OVERVIEW

Labour Force Trends – Ontario employment rose in 2016 for the seventh consecutive year

- Employment in Ontario went up by 76,400 in 2016, after an increase of 45,300 in 2015
- Full-time work (+54,400) observed gains for seven consecutive years, while part-time work rebounded (+22,000) after a decrease the previous year
- The unemployment rate decreased for the fourth consecutive year, falling by 0.3 percentage points to 6.5%

Ontario marked its seventh consecutive yearly increase in employment with gains of 76,400 (+1.1%) in 2016. Increases occurred in both full-time (+54,400; +1.0%) and part-time (+22,000; +1.7%) employment, with part-time work recovering in strength after a 2.5% decline in 2015.

The provincial labour market showed signs of strength all around, with the unemployment rate falling by 0.3 percentage points to 6.5%, falling below the unemployment rate in 2008 (6.6%) for the first time. Unemployment fell by 13,000 (-2.6%), declining for the fourth consecutive year, while the youth unemployment rate fell to 14.0%. However, there was a slight decrease in both the Ontario participation rate and employment rate, similarly to 2015, as gains in the provincial labour force and employment figures was weaker than growth in the overall working-age population.

The Ontario labour market is expected to sustain its momentum in 2017, as the province continues to lead the way in economic growth within Canada, with analysts’ consensus forecasts estimating Ontario’s economy to grow by 2.3% in 2017. Employment in Ontario is projected to grow by 1.2% in 2017, as improvements in household retail spending and domestic demand is supported by increasing export activity from the province. The provincial unemployment rate is expected to remain relatively stable, averaging 6.5% in 2017.
For Canada as a whole, employment rose by 133,300 (+0.7%) in 2016, with gains in part-time employment (+80,400; +2.4%) outshining full-time employment (+52,900; +0.4%). However, the employment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 61.1%, as an expanding labour force did not translate to a greater share of the workforce finding employment. In addition, unemployment (+29,200; +2.2%) increased for the second year in a row, leading to a 0.1 percentage point increase in the unemployment rate, which reached 7.0% in 2016. The western provinces were hard-hit, in particular, with Alberta’s unemployment rate rising from 4.7% in 2014 to 8.1% in 2016. Looking forward, however, Canada’s economy is expected to grow by 2.0% in 2017, with the unemployment rate expected to drop slightly to 6.8%.

The labour market in the United States continued its strong performances, with an increase of 2.5 million (+1.8%) in total non-farm payroll employment in 2016, which followed gains of 2.9 million (+2.1%) in 2015. The federal unemployment rate fell to 4.9% in 2016, from 5.3% in 2015, with the U.S. Federal Reserve placing stronger faith in the American economy with an increase in interest rates in December 2016. With a likely shift in focus to greater infrastructure stimulus and tax cuts over the coming year, the federal unemployment rate is expected to drop slightly to 4.8% in 2017.

Annual Labour Force Statistics, for Ontario

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 15 + ('000)</td>
<td>11,523.4</td>
<td>11,385.6</td>
<td>11,269.3</td>
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<td>Labour Force ('000)</td>
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<td>7,426.1</td>
<td>7,418.6</td>
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<td>Employment ('000)</td>
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<td>6,923.2</td>
<td>6,877.9</td>
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<td>Full-Time ('000)</td>
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<td>5,618.2</td>
<td>5,540.0</td>
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<td>Part-Time ('000)</td>
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<td>1,305.0</td>
<td>1,337.9</td>
<td>22.0</td>
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<td>Unemployment ('000)</td>
<td>489.9</td>
<td>502.9</td>
<td>540.7</td>
<td>-13.0</td>
<td>-2.6</td>
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<td>Unemployment Rate (%)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation Rate (%)</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment Rate (%)</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002
Employment increased in the goods-producing sector for a second consecutive year, with gains of 16,700 (+1.2%) in 2016. The construction industry had the sharpest growth in employment among all industries in Ontario over the year, with an increase of 16,400 (+3.4%). The residential segment of the industry remained buoyant, with housing starts in Ontario increasing 9% on an annualized basis in 2016. The value of building permits also rose for the province in 2016, on the strength of the residential and commercial sectors.

A high number of infrastructure and institutional projects also progressed across the province, reflecting the federal and provincial governments’ strong emphasis on modernizing infrastructure.

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1 Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 027-0054. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, all areas, Canada and provinces, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, annual
2 Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 026-0006. Building permits, by type of structure and area, seasonally adjusted, annual
$5.3B Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line began in earnest in March, with work starting on the Keelesdale Station, the first of 25 stations across Toronto.\(^4\) Progress continued on the City of Ottawa’s Confederation LRT Line Stage 1, with more provincial support announced for Stage 2 of the project,\(^5\) while other major transit projects are under way across the province. Some notable projects in the institutional sector which commenced in 2016 include the 342-bed Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital,\(^6\) part of an investment of $12 billion over 10 years from the provincial government to build upon the health care infrastructure and build new major hospitals,\(^7\) and a renewed focus on new elementary and secondary schools across Ontario with a commitment of $1.1 billion from the Ontario government.\(^8,9,10\) With respect to utilities-related infrastructure, the $12.8B refurbishment of four nuclear reactors at the OPG Darlington Generating Station east of Toronto commenced in October, with the project expected to last over a decade,\(^11\) while the Government of Canada announced $267.5M in infrastructure investments along the Trent-Severn Waterway in central Ontario.\(^12\)

Employment increased in Ontario manufacturing (+6,800; +0.9%) in 2016 for the first time after three consecutive years of declines. This growth was strongly influenced by gains made in the motor vehicles and parts sub-sector, one of the largest manufacturing segments in the province.\(^13\) Consumer spending on durable goods trended above previous years,\(^14\) and supported favourable sales in big-ticket items such as motor vehicles and car parts, and furthermore, a stronger United States economy helped to boost demand in the sub-sector. The

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\(^{13}\) Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 281-0023. Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH), employment by type of employee and detailed North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), unadjusted for seasonality, annual (persons)

auto industry in the province continued to grow as, with provincial support, FCA Canada Inc. announced the hiring of 1,200 workers at its Windsor Assembly Plant to build the industry’s first plug-in hybrid electric minivan. The company also released plans to invest $325M to upgrade the paint shop at its Brampton facility. Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited extended the production of its GT supercar, which is built at Multimatic Inc., an auto components company in Markham, from two years to four due to high demand. Ford will also invest about $613M to prepare for a new engine program at its Windsor and Essex Engine Plants, creating about 500 jobs. In addition, auto parts manufacturer FIO Automotive Canada Corp., a subsidiary of Futaba Industrial Co. Ltd., will undergo a $50M expansion of its facility in Stratford. Several other automotive suppliers across Ontario also benefitted from federal and provincial funding support to advance innovation through the supply chain.

Meanwhile, General Motors of Canada Company Ltd. is extending production at its Oshawa Assembly Plant beyond 2019, and investing $400M in the facility. GM also is planning to add 1,000 new software and engineering jobs in various research and development teams at its engineering centre in Oshawa, and undertook additional recruitment at its CAMI Assembly Plant in Ingersoll. However, some of the job gains in this plant may be offset by the impending layoff of approximately 600 workers in July 2017, with the company citing a changeover in the production of a vehicle model as the reason for the impending layoffs, as production of the redesigned GM

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Terrain will move to Mexico in 2017. Canada’s total share of light motor vehicle production in North America fell from 14.6% in December 2015 to 13.2% in December 2016, while Mexico’s share increased over the same period. In other auto-related developments, interior supplier Johnson Controls Inc. announced the closure of a plant in Whitby, affecting more than 200 employees, while Bombardier announced in February that it will lay off 430 employees in Ontario.

Economic uncertainty in the commodities and resources sectors led to some layoffs in manufacturing. As a result of lower capital investments and less orders for new equipment, Hitachi Construction Truck Manufacturing Ltd. laid off 129 full-time production workers at its Guelph facility, although the company hopes to recall some of these workers in 2017. Similarly, lower oil prices and less demand for oil tankers contributed to a layoff of over 400 workers at National Steel Car Ltd. in Hamilton. However, there were more positive news in late-2016 as, stemming from a globally agreed cut in production, oil prices began to increase, resulting in more rig-drilling activities in the western provinces. This helped spur Tenaris Algoma Tubes Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie to recall about 120 employees to support the company’s drilling rig manufacturing.

**Employment growth in services-producing sector driven by finance and insurance, as well as health care and social assistance**

Employment in the services-producing sector continued its upward growth trajectory with the addition of 59,700 (+1.1%) in employment in 2016. The health care and social assistance industry was the largest contributor to the job gains in the services sector, with an increase of 25,900 (+3.2%). Population growth and ageing, and the shift in emphasis in the provincial health care model towards outpatient and rehabilitative care, are factors driving employment growth in this segment. Contributing to the industry’s future growth are a $13.6M project to in-

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37 Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 281-0023. Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH), employment by type of employee and detailed North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), unadjusted for seasonality, annual (persons)

crease the surgical capacity at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario,\textsuperscript{39} and a large $12B investment in Ontario hospital infrastructure,\textsuperscript{40} as well as smaller investments in local mental health services\textsuperscript{41} and in retirement facilities.\textsuperscript{42,43,44} Despite the overall growth in the industry, budgetary considerations led to the elimination of some positions at the Windsor Regional Hospital \textsuperscript{45} and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton.\textsuperscript{46}

The finance and insurance industry also maintained its momentum alongside reports of strong banking revenues and returns in 2016.\textsuperscript{47} However, technological shifts in the industry, mainly due to the growing use of online banking and the adaptation of other digital features, led to a number of restructuring and layoff announcements, including job cuts by the Bank of Montreal\textsuperscript{48} and TMX Group Ltd., operator of the Toronto Stock Exchange.\textsuperscript{49} The industry also saw the influx of many financial technology (FinTech) start-up companies, which are becoming integral to technological innovations in the industry.\textsuperscript{50}

Internet penetration and digitization are having mixed effects in the information and cultural industry, prompting strong employment growth in areas such as software publishing, but contributing to job losses\textsuperscript{51} and weaker revenues in traditional media. A number of layoffs were announced in broadcast media, newspaper publishers

\textsuperscript{51} Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 281-0023. Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH), employment by type of employee and detailed North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), unadjusted for seasonality, annual (persons)
and related activities, including by Postmedia Network Canada Corp., Rogers Media Inc., and Torstar Corp.’s newspaper printing plant. In contrast, employment in the motion picture and video sub-industry grew over the year, with significant activity in the Toronto and Northeast regions, spurred partly by provincial and federal tax incentives are helping to boost growth in the sector. One major development in the transportation and warehousing industry was the opening of an Amazon.com robotic distribution centre, creating more than 500 full-time jobs, while the expansion of GoodLife Fitness Centres was a major development in the recreation sub-industry, adding 600 jobs in Ontario over the year, though there were layoffs of 285 positions later in 2016.

The retail trade sector experienced a fair amount of instability, with some segments continuing to lose bricks and mortar operations due to factors such as the prevalence of online shopping and fierce international competition. In the clothing sector, closures by Le Château, Aéropostale, Inc., and Jones New York were among the most significant news over the year, resulting in the loss of several hundred jobs, while Ben Moss Jewellers announced the closure of all its locations, including 19 in Ontario. However, notable investments were made by other types of retailers, including by Walmart Canada, while expansion plans were also announced by IKEA.

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and by Loblaw Companies Limited, with a $1.3B investment in its retail business across Canada.\textsuperscript{69} One of the bigger new entrants, fashion retailer Nordstrom, Inc., opened stores in Toronto’s Eaton Centre and Yorkdale Shopping Centre this year.\textsuperscript{70}

### Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Industry, for Ontario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment (‘000)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015 to 2016</th>
<th>2014 to 2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total employed, all industries</td>
<td>6,999.6</td>
<td>6,923.2</td>
<td>6,877.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goods-producing sector</td>
<td>1,418.1</td>
<td>1,401.4</td>
<td>1,382.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>81.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>33.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>51.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>503.7</td>
<td>487.3</td>
<td>467.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>751.4</td>
<td>744.6</td>
<td>748.6</td>
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<td>Services-producing sector</td>
<td>5,581.4</td>
<td>5,521.7</td>
<td>5,495.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>1,033.2</td>
<td>1,042.3</td>
<td>1,047.0</td>
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<td>Transportation and warehousing</td>
<td>327.2</td>
<td>321.3</td>
<td>329.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing</td>
<td>555.3</td>
<td>543.5</td>
<td>512.1</td>
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<td>Professional, scientific and technical services</td>
<td>594.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business, building and other support services</td>
<td>326.1</td>
<td>333.4</td>
<td>334.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational services</td>
<td>502.8</td>
<td>514.9</td>
<td>494.6</td>
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<td>Health care and social assistance</td>
<td>838.4</td>
<td>812.5</td>
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<td>Information, culture and recreation</td>
<td>318.0</td>
<td>309.5</td>
<td>316.5</td>
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<td>Accommodation and food services</td>
<td>456.8</td>
<td>444.3</td>
<td>450.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>276.1</td>
<td>276.3</td>
<td>286.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>353.0</td>
<td>344.0</td>
<td>366.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0008*


REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment gains posted in nine of eleven economic regions in 2016

Ontario’s various regional labour markets were generally healthy over the past year, as nine out of eleven economic regions across the province registered employment growths in 2016.

Employment in the Toronto economic region grew by 52,800 (+1.6%) from 2015 to 2016. Gains were realized in both full-time and part-time work, driving the unemployment rate down from 7.1% to 6.9%. The manufacturing and construction industries were strong performers for the goods-producing sector. Aircraft parts manufacturer Cyclone Manufacturing Inc.\(^{71}\) and medical devices manufacturer Baylis Medical Company\(^{72}\) have both announced expansion projects, which should lead to sizeable job creation in the Toronto region. However, the industry was hit by the closure of the Toronto Star printing plant in Vaughan\(^{73}\) and the closing of the Whitby plant for auto parts manufacturer Johnson Controls Inc.\(^{74}\) The regional construction industry also contributed to employment growth, despite a lower number of building permits issued in 2016.\(^{75}\) A number of large-scale construction projects were in the news over the year, including the $5.3B Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit project,\(^{76}\) Woodbine Racetrack’s $50M expansion,\(^{77}\) and Medallion Corporation’s $300M mixed use development project in Ajax.\(^{78}\)

The finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing industry led the services-producing sector in employment growth in the Toronto region, although the industry observed a number of layoff announcements during the year, including the loss of 115 jobs at TMX Group Ltd,\(^{79}\) operator of the Toronto Stock Exchange. The educational services industry felt the largest employment loss in the region, partly due to declining school enrollments.\(^{80}\) As


\(^{75}\) Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 026-0007 – Building permits, dwelling units by type of structure and value by activity sector, economic regions, monthly


such, the Toronto District School Board announced in early 2016 that it will cut 102 teachers, 45 early childhood educators and 46 lunchroom supervisors in the fall, as enrolment has declined over the year.\textsuperscript{81}

The Kingston–Pembroke economic region also saw healthy labour market growth in 2016, as employment grew by 11,500 (+5.7%). Labour force participation also rose, and the regional unemployment rate fell from 7.2% to 6.0%. Growth in the region was spread across industries, with Feihe International Inc., a China-based manufacturer of infant formula, announcing that it will open a facility in Kingston by 2019. It is expected to create about 1,000 jobs during construction and 200 full-time jobs when completed.\textsuperscript{82} Furthermore, Kruger Products L.P., a manufacturer and distributor of tissue products, received a loan from the province to help expand its operations in Trenton. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2019, and will create 119 jobs and retain 184 positions.\textsuperscript{83} The new Shorelines Casino in Belleville observed a ground breaking in its construction, with the casino expected to open in 2017 and create 300-plus jobs in the area.\textsuperscript{84} In the regional utilities industry, an investment of $800M in Chalk River’s Canadian Nuclear Laboratories over the next five years was announced in 2016. The funds will be used for the construction of new facilities and the refurbishment of existing infrastructure.\textsuperscript{85}

In Southwest Ontario, employment grew modestly in the economic regions of Windsor–Sarnia and London. In Windsor, K+S Windsor Salt Ltd. announced that it will invest $60M to expand operations at their Ojibway Salt Mine, extending mining operations by nearly 50 years, with work scheduled to begin in 2017.\textsuperscript{86} In contrast, Compass Minerals laid off approximately 90 employees from its Sifto Salt Mine in Goderich in late 2015,\textsuperscript{87} although the company has since started hiring again.\textsuperscript{88} The chemical cluster in the Sarnia–Lambton area received a boost with a $12M investment from the Government of Canada, creating 478 full-time equivalent jobs by 2018.\textsuperscript{89} However, disappointing news came from Thamesford, where Maple Leaf Foods Inc. announced that it will be closing its turkey processing plant by early 2018, affecting approximately 400 workers.\textsuperscript{90}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{84} Miller, T. (2016, April 27). Casino breaks ground. \textit{Belleville Intelligencer}. Retrieved from \url{http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2016/04/27/casino-breaks-ground}
\item \textsuperscript{87} Miller, S. (2015, December 22). Warm winter brings layoffs at Goderich salt mine. \textit{CTV News}. Retrieved from \url{http://london.ctvnews.ca/warm-winter-brings-layoffs-at-goderich-salt-mine-1.2710542}
Employment increased by 4,200 in the Ottawa economic region, equivalent to a 0.6% gain over the year. While much of the focus is on the construction of the Confederation LRT Line, mixed news came out of the regional retail trade industry in 2016. On the positive side, Cabela’s, an outdoor recreation retailer, opened in Ottawa in September, planning to hire about 175 full-time and part-time employees. As well, CF Rideau Centre, a shopping centre in downtown Ottawa, opened its four-level expansion, which includes more than 20 new retailers. However, the Jean Coutu Group Inc. announced that it is moving its Hawkesbury distribution centre to Quebec, affecting about 127 employees. In addition, Metro Inc. announced that it is closing its grocery store in Cornwall, resulting in the loss of 68 jobs.

Small employment gains were also registered in the Muskoka–Kawartha and Northwest economic regions. The arts, entertainment and recreation industry in Peterborough will be boosted by the announcement that the Ontario Gaming East Limited Partnership will build a new casino, creating 150 new jobs at the gaming tables and the restaurant. In Northwest Ontario, the region continued to see some activity in its mining industry, with Goldcorp Inc. announcing that it will proceed with $90M of expansions at its Musselwhite gold mine to increase production in 2019, and New Gold Inc. continuing construction on its Rainy River Project northwest of Fort Frances.

Employment levels were relatively stable compared to the previous year in the Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula (+0.3%) and the Stratford–Bruce Peninsula (+0.3%) economic regions. Despite this slow growth, Stratford–Bruce Peninsula’s regional unemployment rate of 4.8% was the lowest in Ontario.

Small employment decreases in two economic regions in 2016

The job climate improved in nearly all economic regions in Ontario in 2016. The only regions to see a loss in employment were Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie and Northeast Ontario.

Employment fell slightly in Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie (-4,600; -0.6%) over the past year. The unemployment rate held firm at 5.4%, but both the participation and employment rates dipped in 2016. Labour market conditions varied between the census metropolitan areas in the region, with stable employment in Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo and Guelph countered by a fall in Barrie. The regional health care industry had a fair amount of layoff announcements across the region over 2016, as several local hospitals and medical centres cut

staff in an effort to trim budgets.\textsuperscript{98} The manufacturing industry also saw a handful of long-standing companies shut facilities,\textsuperscript{99} although others boosted capacity, with expansions at RIMOWA North America Inc., Phoenix Building Components, and Stemmler’s Meat & Cheese part of an active year for the regional manufacturing base.\textsuperscript{100}

Meanwhile, BlackBerry Inc. continued to remodel its operations throughout 2016,\textsuperscript{101} with the company increasing its focus on security and software and outsourcing production duties. The region’s innovation and technology hub had a solid year with numerous investments and hiring rounds. Google Canada opened its new Canadian head office in the region, and Shopify Plus added 200 employees after moving into the former Seagram Museum in Waterloo,\textsuperscript{102} while the University of Waterloo launched the largest free start-up incubator in the world, and plans are in the works to create a technology campus valued at $55M.\textsuperscript{103} In addition, steady population growth and business activity supported an overall rise in housing starts and investment in non-residential construction in the major urban centres in the area.\textsuperscript{104} Some of the larger projects to break ground included the Elora Mill Hotel & Spa, expected to cost $120M, and a recreation centre in Orillia pegged at $53M.\textsuperscript{105}


\textsuperscript{101} Sagan, A. (2016, September 26). BlackBerry plan to outsource hardware development will lead to ‘limited’ layoffs: CEO. BNN. Retrieved from http://www.bnn.ca/blackberry-plan-to-outsource-hardware-development-will-lead-to-limited-layoffs-ceo-says-1.575299


\textsuperscript{104} Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 027-0049 – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, under construction and completions in selected census metropolitan areas, annual (units); Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 026-0016 – Investment in non-residential building construction, by type of building, province and census metropolitan area (CMA), quarterly (dollars)

Employment was relatively flat in the **Northeast** Ontario economic region in 2016, with a small decline over the year (-300; -0.1%). The unemployment rate fell over the year to 7.2%, although this was still the highest rate among Ontario’s economic regions. Conditions across the core resource-based industries varied over the past year in the region. The slump in metal commodity prices at the start of 2016 weighed down on local operations, as some miners reduced output and cut staff,\(^{106}\) as these layoffs further extended to those that supply and service the mining industry. Even with this slowdown, there were some positive announcements over the year, with new projects and future exploration work. General Magnesium Corporation opened its magnesium-talc mine near Timmins, and Goldcorp Canada Ltd. will open the first fully electrical mine in the world near Chapleau in 2017.\(^{107}\)

A stronger American housing market encouraged wood product manufacturers to restart sawmills and ramp up efforts in the region. The film industry was also a big newsmaker in the Northeast region. Hideaway Pictures and Motion Picture Corporation of America signed a deal worth $100M that will lead to more production opportunities in the region during the next three years.\(^{108}\) Another sector that saw a fair amount of activity was the construction industry. Several infrastructure developments took shape to upgrade highways, bridges and schools in the Northeast.\(^{109,110}\) This past year saw a number of temporary and permanent layoffs for steelmakers such as Tenaris Algoma Tubes and Essar Steel Algoma Inc.,\(^{111,112}\) but an uptick in steel prices and greater global demand may help producers turn the corner.

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### Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region, for Ontario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment ('000)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015 to 2016</th>
<th>2014 to 2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seasonally unadjusted data</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>6,999.6</td>
<td>6,923.2</td>
<td>6,877.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Regions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>692.4</td>
<td>688.2</td>
<td>697.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingston–Pembroke</td>
<td>212.5</td>
<td>201.0</td>
<td>210.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskoka–Kawarths</td>
<td>170.6</td>
<td>167.8</td>
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<td>Toronto</td>
<td>3,373.2</td>
<td>3,320.4</td>
<td>3,241.1</td>
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<td>Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie</td>
<td>706.0</td>
<td>710.6</td>
<td>704.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula</td>
<td>721.4</td>
<td>719.1</td>
<td>706.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>330.9</td>
<td>330.4</td>
<td>324.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor–Sarnia</td>
<td>299.4</td>
<td>295.1</td>
<td>299.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford–Bruce Peninsula</td>
<td>145.5</td>
<td>145.0</td>
<td>151.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>247.8</td>
<td>248.1</td>
<td>256.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>99.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Source:** Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0123

### Annual Employment Growth, by Economic Region, for Ontario

**2015–2016**

- Kingston—Pembroke
- Northwest
- Muskoka—Kawarths
- Toronto
- Windsor—Sarnia
- Ottawa
- Stratford—Bruce Peninsula
- Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula
- London
- Northeast
- Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie

![Annual Employment Growth Chart](chart.png)
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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