Labour Force Trends - Employment grew for the second consecutive quarter in Ontario

- Gains in full-time employment (+56,900) were offset by losses in part-time work (-20,500)
- The unemployment rate held steady at 6.3%
- The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 rose from 13.7% to 14.8% in the first quarter

Employment increased by 36,300 in Ontario in the first quarter of 2017. This was the second consecutive quarterly gain for the province. Although gains in full-time employment were recorded across the three-month period, part-time employment recorded losses in February and March. Both employment and participation rates inched up in the first quarter of 2017. The unemployment rate for Ontario’s youth aged 15 to 24 increased to 14.8% and the employment rate fell to 51.9% in the first quarter of 2017.

At the national level, employment grew by 94,900 in the first quarter of 2017, with employment gains observed across all three months. The national unemployment rate declined to 6.7% in the first quarter of 2017, the lowest level in Canada since Q4 of 2014.

In the United States, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 98,000 in March 2017.¹ This gain underperformed the market expectation of 180,000 and it was the lowest employment gain since May 2016. Employment gains averaged 178,000 for the first three months of 2017 and the unemployment rate fell to 4.5% in March, continuing a downward trend over the last two months.² In their March Meeting, the Federal Reserve policymakers made progress in reducing the unemployment rate, which has been above 4% for a decade.

Reserve raised interest rates for the second time in three months, suggesting an optimistic outlook for U.S. economic growth.3

Employment grew by 94,600 in Ontario between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. Employment gains were observed in both full-time and part-time work. The unemployment rate declined from 6.7 to 6.3, while the participation rate edged down slightly.

A look at labour market conditions for Ontario’s Indigenous People

In the first quarter of 2017, the total population aged 15+ in Ontario was 11.6 million and the Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 2.1% of that, or 242,400 people. Employment among Indigenous people in Ontario was 124,100, representing an increase of +8,000 (+6.9%) from a year earlier (Q1 2016). All of the increase was in full-time (+8,800 or +10.5%) positions, partially offset by a decrease in part-time positions (-900 or -2.8%).

In Q1 2017, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population declined -0.2 percentage points from a year earlier, to 11.8%, while the unemployment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population decreased to 6.4% (-0.5 percentage points). The participation rate of the Indigenous population increased to 58.0% (+0.6 percentage points) year-over-year, while that of the non-Indigenous population edged down slightly to 64.3%. The employment rate among Indigenous people also increased from the previous year to 51.2% (+0.6 percentage points). For the non-Indigenous population, the employment rate was 60.2%.

### Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data</th>
<th>1st Quarter 2017</th>
<th>4th Quarter 2016</th>
<th>1st Quarter 2016</th>
<th>Quarterly Variation</th>
<th>Yearly Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 15+ ('000)</td>
<td>11,616.0</td>
<td>11,580.8</td>
<td>11,466.1</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>149.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force ('000)</td>
<td>7,553.4</td>
<td>7,514.3</td>
<td>7,484.7</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>68.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment ('000)</td>
<td>7,074.5</td>
<td>7,038.2</td>
<td>6,979.9</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>94.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time ('000)</td>
<td>5,734.6</td>
<td>5,677.7</td>
<td>5,669.6</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time ('000)</td>
<td>1,339.9</td>
<td>1,360.4</td>
<td>1,310.3</td>
<td>-20.5</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment ('000)</td>
<td>478.9</td>
<td>476.1</td>
<td>504.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>-25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate (%)</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation Rate (%)</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Rate (%)</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

---

Ontario Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonally Adjusted Data</th>
<th>1st Quarter 2017 (%)</th>
<th>4th Quarter 2016 (%)</th>
<th>1st Quarter 2016 (%)</th>
<th>Quarterly Variation (% points)</th>
<th>Yearly Variation (% points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 years and over</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men - 25 years and over</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women - 25 years and over</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 24 years</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men - 15 to 24 years</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women - 15 to 24 years</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087
Ontario - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-month moving averages</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Yearly variation (Indigenous)</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
<th>Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q1 2017</td>
<td>Q1 2016</td>
<td>Q1 2017</td>
<td>Q1 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 15+ ('000)</td>
<td>242.4</td>
<td>229.6</td>
<td>11,373.5</td>
<td>11,236.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force ('000)</td>
<td>140.6</td>
<td>131.9</td>
<td>7,314.0</td>
<td>7,246.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment ('000)</td>
<td>124.1</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td>6,842.6</td>
<td>6,749.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time ('000)</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>83.9</td>
<td>5,486.2</td>
<td>5,425.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time ('000)</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>1,356.4</td>
<td>1,324.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment ('000)</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>471.4</td>
<td>496.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate (%)</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation Rate (%)</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Rate (%)</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>60.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Manufacturing led employment growth in the goods-producing sector in the first quarter

Employment in the goods-producing sector grew by 5,100 (+0.4%) in the first quarter of 2017, based on seasonally-adjusted estimates. This increase was attributed to employment growth in manufacturing which was up by 13,600 or 1.8%. Employment losses were reported in nearly all other areas, notably in construction of 6,100 (-1.2%).

Along with the strong employment gain of 13,600 in manufacturing, there were also several positive developments in the period. The Canadian motor vehicle manufacturing industry, which is concentrated in Ontario, performed favourably, buoyed by stronger sales of light trucks\(^4\) and large capital investments. The

---


federal and provincial governments supported investments made by Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited\(^6\),\(^7\) and Honda of Canada Manufacturing,\(^8\) and various parts suppliers are also expanding in the province.\(^9\),\(^10\),\(^11\),\(^12\)

Other indicators also point to a strengthening manufacturing sector. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index remained in expansion territory in March and rose to its highest level in nearly three-and-a-half years. The sector’s performance reflected strong output, growth in new orders and in domestic demand, and rising staffing levels. In particular, Ontario experienced a sharp increase in export sales. However, the sector faces challenges, such as long supplier delivery times and high cost burdens due to the strong United States dollar and rising raw material prices.\(^13\),\(^14\)

Some layoff announcements will however temper employment growth in manufacturing.\(^15\),\(^16\),\(^17\) Among them, FCA Canada Inc. plans to outsource operations at its FCA Transport division in Windsor by the end of 2017. The potential loss of 295 positions should be averted through retirements and other employment offers.\(^18\)

---


Employment in the **construction** sector declined by 6,100, however, activities remain buoyant. The non-residential segment attracted several multi-million investments, including in retail, and industrial buildings. On the infrastructure front, employment in the sector also benefitted from transit-related projects.

In the **utilities** sector, the merger established between Enbridge Inc. and Spectra Energy Corp. is expected to result in some employment losses in Ontario.

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the goods-producing sector fell marginally by 800 (-0.1%). Employment gains in three sectors, particularly construction (+13,000), could not offset the losses in agriculture (-11,400) and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-6,300).

**Health care and social assistance led employment growth in the services-producing sector for the quarterly and yearly period**

---


Employment increased by 31,300 or 0.6% in the services-producing sector. The main contributors were health care and social assistance (+19,800), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+13,300), and public administration (10,300). Employment losses were reported in five sectors, with the largest in information, culture and recreation (-8,800), and educational services (-7,300).

The health care and social assistance sector continued its growth momentum, expanding by 19,800 this quarter. Coinciding with demographic changes, health services is benefiting from news of investments in hospitals. On the social assistance side, more child-care spaces will be added in schools in different areas of Ontario. The plan proposed in the 2017 federal budget to support up to 40,000 new subsidized child-care spaces nationally will further boost future employment in the sector.

Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (FIRE) sector expanded by 13,300, increasing for the second consecutive quarter. Within this sector, most recently available reports indicate an increase in earnings in banking compared to a year ago. Yet, technological shifts in the industry, such as the growing use of on-line banking and other digital features are contributing to longer-term plans to reduce the number of bank branches. News came of more imminent closures of some locations especially in the less populated areas of the province. For the real estate segment of the FIRE industry, although demand for housing remains strong in most urban areas, high home prices, tightness in the supply, and regulatory changes may be impacting sales activities in some markets.

---

The 4,400 employment growth in **wholesale and retail trade** is likely due to employment growth in the retail segment. Based on the planned expansions, retail will have an influx of new stores in the coming months including clothing, grocery, and discount retailers.\(^{46,47,48}\) The ramping up of seasonal hiring by Lowe's Companies, Inc.\(^{49}\) was also good news for the sector. Despite these expansions, the prevalence of online shopping continues to weigh down on bricks-and-mortar store operations and led to some closure announcements, including BCBG Max Azria Canada Inc.\(^{50,51}\)

Employment declined by 8,800 in the **information, culture and recreation** sector. Within this industry, the evolution of digital technology continues to challenge traditional broadcast and print media operations and contributed to employment cuts by Bell Media\(^{52,53}\) and Postmedia Network Canada Corp.\(^{54,55}\)

The **accommodation and food services** industry also experienced a marginal loss of 1,400. However, several restaurant chains announced expansion and recruitment plans, including Starbucks Canada,\(^{56}\) Freshii Inc.,\(^{57}\) and A&W Food Services of Canada Inc.\(^{58}\)

---


Professional, scientific and technical services (PSTS) reported employment gains of 4,100. During the quarter, Ontario’s technology base received good news. Ford Motor Company of Canada Ltd. announced an investment of $500M for research and development in Canada. The company will establish a new Ottawa Research and Engineering Centre, and two satellite offices in Oakville and Waterloo, creating about 300 new engineering positions.\(^59\) Other significant news included the opening of the Vector Institute in Toronto which is devoted to artificial intelligence capability,\(^60\) and the launch of a software development centre in Markham by General Motors of Canada Company.\(^61\)

Looking ahead, commitments made in the 2017 federal budget may support employment growth in several sectors, including PSTS. The Innovation and Skills Plan aspect of the budget is focused on expanding growth in six key areas: advanced manufacturing, agri-food, clean technology, digital industries, health/bio-sciences, and clean resources. Also, $400M is proposed over three years for a new Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative to support the growth of eligible entrepreneurs, including start-ups.\(^62\)

On a year-over-year basis, employment growth in the services-producing sector was stronger than the goods-producing sector with employment expanding by 95,500 (1.7%). The gains were also led by health care and social assistance services (+36,300 or 4.4%). Other large contributors were public administration (+26,800) and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+19,200). Noteworthy losses were reported by educational services (-10,000), business, building and other support services (-6,700), and wholesale and retail trade (-5,600).

---


### Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Quarter 2017</th>
<th>4th Quarter 2016</th>
<th>1st Quarter 2016</th>
<th>Quarterly Variation</th>
<th>Yearly Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total employed, all industries</strong></td>
<td>7,074.5</td>
<td>7,038.2</td>
<td>6,979.9</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goods-producing sector</strong></td>
<td>1,425.8</td>
<td>1,420.7</td>
<td>1,426.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>71.6</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>-1.9</td>
<td>-2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>-0.7</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>510.9</td>
<td>517.0</td>
<td>497.9</td>
<td>-6.1</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>759.4</td>
<td>745.8</td>
<td>757.2</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Services-producing sector</strong></td>
<td>5,648.8</td>
<td>5,617.5</td>
<td>5,553.3</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>1,030.5</td>
<td>1,026.1</td>
<td>1,036.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and warehousing</td>
<td>326.4</td>
<td>326.7</td>
<td>328.5</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing</td>
<td>572.1</td>
<td>558.8</td>
<td>552.9</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific and technical services</td>
<td>601.5</td>
<td>597.4</td>
<td>595.4</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, building and other support services</td>
<td>326.8</td>
<td>326.7</td>
<td>333.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services</td>
<td>498.2</td>
<td>505.5</td>
<td>508.2</td>
<td>-7.3</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care and social assistance</td>
<td>865.0</td>
<td>845.2</td>
<td>828.7</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, culture and recreation</td>
<td>314.9</td>
<td>323.7</td>
<td>304.3</td>
<td>-8.8</td>
<td>-2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and food services</td>
<td>461.9</td>
<td>463.3</td>
<td>451.3</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>279.5</td>
<td>282.7</td>
<td>269.5</td>
<td>-3.2</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>371.8</td>
<td>361.5</td>
<td>345.0</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

### REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Eight out of eleven economic regions posted employment gains

The **Muskoka–Kawarthas** economic region posted an employment gain of 18,800 and the largest increase in the labour force participation rate from 52.9% to 59.0% between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. While the manufacturing sector in the region saw a grim start to the quarter with the announcement of major layoffs by General Electric at its Peterborough plant, federal investments in other manufacturing areas and the addition of new industrial facilities are expected to offset some of these losses in the coming months. The

---


construction sector saw some gains over the quarter with new housing and infrastructure projects while the retail sector saw an uneven few months with the closure of the Sears store in Cobourg and the addition of about 42 staff at Home Depot’s Peterborough location. Accommodation and food services, a key sector in the region, registered several gains over the quarter with the opening of multiple restaurants and the addition of staff at resorts in anticipation of seasonal tourism.

The Toronto economic region posted employment gains of 32,300 year-over-year this quarter. Despite these gains, however, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.0% between 2016 and 2017 while the labour force participation rate declined marginally. The manufacturing sector in the region received a boost from federal and provincial governments funding and the expansion of multiple manufacturing companies which are expected to create some jobs in the coming months. However, some of these job

---


gains will be offset by the announced closures in coming months including Northstar Aerospace’s Milton facility affecting 200 employees and Bacardi Canada’s Brampton bottling facility affecting 51 employees.

The construction industry continued to see gains over the first quarter with the announcement of new revitalization, redevelopment, and expansion projects. Additionally, recently announced funding for new transit projects and for repairing and/or expanding roads and bridges further bolstered the industry in the region.

The retail sector experienced both ups and downs in the first quarter. Gains were mostly observed in luxury retail, discounted brand names, and discount stores while losses tended to be focused among

---


household and mid-tier retailers. High-end fashion retailers saw both gains and losses with closures announced by BCBG Max Azria, Holt Renfrew, Gerry Weber, and Bebe during the first quarter. The finance and insurance sector had a somewhat gloomy end to the first quarter with the announced elimination of up to 130 jobs by CIBC in its Toronto finance department as well some potential cuts in BMO’s buy-side equity unit.

The Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula continued its trend of employment gains, growing by 17,900 year-over-year. Investments in infrastructure upgrades and other development projects supported employment in the region throughout the first quarter. However, the closure of Resolute Forest Product’s

---

newsprint mill in Thorold, layoffs at Stelco Inc. in Hamilton and Nanticoke, and elimination of staff positions in the City of Hamilton offset some of these gains.

Employment in the London economic region grew by 7,000 between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017, which is the region’s largest employment gain in 8 months. This quarter witnessed significant upheaval in the region’s automobile manufacturing sector with GM’s announcement that it will cut 625 jobs at its assembly plant in Ingersoll. However some of these losses are expected to be offset by major investments, expansions, and acquisitions in the regional manufacturing base such as the potential creation of 120 jobs by North Star Windows and Doors over the next couple of years. The construction sector in the region has also seen some major gains with the $8 million expansion of the BMO Centre/London Optimist Sports


Centre, construction of the On Track project in St. Thomas, and expansion of the Jakeman’s Maple Products facility in Sweaburg.

The Windsor–Sarnia economic region posted a modest employment gain of 1,900 (+0.7%) year-over-year. While the manufacturing base in the region saw employment growth over March, some uncertainty was generated by Fiat Chrysler Automobile’s announcement that it may close down its operations in Windsor potentially affecting about 295 positions. The region’s construction sector experienced some job creation with the upcoming expansion of Union Gas Ltd.’s pipeline, $3.6 million in upgrades of multiple schools across the region, $2.5 million addition of a new library branch at the Optimist Community Centre, and $25 million retail development in Windsor.

The Kingston–Pembroke economic region registered a strong employment gain of 17,600 (+8.9%) between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. The construction industry in region saw substantial job creation this quarter with the construction of the Napanee Generating Station employing about 600 people, revitalization of Belleville’s downtown, and multiple infrastructure projects.

---

Employment gains were also observed in Ottawa and Stratford–Bruce Peninsula economic regions between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017.

Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie posted the largest employment loss for the sixth straight month

The Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie economic region recorded the largest year-over-year loss with a decline of 11,600 between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. The unemployment rate, however, remained fixed at 6% which could be attributed to the drop in labour force participation. The regional manufacturing sector suffered losses this quarter with the closure of Midland’s General Mills plant in January and CCL Industries Inc. facility in Penetanguishene. However, several new investments in the sector provided some solace during this period. The construction industry, on the other hand, continued to see gains with new investments in expansions of several post-secondary institutions, upgrades in municipal infrastructure, and new building projects.

---


Employment in the **Northeast** economic region declined by 4,200 between the first quarters of 2016 and 2017. The region was hit hard during this quarter with Vale Canada Ltd. announcing the closure of its Stobie Mine affecting 230 workers\textsuperscript{158} adding to multiple closures and layoffs announced across a number of sectors including health care,\textsuperscript{159} utilities,\textsuperscript{160} manufacturing,\textsuperscript{161,162} retail,\textsuperscript{163} and finance.\textsuperscript{164} However, investments and job gains in other sectors should provide some support for employment in the region going forward.\textsuperscript{165,166,167,168,169,170}

The **Northwest** economic region also registered losses (-200) year-over-year. Some major losses were observed this quarter with the layoffs and/or closures announced by TD Canada Trust, CIBC,\textsuperscript{171} and Rentech Inc.\textsuperscript{172} However, gains in other sectors particularly construction,\textsuperscript{173,174,175,176} health care,\textsuperscript{177} public transit,\textsuperscript{178} and public administration\textsuperscript{179,180} provided some positive news for the region over the first quarter.


\textsuperscript{159} Hamilton-McCharles, J. (2017, March 14). The difficult decision 'getting harder to make'. *The Nugget*. Retrieved from \url{http://www.nugget.ca/2017/03/14/the-difficult-decisions-getting-harder-to-make}


\textsuperscript{166} SooToday Staff. (2017, February 17). This company is looking to hire 100 people. *SooToday.com*. Retrieved from \url{https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/this-company-is-looking-to-hire-100-people-538949}


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonally Unadjusted Data</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st Quarter 2017 ('000)</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2016 ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ontario</strong></td>
<td>6,972.0</td>
<td>6,872.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Regions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>698.0</td>
<td>680.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingston–Pembroke</td>
<td>216.1</td>
<td>198.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskoka–Kawartha</td>
<td>182.2</td>
<td>163.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>3,352.9</td>
<td>3,320.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie</td>
<td>697.8</td>
<td>709.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula</td>
<td>722.7</td>
<td>704.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>333.0</td>
<td>326.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor–Sarnia</td>
<td>290.4</td>
<td>288.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford–Bruce Peninsula</td>
<td>145.0</td>
<td>142.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>234.9</td>
<td>239.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>99.0</td>
<td>99.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 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.

Prepared by: Labour Market and Socio-Economic Information Division (LMSID), Ontario
For further information, please contact the LMSID team at: NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca
For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2017, all rights reserved