (2016, December 1). CIBC profit up 20%, TD up 25% as bank earnings stay strong. *Via CBC News*. Retrieved from http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/cibc-td-bank-earnings-1.3875980

¹⁹ The Sudbury Star. (2016, November 18). CRA to add 543 jobs in Sudbury. *The Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from: http://www.thesudburystar.com/2016/11/18/cra-to-add-543-in-sudbury

²⁰ MacDonald, D. (2016, November 22). Feds announce 83 new jobs for Sudbury. *Sudbury.com*. Retrieved from: https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/feds-announce-83-new-jobs-for-sudbury-471099

Statistics Canada. (2016, September). CANSIM Table 080-0020 - Retail trade, sales by NAICS, monthly (dollars). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=800020

²² Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 080-0024 - Retail trade, sales, chained dollars and price index based on NAICS, monthly. Statistics Canada. Retrieved from http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a05?&id=0800024&pattern=0800024

²³ Nanos Research. (2016, November 25). Canada's Weekly Economic Mood. *Bloomberg Nanos Canadian Confidence Index (BNCCI)*. Retrieved from http://www.nanosresearch.com/tickers/PDF/Bloomberg%20Nanos%20BNCCI%202016-11-25.pdf
²⁴ Clutchey, C. (2016, November 17). Long-running grocery store in Marathon closes. *The Chronicle Journal*. Retrieved from:

http://www.chroniclejournal.com/news/long-running-grocery-store-in-marathon-closes/article_c77e2bc2-ace1-11e6-9292-d7a6099a4783.html

(+24,200) and accommodation and food services (+23,000). Declines were highest in transportation and warehousing (-3,400), and wholesale and retail trade (-3,000).

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted	November 2016	October 2016	November 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
Data ('000)				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,037.6	7,018.7	6,933.1	18.9	0.3	104.5	1.5
Goods-producing sector	1,412.5	1,421.0	1,413.2	-8.5	-0.6	-0.7	0.0
Agriculture	73.1	76.1	78.7	-3.0	-3.9	-5.6	-7.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	33.8	33.7	43.9	0.1	0.3	-10.1	-23.0
Utilities	50.4	48.9	43.9	1.5	3.1	6.5	14.8
Construction	512.3	516.4	499.0	-4.1	-0.8	13.3	2.7
Manufacturing	742.8	746.0	747.7	-3.2	-0.4	-4.9	-0.7
Services-producing sector	5,625.1	5,597.7	5,519.8	27.4	0.5	105.3	1.9
Trade	1,023.3	1,030.5	1,026.3	-7.2	-0.7	-3.0	-0.3
Transportation and warehousing	326.5	330.5	329.9	-4.0	-1.2	-3.4	-1.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	561.5	549.0	550.3	12.5	2.3	11.2	2.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	592.4	589.7	591.5	2.7	0.5	0.9	0.2
Business, building and other support services	326.6	325.4	328.5	1.2	0.4	-1.9	-0.6
Educational services	506.0	513.1	504.4	-7.1	-1.4	1.6	0.3
Health care and social assistance	843.5	838.7	818.6	4.8	0.6	24.9	3.0
Information, culture and recreation	327.6	318.8	303.4	8.8	2.8	24.2	8.0
Accommodation and food services	467.4	464.1	444.4	3.3	0.7	23.0	5.2
Other services	285.9	280.2	278.2	5.7	2.0	7.7	2.8
Public administration	364.2	357.7	344.5	6.5	1.8	19.7	5.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Growth seen across Ontario in November

The **Muskoka–Kawarthas** region gained 26,600 in employment ²⁶ between November 2015 and November 2016, and the unemployment rate fell from 6.6% to 4.2% as a result. An increase in labour force participation is another sign of a healthy labour market in the area. The construction industry dominated the news in the region in the past month, starting with the construction of the Hospice Peterborough Care Center on November 1st. ²⁷ Announcements were also made for the modernization of Fleming College campuses in Peterborough and Lind-

²⁷ Guthrie, S. (2016, November 1). Ground breaking for Hospice Peterborough Center on London Street. *CHEXTV*. Retrieved from http://www.chextv.com/2016/11/01/ground-breaking-for-hospice-peterborough-care-center-on-london-street/



²⁶ Measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis.

say,²⁸ as well as the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and condominium units near Lake Muskoka.²⁹

Employment in the **Kingston–Pembroke** economic region grew by 20,000 over the past year. In addition, unemployment fell and more people looked for work. Construction began on the new Rideau Heights Community Centre and Library in Kingston in November. The project is expected to be completed by winter 2018.³⁰

Employment in **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** also rose by 20,000 year-over-year. The regional unemployment rate declined from 5.9% to 3.0% - the lowest in the province by a significant margin. Stratford–Bruce Peninsula's labour market has been trending positively for three consecutive months, with higher employment, lower unemployment, and increased workforce participation. The region's manufacturing sector was bolstered by a \$60M investment by Gay Lea Foods Co-Operative Ltd. into its Teeswater dairy plant, which will create 20 jobs. ³¹

The **Toronto** economic region posted a modest employment gain of 12,300 (+0.4%), and the unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 6.6%. A number of retail locations are opening in the region, including cosmetics brand Urban Decay in Mississauga, ³² and Azadi Jewellery ³³ and fashion brand m0851 in Toronto. ³⁴

Employment also rose in the **Windsor–Sarnia**, **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula**, **Ottawa**, **Northwest**, and **Northeast** economic regions.

Employment declined in the Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie and London regions

The **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** region posted the largest employment loss (-21,800) between November 2015 and November 2016. The unemployment rate rose from 4.5% to 4.7%, though it is still among the lowest in Ontario. The regional manufacturing base was affected by the closure of Cambridge Towel Company Inc.³⁵, however, robotic equipment manufacturer Innovative Automation is constructing a new 62,000-sq.-ft. facility in Barrie which will see 30 highly trained engineering professionals and tradespeople hired within the next year.³⁶

Employment fell in the **London** economic region for the fourth consecutive month. Moreover, the unemployment rate dropped as fewer people looked for work. The largest layoff announcement came from Thamesford,

Traber, C. (2016, November 17). Barrie's Innovative Automation celebrates banner week. *Barrie Advance*. Retrieved from http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/6968075-barrie-s-innovative-automation-celebrates-banner-week/



²⁸ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2016 November 7). Canada and Ontario invest in post-secondary infrastructure at Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology. *Government of Canada News Release*. Retrieved from http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=1&nid=1149039

²⁹ Cooper, B. (2016, November 20). New waste treatment plant underway at Touchstone Resort, Lake Muskoka. *Graven-hurst Banner*. Retrieved from http://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/6976391-new-waste-treatment-plant-underway-at-touchstone-resort-lake-muskoka/

³⁰ John, R. (2016, November 22). Construction Begins on Rideau Heights Community Centre and Library. *Kingston Herald*. Retrieved from http://kingstonherald.com/news/rideau-heights-community-centre-2010317380

³¹ Hiemstra, R. (2016, November 16). \$60M investment at Teeswater Creamery. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from http://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/midwestern-ontario-news/2016/11/16/60-m-investment-teeswater-creamery/

³² L'Oréal Discusses Urban Decay Canadian Store Expansion. (2016, November 21). *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2016/11/urban-decay

³³ Azadi Jewellery Announces Expansion into North America. (2016, November 9). *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2016/11/azadi

³⁴ m0851 Launches Mall Expansion Strategy. (2016, November 8). *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from http://www.retail-insider/2016/11/m0851

³⁵ Vivian, R. (2016, November 3). UPDATE: Loss of Walmart contract preceded Cambridge Towel's pending closure. *Cambridge Times*. Retrieved from http://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/6946277-update-loss-of-walmart-contract-preceded-cambridge-towel-s-pending-closure/

where Maple Leaf Foods will be closing its turkey processing plant in 2018. Approximately 400 workers will be affected by the closure.³⁷ Also, GoodLife Fitness is eliminating 60 jobs at its headquarters in London.³⁸

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

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		Employment		Unemployment Rate			
3-Month Moving Averages	November 2016	November 2015	Yearly	November 2016	November 2015	Yearly	
Seasonally Unadjusted Data	('000)	('000)	Variation	(%)	(%)	Variation	
			(%)			(% points)	
Ontario	7,026.9	6,936.9	1.3	5.9	6.4	-0.5	
Economic Regions							
Ottawa	697.6	687.8	1.4	5.5	5.8	-0.3	
Kingston—Pembroke	218.8	198.8	10.1	4.9	5.2	-0.3	
Muskoka — Kawarthas	183.5	156.9	17.0	4.2	6.6	-2.4	
Toronto	3,362.8	3,350.5	0.4	6.6	6.9	-0.3	
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	699.2	721.0	-3.0	4.7	4.5	0.2	
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	734.9	722.6	1.7	5.7	6.0	-0.3	
London	325.7	334.2	-2.5	5.5	6.1	-0.6	
Windsor—Sarnia	302.4	285.2	6.0	5.7	7.9	-2.2	
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	153.5	133.5	15.0	3.0	5.9	-2.9	
Northeast	248.8	248.4	0.2	6.3	7.3	-1.0	
Northwest	99.7	97.9	1.8	6.2	5.2	1.0	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey — CANSIM Table 282-0122

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market Information (LMI) Division, Service Canada, Ontario **For further information**, please contact the LMI team at: MC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca **For information on the Labour Force Survey**, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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³⁸ Daniszewski, H. (2016, October 28). GoodLife: London-based fitness chain eliminating 60 head office jobs and 225 at clubs. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from http://www.lfpress.com/2016/10/27/goodlife-london-based-fitness-chain-eliminating-60-head-office-jobs-and-225-at-clubs



³⁷ Stacey, M. (2016, November 16). Maple Leaf announces Thamesford plant will close; moving to Mitchell, Ont. *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*. Retrieved from http://www.lfpress.com/2016/11/15/maple-leaf-announces-that-thamesford-plant-will-be-closed-and-fresh-turkey-processing-will-move-to-sofina-facility-in-mitchell-ont