



# Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

January 2018



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Ontario, including the regions of Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula, Kingston—Pembroke, Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie, London, Muskoka—Kawarthas, Northeast, Northwest, Ottawa, Stratford—Bruce Peninsula, Toronto and Windsor—Sarnia.

## OVERVIEW

### Labour Force Trends – Ontario Employment starts 2018 by losing part-timers

- Employment decreased by 50,900 in the province in January 2018
- Job losses were solely in part-time (-59,300) work with small gains in full-time (+8,500) work
- The unemployment rate dipped from 5.6% in December 2017 to 5.5% in January 2018

Employment in Ontario weakened in January 2018 by -50,900 ending its 5-month spree of job gains. However, the losses were entirely in part-time employment (-59,300). The provincial unemployment rate also decline by 0.1 percentage point to 5.5% in January 2018, reaching lows achieved in the fall and not seen since July 2000. Given that the Ontario participation rate also declined by 0.6 percentage points from 65.0% to 64.4% over the month, the part-time job loss is likely due to seasonal workers exiting the workforce. However, the unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 increased by 0.3 percentage points to 11.4% as part-time positions become less prevalent in winter. This currently sits above the national figure of 10.9%.

Employment in Canada dropped after a year's worth of consecutive monthly gains. Employment decreased by 88,000, entirely in part-time (-137,000) work. However, full-time positions increased by 49,000 demonstrating some stability in the economy. While labour force numbers decreased, the unemployed population rose by 14,300, which explains the 0.1 percentage point increase in the national unemployment rate, returning to the November 2017 level of 5.9%.

The national employment decrease was driven primarily by the losses in Ontario, followed by a moderate decline in Quebec. However, there was an overall boost to earnings. Average hourly wages grew by 3.3% across Canada between January 2017 and January 2018, with consistent monthly increases since August.<sup>1</sup> Effective January 1

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 282-0071 - Labour Force Survey estimates (LFS), wages of employees by type of work, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), sex and age group, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (current dollars unless otherwise noted)

2018, Ontario's minimum wage was raised from \$11.60 to \$14.00 per hour, and will be raised to \$15.00 per hour on January 1, 2019.<sup>2</sup> The loss of part-time work in the province may be in response to this pay hike, although the average wage has been steadily increasing over time, and the latest uptick is on trend for both average full-time and part-time incomes.

The United States total nonfarm payroll employment in January rose by 200,000, continuing its 88-month climb while the unemployment rate remained at 4.1% for the fourth consecutive month. Job growth south of the border has not signalled major change in Canadian exports or imports<sup>3</sup> although a slightly elevated loonie and global oil price rally early in 2018 may stimulate some activity.

Over the past year, the provincial labour market continues to be robust. Employment improved by 104,300 between January 2017 and January 2018 with all of these gains in full-time work - a promise of stability. The unemployment rate also fell by 0.9 percentage points to 5.5% while the labour force increased by 42,700.

### Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

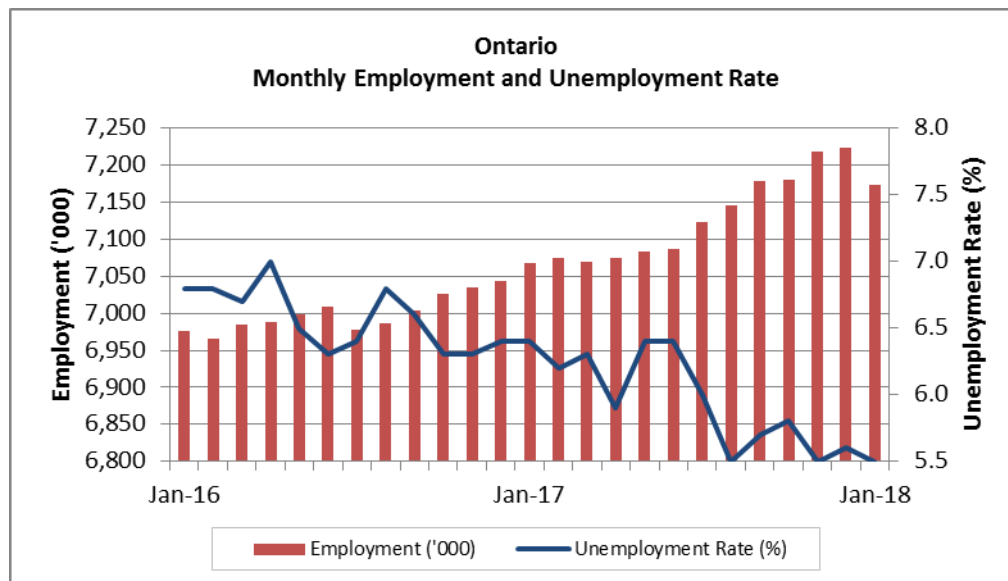
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2018	December 2018	January 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	11793.7	11771.9	11604.3	21.8	0.2	189.4	1.6
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	7593.5	7648.3	7550.8	-54.8	-0.7	42.7	0.6
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	7172.9	7223.8	7068.6	-50.9	-0.7	104.3	1.5
Full-Time ('000)	5859.9	5851.4	5709.4	8.5	0.1	150.5	2.6
Part-Time ('000)	1313.1	1372.4	1359.2	-59.3	-4.3	-46.1	-3.4
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	420.6	424.5	482.2	-3.9	-0.9	-61.6	-
						12.8	
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.5	5.6	6.4	-0.1	-	-0.9	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	64.4	65	65.1	-0.6	-	-0.7	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	60.8	61.4	60.9	-0.6	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Labour. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://www.ontario.ca/page/minimum-wage-increase>

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 228-0059 - Merchandise imports and exports, customs and balance of payments basis for all countries, by seasonal adjustment and North American Product Classification System (NAPCS), monthly (dollars)



### Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.5	5.6	6.4	-0.1	-0.9
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.6	4.6	4.9	0.0	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	4.4	4.8	4.8	-0.4	-0.4
Women - 25 years and over	4.7	4.4	5	0.3	-0.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	11.4	11.1	15.2	0.3	-3.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.9	12.9	15.4	-1.0	-3.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.9	9.1	14.9	1.8	-4.0

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

### Employment decline in goods-producing sector attributed to weaker construction activities

Employment fell in Ontario's goods-producing sector this month with 6,800 (-0.5%) losses. The greatest decline was reported in construction (-8,500) whereas gains were limited to manufacturing (+4,600) and utilities (+2,200).

Alongside employment improvements in **manufacturing**, the Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose in January to the highest level since April 2017. The increase reflects strong growth in output, new orders, and staff recruitment. Demand for goods was higher in both the domestic and foreign markets, particularly from clients in the United States. Ontario has experienced the fastest growth in manufacturing business

conditions for nearly two years with a noticeable increase in exports. However, longer delivery times and rising prices for some raw material inputs were among the factors adding pressures nationally.<sup>45</sup>

Several significant announcements also came out of manufacturing, particularly within the transportation equipment and supplies segment. There continues to be investments made in advanced technology to strengthen the sector's global competitiveness. Notably, with up to \$100M of federal and provincial funding, Guelph-based Linamar Corporation, a motor vehicle parts manufacturer, will develop new products and technologies for transmissions and drive trains, engine parts, electric and connected vehicles, as well as establish a new research and development centre. These initiatives are expected to eventually create 1,500 jobs.<sup>67</sup>

In addition, automotive sales, particularly of light trucks, are at record high levels<sup>8</sup>, encouraging investments and expansions within the auto parts supply chain.<sup>9,10,11</sup>

In the aerospace sector, Diamond Aircraft Industries Inc. is extending production of new aircraft models and plans to add 120 positions in 2018 at its plant in London.<sup>12</sup> This bodes well for Ontario's expanding aviation industry.

Meanwhile, events were mixed in the food manufacturing cluster. Among the positive developments,<sup>13</sup> Dr. Oetker Canada Ltd. is hiring more than 100 workers at its frozen pizza plant in London to meet higher operational needs. Seventy percent of the production from the company's facility in New Brunswick, which is slated for closure, will move to this location. The London plant's more modern facilities and closer proximity to suppliers could be factors influencing the business decision.<sup>14,15</sup> Shifting consumer behaviour may also weigh down on the overall performance of the sector. Campbell Company of Canada announced intentions to close its plant in Eto-bicoke within the next 18 months, eliminating about 380 positions, as consumer preference for fresh produce

<sup>4</sup> IHS Markit. (2018, February 1). Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from

<https://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/PressRelease.mvc/29eaa2f3c4af4a189a6de9343e2bb83e>

<sup>5</sup> Trading Economics. Canada Manufacturing PMI. Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

<sup>6</sup> Blatchford, A. (2018, January 15). Feds, Ontario invest \$100M to support Linamar auto parts maker. *The Canadian Press - CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/feds-ontario-invest-100m-to-support-linamar-auto-parts-maker-1.3759692>

<sup>7</sup> Seto, C. (2018, January 15). Federal government, Ontario invest \$100M to support Linamar auto parts maker. *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/8074013-federal-government-ontario-invest-100m-to-support-linamar-auto-parts-maker/>

<sup>8</sup> CBC News Staff. (2018, January 3). Canadian sales of light trucks, cars top 2 million for 1st time. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/vehicles-light-trucks-cars-sales-1.4471837>

<sup>9</sup> CBC News Staff. (2018, January 17). \$1M grant adds 60 jobs at Lakeside Plastics Ltd. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/lakeside-plastics-investment-fund-1.4490901>

<sup>10</sup> Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2018, January 17). Eleven automotive manufacturing sector projects to get Strategic Innovation Fund support. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/01/eleven-automotivemanufacturingsectorprojectstogetstrategicinnova.html>

<sup>11</sup> Pedro, P. (2018, January 15). Blenheim's Woodbridge Foam Plant Is Growing. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/chatham/chatham-news/2018/01/15/blenheims-woodbridge-foam-plant-growing/>

<sup>12</sup> De Bono, N. (2018, January 25). Plane maker says new models could boost North American sales, create jobs in London. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2018/01/24/plane-maker-says-new-models-could-boost-north-american-sales-create-jobs-in-london>

<sup>13</sup> Sacheli, S. (2018, January 29). 'This is really good news' — Tecumseh Bonduelle plant expanding, hiring 40 more workers. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/this-is-really-good-news-tecumseh-bonduelle-plant-expanding-hiring-40-more-workers>

<sup>14</sup> Sturgeon, N. (2018, January 30). Dr. Oetker's closure of New Brunswick pizza plant 'a slap in the face'. *CBC News New Brunswick*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/dr-oetker-closes-grand-falls-plant-1.4510545>

<sup>15</sup> De Bono, N. (2018, January 31). London's Dr. Oetker frozen pizza plant boosting production after New Brunswick plant shuttered. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2018/01/30/londons-dr-oetker-frozen-pizza-plant-boosting-production-after-new-brunswick-plant-shuttered>

and other foods over items such as canned soups has led to declining revenues. While the company will keep its headquarters and commercial operations in Toronto, retaining nearly 200 of the 600 jobs from this location, the manufacturing operations will be moved to the existing plants in the United States.<sup>16,17</sup>

In **construction**, residential activities were also weaker this month with housing starts declining by 14.1% over the year.<sup>18</sup> In the same period, new developments fell in all types of units except semi-detached dwellings. The Toronto area experienced the greatest decline in starts.<sup>19</sup>

In the resale market in Toronto, the demand for condominium units remained high but home sales generally declined in January when measured against the high level of activities last year.<sup>20</sup> Looking ahead, the rise in interest rates, along with the new mortgage rules which came into effect January 1, 2018 for federally regulated financial institutions,<sup>21</sup> may cool some residential real estate activities. There are indications of an uptick in borrowing from alternative lenders.<sup>22</sup>

Yet, the provincial government's undertaking of its largest long-term infrastructure investment should continue to boost employment in construction. A few related developments got underway, including the \$65M Cherry Street Stormwater and Lakefilling project, which is the first phase of the \$1.25B Port Lands Flood Protection Project in Toronto.<sup>23</sup> Work also started on the Henvey Inlet Wind project off Georgian Bay. This is the largest on-reserve wind installation development in Canada, and is expected to create 500 jobs at peak.<sup>24</sup> Announcements

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<sup>16</sup> Financial Post Staff. (2018, January 24). Campbell Soup shuttering 87-year-old Toronto facility, 380 jobs to be impacted. *The Canadian Press – Financial Post*. Retrieved from <http://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/campbell-soup-shuttering-87-year-old-toronto-facility-380-jobs-to-be-impacted>

<sup>17</sup> Toronto Star. (2017, August 31). Campbell Soup expects sales to drop as people opt for fresher foods. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2017/08/31/campbell-soup-expects-sales-to-drop-as-people-opt-for-fresher-foods.html>

<sup>18</sup> Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 027-0054: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, all areas, Canada and provinces, seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

<sup>19</sup> Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 027-0001. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions in centres 10,000 and over, Canada, provinces, selected census metropolitan areas, monthly (units).

<sup>20</sup> McFarland, J. (2018, February 6). Toronto home sales fall sharply in January. *Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/real-estate/toronto/toronto-home-sales-drop-22-in-january-but-prices-have-steadied/article37870082/>

<sup>21</sup> Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Press Release (2017, October 17). OSFI is reinforcing a strong and prudent regulatory regime for residential mortgage underwriting. *OSFI*. Retrieved from [http://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/osfi-bsif/med/Pages/B20\\_dft\\_nr.aspx](http://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/osfi-bsif/med/Pages/B20_dft_nr.aspx)

<sup>22</sup> Ligaya, A. (2018, February 5). New mortgage stress test rules have borrowers flocking to alternative lenders. *The Canadian Press-CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/mortgage-stress-test-1.4519972>

<sup>23</sup> Fox, C. (2018, January 11). Construction begins on first phase of \$1.25 billion project to protect Port Lands from flooding. *CablePulse* 24. Retrieved from <https://www.cp24.com/news/construction-begins-on-first-phase-of-1-25-billion-project-to-protect-port-lands-from-flooding-1.3754982>

<sup>24</sup> Wall, D. (2018, January 18). Henvey Inlet First Nation signs \$1B wind power deal. *Daily Commercial News Staff*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/resource/2018/01/henvey-inlet-first-nation-signs-1b-wind-power-deal>

also came about multi-million dollar awards for other infrastructure developments,<sup>25,26,27</sup> as well as news related to commercial,<sup>28</sup> residential,<sup>29</sup> and institutional developments.<sup>30,31,32,33,34</sup>

Year-over-year, employment in the goods-producing sector grew by 23,200 (+1.6%) based on the strength of manufacturing employment (+ 34,000). Construction was up marginally (700), while agriculture reported the greatest loss (-9, 100).

### Services-producing sector suffer significant monthly employment losses among large clusters

The services-producing sector also experienced losses in employment of 44,000 or (-0.8%). The largest contributors to the decline were wholesale and retail trade (-15,500) and professional, scientific and technical services (-13,300). Business, building and other support services reported the highest growth in employment of 7,300; while employment was up by 2,200 in accommodation and food services.

The employment decline in **wholesale and retail trade** was likely associated with weaker retail activities. However the sector will benefit from new business entrants, including a Farm Boy grocery store which will open in Hamilton this spring, with 140 full- and part-time positions.<sup>35</sup> In addition, SAIL, an outdoor retailer, will open in the new IKEA London location, creating 100 jobs.<sup>36</sup> Lowes Canada is ramping up hiring for full-time, part-time and seasonal positions across Canada with an estimated 3,300 job openings in Ontario.<sup>37</sup>

This month's level of employment in **professional, scientific and technical services** was the lowest since April 2017. However, within this sector, technology-driven activities continue to advance<sup>38,39</sup> and this should support

<sup>25</sup> Daily Commercial News Staff. (2017, December 22). EllisDon team awarded 401 GO rail tunnel job. *DCN News Services*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2017/12/ellisdon-team-awarded-401-go-rail-tunnel-job>

<sup>26</sup> Ministry of Transportation. (2018, January 15). Ontario Investing in Major New Rapid Transit Line in London. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2018/01/ontario-investing-in-major-new-rapid-transit-line-in-london.html>

<sup>27</sup> Daily Commercial News Staff. (2017, December 22). Strabag awarded contract to build rail tunnel in Toronto. *DCN News Services*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2018/01/strabag-awarded-contract-build-rail-tunnel-toronto>

<sup>28</sup> Hall, C. (2018, January 29). Expansion, redevelopment in the cards for Scugog Island casino. *Port Perry Star – Durham Region News*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/8098707-expansion-redevelopment-in-the-cards-for-scugog-island-casino/>

<sup>29</sup> Landau, J. (2018, January 24). Site Clearing Marks Start of Work on 740 Dupont Mid-Rise. *Urban Toronto*. Retrieved from <http://urbantoronto.ca/news/2018/01/site-clearing-marks-start-work-740-dupont-mid-rise>

<sup>30</sup> Whitnell, T. (2018, January 3). New child care spaces coming to two Burlington elementary schools. *Burlington Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/8034833-new-child-care-spaces-coming-to-two-burlington-elementary-schools/>

<sup>31</sup> Timmins Press Staff. (2018, January 10). Child-care centre to open at Schumacher Public School. *Timmins Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.timminspress.com/2018/01/10/child-care-centre-to-open-at-schumacher-public-school>

<sup>32</sup> Lake 88 News Staff. (2018, February 1). CDSBEO receives funding for capital projects in schools. *Lake 88*. Retrieved from <http://lake88.ca/2018/02/01/cdsbeo-receives-funding-for-capital-projects-in-schools/>

<sup>33</sup> McKay, J. (2018, January 23). Province to spend \$67 million on schools, additions. *Kingston Whig-Standard*. Retrieved from <http://www.thewhig.com/2018/01/23/province-to-spend-67-million-on-schools-additions>

<sup>34</sup> Marychuk, M. (2018, January 31). Armagh House to double capacity in Peel. *Mississauga News*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/8094567-armagh-house-to-double-capacity-in-peel/>

<sup>35</sup> Bowes, G. (2018, January 3). Farm Boy ready to hire 140 for Hamilton Mountain store. *Hamilton News*. Retrieved from <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/8034060-farm-boy-ready-to-hire-140-for-hamilton-mountain-store/>

<sup>36</sup> Jeffrey, J. (2018, January 16). London's Mayor focuses on jobs and momentum in State of the City address. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/3967354/londons-mayor-focuses-on-jobs-and-momentum-in-state-of-the-city-address/>

<sup>37</sup> Canada Newswire Staff. (2018, February 5). Lowe's Canada to hire more than 7,000 employees this spring for its Lowe's, RONA and Reno-Depot stores. *CNW*. Retrieved from <http://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/Lowe-s-Canada-to-hire-more-than-7-000-employees-this-spring-for-its-Lowe-s-RONA-and-Reno-Depot-stores-1014969286>

<sup>38</sup> Brampton Guardian Staff. (2018, February 1). Trend Micro setting up Toronto research lab. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/8104762-trend-micro-setting-up-toronto-research-lab/>



higher employment numbers.<sup>40</sup> Among the expansions, and with private and publicly supported investments, Miovision Technologies, a traffic solutions company, moved to Catalyst137, a new Internet of Things innovation centre in Kitchener, and plans to create 275 jobs over the next few years.<sup>41</sup>

**Public administration** suffered a fourth consecutive month of employment decline. Yet good news is on the horizon as the Province of Ontario will be hiring up to 175 Employment Standards Officers<sup>42</sup> to ensure compliance with the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017.<sup>43</sup> The Act includes the legislation related to minimum wages in the province.

Although **business, building and other support services** reported the highest growth in employment in the services sector this month, some of the closures planned in call centres will result in setbacks in the sector. Transcom Canada will be ceasing operations in Barrie and Brockville this spring, which will impact 280 and 80 workers respectively at these locations. The company mentioned moving to an offshore operation and changes in the business model to work at home as factors influencing the changes.<sup>44,45</sup> Also Shaw Communications Inc., will close its Freedom Mobile call centre in Windsor, affecting 130 people by March, as operations will be moving to British Columbia.<sup>46</sup> However the news that Sutherland Global Services Inc. is looking to fill 60 positions in technical customer service roles in Sault Ste. Marie<sup>47</sup> was good for the sector.

In **accommodation and food services**, several restaurant openings were announced for different areas of Ontario, notably in the Northeast.<sup>48,49</sup>

Employment conditions were stronger in the services-producing sector when compared year-over-year, with an increase of 81,300 (+1.4%). Industry gains were led by wholesale and retail trade (+64,100) and professional, scientific and technical services (+24,600). Employment losses were largely in health care and social assistance (-18,000), business, building and other support services (-12,600) and public administration (-10,800).

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<sup>39</sup> Daniszewski, H. (2018, January 6). Joblessness hits 40-year low nationally, London-area rate also down in surprising year-end tally. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.stthomastimesjournal.com/2018/01/05/london-area-unemployment-rate-dropped-a-notch-to-62-in-december-as-number-of-people-working-grew>

<sup>40</sup> Brampton Guardian Staff. (2017, December 18). Brampton's MDA receives \$53.7M in federal funds to help further space exploration. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/8003218-brampton-s-mda-receives-53-7m-in-federal-funds-to-help-further-space-exploration/>

<sup>41</sup> CBC News Staff. (2018, January 30). Miovision Technologies expands to create 275 new jobs. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Kitchener-Waterloo*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/miovision-expansion-1.4510528>

<sup>42</sup> Ministry of Labour. (2018, January 15). *Ontario Enhancing Enforcement to Ensure Worker Rights Are Protected*. Government of Ontario Newsroom. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2018/01/ontario-enhancing-enforcement-to-ensure-worker-rights-are-protected.html>

<sup>43</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario. Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017. Retrieved from [http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=4963](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=4963)

<sup>44</sup> Ward, A. (2018, January 16). Transcom announces closure of Barrie call centre; 280 people affected. *CTV News Barrie*. Retrieved from <https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/transcom-announces-closure-of-barrie-call-centre-280-people-affected-1.3761839>

<sup>45</sup> Zajac, R. (2018, January 16). Brockville's Transcom closing. *Recorder and Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.recorder.ca/2018/01/16/brockvilles-transcom-closing>

<sup>46</sup> Hill, S. (2018, January 15). Updated: Freedom Mobile call centre closing; Windsor under attack, says union. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/freedom-mobile-windsor-call-centre-closing-putting-130-out-of-work>

<sup>47</sup> SooToday Staff. (2018, January 22). 60 jobs available at Sutherland job fair. *SooToday*. Retrieved from <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/60-jobs-available-at-sutherland-job-fair-819332>

<sup>48</sup> Hamilton-McCharles, J. (2018, January 24). New steakhouse coming to North Bay. *The Nugget*. Retrieved from <http://www.nugget.ca/2018/01/24/new-steakhouse-coming-to-north-bay>

<sup>49</sup> Moodie, J. (2018, January 11). Rainbow Centre adds Swiss Chalet outlet. *The Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thesudburystar.com/2018/01/11/rainbow-centre-adds-swiss-chalet-outlet>

## Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	7172.9	7223.8	7068.6	-50.9	-0.7	104.3	1.5
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	1457.3	1464.1	1434.1	-6.8	-0.5	23.2	1.6
Agriculture	63.7	67.6	72.8	-3.9	-5.8	-9.1	-12.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	32.7	34	33.5	-1.3	-3.8	-0.8	-2.4
Utilities	49.4	47.2	50.9	2.2	4.7	-1.5	-2.9
Construction	519.1	527.6	518.4	-8.5	-1.6	0.7	0.1
Manufacturing	792.4	787.8	758.4	4.6	0.6	34.0	4.5
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	5715.7	5759.7	5634.4	-44.0	-0.8	81.3	1.4
Trade	1087.7	1103.2	1023.6	-15.5	-1.4	64.1	6.3
Transportation and warehousing	348.2	354.1	327.4	-5.9	-1.7	20.8	6.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	562.7	562.1	569.5	0.6	0.1	-6.8	-1.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	625.8	639.1	601.2	-13.3	-2.1	24.6	4.1
Business, building and other support services	313.3	306	325.9	7.3	2.4	-12.6	-3.9
Educational services	500.7	508.8	499	-8.1	-1.6	1.7	0.3
Health care and social assistance	843.9	853.6	861.9	-9.7	-1.1	-18.0	-2.1
Information, culture and recreation	325.4	324.5	314.3	0.9	0.3	11.1	3.5
Accommodation and food services	463.8	461.6	462.7	2.2	0.5	1.1	0.2
Other services	284.9	282	279	2.9	1.0	5.9	2.1
Public administration	359.2	364.8	370	-5.6	-1.5	-10.8	-2.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

## Toronto accounted for the majority of job gains in Ontario in January 2018

Employment increased in the **Toronto** economic region by 141,000 between January 2017 and January 2018 (measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis). The regional unemployment rate dropped by 1.1 percentage points over the past year to sit at 5.4%, and labour force participation also increased. Some major news came out of the construction industry in January for the region, boosting employment prospect.<sup>50</sup> In addition, construction will begin in spring 2018 on the \$116.9M Highway 401 Rail Tunnel project for Metrolinx in Toronto. The project will be completed by 2021 and is expected to employ up to 50 workers.<sup>51</sup> The Toronto region continues to see investment in its technology and innovation sector as the Government of Canada announced

<sup>50</sup> Fox, C. (2018, January 11). Construction begins on first phase of \$1.25 billion project to protect Port Lands from flooding. CP24. Retrieved from <https://www.cp24.com/news/construction-begins-on-first-phase-of-1-25-billion-project-to-protect-port-lands-from-flooding-1.3754982>

<sup>51</sup> DCN News Services. (2017, December 22). EllisDon team awarded 401 GO rail tunnel job. Daily Commercial News. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2017/12/ellisdon-team-awarded-401-go-rail-tunnel-job>



that MDA will receive \$53.7M in funding for robotic and autonomous technology to support future space exploration. This investment will support 175 jobs in Brampton.<sup>52</sup>

Labour market conditions continued to improve in the **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region. Employment increased by 24,100 and the unemployment rate fell from 5.7% to 5.0% in the past year. Another positive sign is the increase in the participation rate from 63.8% to 64.6%, indicating that more people were looking for work.

In the **Windsor–Sarnia** economic region, employment was up by 8,800 and the regional unemployment rate fell to 4.4% - one of the lowest in the province. The emerging medical marijuana industry is making an impact in the area. Tilray Canada Inc. announced that it will create approximately 250 new jobs over the next five years at their new medical marijuana facility in Enniskillen Township, near Petrolia. Currently, the company plans to ship the dried plants to British Columbia to process, but opening a processing plant in Ontario is also an option.<sup>53</sup>

Employment also rose in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region by 8,400. The region registered the lowest unemployment rate in the province, and was among the leaders in labour force participation. Despite the continuing declines in the news media industry, Sault Ste. Marie-headquartered Village Media Inc. launched a digital news website OrilliaMatters.com in Orillia.<sup>54</sup>

The **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula, Northwest, and Northeast** economic regions also posted year-over-year employment gains in January.

#### Employment growth remained weak in eastern Ontario

Labour market conditions in the **Kingston–Pembroke** economic region continued to slide as employment fell by 21,100 between January 2017 and January 2018. The regional participation rate plunged from 61.2% to 55.2%, as people left the labour force. Employment also decreased by 12,700 in the **Muskoka–Kawartha** economic region, but several positive announcements have been made over the month. Lake of Bays Brewing Company began construction on a new 4,000-sq.-ft. brewery-style pub in Huntsville. The Huntsville Brewhouse is expected to open by spring 2018.<sup>55</sup> Construction has also started on the new \$3.8M Millbrook dam in Peterborough.<sup>56</sup> Nepheline miner Unimin Canada Ltd. will expand operations at its Blue Mountain facility north of Havelock and close the Nephton plant by 2020.<sup>57</sup>

The **London** economic region posted an employment loss of 2,500 and the unemployment rate increased from 5.5% to 6.1%. Firestone Textiles Company had begun shutting down its textile factory in Woodstock on January 1, which immediately affected 50 workers. More than 100 additional employees will be laid off once the facility

<sup>52</sup> Brampton Guardian Staff. (2017, December 17). Brampton's MDA receives \$53.7M in federal funds to help further space exploration. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/8003218-brampton-s-mda-receives-53-7m-in-federal-funds-to-help-further-space-exploration/>

<sup>53</sup> Schilz, M. (2018, January 8). Tilray on track to have pot production by spring. *Postmedia Network*. Retrieved from <http://www.petroliatopic.com/2018/01/08/tilray-on-track-to-have-pot-production-by-spring>

<sup>54</sup> Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2018, January 3). Village Media expands to Orillia. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/village-media-expands-to-orillia-803991>

<sup>55</sup> Cilliers, R. (2018, January 10). Beers, cheers and politicians in hard hats, Huntsville Brewhouse celebrates construction kick off. *Huntsville Forester*. Retrieved from <https://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/8045651-beers-cheers-and-politicians-in-hard-hats-huntsville-brewhouse-celebrates-construction-kick-off/>

<sup>56</sup> Nyznik, J. (2017, January 23). \$3.8M reconstruction of Millbrook Dam begins in the new year. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2017/12/23/38m-reconstruction-of-millbrook-dam-begins-in-the-new-year>

<sup>57</sup> Nyznik, J. (2017, December 23). Nephton mine to close by 2020 but Unimin plans to expand nearby Blue Mountain operations. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2017/12/23/nephton-mine-to-close-by-2020-but-unimin-plans-to-expand-nearby-blue-mountain-operations>

fully shutters by the end of the year.<sup>58</sup> However, Ryder System Inc. opened a new Logistics Operating Center in London. Approximately 210 drivers are based out of the facility, along with 55 employees.<sup>59</sup>

Employment decreased slightly in the **Ottawa** economic region as well.

### Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2018 ('000)	January 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2018 (%)	January 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Ontario</b>	7,172.6	7,018.6	2.2	5.2	6.0	-0.8
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Ottawa	702.7	703.9	-0.2	4.9	5.1	-0.2
Kingston—Pembroke	201.6	222.7	-9.5	4.4	4	0.4
Muskoka—Kawarths	175.2	187.9	-6.8	5.9	5.2	0.7
Toronto	3507.5	3366.5	4.2	5.4	6.5	-1.1
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	703.7	695.3	1.2	4.3	5.2	-0.9
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	756.9	732.8	3.3	5	5.7	-0.7
London	321.5	324	-0.8	6.1	5.5	0.6
Windsor—Sarnia	304	295.2	3.0	4.4	5.8	-1.4
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	158	150.9	4.7	4.4	5.2	-0.8
Northeast	240.7	240.4	0.1	6.1	7.1	-1.0
Northwest	100.8	99	1.8	5.3	6.3	-1.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

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

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

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<sup>58</sup> Rivers, H. and Daniszewski, H. (2017, December 28). Firestone Textiles: A strong area economy leaves Woodstock in good position to shake off loss of 80-year-old industrial fixture, officials say. *The Chronicle Online*. <http://www.thechronicle-online.com/2017/12/26/firestone-textiles-a-strong-area-economy-leaves-woodstock-in-good-position-to-shake-off-loss-of-80-year-old-industrial-fixture-officials-say>

<sup>59</sup> Truck News Staff. (2018, January 3). Ryder opens new logistics center in Ontario. *Truck News*. Retrieved from <https://www.trucknews.com/transportation/ryder-opens-new-logistics-center-ontario/1003082648/>