



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

February 2019



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

OVERVIEW

Labour Force Trends – Employment increased in Ontario for sixth consecutive month

Employment increased by 36,900 in February:

- The growth was influenced by improvement in full-time employment (+59,200)
- The provincial unemployment rate held steady at 5.7%, and remains below the national rate

Employment in Ontario increased by 36,900 in February 2019 compared with January 2019, due to gains in full-time employment (+59,200). There was a loss of 22,300 in part-time employment. The unemployment rate held steady at 5.7% even though more people looked for work. The participation rate reached 65.0%, up from 64.8% in the previous month.

Employment growth was stronger when compared with February 2018, with an increase of 191,700 (+2.7%), due mainly to a rise in full-time employment of 169,200.

The employment of youth increased in February by 21,100 (+2.2%), all due to gains in full-time employment. More youth looked for work but the unemployment rate declined by 0.4 percentage points to reach 11.9%. Between February 2018 and February 2019, estimates show slightly stronger employment conditions for youth with nominal gains of 25,400 (+2.7%) over this period.

Employment in Canada increased by 55,900 (+0.3%). This monthly gain was led by Ontario (+36,900), and Quebec (+14,900). Losses were reported in four regions, the largest of which was Manitoba (-3,300). The national unemployment rate remained at 5.8%, and there was an uptick in the participation rate to 65.8%.

The United States (US) total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 20,000, the weakest gain reported since September 2017. The more notable employment increases were made in professional and business services, health care, and wholesale trade, while declining in construction.^{1, 2}

Based on the latest available data, Canadian exports to the U.S. declined to \$33.7 billion or by 3.6% between November and December 2018, due mostly to a reduction in crude oil exports. This was the fifth consecutive month of a weakening in total exports to the US, which started in August of last year.^{3,4}

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,035.80	12,021.30	11,809.70	14.5	0.1	226.1	1.9
Labour Force ('000)	7,821.00	7,789.30	7,606.40	31.7	0.4	214.6	2.8
Employment ('000)	7,378.80	7,341.90	7,187.10	36.9	0.5	191.7	2.7
Full-Time ('000)	6,029.90	5,970.70	5,860.70	59.2	1.0	169.2	2.9
Part-Time ('000)	1,348.90	1,371.20	1,326.30	-22.3	-1.6	22.6	1.7
Unemployment ('000)	442.2	447.40	419.3	-5.2	-1.2	22.9	5.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	5.70	5.5	0.0	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	65	64.8	64.4	0.2	-	0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.3	61.1	60.9	0.2	-	0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

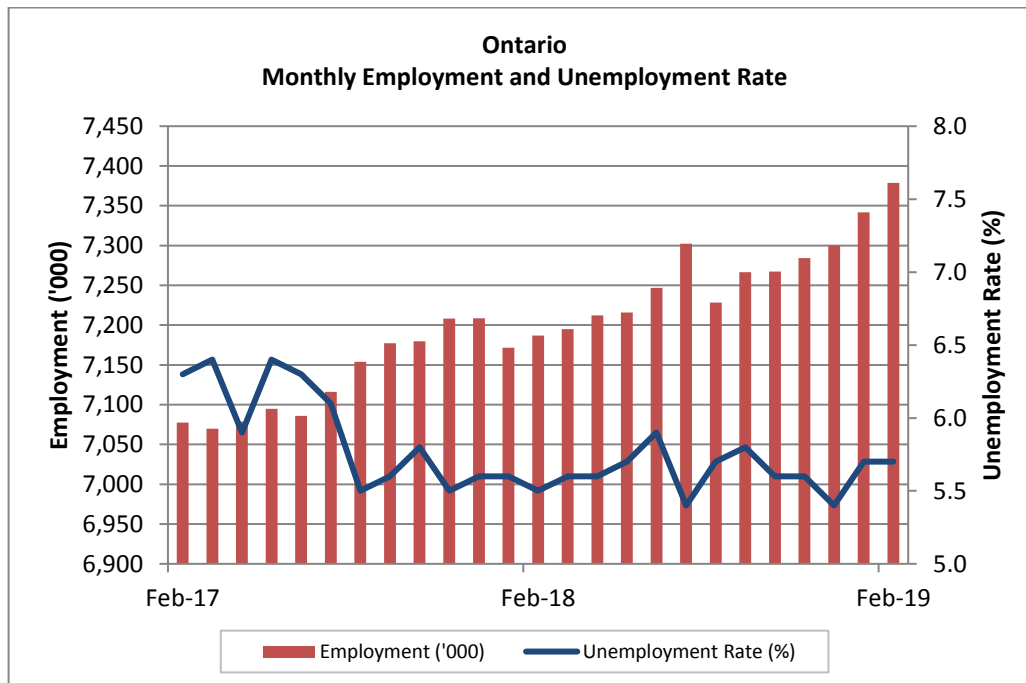
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics. Page 1. *United States Department of Labor*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>

² Bartash, J. (2019, March 8). U.S. adds meager 20,000 jobs in February to mark smallest increase in 17 months. *MarketWatch*. Inc. Retrieved from <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/us-adds-meager-20000-jobs-in-february-to-mark-smallest-increase-in-17-months-2019-03-08>

³ Statistics Canada. Table 12-10-0011-01 International merchandise trade for all countries and by Principal Trading Partners, monthly (x 1,000,000).

⁴ Statistics Canada. Canadian international merchandise trade, December 2018. Page 2. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190306/dq190306a-eng.pdf>



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.7	5.7	5.5	0.0	0.2
25 years and over	4.6	4.7	4.5	-0.1	0.1
Men - 25 years and over	4.7	4.9	4.3	-0.2	0.4
Women - 25 years and over	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-0.1
15 to 24 years	11.9	12.3	11.9	-0.4	0.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.3	13.5	13.5	-0.2	-0.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.3	10.8	10.1	-0.5	0.2

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment increased in goods-producing sector owing mainly to an upswing in construction

Employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector increased by 13,000 (+0.9%) in February 2019. Nearly all of the increase was attributed to the rise in employment in construction (+18,300; +3.5%) with a small growth observed in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+800; +2.3%). Monthly employment declines were observed in manufacturing (-2,900; -0.4%), utilities (-2,800; -4.9%) and agriculture (-300; -0.4%).

Employment grew in **construction** in February. Several large-scale non-residential projects were also announced during the month, notably, the \$50M smart grid system to be developed in Sault Ste. Marie by PUC Distribution Inc. and Infrastructure Energy,⁵ the \$15M plant to be built by Imtex Membranes Corp. in Sarnia,⁶ and the \$30M expansion of the KF Aerospace facility at the Hamilton International Airport.⁷ Additionally, the Government of Ontario announced investments in projects, such as \$50M to the Thames Valley District School Board to fund renovations at several schools including the Kettle Creek Public School in Port Stanley,⁸ \$7.2M to Kingston Health Sciences Centre for improvements to Kingston General Hospital and Hotel Dieu Hospital,⁹ close to \$2M to Lakeridge Health for upgrades to the Ajax-Pickering General Hospital,¹⁰ and \$495K for the expansion of the Parry Sound Area Municipal Airport.¹¹

There was also some good news for residential construction as the federal government announced several investments including \$60M in a 308-unit housing project in Ajax,¹² \$4.4M in a 54-unit housing project in London,¹³ \$2.9M for 34 housing units in Woodstock,¹⁴ and \$10M to repair and build homes in Cat Lake First Nation.¹⁵

⁵ Della-Mattia, E. (2019, February 11). Feds provide PUC with \$11.8 million for first-of-its-kind Smart Grid project. *The Sault Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/feds-provide-puc-with-11-8-million-for-first-of-its-kind-smart-grid-project>

⁶ Irwin, M. (2019, February 6). Sarnia lands another demonstration plant. *BlackburnNews.com* Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2019/02/06/sarnia-lands-another-demonstration-plant/>

⁷ Michaels, K. (2019, February 15). KF Aerospace expands in Ontario. *Kelowna Capital News*. Retrieved from <https://www.kelownacapnews.com/news/kf-aerospace-expands-in-ontario/>

⁸ Constituency Office of Jeff Yurek. (2019, February 1). Addition and Renovation Supports Growing Community at Kettle Creek Public School. *Port Stanley News*. Retrieved from http://www.portstanleynews.com/details/headline.aspx?menu=lap-top_news_news_improved-school-facilities-in-port-stanley

⁹ Pereira, J. (2019, February 5). KHSC receives \$6.8 million for infrastructure upgrades. *Kingston General Hospital*. Retrieved from <http://www.kgh.on.ca/kghconnect/news/khsc-receives-68-million-infrastructure-upgrades>

¹⁰ Durham Radio News Staff. (2019, February 1). \$2-million dollar infrastructure boost for Lakeridge Health's Ajax Pickering site. *Durham Radio News*. Retrieved from <http://www.durhamradionews.com/archives/116731>

¹¹ Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. (2019, February 14). Ontario Supporting Economic Development in Parry Sound. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/02/ontario-supporting-economic-development-in-parry-sound.html>

¹² Durham Radio News Staff. (2019, February 11). Feds investing \$60-million into affordable housing building in Ajax. *Durham Radio News*. Retrieved from <http://www.durhamradionews.com/archives/116937>

¹³ De Bono, N. (2019, February 11). London affordable housing gets \$4.4 million in federal support. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/london-affordable-housing-gets-4-4-million-in-federal-support>

¹⁴ Colgan, G. (2019, February 11). Affordable housing project receives \$2.9M. *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/news/local-news/affordable-housing-project-receives-2-9m>

¹⁵ Canadian Press. (2019, February 25). Feds promise \$10 million for housing for troubled Cat Lake First Nation. *Sudbury.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/feds-promise-10-million-for-housing-for-troubled-cat-lake-first-nation-1260760>

Yet on the negative side, there was a significant decline in housing starts. Compared to the previous month, housing starts decreased by 21.8% in February 2019, and was down by a hefty 44.3% in contrast to February 2018.¹⁶

Employment in **manufacturing** declined in February 2019. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 52.6 in February, indicating the slowest improvement in business conditions since December 2016. This could be attributed to a weaker rate of job creation and stagnating pre-production inventories. However, Ontario did show a stronger improvement in business conditions overall compared to other provinces.¹⁷

February was marked by announcements of major layoffs in the sector, with the Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie region being particularly hard hit. This included the shuttering of Erwin Hymer Group North America's recreational vehicle manufacturing plants in Cambridge and Kitchener, affecting about 900 workers,¹⁸ and the lay off of about 150 employees by North Inc. in Kitchener.¹⁹ The manufacturing sector experienced losses in other parts of the province as well. This included Dart Container Corporation's announcement that it will be closing its Campbellford plant by September 2019 affecting about 50 employees,²⁰ and Cascades Inc.'s planned closure of its sites in Whitby and Scarborough impacting about 68 workers.²¹

There were positive job creation news that may help to offset some of the effects of these losses. Conavi Medical Inc. received about \$3.9M in federal funding to expand its Toronto facility, creating about 61 full-time jobs.²² Additionally, Rapid Dose Therapeutics,²³ and SodaStream Canada²⁴ are expecting to create jobs in Burlington and Mississauga, respectively, in the near future.

Employment conditions were stronger in the goods-producing sector when compared year-over-year with an increase of 14,900 (+1.0%). Industry gains were led by construction (+19,500; +3.7%) while the manufacturing industry was the only sector that experienced a decrease year-over-year (-12,700; -1.6%).

¹⁶ Statistics Canada. (2019, February 8). [Table: 34-10-0158-01](#) (formerly CANSIM 027-0054). Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, all areas, Canada and provinces, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, monthly (x 1,000).

¹⁷ Trading Economics Staff. (2019, March 1). Canada Manufacturing PMI. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

¹⁸ Rubin, J. (2019, February 15). Cambridge RV maker Erwin Hymer shuts plant, 900 lose jobs. *The Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2019/02/15/rv-maker-erwin-hymer-closes-doors.html>

¹⁹ Davis, B. (2019, February 22). Federal government freezes investment in wake of North Inc. layoffs. *The Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9188735-federal-government-freezes-investment-in-wake-of-north-inc-layoffs/>

²⁰ Campbell, J. (2019, February 28). Huge blow for Campbellford — Dart Cup is leaving town. *Brighton Independent*. Retrieved from <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/9198568-huge-blow-for-campbellford-dart-cup-is-leaving-town/>

²¹ The Canadian Press. (2019, February 28). Cascades closing two tissue paper machines in Ontario, reports fourth-quarter loss. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-cascades-closing-two-tissue-paper-machines-in-ontario-reports-fourth/>

²² Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario. (2019, February 13). FedDev Ontario supports cutting-edge technologies to benefit cardiovascular patients worldwide. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/02/feddev-ontario-supports-cutting-edge-technologies-benefit-cardiovascular-patients-world-wide.html>

²³ Peesker, S. (2019, February 21). Burlington's Rapid Dose makes cannabis that melts in your mouth. *InsideHalton.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/9186634-burlington-s-rapid-dose-makes-cannabis-that-melts-in-your-mouth/>

²⁴ Newport, A. (2019, February 27). SodaStream Opening Brand New Facility in Mississauga. *Insauga*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/sodastream-opening-brand-new-facility-in-mississauga>

Professional, scientific and technical services led employment growth in the services-producing sector

Employment increased in the services-producing sector by 23,900 (+0.4%) in February 2019, with the largest contributions to the net gain coming from the professional, scientific and technical services sector (+14,000; 2.1%), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+9,600; +1.7%), public administration (+8,600, +2.4%), wholesale and retail trade (+8,100; +0.7%), and information, culture and recreation (+6,800; +2.3%). In contrast, the accommodation and food services sector (-9,100; -2.0%), transportation and warehousing sector (-8,400; -2.1%), and other services sector (-8,700; -2.9%) observed the largest losses.

In **retail trade**, two major players announced closures that will create a significant impact on employment in the sector in the coming months. The Hudson's Bay Company announced that it will close all 37 of its Canadian Home Outfitters stores by the end of 2019, 17 of which are located in Ontario,²⁵ while Payless ShoeSource Canada Inc. will be closing all of its 248 stores in Canada, affecting 119 locations in Ontario. These closures are expected to impact up to 3,000 workers in the retail sector across the country, most of whom will be in Toronto.²⁶

The **transportation and warehousing** sector also received disappointing news as Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. announced that it will close its cabin crew base in Toronto, potentially affecting about 120 employees.²⁷ However, some good news came with Gordon Food Service announcing that it is building a 342,000 square foot warehouse in Ajax that will create about 300 jobs when it opens in 2020.²⁸

Employment in the **arts, entertainment and recreation** sector will also be boosted with the hiring of 100 new workers by Gateway Casinos & Entertainment in Chatham.²⁹ The **information and cultural** sector will also enjoy a major influx of jobs from Netflix Inc., which announced that it will establish a dedicated production hub in Toronto and expects to create 1,850 jobs per year.³⁰

Year-over-year, employment in the services-producing sector grew by 176,800 (+3.1%). The strongest annual gains were observed in professional, scientific, and technical services (+44,100; +7.1%), health care and social assistance (+35,700; +4.2%), educational services (+35,100; +6.9%), and transportation and warehousing (+32,100; +8.8%). The only declines in employment were observed in information, culture and recreation (-26,800; -8.2%) and accommodation and food services (-15,900; -3.4%).

²⁵ Evans, P. (2019, February 21). HBC shutting all 37 Home Outfitters stores across Canada. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/hbc-home-outfitters-1.5028740>

²⁶ Evans, P. (2019, February 19). Payless seeks creditor protection, plans to close stores in U.S. and Canada. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/payless-shoe-stores-1.5024739>

²⁷ Park, K. (2019, February 12). Cathay Pacific to close crew base in Toronto as part of revamp, could affect 125 workers. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <https://business.financialpost.com/transportation/airlines/cathay-pacific-to-close-crew-base-in-toronto-as-part-of-revamp>

²⁸ Pfeiffer, R. (2019, February 19). What's Going On Here: Gordon Food Service warehouse. *DurhamRegion.com* Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/9174992-what-s-going-on-here-gordon-food-service-warehouse/>

²⁹ Shreve, E. (2019, February 5). Casino opening could be part of Canada Day celebrations in Chatham. *The Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/local-news/casino-opening-could-be-part-of-canada-day-celebrations-in-chatham>

³⁰ Ahearn, V. (2019, February 19). Netflix announces creation of production hub in Toronto. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/netflix-announces-creation-of-production-hub-in-toronto-227158/>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7,378.80	7341.9	7,187.10	36.9	0.5	191.7	2.7
Goods-producing sector	1,468.00	1455	1,453.10	13.0	0.9	14.9	1.0
Agriculture	71.3	71.6	67.4	-0.3	-0.4	3.9	5.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.2	35.4	33.5	0.8	2.3	2.7	8.1
Utilities	54.2	57	52.6	-2.8	-4.9	1.6	3.0
Construction	541.4	523.1	521.9	18.3	3.5	19.5	3.7
Manufacturing	765	767.9	777.7	-2.9	-0.4	-12.7	-1.6
Services-producing sector	5,910.80	5886.9	5,734.00	23.9	0.4	176.8	3.1
Trade	1,097.80	1089.7	1,073.80	8.1	0.7	24.0	2.2
Transportation and warehousing	398.6	407	366.5	-8.4	-2.1	32.1	8.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	574.4	564.8	553.2	9.6	1.7	21.2	3.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	669.4	655.4	625.3	14.0	2.1	44.1	7.1
Business, building and other support services	329.5	326.9	314.8	2.6	0.8	14.7	4.7
Educational services	541.7	538.2	506.6	3.5	0.7	35.1	6.9
Health care and social assistance	882.9	886	847.2	-3.1	-0.3	35.7	4.2
Information, culture and recreation	299.5	292.7	326.3	6.8	2.3	-26.8	-8.2
Accommodation and food services	453.2	462.3	469.1	-9.1	-2.0	-15.9	-3.4
Other services	292.6	301.3	288.8	-8.7	-2.9	3.8	1.3
Public administration	371.1	362.5	362.5	8.6	2.4	8.6	2.4

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 and Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie continue to dominate provincial employment growth

Employment grew by 65,500 (+1.9%) in the **Toronto** economic region between February 2018 and February 2019 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). Gains were made in both full-time (+28,100), and part-time employment (+37,500). The regional unemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 5.9%, and labour force participation remained stable.

Several construction projects continued to support employment growth in the region, including ongoing work at The Well, a mixed-use development in downtown Toronto.³¹ Construction also started at the site of Edge Towers condominiums in Mississauga,³² and two high-rise residential towers in downtown Brampton.³³ In addition, PCL Construction and BEUMER Group started work on upgrading Toronto Pearson International Airport's baggage-handling operations.³⁴ Further, Toronto's technology base will be strengthened with Adastra Corp., a data management and analytics firm, planning to open an office in downtown Toronto,³⁵ and Drone Delivery Canada launching a Commercial Operations Centre in Vaughan in 2019.³⁶ Other notable announcements in the region include Entrepreneurship Discovery and Growth Engine (EDGE) at Sheridan College in Mississauga receiving \$1.5M in federal funding to provide a broader range of support services, creating and maintaining about 70 jobs in the community.³⁷

Employment increased by 48,700 (+7.0%) in the **Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie** economic region and the unemployment rate fell from 5.0% to 4.0% over the past year, the lowest rate in Ontario. Construction activities were

³¹ Toneguzzi, M. (2019, February 07). 'The Well' to Transform Downtown Toronto Neighbourhood. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/2/the-well-to-transform-downtown-toronto-neighbourhood>

³² Landau, J. (2019, February 11). Solmar Breaks Ground for Edge Towers in Mississauga. *Urban Toronto*. Retrieved from <http://urbantoronto.ca/news/2019/02/solmar-breaks-ground-edge-towers-mississauga>

³³ Douglas, P. (2019, February 24). What's going on here? 2 highrise apartment buildings under construction, 45 Railroad St. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/9189440-what-s-going-on-here-2-highrise-apartment-buildings-under-construction-45-railroad-st/>

³⁴ BEUMER Group. (2019, February 01). Beumer-PCL Awarded GTAA Baggage 2025 Master Agreement. *AviationPros.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.aviationpros.com/airports/press-release/21045384/beumer-group-beumerpcl-awarded-gtaa-baggage-2025-master-agreement>

³⁵ EP&T Magazine. (2019, February 03). Innovation hub for intrapreneurship opens in Toronto. EP&T, *Electronic Products and Technology*. Retrieved from <https://www.ept.ca/2019/02/innovation-hub-for-intrapreneurship-opens-in-toronto/>

³⁶ Al-Shibeeb, D. (2019, February 06). Drone Delivery Canada eyes Q3 to officially operate new Vaughan facility. *YorkRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9163072-drone-delivery-canada-eyes-q3-to-officially-operate-new-vaughan-facility/>

³⁷ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2019, February 11). Government of Canada Supports Innovation Hub in Mississauga. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-supports-innovation-hub-in-mississauga.html>

robust in the region with the start of development of a new \$17M French-language public high school in Kitchener,³⁸ and with work also underway at Rizzaro Health and Wellness Centre in Innisfil,³⁹ and at the Village at University Gates, a long-term care community in Waterloo.⁴⁰ In addition, Majorel, formally Arvato, is looking to fill 70 positions at its customer service centre in Waterloo.⁴¹ On the negative side, North Inc., a designer of high-tech eyewear in Kitchener, laid off about 150 employees.⁴²

The **Northeast** economic region saw a year-over-year increase in employment of 13,800 (+5.8%) in February 2019. The region's unemployment rate declined by 0.7 percentage points to 6.0%, but is the second highest in Ontario. There were several positive announcements, notably with employers in the City of Sault Ste. Marie looking to fill nearly 300 jobs, about 250 of them with Algoma Steel.⁴³ Meanwhile, Killarney Mountain Lodge and The Sportsman's Inn are also hiring approximately 80 positions for the summer season.⁴⁴ In other news, PCL Construction opened an office in Sudbury,⁴⁵ construction started on the Off the Street emergency shelter and a harm reduction home for the Sudbury/Manitoulin branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association,⁴⁶ the provincial government is investing over \$1.3M to support the film and television industry,⁴⁷ and the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board is planning to add 266 childcare spaces.⁴⁸

Employment in the **Ottawa** economic region increased by 12,200 (+1.7%), due to gains in full-time employment (+19,000). The unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points to 4.8%. Ottawa's research hub continues to

³⁸ Outhit, J. (2019, February 22). Et voila! Construction starts on long-awaited French high school. *KitchenerPost.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenerpost.ca/news-story/9187528-et-voil-construction-starts-on-long-awaited-french-high-school/>

³⁹ MacDonald, S. (2019, February 13). Giving the Rizzardo Health and Wellness Centre a checkup. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/9166230-giving-the-rizzardo-health-and-wellness-centre-a-checkup/>

⁴⁰ Jackson, B. (2019, February 05). What's Going on Here: Construction continues at Schlegel Villages at University Gates. *WaterlooChronicle.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.waterloochronicle.ca/news-story/9160938-what-s-going-on-here-construction-continues-at-schlegel-villages-at-university-gates/>

⁴¹ Waterloo Region Record. (2019, February 26). Customer service provider rebrands, adds jobs in Waterloo. *TheRecord.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9194818-customer-service-provider-rebrands-adds-jobs-in-waterloo/>

⁴² Davis, B. (2019, February 22). Federal government freezes investment in wake of North Inc. layoffs. *TheRecord.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9188735-federal-government-freezes-investment-in-wake-of-north-inc-layoffs/>

⁴³ The Canadian Press. (2019, February 06). Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., looking for workers to fill hundreds of jobs. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/sault-ste-marie-ont-looking-for-workers-to-fill-hundreds-of-jobs-1.4285695>

⁴⁴ McKenzie, J. (2019, February 08). Destination Killarney hopes to hire 80 seasonal employees for summer. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/destination-killarney-hire-employees-1.5010111>

⁴⁵ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2019, February 13). Construction firm PCL opens Sudbury office. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sudbury/construction-firm-pcl-opens-sudbury-office-1241526>

⁴⁶ Sudbury Star Staff. (2019, February 05). Work on shelter in downtown Sudbury begins. *The Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/work-on-shelter-in-downtown-sudbury-begins>

⁴⁷ Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. (2019, February 22). Ontario Supporting Northern Film and Television Industry. *Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/02/ontario-supporting-northern-film-and-television-industry-1.html>

⁴⁸ BayToday Staff. (2019, February 06). Childcare wait times to be slashed. *BayToday.ca*. Retrieved from <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/childcare-wait-times-to-be-slashed-1228255>

expand with the Government of Canada and BlackBerry jointly investing \$350M to support autonomous vehicle development that will create 800 new jobs and maintain 300 positions in the next 10 years.⁴⁹

Employment also grew in the **London, Kingston—Pembroke, Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula** and **Windsor** economic regions.

Employment declined in three economic regions in Ontario in February

The **Stratford—Bruce Peninsula** economic region posted the largest employment decrease (-14,700, -9.5%) in Ontario between February 2018 and February 2019. In more positive news, Bruce Power continues to play a highly significant role in the region as 45 companies have opened offices or manufacturing facilities in Bruce, Grey and Huron Counties in anticipation of the Unit 6 Major Component Replacement Project, which is expected to begin in January 2020.^{50,51}

Employment also declined in the **Muskoka—Kawarthas**, and **Northwest** economic regions.

⁴⁹ CBC News Staff. (2019, February 15). BlackBerry, federal government pour \$350M into autonomous cars. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/blackberry-funding-government-autonomous-vehicles-1.5020137>

⁵⁰ Scongack, J. (2019, February 26). Community Matters: 300 days until Unit 6 Major Component Replacement Project begins. *Kincardine Times*. Retrieved from <https://kincardinetimes.com/community-matters-300-days-until-unit-6-major-component-replacement-project-begins/>

⁵¹ Dunn, S. (2019, February 20). Another Bruce Power supplier in Owen Sound. *Owen Sound Sun Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/another-bruce-power-supplier-in-owen-sound>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2019 ('000)	February 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2019 (%)	February 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,286.50	7,125.80	2.3	5.4	5.4	0.0
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	714	701.8	1.7	4.8	5.2	-0.4
Kingston—Pembroke	212.5	201.8	5.3	5.6	4	1.6
Muskoka—Kawarthas	172.1	173.2	-0.6	6.5	6.1	0.4
Toronto	3,560.90	3,495.40	1.9	5.9	5.4	0.5
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	741.3	692.6	7.0	4	5	-1.0
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	757.3	748.2	1.2	4.6	5.3	-0.7
London	334.6	322.8	3.7	5	6.2	-1.2
Windsor—Sarnia	303.4	298.5	1.6	5.8	4.8	1.0
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	140.4	155.1	-9.5	5.6	4.5	1.1
Northeast	250.2	236.4	5.8	6	6.7	-0.7
Northwest	99.7	100.1	-0.4	5.4	5.5	-0.1

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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