



# Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

September 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 in the third quarter of 2019

- Employment grew by 43,833 in Ontario in the third quarter of 2019
- Full-time work accounted for all employment gains
- The unemployment rate remained unchanged from the previous quarter, staying at 5.5%
- The unemployment rate for Ontario's youth aged 15 to 24 increased to 12.9%

Employment in Ontario rose by 43,833 (+0.6%) between the second and third quarters of 2019. All of the gains in employment were observed in full-time work (+47,400; 0.8%), which offset all losses in part-time employment (-3,600; -0.3%) during this period. Sitting at 5.5%, the unemployment rate remained unchanged from last quarter. The quarterly employment rate and participation rate also remained virtually unchanged over the period.

Youth employment declined in Ontario by 23,333 (-2.4%) in the third quarter of 2019 with both part-time and full-time employment registering losses. All of these employment losses were concentrated among male youth (-16,700; -3.2%) while their female counterparts experienced employment gains (8,267; +1.7%) during this period. Employment losses were accompanied by an increase in the unemployment rate (+1.1 percentage points) and declines in both the employment rate (-1.5 percentage points) and participation rate (-0.9 percentage points). Over the past year, estimates show somewhat steady employment conditions for youth with employment gains of 9,433 (+1.0%) and an increase in the participation rate from 60.1% in the third quarter of 2018 to 60.8% in the third quarter of 2019. However, the unemployment rate also increased over the same period. Nationally, the youth unemployment rate stood at 11.6%.

Employment grew by 55,533 (+0.3%) in Canada in the third quarter of 2019 with the majority of the gains being observed in full-time work (+52,900; 0.3%). Six provinces reported quarterly declines in employment with British Columbia registering the largest losses. This quarter's largest employment gains were observed in Ontario, fol-

lowed closely by Quebec. The national unemployment rate inched up to 5.6% this quarter while both the employment and participation rates dropped, albeit slightly, for the first time this year. Average hourly wages rose by 4.3% in Canada between September 2018 and September 2019.<sup>1</sup>

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 136,000 in the United States in September 2019 and the unemployment rate declined to 3.5%. This brings the monthly average gains to 161,000, well below the average monthly gain of 223,000 in 2018. Employment gains were driven by health care, professional and business services and government. Average hourly earnings stood at \$28.09 in September, remaining almost unchanged from last month, after rising by 11 cents in August.<sup>2</sup>

The provincial labour market has continued to hold strong over the last twelve months bolstered by employment gains of 210,400 (+2.8%) between the third quarters of 2018 and 2019. Gains were observed in both full-time (+172,333; +2.9%) and part-time (+34,400; +2.6%) employment. The unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 5.5% and the participation rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 65.1% during this period.

Throughout the summer months, Statistics Canada collects labour market data on youth aged 15 to 24 who attended school full-time in March and who intend to return to school full-time in autumn.<sup>3</sup> Student summer employment increased by 52,100 (10.3%) in Ontario between August 2018 and August 2019. The unemployment rate for returning students rose by 0.5 percentage points to 12.7% over the same period. This was just below the national rate of 12.8%. The participation and employment rates for Ontario summer students rose to 60.3%, and 52.6% respectively, indicating some ease in securing work. However, there may have been some difficulty for the youngest student cohort (15-16 years old) finding positions, as employment (-400) and the employment rate (-1.1 percentage points) decreased over the year. Overall, labour market conditions for the summer job market have improved for all student cohorts as full-time employment grew every month, and both unemployment and the unemployment rate dipped considerably between July and August.

### Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally adjusted data	3rd Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	12,163.8	12,094.4	11,929.7	69.4	0.6	234.1	2.0
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	7,911.4	7,863.1	7,701.0	48.3	0.6	210.4	2.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	7,472.5	7,428.7	7,265.8	43.8	0.6	206.7	2.8
Full-Time ('000)	6,090.4	6,043.0	5,918.1	47.4	0.8	172.3	2.9
Part-Time ('000)	1,382.1	1,385.7	1,347.7	-3.6	-0.3	34.4	2.6
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	438.8	434.4	435.2	4.4	1.0	3.6	0.8
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.5	5.5	5.6	0.0	-	-0.1	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	65.1	65.0	64.6	0.1	-	0.5	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	61.4	61.4	60.9	0.0	-	0.5	-

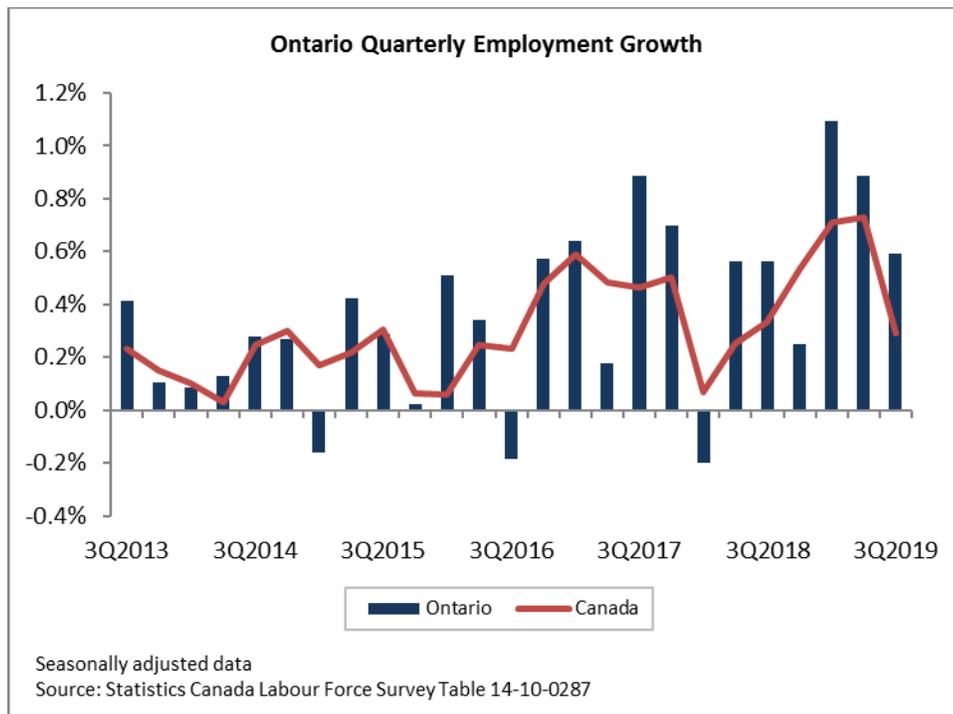
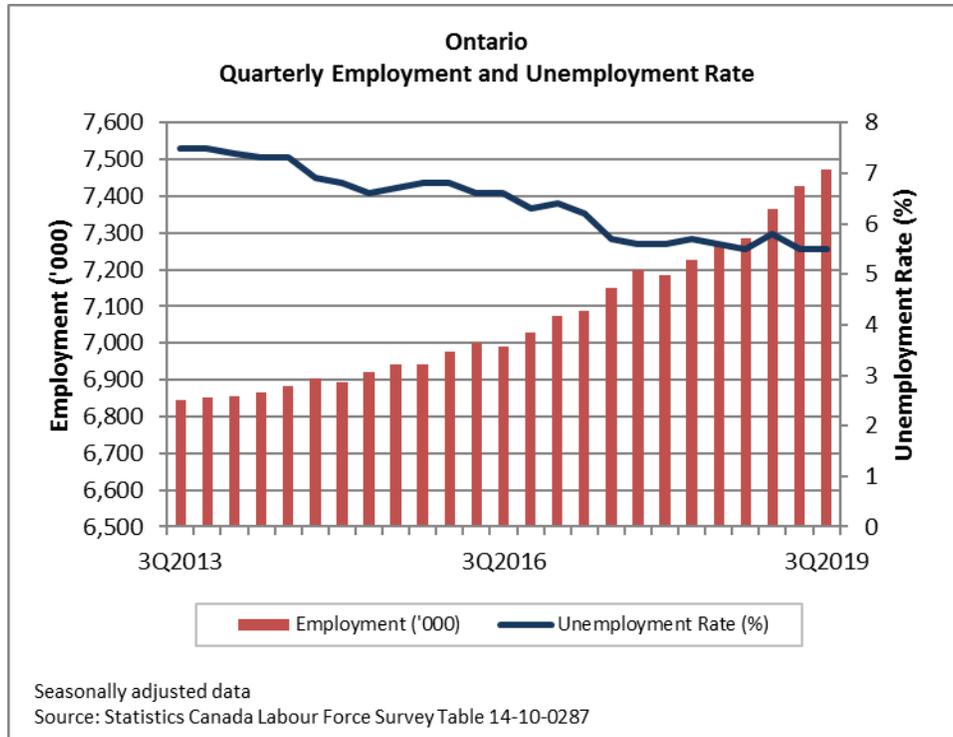
*Note:* Totals may not add due to rounding

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

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0320-01 Average usual hours and wages by selected characteristics, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality, last 5 months (x 1,000)

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019, October 04). Employment Situation Summary. *United States Department of Labor*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0286-03 Labour force characteristics by province and type of student during summer months, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality



## Ontario Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally adjusted data	3rd Quarter 2019 (%)	2nd Quarter 2019 (%)	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.5	5.5	5.7	0.0	-0.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.4	4.5	4.7	-0.1	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	4.4	4.6	4.5	-0.2	-0.1
Women - 25 years and over	4.4	4.4	4.8	0.0	-0.4
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.6	11.8	11.6	0.8	1.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.7	12.0	12.1	1.7	1.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.4	11.5	11.1	-0.1	0.3

*Note:* Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## A look at labour market conditions for Ontario's Indigenous Peoples

In the third quarter (Q3) of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in Ontario was approximately 12.2 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 2.2% of that, or 266,300 people. Employment among Indigenous people in Ontario was 147,800, an increase of +2,400 (+1.7%) from a year earlier (Q3 2018). Growth in full-time positions accounted for this increase (+4,500 or +3.9%), offsetting a decline in part-time positions (-2,100 or -6.9%).

In Q3 2019, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population increased 2.1 percentage points from a year earlier to 11.0%. The unemployment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population decreased to 5.8% (-0.2pp). The participation rate of the Indigenous population increased slightly to 62.4% (+0.1pp) year-over-year, while that of the non-Indigenous population edged up to 65.8% (+0.5pp). The employment rate among Indigenous people decreased from the previous year to 55.5% (-1.3pp), and it increased for the non-Indigenous population to 62.0% (+0.6pp).

## Ontario - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q3 2019	Q3 2018	number	%	Q3 2019	Q3 2018	number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	266.3	256.1	10.2	4.0	11,897.5	11,673.5	224.0	1.9
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	166.1	159.7	6.4	4.0	7,832.5	7,620.4	212.1	2.8
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	147.8	145.4	2.4	1.7	7,381.7	7,166.9	214.8	3.0
<b>Full-Time ('000)</b>	119.6	115.1	4.5	3.9	6,095.0	5,931.5	163.5	2.8
<b>Part-Time ('000)</b>	28.2	30.3	-2.1	-6.9	1,286.6	1,235.4	51.2	4.1
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	18.3	14.3	4.0	28.0	450.9	453.5	-2.6	-0.6
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	11.0	8.9	2.1	-	5.8	6.0	-0.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	62.4	62.3	0.1	-	65.8	65.3	0.5	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	55.5	56.8	-1.3	-	62.0	61.4	0.6	-

*Notes:* The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

*Source:* Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

### The goods-producing sector observed a fall in employment between Q2 2019 and Q3 2019

Employment in the Ontario **goods-producing** sector fell by 5,200 (-0.4%) between the second quarter and the third quarter of 2019. This was the first quarterly decrease in the goods-producing sector's employment since the third quarter of 2018. The manufacturing sector posted the largest drop (-8,900; -1.2%) among the sector, while utilities (-3,200; -5.6%) also posted a notable decrease. The construction sector posted a gain in employment of 3,200 (+0.6%) over the quarter, as did agriculture (+1,700; +0.2%), and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+2,000; +6.1%).

The Ontario **manufacturing** sector contracted in the third quarter, with employment decreasing by 8,900, after a gain of 7,400 the previous quarter. Quarterly employment in Ontario manufacturing has fallen in five of the last seven quarters, as manufacturing sales in Ontario have fallen in two of the previous three quarters. This likely reflects the ever-shifting nature of the Ontario workforce into a service-oriented economy, which is evidenced by manufacturing employment remaining relatively flat over the last decade while the provincial workforce has continued to expand.

The biggest layoff news to hit Ontario manufacturing this quarter came from Bombardier Inc., which announced that it would be terminating about 550 employees at its Thunder Bay rail-car plant.<sup>4</sup> The layoffs were attributed to a lack of new contracts or orders beyond 2019, once orders from Metrolinx GO Transit and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) have been completed. In September, a new contract agreement was signed between Metrolinx and Bombardier for the production of 36 more bi-level train cars at the Thunder Bay plant.<sup>5</sup> However, this project is not expected to change the course of the layoff plans.

The automotive manufacturing industry was marked with another round of negative news this quarter. Nematik, a manufacturer of engine blocks, announced that it is planning to cease operations in Windsor by mid-2020, affecting about 270 employees.<sup>6</sup> The closure is attributed to reduced supply needs at the GM Shanghai facility in China which Nematik supplies. As well, Ford Motor Company announced plans to lay off about 200 people at its Oakville plant starting in September 2019, with further layoffs potentially taking place in January 2020.<sup>7</sup> Ford cited declining sales of some vehicle models as the main reason for these impending job losses. Furthermore, a strike by 49,000 workers in the U.S. temporarily slowed down operations at General Motors Co. plants in Oshawa and St. Catharines, resulting in temporary layoffs at these plants.<sup>8</sup>

The wood product manufacturing sector was also hit hard this quarter with the indefinite shut down of Kenora Forest Products' sawmill production, affecting approximately 115 employees.<sup>9</sup> The company has attributed the

<sup>4</sup> Gollom, M. (2019, July 12). Bombardier job cuts raise questions on impact of Buy America Act. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/bombardier-buy-america-job-cuts-canada-1.5206922>

<sup>5</sup> Dunick, L. (2019, September 10). UPDATE: Province commits to 36 more bi-level cars. *Thunder Bay NewsWatch*. Retrieved from <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/province-commits-to-36-more-bi-level-cars-1684585>

<sup>6</sup> Windsorite.ca Staff. (2019, July 16). Nematik Announces Closure Of Windsor Plant. *Windsorite.ca*. Retrieved from <https://windsorite.ca/2019/07/nematik-announces-closure-of-windsor-plant/>

<sup>7</sup> CBC News Staff. (2019, July 19). 200 jobs on the chopping block at Ford's Oakville plant, starting in September. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ford-motors-oakville-layoffs-1.5218614>

<sup>8</sup> CBC News Staff. (2019, September 24). Thousands of Ontario autoworkers out of work as GM strike in U.S. drags on. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/gm-strike-ontario-1.5295465>

<sup>9</sup> TB NewsWatch Staff. (2019, July 19). Kenora sawmill suspends production indefinitely. *Thunder Bay NewsWatch*. Retrieved from <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/kenora-sawmill-suspends-production-indefinitely-1695344>

closure to sustained weakness in domestic and global lumber markets, as well as a 20% duty deposit on softwood exports to the United States, where it ships 90% of its output.

However, there were a number of positive news stories in Ontario manufacturing this quarter, with the Government of Canada investing \$49.9M in Stelco, to support a \$412M project that will create 75 jobs, and maintain 2,200 more in Hamilton and Lake Erie.<sup>10</sup> As well, the Government of Canada will purchase 360 light armoured vehicles from London's General Dynamic Land Systems-Canada, in a deal valued at about \$3.0B.<sup>11</sup> In addition, a significant number of manufacturing jobs were created with investments by companies such as Woodbridge Foam Corporation, which created about 110 new jobs and maintained more than 700 jobs,<sup>12</sup> and Gerdau Ameristeel, which is anticipated to create 108 jobs and maintain another 710 jobs.<sup>13</sup>

In contrast to the manufacturing sector, employment in the Ontario **construction** sector has expanded continuously, increasing consecutively over the past six quarters, with positive contributions from a steady stream of infrastructure and retail projects.

The largest project that commenced in the third quarter of 2019 was the \$1.0B rehabilitation of the Supreme Court of Canada and West Memorial Buildings in Ottawa.<sup>14</sup> Other significant infrastructure developments taking place during the third quarter include Fengate PCL Progress Partners securing a \$1.5B contract from the Government of Ontario for the Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project in Toronto, with construction expected to conclude in 2024.<sup>15</sup> In addition, Toronto Tunnel Partners started construction on two rail tunnels under Highways 401 and 409, to accommodate two additional tracks and expand GO train service on the Kitchener line.<sup>16</sup> The estimated \$116.9M project is expected to be completed by late 2021.

In energy infrastructure work, EPCOR started construction on an \$80M natural gas distribution system for Southern Bruce County, with the system expected to be fully in service by the end of 2021.<sup>17</sup> As well, Hydro One plans

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<sup>10</sup> Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2019, August 14). Minister Tassi announces investment to support almost 2,300 Canadian steel workers in southern Ontario. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/08/minister-tassi-announces-investment-to-support-almost-2300-canadian-steel-workers-in-southern-ontario.html>

<sup>11</sup> Do Bono, N. (2019, August 16). Canada's buy of London-made military vehicles doesn't lift cloud of Saudi deal. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/business/local-business/federal-defence-officials-set-for-announcement-at-londons-general-dynamics>

<sup>12</sup> Al-Shibeeb, D. (2019, July 9). Woodbridge Foam Corporation gets \$20M to "modernize" 2 plants. *Vaughan Citizen*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9494692-woodbridge-foam-corporation-gets-20m-to-modernize-2-plants/>

<sup>13</sup> Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2019, July 26). Parliamentary Secretary O'Connell announces support for more than 818 Canadian steel workers in southern Ontario. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/07/parliamentary-secretary-oconnell-announces-support-for-more-than-818-canadian-steel-workers-in-southern-ontario.html>

<sup>14</sup> Public Services and Procurement Canada. (2019, June 28). Government of Canada to rehabilitate and green National Capital Region landmark. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2019/06/government-of-canada-to-rehabilitate-and-green-national-capital-region-landmark.html>

<sup>15</sup> Infrastructure Ontario Staff. (2019, August 09). Contract Awarded for Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project. *Infrastructure Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://www.infrastructureontario.ca/Contract-Awarded-Macdonald-Block-Reconstruction-Project/>

<sup>16</sup> Ontario Ministry of Transportation. (2019, July 26). Construction Begins for Highways 401 and 409 GO Transit Rail Tunnels. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2019/07/construction-begins-for-highways-401-and-409-go-transit-rail-tunnels.html>

<sup>17</sup> Johnson, M. (2019, July 31). Southern Bruce Gas Project Officially Underway. *Bayshore Broadcasting*. Retrieved from [http://www.radioowensound.com/news\\_item.php?NewsID=111160](http://www.radioowensound.com/news_item.php?NewsID=111160)

to replace 90 km of transmission lines in the Upper Ottawa Valley, crossing the towns of Laurentian Hills, Deep River, Petawawa, and Laurentian Valley.<sup>18</sup> Construction has also commenced in Chatham-Kent on two new natural gas transmission pipelines developed by Enbridge Gas.<sup>19</sup>

Toronto was at the center of much of the retail-related construction in the third quarter with construction commencing on the new \$116M St. Lawrence Market North Building in Toronto<sup>20</sup> and Metro Inc. beginning construction on a \$400M distribution centre in Etobicoke.<sup>21</sup> Additionally, the Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville Hotel is undergoing a \$40M transformation and rebranding into W Toronto, with completion scheduled by summer 2020.<sup>22</sup> Sudbury also received some positive news with general contractor HEIN expecting to create nearly 180 jobs during construction of the Place des Arts in downtown Sudbury, a \$30M multi-purpose facility.<sup>23</sup>

In the **utilities** sector, the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories disclosed that it will lay off 150 workers at its nuclear facility in Chalk River, as part of workforce adjustment.<sup>24</sup> This was in line with the notable decrease of 5.6% in sector's employment over the third quarter. However, some positive news did emerge for the sector, with the Government of Canada pledging \$1.8M to upgrade water, sewer, and electrical infrastructure at the Sault Ste. Marie Airport, creating an estimated 100 full-time jobs once completed.<sup>25</sup> As well, the Government of Canada awarded an \$8.5M contract to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories to refuel the low-power reactor, SLOWPOKE-2, at the Royal Military College in Kingston.<sup>26</sup>

On a year-over-year quarterly basis, employment in the goods-producing sector increased by 18,500 (+1.3%), with construction reporting the largest increase (+18,400; +3.5%). The utilities (-5,400; -9.2%) and the forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-2,000; -5.4%) sectors were the only sub-sectors to report employment losses year-over-year.

### Employment in the services-producing sector expanded robustly in the third quarter of 2019

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<sup>18</sup> Pembroke Today Staff. (2019, August 20). Hydro to replace 90 kilometres of lines in the Upper Ottawa Valley. *Pembroke Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.pembroketoday.ca/2019/08/20/hydro-to-replace-90-kilometres-of-lines-in-the-upper-ottawa-valley/>

<sup>19</sup> Borrelli, M. (2019, September 04). New natural gas pipelines expected to make life more affordable in Chatham-Kent. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/new-natural-gas-pipelines-expected-to-make-life-more-affordable-in-chatham-kent-1.4577324>

<sup>20</sup> Landau, J. (2019, August 29). Construction Finally Begins for New St. Lawrence Market North. *Urban Toronto*. Retrieved from <https://urbantoronto.ca/news/2019/08/construction-finally-begins-new-st-lawrence-market-north>

<sup>21</sup> Canadian Grocer Staff. (2019, September 23). Metro starts construction on Ontario distribution facilities. *Canadian Grocer*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadiangrocer.com/top-stories/headlines/metro-starts-construction-on-ontario-distribution-facilities-89762>

<sup>22</sup> Hotelier Staff. (2019, September 05). W Hotels brand to debut in Toronto. *Hotelier*. Retrieved from <https://www.hoteliermagazine.com/w-hotels-brand-to-debut-in-toronto/>

<sup>23</sup> Sudbury Star Staff. (2019, August 05). Construction of Place des arts begins in earnest this week. *Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/construction-of-place-des-arts-begins-in-earnest-this-week>

<sup>24</sup> Pembroke Observer Staff. (2019, July 09). CNL laying off 150 employees at Chalk River site as part of workforce adjustment. *Pembroke Observer*. Retrieved from <https://www.thewhig.com/news/local-news/cnl-laying-off-150-employees-at-chalk-river-site-as-part-of-workforce-adjustment/wcm/3841e63a-6ce8-4041-b19d-7578322fb9e4>

<sup>25</sup> Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2019, August 26). Expansion planned for Sault airport. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/expansion-planned-for-sault-airport-1658616>

<sup>26</sup> Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Staff. (2019, July 08). Government of Canada contracts CNL for project that will extend operating life of research reactor by another 30 years. *Electric Energy Online*. Retrieved from <https://electricenergyonline.com/article/energy/category/generation/52/778525/government-of-canada-contracts-cnl-for-project-that-will-extend-operating-life-of-research-reactor-by-another-30-years.html>

The provincial **services-producing** sector reported strong gains of 49,000 (+0.8%) in employment in the third quarter of 2019. The strongest growth was observed in the health care and social assistance sector (+25,000; +2.8%), and the professional, scientific and technical services sector (+21,200; +3.2%). A few sub-sectors posted decreases in employment over the quarter, including other services (-9,200; -3.0%) and information, culture and recreation (-4,400; -1.4%).

The **health care and social assistance** sector reported strong employment growth in the third quarter 2019, in spite of the large transformative initiatives that led to a large number of layoffs over 2019. This quarter continued to be marked by layoff announcements associated with the consolidation of a number of provincial health agencies and Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and other developments in the sector.

In the social assistance sector, KidsAbility announced that it will lay off between 20 and 25 employees in Waterloo Region at the beginning of next year,<sup>27</sup> while Brant Family and Children's Services eliminated 11 positions in September.<sup>28</sup> Among hospitals, Hamilton's forensic pathology unit will be closed and moved to Toronto over the next year, affecting about 20 workers, due to modernization and efficiency measures.<sup>29</sup>

However, there were a number of new investments in the sector over the third quarter that helped propel employment, including the Government of Ontario investing \$28M to expand midwifery services in the province, supporting up to 90 new midwifery graduates and upgrading technology at the clinics.<sup>30</sup> In addition, the provincial government is investing \$6.8M to support cross-provincial newborn patient transport, and another \$5.8M to support the specialized care teams required at the four receiving children's hospitals.<sup>31</sup> As well, the Government of Ontario is investing more than \$5.1M in 2019 for mental health and addictions services in nineteen organizations in Ottawa,<sup>32</sup> and providing funding of up to \$5M to add more mental health and addictions services for Indigenous communities across Ontario. This funding will support the training of more than 700 frontline workers and provide up to 90 full time jobs.<sup>33</sup>

The **educational services** sector in Ontario has undergone significant developments over 2019 as well, with a shift in ratios for teachers and students at the secondary school level. As a result, a majority of the 72 school boards in Ontario announced surpluses, redundancies and layoffs over the summer.<sup>34</sup> However, many school boards were able to rehire a large proportion of teachers and other educational staff once the school year began. As such, the

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<sup>27</sup> Nielsen, K. (2019, July 25). KidsAbility to lay off 50 per cent off autism staff in response to Ontario funding changes. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/5684577/kidsability-autism-staff-layoffs-ontario-funding-changes/>

<sup>28</sup> Gamble, S. (2019, September 11). More staff cuts at Brant Family and Children's Services. *Brantford Expositor*. Retrieved from <https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/more-staff-cuts-at-brant-family-and-childrens-services>

<sup>29</sup> Frketch, J. (2019, July 05). Hamilton's forensic pathology unit closing as death investigations move to Toronto. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/9487907-hamilton-s-forensic-pathology-unit-closing-as-death-investigations-move-to-toronto/>

<sup>30</sup> Ministry of Health. (2019, July 08). Ontario Expanding Midwifery Services. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2019/07/ontario-expanding-midwifery-services.html>

<sup>31</sup> Ministry of Health. (2019, July 02). Helping Critically-III Newborns Access Safe and Timely Transportation in Eastern Ontario. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2019/07/helping-critically-ill-newborns-access-safe-and-timely-transportation-in-eastern-ontario.html>

<sup>32</sup> Ministry of Health. (2019, July 02). Mental Health and Addictions Funding for Ottawa. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2019/07/mental-health-and-addictions-funding-for-ottawa.html>

<sup>33</sup> Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services Staff. (2019, August 06). Ontario Adding More Mental Health and Addictions Services for Indigenous Communities. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2019/08/ontario-adding-more-mental-health-and-addiction-services-for-indigenous-communities.html>

<sup>34</sup> Collaco, C. (2019, May 01). Close to 2K jobs lost so far, says teacher tracking Ontario education cuts. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/teacher-cuts-1.5118053>

Greater Essex County District School Board in Windsor recalled nearly 99 contract teachers due to higher enrolment,<sup>35</sup> while the Windsor-Essex Catholic school board hired 26 elementary and secondary school teachers, also due to higher enrollment.<sup>36</sup> In addition, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board hired an additional 26 full-time teachers in September, for similar reasons.<sup>37</sup>

Beyond the elementary and secondary school boards, the Ontario education sector welcomed other investments. The City of Brampton announced that it will grant \$7.3M over three years towards Algoma University's \$34.4M expansion of its Brampton Campus, which is expected create 273 direct and indirect local jobs over the next decade.<sup>38</sup> However, Humber College announced that it will close its Orangeville Campus at the end of June 2021, and the college will offer new roles to full-time staff and work to identify employment opportunities for part-time and contract employees at other campuses.<sup>39</sup>

The **professional, scientific and technical services** sector reported strong gains over the third quarter of 2019. The sector received several investments this quarter including, the Government of Canada investing \$40M in Ottawa-based CBN Nano Technologies, a company researching the commercialization of technology that allows atomically precise manufacturing. About 469 jobs will be created, 364 of which will be highly skilled.<sup>40</sup> In addition, Next Generation Manufacturing Canada in Hamilton will spend \$4.3M on its gene editing reagents Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster project, expecting to create 470 jobs,<sup>41</sup> while Drop, a Toronto-based e-commerce startup, raised \$58M in funding, part of which will be used to expand the team at its Toronto office.<sup>42</sup> As well, Metrolinx awarded Icomera Canada Inc. a \$65M contract to equip its fleet of GO Transit buses and trains with wireless internet service beginning in 2020.<sup>43</sup> On the flip side, however, Kik Interactive Inc. announced that it will shut down its messaging

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<sup>35</sup> CBC News Staff. (2019, September 18). Spike in local elementary enrolment far exceeds school boards' projections. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/spike-in-enrolment-1.5287760>

<sup>36</sup> CBC News Staff. (2019, September 25). Windsor-Essex Catholic school board reports higher than forecasted enrolment numbers. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-essex-catholic-school-board-enrolment-numbers-exceed-expectations-1.5296278>

<sup>37</sup> Leitner, R. (2019, October 01). Enrolment jump adds 26 Hamilton public elementary teachers. *Hamilton News*. Retrieved from <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/9624396-enrolment-jump-adds-26-hamilton-public-elementary-teachers/>

<sup>38</sup> Frisque, G. (2019, August 21). City contributing \$7.3M for Brampton Algoma University campus expansion. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/9558516-city-contributing-7-3m-for-brampton-algoma-university-campus-expansion/>

<sup>39</sup> Humber College Staff. (2019, September 25). Humber College to close Orangeville campus as of June 2021. *Humber College*. Retrieved from <https://humber.ca/today/media-releases/humber-college-close-orangeville-campus-june-2021>

<sup>40</sup> Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2019, July 10). Minister Bains announces investment that will position Canada as global leader in nanomanufacturing. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/07/minister-bains-announces-investment-that-will-position-canada-as-global-leader-in-nanomanufacturing.html>

<sup>41</sup> Canadian Manufacturing Staff. (2019, August 22). Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster project kicks off with NGen funding. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/financing/advanced-manufacturing-supercluster-project-kicks-off-with-ngen-funding-237734/>

<sup>42</sup> Simpson, M. (2019, August 22). Drop closes \$58 million CAD Series B with eyes on accelerated growth, going public. *BetaKit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/drop-closes-58-million-cad-series-b-with-eyes-on-accelerated-growth-going-public/>

<sup>43</sup> Ministry of Transportation. (2019, September 04). Ontario Introducing Free Wi-Fi on GO Transit in 2020. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2019/09/ontario-introducing-free-wi-fi-on-go-transit-in-2020.html>

app in order to concentrate on its legal battles. This move is expected to affect about 75 employees in Kitchener, although most of them are likely being transferred to another tech firm.<sup>44</sup>

In the **trade** sector, a flat quarter led to a decrease in employment (-2,400; -0.2%) compared to the previous quarter, with retail sales in Ontario having wavered between growth and falls over the past 12 months. The most significant developments in the sector include the announcement that 50 new cannabis retail stores could potentially open across the province in October.<sup>45</sup> As well, Lush Cosmetics, a beauty and cosmetics retail brand, began hiring over 500 full-time seasonal positions at its manufacturing and distribution centres in Toronto.<sup>46</sup> However, there were some notable departures in Ontario retail trade, with Forever 21 announcing it will close all 44 of its retail stores in Canada, affecting about 1,950 workers. There are over 1,000 workers affected in the 22 Ontario locations, with the stores set to close likely after the holiday shopping season.<sup>47</sup> In addition, Zellers announced that it will be closing its last two remaining stores in Canada, located in Ottawa and Toronto, by January 2020.<sup>48</sup>

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the services-producing sector increased by 188,200 (+3.2%). The biggest contributors to these gains were health care and social assistance (+63,900; +7.5%), and professional, scientific and technical services (+57,900; +9.1%). Employment losses were observed in three sectors, namely, accommodation and food services (-14,200; -3.0%), information, culture and recreation (-11,600; -3.6%) and business, building and other support services (-7,100; -2.2%) such as waste management services and administrative services.

### Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally adjusted data ('000)	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2019	2019	2018	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	7,472.5	7,428.7	7,265.8	43.8	0.6	206.7	2.8
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	1,472.1	1,477.3	1,453.6	-5.2	-0.4	18.5	1.3
Agriculture	74.5	72.8	68.6	1.7	2.3	5.9	8.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	34.9	32.9	36.9	2.0	6.1	-2.0	-5.4
Utilities	53.6	56.8	59.0	-3.2	-5.6	-5.4	-9.2
Construction	545.2	542.0	526.8	3.2	0.6	18.4	3.5
Manufacturing	764.0	772.9	762.3	-8.9	-1.2	1.7	0.2
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	6,000.4	5,951.4	5,812.2	49.0	0.8	188.2	3.2
Trade	1,097.7	1,100.1	1,071.8	-2.4	-0.2	25.9	2.4
Transportation and warehousing	403.3	403.3	383.9	0.0	0.0	19.4	5.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	589.2	581.6	569.8	7.6	1.3	19.4	3.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	693.7	672.5	635.8	21.2	3.2	57.9	9.1
Business, building and other support services	311.9	308.3	319.0	3.6	1.2	-7.1	-2.2

<sup>44</sup> Jackson, J. (2019, September 27). Waterloo Region Kik employees could be transferred to another tech company. *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9619153-waterloo-region-kik-employees-could-be-transferred-to-another-tech-company/>

<sup>45</sup> Jones, A. (2019, July 03). Ontario is set to get 50 more cannabis stores this fall. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-cannabis-stores-1.5198257>

<sup>46</sup> Daily Hive Toronto Staff. (2019, August 22). Lush Cosmetics hiring more than 500 full-time positions in Toronto. *Daily Hive Toronto*. Retrieved from <https://dailyhive.com/toronto/lush-cosmetics-jobs-toronto>

<sup>47</sup> Evans, P. (2019, September 30). Forever 21 to close all 44 locations in Canada as retailer in bankruptcy proceedings. *CBC*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/forever-21-retail-bankruptcy-1.5302554>

<sup>48</sup> Canadian Press. (2019, September 06). Hudson's Bay to shutter last 2 Zellers stores in Toronto and Ottawa. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/zellers-last-two-stores-closing-toronto-ottawa-1.5273710>

Educational services	541.4	544.2	531.6	-2.8	-0.5	9.8	1.8
Health care and social assistance	917.9	892.9	854.0	25.0	2.8	63.9	7.5
Information, culture and recreation	307.4	311.8	319.0	-4.4	-1.4	-11.6	-3.6
Accommodation and food services	455.4	457.3	469.6	-1.9	-0.4	-14.2	-3.0
Other services	295.7	304.9	293.8	-9.2	-3.0	1.9	0.6
Public administration	386.8	374.3	363.9	12.5	3.3	22.9	6.3

**Note:** Totals may not add due to rounding

**Source:** Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table T14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

### Toronto at the helm of employment growth in Ontario in the third quarter of 2019

Employment grew by a staggering 168,600 (+4.8%) in the **Toronto** economic region between the third quarter of 2018 and 2019 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). As more people entered the workforce the regional unemployment rate declined by 0.4 percentage points to 6.2% and the participation rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to 67.6%. The region's tech sector saw an influx of job creating investments and expansions this quarter<sup>49</sup> including cybersecurity company, BioConnect, receiving \$3.9 million in federal investment to scale up operations and create 40 jobs;<sup>50</sup> Multi-Health Systems Inc. receiving \$1.8 in federal investment that is expected to create about 80 jobs;<sup>51</sup> biometric security products manufacturer Invixium, receiving \$4.5M from CIBC Innovation Banking to support its expansion plans;<sup>52</sup> \$12M in venture capital raised by software startup Nudge Rewards Inc., to grow their data science team;<sup>53</sup> and e-commerce startup Drop expanding its Toronto team using a portion of \$58M in funding it is raising.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>49</sup> DCN News Staff. (2019, July 18). Pariveda Solutions consulting firm opens Toronto office. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/economic/2019/07/pariveda-solutions-consulting-firm-opens-toronto-office>

Smith, B. (2019, June 27). FedDev Ontario invests \$5 million for new incubator lab in Markham. *IT World Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/feddev-ontario-invests-5-million-for-new-incubator-lab-in-markham/419521>

<sup>50</sup> Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2019, September 06). FedDev Ontario supports BioConnect to advance identity verification solutions worldwide. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/09/feddev-ontario-supports-bioconnect-to-advance-identity-verification-solutions-worldwide.html>

<sup>51</sup> National Research Council of Canada. (2019, August 30). Minister Ng announces \$1.8 million investment in Multi-Health Systems Inc. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/national-research-council/news/2019/08/minister-ng-announces-18-million-investment-in-multi-health-systems-inc.html>

<sup>52</sup> Kirkwood, I. (2019, July 31). Invixium raises \$4.5 million CAD in debt financing for biometric security solution. *BetaKit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/invixium-raises-4-5-million-cad-in-debt-financing-for-biometric-security-solution/>

<sup>53</sup> Simpson, M. (2019, August 16). Nudge Rewards raises \$12 million CAD. *BetaKit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/nudge-rewards-raises-12-million-cad/>

<sup>54</sup> Simpson, M. (2019, August 22). Drop closes \$58 million CAD Series B with eyes on accelerated growth, going public. *BetaKit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/drop-closes-58-million-cad-series-b-with-eyes-on-accelerated-growth-going-public/>

Toronto's construction industry welcomed a number of significant infrastructure projects,<sup>55</sup> housing developments,<sup>56</sup> and non-residential developments<sup>57</sup> this quarter. The retail sector showed similar strength with several stores opening<sup>58</sup> in the region. Notable job creation news came with Lush Cosmetics announcing that it would be

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<sup>55</sup> Ministry of Transportation. (2019, July 26). Construction Begins for Highways 401 and 409 GO Transit Rail Tunnels. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2019/07/construction-begins-for-highways-401-and-409-go-transit-rail-tunnels.html>

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Frisque, G. (2019, August 21). City contributing \$7.3M for Brampton Algoma University campus expansion. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/9558516-city-contributing-7-3m-for-brampton-algoma-university-campus-expansion/>

<sup>56</sup> DCN News Staff. (2019, July 22). Construction begins on KSquare Condos project in Scarborough. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2019/07/construction-begins-ksquare-condos-project-scarborough>

Landau, J. (2019, July 17). Ground Breaking Kicks Off Construction for Birchcliff Urban Towns. *Urban Toronto*. Retrieved from <https://urbantoronto.ca/news/2019/07/ground-breaking-kicks-construction-birchcliff-urban-towns>

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<sup>57</sup> Canadian Grocer Staff. (2019, September 23). Metro starts construction on Ontario distribution facilities. *Canadian Grocer*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadiangrocer.com/top-stories/headlines/metro-starts-construction-on-ontario-distribution-facilities-89762>

Landau, J. (2019, August 29). Construction Finally Begins for New St. Lawrence Market North. *Urban Toronto*. Retrieved from <https://urbantoronto.ca/news/2019/08/construction-finally-begins-new-st-lawrence-market-north>

Infrastructure Ontario Staff. (2019, August 09). Contract Awarded for Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://www.infrastructureontario.ca/Contract-Awarded-Macdonald-Block-Reconstruction-Project/>

Frisque, G. (2019, August 21). City contributing \$7.3M for Brampton Algoma University campus expansion. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/9558516-city-contributing-7-3m-for-brampton-algoma-university-campus-expansion/>

<sup>58</sup> Patterson, C. (2019, August 07). Drake's 'OVO' Brand Continues Canadian Store Expansion with High Profile Location. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/8/drakes-ovo-octobers-very-own-continues-canadian-store-expansion-with-high-profile-location>

Patterson, C. (2019, August 08). Luxury Brand 'TAG Heuer' to Open 1st Standalone Corporate Store in Canada. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/8/luxury-brand-tag-heuer-to-open-1st-standalone-corporate-store-in-canada>

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Grocery Business Staff. (2019, September 18). Longo's opens new Toronto-area store. *Grocery Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.grocerybusiness.ca/news/longo-s-opens-new-toronto-area-store>

hiring 500 full-time seasonal staff at its manufacturing and distribution centres,<sup>59</sup> Longo's Brothers Fruit Market creating 185 jobs at its new store in North York,<sup>60</sup> and Metro grocery opening a new store with more than 120 employees in North York.<sup>61</sup> This was overshadowed, however, by the announced closure of Forever 21's locations in Canada, several of which are located in the Toronto region.<sup>62</sup>

The region's besieged automotive manufacturing sector took another hit with the Ford Motor Company announcing plans to layoff about 200 people at its Oakville plant.<sup>63</sup> This was further exacerbated by General Motors Co. halting all production at its Oshawa plant as a result of strikes at its American plants. About 2,000 employees have been temporarily laid off at the Oshawa plant, pending the outcome of these strikes.<sup>64</sup> However, the manufacturing sector did receive multiple investments which are expected to create jobs in the region. Notably, food manufacturer La Rocca Creative Cakes Inc. is expecting to create 64 full-time jobs in its expanded facility;<sup>65</sup> Global Plas Inc. is anticipating adding 50 new jobs as it incorporates advanced robotics and automation into its operations;<sup>66</sup> and Microbix Biosystems Inc. expects to create 97 highly skilled jobs as it scales-up production at its antigen facility in Mississauga.<sup>67</sup> As well, Northern Transformer Corporation is increasing production and expects to create 32 skilled manufacturing and engineering jobs in Vaughan.<sup>68</sup>

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Patterson, C. (2019, September 24). Christian Dior opens largest flagship in North America on Toronto's Mink Mile. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/9/christian-dior-opens-largest-flagship-in-north-america-on-torontos-mink-mile>

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<sup>59</sup> DH Toronto Staff. (2019, August 22). Lush Cosmetics hiring more than 500 full-time positions in Toronto. *Daily Hive*. Retrieved from <https://dailyhive.com/toronto/lush-cosmetics-jobs-toronto>

<sup>60</sup> Loveless, D. (2019, July 29). Longo's Brothers Fruit Market Announces Latest Store Opening at Yonge Sheppard Centre. *GlobeNewswire*. Retrieved from <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/07/29/1893233/0/en/Longo-s-Brothers-Fruit-Market-Announces-Latest-Store-Opening-at-Yonge-Sheppard-Centre.html>

<sup>61</sup> Grocery Business Staff. (2019, September 11). Metro opens new store in North York, ON. *Grocery Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.grocerybusiness.ca/news/metro-opens-new-store-in-north-york-on>

<sup>62</sup> Evans, P. (2019, September 30). Forever 21 to close all 44 locations in Canada as retailer in bankruptcy proceedings. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/forever-21-retail-bankruptcy-1.5302554>

<sup>63</sup> CBC News Staff. (2019, July 19). 200 jobs on the chopping block at Ford's Oakville plant, starting in September News. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ford-motors-oakville-layoffs-1.5218614>

<sup>64</sup> Jackson, E. (2019, September 20). GM halts all vehicle production at Oshawa plant, sending another 800 workers home, as U.S. strike continues. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <https://business.financialpost.com/transportation/gm-halts-all-production-at-oshawa-plant-sending-another-800-workers-home-as-u-s-strike-continues>

<sup>65</sup> Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2019, September 05). Minister Ng announces FedDev Ontario investment to scale up food processing company. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/09/minister-ng-announces-feddev-ontario-investment-to-scale-up-food-processing-company.html>

<sup>66</sup> Manufacturing Automation Staff. (2019, August 22). Global Plas receives almost \$2.5M from feds for robotics and automation. *Annex Business Media*. Retrieved from [https://www.automationmag.com/industry-news/news/9588-global-plas-receives-almost-\\$25m-from-feds-for-robotics-and-automation](https://www.automationmag.com/industry-news/news/9588-global-plas-receives-almost-$25m-from-feds-for-robotics-and-automation)

<sup>67</sup> Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2019, July 30). FedDev Ontario supports new biotech facility in Mississauga. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/07/feddev-ontario-supports-new-biotech-facility-in-mississauga.html>

<sup>68</sup> Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2019, July 12). FedDev Ontario supports next generation of power delivery across North America. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/07/feddev-ontario-supports-next-generation-of-power-delivery-across-north-america.html>

Some layoffs dotted the quarter with Baycrest Health Sciences terminating about 150 employees,<sup>69</sup> and Ample Organics, a Toronto-based cannabis software start-up, laying off about 20 employees.<sup>70</sup>

In the **Ottawa** economic region employment increased by 54,200 (+7.6%) between the third quarters of 2018 and 2019, and the regional unemployment rate fell to 4.6%, a 0.3 percentage point decrease over the year. The region's participation increased to 68.8%, the second highest in the province and well above the provincial rate of 65.8%. The region's cannabis industry continued to flourish this quarter with Apollogreen beginning work on using industrial-scale tissue culture to produce starter plants for cannabis growers,<sup>71</sup> as well as the establishment of a new cannabis production facility in South Dundas which is expected to create 15 full-time jobs, expanding to 60 jobs in the future.<sup>72</sup> Additionally, the region is expected to gain a new licensed cannabis retail location following the results of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario's (AGCO) lottery results.<sup>73</sup>

Ottawa's research hub also saw gains with the Government of Canada investing \$40M in CBN Nano Technologies that will create about 469 jobs,<sup>74</sup> along with Rockport Networks receiving over \$2.9M for the commercialization of its high-performance network solutions, creating about 20 highly skilled jobs.<sup>75</sup>

The region's construction industry also gained several investments this quarter with the rehabilitation of the Supreme Court of Canada and West Memorial Buildings,<sup>76</sup> ongoing planning for the Ottawa Hospital's Civic Campus redevelopment project,<sup>77</sup> Canarm Ltd. expanding its Parkedale Avenue facility<sup>78</sup> and the improvement project for the Limoges Wastewater Treatment facility.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Rodrigues, B. (2019, July 11). About 150 Baycrest hospital workers let go after audit finds misuse in employee benefits. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/5483404/baycrest-hospital-toronto-terminations-resignations/>

<sup>70</sup> Simpson, M. (2019, July 25). Ample Organics makes layoffs as capital dries up in Canadian cannabis industry. *Betakit*. Retrieved from <https://betakit.com/ample-organics-makes-layoffs-as-capital-dries-up-in-canadian-cannabis-industry/>

<sup>71</sup> Dodge, A. (2019, July 20). Vars cannabis company aims to shake up industry with petri dish pot. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/cannabis-company-apollogreen-petri-dish-1.5217352>

<sup>72</sup> Hale, A.S. (2019, August 27). Cannabis production facility to open in South Dundas. *Standard-Freeholder*. Retrieved from <https://www.standard-freeholder.com/news/local-news/cannabis-production-facility-to-open-in-south-dundas/wcm/8bfa55bb-b63f-4f40-a584-77a7dc1b386b>

<sup>73</sup> Vlasveld, M. (2019, August 21). New pot shop to open on Strandherd Drive in Barrhaven. *OttawaMatters*. Retrieved from <https://www.ottawamatters.com/local-news/new-pot-shop-to-open-on-strandherd-drive-in-barrhaven-1650895>

<sup>74</sup> Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2019, July 10). Minister Bains announces investment that will position Canada as global leader in nanomanufacturing. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/07/minister-bains-announces-investment-that-will-position-canada-as-global-leader-in-nanomanufacturing.html>

<sup>75</sup> Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2019, July 29). FedDev Ontario supports commercialization of innovative Canadian networking solution. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/07/feddev-ontario-supports-commercialization-of-innovative-canadian-networking-solution.html>

<sup>76</sup> Public Services and Procurement Canada. (2019, June 28). Government of Canada to rehabilitate and green National Capital Region landmark. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2019/06/government-of-canada-to-rehabilitate-and-green-national-capital-region-landmark.html>

<sup>77</sup> Ministry of Health. (2019, July 04). Ontario Investing in Expansion of The Ottawa Hospital. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2019/07/ontario-investing-in-expansion-of-the-ottawa-hospital.html>

<sup>78</sup> Zajac, R. (2019, July 19). Canarm expansion celebrated. *The Recorder & Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.recorder.ca/news/local-news/canarm-expansion-celebrated>

<sup>79</sup> Morgan, J. (2019, July 16). \$10-million wastewater improvements underway in Limoges. *The Review*. Retrieved from <https://thereview.ca/2019/07/15/10-million-wastewater-improvements-underway-in-limoges/>

The **Kingston-Pembroke** economic region realized strong labour market activity in the third quarter. Employment surged 7,200 (+3.5%) between the third quarters of 2018 and 2019. The participation rate saw an increase of 2 percentage points to 59.0% and the region's unemployment rate bounced up to 6.5%, registering a one-percent increase year-over-year. The region's construction sector dominated the quarter with the commencement of the \$63M three year rehabilitation of the two dams on the Trent River in Quinte West; \$8.5M contract awarded to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories to refuel the low-power reactor, SLOWPOKE-2, at the Royal Military College in Kingston;<sup>80</sup> and the announced decommissioning of the White Pines Wind Farm in Prince Edward County.<sup>81</sup> Meanwhile, on the job loss front, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories announced layoffs of 150 workers at its nuclear facility in Chalk River as part of workforce adjustment<sup>82</sup> while 35 staff are expected to be laid off as Kingston Family Fun-World closes in October 2019.<sup>83</sup>

Employment grew year-over-year by 11,000 (+1.5%) in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region in the third quarter of 2019. As employment grows in the region, more people are choosing to enter the workforce, causing the participation rate to register at the highest rate among the eleven economic regions. At the same time, as more people entered the workforce and began looking for work, the unemployment rate grew by 1.2 percentage points to 5.6%. The regional manufacturing sector received a boost this quarter with Decast Ltd. creating 70 new jobs in the wake of its \$12M expansion<sup>84</sup> and packaging manufacturer E. Hofmann Plastics Inc. investing \$22.4M in robotic technology and potentially creating 25 full-time jobs in Orangeville.<sup>85</sup> The region saw robust

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<sup>80</sup> Canadian Nuclear Laboratories. (2019, July 08). Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Awarded \$8.5 Million Contract to Refuel RMC SLOWPOKE-2 Reactor - Government of Canada contracts CNL for project that will extend operating life of research reactor by another 30 years. *EE Online*. Retrieved from <https://electricenergyonline.com/article/energy/category/generation/52/778525/government-of-canada-contracts-cnll-for-project-that-will-extend-operating-life-of-research-reactor-by-another-30-years.html>

<sup>81</sup> Williams, S. (2019, September 23). White Pines Wind Farm to commence decommissioning. *The Picton Gazette*. Retrieved from <http://www.pictongazette.ca/2019/09/23/white-pines-wind-farm-to-commence-decommissioning/>

<sup>82</sup> MyFM News/Oldies 107.7 staff. (2019, July 09). Canadian Nuclear Laboratories impacted by Layoffs. Published by Pembroke Today. *Pembroke Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.pembroketoday.ca/syn/773/164675/canadian-nuclear-laboratories-impacted-by-layoffs/>

<sup>83</sup> Semple, J. (2019, August 22). Bidding a 'bittersweet' farewell to Kingston Family FunWorld. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/5801137/saying-farewell-kingston-family-funworld/>

<sup>84</sup> Pritchard, B. (2019, September 03). 'Second to none': Decast completes \$12-million expansion at Utopia facility. *Simcoe.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/9572967--second-to-none-decast-completes-12-million-expansion-at-utopia-facility/>

<sup>85</sup> Halliday, C. (2019, September 06). Orangeville manufacturer's \$22.4M robotic tech investment to create 25 new full-time jobs. *Orangeville Banner*. Retrieved from <https://www.orangeville.com/news-story/9585101-orangeville-manufacturer-s-22-4m-robotic-tech-investment-to-create-25-new-full-time-jobs/>

construction activity concentrated mostly in industrial developments,<sup>86</sup> infrastructure and residential developments,<sup>87</sup> and health and social services facilities.<sup>88</sup>

On a less positive note, Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited laid off 65 full-time unionized and several dozen non-unionized employees at its Casino Rama location in Orillia,<sup>89</sup> and the Center for International Governance Innovation laid off 21 employees in Waterloo.<sup>90</sup>

The **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region saw employment gains of 16,500 (+2.2%) in the third quarter of 2019. The unemployment rate improved in the region, decreasing from 6.2% to 5.4% year-over-year, and the participation rate remained stable. This quarter brought some positive news for the regional manufacturing industry with the provincial government investing \$49.9M in Stelco, which is expected to create 75 jobs and maintain 2,200 jobs in Hamilton and Lake Erie;<sup>91</sup> and pet food producer Big Country Raw opening a facility in Smithville,

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<sup>86</sup> Davis, B. (2019, July 12). ATS Automation expanding its Cambridge headquarters. *Waterloo Region Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/9497127-ats-automation-expanding-its-cambridge-headquarters/>  
Minto Express Staff. (2019, July 25). Snobelen Farms announces state-of-the-art seed facility will be built in Palmerston. *Minto Express*. Retrieved from <https://www.southwesternontario.ca/news-story/9519621-snobelen-farms-announces-state-of-the-art-seed-facility-will-be-built-in-palmerston/>

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. (2019, July 02). Ontario Takes Action to Build Competitiveness in the Pork Sector. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/omafra/en/2019/07/ontario-takes-action-to-build-competitiveness-in-the-pork-sector.html>

Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2019, July 25). FedDev Ontario Invests in Innovative Guelph Manufacturer. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/07/feddev-ontario-invests-in-innovative-guelph-manufacturer.html>

<sup>87</sup> Baker, J.K. (2019, August 31). Construction finally begins on Cambridge's \$100M Gaslight District project. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/construction-finally-begins-on-cambridge-s-100m-gaslight-district-project-1.4548390>

Simon, C. (2019, August 16). Get a parking fee break during Barrie's Dunlop Street reconstruction. *Simcoe*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/9551237-get-a-parking-fee-break-during-barrie-s-dunlop-street-reconstruction/>

Mendler, A. (2019, August 27). Midland to begin King St. reconstruction early. *Simcoe*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/9562202-midland-to-begin-king-st-reconstruction-early/>

OrilliaMatters Staff. (2019, August 15). Construction on Building Hope project to begin next month. *OrilliaMatters*. Retrieved from <https://www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/construction-on-building-hope-project-to-begin-next-month-1640975>

<sup>88</sup> Taylor, N. (2019, August 29). Ground broken at Mariposa House Hospice site in Severn. *Barrie Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/ground-broken-at-mariposa-house-hospice-site-in-severn-1665543>

Graziano, B. (2019, September 09). Ground breaking ceremony set for medical building in Kitchener. *Kitchener Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenertoday.com/local-news/ground-breaking-ceremony-set-for-medical-building-in-kitchener-1681627>

Armstrong, K. (2019, September 17). Guelph Humane Society breaks ground on its new home (8 photos). *Guelph Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/guelph-humane-society-breaks-ground-on-new-building-1697802>

<sup>89</sup> Dawson, D. (2019, July 19). 65 full-time employees at Casino Rama receive layoff notices. *Barrie Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/65-full-time-employees-at-casino-rama-receive-layoff-notice-1593312>

<sup>90</sup> Banger, C. (2019, July 18). Waterloo think-tank lays off more than 20 employees in wake of provincial funding cuts. *CTV News Kitchener*. Retrieved from <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/waterloo-think-tank-lays-off-more-than-20-employees-in-wake-of-provincial-funding-cuts-1.4514120>

<sup>91</sup> Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. (2019, August 14). Minister Tassi announces investment to support almost 2,300 Canadian steel workers in southern Ontario. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/08/minister-tassi-announces-investment-to-support-almost-2300-canadian-steel-workers-in-southern-ontario.html>

employing 80 workers.<sup>92</sup> The tech sector was similarly well supported with the Next Generation Manufacturing Canada announcing that it will spend \$4.3M on an Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster project, which is expected to create 470 jobs in the region.<sup>93</sup> Some negative news did arise in September when 730 workers at General Motors Co. plant in St. Catharines were temporarily laid off due to supply chain disruptions emerging from strikes at GM plants south of the border.<sup>94</sup>

Several major announcements dotted the region's construction landscape. These included a federal government investment of \$5.5M in transportation infrastructure improvements at the Port of Hamilton, which is expected to create 110 jobs during construction;<sup>95</sup> a provincial government investment of \$12M towards the construction of Greensville elementary school in Hamilton;<sup>96</sup> \$30M investment by Hydro One Inc. to refurbish Port Colborne Transmission Station;<sup>97</sup> and the commencement of Endress+Hauser Canada Ltd.'s \$28M facility expansion in Burlington.<sup>98</sup>

The cannabis industry got a boost from FIGR Norfolk Inc.'s announcement that it will be expanding its cannabis production to Simcoe's Judd Industrial Park and expects to about 400 jobs once the new facility is established.<sup>99</sup> This good news was welcome on the heels of Green Relief cancelling their plans to establish a facility in Stoney Creek which was expected to create 100 jobs in region.<sup>100</sup>

Employment also grew slightly in the **Stratford-Bruce Peninsula economic** region.

### Employment losses reported in five economic regions across the province

The **Muskoka-Kawarthas** economic region saw a decline in employment of 14,900 (-8.0%) between the third quarters of 2018 and 2019. Losses occurred in both full-time and part-time employment. The participation rate dropped down to 53.5%, the lowest in the province, along with the unemployment rate which slid down to 5.3%. Despite

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<sup>92</sup> Henschel, S. (2019, July 03). Thousands turn out for Big Country Raw opening. *Niagara This Week*. Retrieved from <https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9483391-thousands-turn-out-for-big-country-raw-opening/>

<sup>93</sup> CMO Staff. (2019, August 22). Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster project kicks off with NGen funding. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/financing/advanced-manufacturing-supercluster-project-kicks-off-with-ngen-funding-237734/>

<sup>94</sup> Canadian Press. (2019, September 23). GM halts two-thirds of St. Catharines production over strike by U.S. auto workers. CTV News. Retrieved from <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/gm-halts-two-thirds-of-st-catharines-production-over-strike-by-u-s-auto-workers-1.4606102>

<sup>95</sup> Transport Canada. (2019, August 21). Government of Canada invests in transportation infrastructure improvements at the Port of Hamilton. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-transportation-infrastructure-improvements-at-the-port-of-hamilton.html>

<sup>96</sup> Rankin, C. (2019, August 19). Ontario government approves up to \$12M for Greensville elementary school. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/ontario-government-approves-tender-greensville-elementary-school-hamilton-1.5252175>

<sup>97</sup> Hydro One. (2019, July 05). Hydro One and Canadian Niagara Power collaborate to strengthen electricity infrastructure and improve reliability for the Port Colborne area. *City of Port Colborne*. Retrieved from <http://portcolborne.ca/page/news&iArticle=2699&iArticle=2699>

<sup>98</sup> Olley, D. (2019, September 03). Construction Begins on Major Company Expansion in Burlington. *inHalton*. Retrieved from <https://www.inhalton.com/construction-begins-on-major-company-expansion-in-burlington>

<sup>99</sup> Simcoe Reformer Staff. (2019, September 03). Land sale to create 400 jobs. *Simcoe Reformer*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoereformer.ca/news/local-news/land-sale-to-create-400-jobs>

<sup>100</sup> Van Dongen, M. (2019, September 11). Pot production plans at old Players Paradise in Stoney Creek go up in smoke. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/9589515-pot-production-plans-at-old-players-paradise-in-stoney-creek-go-up-in-smoke/>

the declines, the region registered a number of positive employment events in the third quarter. The manufacturing sector benefited from news of Min-Tech Inc., a plastic recycling company in Campbellford, investing \$20M towards expanding production and creating up to 100 new jobs in the region;<sup>101</sup> and Neo Performance Materials, a high-value niche metals manufacturer, expanding their operations in Peterborough.<sup>102</sup> Health Canada also issued an approval to Muskoka Grown Ltd, a cannabis manufacturer, to expand its operations in Bracebridge.<sup>103</sup> A number of construction projects have also been announced in the region that should contribute to job creation in the near future.<sup>104</sup>

The **London** economic region saw employment dip by 11,800 (-3.4%) in the third quarter of 2019. The unemployment rate also increased by 0.9 percentage points to 6.6% during this period. Irrespective of the quarterly figures, there were a number of encouraging events. The regional manufacturing base received some good news with General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada establishing a \$3B deal with the Government of Canada for the purchase of 360 new light armoured vehicles;<sup>105</sup> the provincial government investing nearly \$5M in Element5 Co.'s new \$32M cross laminated timber plant in St. Thomas, creating over 60 jobs;<sup>106</sup> and automotive parts manufacturer Adient plc expecting to hire between 70 and 100 workers after securing a new contract with Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd.<sup>107</sup>

The regional construction sector saw some investment in affordable housing projects including the federal government investing \$7.1M towards a 60-unit affordable-housing project, Residenza Ortona, for seniors and veterans in London,<sup>108</sup> and the federal and provincial governments investing \$7.8M to create 130 affordable housing

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<sup>101</sup> Campbell, J. (2019, August 15). Campbellford recycling company to spend \$20 million on expansion. *Brighton Independent*. Retrieved from <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/9544580-campbellford-recycling-company-to-spend-20-million-on-expansion/>

<sup>102</sup> Head, B. (2019, August 20). Neo Rare Metals expanding operations at its Peterborough plant. *KawarthaNow*. Retrieved from <https://kawarthanow.com/2019/08/20/businessnow-august-20-2019/#neo-rare-metals-expanding-operations-at-its-peterborough-plant>

<sup>103</sup> Bracebridge Examiner Staff. (2019, September 16). Cannabis production to double at Muskoka Grown, expansion in the works. *North Bay Nipissing*. Retrieved from <https://www.northbaynipissing.com/news-story/9598666-cannabis-production-to-double-at-muskoka-grown-expansion-in-the-works/>

<sup>104</sup> MyKawartha.com Staff. (2019, September 24). What's going on here? Highway 7 realignment. *MyKawartha.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.mykawartha.com/news-story/9611459-what-s-going-on-here-highway-7-realignment/>

Peterborough Examiner Staff. (2019, September 25). Townsend Street to close for water diversion project. *Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news-story/9615128-townsend-street-to-close-for-water-diversion-project/>

88.7 FM The Bay Muskoka Staff. (2019, September 24). Water treatment plants in Huntsville to get upgrades. *88.7 FM The Bay Muskoka*. Retrieved from <https://muskokaradio.com/news/article/water-treatment-plants-in-huntsville-to-get-upgrades>

<sup>105</sup> de Bono, N. (2019, August 16). Canada's buy of London-made military vehicles doesn't lift cloud of Saudi deal. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/business/local-business/federal-defence-officials-set-for-announcement-at-londons-general-dynamics>

<sup>106</sup> Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. (2019, July 23). Ontario Investing Almost \$5 Million in Mass Timber Innovation. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mnr/en/2019/07/ontario-investing-almost-5-million-in-mass-timber-innovation.html>

<sup>107</sup> Saylor, K. (2019, August 30). Nearly 100 new jobs announced for area auto-parts plant. *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*. Retrieved from <https://windstar.com/business/local-business/nearly-100-new-jobs-announced-for-area-auto-parts-plant/wcm/645214e4-6f81-4ea1-bc41-eeee0368fcfb>

<sup>108</sup> Juha, J. (2019, July 15). Federal government contributes \$7M for new affordable seniors building. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/federal-government-contributes-7m-for-new-affordable-seniors-building>

units in Oxford County.<sup>109</sup> Several other major construction projects were announced or got underway this quarter including the \$8M renovation of the Grand Theatre in London;<sup>110</sup> the \$8.3M expansion of the Masonville Public School in London;<sup>111</sup> the establishment of a new headquarters for the Middlesex-London Health Unit;<sup>112</sup> and the installation of new fibre optic networks in Middlesex County.<sup>113</sup>

Employment in the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region dipped by 2,400 (-0.8%) in the third quarter of 2019, mainly due to losses in full-time employment. The unemployment rate crept up to 6.9%, the highest rate registered amongst the eleven regions. The regional manufacturing sector was hit hard this quarter with engine block manufacturer Nematik announcing that it will cease operations in Windsor by mid 2020, affecting about 270 employees.<sup>114</sup> Some positive news did emerge for the sector with LCY Bioscience Inc. hiring over 35 employees to restart production at the former BioAmber site in Sarnia,<sup>115</sup> and the federal government investing \$4.7M in two projects at Woodland Biofuels Inc.'s ethanol and biomass waste demonstration plant in Sarnia, which is expected to create more than 300 local jobs.<sup>116</sup>

This quarter brought significant investments to the construction sector in the region. This included the \$6M federal government investment in the Port of Sarnia which is expected to create 120 jobs during construction<sup>117</sup> and \$9.9M federal government investment to support infrastructure upgrades to Point Pelee National Park.<sup>118</sup> Several major projects also got underway during this period. These included the \$19.1M pipeline expansion in Chatham Kent by

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<sup>109</sup> Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. (2019, August 08). Governments Of Canada and Ontario Invest in Affordable Housing in Oxford County. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mma/en/2019/08/governments-of-canada-and-ontario-invest-in-affordable-housing-in-oxford-county.html>

<sup>110</sup> London Inc. Weekly Staff. (2019, September 06). Feds top up funding for Grand Theatre's \$8-million renovation. *London Inc. Weekly*. Retrieved from <http://londonincmagazine.ca/2019/09/06/london-inc-weekly-09-%E2%80%A2-06-%E2%80%A2-2019/>

<sup>111</sup> CBC News Staff. (2019, September 12). Construction at Masonville Public School to start this month. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/masonville-public-school-construction-starts-thames-valley-district-school-board-1.5280571>

<sup>112</sup> Brown, Dan. (2019, June 27). Middlesex-London Health Unit picks local builder for new home at CitiPlaza. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/health-unit-picks-local-builder-for-new-quarters-at-citiplaza>

<sup>113</sup> Juha, J. (2019, August 14). Middlesex County rubber stamps fibre optic expansion west of London. *The Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/local-news/middlesex-county-rubber-stamps-fibre-optic-expansion-west-of-london/wcm/08e49f68-428d-4e10-96e9-3eab0fc94c7b>

<sup>114</sup> Windsorite.ca Staff. (2019, July 16). Nematik Announces Closure Of Windsor Plant. *Windsorite.ca*. Retrieved from <https://windsorite.ca/2019/07/nematik-announces-closure-of-windsor-plant/>

<sup>115</sup> Irwin, M. (2019, September 05). Over 30 staff hired for restart of former BioAmber. *BlackBurnNews*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2019/09/05/30-staff-hired-restart-former-bioamber/>

<sup>116</sup> Romphf, J. (2019, August 27). Feds fund commercial-scale ethanol facility that uses waste biomass. *Sarnia Observer*. Retrieved from <https://www.theobserver.ca/news/local-news/feds-fund-commercial-scale-ethanol-facility-that-uses-waste-biomass>

<sup>117</sup> DCN News Services Staff. (2019, August 13). Corridors Fund supports Port of Sarnia with \$6M. *DCN News Services*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2019/08/corridors-fund-supports-port-sarnia-6m>

<sup>118</sup> Parks Canada Staff. (2019, September 06). Government of Canada Invests in Point Pelee National Park. *Parks Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-invests-in-point-pelee-national-park.html>

Enbridge Gas Inc.;<sup>119</sup> \$4M restoration of Highway 402 near Sarnia;<sup>120</sup> the \$43M West Bridge Place residential development in Windsor;<sup>121</sup> and the \$8.9M upgrades to Dougall Avenue in Windsor.<sup>122</sup>

The agriculture sector was a bright spot for the region this quarter with AgMedica Bioscience Inc. working to fill 70 future positions at its Chatham-Kent cannabis facility;<sup>123</sup> PharmHouse Inc. looking to staff what it expects to be a workforce of about 150 employees at its Leamington nursery;<sup>124</sup> and Hacienda North Farms Inc. anticipating hiring 50 to 54 workers by January 2020 as it doubles the size of its greenhouse operation in Wheatley.<sup>125</sup>

The **Northeast** economic region registered employment declines of 8,000 (-3.1%) between the third quarter of 2018 and 2019. The unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 6.1%, while the participation rate dropped slightly to 58.7%. Positive news dominated the regional manufacturing sector with the federal government investing \$28.8M in Domtar Inc., supporting its \$57.5M project to implement new equipment and processes at its pulp and speciality paper mill in Espanola, maintaining 430 jobs.<sup>126</sup> In addition, Tenaris Algoma Tubes received \$16M to support its \$36M expansion project at its seamless and welded steel pipe mills, creating 90 full-time jobs,<sup>127</sup> along with Algoma Steel Inc. investing \$300M in capital improvements<sup>128</sup> at its plants in Sault Ste. Marie. Also of note is the establishment of cannabis company GaiaCann Inc.'s new cultivation and extraction facility in Espanola, which is expected to create at least 100 jobs once operational.<sup>129</sup>

This quarter was inundated with several construction announcements, which should bode well for employment in the region. This included the City of Sault Ste. Marie upgrading infrastructure at the Sault Ste. Marie Airport which is expected to create an estimated 100 full-time jobs on completion<sup>130</sup> and the construction of the \$30M Place

<sup>119</sup> Hugall, M. (2019, July 15). Building of pipeline expansion set to begin in Chatham-Kent. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/chatham/chatham-news/2019/07/15/building-of-pipeline-expansion-set-to-begin-in-chatham-kent/>

<sup>120</sup> Pin, L. (2019, July 29). Sarnia-area Hwy. 402 project to start in August. *Sarnia Observer*. Retrieved from <https://www.the-observer.ca/news/local-news/sarnia-area-hwy-402-project-to-start-in-august>

<sup>121</sup> Melmer, D. (2019, July 30). Photos: Groundbreaking at West Bridge Place. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/photos-groundbreaking-at-west-bridge-place>

<sup>122</sup> Medeiros, T. (2019, August 26). Construction begins to improve Dougall Ave. in Windsor. *iHeartRadio AM 800*. Retrieved from <http://www.iheartradio.ca/am800/news/construction-begins-to-improve-dougall-ave-in-windsor-1.9861636>

<sup>123</sup> Wills, A. (2019, July 17). Job fair organizers see success in Chatham-Kent. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/chatham/chatham-news/2019/07/17/job-fair-organizers-see-success-chatham-kent/>

<sup>124</sup> Campbell, T. (2019, July 22). Leamington's PharmHouse gets Health Canada approval to grow pot. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/leamingtons-pharmhouse-gets-health-canada-approval-to-grow-pot>

<sup>125</sup> Morrison, T. (2019, August 01). Wheatley-area greenhouse operation more than doubling in size. *Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/local-news/wheatley-area-greenhouse-operation-more-than-doubling-in-size>

<sup>126</sup> Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2019, July 23). Domtar's Espanola mill nets \$28M in federal funds. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/forestry/domtars-espanola-mill-nets-28m-in-federal-funds-1599747>

<sup>127</sup> Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2019, July 26). Sault tube mill lands \$16 million from feds. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/manufacturing/sault-tube-mill-lands-16-million-from-feds-1608753>

<sup>128</sup> Helwig, D. (2019, June 26). New Algoma Steel boss details \$300M in capital improvements. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/new-algoma-steel-boss-details-300m-in-capital-improvements-1540295>

<sup>129</sup> Jensen, M. (2019, July 04). Medical pot project takes root in Espanola. *The Sudbury Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/medical-pot-project-takes-root-in-espanola>

<sup>130</sup> Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2019, August 26). Expansion planned for Sault airport. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/expansion-planned-for-sault-airport-1658616>

des Arts facility in downtown Sudbury which is expected to create 180 jobs during construction.<sup>131</sup> Also, the City of Parry Sound started a \$19.7M construction project that will resurface 14.1 kilometres of Highway 400 and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2020.<sup>132</sup> Several other construction announcements, such as work underway at a \$16M Marriott Hotel<sup>133</sup> and \$10.9M Cassells Street<sup>134</sup> reconstruction project in North Bay, also contributed to the employment gains.

The mining sector in the region got a boost from the opening of the Borden gold mine in Chapleau which is expected to create 250 jobs in the region.<sup>135</sup> While mostly dominated by such positive news, the region did experience some losses this quarter with the closure of the Metro grocery store in Timmins;<sup>136</sup> announced closure of the Widdifield secondary school in North Bay at the end of the 2020 school year;<sup>137</sup> and the layoff of 18 drivers following the closure of the Cruz Cab company in Sault Ste Marie.<sup>138</sup>

Employment declined by 2,600 (-2.43%) in the **Northwest** economic region in the third quarter of 2019. The regional unemployment rate dropped by 0.3 percentage points to 4.8%, and the participation rate decreased to 63.7% from 65.3% a year ago. The regional manufacturing sector received positive news with Metrolinx announcing a purchase of 36 BiLevel cars from Bombardier Transportation, which will be manufactured at Bombardier's Thunder Bay plant.<sup>139</sup> This project, however, will not avert the layoff of 550 employees at the plant by November 2019.<sup>140</sup> Other discouraging news came from a few hundred kilometers to the west, as Kenora Forest Products announced an indefinite shutdown of production at their lumber sawmill, affecting approximately 115 people in Kenora.<sup>141</sup> In mining news, the Goliath Gold Project in Dryden received a go-ahead from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. It is estimated that up to 450 jobs will be created during construction and 250 jobs thereafter.<sup>142</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> Pembroke Observer Staff. (2019, September 04). Petawawa employment career fair Sept. 11. *Pembroke Observer & News*. Retrieved from <https://www.pembrokeobserver.com/news/local-news/petawawa-employment-career-fair-sept-11>

<sup>132</sup> Bissonette, S. (2019, August 12). What's Going on Here: Highway 400 construction. *ParrySound.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.parrysound.com/news-story/9544072-what-s-going-on-here-highway-400-construction/>

<sup>133</sup> Turl, J. (2019, June 28). New luxury hotel coming to North Bay. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/north-bay/new-luxury-hotel-coming-to-north-bay-1545699>

<sup>134</sup> Dawson, C. (2019, July 16). Cassells construction begins today. *BayToday*. Retrieved from <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/cassells-construction-begins-today-1584630>

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<sup>140</sup> CBC News Staff. (2019, July 10). Smaller contracts will keep Thunder Bay Bombardier plant open, company COO says. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/bombardier-thunder-bay-future-1.5206913>

<sup>141</sup> TbNewsWatch.com Staff. (2019, September 16). Kenora sawmill suspends production indefinitely. *TbNewsWatch.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/kenora-sawmill-suspends-production-indefinitely-1695344>

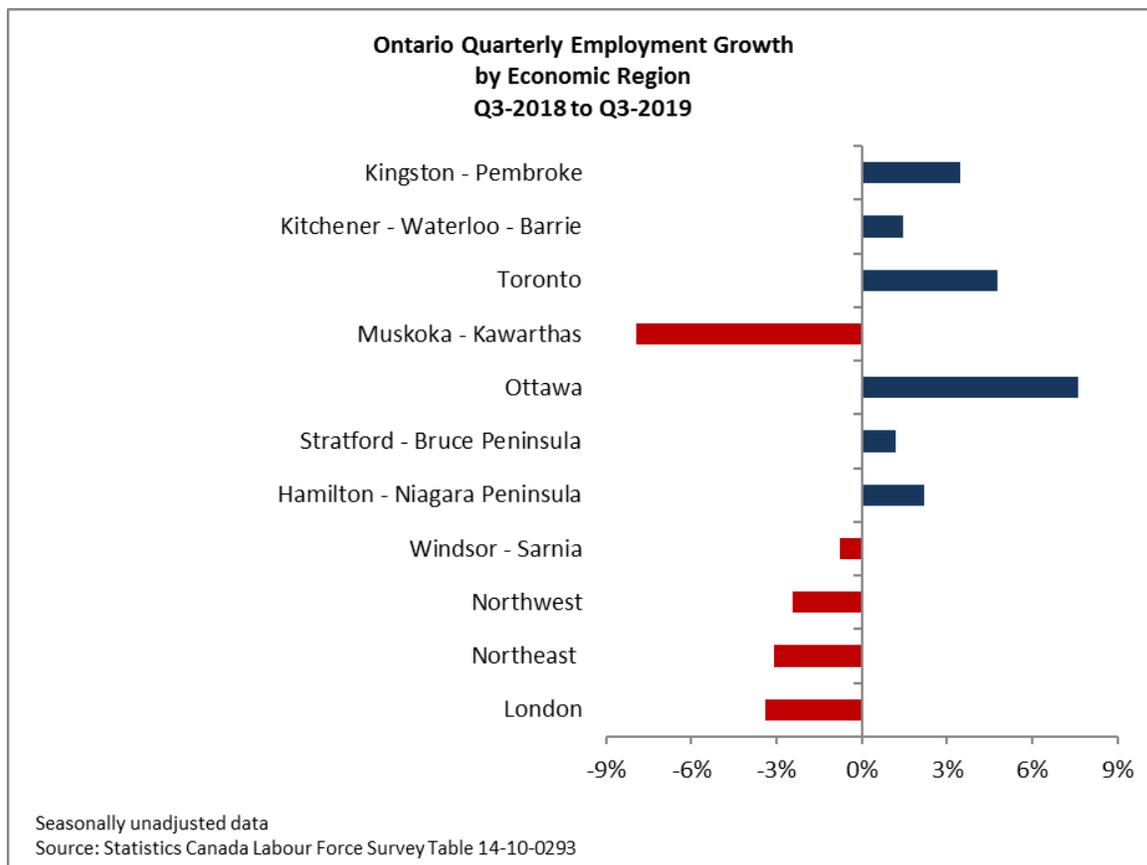
<sup>142</sup> Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. (2019, August 19). Goliath Gold Project — Environmental Assessment Decision. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/environmental-assessment-agency/news/2019/08/goliath-gold-project--environmental-assessment-decision.html>

**Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

Seasonally unadjusted data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2019 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2019 (%)	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Ontario</b>	7,535.0	7,315.2	3.0	5.8	6.0	-0.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Ottawa	765.1	710.9	7.6	4.6	4.9	-0.3
Kingston - Pembroke	214.2	207.0	3.5	6.5	5.5	1.0
Muskoka - Kawarthas	172.2	187.1	-8.0	5.3	6.9	-1.6
Toronto	3,704.3	3,535.7	4.8	6.2	6.6	-0.4
Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie	756.5	745.5	1.5	5.6	4.4	1.2
Hamilton - Niagara Peninsula	770.0	753.5	2.2	5.4	6.2	-0.8
London	334.2	346.0	-3.4	6.6	5.7	0.9
Windsor - Sarnia	301.8	304.2	-0.8	6.9	6.6	0.3
Stratford - Bruce Peninsula	162.0	160.1	1.2	4.2	3.1	1.1
Northeast	250.6	258.6	-3.1	6.1	5.7	0.4
Northwest	104.2	106.8	-2.4	4.8	5.1	-0.3

**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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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