



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

July 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 – Part-time employment in Ontario increased sharply in July, as the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level in 18 years

- Ontario provincial employment figures increased by 60,600 (+0.8%) in July
- While full-time employment fell by 19,600 (-0.3%), part-time employment rose significantly by 80,300 (+6.1%)
- The unemployment rate fell to 5.4%, its lowest level since July 2000

Employment levels in Ontario increased by 60,600 (+0.8%) from June to July 2018, totalling 7.31 million for the province. The employment gains in July were all realized as a result of an increase of 80,300 (+6.1%) in part-time employment, countering the losses in full-time employment (-19,600; -0.3%).

Unemployment levels fell by 42,300 (-9.2%) in Ontario over July, resulting in a large drop in the provincial unemployment rate from 5.9% to 5.4%, its lowest level in 18 years, although the unemployment rate hovered close to this level for much of early 2018. The Ontario participation rate remained steady at 64.8%, as it has remained around this level for much of 2018, while the provincial employment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 61.3%.

The Ontario youth unemployment rate fell sharply from 12.7% to 11.2% in July, as youth unemployment declined by 13.1% and youth employment increased by 0.8%. However, the youth participation rate fell from 61.4% to 60.8%, as the youth labour force observed a decrease of 0.9% over July.

Over the past year, the Ontario labour market gained 182,600 (+2.6%) in net employment from July 2017 to July 2018, with gains in both full-time employment (+146,400; +2.5%), and part-time employment (+36,200; +2.7%). The unemployment rate fell from 6.0% to 5.4% over the year, as unemployment dropped by 41,000 (-9.0%) while the Ontario labour force expanded by 141,600 (+1.9%).

Examining the national picture, employment in Canada observed net gains of 54,100 (+0.3%) in July, with Ontario and British Columbia (+11,200; +0.5%) observing the largest increases. While full-time employment had decreased by 28,000 (-0.2%) throughout Canada, part-time employment rose by 82,000 (+2.4%), propelled primarily by Ontario. The national unemployment rate fell from 6.0% to 5.8%, as unemployment in Canada dropped while the labour force gained in size.

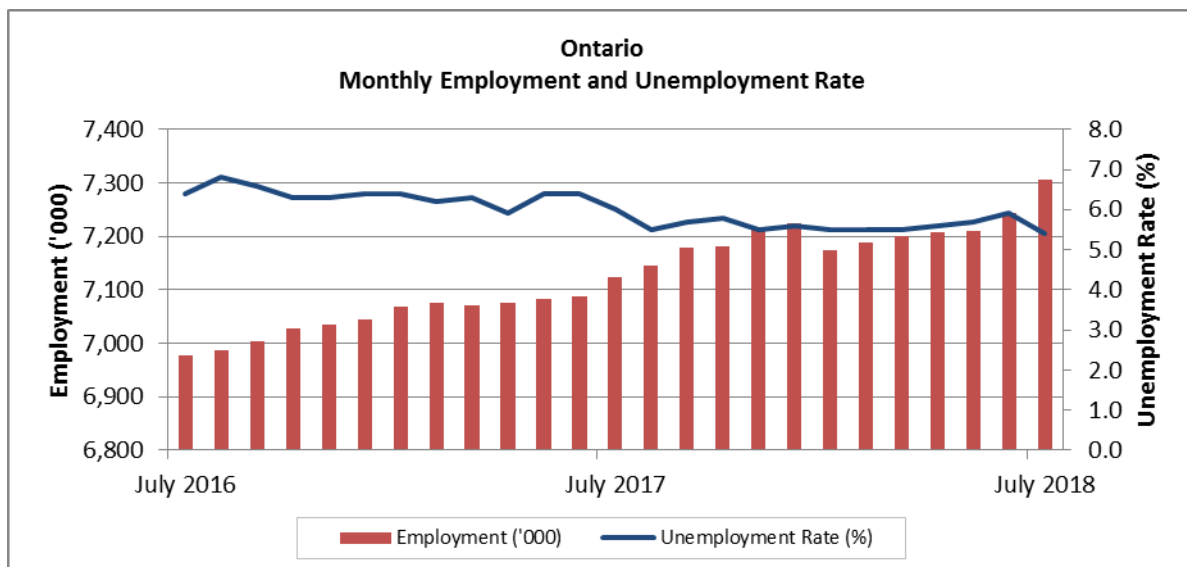
The United States total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 157,000 in July, while the unemployment rate edged down to 3.9%. The continued improvement in the American economy and labour market is helping contribute to increased Canadian exports, with total exports increasing by 3.2% from May to June 2018. However, the ongoing NAFTA negotiations between U.S., Canada and Mexico, and the number of trade disputes surrounding the negotiations, have left the short-term and medium-term future of trade among the three countries unclear moving forward in 2018. As such, manufacturing exports and economic activity are likely to be impacted significantly depending on the outcome of various negotiations and disputes.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,911.8	11,887.5	11,690.0	24.3	0.2	221.8	1.9
Labour Force ('000)	7,720.9	7,702.6	7,579.3	18.3	0.2	141.6	1.9
Employment ('000)	7,305.0	7,244.4	7,122.4	60.6	0.8	182.6	2.6
Full-Time ('000)	5,916.9	5,936.5	5,770.5	-19.6	-0.3	146.4	2.5
Part-Time ('000)	1,388.2	1,307.9	1,352.0	80.3	6.1	36.2	2.7
Unemployment ('000)	415.9	458.2	456.9	-42.3	-9.2	-41.0	-9.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.4	5.9	6.0	-0.5	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.8	64.8	64.8	0.0	-	0.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.3	60.9	60.9	0.4	-	0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.4	5.9	6.0	-0.5	-0.6
25 years and over	4.4	4.8	5.1	-0.4	-0.7
Men - 25 years and over	4.2	4.5	5.0	-0.3	-0.8
Women - 25 years and over	4.6	5.1	5.3	-0.5	-0.7
15 to 24 years	11.2	12.7	11.4	-1.5	-0.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.5	13.8	13.6	-1.3	-1.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.7	11.6	9.2	-1.9	0.5

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment decline in goods-producing sector in July mostly due to a setback in manufacturing

Employment fell in Ontario's goods-producing sector in July, with a loss of 22,200 (-1.5%). The largest decline was reported in manufacturing (-14,200; -1.8%), followed by construction (-6,500; -1.2%) and agriculture (-5,200; -7.2%). Employment grew in two industries, with utilities recording the stronger gain (+2,600; +4.7%), followed by forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+1,100; +3.0%).

The **manufacturing** sector experienced a setback in employment in July, as it has for three of the last four months. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index remained in expansion territory above the 50.0 benchmark however, reaching 56.9 in July. While increases were reported in output and new orders, export sales growth weakened, and factory gate prices rose by the sharpest level since the start of the survey in 2010. The latter changes were mainly attributed to the imposition of new tariffs on US imports of steel and aluminum products.¹²

The U.S. administration has also been contemplating imposing tariffs of 25% on imported motor vehicles and 10% on automotive parts, on the grounds of national security concerns. This dispute has been ongoing for a few months, and has created economic unease. If implemented, the surcharge could have extended negative consequences on the wider Canadian economy,³ with Ontario an epicentre for Canadian auto production.

There were a number of downsizings announced in the provincial manufacturing sector in July. Notably, Magna International Inc. plans to close its Grenville Castings plant in the town of Perth by June 2019, affecting as many as 380 employees. The company stated that the decision was unrelated to the steel and aluminum tariffs, but that operations at the production facility were no longer financially viable, and would be shifted to other loca-

¹ IHS Markit. (2018, August 1). Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/PressRelease.mvc/d4f6ce31da084cf4bc36f0a2241aeeccc>

² Trading Economics. (2018, July). Canada Manufacturing PMI. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

³ Automotive News Canada Staff. (2018, July 6). U.S. auto tariffs by the numbers: How Canada could be affected. *Automotive News Canada*. Retrieved from <http://canada.autonews.com/article/20180706/CANADA/180709813/u.s.-auto-tariffs-by-the-numbers:-how-canada-could-be-affected>

tions.⁴ In addition, Georgia-Pacific LLC will be closing its plant in Brampton by the end of 2018, due to business needs, and lower consumer demand for its products, affecting 133 employees.⁵ The location manufactured polystyrene foam items, including the Dixie cup brand.

Employment in Ontario **construction** fell in July, and housing starts were also weaker compared with both June 2018 and with July 2017, declining by 33.8% and 14.0% over the respective periods.⁶ However, home sales in the resale market in the Greater Toronto Area increased by 18.6% this month when compared with July of last year.⁷ In the non-residential construction sector, the construction investments planned by Mon Sheong Foundation for 320 beds in Stouffville will result in more long-term care bed facilities becoming available.⁸

In contrast, employment in **utilities** has been trending upwards since the start of the year. In notable news, Hydro One Inc. reached an agreement with the City of Peterborough to acquire the assets of Peterborough Distribution Inc. for \$105M, with the acquisition of the electricity company subject to approval by the Ontario Energy Board.⁹

On a year-over-year basis, employment grew in the goods-producing sector by 23,900 (+1.7%), based on the strength of construction (+17,400; +3.4%) and utilities (+12,500; +27.5%). Manufacturing was the only sector to report an employment decline (-7,900; -1.0%) year-over-year, as light vehicle production in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. decreased by 5.3% from June 2017 to June 2018.¹⁰

Services-producing sector reported strong monthly and year-over-year employment gains

Employment increased in the services-producing sector by 82,800 (+1.4%) from June to July. The largest contributors were educational services (+24,200; +4.8%), trade (+23,200; +2.2%), and health care and social assistance services (+18,800; +2.2%). Employment losses were reported in three industries, the largest in accommodation and food services (-1,900; -0.4%).

In the provincial **transportation and warehousing** industry, employment rose by 4,800 (+1.3%) in July, and there were significant developments which should support stronger gains in the industry in upcoming months. In the transportation segment, the Canadian National Railway Company announced it will invest \$315M to upgrade

⁴ Pilienci, V. (2018, June 30). Magna International to close Perth's Grenville Castings plant, 380 jobs affected. *Ottawa Citizen*. Retrieved from <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/magna-international-to-close-perths-grenville-castings-plant-380-jobs-affected>

⁵ The Canadian Press. (2018, July 31). 133 lose jobs as Dixie Cup plant closes in Brampton. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/brampton-dixie-cup-plant-1.4768383>

⁶ Statistics Canada. (2018, August 10). Table 34-10-0158-01. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, all areas, Canada and provinces, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, monthly (x 1,000). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3410015801>

⁷ The Canadian Press Staff. (2018, August 3). Toronto-area home sales climb higher in July: TREB. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4369247/toronto-area-home-sales-july/>.

⁸ Martin, Simon. (2018, August 1). New long-term care facility coming to Sandiford Drive in Stouffville. *Stouffville Sun-Tribune- York Region news*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/8773738-new-long-term-care-facility-coming-to-sandiford-drive-in-stouffville/>

⁹ City of Peterborough Press Release. (2018, August 1). Hydro One to Acquire Assets of Peterborough Distribution Inc. from the City of Peterborough. *City of Peterborough*. Retrieved from <http://www.city.peterborough.on.ca/Assets/City+Assets/Media+Releases/2018/2018-08-01+PDI+Hydro+One.pdf>

¹⁰ DesRosiers, D. (2018, July 31). DesRosiers Automotive Report, Volume 31, Issue 14. *DesRosiers Automotive Consultants*.

and expand its 4,000-km rail network, with some of the spending planned for northwestern Ontario.¹¹ This initiative follows on the heels of other recently announced capital spending, as 1,250 conductor jobs will be created by early 2019, arising from overall business expansions and also spurred on by new financial incentives in federal transportation legislation.¹² However, Ottawa's OC Transpo disclosed that it will lay off 345 employees by December 2018, as the service continues to shift to focus on its light rail transit system.¹³ In addition, WestJet announced that it will end flights in and out of Greater Sudbury as of October 27th, due to insufficient demand,¹⁴ while Greyhound Canada will be discontinuing services throughout Western Canada and Northern Ontario, west of Sudbury, as of October 31st.¹⁵ A significant announcement came out of the warehousing sector as Amazon.com, Inc. will launch a new warehousing centre in Caledon, creating more than 800 full-time jobs. The company plans to build the facility by the end of 2019, which will handle books, electronics and toys.¹⁶

While employment growth was flat in **professional, scientific and technical** services in July, the industry received a boost due to the \$10M federal funding allocated to the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization at McMaster University in Hamilton. The money will be used to develop and manufacture radiopharmaceuticals, and, along with other investments, is expected to create up to 200 jobs.¹⁷

Within **accommodation and food services**, there were several announcements regarding new restaurant locations across the province. Among them, Chick-fil-A Inc., an American fast food chain, is planning to open a second Canadian location in Toronto next year, and establish approximately 15 more in the Greater Toronto Area over the next five years, with each restaurant expected to employ 50 to 75 workers.¹⁸

The services-producing sector posted stronger employment growth year-over-year of 158,700 (+2.8%) in July. The increase was led by educational services (+51,600; +10.8%) and transportation and warehousing (+38,500; +11.2%). There were year-over-year losses in four industries, with the largest decrease in health care and social assistance (-26,000; -2.9%).

¹¹ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2018, July 11). CN Rail spending a bundle in Ontario. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/cn-rail-spending-a-bundle-in-ontario-982140>

¹² Atkins, E. (2018, May 24). CN Rail to spend \$100-million on 1,000 new grain hopper cars. *Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/article-cn-buying-1000-grain-hopper-cars-from-hamilton-manufacturer/>

¹³ CTV Ottawa Staff. (2018, July 25). OC Transpo to lay off 345 staff. *CTV Ottawa*. Retrieved from <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/oc-transpo-to-lay-off-345-staff-1.4026972>

¹⁴ Sudbury.com Staff. (2018, July 4). WestJet ending flights out of Sudbury in October. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sudbury/westjet-ending-flights-out-of-sudbury-in-october-975207>

¹⁵ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2018, July 9). Greyhound finally calls it quits in most of Northern Ontario. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/greyhound-finally-calls-it-quits-in-most-of-northern-ontario-979664>

¹⁶ Canadian Press Staff. (2018, July 25). Amazon to open fulfillment centre in Caledon, Ont., creating 800 full-time jobs. *Canadian Press*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-amazon-to-open-fulfillment-centre-in-caledon-ont-creating-800-full/>

¹⁷ O'Reilly, N. (2018, July 30). McMaster centre tapped for \$10.5 million in federal funding. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/8770361-mcmaster-centre-tapped-for-10-5-million-in-federal-funding/>

¹⁸ CTV News Staff. (2018, July 25). Chick-fil-A opening Toronto location in 2019. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/chick-fil-a-opening-toronto-location-in-2019-1.4027034>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,305.0	7,244.4	7,122.4	60.6	0.8	182.6	2.6
Goods-producing sector	1,452.7	1,474.9	1,428.8	-22.2	-1.5	23.9	1.7
Agriculture	67.3	72.5	67.0	-5.2	-7.2	0.3	0.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	37.4	36.3	35.8	1.1	3.0	1.6	4.5
Utilities	57.9	55.3	45.4	2.6	4.7	12.5	27.5
Construction	527.5	534.0	510.1	-6.5	-1.2	17.4	3.4
Manufacturing	762.6	776.8	770.5	-14.2	-1.8	-7.9	-1.0
Services-producing sector	5,852.3	5,769.5	5,693.6	82.8	1.4	158.7	2.8
Trade	1,078.2	1,055.0	1,080.9	23.2	2.2	-2.7	-0.2
Transportation and warehousing	383.0	378.2	344.5	4.8	1.3	38.5	11.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	572.9	569.9	551.7	3.0	0.5	21.2	3.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	652.4	652.1	636.5	0.3	0.0	15.9	2.5
Business, building and other support services	316.5	317.4	317.9	-0.9	-0.3	-1.4	-0.4
Educational services	530.1	505.9	478.5	24.2	4.8	51.6	10.8
Health care and social assistance	855.5	836.7	881.5	18.8	2.2	-26.0	-2.9
Information, culture and recreation	330.1	331.2	313.8	-1.1	-0.3	16.3	5.2
Accommodation and food services	474.6	476.5	447.3	-1.9	-0.4	27.3	6.1
Other services	292.2	288.9	273.0	3.3	1.1	19.2	7.0
Public administration	366.8	357.7	368.0	9.1	2.5	-1.2	-0.3

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 account for much of the employment growth in the province

Employment increased in the **Toronto** economic region by 110,200 (+3.2%) between July 2017 and July 2018 (measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis). All of the gains were made in full-time employment (+133,800) as part-time employment experienced losses of 23,600, while the regional unemployment rate dropped by 0.5 percentage points to 6.5% over the year. Several construction projects continued to support employment growth in the region in July, including a self-storage facility in East York,¹⁹ several condominiums,^{20,21}

¹⁹ McLean, S. (2018, July 24). SmartCentres, SmartStop form storage joint venture. *Real Estate News Exchange*. Retrieved from <https://renx.ca/smartcentres-smartstop-self-storage-joint-venture/>

²⁰ Immen, W. (2018, July 9). Developers are betting if they build it, tenants will come. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/industry-news/property-report/article-developers-are-betting-if-they-build-it-tenants-will-come/>

²¹ Stouffville Sun-Tribune. (2018, July 16). Geranium starts construction at Vista Flats and Towns in Stouffville. *YorkRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/8741221-geranium-starts-construction-at-vista-flats-and-towns-in-stouffville/>

and upgrades to Durham Region schools.²² In addition, municipal construction was announced for the Pickering Recreation Complex renovations,²³ the King City Public Library and Seniors Centre expansion project²⁴ and a new animal shelter in Uxbridge.²⁵ As well, a new bus terminal is undergoing construction in the City of Markham²⁶ and water maintenance work continues in Toronto.^{27,28} These myriad of investments should continue to bolster construction employment over the year. In the services-producing sector, a number of retailers announced expansions including Hillcrest Mall in Richmond Hill,²⁹ Jollibee, a Filipino fast-food chain³⁰ and men's clothing retailer Kenneth Cole.³¹ Employment should receive a further boost in coming months from the new Flanagan Foodservice's distribution centre in Whitby,³² a Markham power-to-gas energy storage facility,³³ and the ongoing recruitment of software engineers by Elastic Path, a commerce solutions firm,³⁴ and of thousands of temporary workers for various 2018 municipal elections.³⁵

The **Ottawa** economic region experienced employment gains of 26,900 (+3.9%), leading to improved labour market conditions and historic levels of employment, as the regional unemployment rate declined from 6.7% to 4.8% between July 2017 and July 2018. Employment gains were nearly all in full-time employment (+26,400), while part-time employment remained essentially flat. Walmart Canada Corp. disclosed that it is seeking to fill 100 positions for its Cornwall distribution hub to meet growing demand supplying their stores throughout East-

²² Follert, J. (2018, Jul 16). Work starts on \$17 million plan to add air conditioning to some DDSB schools. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/8733401-work-starts-on-17-million-plan-to-add-air-conditioning-to-some-ddsb-schools/>

²³ Pickering News Advertiser. (2018, July 5). Pickering hires company to design rec complex renos. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/8725575-pickering-hires-company-to-design-rec-complex-renos/>

²⁴ Martin, S. (2018, July 10). King Township approves \$8.4M library, seniors centre expansion. *YorkRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/8733860-king-township-approves-8-4m-library-seniors-centre-expansion/>

²⁵ Dillon, M. (2018, July 19). Progress continues on new Uxbridge-Scugog animal shelter. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/8747453-progress-continues-on-new-uxbridge-scugog-animal-shelter/>

²⁶ York Region Rapid Transit Corporation. (2018, July 31). Construction starts on new bus transit terminal in Markham. *Viva Next*. Retrieved from http://www.vivanext.com/news_releases/2018_07_31_ON-YR-YRRTC_ConstructionStarts_TerminalMarkham

²⁷ Draaisma, M. (2018, July 9). Toronto to replace 'vintage' water mains, upgrade Jarvis Street in \$2.3M project. *CBC/Radio-Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/jarvis-street-water-main-replacement-road-reconstruction-project-1.4737234>

²⁸ Shephard, T. (2018, July 6). \$1.2 million shoreline rehab project begins soon in Etobicoke. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/8710640--1-2-million-shoreline-rehab-project-begins-soon-in-etobicoke/>

²⁹ Siwak, H. (2018, July 17). Jacob Brand Revived, Hillcrest Mall Adds Tenants & Fills Target Space. *Retail-Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2018/7/brief-helen-siwak-july-18-2018>

³⁰ Vertolli, R. (2018, July 23). Jollibee opens newest outlet in Mississauga's Seafood City. *Retail-Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/8753215-jollibee-opens-newest-outlet-in-mississauga-s-seafood-city/>

³¹ Patterson, C. (2018, July 31). Kenneth Cole Expands Canadian Operations Including 1st Retail Stores. *Retail-Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2018/7/kenneth-cole>

³² RestoBiz. (2018, July 23). Flanagan Foodservice's Whitby distribution centre now open. *Canadian Restaurant & Foodservice News*. Retrieved from <https://www.restobiz.ca/flanagan-foodservice-whitby-distribution-centre-now-open/>

³³ GlobeNewswire, Inc. (2018, July 16). North America's First Multi-Megawatt Power-to-Gas Facility Begins Operations. *GlobalNewswire*. Retrieved from <https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/07/16/1537941/0/en/North-America-s-First-Multi-Megawatt-Power-to-Gas-Facility-Begins-Operations.html>

³⁴ PR Newswire. (2018, July 17). Fast Growing Elastic Path Opens New Toronto Office With Plans to House Expanded R&D, Sales. *Market-Insider*. Retrieved from <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/fast-growing-elastic-path-opens-new-toronto-office-with-plans-to-house-expanded-r-d-sales-1027374282>

³⁵ Gill, A. (2018, July 13). City of Mississauga hiring workers for the 2018 Municipal Election. *Mississauga News*. Retrieved from <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/8733366-city-of-mississauga-hiring-workers-for-the-2018-municipal-election/>

ern Canada.³⁶ In addition, Greenergy Fuels Canada Inc. announced that it will build a new rail-to-road fuel supply terminal in Johnstown to provide more stable fuel supplies in Eastern Ontario, creating approximately 10 new jobs.³⁷

Employment grew by 17,600 (+12.3%) in the **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic region, as the regional participation rate experienced a strong jump from 59.6% to 66.6% between July 2017 and July 2018. The majority of employment gains were in full-time employment (+14,600), with Bruce Power's long-term hiring plans contributing significantly to the region.³⁸

The **London** economic region registered year-over-year employment gains of 7,500 (+2.2%) in July, as several announcements buoyed economic growth in the region. This included General Motors Canada Ltd. rehiring 25 of 400 laid-off workers at its CAMI Automotive assembly plant in Ingersoll,³⁹ and infrastructure upgrades at the London International Airport creating another 65 jobs.⁴⁰ In food manufacturing, Jakeman's Maple Syrup is building a new 17,000-sq.-ft. production facility in Sweaburg, which is expected to be completed by December 2018.⁴¹ However, the Canada Bread factory in Woodstock will close in August, affecting 70 positions.⁴²

Employment rose by 4,100 (+1.6%) in the **Northeast** economic region over the year. In mining, Vale Canada Ltd. is investing \$42M in exploration activities in the Sudbury Basin in 2018, nearly double its 2017 budget,⁴³ and Canada Cobalt Works Inc. has assembled a pilot plant at its Castle property northeast of Gowganda.⁴⁴ Employment should receive a further lift in coming months in Sault Ste. Marie as a Montana's BBQ & Bar restaurant is scheduled to open in August creating between 75 and 100 positions,⁴⁵ and JD Aero Technical Inc. plans to add a fourth line of aircraft maintenance work in January, creating 20 jobs.⁴⁶ Construction employment continues to be supported over the next few years as the District School Board Ontario North East will spend an estimated \$18M

³⁶ Peters, B. (2018, July 28). Walmart Logistics Looking to Fill 100 Positions in Cornwall. *City of Cornwall*. Retrieved from <https://choosecornwall.ca/news-english/business/walmart-logistics-looking-to-fill-100-positions/>

³⁷ Kemptville Advance. (2018, July 10). Greenergy invests in Johnstown to provide more stable fuel supply in Eastern Ontario. *InsideOttawaValley.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insideottawavalley.com/news-story/8734229-greenergy-invests-in-johnstown-to-provide-more-stable-fuel-supply-in-eastern-ontario/>

³⁸ Bruce Power. (2018, August). Current employment opportunities at Bruce Power. *Bruce Power*. Retrieved from <https://brucepower.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/BrucePower>

³⁹ Rivers, H. (2018, July 3). Twenty-five laid-off Cami workers recalled to Ingersoll plant. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/business/local-business/twenty-five-laid-off-cami-workers-recalled-to-ingersoll-plant>

⁴⁰ Peacock, D. (2018, July 25). London International Airport receives federal funding boost. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4352174/london-international-airport-receives-federal-funding-boost/>

⁴¹ Lobzun, M. (2018, June 29). Jakeman's Maple Syrup taps into new production facility at Sweaburg family business. *Norwich Gazette*. Retrieved from <http://www.norwichgazette.com/2018/06/29/jakemans-maple-syrup-taps-into-new-production-facility-at-sweaburg-family-business>

⁴² Gill, J. (2018, July 11). Worker's injury pushes Canada Bread to close Woodstock plant. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/woodstock-canada-bread-closed-1.4742350>

⁴³ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2018, July 19). Vale doubles exploration efforts in the Sudbury area. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sudbury/vale-doubles-exploration-efforts-in-the-sudbury-area-990030>

⁴⁴ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2018, July 26). Cobalt explorer drills off underground play. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/cobalt-explorer-drills-off-underground-cobalt-play-997316>

⁴⁵ Helwig, D. (2018, July 3). 75 to 100 jobs available at downtown Montana's location. *SooToday.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/75-to-100-jobs-available-at-downtown-montanas-location-972830>

⁴⁶ Kelly, L. (2018, July 17). JD Aero scores fuel contract. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/jd-aero-scores-fuel-contract-987065>

on over 200 construction projects this summer,⁴⁷ while the Highway 101 rebuilding continues in Timmins⁴⁸ and a new 16-unit residential tower is being built in Sault Ste. Marie.⁴⁹

In the **Northwest** economic region, employment increased by 2,900 (+2.8%) over the year. In infrastructure funding, the Government of Canada will invest \$11.5M towards the \$33M Thunder Bay Art Gallery Relocation Project,⁵⁰ and fund another \$7M to provide new or improved high-speed Internet services to Northern Ontario.⁵¹ Contractors continue to upgrade the interior of the previous Courthouse Hotel with a scheduled fall opening improving accommodation and tourism options in Thunder Bay.⁵² However, the infrastructure network of the region was affected strongly by the announcements from WestJet and Greyhound that it will discontinue many of the services in the region, with both effective as of October.^{53,54}

Employment also grew in the **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** and **Windsor–Sarnia** economic regions.

Employment declined in three economic regions in Ontario in July

The **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region posted the largest employment decrease in Ontario over the year, as it fell by 7,800 (-1.0%) between July 2017 and July 2018. Although the region's unemployment rate dropped from 5.5% to 5.3% over the year, Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie experienced a sizeable loss in full-time employment (-10,100). The labour force participation rate also dropped significantly over the year, from 71.3% to 69.0%. Despite these losses, the Simcoe County District School Board will be moving ahead with the construction of a 135,700-sq.-ft. high school in southeast Barrie, which is expected to be completed by 2021.⁵⁵

Employment also declined in the **Muskokas–Kawarthas** economic region by 4,300 (-2.3%), and the regional unemployment rate rose from 5.8% to 6.1%. The labour force participation rate of 57.2%, which dropped by 1.8 percentage points over the year, is the second lowest in Ontario. The region has a much older population compared to the province,⁵⁶ and the decrease in the labour force is likely a result of retirements. Despite these losses,

⁴⁷ Timmins Today Staff. (2018, July 2). School board super stoked about summer construction. *TimminsToday.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.timminstoday.com/local-news/school-board-super-stoked-about-summer-construction-969829>

⁴⁸ Grech, G. (2018, July 24). Phase 3 of Connecting Link construction underway. *Timmins Daily Press*. Retrieved from <https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/phase-3-of-connecting-link-construction-underway>

⁴⁹ Helwig, D. (2018, July 16). Look what they're doing with the old Alex Muir Public School (3 photos). *SooToday.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/look-what-theyre-doing-with-the-old-alex-muir-public-school-3-photos-987126>

⁵⁰ CBC News. (2018, July 17). Thunder Bay art gallery receives \$11.5M federal government funding for relocation. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-art-gallery-1.4750021>

⁵¹ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2018, August 2). Rural and remote communities in northern Ontario will benefit from faster Internet. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/08/rural-and-remote-communities-in-northern-ontario-will-benefit-from-faster-internet.html>

⁵² Rinne, G. (2018, July 3). Courthouse Hotel set to open this year. *Tbnewswatch.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/courthouse-hotel-set-to-open-this-year-973884>

⁵³ Sudbury.com Staff. (2018, July 4). WestJet ending flights out of Sudbury in October. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sudbury/westjet-ending-flights-out-of-sudbury-in-october-975207>

⁵⁴ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2018, July 9). Greyhound finally calls it quits in most of Northern Ontario. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/greyhound-finally-calls-it-quits-in-most-of-northern-ontario-979664>

⁵⁵ DCN News Services. (2018, July 18). Building permit issued for Barrie high school. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2018/07/building-permit-issued-barrie-high-school>

⁵⁶ Statistics Canada. (2016). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Retrieved from <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp->

es, the region welcomed positive news in July with Steelworks Design Inc. and Kawartha Metals Corporation both moving to a larger facility,⁵⁷ and Peterborough-based start-up Zatiq, a mobile food discovery app, continuing to expand in 2018.⁵⁸

Employment also declined in the **Kingston–Pembroke** economic region.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2018 ('000)	July 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2018 (%)	July 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,352.5	7,195.0	2.2	5.9	6.4	-0.5
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	719.6	692.7	3.9	4.8	6.7	-1.9
Kingston–Pembroke	205.0	208.3	-1.6	5.8	6.6	-0.8
Muskoka–Kawarthas	179.5	183.8	-2.3	6.1	5.8	0.3
Toronto	3,573.0	3,462.8	3.2	6.5	7	-0.5
Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie	739.3	747.1	-1.0	5.3	5.5	-0.2
Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula	760.8	759.7	0.1	5.5	5.4	0.1
London	345.9	338.4	2.2	5.9	5.6	0.3
Windsor–Sarnia	303.7	301.1	0.9	5.8	6.5	-0.7
Stratford–Bruce Peninsula	160.4	142.8	12.3	3	2.9	0.1
Northeast	257.4	253.3	1.6	6	6.7	-0.7
Northwest	107.8	104.9	2.8	4.9	5.1	-0.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 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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⁵⁷ Giunta, M. (2018, July 18). Peterborough businesses expand at south-end industrial park. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4322864/peterborough-businesses-expand-at-south-end-industrial-park/>

⁵⁸ KawarthaNow. (2018, July 16). Peterborough food app start-up Zatiq expands to Africa and Pakistan. *KawarthaNow.com*. Retrieved from <https://kawarthanow.com/2018/07/16/businessnow-july-16-2018/#peterborough-food-app-start-up-zatiq-expands-to-africa-and-pakistan>