



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario



March 2017

The Quarterly Edition of the Labour Market Bulletin is a look back over the past three months, providing an analysis of quarterly 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 grew for the second consecutive quarter in Ontario

- Gains in full-time employment (+56,900) were offset by losses in part-time work (-20,500)
- The unemployment rate held steady at 6.3%
- The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 rose from 13.7% to 14.8% in the first quarter

Employment increased by 36,300 in Ontario in the first quarter of 2017. This was the second consecutive quarterly gain for the province. Although gains in full-time employment were recorded across the three-month period, part-time employment recorded losses in February and March. Both employment and participation rates inched up in the first quarter of 2017. The unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 increased to 14.8% and the employment rate fell to 51.9% in the first quarter of 2017.

At the national level, employment grew by 94,900 in the first quarter of 2017, with employment gains observed across all three months. The national unemployment rate declined to 6.7% in the first quarter of 2017, the lowest level in Canada since Q4 of 2014.

In the United States, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 98,000 in March 2017.¹ This gain underperformed the market expectation of 180,000 and it was the lowest employment gain since May 2016. Employment gains averaged 178,000 for the first three months of 2017 and the unemployment rate fell to 4.5% in March, continuing a downward trend over the last two months.² In their March Meeting, the Federal

¹ Trading Economics. (2017, April 7). [United States Non Farm Payrolls](http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/non-farm-payrolls). Trading Economics. Retrieved from <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/non-farm-payrolls>

² Trading Economics. (2017, April 7). [United States Unemployment Rate](http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/unemployment-rate). Trading Economics. Retrieved from <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/unemployment-rate>

Reserve raised interest rates for the second time in three months, suggesting an optimistic outlook for U.S. economic growth.³

Employment grew by 94,600 in Ontario between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. Employment gains were observed in both full-time and part-time work. The unemployment rate declined from 6.7 to 6.3, while the participation rate edged down slightly.

A look at labour market conditions for Ontario's Indigenous People

In the first quarter of 2017, the total population aged 15+ in Ontario was 11.6 million and the Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 2.1% of that, or 242,400 people. Employment among Indigenous people in Ontario was 124,100, representing an increase of +8,000 (+6.9%) from a year earlier (Q1 2016). All of the increase was in full-time (+8,800 or +10.5%) positions, partially offset by a decrease in part-time positions (-900 or -2.8%).

In Q1 2017, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population declined -0.2 percentage points from a year earlier, to 11.8%, while the unemployment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population decreased to 6.4% (-0.5 percentage points). The participation rate of the Indigenous population increased to 58.0% (+0.6 percentage points) year-over-year, while that of the non-Indigenous population edged down slightly to 64.3%. The employment rate among Indigenous people also increased from the previous year to 51.2% (+0.6 percentage points). For the non-Indigenous population, the employment rate was 60.2%.

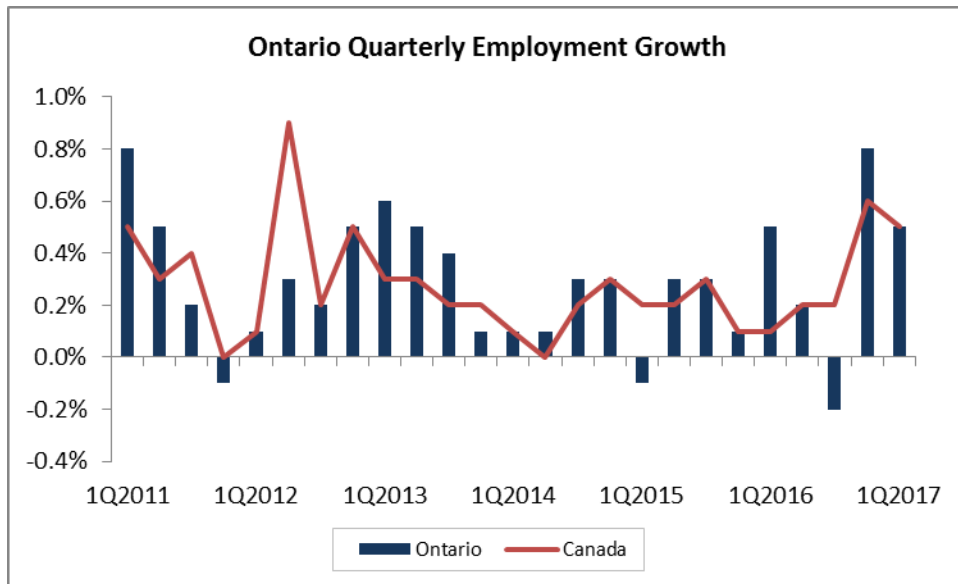
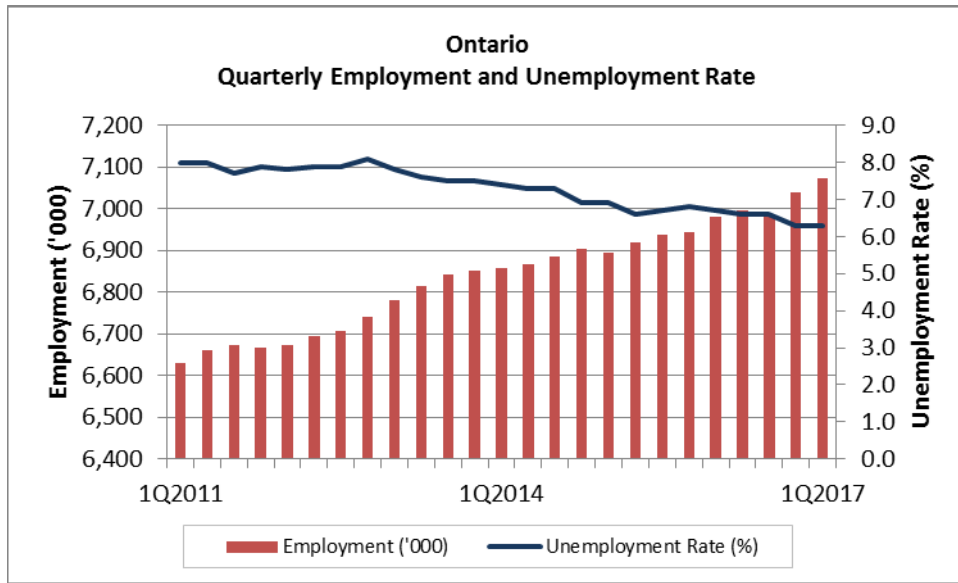
Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2017	4th Quarter 2016	1st Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,616.0	11,580.8	11,466.1	35.2	0.3	149.9	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	7,553.4	7,514.3	7,484.7	39.1	0.5	68.7	0.9
Employment ('000)	7,074.5	7,038.2	6,979.9	36.3	0.5	94.6	1.4
Full-Time ('000)	5,734.6	5,677.7	5,669.6	56.9	1.0	65.0	1.1
Part-Time ('000)	1,339.9	1,360.4	1,310.3	-20.5	-1.5	29.6	2.3
Unemployment ('000)	478.9	476.1	504.7	2.8	0.6	-25.8	-5.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3	6.3	6.7	0.0	-	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.0	64.9	65.3	0.1	-	-0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.9	60.8	60.9	0.1	-	0.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

³ Cox, Jeff. (2017, March 15). Fed raises rates at March meeting. *CNBC*. Retrieved from <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/15/fed-raises-rates-at-march-meeting.html>



Ontario Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
	2017 (%)	2016 (%)	2016 (%)		
Total	6.3	6.3	6.7	0.0	-0.4
25 years and over	4.9	5.1	5.5	-0.2	-0.6
Men - 25 years and over	4.7	5.1	5.7	-0.4	-1.0
Women - 25 years and over	5.1	5.1	5.3	0.0	-0.2
15 to 24 years	14.8	13.7	14.2	1.1	0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.3	14.5	15.5	0.8	-0.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.2	12.9	12.9	1.3	1.3

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

Ontario - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q1 2017	Q1 2016	number	%	Q1 2017	Q1 2016	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	242.4	229.6	12.8	5.6%	11,373.5	11,236.6	136.9	1.2%
Labour Force ('000)	140.6	131.9	8.7	6.6%	7,314.0	7,246.4	67.6	0.9%
Employment ('000)	124.1	116.1	8.0	6.9%	6,842.6	6,749.7	92.9	1.4%
Full-Time ('000)	92.7	83.9	8.8	10.5%	5,486.2	5,425.5	60.7	1.1%
Part-Time ('000)	31.4	32.3	-0.9	-2.8%	1,356.4	1,324.2	32.2	2.4%
Unemployment ('000)	16.5	15.8	0.7	4.4%	471.4	496.7	-25.3	-5.1%
Unemployment Rate (%)	11.8	12.0	-0.2	-	6.4	6.9	-0.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	58.0	57.4	0.6	-	64.3	64.5	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.2	50.6	0.6	-	60.2	60.1	0.1	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Manufacturing led employment growth in the goods-producing sector in the first quarter

Employment in the **goods-producing** sector grew by 5,100 (+0.4%) in the first quarter of 2017, based on seasonally-adjusted estimates. This increase was attributed to employment growth in manufacturing which was up by 13,600 or 1.8%. Employment losses were reported in nearly all other areas, notably in construction of 6,100 (-1.2%).

Along with the strong employment gain of 13,600 in **manufacturing**, there were also several positive developments in the period. The Canadian motor vehicle manufacturing industry, which is concentrated in Ontario, performed favourably, buoyed by stronger sales of light trucks^{4,5} and large capital investments. The

⁴ Canadian Press Staff. (2017, April 4). Light trucks power March new vehicle sales to record of 187,000. PLANT Magazine. Retrieved from <http://www.plant.ca/general/166801-166801/>

⁵ DesRosiers Automotive Consultants Inc. (2017, March 15). Volume 31. Issue 5.

federal and provincial governments supported investments made by Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited^{6,7} and Honda of Canada Manufacturing,⁸ and various parts suppliers are also expanding in the province.^{9,10,11,12}

Other indicators also point to a strengthening manufacturing sector. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index remained in expansion territory in March and rose to its highest level in nearly three-and-a-half years. The sector's performance reflected strong output, growth in new orders and in domestic demand, and rising staffing levels. In particular, Ontario experienced a sharp increase in export sales. However, the sector faces challenges, such as long supplier delivery times and high cost burdens due to the strong United States dollar and rising raw material prices.^{13,14}

Some layoff announcements will however temper employment growth in manufacturing.^{15,16,17} Among them, FCA Canada Inc. plans to outsource operations at its FCA Transport division in Windsor by the end of 2017. The potential loss of 295 positions should be averted through retirements and other employment offers.¹⁸

⁶ Office of the Prime Minister Press Release. (2017, March 30). Prime Minister of Canada announces support to Ford of Canada to create and maintain almost 800 employments for Canadian workers. *Office of the Prime Minister*. Retrieved from <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2017/03/30/prime-minister-canada-announces-support-ford-canada-create-and-maintain-almost-800>

⁷ CNW Group. (2017, March 30). Ford Invests C\$500 Million for R&D in Canada; Doubles Connectivity Team and Opens New Research and Engineering Centre in Ottawa. *Canadian Newswire*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/ford-invests-c500-million-for-rd-in-canada-doubles-connectivity-team-and-opens-new-research-and-engineering-centre-in-ottawa-617656983.html>

⁸ Government of Canada. (2017, January 9). Government of Canada invests \$41.8 million in Honda of Canada Manufacturing to maintain middle-class employments and develop clean technologies. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=4&nid=1177019>

⁹ Government of Canada Press Release. (2017, February 16). Government of Canada announces \$18.2 million for automotive innovation. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2017/02/government_of_canadaannounces182millionforautomotiveinnovation.html

¹⁰ Government of Canada Newsroom. (2017, February 14). FedDev Ontario Invests in Vaughan Aerospace Manufacturer. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2017/02/feddev_ontario_investsinvaughanaerospacemanufacturer.html

¹¹ CTV News Staff. (2017, March 29). Cavalier Tool celebrates \$9M investment, employments. *CTV News Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://windsor.ctvnews.ca/cavalier-tool-celebrates-9m-investment-employments-1.3345792>

¹² Newsroom Ontario Staff. (2017, January 27). Ontario Investing in Manufacturing in Guelph. *Newsroom Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2017/01/ontario-investing-in-manufacturing-in-guelph.html>

¹³ IHS Markit. (2017, April 3). Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/PressRelease.mvc/c30b62b5741e4df1ba8c72f1a73e6acf>

¹⁴ Trading Economics. (2017, March). Canada Manufacturing PMI. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

¹⁵ Keenan, G. (2017, January 27). GM to cut 625 employments at Ontario plant, union says. *Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/gm-to-cut-as-many-as-600-employments-in-southwestern-ontario-union-says/article33794522>

¹⁶ Torstar News Service. (2017, January 17). General Electric Peterborough laying off 150 workers. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/01/17/general-electric-peterborough-laying-off-150-workers.html>

¹⁷ Press Release. (2017, March 10). Resolute Announces Indefinite Idling of Thorold Newsprint Mill. *Resolute Forest Products*. Retrieved from <http://resolutefp.mediaroom.com/2017-03-10-Resolute-Announces-Indefinite-Idling-of-Thorold-Newsprint-Mill>

¹⁸ CBC News Staff. (2017, March 24). FCA to wind down transport operations in Windsor. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/fca-to-wind-down-transport-operations-in-windsor-1.4040219>

Employment in the **construction** sector declined by 6,100, however, activities remain buoyant. The non-residential segment attracted several multi-million investments, including in retail,^{19,20,21,22} other commercial facilities,^{23,24} and industrial buildings.^{25,26} On the infrastructure front, employment in the sector also benefitted from transit-related projects.^{27,28,29,30}

In the **utilities** sector, the merger established between Enbridge Inc. and Spectra Energy Corp. is expected to result in some employment losses in Ontario.^{31,32}

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the goods-producing sector fell marginally by 800 (-0.1%). Employment gains in three sectors, particularly construction (+13,000), could not offset the losses in agriculture (-11,400) and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-6,300).

Health care and social assistance led employment growth in the services-producing sector for the quarterly and yearly period

¹⁹ Whitnell, T. (2017, March 29). Burlington Mall renovations coincide with site's 50th anniversary. *Burlington Post*. Retrieved from <http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/7215695-burlington-mall-renovations-coincide-with-site-s-50th-anniversary/>

²⁰ Cadillac Fairview Press Release. (2017, January 5). CF Masonville Place to welcome new retailers and exciting entertainment concept. *Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited*. Retrieved from https://www.cadillacfairview.com/en_CA/news/CF_Masonville_Place_to_welcome_new_retailers_and_exciting_entertainment_concept.html

²¹ CTV Windsor Staff. (2017, March 28). Multi-million dollar development going up near Devonshire Mall. *CTV News Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://windsor.ctvnews.ca/multi-million-dollar-development-going-up-near-devonshire-mall-1.3342934>

²² CNW Staff. (2017, February 21). Upper Canada Mall Announces \$60 Million Redevelopment Plan for 2018. *CNW Group*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/upper-canada-mall-announces-60-million-redevelopment-plan-for-2018-614344933.html>

²³ Daniszewski, H. (2017, January 29). A new office building is under construction that will expand the Horton Street tech corridor. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2017/01/28/a-new-office-building-is-under-construction-that-will-expand-the-horton-street-tech-corridor>

²⁴ Dawson, C. (2017, February 22). Twiggs expanding. *Bay Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/twiggs-expanding-542583>

²⁵ Beitz, M. (2017, February 8). Trillium Hatchery to build \$20-million chick hatchery in Stratford's Wright Business Park. *Stratford Beacon Herald*. Retrieved from <http://www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/2017/02/07/trillium-hatchery-to-build-20-million-chick-hatchery-in-stratfords-wright-business-park>

²⁶ Michaels, L. (2017, March 15). New Green Biofuel Plant To Set Up Shop In St. Clair Township. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2017/03/15/new-green-biofuel-plant-set-shop-st-clair-twp>

²⁷ Government of Canada. (2017, January 11). Bus terminal to be built in Vaughan for York Region Transit. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=5&nid=1177999>

²⁸ Spurr, B. (2017, January 23). TTC's newest subway extension taking shape. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/01/23/ttcs-newest-subway-extension-taking-shape.html>

²⁹ Government of Canada Press Release. (2017, February 10). Governments of Canada and Ontario invest in public transit in Brampton. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=2&nid=1187079&crtr.tp1D=1>

³⁰ DCN News Service. (2017, February 27). Governments fund 12 public transit projects in Kingston. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <http://dailycommercialnews.com/Government/News/2017/2/Governments-fund-12-public-transit-projects-in-Kingston-1021893W/>

³¹ Terfloth, T. (2017, March 22). Approximately 1,000 positions cut across the chain. *Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2017/03/22/approximately-1000-positions-cut-across-the-chain>

³² CBC News Staff. (2017, March 22). Enbridge sheds 1,000 employments after takeover of Spectra Energy. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/enbridge-spectra-energy-layoffs-1.4036009>

Employment increased by 31,300 or 0.6% in the services-producing sector. The main contributors were health care and social assistance (+19,800), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+13,300), and public administration (10,300). Employment losses were reported in five sectors, with the largest in information, culture and recreation (-8,800), and educational services (-7,300).

The **health care and social assistance** sector continued its growth momentum, expanding by 19,800 this quarter. Coinciding with demographic changes, health services is benefiting from news of investments in hospitals.^{33,34,35} On the social assistance side, more child-care spaces will be added in schools in different areas of Ontario.^{36,37} The plan proposed in the 2017 federal budget to support up to 40,000 new subsidized child-care spaces nationally will further boost future employment in the sector.³⁸

Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (FIRE) sector expanded by 13,300, increasing for the second consecutive quarter. Within this sector, most recently available reports indicate an increase in earnings in banking compared to a year ago.³⁹ Yet, technological shifts in the industry, such as the growing use of on-line banking and other digital features are contributing to longer-term plans to reduce the number of bank branches.⁴⁰ News came of more imminent closures of some locations especially in the less populated areas of the province.^{41,42,43} For the real estate segment of the FIRE industry, although demand for housing remains strong in most urban areas, high home prices, tightness in the supply, and regulatory changes may be impacting sales activities in some markets.^{44,45}

³³ Simon, C. (2017, February 13). **New nurses, programs included in Barrie hospital's \$340-million budget.** *Barrie Advance*. Retrieved from <http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7138480-new-nurses-programs-included-in-barrie-hospital-s-340-million-budget/>

³⁴ Carson, S. (2017, February 14). **Construction set to begin on RVH's cardiac centre in Barrie.** *Barrie Advance*. Retrieved from <http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7140247-construction-set-to-begin-on-rvh-s-cardiac-centre-in-barrie/>

³⁵ Panjwani, R. (2017, February 6). **Urgent Care Centre at Brampton's new Peel Memorial will open Wednesday.** *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <http://www.bramptonguardian.com/community-story/7105193-urgent-care-centre-at-brampton-s-new-peel-memorial-will-open-wednesday/>

³⁶ Bieman, J. (2017, February 15). **Aldborough P.S. gets \$3.1 million for child care centre.** *St. Thomas-Times Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2017/02/15/aldborough-ps-gets-31-million-for-child-care-centre>

³⁷ The Chronicle Journal Staff. (2017, February 20). **Child-care spaces on way to schools.** *The Chronicle Journal*. Retrieved from http://www.chroniclejournal.com/news/local/child-care-spaces-on-way-to-schools/article_c3101300-f72f-11e6-93ec-039d11137812.html

³⁸ Budget 2017. (2017, March 22). Page 132. *Department of Finance Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2017/docs/plan/budget-2017-en.pdf>

³⁹ **Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI).** Data for January 2016 and 2017. Retrieved from <http://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/wt-ow/Pages/FINDAT.aspx>

⁴⁰ Globe and Mail Staff. (2017, February 1). **Scotiabank targets further cost cuts from digital initiatives.** *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/scotiabank-targets-further-cost-cuts-from-digital-initiatives/article33874797/>

⁴¹ Watt, J. (2017, January 24). **Scotiabank closes Wilberforce branch.** *Haliburton Echo*. Retrieved from <http://www.haliburtonecho.ca/scotiabank-closes-wilberforce-branch?id=876>

⁴² Caton, M. (2017, February 7). **Tilbury residents upset National Bank branch closing.** *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/tilbury-resident-upset-national-bank-branch-closing>

⁴³ Atikokan Progress Staff. (2017, March 8). **Despite record profits, Atikokan loses a second bank branch.** *Atikokan Progress*. Retrieved from <http://atikokanprogress.ca/2017/03/08/despite-record-profits-atikokan-loses-a-second-bank-branch/>

⁴⁴ CREA Report. (2017, March 15). Quarterly Forecasts. *Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA)*. Retrieved from <http://www.crea.ca/housing-market-stats/quarterly-forecasts/>

The 4,400 employment growth in **wholesale and retail trade** is likely due to employment growth in the retail segment. Based on the planned expansions, retail will have an influx of new stores in the coming months including clothing, grocery, and discount retailers.^{46,47,48} The ramping up of seasonal hiring by Lowe's Companies, Inc.⁴⁹ was also good news for the sector. Despite these expansions, the prevalence of online shopping continues to weigh down on bricks-and-mortar store operations and led to some closure announcements, including BCBG Max Azria Canada Inc.^{50,51}

Employment declined by 8,800 in the **information, culture and recreation** sector. Within this industry, the evolution of digital technology continues to challenge traditional broadcast and print media operations and contributed to employment cuts by Bell Media^{52,53} and Postmedia Network Canada Corp.^{54,55}

The **accommodation and food services** industry also experienced a marginal loss of 1,400. However, several restaurant chains announced expansion and recruitment plans, including Starbucks Canada,⁵⁶ Freshii Inc.,⁵⁷ and A&W Food Services of Canada Inc.⁵⁸

⁴⁵ Cornell, C. (2017, March 29). **Toronto realtors frustrated by the soaring housing market**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/small-business/sb-managing/toronto-realtors-face-challenges-in-gtas-soaring-housing-market/article34429954/>

⁴⁶ Rosella, L. (2017, January 31). **Former Target locations in Brampton converting to popular 'large' stores**. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <http://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/7095781-former-target-locations-in-brampton-converting-to-popular-large-stores/>

⁴⁷ CTV News Staff. (2017, February 24). **Metro Ontario announces \$19M investment in Windsor stores**. *CTV News Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://windsor.ctvnews.ca/metro-ontario-announces-19m-investment-in-windsor-stores-1.3299888>

⁴⁸ Buckner, D. (2017, February 25). **Giant Tiger and other discounters in expansion mode**. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/discount-retail-boom-1.3997734>

⁴⁹ CNW Staff. (2017, February 1). **Lowe's Canada to Hire 2,800 Employees in First Half of 2017 to Support its Lowe's Banner Big Box Stores**. *CNW Group*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/lowes-canada-to-hire-2800-employees-in-first-half-of-2017-to-support-its-lowes-banner-big-box-stores-612406783.html>

⁵⁰ Coleman-Lochner, L. *Bloomberg*. (2017, March 21). **Bebe to close stores, focus online: Report**. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2017/03/21/bebe-to-close-stores-focus-online-report.html>

⁵¹ Kopun, F. (2017, March 1). **BCBG Max Azria stores to close under bankruptcy filing**. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2017/03/01/bcbg-max-azria-stores-to-close-under-bankruptcy-filing.html>

⁵² Anderson, E. (2017, March 28). **Local sports programming gets cut from CTV Kitchener**. *570 News*. Retrieved from <http://www.570news.com/2017/03/28/local-sports-and-other-programming-gets-cut-from-ctv-stations-including-kitchener>

⁵³ (2017, January 31). **Bell Media lays off employees amid restructuring, citing industry challenges**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/bell-media-lays-off-employees-amid-restructuring-citing-industry-challenges/article33846955/>

⁵⁴ Craig, S. (2017, January 24). **Postmedia issues layoff notices at the Montreal Gazette, Ottawa Citizen and Windsor Star**. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <http://business.financialpost.com/news/postmedia-issues-layoff-notice-at-the-montreal-gazette-ottawa-citizen>

⁵⁵ Milstead, D. (2017, April 3). **Postmedia's problems piling up with print revenue declining**. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/postmedias-problems-piling-up-with-print-revenue-declining/article34569674/>

⁵⁶ CBC News Staff. (2017, March 22). **Starbucks Canada vows to hire at least 1,000 refugees**. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/starbucks-hiring-refugees-1.4036668>

⁵⁷ Canadian Press Staff. (2017, March 22). **Freshii aims to add 150 to 160 franchised restaurants this year**. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2017/03/22/freshii-aims-to-add-150-to-160-franchised-restaurants-this-year.html>

Professional, scientific and technical services (PSTS) reported employment gains of 4,100. During the quarter, Ontario's technology base received good news. Ford Motor Company of Canada Ltd. announced an investment of \$500M for research and development in Canada. The company will establish a new Ottawa Research and Engineering Centre, and two satellite offices in Oakville and Waterloo, creating about 300 new engineering positions.⁵⁹ Other significant news included the opening of the Vector Institute in Toronto which is devoted to artificial intelligence capability,⁶⁰ and the launch of a software development centre in Markham by General Motors of Canada Company.⁶¹

Looking ahead, commitments made in the 2017 federal budget may support employment growth in several sectors, including **PSTS**. The Innovation and Skills Plan aspect of the budget is focussed on expanding growth in six key areas: advanced manufacturing, agri-food, clean technology, digital industries, health/bio-sciences, and clean resources. Also, \$400M is proposed over three years for a new Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative to support the growth of eligible entrepreneurs, including start-ups.⁶²

On a year-over-year basis, employment growth in the services-producing sector was stronger than the goods-producing sector with employment expanding by 95,500 (1.7%). The gains were also led by health care and social assistance services (+36,300 or 4.4%). Other large contributors were public administration (+26,800) and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+19,200). Noteworthy losses were reported by educational services (-10,000), business, building and other support services (-6,700), and wholesale and retail trade (-5,600).

⁵⁸ The Canadian Press. (2017, February 7). **A&W plans to add 200 franchisee-owned restaurants in Canada by 2020.** *660News.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.660news.com/2017/02/07/aw-plans-to-add-200-franchisee-owned-restaurants-in-canada-by-2020/>

⁵⁹ CNW Group. (2017, March 30). **Ford Invests C\$500 Million for R&D in Canada; Doubles Connectivity Team and Opens New Research and Engineering Centre in Ottawa.** *Canadian Newswire*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/ford-invests-c500-million-for-rd-in-canada-doubles-connectivity-team-and-opens-new-research-and-engineering-centre-in-ottawa-617656983.html>

⁶⁰ Allen, K. (2017, March 28). **New institute aims to make Toronto an 'intellectual centre' of AI capability.** *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/03/28/new-toronto-institute-aims-to-be-worldwide-supplier-of-artificial-intelligence-capability.html>

⁶¹ GM Canada Press Release. (2017, January 30). **General Motors Canada Hosts the Business Council of Canada at Launch of New Canadian Technical Centre - Markham Campus.** *General Motors of Canada Company*. Retrieved from http://media.gm.ca/media/ca/en/gm/news.detail.html/content/Pages/news/ca/en/2017/Jan/0130_BusinesCouncil.html

⁶² Budget 2017. (2017, March 22). Page 83 and 95. *Department of Finance Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2017/docs/plan/budget-2017-en.pdf>

Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2017	2016	2016	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,074.5	7,038.2	6,979.9	36.3	0.5	94.6	1.4
Goods-producing sector	1,425.8	1,420.7	1,426.6	5.1	0.4	-0.8	-0.1
Agriculture	71.6	73.5	83.0	-1.9	-2.6	-11.4	-13.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	34.1	34.0	40.4	0.1	0.3	-6.3	-15.6
Utilities	49.7	50.4	48.2	-0.7	-1.4	1.5	3.1
Construction	510.9	517.0	497.9	-6.1	-1.2	13.0	2.6
Manufacturing	759.4	745.8	757.2	13.6	1.8	2.2	0.3
Services-producing sector	5,648.8	5,617.5	5,553.3	31.3	0.6	95.5	1.7
Trade	1,030.5	1,026.1	1,036.1	4.4	0.4	-5.6	-0.5
Transportation and warehousing	326.4	326.7	328.5	-0.3	-0.1	-2.1	-0.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	572.1	558.8	552.9	13.3	2.4	19.2	3.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	601.5	597.4	595.4	4.1	0.7	6.1	1.0
Business, building and other support services	326.8	326.7	333.5	0.1	0.0	-6.7	-2.0
Educational services	498.2	505.5	508.2	-7.3	-1.4	-10.0	-2.0
Health care and social assistance	865.0	845.2	828.7	19.8	2.3	36.3	4.4
Information, culture and recreation	314.9	323.7	304.3	-8.8	-2.7	10.6	3.5
Accommodation and food services	461.9	463.3	451.3	-1.4	-0.3	10.6	2.3
Other services	279.5	282.7	269.5	-3.2	-1.1	10.0	3.7
Public administration	371.8	361.5	345.0	10.3	2.8	26.8	7.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Eight out of eleven economic regions posted employment gains

The **Muskoka–Kawarthas** economic region posted an employment gain of 18,800 and the largest increase in the labour force participation rate from 52.9% to 59.0% between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. While the manufacturing sector in the region saw a grim start to the quarter with the announcement of major layoffs by General Electric at its Peterborough plant,⁶³ federal investments in other manufacturing areas and the addition of new industrial facilities are expected to offset some of these losses^{64,65} in the coming months. The

⁶³ Torstar News Service. (2017, January 17). **General Electric Peterborough laying off 150 workers**. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/01/17/general-electric-peterborough-laying-off-150-workers.html>

⁶⁴ Bain, J. (2017, February 16). **Kawartha Metals to be anchor tenant at new Peterborough Industrial Centre**. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/hmv-sunrise-records-takeover-malls-1.3998420>

⁶⁵ FedNor. (2017, February 28). **FedNor Investments Support Business, BroadBand and Youth Employment in the Parry Sound-Muskoka Region**. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2017/02/fednor_investmentssupportbusinessbroadbandandtheyouthemploymentinth.html

construction sector saw some gains over the quarter with new housing^{66,67} and infrastructure^{68,69} projects while the retail sector saw an uneven few months with the closure of the Sears store in Cobourg⁷⁰ and the addition of about 42 staff at Home Depot's Peterborough location.⁷¹ Accommodation and food services, a key sector in the region, registered several gains over the quarter with the opening of multiple restaurants^{72,73,74} and the addition of staff at resorts in anticipation of seasonal tourism.⁷⁵

The **Toronto** economic region posted employment gains of 32,300 year-over-year this quarter. Despite these gains, however, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.0% between 2016 and 2017 while the labour force participation rate declined marginally. The manufacturing sector in the region received a boost from federal and provincial governments funding^{76,77} and the expansion of multiple manufacturing companies^{78,79} which are expected to create some jobs in the coming months. However, some of these job

⁶⁶ Kovach, J. (2017, March 21). Construction could begin next year on new homes next to Fairhaven in Peterborough. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2017/03/21/construction-could-begin-next-year-on-new-homes-next-to-fairhaven-in-peterborough>

⁶⁷ Kovach, J. (2017, March 30). Construction about to begin on Atria's 130-unit Y Lofts project in the former Peterborough YMCA building. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2017/03/30/construction-about-to-begin-on-atrias-130-unit-y-lofts-project-in-the-former-peterborough-ymca-building>

⁶⁸ Nasmith, C. (2017, March 23). DND comes to Port Hope for bridge work. *Northumberland Today*. Retrieved from <http://www.northumberlandtoday.com/2017/03/23/dnd-comes-to-port-hope-for-bridge-work>

⁶⁹ Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. (2017, January 16). Ontario improving roads and bridges in Eastern Ontario Communities. *Ontario.ca*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/omafra/en/2017/01/ontario-improving-roads-and-bridges-in-eastern-ontario-communities.html>

⁷⁰ MacDonald, V. (2017, March 2). Final weeks of Sears in Cobourg. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2017/03/02/final-weeks-of-sears-in-cobourg>

⁷¹ This Week. (2017, March 6). Home Depot hiring 42 workers at job fair in Peterborough on March 8. *My Kawartha*. Retrieved from <http://www.mykawartha.com/news-story/7174306-home-depot-hiring-42-workers-at-job-fair-in-peterborough-on-march-8/>

⁷² Allport, J. (2017, January 12). Chef opens gourmet restaurant in Warkworth. *Northumberland Today*. Retrieved from <http://www.northumberlandtoday.com/2017/01/12/chef-opens-gourmet-restaurant-in-warkworth>

⁷³ Craden, J. (2017, February 14). La Luna Del Nordo Shines on Haliburton. *The Haliburton Echo*. Retrieved from <http://www.haliburtonecho.ca/la-luna-del-nordo-shines-on-haliburton?id=876>

⁷⁴ Bain, J. (2017, February 18). Silk Roots: New Peterborough Restaurant serves fusion cuisine. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2017/02/18/silk-roots-new-peterborough-restaurant-serves-fusion-cuisine>

⁷⁵ Cilliers, R. (2017, February 17). Muskoka's Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville seeking 300 new employees. *Huntsville Forester*. Retrieved from <http://www.northbaynipissing.com/news-story/7146806-muskoka-s-deerhurst-resort-in-huntsville-seeking-300-new-employees/>

⁷⁶ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2017, February 14). FedDev Ontario Invest in Vaughan Aerospace Manufacturer. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2017/02/feddev_ontario_investsinvaughanaerospacemanufacturer.html

⁷⁷ Vaughan Citizen. (2017, March 13). Vaughan food processors being fed nearly \$300,000 in government funding. *York Region*. Retrieved from <http://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/7187682-vaughan-food-processors-being-fed-nearly-300-000-in-government-funding/>

⁷⁸ Shimifrez. (2017, March 25). Shimifrez kicks off \$750K expansion, will create 8 jobs, at its new facility in Vaughan, Ontario. *York Region*. Retrieved from <http://www.shimifrez.com/shimifrez-kicks-off-750k-expansion-will-create-8-jobs-new-facility-vaughan-ontario/>

⁷⁹ Davey, M. (2017, February 2). SATA Canada hosts grand opening. *CollisionRepairmag.com*. Retrieved from <http://collisionrepairmag.com/news/19131-sata-canada-hosts-grand-opening>

gains will be offset by the announced closures in coming months including Northstar Aerospace's Milton facility affecting 200 employees⁸⁰ and Bacardi Canada's Brampton bottling facility affecting 51 employees.⁸¹

The construction industry continued to see gains over the first quarter with the announcement of new revitalization, redevelopment, and expansion projects.^{82,83,84,85,86} Additionally, recently announced funding for new transit projects^{87,88} and for repairing and/or expanding roads and bridges further bolstered the industry in the region.^{89,90}

The retail sector experienced both ups and downs in the first quarter. Gains were mostly observed in luxury retail, discounted brand names, and discount stores^{91,92,93,94,95,96} while losses tended to be focused among

⁸⁰ Slack, J. (2017, January 24). **Northstar announces closure of Milton plant, 200 jobs to be lost.** *Inside Halton*. Retrieved from <http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/7082787-northstar-announces-closure-of-milton-plant-200-jobs-to-be-lost/>

⁸¹ Clay, C. (2017, February 17). **Bacardi Canada to close and sell Brampton facility, eliminating 51 jobs.** *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <http://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/7146867-bacardi-canada-to-close-and-sell-brampton-facility-eliminating-51-jobs/>

⁸² Department of Canadian Heritage. (2017, February 10). **Supporting the Revitalization of Massey Hall.** *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2017/02/supporting-the-revitalization-of-massey-hall.html>

⁸³ CNW. (2017, February 21). **Upper Canada Mall Announces \$60 Million Redevelopment Plan for 2018.** *CNW*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/upper-canada-mall-announces-60-million-redevelopment-plan-for-2018-614344933.html>

⁸⁴ Dmitrieva, K. (2017, January 23). **'The real estate market is so hot right now': RioCan CEO plots 2017 Toronto projects as home demand spikes.** *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <http://business.financialpost.com/news/property-post/riocan-ceo-plots-2017-toronto-projects-as-home-demand-spikes>

⁸⁵ Lipinski, G. (2017, March 2). **CAMH's Queen Street Expansion Breaking Ground This Fall.** *UrbanToronto.ca*. Retrieved from <http://urbantoronto.ca/news/2017/03/camhs-queen-street-expansion-breaking-ground-fall>

⁸⁶ Burlington Post. (2017, March 29). **Burlington Mall renovations coincide with site's 50th anniversary.** *Inside Halton*. Retrieved from <http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/7215695-burlington-mall-renovations-coincide-with-site-s-50th-anniversary/>

⁸⁷ Transport Canada. (2017, January 11). **Bus Terminal to be built in Vaughan for York Region Transit.** *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do;jsessionid=dd447c8f837002dafcc1d86466b5bb2800387a1dbf9c591fd81a19be31867d49.e38RbhaLb3qNe3eOa310?mthd=index&crtr.page=1&nid=1177999>

⁸⁸ Ministry of Transportation. (2017, March 24). **Ontario Building More Transit for York Region Families with New GO Station.** *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2017/03/ontario-building-more-transit-for-york-region-families-with-new-go-station.html>

⁸⁹ Ministry of Transportation. (2017, March 30). **Connecting Links Funding By Municipality.** *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2017/03/connecting-links-funding-by-municipality-2.html>

⁹⁰ Infrastructure Ontario. **Highway 427 Expansion.** *Infrastructure Ontario*. Retrieved from <http://www.infrastructureontario.ca/Highway-427-Expansion/>

⁹¹ Retail Insider. (2017, January 19). **Mink Mile Colonnade Sees New and Expanded Luxury Retailers.** *Retail-Insider.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2017/1/colonnade>

⁹² Retail Insider. (2017, January 2). **Van Cleef & Arpels to open 1st Freestanding Toronto Store.** *Retail-Insider.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2016/12/van-cleef-arpels-yorkdale-toronto>

⁹³ CNW. (2017, January 9). **Raffi Jewellers Inaugurates New Rolex Boutique in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.** *The Province*. Retrieved from <http://www.theprovince.com/business/cnw/release.html?rkey=20170109C1665&filter=4007>

⁹⁴ Rosella, L. (2017, January 31). **Former Target locations in Brampton converting to popular 'large' stores.** *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <http://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/7095781-former-target-locations-in-brampton-converting-to-popular-large-stores/>

⁹⁵ Newport, A. (2017, March 29). **Popular Superstore Opening New Location in Mississauga.** *Insauga*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/popular-superstore-opening-new-location-in-mississauga>

household and mid-tier retailers.^{97,98} High-end fashion retailers saw both gains^{99,100} and losses with closures announced by BCBG Max Azria,¹⁰¹ Holt Renfrew,¹⁰² Gerry Weber,¹⁰³ and Bebe¹⁰⁴ during the first quarter. The finance and insurance sector had a somewhat gloomy end to the first quarter with the announced elimination of up to 130 jobs by CIBC in its Toronto finance department¹⁰⁵ as well some potential cuts in BMO's buy-side equity unit.¹⁰⁶

The **Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula** continued its trend of employment gains, growing by 17,900 year-over-year. Investments in infrastructure upgrades^{107,108} and other development projects^{109,110,111,112,113} supported employment in the region throughout the first quarter. However, the closure of Resolute Forest Product's

⁹⁶ Retail Insider. (2016, November 22). **Richemont Launches Canadian Luxury Boutique**. *Retail-Insider.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2016/11/richemont>

⁹⁷ Hong, J. (2017, January 27). **HMV in receivership, stores to close by Apr 30**. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/music/2017/01/27/hmv-in-receivership-stores-to-close-by-apr-30.html>

⁹⁸ The Canadian Press. (2017, January 26). **Tip Top Tailors owner granted temporary protection amid cash crunch**. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2017/01/26/tip-top-tailors-owner-granted-temporary-protection-amid-cash-crunch.html>

⁹⁹ Insauga. (2017, January 10). **New Nordstrom Rack Opening in Mississauga**. *Insauga.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/new-nordstrom-rack-opening-in-mississauga>

¹⁰⁰ Retail Insider. (2017, February 22). **Saks OFF 5TH Announces 5 Store Opening Dates for this Spring**. *Retail-Insider.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2017/2/saks-off-5th>

¹⁰¹ Evans, P. (2017, March 1). **BCBG Max Azria to close all 51 Canadian stores as retailer can't pay its bills**. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/bcbg-max-azria-1.4004293>

¹⁰² Villeneuve, P. (2017, February 27). **Holt Renfrew is closing its discount store hr2**. *blogTO.com*. Retrieved from http://www.blogto.com/fashion_style/2017/02/holt-renfrew-closing-discount-store-hr2/

¹⁰³ Retail Insider. (2017, January 24). **Gerry Weber Shuttters Canadian Stores**. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2017/1/gerry-weber>

¹⁰⁴ Coleman-Lochner, L. (2017, March 21). **Bebe to close stores, focus online: Report**. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2017/03/21/bebe-to-close-stores-focus-online-report.html>

¹⁰⁵ Harris, S. (2017, March 30). **'Very depressing': CIBC staff losing jobs to workers in India expected to help with training**. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/cibc-outsourcing-jobs-india-1.4045759>

¹⁰⁶ Tilak, J., and Smith, F. (2017, March 8). **Update 1- Bank of Montreal cuts jobs in buy-side equity unit-sources**. *Reuters*. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/article/bmo-layoffs-idUSL2N1GL1AE>

¹⁰⁷ Ministry of Transportation. (2017, March 30). **Connecting Links Funding By Municipality**. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2017/03/connecting-links-funding-by-municipality-2.html>

¹⁰⁸ Barton, L. (2017, March 29). **Millions to be pumped into Nickel Street sewers**. *Welland Tribune*. Retrieved from <http://www.wellandtribune.ca/2017/03/29/millions-to-be-pumped-into-nickel-street-sewers>

¹⁰⁹ Barton, L. (2017, February 12). **Welland library to open Seaway Mall branch**. *Niagara Falls Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/2017/02/11/welland-library-to-open-seaway-mall-branch>

¹¹⁰ Benner, A. (2017, January 5). **Construction underway at Memorial Park Subdivision**. *The Tribune*. Retrieved from <http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/2017/01/05/construction-underway-at-memorial-park-subdivision>

¹¹¹ Sonnenberg, M. (2017, January 4). **DFO commissions \$1.4 million in repairs**. *Simcoe Reformer*. Retrieved from <http://www.simcoereformer.ca/2017/01/04/dfo-commissions-14-million-in-repairs>

¹¹² Werner, K. (2017, January 4). **Ancaster Aquatic Centre's upgrades will transform into a "new facility," says councillor**. *Ancaster News*. Retrieved from <http://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/7049718-ancaster-aquatic-centre-s-upgrades-will-transform-it-into-a-new-facility-says-councillor/>

¹¹³ Bales, P. (2017, January 13). **\$1.5M in funding for Orillia Opera House**. *The Orillia Packet and Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.orilliapacket.com/2017/01/13/15m-in-funding-for-orillia-opera-house>

newsprint mill in Thorold,¹¹⁴ layoffs at Stelco Inc. in Hamilton and Nanticoke,¹¹⁵ and elimination of staff positions in the City of Hamilton¹¹⁶ offset some of these gains.

Employment in the **London** economic region grew by 7,000 between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017, which is the region's largest employment gain in 8 months. This quarter witnessed significant upheaval in the region's automobile manufacturing sector with GM's announcement that it will cut 625 jobs at its assembly plant in Ingersoll.¹¹⁷ However some of these losses are expected to be offset by major investments,^{118,119,120,121,122} expansions,¹²³ and acquisitions in the regional manufacturing base such as the potential creation of 120 jobs by North Star Windows and Doors over the next couple of years.¹²⁴ The construction sector in the region has also seen some major gains^{125,126} with the \$8 million expansion of the BMO Centre/London Optimist Sports

¹¹⁴ Staff. (2017, March 10). Resolute idling Thorold, Ont. Newsprint mill, over 100 workers affected.

CanadianManufacturing.com. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/resolute-idling-thorold-ont-newsprint-mill-187706/>

¹¹⁵ McNeil, M. (2017, February 1). Stelco terminates 29 salaried employees in Hamilton and Nanticoke. *Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/7096022-stelco-terminates-29-salaried-employees-in-hamilton-and-nanticoke/>

¹¹⁶ Craggs, S. (2017, February 22). City cuts 23 positions and repurposes 5- including some management. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-staff-cuts-1.3994825>

¹¹⁷ Stacey, M. (2017, January 12). GM Cami Assembly plant in Ingersoll starts building next generation Chevrolet Equinox and plans for phase out of GMC Terrain as production of its new model moves to Mexico. *Ingersoll Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.ingersolltimes.com/2017/01/12/gm-cami-assembly-plant-in-ingersoll-starts-building-next-generation-chevrolet-equinox-and-plans-for-phase-out-of-gmc-terrain-as-production-of-its-new-model-moves-to-mexico>

¹¹⁸ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2017, March 1). FedDev Ontario Helps Manufacturers in Tillsonburg Improve Productivity and Diversify Exports. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2017/03/feddev_ontario_helpsmanufacturersintillsonburgimproveproductivit.html

¹¹⁹ De Bono, N. (2017, February 13). Military spending: A \$400M deal to upgrade armoured vehicles comes just as work was slowing at the giant General Dynamics plant. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2017/02/12/military-deal-saves-jobs-at-london-gdls-plant>

¹²⁰ Daniszewski, H. (2016, November 25). Hanwha countertop plant in London doubling production capacity, adding jobs. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2016/11/25/hanwha-countertop-plant-in-london-doubling-production-capacity-adding-jobs>

¹²¹ Canadian Manufacturing. (2016, October 13). Trailer maker Cross Country investing \$5.5M in Ontario plant expansion. *Canadianmanufacturing.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/trailer-maker-cross-country-manufacturing-investing-5-5m-in-ontario-plant-177113/>

¹²² Swartz, K. (2016, December 22). Diamond Canada poised for growth. *Skies Magazine*. Retrieved from <https://www.skiesmag.com/news/diamond-canada-poised-growth/>

¹²³ Ministry of Economic Development and Growth. (2017, January 25). Strengthening Auto Sector Manufacturing in London. *Ontario.ca*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2017/01/strengthening-auto-sector-manufacturing-in-london.html>

¹²⁴ Bieman, J. (2017, March 15). St. Thomas window and door company acquires Vaughan manufacturer. *St. Thomas Times-Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2017/03/15/st-thomas-window-and-door-company-acquires-vaughan-manufacturer>

¹²⁵ Bieman, J. (2017, February 21). Construction on new Elgin County Museum set for early spring. *St. Thomas Times-Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/2017/02/21/construction-on-new-elgin-county-museum-set-for-early-spring>

¹²⁶ Daniszewski, H. (2017, February 28). Zoetis hatches big plant expansion. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2017/02/27/zoetis-hatches-big-plant-expansion>

Centre,¹²⁷ construction of the On Track project in St. Thomas,¹²⁸ and expansion of the Jakeman's Maple Products facility in Sweaburg.¹²⁹

The **Windsor–Sarnia** economic region posted a modest employment gain of 1,900 (+0.7%) year-over-year. While the manufacturing base in the region saw employment growth over March,^{130,131,132} some uncertainty was generated by Fiat Chrysler Automobile's announcement that it may close down its operations in Windsor potentially affecting about 295 positions.¹³³ The region's construction sector experienced some job creation with the upcoming expansion of Union Gas Ltd.'s pipeline,¹³⁴ \$3.6 million in upgrades of multiple schools across the region,¹³⁵ \$2.5 million addition of a new library branch at the Optimist Community Centre,¹³⁶ and \$25 million retail development in Windsor.¹³⁷

The **Kingston–Pembroke** economic region registered a strong employment gain of 17,600 (+8.9%) between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. The construction industry in region saw substantial job creation this quarter with the construction of the Napanee Generating Station employing about 600 people,¹³⁸ revitalization of Belleville's downtown,¹³⁹ and multiple infrastructure projects.^{140,141}

¹²⁷ Brown, D. (2017, March 5). **BMO Centre in London ready to grow**. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2017/03/05/bmo-centre-in-london-ready-to-grow>

¹²⁸ Juha, J. (2017, March 2). **Construction of first phase of the St. Thomas project will begin in April**. *St. Thomas Times-Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/2017/03/02/construction-of-first-phase-of-the-st-thomas-project-will-begin-in-april>

¹²⁹ Rivers, H. (2017, March 9). **The Sweaburg maple syrup producer is building a new production facility this summer**. *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*. Retrieved from <http://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/2017/03/09/the-sweaburg-maple-syrup-producer-is-building-a-new-production-facility-this-summer>

¹³⁰ Michaels, L. (2017, March 15). **New Green Biofuel Plant to Set Up Shop In St. Clair Township**. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2017/03/15/new-green-biofuel-plant-set-shop-st-clair-twp/>

¹³¹ Caton, M. (2017, March 24). **Highbury Canco now employs over 500**. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/highbury-canco-now-employs-over-500>

¹³² CTV Windsor. (2017, March 29). **Cavalier Tool celebrates \$9M investment, jobs**. *CTV News Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://windsor.ctvnews.ca/cavalier-tool-celebrates-9m-investment-jobs-1.3345792>

¹³³ CBC News. (2017, March 24). **FCA to wind down transport operations in Windsor**. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/fca-to-wind-down-transport-operations-in-windsor-1.4040219>

¹³⁴ Gough, D. (2017, March 2). **Union Gas' Panhandle line from Lambton to Chatham –Kent will be replaced**. *Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2017/03/02/union-gas-panhandle-line-from-lambton-to-chatham-kent-will-be-replaced>

¹³⁵ Pedro, P. (2017, March 4). **School Upgrades Coming Across CK**. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/chatham/chatham-news/2017/03/04/school-upgrades-coming-across-ck/>

¹³⁶ Vlasveld, M. (2017, March 8). **New Auto-Inspired Library Taking Shape on Ypres**. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/windsor/windsor-news/2017/03/08/new-auto-inspired-library-taking-shape-ypres-gallery/>

¹³⁷ CTV Windsor. (2017, March 27). **Multi-million dollar development going up near Devonshire Mall**. *CTV News Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://windsor.ctvnews.ca/multi-million-dollar-development-going-up-near-devonshire-mall-1.3342934>

¹³⁸ Durkin, T. (2017, March 3). **Gas Plant Moving Forward**. *Quinte News*. Retrieved from <http://www.quintenews.com/2017/03/gas-plant-moving-forward/141290/>

¹³⁹ Thomas, M. (2017, March 20). **Belleville's Phase 3 ready to start**. *Quinte News*. Retrieved from <http://www.quintenews.com/2017/03/bellevilles-phase-3-ready-start/142689/>

¹⁴⁰ Ministry of Transportation. (2017, January 19). **Ontario Replacing Bridge and Widening Highway 401 in Kingston**. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2017/01/ontario-replacing-bridge-and-widening-highway-401-in-kingston.html>

¹⁴¹ Hutchins, B. (2017, January 7). **Five Municipal Construction Projects to Watch for in 2017**. *Kingston Region*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingstonregion.com/news-story/7051553-five-municipal-construction-projects-to-watch-for-in-2017/>

Employment gains were also observed in **Ottawa** and **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic regions between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017.

Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie posted the largest employment loss for the sixth straight month

The **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region recorded the largest year-over-year loss with a decline of 11,600 between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. The unemployment rate, however, remained fixed at 6% which could be attributed to the drop in labour force participation. The regional manufacturing sector suffered losses this quarter with the closure of Midland's General Mills plant in January¹⁴² and CCL Industries Inc. facility in Penetanguishene.¹⁴³ However, several new investments^{144,145,146,147,148} in the sector provided some solace during this period. The construction industry, on the other hand, continued to see gains with new investments in expansions of several post-secondary institutions,^{149,150,151} upgrades in municipal infrastructure,^{152,153,154,155} and new building projects.^{156,157}

¹⁴² Ward, A. (2017, January 27). **End of an era: General Mills closes in Midland**. CTV News. Retrieved from <http://barrie.ctvnews.ca/end-of-an-era-general-mills-closes-in-midland-1.3260039>

¹⁴³ Burns, I. (2016, December 1). **End is near for CCL containers in Penetanguishene**. *Midland Mirror*. Retrieved from <http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/6994959-end-is-near-for-ccl-containers-in-penetanguishene/>

¹⁴⁴ Ministry of Economic Development and Growth. (2017, March 13). **Ontario Helps Leading Manufacturer Create and Protect Jobs in Elora**. *Ontario.ca* Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2017/03/ontario-helps-leading-manufacturer-create-and-protect-jobs-in-elora.html>

¹⁴⁵ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2017, January 9). **Government of Canada invests \$41.8 million in Honda of Canada Manufacturing to maintain middle class jobs and maintain clean technologies**. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=4&nid=1177019>

¹⁴⁶ Bales, P. (2017, February 16). **Orillia Brewing Company to start construction at 162 Mississauga St. E**. *Orillia Packet*. Retrieved from <http://www.orilliapacket.com/2017/02/15/orillia-brewing-company-to-start-construction-at-162-mississauga-st-e>

¹⁴⁷ Ministry of Economic Development and Growth. (2017, January 27). **Ontario Investing in Manufacturing in Guelph**. *Ontario.ca* Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2017/01/ontario-investing-in-manufacturing-in-guelph.html>

¹⁴⁸ Burns, I. (2017, February 23). **Unique advertising campaign touts skilled trades in north Simcoe**. *Midland Mirror*. Retrieved from <http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7146746-unique-advertising-campaign-touts-skilled-trades-in-north-simcoe/>

¹⁴⁹ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2017, January 9). **Canada and Ontario invest in infrastructure at Georgian College**. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=5&nid=1176589>

¹⁵⁰ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2017, January 12). **Canada and Ontario invest in Infrastructure at Wilfred Laurier University**. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=1&nid=1178389&_ga=1.17737465.1560703.1437082960

¹⁵¹ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2017, January 12). **Government of Canada invests in infrastructure at the University of Waterloo**. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=3&nid=1178429>

¹⁵² Ministry of Transportation. (2017, March 30). **Connecting Links Funding By Municipality**. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2017/03/connecting-links-funding-by-municipality-2.html>

¹⁵³ Infrastructure Canada. (2017, January 27). **Highway 401 widening to improve safety and traffic flow for Ontario residents**. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=1&nid=1182839&_ga=1.250055622.1560703.1437082960

¹⁵⁴ Region of Waterloo Council. (2017, February 23). **Region of Waterloo Council Info from February 22, 2017**. *Exchangemagazine.com*. Retrieved from <http://exchangemagazine.com/2017/week8/Thursday/17022301.htm>

¹⁵⁵ Exchange Magazine. (2017, March 23). **Waterloo Regional Council Info from March 22, 2017**. *ExchangeMagazine.com* Retrieved from <http://exchangemagazine.com/2017/week12/Thursday/17032320.htm#anchor>

¹⁵⁶ Rutts, O. (2017, March 17). **Hillsburg library set for construction**. *The Wellington Advertiser*. Retrieved from <http://www.wellingtonadvertiser.com/comments/index.cfm?articleID=34844>

Employment in the **Northeast** economic region declined by 4,200 between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. The region was hit hard during this quarter with Vale Canada Ltd. announcing the closure of its Stobie Mine affecting 230 workers¹⁵⁸ adding to multiple closures and layoffs announced across a number of sectors including health care,¹⁵⁹ utilities,¹⁶⁰ manufacturing,^{161,162} retail,¹⁶³ and finance.¹⁶⁴ However, investments and job gains in other sectors should provide some support for employment in the region going forward.^{165,166,167,168,169,170}

The **Northwest** economic region also registered losses (-200) year-over-year. Some major losses were observed this quarter with the layoffs and/or closures announced by TD Canada Trust, CIBC,¹⁷¹ and Rentech Inc.¹⁷² However, gains in other sectors particularly construction,^{173,174,175,176} health care,¹⁷⁷ public transit,¹⁷⁸ and public administration^{179,180} provided some positive news for the region over the first quarter.

¹⁵⁷ Carson, S. (2017, February 14). **Construction set to begin on RVH's cardiac centre in Barrie**. *Barrie Advance*. Retrieved from <http://www.orilliapacket.com/2017/02/15/orillia-brewing-company-to-start-construction-at-162-mississauga-st-e>

¹⁵⁸ CBC News. (2017, March 10). **Vale shutting down Stobie Mine**. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/vale-shuts-down-stobie-1.4018989>

¹⁵⁹ Hamilton-McCharles, J. (2017, March 14). **The difficult decision 'getting harder to make'**. *The Nugget*. Retrieved from <http://www.nugget.ca/2017/03/14/the-difficult-decisions-getting-harder-to-make>

¹⁶⁰ Hamilton-McCharles, J. (2017, January 11). **North Bay losing 11 jobs at Highway 11 N. operation**. *The Nugget*. Retrieved from <http://www.nugget.ca/2017/01/11/north-bay-losing-11-jobs-at-highway-11-n-operation>

¹⁶¹ Rentech Inc. (2017, February 21). **Rentech Idles Wawa Facility; Exploring Strategic Alternatives**. *Rentech Inc.* Retrieved from <http://www.rentechinc.com/reference-docs/Rentech%20Idles%20Wawa%20%20Facility%20-%20Exploring%20Strategic%20Alternatives%20Press%20Release%20FINAL.pdf>

¹⁶² Mulligan, C. (2017, January 16). **Capreol plant closing**. *The Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thesudburystar.com/2017/01/16/capreol-plant-closing>

¹⁶³ Hale, A.S. (2017, January 30). **Timmins Sears to close in late July**. *Cornwall Standard-Freeholder*. Retrieved from <http://www.timminspress.com/2017/01/30/timmins-sears-to-close-in-late-july>

¹⁶⁴ Armstrong, K. (2017, February 24). **Thessalon to lose CIBC branch**. *SooToday.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/thessalon-to-lose-cibc-branch-545377>

¹⁶⁵ FedNor. (2017, February 10). **FedNor Invests More Than \$1.2 Million to Help Northeastern Ontario Communities and Businesses Adopt New Technologies and Grow**. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2017/02/fednor-invests-morethan12milliontohelpnortheasternontariocommuni.html?=&wbdisable=false>

¹⁶⁶ SooToday Staff. (2017, February 17). **This company is looking to hire 100 people**. *SooToday.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/this-company-is-looking-to-hire-100-people-538949>

¹⁶⁷ Gillis, L. (2017, February 3). **Work progressing on Timmins 'next new mine'**. *Nugget*. Retrieved from <http://www.nugget.ca/2017/02/03/work-progressing-on-timmins-next-new-mine>

¹⁶⁸ Keown, M. (2017, January 13). **Good news for Sudbury on jobs front**. *The Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thesudburystar.com/2017/01/13/good-news-for-sudbury-on-jobs-front>

¹⁶⁹ 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>

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¹⁷² Rentech Inc. (2017, February 21). **Rentech Idles Wawa Facility; Exploring Strategic Alternatives**. *Rentech Inc.* Retrieved from <http://www.rentechinc.com/reference-docs/Rentech%20Idles%20Wawa%20%20Facility%20-%20Exploring%20Strategic%20Alternatives%20Press%20Release%20FINAL.pdf>

¹⁷³ Ministry of Transportation. (2017, March 30). **Connecting Links Funding By Municipality**. *Government of Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2017/03/connecting-links-funding-by-municipality-2.html>

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Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2017 ('000)	1st Quarter 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2017 (%)	1st Quarter 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	6,972.0	6,872.4	1.4	6.5	6.9	-0.4
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	698.0	680.8	2.5	5.4	7.1	-1.7
Kingston–Pembroke	216.1	198.5	8.9	5.2	7.7	-2.5
Muskoka–Kawarthas	182.2	163.4	11.5	6.3	5.6	0.7
Toronto	3,352.9	3,320.6	1.0	7.0	7.0	0.0
Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie	697.8	709.4	-1.6	6.0	6.0	0.0
Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula	722.7	704.8	2.5	6.1	7.0	-0.9
London	333.0	326.0	2.1	5.4	6.2	-0.8
Windsor–Sarnia	290.4	288.5	0.7	6.7	7.4	-0.7
Stratford–Bruce Peninsula	145.0	142.1	2.0	6.8	6.3	0.5
Northeast	234.9	239.1	-1.8	8.2	8.1	0.1
Northwest	99.0	99.2	-0.2	6.5	7.9	-1.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

¹⁷⁵ The Chronicle-Journal. (2017, February 3). Timber dam to be history; Rare structure at Shebandowan Lake being replaced. *The Chronicle Journal*. Retrieved from http://www.chroniclejournal.com/news/timber-dam-to-be-history-rare-structure-at-shebandowan-lake/article_9f66cdb6-aa2a-11e6-aef6-f7268b699d18.html

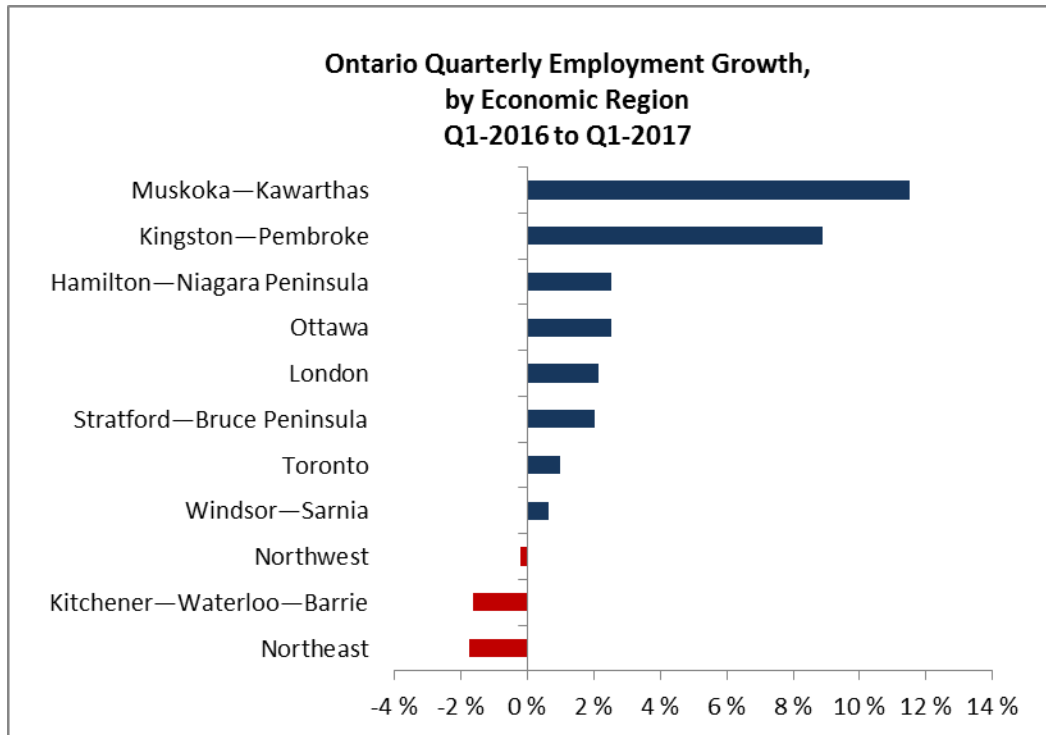
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Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here 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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