



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

October 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 was stagnant in October

- **Employment was flat in October, inching up by 2,500**
- **Full-time employment showed gains of 7,500 while part-time decreased by 5,000**
- **The unemployment rate dropped 0.3pp to 5.6% as participation waned**

Employment in Ontario grew by a marginal 2,500, bringing the total to about 7.26M for the province overall in October 2018. The gains were fully realized in full-time employment (+7,500) while part-time employment dropped by 5,000 (-0.4%).

Unemployment in the province decreased by 22,500 (-5.0%) in October resulting in a dip of 0.3 percentage points (pp) to the unemployment rate, which stood at 5.6%. The unemployment rate has remained below 6.0% for over a year. The Ontario participation rate lowered slightly from 64.6% to 64.3% over the month, as the labour force slumped by 20,100 (-0.3%). The provincial employment rate remained largely unchanged, dipping from 60.8% to 60.7%.

Youth employment in Ontario declined by 31,000 (-3.3%) in October, although it had no effect on the youth unemployment rate which remained steady at 12.2%. Furthermore, the youth labour force contracted by 36,700 (-3.4%) over the month while both the participation rate, and employment rates dropped by 2.6pp and 3.1pp respectively.

Between October 2017 and October 2018, employment in Ontario increased by 82,800 (1.2%) with full-time employment gains of 90,100 (1.5%) and part-time employment losses of -7,300 (-0.5%). The unemployment rate also dipped by 0.2pp from 5.8% to 5.6% over the year, as the participation rate fell by 0.6pp from 64.9% to 64.3%. The participation rate has remained below 65% throughout 2018.

Taking a look nationally, employment in Canada was also relatively sluggish gaining 11,200 (0.1%), with Quebec (+9,100), Ontario (+2,500) and Saskatchewan (+2,500) accounting for the vast majority of improvements in October. An employment loss occurred overall in the Atlantic region. The national unemployment rate inched down by 0.1pp to 5.8%, as full-time employment made gains (+33,900; +0.2%) that were largely forfeited by the deficiencies in part-time employment (-22,600; -0.6%). On October 24, 2018 the Bank of Canada (BoC) raised its benchmark rate by 0.25pp, bringing it to 1.75%. This is the highest the key overnight interest rate has been in nearly ten years and the fifth time the BoC has raised rates since mid-2017. The BoC raises rates when the Canadian economy is doing well as a way of mitigating the risk of an overheated market.

The United States (U.S.) total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 250,000 in October, while the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.7%. Growth in U.S. employment has been ongoing for over eight consecutive years. Trade between the United States and Canada improved in September 2018¹ after receding in August 2018, as uncertainty surrounding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) persisted. The tentative deal under the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was announced on October 1st, 2018. Although the new agreement has yet to be ratified, intricate supply chains between countries are likely to remain largely intact, carrying trade forward. The U.S. Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate to 2.25% at the end of September, marking the third hike in 2018 and signalling strength in the U.S. economy.

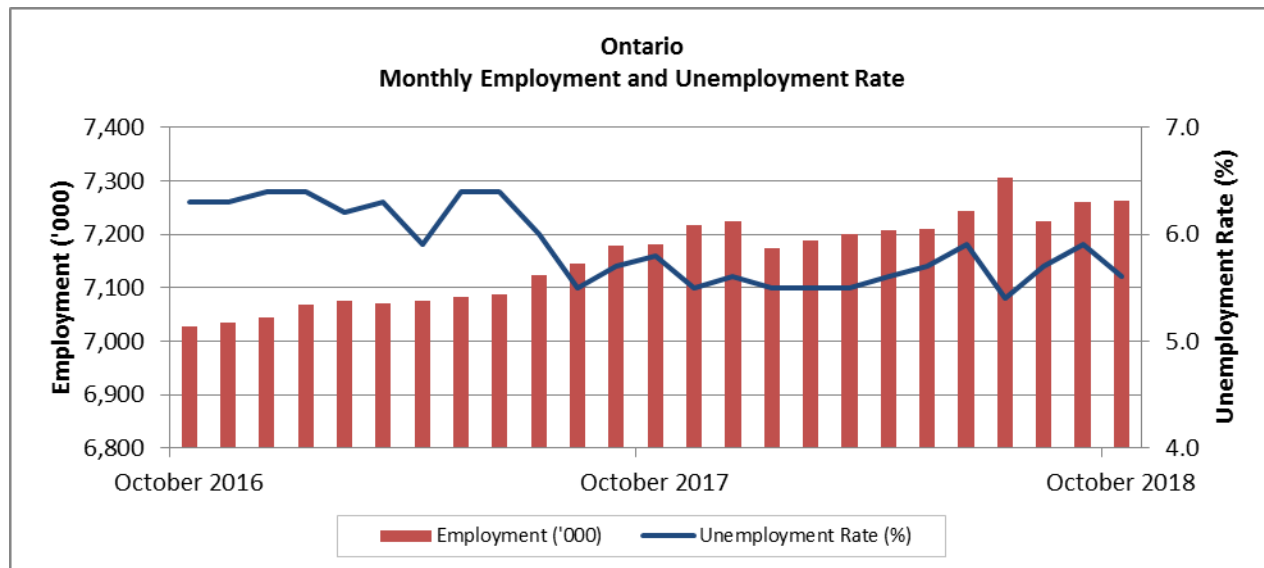
Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,965.3	11,946.9	11,741.3	18.4	0.2	224.0	1.9
Labour Force ('000)	7,693.8	7,713.9	7,625.3	-20.1	-0.3	68.5	0.9
Employment ('000)	7,263.5	7,261.0	7,180.7	2.5	0.0	82.8	1.2
Full-Time ('000)	5,922.1	5,914.6	5,832.0	7.5	0.1	90.1	1.5
Part-Time ('000)	1,341.4	1,346.4	1,348.7	-5.0	-0.4	-7.3	-0.5
Unemployment ('000)	430.4	452.9	444.6	-22.5	-5.0	-14.2	-3.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.9	5.8	-0.3	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.3	64.6	64.9	-0.3	-	-0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.7	60.8	61.2	-0.1	-	-0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

¹ Statistics Canada. Table 12-10-0011-01 International merchandise trade for all countries and by Principal Trading Partners (x 1,000,000)



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.6	5.9	5.8	-0.3	-0.2
25 years and over	4.5	4.8	5.0	-0.3	-0.5
Men - 25 years and over	4.4	4.7	5.3	-0.3	-0.9
Women - 25 years and over	4.7	4.9	4.7	-0.2	0.0
15 to 24 years	12.2	12.2	10.7	0.0	1.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.7	12.1	12.1	1.6	1.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.4	12.3	9.2	-1.9	1.2

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the goods-producing sector was relatively unchanged in Ontario in October 2018

Employment growth in the goods-producing sector was flat (-700) in Ontario in October 2018. This comes on the heels of a large gain last month. The manufacturing industry (+10,500) was the sole driver while the forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-4,700), construction (-3,600), and agriculture (-3,400) industries all experienced a decline.

Employment in the **manufacturing** industry increased quite sharply in Ontario in October 2018. The Canadian Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 53.9 in October 2018 but maintained the positive trend in business conditions.² While the survey signalled weaker output growth and levels of new business, it pointed

² IHS Markit. (2018, November 01). IHS Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/12e1a2d94e8f47e695cd896db59aa83c>

to higher staffing because of long-term expansion plans to raise capacity. The legalization of recreational cannabis on October 17, 2018, led to a ramping up of production efforts at several facilities across the province to meet demand. Seven Leaf announced that it would build a facility on the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory on Cornwall Island,³ Emblem Cannabis will expand its plant in Paris,⁴ and 7ACRES Cannabis looked to grow its workforce in Kincardine.⁵ Meanwhile in the Windsor automotive hub, APAG Elektronik Corp. announced that it would open a motor vehicle parts plant⁶ and Kauth opened an office with plans to expand its manufacturing footprint in the near term.⁷

Employment in the **utilities** industry rose slightly in the province over the past month. There were quite a few industry-related announcements in October, particularly in northern Ontario. Certarus Ltd. announced that it would invest \$54M to build a compressed natural gas service hub in Timmins and in Red Rock to supply local mines and mills.⁸ PUC Services Inc. will partner with Fluence to build a 45-megawatt energy storage facility in Sault Ste. Marie as part of PUC's Customer Energy Management program geared to lower costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁹ Hydro One Networks Inc. will also start development work on a new electricity transmission line that will run between Thunder Bay and Atikokan after a request from the Independent Electricity System Operator to support future mining sites in the region.¹⁰

Employment in the **construction** industry saw little change overall in Ontario in October 2018. The total value of building permits decreased by 2.7% over the first eight months of 2018 compared to the same period last year.¹¹ The total value of residential permits increased as gains in multiple dwelling structures outweighed losses for single dwelling units. In the non-residential sector, losses came entirely from the institutional and governmental side. Some of the larger projects to get underway in October include the \$5.7B Gordie Howe International Bridge that will connect Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit, Michigan;¹² General Motors of Canada Company's Urban Mobility

³ Payne, E. (2018, October 24). 'A huge economic opportunity:' Akwesasne embracing legal pot. *Ottawa Citizen*. Retrieved from <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/a-huge-economic-opportunity-akwesasne-embracing-legal-pot>

⁴ CTV Kitchener. (2018, October 11). Paris, Ont. marijuana producer expanding. *CTV Kitchener*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/paris-ont-marijuana-producer-expanding-1.4130503>

⁵ Montgomery, B. (2018, October 30). 7ACRES Cannabis looking for more employees. *BlackburnNews.com*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/midwestern-ontario-news/2018/10/30/7acres-cannabis-looking-employees/>

⁶ Cross, B. (2018, October 02). Electronics firm sets up in Windsor with promise of 148 jobs. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/electronics-firm-sets-up-in-windsor-with-promise-of-148-jobs>

⁷ Cross, B. (2018, October 04). German auto parts firm Kauth to build plant, start production by 2020. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/german-auto-parts-firm-kauth-to-build-plant-start-production-by-2020>

⁸ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2018, October 11). Compressed natural gas supplier coming to Northern Ontario. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/green/compressed-natural-gas-supplier-coming-to-northern-ontario-1080667>

⁹ Kelly, L. (2018, October 29). Sault advancing energy storage innovation. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/sault-advancing-energy-storage-innovation-1095249>

¹⁰ Independent Electricity System Operator. (2018, October 24). New Transmission Line Will Support Growth in Northwestern Ontario. *CNW Group Ltd*. Retrieved from <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/new-transmission-line-will-support-growth-in-northwestern-ontario-698449951.html>

¹¹ Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0066-01 Building permits, by type of structure and type of work (x 1,000) (unadjusted data)

¹² Waddell, D. (2018, October 05). Trudeau hopes to accelerate opening of Gordie Howe International Bridge. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/trudeau-and-snyder-mark-official-start-to-gordie-howe-international-bridge>

Campus in downtown Toronto;¹³ and the \$30M Place des Arts multidisciplinary arts and culture centre in Sudbury.¹⁴

Over the past year, employment growth in the goods-producing sector was limited between October 2017 and October 2018. The strongest annual gain was in utilities (+12,400) while manufacturing (-8,600) and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-3,000) saw the biggest losses.

Employment in the services-producing sector up 3,300 in Ontario in October 2018

Employment growth was also rather flat in the services-producing sector in Ontario in October 2018. Business, building and other support services (+13,500), health care and social assistance (+11,600), and trade (+6,300) were the only industries to show much growth. Meanwhile, other services (-10,300), information, culture and recreation (-7,700), and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (-7,300) experienced the biggest losses.

There were several positive announcements in the **health care and social assistance** industry in the province in October 2018. Health Sciences North opened a chronic pain program in Sudbury,¹⁵ LifeLabs opened a patient service centre in Carleton Place,¹⁶ KidsAbility Centre for Child Development opened a location in Guelph,¹⁷ and EarlyON will open a childcare centre in the Town of Erin.¹⁸ Construction also started on the \$1.2B redevelopment of the West Park Healthcare Centre in Toronto.¹⁹

Employment in **trade** increased in the province in October 2018. Retail sales were up 4.6% in Ontario between August 2017 and August 2018.²⁰ Toronto Premium Outlets will open its newly expanded space in mid-November that will feature a variety of retailers, eateries and other amenities.²¹ Longo Brothers Fruit Markets Inc. announced that it would open Canada's first near net-zero supermarket in Stouffville, which will lead to about 165 jobs.²² Giant Tiger Stores Limited opened a location in Hamilton and in Windsor over the past month.²³ In addi-

¹³ Lee-Shanok, P. (2018, October 19). GM Canada breaks ground for new 7-acre Leslieville mobility campus. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/construction-begins-on-gm-leslieville-dealership-complex-1.4869512>

¹⁴ Sudbury.com Staff. (2018, October 17). The \$30M centre arts and cultural centre will be built in downtown Sudbury. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sudbury/construction-of-place-des-arts-to-begin-oct-23-1088009>

¹⁵ Dillman, M. (2018, October 04). Health Sciences North officially opens new program to help those with chronic pain. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/hsn-new-chronic-pain-clinic-1.4850710>

¹⁶ Gesner, T. (2018, October 10). LifeLabs opens its doors in Carleton Place. *InsideOttawaValley.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insideottawavalley.com/news-story/8957306-lifelabs-opens-its-doors-in-carleton-place/>

¹⁷ CTV Kitchener. (2018, October 10). KidsAbility celebrates grand opening of new location. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/kidsability-celebrates-grand-opening-of-new-location-1.4128818>

¹⁸ County of Wellington. (2018, October 02). New Child Care Centre and EarlyON Centre for the Town of Erin. *The Corporation of the County of Wellington*. Retrieved from <https://www.wellington.ca/Modules/News/index.aspx?newsId=bc00d884-2f02-4bf7-bdd6-87509cf1a579>

¹⁹ Rainford, L. (2018, October 18). West Park Healthcare Centre breaks ground on \$1.2-billion redevelopment. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/8968273-west-park-healthcare-centre-breaks-ground-on-1-2-billion-redevelopment/>

²⁰ Statistics Canada. Table 20-10-0008-01 Retail trade sales by province and territory (x 1,000) (Seasonally adjusted)

²¹ Newport, A. (2018, October 30). Massive New Shopping Mall Expansion Set to Open Very Soon. *Insauga.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/massive-new-shopping-mall-expansion-set-to-open-very-soon>

²² Natural Resources Canada. (2018, October 09). Canada's First Near Net-Zero Supermarket Leads the Way for a Clean Energy Future. *CNW Group Ltd*. Retrieved from <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canadas-first-near-net-zero-supermarket-leads-the-way-for-a-clean-energy-future-696228411.html>

tion, Walmart Canada will invest \$175M to upgrade its retail outlets and better integrate its e-commerce platform with store locations across Canada.²⁴

The **accommodation and food services** industry saw quite a bit of activity as well, especially in the hotel industry. Starwood Capital Group announced that it would build a luxury, environmentally conscious hotel in downtown Toronto under its 1 Hotels brand.²⁵ Delta Hotels by Marriott will open a location in Thunder Bay at the end of 2018.²⁶ Further, Choice Hotels Canada Inc. will open a Quality Inn and Suites in Amherstburg by 2020 at a cost of \$10M.²⁷ The hotel occupancy rate in Ontario has trended higher between January and June 2018 (66.5%) compared to the same period in 2017.²⁸

Over the past year, employment in the services-producing sector increased by 82,600 between October 2017 and October 2018. The strongest annual gains were in educational services (+42,600), transportation and warehousing (+31,200) and business, building and other support services (+28,200). Four industries experienced a yearly decline –professional, scientific and technical services (-18,100), information, culture and recreation (-11,200), healthcare and social assistance (-8,800) and public administration (-4,600).

²³ Canadian Business Franchise. (2018, October 17). Giant Tiger roars into three new locations. *Kenilworth Media Inc.* Retrieved from <https://www.franchiseinfo.ca/news/giant-tiger-roars-into-three-new-locations/>

²⁴ The Canadian Press. (2018, October 11). Walmart Canada spending \$175 million to upgrade stores across the country. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <https://business.financialpost.com/news/retail-marketing/walmart-canada-spending-175-million-to-improve-stores-across-the-country>

²⁵ O'Neil, L. (October 2018). Toronto is getting a luxurious new hotel for eco-travellers. *blogTO*. Retrieved from <https://www.blogto.com/city/2018/09/toronto-getting-eco-friendly-luxury-hotel/>

²⁶ Walters, J. (2018, October 15). Thunder Bay waterfront hotel slated for December, 2018 opening. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-waterfront-hotel-opening-december-2018-1.4861128>

²⁷ CTV Windsor. (2018, October 18). New hotel being built in Amherstburg. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/new-hotel-being-built-in-amherstburg-1.4139716>

²⁸ Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Current Performance. Ontario Hotel Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/research/performance/performance.shtml>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,263.5	7,261.0	7,180.7	2.5	0.0	82.8	1.2
Goods-producing sector	1,457.0	1,457.7	1,456.8	-0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0
Agriculture	67.2	70.6	68.9	-3.4	-4.8	-1.7	-2.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	32.5	37.2	35.5	-4.7	-12.6	-3.0	-8.5
Utilities	60.1	59.6	47.7	0.5	0.8	12.4	26.0
Construction	528.8	532.4	527.6	-3.6	-0.7	1.2	0.2
Manufacturing	768.4	757.9	777.0	10.5	1.4	-8.6	-1.1
Services-producing sector	5,806.5	5,803.2	5,723.9	3.3	0.1	82.6	1.4
Trade	1,078.8	1,072.5	1,073.6	6.3	0.6	5.2	0.5
Transportation and warehousing	383.3	383.3	352.1	0.0	0.0	31.2	8.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	567.2	574.5	554.4	-7.3	-1.3	12.8	2.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	626.7	626.4	644.8	0.3	0.0	-18.1	-2.8
Business, building and other support services	331.2	317.7	303.0	13.5	4.2	28.2	9.3
Educational services	535.8	537.6	493.2	-1.8	-0.3	42.6	8.6
Health care and social assistance	859.1	847.5	867.9	11.6	1.4	-8.8	-1.0
Information, culture and recreation	309.2	316.9	320.4	-7.7	-2.4	-11.2	-3.5
Accommodation and food services	464.2	465.7	461.5	-1.5	-0.3	2.7	0.6
Other services	283.5	293.8	281.0	-10.3	-3.5	2.5	0.9
Public administration	367.4	367.4	372.0	0.0	0.0	-4.6	-1.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Toronto continues to dominate the province in employment growth

Employment increased in the **Toronto** economic region by 37,600 (+1.1%) between October 2017 and October 2018 (measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis). Gains were made entirely in full-time employment (+61,200), while part-time employment experienced sizeable losses (-23,600). The regional unemployment rate increased 0.5pp to 6.5%, and labour force participation experienced a minor loss (-0.5pp). The region kicked off October with several significant employment announcements. With the holiday season fast approaching, Lush Cosmetics,²⁹ Radial,³⁰ and Amazon³¹ announced substantial hiring sprees over the coming months in the Greater Toronto Area. In the same vein, a number of retailers announced expansions, including a 40,000-sq.-ft. energy efficient Longo's grocery store in Stouffville,³² a new Farm Boy in Toronto,³³ and

²⁹ Reason, C. (2018, October 3). Lush Cosmetics hiring 1,400 seasonal workers at Etobicoke plant. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/8937473-lush-cosmetics-hiring-1-400-seasonal-workers-at-etobicoke-plant/>

³⁰ Mississauga News. (2018, September 24). Mississauga's Radial fulfilment centre hiring 350 seasonal workers. *Mississauga News*. Retrieved from <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/8914912-mississauga-s-radial-fulfilment-centre-hiring-350-seasonal-workers/>

³¹ Newport, A. (2018, October 12). Amazon Set to Hire Over 4,000 Workers in Milton and Surrounding Cities. *Inhalton.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.inhalton.com/amazon-set-to-hire-over-4000-workers-in-milton-and-surrounding-cities>

³² Brown, D. (2018, October 16). Longo's to open Canada's 'first net-zero' grocery store. *Canadian Grocer*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadiangrocer.com/top-stories/headlines/longos-to-open-canadas-first-net-zero-grocery-store-83428>

HomeSense store in Whitby.³⁴ The ICT sector received a lift from the Government of Canada investment of \$25M in Creative Destruction Lab³⁵ and Think Research Corporation expanding into a new location. This will allow the company to increase their staff from 220 to over 500 workers once the move is complete.³⁶ Several construction projects continued to support employment growth in the region in October, including the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Canada Aerospace's expansion³⁷ and GM Canada's new Urban Mobility Research and Development Centre and car dealership complex.³⁸

The **London** economic region experienced employment gains of 19,200 (+5.9%); the region's fifth consecutive gain following several periods of stagnation and employment losses, leading to improved labour market conditions. Nearly all of London's gains were in full-time employment (+18,400), and the regional unemployment rate dropped 0.7pp to 5.1%. The participation rate saw a significant improvement of 2.1pp between October 2017 and October 2018. Job creation received a boost in London with Sciencetech Inc. unveiling its new 13,000-sq.-ft. facility³⁹ and PSD, a research, consulting and software firm, creating 30 jobs following a move into a larger space.⁴⁰ However, both General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada⁴¹ and Dibly⁴² announced layoffs in October, tempering some of that boost.

The **Ottawa** economic region experienced employment gains of 18,300 (+2.7%). The regional unemployment rate declined 1.2pp to 4.7%; the third lowest in Ontario. At the same time, the participation rate saw negligible losses of 0.3pp between October 2017 and October 2018. Employment gains were exclusively in full-time employment (+21,500), while part-time employment decreased (-3,200). Manufacturing employment advanced in the region with the announcement of BBL Energy Inc. opening a new recycling operation in Johnstown⁴³. In addition, the makers of Instant Pot announced their intention to hire an additional 20 staff at their headquarters in Ottawa.⁴⁴ Dymon Storage Corp. announced plans to open five new storage facilities in Ottawa by 2021, providing

³³ Shephard, T. (2018, September 26). Farm Boy to open second store in Toronto. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/8926947-farm-boy-to-open-second-store-in-toronto/>

³⁴ Pessian, P. (2018, September 23). New HomeSense store opening in Whitby. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/8915108-new-homesense-store-opening-in-whitby/>

³⁵ University of Toronto News. (2018, October 9). U of T-founded Creative Destruction Lab receives \$25 million from Canadian government. *University of Toronto News*. Retrieved from <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/u-t-founded-creative-destruction-lab-receives-25-million-canadian-government>

³⁶ Think Research. (2018, October 25). Think Research Expands Footprint in Toronto. *Newswire*. Retrieved from <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/think-research-expands-footprint-in-toronto-698531301.html>

³⁷ Newport, A. (2018, October 16). Massive Company Expanding in Mississauga. *Insauga.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/massive-company-expanding-in-mississauga>

³⁸ Lee-Shanok, P. (2018, October 19). GM Canada breaks ground for new 7-acre Leslieville mobility campus. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/construction-begins-on-gm-leslieville-dealership-complex-1.4869512>

³⁹ Carbone J. and Jacquelyn LeBel (2018, October 26). Sciencetech Inc opens new facility in London. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4598347/sciencetech-inc-opens-new-facility-in-london/>

⁴⁰ Global News Staff. (2018, October 18). London consulting firm PSD to fill 30 jobs, unveils new office space. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4567522/london-consulting-firm-psd-expands/>

⁴¹ LeBel, J. (2018, October 25). London, Ont. company that makes LAVs for Saudi Arabia lays off 37 workers. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4595470/general-dynamics-lavs-layoffs/>

⁴² CBC News. (2018, October 2). More layoffs at London media company, Dibly. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/dibly-media-layoffs-london-1.4848036>

⁴³ Lowrie, W. (2018, October 18). New plant slated for Johnstown. *Brockville Recorder & Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.recorder.ca/news/local-news/new-plant-slated-for-johnstown>

⁴⁴ Sali, D. (2018, October 16). Amazon favourite Instant Pot cooking up new inventions in Kanata. *Ottawa Business Journal*. Retrieved from <https://obj.ca/index.php/article/amazon-favourite-instant-pot-cooking-new-inventions-kanata>

additional boost.⁴⁵ The region also welcomed a Nordstrom Rack,⁴⁶ a Life Labs patient service centre,⁴⁷ and a Hard Rock-branded lounge at the Canadian Tire Centre.⁴⁸

Employment grew by 7,100 (+1.0%) in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region and the regional unemployment rate fell from 4.5% to 4.1% over the past year; the second lowest rate in Ontario. Although the participation rate declined by 1.1pp between October 2017 and October 2018, the region still maintains the highest rate of participation in Ontario, which sits at 68.0%. In October, Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited announced a casino and entertainment complex coming to Wasaga Beach, increasing tourism and bringing approximately 400 jobs to the area.⁴⁹ Cambridge welcomed good news with a new high-tech testing facility⁵⁰ and continued construction on the Grand Innovations incubation centre in the new Gaslight District development.⁵¹ Conestoga College opened the \$58M expansion of their Waterloo campus,⁵² and new restaurants opened throughout the region.^{53,54}

Employment also grew in the **Northeast, Muskoka–Kawarthas, Windsor–Sarnia, and Kingston–Pembroke** economic regions.

Employment declined in two economic regions in Ontario

The **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region posted the largest employment decrease (-11,800;-1.5%) in Ontario between October 2017 and October 2018, the region's third consecutive loss following a lengthy run in employment gains year-over-year. The region's unemployment rate increased 0.8pp from October 2017 to 5.7%, and the labour force participation rate also dropped 1.5pp over the year. Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula experienced a sizeable loss in full-time employment (-14,800), which was slightly offset by gains in part-time employment (+3,100). Convergys Corporation announced the closure of its Welland call centre, affecting 100 employees.⁵⁵ Welcome In, a homeless shelter in Brantford, also announced it would close, affecting 16 employees.⁵⁶ Despite these losses, hiring in the region is underway with ArcelorMittal Dofasco looking to hire 300 workers per year for the next three years.⁵⁷ Furthermore, Emblem Cannabis is expanding production, creating 30 to 50 jobs⁵⁸ and Sitel Group will hire 200 employees at their call centre in St. Catharines.⁵⁹

⁴⁵ Dymon Group. (2018, October 19). Dymon Storage Updates Expansion Plan To 4,080,000 Square Feet. *Dymon Group*. Retrieved from <http://www.dymon.ca/dymon-storage-updates-expansion-to-4080000-square-feet/>

⁴⁶ McNeely, T. (2018, October 11). Nordstrom Rack Opens in Ottawa. *Ottawa Life Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://www.ottawalife.com/article/nordstrom-rack-opens-in-ottawa?c=9>

⁴⁷ Gesner, T. (2018, October 10). LifeLabs opens its doors in Carleton Place. *Inside Ottawa Valley.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insideottawavalley.com/news-story/8957306-lifelabs-opens-its-doors-in-carleton-place/>

⁴⁸ OBJ Staff. (2018, October 9). Ottawa Senators strike partnership with Rideau Carleton Raceway Casino. *Ottawa Business Journal*. Retrieved from <https://obj.ca/article/ottawa-senators-strike-partnership-rideau-carleton-raceway-casino>

⁴⁹ Myers, B. (2018, October 11). Casino confirmed for Wasaga Beach. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/8960401-casino-confirmed-for-wasaga-beach/>

⁵⁰ Martin, R. (2018, September 12). ATS, Bruce Power open new Cambridge testing facility. *Cambridge Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/8896462-ats-bruce-power-open-new-cambridge-testing-facility/>

⁵¹ Martin, R. (2018, October 10). Grand plans for incubation centre in former Cambridge factory. *Cambridge Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/8956361-grand-plans-for-incubation-centre-in-former-cambridge-factory/>

⁵² Exchange Magazine. (2018, October 23). Conestoga celebrates grand opening of new campus in Waterloo. *Exchange Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://www.exchangemagazine.com/2018/week43/Tuesday/18102318.htm#Anchor-51540>

⁵³ Barrie Today. (2018, October 13). Gallery: Firehouse Subs hosts 5-alarm grand opening at new location. *Barrie Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/firehouse-subs-hosts-5-alarm-grand-opening-at-new-location-1083864>

⁵⁴ Jackson, A. (2018, October 11). Galito's joins downtown Kitchener. *Kitchener Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenerpost.ca/whatson-story/8959390-galito-s-joins-downtown-kitchener/>

⁵⁵ Dube, K. and Dave Johnson. (2018, October 4). Convergys closing Welland operations. *Welland Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://www.wellandtribune.ca/news-story/8945934-convergys-closing-welland-operations/>

⁵⁶ Ruby, M. (2018, October 4). Welcome In homeless shelter to close Dec. 15. *Brantford Expositor*. Retrieved from <https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/welcome-in-homeless-shelter-to-close-dec-15>

⁵⁷ McNeil, M. (2018, October 25). ArcelorMittal Dofasco hosting job fair to hire hundreds. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/8987020-arcelormittal-dofasco-hosting-job-fair-to-hire-hundreds/>

Employment also dipped in the **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic region (-800; -0.5%) for the first time since August 2016. The regional unemployment rate fell 0.5pp to 3.5%, which is still the lowest in Ontario. Employment losses were strictly found in part-time employment (-6,200), which may be due to the winding down of the festival season.⁶⁰ In addition, a private Service Ontario Centre, which was operated by an independent service provider, announced its closure in Meaford.⁶¹ Owen Sound's Tenneco Inc. recently announced it would close by the end of June 2020,⁶² and although layoffs will not begin until July, the loss will surely impact the region and community going forward. Despite these losses, the region welcomed some positive news in October with the announcement of MPX Biocetical Corporation's medical marijuana production facility renovation⁶³ and the continued \$18M expansion at Playtime Casino Hanover.⁶⁴

Employment remained unchanged in the **Northwest** economic region.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2018 ('000)	October 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2018 (%)	October 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,274.4	7,193.7	1.1	5.8	5.7	0.1
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	707.5	689.2	2.7	4.7	5.9	-1.2
Kingston—Pembroke	207.3	206.9	0.2	5	6.7	-1.7
Muskoka—Kawarthas	188.1	184.3	2.1	7.3	5.5	1.8
Toronto	3,512.1	3,474.5	1.1	6.5	6	0.5
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	742.1	735.0	1.0	4.1	4.5	-0.4
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	752.5	764.3	-1.5	5.7	4.9	0.8
London	342.1	322.9	5.9	5.1	5.8	-0.7
Windsor—Sarnia	304.1	303.0	0.4	5.9	6.3	-0.4
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	156.1	156.9	-0.5	3.5	4	-0.5
Northeast	256.7	251.1	2.2	5.5	6.3	-0.8
Northwest	105.5	105.5	0.0	5	5.3	-0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

⁵⁸ CTV Kitchener. (2018, October 11). Paris, Ont. marijuana producer expanding. *CTV Kitchener*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/paris-ont-marijuana-producer-expanding-1.4130503>

⁵⁹ Niagara This Week. (2018, October 18). Sitel Group looks to hire 200 employees in St. Catharines. *Niagara This Week*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/8971812-sitel-group-looks-to-hire-200-employees-in-st-catharines/>

⁶⁰ The Stratford Festival. Retrieved from <https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/>

⁶¹ Hermiz, M. (2018, October 18). Meaford's ServiceOntario Centre Closing. *Bayshore Broadcasting*. Retrieved from http://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=105191

⁶² Dunn, S. (2018, October 26). Updated: Owen Sound's Tenneco plant to close in 2020. *Owen Sound Sun Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/owen-sounds-tenneco-plant-to-close-in-2020>

⁶³ Langlois, D. (2018 October 1). Plan for medical marijuana production facility in Owen Sound clears hurdle. *Owen Sound Sun Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/plan-for-medical-marijuana-production-facility-in-owen-sound-clears-hurdle>

⁶⁴ Lester, D. (2018, September 27). Hanover casino expansion to include new dining and entertainment options. *Hanover Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.thepost.on.ca/news/local-news/hanover-casino-expansion-to-include-new-dining-and-entertainment-options>

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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