



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

August 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 fell in August, as the unemployment rate rose to 5.7%

- Employment levels in Ontario decreased by 80,100 (-1.1%) in August
- While full-time employment remained flat in August, part-time employment fell by 80,700 (-5.8%)
- The unemployment rate rose to 5.7% in August

Ontario provincial employment figures fell by 80,100 (-1.1%) from July to August 2018, totalling 7.25 million for the province as a whole. The employment losses in August are a result of a decrease of 80,700 (-5.8%) in part-time employment, as full-time employment remained essentially flat.

Unemployment levels climbed by 22,400 (+5.4%) in August, resulting in a rise in the provincial unemployment rate to 5.7%. This increase came after the unemployment rate had its lowest level in 18 years in July. The Ontario participation rate fell from 64.8% to 64.2%, as the labour force shrank by 57,700 (-0.7%), while the provincial employment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points to 60.6%.

The Ontario youth unemployment rate inched up from 11.2% to 11.4% in August, as youth unemployment rose slightly by 300 (+0.2%). The youth participation rate fell from 60.8% to 59.7%, as the youth labour force shrank by 18,400 (-1.7%) in August, while the youth employment rate fell from 54.0% to 52.9%, as youth employment fell by 18,700 (-1.9%).

Over the past year, the Ontario labour market gained 78,600 (+1.1%) in net employment from August 2017 to August 2018, with full-time employment (+171,900; +3.0%) showing gains and part-time employment (-93,300; -6.7%) falling year-over-year. The unemployment rate rose from 5.5% to 5.7% over the year, as unemployment climbed up by 18,900 (+4.5%).

Examining the national picture, employment in Canada observed net losses of 51,600 (-0.3%) from July to August, with Ontario and Quebec (-2,300; -0.1%) observing the largest decreases. While full-time employment increased by 40,400 (+0.3%) across Canada, part-time employment fell by 92,000 (-2.6%) in August, propelled primarily by losses in Ontario. The national unemployment rate rose from 5.8% to 6.0%, as unemployment in Canada increased by 34,800 (+3.0%).

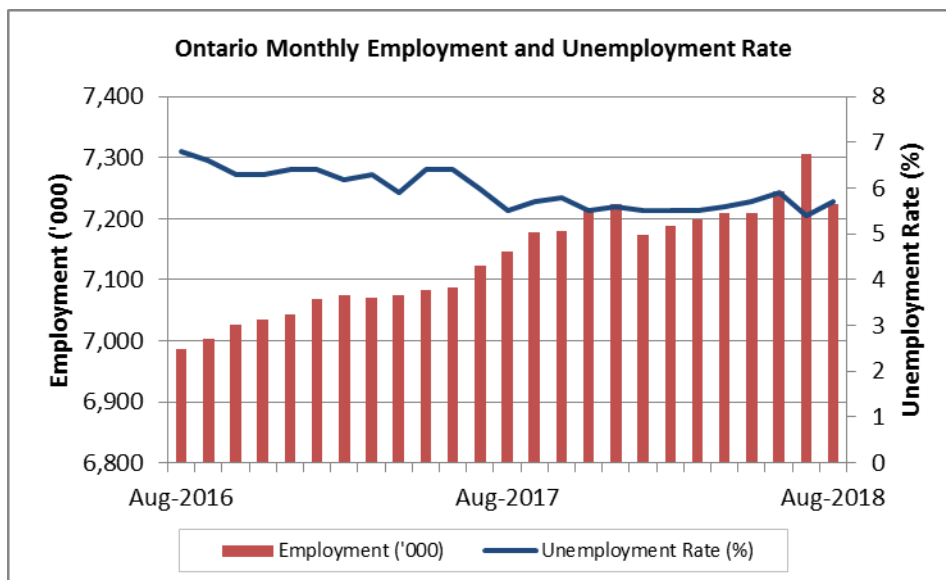
The United States total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 201,000 in August, while the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.9%. The continued improvement in the American economy and labour market is helping contribute to increased Canadian exports, with total exports increasing by 0.5% from June to July. However, the ongoing trade 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	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,930.3	11,911.8	11,709.8	18.5	0.2	220.5	1.9
Labour Force ('000)	7,663.2	7,720.9	7,565.6	-57.7	-0.7	97.6	1.3
Employment ('000)	7,224.9	7,305.0	7,146.3	-80.1	-1.1	78.6	1.1
Full-Time ('000)	5,917.3	5,916.9	5,745.4	0.4	0.0	171.9	3.0
Part-Time ('000)	1,307.5	1,388.2	1,400.8	-80.7	-5.8	-93.3	-6.7
Unemployment ('000)	438.3	415.9	419.4	22.4	5.4	18.9	4.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	5.4	5.5	0.3	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.2	64.8	64.6	-0.6	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.6	61.3	61.0	-0.7	-	-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	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.7	5.4	5.5	0.3	0.2
25 years and over	4.8	4.4	4.7	0.4	0.1
Men - 25 years and over	4.5	4.2	4.6	0.3	-0.1
Women - 25 years and over	5.1	4.6	4.9	0.5	0.2
15 to 24 years	11.4	11.2	10.4	0.2	1.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.4	12.5	12.5	-1.1	-1.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.4	9.7	8.1	1.7	3.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment decline in goods-producing sector mainly due to decrease in construction employment

Employment fell in Ontario's goods-producing sector in August with a loss of 8,600 (-0.6%), the sector's second consecutive monthly loss. In August, the largest decline was reported in construction (-8,800; -1.7%), while manufacturing losses were more subdued (-1,200; -0.2%). Employment grew in two goods-producing industries, with utilities recording the strongest gain (+1,200; +2.1%), while agriculture increased by 300 (+0.4%).

Provincial **construction** employment fell by 1.7% in August, yet activities in the industry remain buoyant with several large-scale developments planned or underway. Notably, construction of the City of Kingston's Third Crossing Bridge over the Cataraqui River is expected to create approximately 200 jobs.¹² Meanwhile, the Government of Ontario is investing more than \$182M to construct nine new Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachments across the province to replace aging facilities beginning this fall,³ while the health care sector also reported major developments.^{4,5,6}

On the commercial side, Cedar Fair Entertainment Company is expanding its accommodations portfolio and plans to build a dual-branded Hyatt Place and Hyatt House, 203-room hotel at its Canada's Wonderland amuse-

¹ City of Kingston Press Release. (2018, August 22). Kiewit, Hatch and SYSTRA to build Third Crossing bridge in Kingston. *City of Kingston*. Retrieved from <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/-/kiewit-hatch-and-systra-to-build-third-crossing-bridge-in-kingston>

² Mazur, A. (2018, August 22). Kingston chooses Kiewit to build 'third crossing.' *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4401846/kingston-chooses-kiewit-to-build-third-crossing>

³ Jackson, H. (2018, August 17). Province announces \$182M in funding for 9 new OPP detachments. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4393588/new-opp-detachments/>

⁴ Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines Press Release. (2018, August 17). Ontario Expanding Hospice Care in North Bay. *Newsroom Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2018/08/ontario-expanding-hospice-care-in-north-bay.html>

⁵ Landau, J. (2018, August 21). B+H Architects Selected to Design New SickKids Tower. *Urban Toronto*. Retrieved from <http://urbantoronto.ca/news/2018/08/bh-architects-selected-design-new-sickkids-tower>

⁶ Daily Commercial News. (2018, August 23). EllisDon to start work on West Park Healthcare Centre in Toronto. *DCN News Services*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2018/08/ellisdon-start-work-mississauga-west-park-healthcare-centre>

ment park in Vaughan.⁷ There were encouraging signs in the residential segment. The resale housing market in the Greater Toronto Area continued to show signs of strengthening, with the number of homes sold increasing by 8.5%, and the average selling price also up (4.7%) in August over the year.⁸

Employment in **manufacturing** also declined in August, falling slightly by 0.2%. Although the Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index remained in expansion territory, its level of 56.8 in August was slightly below the previous month, and also short of market expectations. There was a significant rise in output levels, but growth in new orders slowed to a four-month low, partly attributable to business and global trade uncertainties. Ontario also reported the weakest performance in new work from abroad.^{9,10}

There were negative news announcements in manufacturing, including the planned closure of Cascades Inc.'s corrugated packaging plants in Barrie and Peterborough by the end of December, which will result in the loss of 65 jobs.¹¹ In southwestern Ontario, BioAmber Inc. halted production at its chemical plant in Sarnia due to financial difficulties, affecting most of the 60 employees, with five to eight workers retained temporarily to assist with the closure of the plant's operations.^{12,13} On the positive side, Whyte's Foods announced it is investing \$16.5M in a new facility in Wallaceburg which is expected to open in the fall of 2019, creating about 100 permanent jobs.^{14,15}

On a year-over-year basis, employment grew in the goods-producing sector by 12,700 (+0.9%), based primarily on the strength of the utilities (+13,000) industry. The manufacturing industry reported the largest decline among goods-producing industries year-over-year (-7,000; -0.9%).

Employment losses in nine industries within the services-producing sector

Employment decreased in the services-producing sector by 71,500 (-1.2%) from July to August. The largest contributors were professional, scientific and technical services (-23,000; -3.5%), trade (-14,100; -1.3%), and information, culture and recreation (-11,600; -3.5%). Employment gains were reported in two industries: business,

⁷ (2018, August 27). Cedar Fair to Open New Hotel at Canada's Wonderland near Toronto. *PR Newswire*. Retrieved from <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cedar-fair-to-open-new-hotel-at-canadas-wonderland-near-toronto-300702450.html>

⁸ Deschamps, T. (2018, September 6). Greater Toronto home sales and prices in August up from year ago. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <https://business.financialpost.com/pmnl/business-pmnl/greater-toronto-home-sales-and-prices-in-august-up-from-year-ago>

⁹ Trading Economics. Canada Manufacturing PMI. Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

¹⁰ IHS Markit. (2018, September 4). *Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI*. IHS Markit. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/PressRelease.mvc/336723b149c14555a19de0e83f531641>

¹¹ Examiner Staff. (2018, August 29). Cascades closing former Coyle Packaging plant in Peterborough. *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news-story/8868853-cascades-closing-former-coyle-packaging-plant-in-peterborough>

¹² Morden, P. (2018, August 3). BioAmber plant shutting down. *Sarnia Observer*. Retrieved from <https://www.theobserver.ca/news/local-news/bioamber-plant-shutting-down>

¹³ Morden, P. (2018, September 6). BioAmber board and executives resign. *The London Free Press*. <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/bioamber-board-and-executives-resign/wcm/1d958e61-2d99-4e49-82f7-e4f76bd7ee2f>

¹⁴ CTV Windsor Staff. (2018, August 23). Food manufacturer creating 100 jobs with \$16M Wallaceburg facility. *CTV News Windsor*. Retrieved from <https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/food-manufacturer-creating-100-jobs-with-16m-wallaceburg-facility-1.4065051>

¹⁵ Gough, D. (2018, August 24). Local farmers expected to benefit from new pickle factory. *Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/local-news/local-farmers-expected-to-benefit-from-new-pickle-factory>

building and other support services (+3,400; +1.1%), and other services (+3,700; +1.3%), such as repair and maintenance companies, and personal and laundry service enterprises.

The employment loss in the **professional, scientific and technical services** was the largest among all industries in Ontario in August. Among the developments in the sector, Amazon.com, Inc. announced it is closing its software development office in Ottawa this fall, affecting about 30 workers, as the functions will be moved to other locations in Canada and the United States.¹⁶

Employment in wholesale and retail **trade** decreased by 14,100 (-1.3%) in August. DSW Inc. announced it will close all 38 locations of its Canadian footwear chain, Town Shoes Ltd., by January 2019. Approximately 400 workers will be affected nationally, although the retailer is hoping to secure jobs for these workers at its other brand locations.¹⁷ Despite losses in employment, there were a number of positive developments in the sector in August as well. MINISO, a Japanese lifestyle brand and Chinese variety retailer, opened a location at Toronto's Scarborough Town Centre in August,¹⁸ while Pajar Canada, a Montreal-based fashion brand, announced it will open a 1,340-sq.-ft. store in Toronto's Yorkdale Shopping Centre this fall.¹⁹

The Ontario **information, culture and recreation** industry also posted employment losses, falling by 11,600 (-3.5%) in August. However, continued technological advancements in the industry bodes well for the medium-term future, with Kuhkenah Network (K-Net) and the Western James Bay Telecom Network receiving \$6.6M and \$441K, respectively, from the Government of Canada, to provide new and improved high-speed Internet services to Northern Ontario.²⁰

The **transportation and warehousing** industry observed flat growth in its employment for August, but activities on the horizon should boost employment numbers in coming months, particularly in warehousing. XPO Logistics, Inc., opened its first Canadian hub for distribution in Toronto, and will employ approximately 70 people. The company's expansions are being fueled by growth in online purchases of heavy goods by consumers, and the greater need for assembly, inspection and other pre-delivery services.²¹ In addition, Amazon.com, Inc. is undertaking another round of hiring for its warehouse in Milton. The company is facilitating the transportation of workers between Milton and Hamilton through a ride-share program.²²

Among one of only two services-producing industries to gain employment figures over the month, the biggest development in the Ontario **business, building and other support services** industry was the Government of Canada announcing \$5.75M in funding for new renewable energy technology for wastewater treatment facilities in

¹⁶ Britneff, B. (2018, August 22). Amazon to close software development office in Ottawa this fall. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4403028/amazon-to-close-software-development-office-in-ottawa-this-fall/>

¹⁷ Deschamps, T. (2018, August 29). DSW to close Town Shoes brand and dozens of stores across Canada by January. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4417476/town-shoes-shoe-stores-closing-dsw-retail-canada/>

¹⁸ Toronto.com Staff. (2018, August 3). Low-cost retailer MINISO to open in Scarborough Town Centre. *Toronto.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/8764088-low-cost-retailer-miniso-to-open-in-scarborough-town-centre/>

¹⁹ Patterson C. (2018, August 12). Pajar to Launch 1st Standalone Retail Stores. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2018/8/pajar-to-launch-1st-standalone-retail-stores>

²⁰ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada staff. (2018, August 2). Rural and remote communities in northern Ontario will benefit from faster Internet. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. 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>

²¹ Berman, J. (2018, August 8). XPO opens up new Toronto-based last mile facility. *Supply Chain Management Review*. Retrieved from http://www.scmr.com/article/xpo_opens_up_new_toronto_based_last_mile_facility

²² Craggs, S. (2018, August 22). Amazon needs warehouse workers from Hamilton - and will help them get to work. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/amazon-hamilton-1.4794861>

the Region of Waterloo.²³ However, this was somewhat tempered by Nordia Inc. announcing that it will be closing its call centre in Lindsay in December, affecting 63 employees.²⁴

Year-over-year, the services-producing sector posted stronger employment conditions increasing by 65,900 (+1.2%) from August 2017 to 2018. The increase was led by educational services (+37,800; +7.8%), and transportation and warehousing (+33,200; +9.5%). There were year-over-year losses in five industries, with the largest decrease in health care and social assistance (-26,000; -3.0%).

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,224.9	7,305.0	7,146.3	-80.1	-1.1	78.6	1.1
Goods-producing sector	1,444.1	1,452.7	1,431.4	-8.6	-0.6	12.7	0.9
Agriculture	67.6	67.3	68.7	0.3	0.4	-1.1	-1.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	37.3	37.4	34.9	-0.1	-0.3	2.4	6.9
Utilities	59.1	57.9	46.1	1.2	2.1	13.0	28.2
Construction	518.7	527.5	513.3	-8.8	-1.7	5.4	1.1
Manufacturing	761.4	762.6	768.4	-1.2	-0.2	-7.0	-0.9
Services-producing sector	5,780.8	5,852.3	5,714.9	-71.5	-1.2	65.9	1.2
Trade	1,064.1	1,078.2	1,072.5	-14.1	-1.3	-8.4	-0.8
Transportation and warehousing	382.3	383.0	349.1	-0.7	-0.2	33.2	9.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	564.8	572.9	561.4	-8.1	-1.4	3.4	0.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	629.4	652.4	638.3	-23.0	-3.5	-8.9	-1.4
Business, building and other support services	319.9	316.5	317.3	3.4	1.1	2.6	0.8
Educational services	523.4	530.1	485.6	-6.7	-1.3	37.8	7.8
Health care and social assistance	852.0	855.5	878.0	-3.5	-0.4	-26.0	-3.0
Information, culture and recreation	318.5	330.1	320.4	-11.6	-3.5	-1.9	-0.6
Accommodation and food services	471.8	474.6	456.6	-2.8	-0.6	15.2	3.3
Other services	295.9	292.2	266.9	3.7	1.3	29.0	10.9
Public administration	358.9	366.8	368.9	-7.9	-2.2	-10.0	-2.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

²³ Office of MP Bryan May. (2018, August 13). MP Bryan May Announces Canadian Government Investment in Local Renewable Energy. *Cambridge Now*. Retrieved from <http://www.cambridgenow.ca/npps/story.cfm?nppage=3608>

²⁴ kawarthaNOW News. (2018, August 20). Nordia announces Lindsay call centre to close in December 2018. *kawarthaNOW*. Retrieved from <https://kawarthanow.com/2018/08/20/businessnow-august-20-2018/#nordia-announces-lindsay-call-centre-to-close-in-december-2018>

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Toronto led the province in employment growth in August

The **Toronto** economic region observed employment gains of 97,500 (+2.8%) between August 2017 and August 2018 (measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis). The gains were realized strictly in full-time employment (+129,000), as part-time employment experienced losses of 31,500, while the regional unemployment rate dropped by 0.1 percentage points to 6.7% over the year.

The Toronto construction industry welcomed a number of new infrastructure projects^{25,26,27} and housing developments in August.²⁸ This includes the new West Park Healthcare Centre, a 730K-sq.-ft. hospital building in Mississauga,²⁹ and a new 50,000-sq.-ft. facility from XPO Logistics, Inc., a global logistics company.³⁰ Employment should receive a further boost in coming months from Miele's 2,200-sq.-ft. retail space opening in Toronto.³¹

The **Ottawa** economic region experienced employment gains of 24,200 (+3.5%), as the regional unemployment rate declined from 6.8% to 5.2% between August 2017 and August 2018. Employment gains were nearly all in full-time employment (+23,600) while part-time employment remained essentially flat. Construction started on Amazon's 1M-sq.-ft. facility in Ottawa, which is expected to create over 50 full-time jobs and up to 1,500 jobs over the course of its construction.³²

Employment rose by 4,800 (+1.9%) in the **Northeast** economic region over the year. In August, there were many positive developments in the region, especially in the construction sector. PUC Services Inc., in partnership with Fluence Energy, LLC and Ontario Storage LLC, are set to construct an energy storage facility in Sault Ste. Marie.³³ Construction also began on Municipal Road 35 in the Greater Sudbury Area valued at \$34M, and Cy Rheault Construction Ltd. secured a \$6.9M contract from the City of Sault Ste. Marie for exterior upgrades to the Civic Cen-

²⁵ VIVA Next Staff. (2018, July 31). Construction starts on new bus transit terminal in Markham. *Vivanext.com*. Retrieved from http://www.vivanext.com/news_releases/2018_07_31_ON-YR-YRRTC_ConstructionStarts_TerminalMarkham

²⁶ Landau, J. (2018, August 21). B+H Architects Selected to Design New SickKids Tower. *Urbantoronto.ca*. Retrieved from <http://urbantoronto.ca/news/2018/08/bh-architects-selected-design-new-sickkids-tower>

²⁷ Wall, D. (2018, August 22). Projectcore eyes October start for Mirvish gallery reno job. *Constructconnect.com*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2018/08/projectcore-eyes-october-start-mirvish-gallery-reno-job>

²⁸ Mirza, M. (2018, August 9). New development in Mississauga to provide affordable housing and supports programs for people with mental or physical disabilities. *Mississauga.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/8795650-new-development-in-mississauga-to-provide-affordable-housing-and-supports-programs-for-people-with-mental-or-physical-disabilities/>

²⁹ DCN News Service. (2018, August 23). EllisDon to start work on West Park Healthcare Centre in Toronto. *constructconnect.com*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2018/08/ellisdon-start-work-mississaugas-west-park-healthcare-centre>

³⁰ Berman, J. (2018, August 8). XPO opens up new Toronto-based last mile facility. *scmr.com*. Retrieved from http://www.scmr.com/article/xpo_opens_up_new_toronto_based_last_mile_facility

³¹ Patterson, (2018, July 30). C. Miele. Unveils First-in-the-World Flagship Prototype. *Retail-insider.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2018/7/miele-unveils-first-in-the-world-flagship-prototype>

³² Equipment Journal (2018, August 20). Construction begins on Amazon facility in Ottawa. *Equipmentjournal.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.equipmentjournal.com/construction-news/amazon-distribution-centre-ottawa/>

³³ Della-Mattia, E. (2018, August 10). Largest energy storage system of its kind to be constructed in Sault Ste. Marie. *Saultstar.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/largest-energy-storage-system-of-its-kind-to-be-constructed-in-sault-ste-marie>

tre.^{34,35} In other construction news, the province is contributing \$1.5M towards the construction of a ten-bed residential palliative care facility in North Bay.³⁶

In the **Northwest** economic region, employment increased by 1,800 (+1.7%) over the year. In infrastructure funding, the Government of Canada will invest \$1.1M to transform Terrace Bay's waterfront area, promoting tourism in the North Shore region of Lake Superior.³⁷ In educational services, the federal government will contribute \$5.6M to the Youth Inclusion Program to support Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay.³⁸ Good news also came from the region's technology sector as the Government of Canada will provide Kuhkenah Network (K-Net) and the Western James Bay Telecom Network \$6.6M and \$441K, respectively, to provide new or improved high-speed Internet services to Northern Ontario.³⁹ Manitou Forest Products Ltd. and Henry's Trucking will jointly receive nearly \$1.4M from the Government of Ontario to purchase new equipment.⁴⁰

Employment also grew in the **Muskoka-Kawarthas, London and Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic regions.

Employment declined in four economic regions in Ontario in August

The **Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula** economic region posted the largest employment decrease in Ontario over the year, as it fell by 9,000 (-1.2%) between August 2017 and 2018. However, a number of positive developments in August points to a positive outlook for the region in coming months. The Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization at McMaster University was awarded \$10.5M from the federal government to develop and manufacture radiopharmaceuticals, creating up to 200 jobs in Hamilton.⁴¹ In the regional construction sector, the federal government provided \$1.5M towards the \$16.5M Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre facility in Hamilton, with construction set to begin spring 2019.⁴² In agriculture-related news, Aleafia Health Inc., a licensed medical marijuana producer, plans to hire 60 to 80 full-time employees in Grimsby by the end of this year.⁴³

³⁴ MacDonald, D. (2018, August 29). After decades of waiting, MR35 expansion about to begin. *sudbury.com* Retrieved from <https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/after-decades-of-waiting-mr35-expansion-about-to-begin-1029871>

³⁵ Kelly, L. (2018, August 15). *Northernbusiness.com*. Sault Ste. Marie's vision in white. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/sault-ste-maries-vision-in-white-1015836>

³⁶ Ontario Newsroom. (2018, August 17). Ontario Expanding Hospice Care in North Bay. *Ontario.ca*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2018/08/ontario-expanding-hospice-care-in-north-bay.html>

³⁷ FedNor. (2018, August 17). Township of Terrace Bay to benefit from key tourism infrastructure upgrades. *Canada.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2018/08/township-of-terrace-bay-to-benefit-from-key-tourism-infrastructure-upgrades.html>

³⁸ Diaczuk, D. (2018, August 28). At-risk youth program receives \$5.6 million from federal government. *Tbnewswatch.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/at-risk-youth-program-receives-56-million-from-federal-government-1028743>

³⁹ Innocation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2018, August 2). Rural and remote communities in northern Ontario will benefit from faster Internet. *Canada.ca*. 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>

⁴⁰ Ontario Newsroom. (2018, August 17). Ontario Creating Jobs in Northwestern Ontario Forestry Industry. *Ontario.ca*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2018/08/ontario-creating-jobs-in-northwestern-ontario-forestry-industry.html>

⁴¹ O'Reilly, N. (2018, July 30). McMaster centre tapped for \$10.5 million in federal funding. *Thespec.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/8770361-mcmaster-centre-tapped-for-10-5-million-in-federal-funding/>

⁴² Werner, K. (2018, August 27). Federal government gives \$1.5M to Ancaster arts centre. *Thespec.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/8864123-federal-government-gives-1-5m-to-ancaster-arts-centre/>

⁴³ Benner, A. (2018, August 9). Grimsby marijuana greenhouse to create up to 80 jobs. *Stcatharinesstandard.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/8807646-grimsby-marijuana-greenhouse-to-create-up-to-80-jobs/>

Employment figures fell by 4,900 (-0.7%) in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region over the year. Although the region's unemployment rate dropped from 5.1% to 4.9% over the year, Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie experienced a sizeable loss in full-time employment (-7,300). The labour force participation rate also dropped significantly over the year, from 71.4% to 69.4%. However, positive developments abounded in the region through August, as the federal government announced \$5.75M in funding for new renewable energy technology for wastewater treatment facilities in the Region of Waterloo.⁴⁴ The region's retail sector will also see the opening of multiple stores including Marshalls, Kingpin Bowlounge, Indigo and SportChek.⁴⁵

Employment also decreased in the **Kingston–Pembroke** economic region (-3,300; -1.6%) over the year. However, there were a number of positive announcements made in August, with Kiewit Corporation securing a contract with the City of Kingston to build the Third Crossing bridge project over the Cataraqui River, creating about 200 jobs.⁴⁶ In addition, a \$2.3M contract was awarded to Jacques Daoust Coatings Management Inc. to paint and re-store the Tower Street water tower.⁴⁷

Employment also fell in the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August 2018 (‘000)	August 2017 (‘000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August 2018 (%)	August 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,356.0	7,213.7	2.0	6.1	6.3	-0.2
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	714.2	690.0	3.5	5.2	6.8	-1.6
Kingston - Pembroke	206.0	209.3	-1.6	6.2	6.9	-0.7
Muskoka - Kawarthas	184.8	182.5	1.3	6.3	6.3	0.0
Toronto	3,565.3	3,467.8	2.8	6.7	6.8	-0.1
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	747.9	752.8	-0.7	4.9	5.1	-0.2
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	758.6	767.6	-1.2	5.9	5.2	0.7
London	348.3	331.8	5.0	5.8	5.7	0.1
Windsor - Sarnia	303.1	306.3	-1.0	64.4	62.3	2.1
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	161.3	145.7	10.7	60.7	58.7	2.0
Northeast	259.3	254.5	1.9	533.7	528.4	5.3
Northwest	107.2	105.4	1.7	323.9	328.5	-4.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

⁴⁴ Cambridge Now staff. (2018, August 13). MP Bryan May Announces Canadian Government Investment in Local Renewable Energy. *Cambridge now*. Retrieved from <http://www.cambridgenow.ca/npps/story.cfm?nppage=3608>

⁴⁵ Waterloo Region Record. (2018, August 20). Marshalls store opening at Cambridge Centre. *Therecord.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/8849200-marshalls-store-opening-at-cambridge-centre/>

⁴⁶ Mazur, A. (2018, August 22) Kingston chooses Kiewit to build 'third crossing'. *Globalnews.ca*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4401846/kingston-chooses-kiewit-to-build-third-crossing/>

⁴⁷ Krause, K. (2018, August 9). 60-year-old Kingston landmark receiving multi-million-dollar makeover. *Globalnews.ca*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/4379186/60-year-old-kingston-landmark-makeover/>

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market and Socio-economic Information Directorate (LMSID), Service Canada, Ontario
For further information, please contact Labour Market and Socio-economic Information Directorate (LMSID) at: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=Imi

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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