



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

May 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 bounced back in Ontario in May 2017

- Employment increased by 19,900 in the province in May 2017
- Both full-time (+10,000) and part-time work (+9,700) saw large gains
- The unemployment rate rose from 5.8% in April 2017 to 6.5% in May 2017

After weak employment growth over the past few months, the job market rebounded in the province in a major way. Employment increased by 19,900 in Ontario in May 2017. This was the largest monthly gain since January of this year and the first time in three months that both full-time and part-time work rose simultaneously. The participation rate increased to 65.0% as more individuals joined the workforce. Meanwhile, the provincial unemployment rate ticked up by 0.7 percentage points to 6.5%.

Across Canada, employment surpassed analysts' expectations in May 2017.¹ Employment surged by 54,500 for the third largest monthly increase in the last five years. The job gain came solely from a boost in full-time work (+77,000). Employment grew in every province except for Newfoundland and Labrador, which saw a small decline. The national unemployment rate inched up to 6.6% in May as more Canadians looked for work. After a poor showing in April, annual average hourly wages grew by 1.3%.² This could suggest that wages are finally starting to turn the corner and get on track with job growth. Over the past year, employment increased by

¹ Trading Economics. (2017, June 09). Canada Employment Change. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/canada/employment-change>

² Statistics Canada. Summary tables – Average hourly wages of employees by selected characteristics and occupation, unadjusted data, by province (monthly) (Canada). Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/labr69a-eng.htm>

316,800 across the country. This was the largest yearly gain since February 2013. Stronger Gross Domestic Product (GDP) numbers in the first quarter also bode well for the domestic labour market in the months ahead.³

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 138,000 in the United States in May 2017.⁴ This fell short of expectations, which hovered closer to the 185,000 mark. Revised figures further showed that employment gains in March and April were smaller than originally stated as job growth averaged just 121,000 over the past three months. The unemployment rate saw little change as it decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3%. However, the unemployment rate that includes discouraged or underemployed workers came in at 8.4%. This was the lowest level seen since late 2007. Despite softer labour market results this month, many analysts expect that the United States Federal Reserve will move forward with an interest rate hike in June.

Employment grew by 86,000 in Ontario between May 2016 and May 2017. Most of the job gains were in full-time work. The province continued to see sizeable job increases over the past year. The unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 6.5% and the participation rate was relatively unchanged since May 2016.

The unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 13.2% in May 2017. Even with this decline, the figure remained above the national rate of 12.0%. The youth labour market showed some positive signs this month. The employment rate reached its highest level since February 2015 at 53.0%. Furthermore, the participation rate for youth jumped to 61.1% as more young workers ventured into the labour force with the onset of summer.

Throughout the summer months, Statistics Canada collects labour market data on youth aged 15 to 24 who attended school full-time in March and who plan to return to school full-time in autumn.⁵ Between May 2016 and May 2017, student summer employment decreased by 10,300 in the province. The unemployment rate for returning students rose by 1.0 percentage point to 19.4%. A decline in the participation and employment rates over the past year may also suggest that fewer students were able to secure work. Employment conditions for this group will become clearer in the near term as there is often greater job activity from youth in June and July. Across Canada, the student unemployment rate was 16.8% in May 2017.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,658.2	11,642.4	11,502.3	15.8	0.1	155.9	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	7,576.5	7,504.4	7,491.8	72.1	1.0	84.7	1.1
Employment ('000)	7,086.9	7,067.0	7,000.9	19.9	0.3	86.0	1.2
Full-Time ('000)	5,756.1	5,746.1	5,681.1	10.0	0.2	75.0	1.3
Part-Time ('000)	1,330.7	1,321.0	1,319.8	9.7	0.7	10.9	0.8
Unemployment ('000)	489.7	437.4	490.9	52.3	12.0	-1.2	-0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.5	5.8	6.6	0.7	-	-0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.0	64.5	65.1	0.5	-	-0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.8	60.7	60.9	0.1	-	-0.1	-

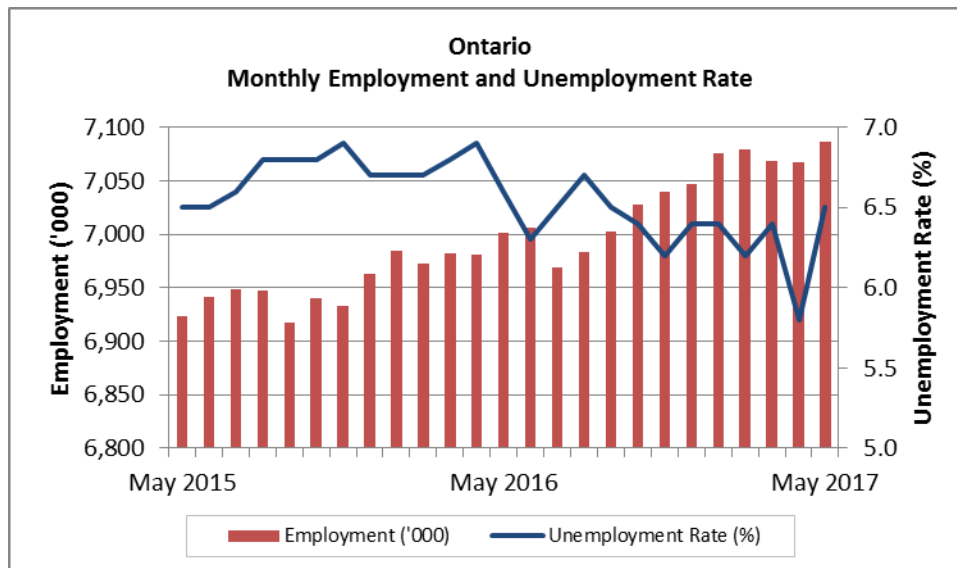
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

³ Yuk, P.K. (2017, May 31). Canada notches 3.7% annualised GDP growth in first quarter. *The Financial Times Ltd*. Retrieved from <https://www.ft.com/content/0ee56da6-1430-3c7f-a0e3-9de97808b084>

⁴ Cox, J. (2017, June 02). May nonfarm payrolls total 138,000 vs 185,000 expected. *CNBC LLC*. Retrieved from <http://www.cnbc.com/2017/06/02/nonfarm-payrolls-may-2017.html>

⁵ Statistics Canada. *Table 282-0006 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by students during summer months, sex and age group, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (persons unless otherwise noted)*, CANSIM (database). (2017, June 12)



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.5	5.8	6.5	0.7	0.0
25 years and over	5.3	4.8	5.1	0.5	0.2
Men - 25 years and over	5.4	4.8	5.3	0.6	0.1
Women - 25 years and over	5.3	4.8	4.9	0.5	0.4
15 to 24 years	13.2	12.2	14.6	1.0	-1.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.2	13.0	15.8	2.2	-0.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.1	11.4	13.3	-0.3	-2.2

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the goods-producing sector up in May 2017

Employment increased in Ontario's goods-producing sector by 9,200 in May 2017. Gains in the manufacturing industry (+14,100) outweighed losses in other areas such as utilities (-2,700) and agriculture (-1,400).

Manufacturing employment has grown relatively steadily over the past 12 months. The industry now makes up 10.9% of total employment in Ontario, an increase of 0.2 percentage points from May 2016. Although the Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell slightly this month, Ontario recorded the greatest rise in new export sales compared to all of the other provinces.⁶ Manufacturing output in Ontario continued to forge ahead behind stronger United States demand and improved Canadian consumer confidence. Some of the most notable expansions in the industry included a new plant for Tulsar Canada Ltd. in Brant,⁷ and the start of con-

⁶ IHS Markit. (2017, Jun 01). IHS Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/PressRelease.mvc/adfc5e9044e94b10b6d5fba85a1313ed>

⁷ Toms, C. (2017, May 28). Tulsar Controls finds new home in the county. *Brant News*. Retrieved from <https://www.brantnews.com/news-story/7337027-tulsar-controls-finds-new-home-in-the-county/>

struction for a larger facility for The Peace Naturals Project in the Township of Clearview.⁸ While May was a positive month for the industry, there was a large layoff announcement that is set to take effect in the next few years. Procter & Gamble Company stated that it would close its Brockville production plant by 2021, which will result in about 480 jobs losses.⁹

Employment growth in the provincial **construction** industry was weak in May 2017. Slower residential activity might partly stem from new provincial legislation to curb foreign speculation in Toronto's real estate market. According to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, total housing starts in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area trended lower mainly because of a decline in single-detached and row units.¹⁰ This was the first time that single-detached starts have gone against the upward trend that began in September 2016. Despite this, activity in the non-residential sector remained strong. Tepperman's broke ground on a 40,000- sq.-ft. retail store at the London Road Shopping Centre in Sarnia;¹¹ and Huron University College at Western University announced a \$25M expansion of its student centre and classroom space.¹²

Employment in the goods-producing sector saw a small increase of 1,700 between May 2016 and May 2017. The largest annual gains were in manufacturing (+23,900), whereas the agriculture (-11,900) and construction (-6,800) industries saw the biggest losses.

Employment in the services-producing sector increased in May 2017

Employment in the services-producing sector grew by 10,700 in Ontario in May 2017. Growth was strongest in trade (+31,900), and professional, scientific and technical services (+18,800). Monthly losses were greatest in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-19,500), and business, building and other support services (-12,000).

The **retail trade** industry continued to see a mix of expansions and closures as companies deal with strong competition and changing consumer tastes. Nordstrom, Inc. stated that it plans to hire about 400 employees for its CF Sherway Gardens location in Toronto slated to open this September.¹³ In contrast, Reitmans (Canada) Limited and LE CHÂTEAU will close a combined 58 stores across the country in 2017.¹⁴

The **arts, entertainment and recreation** industry saw two large developments in May. Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited announced that it would take over the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's regional op-

⁸ CTV News Barrie. (2017, May 23). Local medical marijuana producer breaks ground for massive expansion. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <http://barrie.ctvnews.ca/local-medical-marijuana-producer-breaks-ground-for-massive-expansion-1.3426072>

⁹ Skura, E. (2017, May 24). Procter & Gamble to close Brockville, Ont. plant. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/procter-and-gamble-plant-closure-brockville-1.4129366>

¹⁰ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2017, June 08). Canadian housing starts trend increased in May. *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Staff*. Retrieved from <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2017/2017-06-08-0816.cfm>

¹¹ Irwin, M. (2017, May 15). Tepperman's Says Future Bright For Sarnia-Lambton. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2017/05/15/teppermans-says-future-bright-sarnia-lambton/>

¹² Daniszewski, H. (2017, May 17). Huron College rebrands roots with \$25M upgrade. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2017/05/17/huron-college-rebrands-roots-with-25m-upgrade>

¹³ Retail Insider. (2017, May 09). Nordstrom Prepares to Open CF Sherway Gardens Store. *Retail Insider Media Ltd*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2017/5/nordstrom-sherway>

¹⁴ Kopun, F. (2017, May 26). Reitmans and Le Château: How two fashion retailing icons are fighting to stay in the game. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2017/05/26/reitmans-and-le-chateau-how-two-fashion-retailing-icons-are-fighting-to-stay-in-the-game.html>

erations in southwestern Ontario.¹⁵ The company plans to invest more than \$200M in the region and possibly add hundreds of additional staff. Moreover, Hard Rock International will join with Rideau Carleton Raceway Holdings Limited to invest about \$320M to transform the existing raceway and gaming complex.¹⁶ The project could lead to 1,900 construction-related jobs and 2,000 direct and indirect positions once completed.

Ontario's **professional, scientific and technical services industry** received another lift as the Government of Ontario, IBM Canada Ltd., and the Ontario Centres of Excellence opened the IBM Innovation Space-Markham Convergence Centre. The Centre is part of the IBM Innovation Incubator (I³) Project,¹⁷ which could create up to 2,600 jobs by 2020. Meanwhile, Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited revealed that it would cut about 600 non-manufacturing positions across Canada in areas such as sales, human resources, and marketing.¹⁸

Since May 2016, employment in Ontario's services-producing sector grew by 84,300. Industry gains were strongest in professional, scientific and technical services (+42,500), and health care and social assistance (+41,900). Annual losses were greatest in information, culture and recreation (-22,000), and accommodation and food services (-17,800).

¹⁵ Brown, D. (2017, May 09). Gambling: OLG's new operator in London and region promises \$200-million improvement. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/2017/05/09/gambling-olgs-new-operator-in-london-and-region-promises-200-million-improvement>

¹⁶ Willing, J. (2017, May 15). Rideau Carleton Raceway set to become the Hard Rock Casino Ottawa. *Ottawa Citizen*. Retrieved from <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/rideau-carleton-raceway-set-to-become-the-hard-rock-casino-ottawa>

¹⁷ Ontario Newsroom. (2017, May 08). Ontario Marks Grand Opening of Innovation Space in Markham. *Ontario Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mris/en/2017/05/ontario-marks-grand-opening-of-innovation-space-in-markham.html>

¹⁸ Durbin, D. (2017, May 17). Ford to confirm plan to cut 1,400 salaried jobs in North America, Asia. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/international-business/us-business/ford-to-cut-1400-salaried-jobs-in-north-america-asia/article35013904/>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,086.9	7,067.0	7,000.9	19.9	0.3	86.0	1.2
Goods-producing sector	1,425.3	1,416.1	1,423.6	9.2	0.6	1.7	0.1
Agriculture	67.1	68.5	79.0	-1.4	-2.0	-11.9	-15.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	35.0	36.3	34.7	-1.3	-3.6	0.3	0.9
Utilities	44.9	47.6	48.7	-2.7	-5.7	-3.8	-7.8
Construction	502.5	502.0	509.3	0.5	0.1	-6.8	-1.3
Manufacturing	775.8	761.7	751.9	14.1	1.9	23.9	3.2
Services-producing sector	5,661.6	5,650.9	5,577.3	10.7	0.2	84.3	1.5
Trade	1,066.9	1,035.0	1,027.0	31.9	3.1	39.9	3.9
Transportation and warehousing	341.1	336.0	328.8	5.1	1.5	12.3	3.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	546.2	565.7	555.9	-19.5	-3.4	-9.7	-1.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	635.5	616.7	593.0	18.8	3.0	42.5	7.2
Business, building and other support services	321.7	333.7	323.3	-12.0	-3.6	-1.6	-0.5
Educational services	504.2	503.1	505.7	1.1	0.2	-1.5	-0.3
Health care and social assistance	873.6	861.7	831.7	11.9	1.4	41.9	5.0
Information, culture and recreation	292.0	300.3	314.0	-8.3	-2.8	-22.0	-7.0
Accommodation and food services	441.0	444.6	458.8	-3.6	-0.8	-17.8	-3.9
Other services	272.0	277.7	279.0	-5.7	-2.1	-7.0	-2.5
Public administration	367.4	376.5	360.0	-9.1	-2.4	7.4	2.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Toronto continued to lead employment growth across the province in May 2017

The **Toronto** economic region saw the most gains in employment between May 2016 and May 2017, with an increase of 41,500. The unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage points to 6.8% as well. The size of the labour force increased in the region as more individuals headed into summer employment positions. Activity in the construction industry will remain steady brightening the region's outlook. The Government of Ontario will invest \$42.9M to upgrade and renovate social housing units in the City of Toronto over the next year.¹⁹ Further, the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board awarded Oshawa-based Garritano Brothers Ltd. a \$4.5M contract to expand an elementary school in June.²⁰ News from Toronto's retail trade industry included announce-

¹⁹ Ontario Newsroom. (2017, May 09). Ontario Funding Social Housing Repairs and Retrofits in Toronto. *Ontario Ministry of Housing*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mho/en/2017/05/ontario-funding-social-housing-repairs-and-retrofits-in-toronto.html>

²⁰ Foot, D. (2017, May 24). Work to begin in June on expansion of Marmora Senior Public School. *Quinte News*. Retrieved from <http://www.quintenews.com/2017/05/work-begin-june-expansion-marmora-senior-public-school/148236/>

ments that Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd. will add another location in Brampton by July,²¹ and APM Monaco will open its first Canadian jewelry store on Bloor Street this summer.²²

The **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region also experienced a gain in employment of 30,900 between May 2016 and May 2017. The unemployment rate fell by a full percentage point over the term to 5.7%. Local companies are gearing up as the country moves forward to legalize and regulate marijuana by July 2018.²³ Mari-cann Group Inc. announced that it would expand its medicinal marijuana facility in Langton,²⁴ and expects to add 40 employees by January 2018 to help meet future demand.

Employment grew in the **Muskoka–Kawarths** economic region with an increase of 13,100. Both full-time and part-time work made headway. The region's manufacturing industry received a boost in May. Noblegen Inc., a biotechnology company in Peterborough, will receive a repayable contribution of up to \$600,000 from the Government of Canada and \$1.2M from a private investor to expand its market base. The investment will lead to up to 22 jobs.²⁵

The **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie, London, Ottawa, Northwest**, and the **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic regions recorded annual employment gains as well.

Three economic regions faced employment losses in May 2017

Employment in the **Windsor–Sarnia** economic region declined the most in the province between May 2016 and May 2017 with a loss of 7,800. While employment growth has slowed a bit in the region over the past few months, the manufacturing industry continued to push forward. Talius Rollshutters, a retractable screen manufacturer, opened a plant in Windsor with 10 employees on hand. The company expects to double its workforce within the year.²⁶ Employment gains in motor vehicle parts and accessories manufacturing and motor vehicle manufacturing in the first quarter of the year²⁷ should further help bolster the deep automotive base in the region. Several construction projects^{28,29,30} are also set to take shape, including Phase Two of preparatory work for the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

²¹ Brown, N. (2017, May 18). New Costco Opening on the Edge of Brampton this summer. *Bramptonist*. Retrieved from <http://bramptonist.com/new-costco-opening-on-the-edge-of-brampton-this-summer/>

²² Retail Insider. (2017, May 17). APM Monaco to Open 1st Canadian Store. *Retail Insider Media Ltd*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2017/5/apm-monaco>

²³ Government of Canada. (2017, May 01). Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/policing/justice/legalization-regulation-marijuana.html>

²⁴ Sonnenberg, M. (2017, May 25). Major expansion underway at Langton marijuana operation. *Simcoe Reformer*. Retrieved from <http://www.tillsonburgnews.com/2017/05/25/major-expansion-underway-at-langton-marijuana-operation>

²⁵ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2017, April 27). FedDev Ontario Contributes \$600,000 to Bio-based Innovations. *Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario*. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2017/04/feddev_ontario_contributes600000tobio-basedinnovations.html

²⁶ CBC News. (2017, May 04). Screen company opens new plant in Windsor, plans to double workforce. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/screen-company-opens-new-plant-in-windsor-plans-to-double-workforce-1.4099090>

²⁷ DesRosiers Automotive Consultants Inc. (2017, May). Automotive Dealer Employment Surpasses 150,000. *DesRosiers Automotive Consultants Inc*. Retrieved from <http://mailchi.mp/desrosiers/canadian-automotive-trade-with-united-states-surpasses-150-billion-1075529?e=fd15d9f892>

²⁸ CBC News. (2017, May 01). Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority awards \$86M in contracts. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-detroit-bridge-authority-awards-86m-in-contracts-1.4093379>

Employment decreased by 6,700 in the **Northeast** economic region over the past year. Declines took place across the board in full-time and part-time work. Though the unemployment rate declined by 0.8 percentage points to 7.5%, this may be because of residents exiting the labour market. The region has maintained the highest unemployment rate in the province since December 2016 and may suffer some further job losses. Great Lakes Graphite Inc. announced that it would relocate its graphite processing operation from Matheson to Pennsylvania, United States.³¹

Employment also decreased in the **Kingston–Pembroke** economic region during the past 12 months.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2017 ('000)	May 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2017 (%)	May 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,047.4	6,962.5	1.2	6.4	6.9	-0.5
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	690.9	687.7	0.5	6.1	7.0	-0.9
Kingston—Pembroke	204.4	205.2	-0.4	6.4	7.1	-0.7
Muskoka—Kawarthas	178.8	165.7	7.9	6.5	6.0	0.5
Toronto	3,407.2	3,365.7	1.2	6.8	7.2	-0.4
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	717.2	712.4	0.7	5.8	5.9	-0.1
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	741.6	710.7	4.3	5.7	6.7	-1.0
London	337.1	333.6	1.0	5.9	6.4	-0.5
Windsor—Sarnia	289.4	297.2	-2.6	6.7	7.1	-0.4
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	139.5	138.7	0.6	4.5	5.6	-1.1
Northeast	239.9	246.6	-2.7	7.5	8.3	-0.8
Northwest	101.3	98.9	2.4	5.9	8.3	-2.4

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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²⁹ Battagello, D. (2017, May 23). Cabana Road improvement project poised to begin. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/cabana-road-construction-poised-to-begin>

³⁰ Kotsis, J. (2017, May 19). Tecumseh intersection to get \$6.9-million upgrade. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/tecumseh-intersection-to-get-7-million-upgrade>

³¹ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2017, May 03). Great Lakes Graphite leaving the North. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/great-lakes-graphite-leaving-the-north-604806>