



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

October 2017



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 - Employment growth was relatively flat in Ontario in October 2017

- Employment increased by just 5,200 in the province in October 2017.
- All of the job gains were in full-time positions (+22,000).
- The unemployment rate rose from 5.6% in September 2017 to 5.9% in October 2017.

Employment in Ontario saw little change in October 2017 after stronger results over the past three months. Job growth was fairly muted with a monthly gain of just 5,200. The increase came solely from full-time work as part-time employment dipped by 16,700. The provincial unemployment rate ticked up by 0.3 percentage points as well to 5.9% in October 2017. Similarly, the unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 increased by 0.3 percentage points to 10.9%. This currently sits slightly below the national figure of 11.1%.

Across Canada, employment continued to forge ahead in October 2017. Employment rose by 35,300 for the eleventh consecutive monthly gain. Full-time employment surged with a gain of 88,700 while part-time work dropped by 53,400. Employment increased in most provinces with Quebec and Alberta leading the way. The national unemployment rate inched up to 6.3% as more Canadians entered the labour force. There was also a boost on the wages front in October. Average hourly wages grew by 2.4% across Canada over the past year for the second consecutive annual gain above the two-percentage mark. One factor that could weigh down on this momentum though may be the lacklustre trade environment. Exports and imports were both down in September 2017 with a sizeable drop in shipments of motor vehicles and parts likely because of a work stoppage at one of Ontario's automotive assembly plants. Although exports have seen poorer growth throughout the third quarter of the year, some experts feel that underlying market conditions will continue to remain supportive.

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 261,000 in the United States in October 2017.¹ While expectations hovered closer to the 310,000 range, this result suggests that the labour market bounced back following the hurricane-stricken numbers in September. Revised figures further showed that the American labour market actually gained jobs in September instead of losing 33,000 as initially stated, leading to 85-months of continuous growth. The unemployment rate fell slightly to 4.1%, as fewer people were active in the labour force. Despite the solid job report, subdued wage growth has the attention of some analysts especially with the possibility of another interest rate hike at the end of the year.

Over the past year, the provincial labour market has been quite robust. Employment increased by 149,200 between October 2016 and October 2017. Further, all of these job gains were in full-time work—an encouraging sign. The unemployment rate also fell by 0.5 percentage points to 5.9% and the participation rate inched up to 65.0% over this same period.

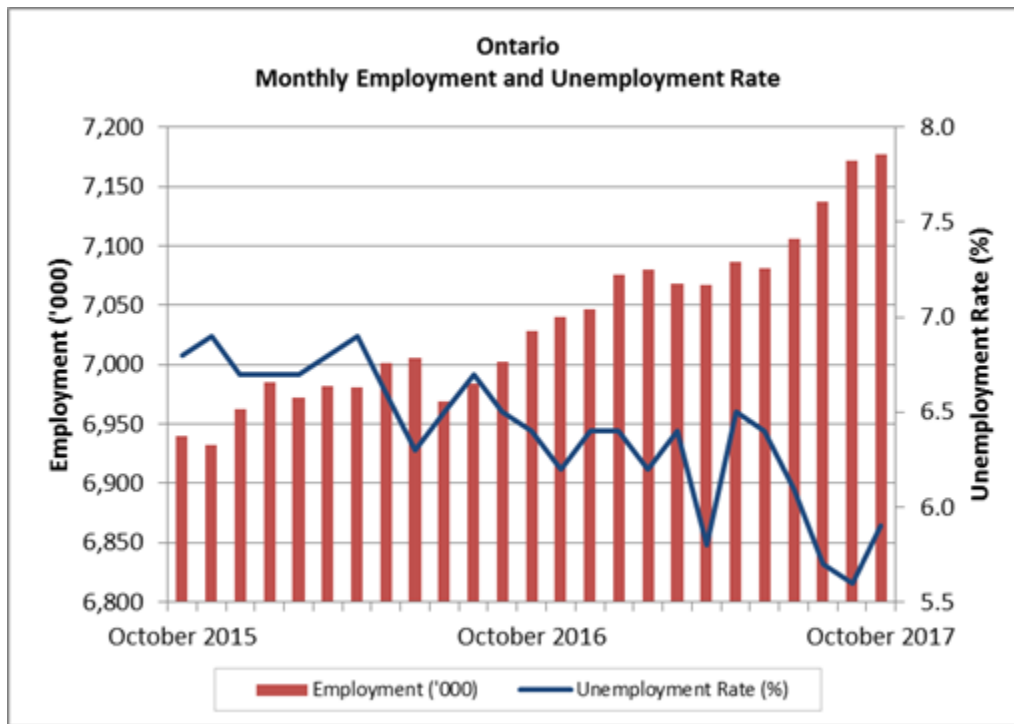
Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	October 2017	September 2017	October 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,741.30	11,725.2	11,569.80	16.1	0.1	171.5	1.5
Labour Force ('000)	7,628.10	7,601.0	7,509.20	27.1	0.4	118.9	1.6
Employment ('000)	7,177.30	7,172.1	7,028.10	5.2	0.1	149.2	2.1
Full-Time ('000)	5,836.0	5,814.0	5,670.70	22.0	0.4	165.3	2.9
Part-Time ('000)	1,341.3	1,358.0	1,357.40	-16.7	-1.2	-16.1	-1.2
Unemployment ('000)	450.8	428.9	481.10	21.9	5.1	-30.3	-6.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	5.6	6.4	0.3	-	-0.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.0	64.8	64.9	0.2	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.1	61.2	60.7	-0.1	-	0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

¹ Chappell, B. (2017, November 03). U.S. Adds 261,000 Jobs In October, And A Revision Restores Job Creation Streak. *The Two-Way*. Retrieved from <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/11/03/561802235/261-000-jobs-were-added-to-u-s-economy-in-october>



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2017	September 2017	October 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.9	5.6	6.4	0.3	-0.5
25 years and over	5.1	4.8	5.2	0.3	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	5.4	5.1	5.3	0.3	0.1
Women - 25 years and over	4.8	4.6	5.1	0.2	-0.3
15 to 24 years	10.9	10.6	13.5	0.3	-2.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.3	11.9	14.8	0.4	-2.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.4	9.1	12.0	0.3	-2.6

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment grew in the goods-producing sector in Ontario in October 2017

The goods-producing sector posted employment gains of 11,000 in October 2017. The employment expansion was supported by the construction industry, which increased by 9,100, while all of the other industries held rather steady.

Although the **construction** industry saw employment gains, the total value of building permits decreased in Ontario in August after reaching an all-time high this past June.² This decline was partially offset by a large increase in institutional and governmental permits, which was up 66.3% compared to a year earlier, as well as multi-family residential permits (+6.2%). Meanwhile, all other areas including permits for single-family residential units dropped compared to August 2016. Nevertheless, housing starts, another closely watched economic indicator, were up 12.1% between September 2016 and September 2017.³

In non-residential construction, work moved ahead on major projects such as the 35,000-sq.-ft. OPP Communications Centre in London, which should be open by the spring of 2019.⁴ The Confederation GO Station in east Hamilton will also begin construction by the end of 2017, with completion expected in 2019. The station will cost about \$35M, with another \$115M used to improve existing rail service.⁵ In addition, a large broadband infrastructure project was announced in October. The provincial and federal governments will contribute up to \$69.2M combined to install 880km of fibre optic cable to bring high-speed internet service to five remote Indigenous communities in northern Ontario.⁶ On the residential front, two large construction projects got underway in October. The Wildpine retirement residence broke ground in Stittsville,⁷ and work started on an 85-storey condominium tower in Toronto that will feature retail stores, restaurants, an event space, and hotel worth \$1B.⁸

Compared to October 2016, employment in the goods-producing sector was up 30,300. Year-over-year growth was driven by the manufacturing (+26,800) and construction (+9,900) industries, while employment in agriculture declined (-6,600).

Employment in the services-producing sector declined in October 2017

The services-producing sector posted a decline of 5,800 in October 2017. The decline was driven by employment losses in wholesale and retail trade (-15,000) and business, building and other support services (-8,600), whereas the information, culture and recreation (+12,800) and accommodation and food services (+11,200) industries recorded growth.

² Statistics Canada. (2017, October 06). CANSIM Table 026-0003, Building permits, values by activity sector, monthly (dollars). Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?id=0260003>

³ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2017, October 23). CANSIM Table 027-0054, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts all areas, Canada and provinces seasonally adjusted at annual rates, monthly (units x 1,000). Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?id=0270054>

⁴ Carruthers, D. (2017, October 17). OPP communications centre will house 140 staffers who handle crisis calls. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/2017/10/16/communications-centre-will-house-140-staffers-who-handle-crisis-calls>

⁵ Werner, K. (2017, October 11). Metrolinx to begin Confederation GO train station construction later this year. *Stoney Creek News*. Retrieved from <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/7607992-metrolinx-to-begin-confederation-go-train-station-construction-later-this-year/>

⁶ Government of Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2017, October 06). Expanding Broadband Infrastructure in Remote Northern Ontario. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2017/10/expanding_broadbandinfrastructureinremotenorthernontario.html

⁷ Dryden, B. (2017, October 20). Stittsville touted as retirement mecca. *Ottawa Community News*. Retrieved from <https://www.ottawacommunitynews.com/news-story/7665039-stittsville-touted-as-retirement-mecca/>

⁸ Bozikovic, A. (2017, October 05). The One: An ambitious, 85-storey tower that will transform Toronto's skyline. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/the-one/article36498485/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

Despite annual gains in wholesale⁹ and retail trade sales¹⁰ in August 2017, there were a number of large layoff announcements in the **wholesale** and **retail trade** industry as of late. Sears Canada Inc. announced that it would liquidate its entire inventory and close all of its stores across Canada to end 65 years of business.¹¹ The number of staff affected in Ontario is estimated to be about 5,500. Loblaw Companies Limited also announced that it would cut 500 staff nationwide. The company cited heavy competition and a need to lower operational costs as reasons for the job losses.¹² Meanwhile, Metro Inc. announced that it would cut 280 positions across its Ontario distribution network starting in 2021.¹³

Partially offsetting employment declines in the wholesale and retail trade industry were a number of encouraging announcements in **accommodation and food services**. Montana's BBQ & Bar will open a restaurant at the end of November in Alliston with 80 to 100 workers.¹⁴ The Cheesecake Factory, Inc. will open its first Canadian restaurant with a 10,400-sq.-ft. location inside of Toronto's Yorkdale Shopping Centre.¹⁵ Further, The Keg Steakhouse + Bar will open in Barrie's Park Place this fall.¹⁶

Compared to October 2016, employment in the services-producing sector expanded by 118,900. Gains were most pronounced in professional, scientific and technical services (+53,400), wholesale and retail trade (+41,400), and health care and social assistance (+30,400), with declines in business, building and other support services (-22,100) and educational services (-21,500).

⁹ Statistics Canada. (2017, October 20). CANSIM Table 081-0011, Wholesale trade, sales by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), monthly (dollars). Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=810011>

¹⁰ Statistics Canada. (2017, October 19). CANSIM Table 080-0020, Retail trade, sales by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), monthly (dollars). Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=800020>

¹¹ Alini, E. (2017, October 11). Sears Canada: Here's how many jobs each province will lose. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/3797128/sears-canada-ontario-quebec-job-losses/>

¹² Sagan, A. (2017, October 16). Loblaw Companies lays off 500 office workers in cost-cutting drive. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/loblaw-companies-lays-off-500-office-workers-in-cost-cutting-drive/article36602562/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

¹³ Marowits, R. (2017, October 11). Metro to eliminate 280 jobs in overhaul of Ontario distribution network. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/metro-to-eliminate-280-jobs-in-overhaul-of-ontario-distribution-network/article36538030/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

¹⁴ Pritchard, B. (2017, October 19). Montana's set to open Nov. 27 in Alliston. *Alliston Herald*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7660765-montana-s-set-to-open-nov-27-in-alliston/>

¹⁵ The Canadian Press. (2017, October 19). The Cheesecake Factory to open Toronto location at Yorkdale mall Nov. 21. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2017/10/19/the-cheesecake-factory-to-open-toronto-location-at-yorkdale-mall-nov-21.html>

¹⁶ Simon, C. (2017, October 01). XPlay, The Keg and Toys 'R' Us opening at Barrie's Park Place soon. *Barrie Advance*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7581064-xplay-the-keg-and-toys-r-us-opening-at-barrie-s-park-place-soon/>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	October 2017	September 2017	October 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,177.3	7,172.1	7,028.1	5.2	0.1	149.2	2.1
Goods-producing sector	1,453.7	1,442.7	1,423.4	11.0	0.8	30.3	2.1
Agriculture	69.1	69.7	75.7	-0.6	-0.9	-6.6	-8.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	35.8	36.0	33.8	-0.2	-0.6	2.0	5.9
Utilities	47.4	46.3	49.3	1.1	2.4	-1.9	-3.9
Construction	527.3	518.2	517.4	9.1	1.8	9.9	1.9
Manufacturing	774.1	772.4	747.3	1.7	0.2	26.8	3.6
Services-producing sector	5,723.6	5,729.4	5,604.7	-5.8	-0.1	118.9	2.1
Trade	1,071.3	1,086.3	1,029.9	-15.0	-1.4	41.4	4.0
Transportation and warehousing	352.5	352.2	329.8	0.3	0.1	22.7	6.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	555.0	559.8	552.0	-4.8	-0.9	3.0	0.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	645.0	643.7	591.6	1.3	0.2	53.4	9.0
Business, building and other support services	303.1	311.7	325.2	-8.6	-2.8	-22.1	-6.8
Educational services	490.2	496.6	511.7	-6.4	-1.3	-21.5	-4.2
Health care and social assistance	870.8	873.2	840.4	-2.4	-0.3	30.4	3.6
Information, culture and recreation	318.8	306.0	320.3	12.8	4.2	-1.5	-0.5
Accommodation and food services	462.6	451.4	463.8	11.2	2.5	-1.2	-0.3
Other services	281.3	273.3	280.9	8.0	2.9	0.4	0.1
Public administration	373.2	375.2	359.1	-2.0	-0.5	14.1	3.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Most regions posted employment gains in Ontario in October 2017

The **Toronto** economic region had the highest gain in employment (99,900) between October 2016 and October 2017 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis), with most of the gains in full-time jobs (+68,200). The unemployment rate fell 1.3 percentage points to 6.0% between October 2016 and 2017. The transportation and warehousing industry was a bright spot for the region. GO Transit announced that it has nearly completed its Whitby Rail Maintenance Facility, which will create between 300 to 400 jobs when fully operational.¹⁷ Meanwhile, the local aerospace manufacturing industry had a mixed month. While MHI Canada Aerospace Inc. announced that it would create 90 jobs as part of a \$36.2M investment,¹⁸ Northstar Aerospace closed its Milton plant, which resulted in 200 layoffs.¹⁹

¹⁷ Gilligan, K. (2017, October 17). Huge Whitby GO facility nearing completion. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/7622966-huge-whitby-go-facility-nearing-completion/>

¹⁸ Ministry of Economic Development and Growth. (2017, October 02). Ontario Promoting Aerospace Innovation in Mississauga. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2017/10/ontario-promoting-aerospace-innovation-in-mississauga.html>

¹⁹ McGillivray, K. (2017, August 10). Unifor members occupy Milton plant that makes Boeing parts. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/unifor-members-occupy-milton-plant-that-makes-boeing-parts-1.4241493>

The **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region experienced an employment gain of 36,200 year-over-year, largely in full-time positions. Brantford’s manufacturing industry received a couple of major investments, which should bode well for employment over the coming months. The Government of Ontario announced that it would invest up to \$11M in Ferrero Canada Ltd. as part of a \$90M expansion project that will create 80 jobs.²⁰ A sizeable investment in J.P. Bowman Precision Tooling to meet growing demand will also lead to 16 additional jobs.²¹ The educational services industry saw some gains as well. Most of this was concentrated in Hamilton with the hiring of 21 teachers at the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board²² and the opening of the New Heights Learning Centre, which employs eight staff.²³

The **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region posted year-over-year gains in employment for the sixth consecutive month with the addition of 32,700 jobs. Most of these gains were in full-time positions (+25,800). The regional labour market seems to be gaining strength. The unemployment rate fell to 4.5% from 5.2% last October, and both the size of the labour force and the participation rate increased over the same period. The regional manufacturing industry has been particularly positive for job creation. The opening of a facility by Streit Manufacturing Inc. in Midland will add between 75 and 120 jobs,²⁴ and Eclipse Automation Inc.’s new Cambridge location will add 120 high-skilled positions.²⁵ The industry will see further growth as the provincial government announced that it would invest in Weber Manufacturing Technologies, which should lead to 17 jobs and retain 220 positions.²⁶ Outside of manufacturing, expansions in other industries will continue to support the local labour market. The addition of 36 transitional beds will lead to 70 jobs at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in Barrie.²⁷ The professional, scientific and technical services industry also received a boost with the announcement that Shopify Inc. plans to add 300 to 500 staff in Waterloo over the next three to five years to build its online platform.²⁸

The **Muskoka–Kawartha**s economic region saw an increase of 9,000 year-over-year with most of the job gains in full-time positions. The unemployment rate increased slightly by 0.3 percentage points to 5.5%, and the participation rate rose as well. The local manufacturing industry should receive a significant boost in the coming

²⁰ Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. (2017, October 11). Ontario Supporting Food Processing Sector in Brantford. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/omafra/en/2017/10/ontario-supporting-food-processing-sector-in-brantford.html>

²¹ Small Business. (2017, September 29). Ontario Supporting Manufacturing Sector in Brantford. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/sb/en/2017/09/ontario-supporting-manufacturing-sector-in-brantford.html>

²² Leitner, R. (2017, October 19). Hamilton enrolment jump adds 21 teachers. *Hamilton Mountain News*. Retrieved from <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/7656772-hamilton-enrolment-jump-adds-21-teachers/>

²³ Paddon, N. (2017, October 18). New centre helps kids “be the best they can be”. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/7659651-new-centre-helps-kids-be-the-best-they-can-be/>

²⁴ Mendler, A. (2017, September 29). Armoured car manufacturer bringing 100 new jobs to Midland. *Midland Mirror*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7583261-armoured-car-manufacturer-bringing-100-new-jobs-to-midland/>

²⁵ Vivian, R. (2017, October 25). With another facility, Cambridge’s Eclipse Automation adds 120 jobs. *Cambridge Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/7682542-with-another-facility-cambridge-s-eclipse-automation-adds-120-jobs/>

²⁶ Office of the Premier. (2017, October 16). Ontario Helping to Create New Manufacturing Jobs in Midland. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2017/10/ontario-helping-to-create-new-manufacturing-jobs-in-midland.html>

²⁷ McInroy, I. (2017, October 23). More beds, jobs for Barrie’s Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre. *Barrie Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thebarrieexaminer.com/2017/10/23/more-beds-jobs-for-barries-royal-victoria-regional-health-centre>

²⁸ Pender, T. (2017, October 19). Shopify hiring hundreds in Waterloo. *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/7661683-shopify-hiring-hundreds-in-waterloo/>

months as FV Pharma Inc. establishes a plant in Cobourg, which is expected to create 150 jobs by the end of 2018 and up to 1,200 jobs over the next five years.²⁹

The **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic region experienced an employment gain of 6,600 between October 2016 and October 2017, mostly in full-time positions. The unemployment rate increased slightly to 4.0% as more people participated in the labour market. The region saw gains across multiple industries. In manufacturing, Exceldor Foods Limited announced that it plans to hire 60 full-time staff at its poultry processing plant in Hanover.³⁰ SNC-Lavalin Group Inc. opened an office in Port Elgin with plans to fill 35 positions.³¹ Further, work is progressing to revitalize Goderich's Agricultural Park worth \$3.2M.³²

The **Northwest** economic region posted an employment gain of 4,400 year-over-year, the majority of which were in full-time positions. The unemployment rate dropped from 6.4% to 5.3% between October 2016 and October 2017. Further, there was an increase in the size of the labour force and the participation rate, which could indicate some improvement in the local job market. The construction industry received some positive news this month. The federal and provincial governments announced a combined \$3.7M to build a cogeneration power plant and wood pellet manufacturing facility near to Thunder Bay.³³ The project will create 64 full-time jobs and 60 seasonal positions.

Meanwhile, employment was relatively steady in the **Northeast** economic region between October 2016 and October 2017.

Kingston–Pembroke posted the largest job loss and the highest unemployment rate in October 2017

The **Kingston–Pembroke** economic region witnessed the largest job loss of 11,300 year-over-year, most of which were in part-time positions. The region also posted the highest unemployment rate at 6.7%, surpassing the provincial level. The steady closure of Sears Canada Inc. over the course of the year hit the region particularly hard, as it will affect a significant portion of the local retail workforce. However, the construction industry should provide some relief with multiple projects underway including the \$7.5M reconstruction of the Sunset Strip west of Owen Sound³⁴ and the \$1.5M St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall project.³⁵

The **London** economic region experienced a year-over-year employment loss of 8,600. Although the unemployment rate remained steady at 5.8%, fewer people participated in the regional workforce. News for the local manufacturing industry was mixed this month. While the London area should see about 90 additional manufac-

²⁹ Beattie, S. (2017, October 13). Marijuana company to breathe new life into Cobourg's former Kraft plant. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/10/12/marijuana-company-to-breathe-new-life-into-cobourgs-former-kraft-plant.html>

³⁰ Hermiz, M. (2017, October 10). Hanover turkey processor to add 60 full-time positions. *Bayshore Broadcasting*. Retrieved from http://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=96525

³¹ Mackinnon, J. (2017, October 24). SNC-Lavalin Opens Office In Port Elgin. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/2017/10/24/snc-lavalin-sets-office-port-elgin/>

³² Jackson, P. (2017, October 24). Goderich Agricultural Park Work To Cost \$3.2M. *Bayshore Broadcasting*. Retrieved from http://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=96890

³³ Peden, H. (2017, October 22). 'Huge' power plant on way. *The Chronicle Journal*. Retrieved from http://www.chroniclejournal.com/news/huge-power-plant-on-way/article_c4408b42-b72d-11e7-8e7e-7721bd70b687.html

³⁴ Gowan, R. (2017, October 04). Sunset Strip work about two-thirds complete. *Sun Times, Owen Sound*. Retrieved from <http://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/2017/10/04/sunset-strip-work-about-two-thirds-complete>

³⁵ Bramburger, A. (2017, October 25). St. Patrick's breaks ground on \$1.5-million parish hall project. *The Napanee Beaver*. Retrieved from <http://www.napaneebeaver.ca/2017/10/25/st-patricks-breaks-ground-on-1-5-million-parish-hall-project/>

turing jobs through multiple investments,^{36 37} the closure of the Firestone Fibers & Textiles Company plant in Woodstock will result in 170 layoffs by mid-2018.³⁸ On the other hand, the construction industry should see some activity with the building of an IKEA store slated for completion in 2019.³⁹

The **Ottawa** economic region saw a year-over-year employment loss with a decline of 6,100 jobs. The unemployment rate fell to 5.9% from 6.1% between October 2016 and October 2017, as fewer people participated in the workforce. Despite these losses, the region received some good news that should carry forward to the months ahead. Xplornet Communications Inc. opened an office in Cornwall creating 120 jobs⁴⁰ and Giant Tiger Stores Limited opened its distribution centre in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville creating about 60 additional jobs.⁴¹

Employment fell in the **Windsor–Sarnia** region by 2,700 while the unemployment rate increased to 6.3% between October 2016 and October 2017. Year-over-year losses were observed mostly in full-time positions. Even though job growth was limited this month, some gains should come with the opening of a windfarm near Lakeshore,⁴² a Surplus Furniture & Mattress Warehouse in Chatham,⁴³ and new hires for a medical marijuana facility in Enniskillen Township.⁴⁴

³⁶ Small Business. (2017, October 13). London Manufacturer Builds New Hot Stamping Facility. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/sb/en/2017/10/london-manufacturer-builds-new-hot-stamping-facility.html>

³⁷ Small Business. (2017, October 20). Ontario Supporting Jobs and Growth in London. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/sb/en/2017/10/ontario-supporting-jobs-and-growth-in-london.html>

³⁸ CTV London. (2017, October 04). Firestone plant in Woodstock to close; 170 jobs lost. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <http://london.ctvnews.ca/firestone-plant-in-woodstock-to-close-170-jobs-lost-1.3618481>

³⁹ Peacock, D. (2017, October 12). Ikea Canada to open full-sized store in London in 2019. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/3798999/ikea-canada-to-open-full-sized-store-in-london-in-2019/>

⁴⁰ Xplornet Communications Inc. (2017, October 12). Xplornet Celebrates Official Opening of its New Regional Office in Cornwall, Ontario. *Cision*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/xplornet-celebrates-official-opening-of-its-new-regional-office-in-cornwall-ontario-650618293.html>

⁴¹ Brodie, J. (2017, October 02). Bigger is better at Giant Tiger opening. *Brockville Recorder*. Retrieved from <http://www.recorder.ca/2017/10/01/bigger-is-better-at-giant-tiger-opening>

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⁴⁴ Michaels, L. (2017, October 17). Medical Marijuana Job Fair. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2017/10/17/medical-marijuana-job-fair/>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2017 ('000)	October 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2017 (%)	October 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,193.7	7,033.4	2.3	5.7	6.6	-0.9
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	689.2	695.3	-0.9	5.9	6.1	-0.2
Kingston—Pembroke	206.9	218.2	-5.2	6.7	5.7	1.0
Muskoka—Kawarthas	184.3	175.3	5.1	5.5	5.2	0.3
Toronto	3,474.5	3,374.6	3.0	6.0	7.3	-1.3
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	735.0	702.3	4.7	4.5	5.2	-0.7
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	764.3	728.1	5.0	4.9	6.3	-1.4
London	322.9	331.5	-2.6	5.8	5.8	0.0
Windsor—Sarnia	303.0	305.7	-0.9	6.3	6.0	0.3
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	156.9	150.3	4.4	4.0	3.9	0.1
Northeast	251.1	251.0	0.0	6.3	6.6	-0.3
Northwest	105.5	101.1	4.4	5.3	6.4	-1.1

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.

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For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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