



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

August 2017



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 remained strong in Ontario in August 2017

- Employment increased by 31,100 (+0.4%) in the province in August 2017
- Part-time employment accounted for all of the gains (+57,500) while full-time work declined (-26,300)
- The unemployment rate dropped from 6.1% to 5.7%

The Ontario labour market continued to grow in August with a 31,100 increase in total employment. However, the surge came entirely from an uptick in part-time employment (+57,500) and partially offset by a decrease in full-time work (-26,300). The provincial unemployment rate fell to its lowest point since January 2001 – from 6.1% in July to 5.7% in August, while labour force participation remained relatively unchanged.

Employment growth across Canada was less impressive in August, with an increase of 22,200 in the past month. Ontario led the charge in growth, while employment remained fairly stable in the other provinces. The national unemployment rate inched down from 6.3% to 6.2% since July. Over the past year, employment in Canada grew by 374,300, unemployment fell, and the participation rate inched up. Another cause for optimism in Canada is the strong surge in GDP posted in the second quarter of 2017. An expansion of 4.5% marked the biggest increase since 2011,¹ and was a factor in the decision by the Bank of Canada to raise its benchmark interest rate to 1.0%.²

¹ Evans, P. (2017, August 31). Canada's GDP grew at 4.5% annual pace in 2nd quarter, fastest since 2011. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/gdp-june-statistics-canada-1.4269811>

² Blatchford, A. (2017, September 6). Bank of Canada raises key interest rate to 1%. *The Canadian Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.bnn.ca/investors-split-on-bank-of-canada-s-next-interest-rate-move-1.848430>

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 156,000 in the United States in August 2017, which fell below expectations which hovered closer to the 180,000 mark. The unemployment rate moved up slightly to 4.4%, and wage growth was muted. Further dampening the labour market outlook were adjustments done to previously posted payroll numbers, as employment growth in both June and July were adjusted downwards.³

Employment in Ontario grew by 153,700 between August 2016 and August 2017, with gains made in both full-time (+69,100) and part-time (+84,700) work. The province continued to see sizeable job increases over the past year. The unemployment fell by 1.0 percentage point from 6.7% to 5.7% over the year, while the participation rate inched down.

Youth aged 15-24 in Ontario also fared better in the labour market in August compared to the previous month. The unemployment rate fell from 11.9% to 10.6%, which was lower than the national rate of 11.5%. This marked the first time since early 2003 that youth unemployment was lower in Ontario compared to Canada. There was also a monthly increase in employment, but fewer youths participated in the labour market.

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 plan to return to school full-time in the autumn.⁴ Between August 2016 and August 2017, student summer employment increased by 7,400 in the province. The unemployment rate for returning students fell from 16.3% to 11.8%. Across Canada, the student unemployment rate was 12.7% in August 2017.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

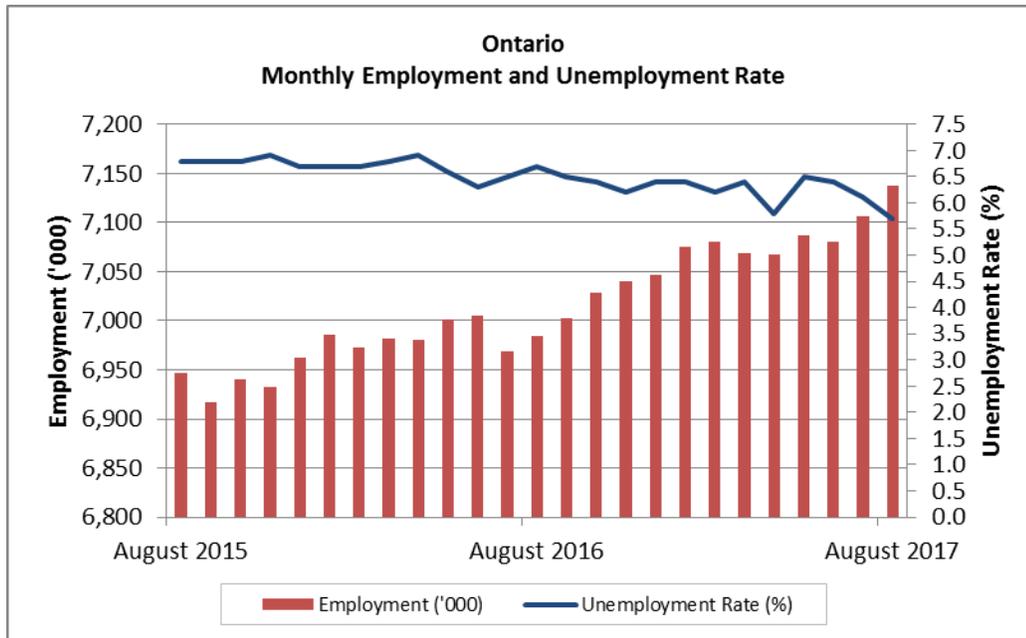
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11709.8	11,690.0	11545.9	19.8	0.2	163.9	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	7565.7	7,571.4	7486.0	-5.7	-0.1	79.7	1.1
Employment ('000)	7137.4	7,106.3	6983.7	31.1	0.4	153.7	2.2
Full-Time ('000)	5736.2	5,762.5	5667.1	-26.3	-0.5	69.1	1.2
Part-Time ('000)	1401.3	1,343.8	1316.6	57.5	4.3	84.7	6.4
Unemployment ('000)	428.3	465.1	502.2	-36.8	-7.9	-73.9	-
							14.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	6.1	6.7	-0.4	-	-1.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.6	64.8	64.8	-0.2	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.0	60.8	60.5	0.2	-	0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

³ Cox, J. (2017, September 1). Payrolls increase 156,000 in August as job creation cools. CNBC. Retrieved from <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/01/nonfarm-payrolls-august-2017.html>

⁴ Statistics Canada. Table 282-0006 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by students during summer months, sex and age group, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (persons unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database).



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.7	6.1	6.7	-0.4	-1.0
25 years and over	4.9	5.2	5.4	-0.3	-0.5
Men - 25 years and over	4.7	5.0	5.6	-0.3	-0.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.0	5.4	5.2	-0.4	-0.2
15 to 24 years	10.6	11.9	14.5	-1.3	-3.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.9	14.1	15.6	-1.2	-2.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.2	9.6	13.3	-1.4	-5.1

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the goods-producing sector steady in August, edged up compared to a year earlier

The goods-producing sector remained relatively unchanged in August 2017. Seasonally adjusted employment grew by 2,500 (+0.2%) over the month. The headline figure masks some difference across industries, as improvements in construction (+3,600) and agriculture (+2,600) compensated for a decrease in manufacturing (-3,200).

Strength in construction was encouraging, as Ontario building permit values in July remained elevated after their June high. The boost came mainly from institutional and governmental permits, which were up over 60% compared to a year earlier. Meanwhile, residential permits ticked up slightly but were down 17% from July 2016.⁵ In fact, Ontario home sales in July were lower by a quarter from record levels a year earlier and prices were also uncharacteristically flat.⁶ Reassuringly, housing starts, a closely watched economic indicator, were less impacted and showed both monthly and yearly increases.⁷

Moreover, August construction industry announcements were largely in the non-residential segment. In utilities, Wataynikaneyap Power LP will erect a 117-km power line to Pikangikum First Nation,⁸ and in southwest Ontario, Union Gas announced several expansion projects to be completed in 2018⁹ and 2019.¹⁰ Outside the energy sector, the replacement of the Rainy River—Baudette International Bridge at the US border¹¹ and \$10.8M in renovations underway to a federal government building in Windsor will also lead to construction jobs.¹² Construction

⁵ Statistics Canada. (2017, September 8). CANSIM Table 026-0003, Building permits, values by activity sector, monthly (dollars). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?id=0260003>

⁶ Ontario Real Estate Association Staff. (2017, September 8). Ontario home sales decline in July 2017. *Ontario Real Estate Board*. Retrieved from <http://creastats.crea.ca/orea/>

⁷ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2017, September 8). CANSIM Table 027-0054, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts all areas, Canada and provinces seasonally adjusted at annual rates, monthly (units x 1,000). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?id=0270054>

⁸ Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. (2017, August 17). The Government of Canada invests in bringing clean, safe and reliable electricity to Pikangikum First Nation in northwestern Ontario. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-northern-affairs/news/2017/08/the-government-ofcanadainvestsinbringingcleansafeandreliableelec.html>

⁹ Jackson, P. (2017, August 15). Natural Gas Expansion Approved in Lambton, Perth Counties. *Bayshore Broadcasting*. Retrieved from http://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=95307

¹⁰ Terfloth, T. (2017, August 29). Structure will be located at Keil Drive headquarters. *Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2017/08/29/structure-will-be-located-at-keil-drive-headquarters>

¹¹ Infrastructure Canada. (2017, August 24). Government of Canada and Ontario invest in the replacement of Rainy River – Baudette International Bridge. *Government of Canada Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2017/08/governments-of-canadaandontarioinvestinthereplacementofrainyriver.html>

¹² Schmidt, D. (2017, August 25). Feds spending \$10.8M on new downtown Windsor site for employees. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/feds-spending-10-8m-on-new-downtown-windsor-site-for-employees>

also began on the new \$144M Groves memorial Community Hospital outside of Guelph and is due to for completion in 2020.¹³

Manufacturing optimism was lower but still remained positive in August and output expectations were more upbeat. The national IHS Markit Purchasing Managers Index reported growth in production and new orders.¹⁴ Reduced demand for industrial machinery led General Electric Canada to announce the shutdown of its Peterborough plant by September 2018, gradually laying off about 358 employees.¹⁵ Also due to lower demand, 140 workers were laid off at a Honeywell Aerospace satellite parts and equipment manufacturing plant in Cambridge, after having received notice in July.¹⁶

Weaker demand for commodities overall is also affecting the forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry. In nickel mining, there are concerns Vale Canada Limited might cut production and lay off staff in Sudbury, potentially affecting up to 700 workers.¹⁷ In precious metals, Goldcorp will close one of its Timmins underground projects by December and lay off 140 workers, due to aging infrastructure, low productivity, and dwindling remaining reserves.¹⁸

Goods-producing sector employment was only 8,200 (+0.6%) higher in August 2017 compared to August 2016. Year-over-year growth was driven by the manufacturing sector (+12,800), construction (+4,500) and held back by agriculture (-6,900) and utilities (-3,900).

Services-producing sector employment also relatively flat for the month and higher year-over-year

Similar to the goods-producing sector, services-producing sector employment held steady in August 2017, with the number of positions 28,600 higher (+0.5%). Growth was led by finance, insurance, real estate, and leasing (+12,900) and partially offset by losses in retail and wholesale trade (-9,300).

The lower monthly figure for the consumer-driven trade industry was belied by higher employment compared to the same time last year (+3.5%). Data from June showed nominal retail sales in Canada were up 6.6% over a 12-month period, on robust volume and in spite of slowing price growth.¹⁹ Retail was likely impacted in recent months by sagging consumer confidence as greater global uncertainty and stalling real estate values may have

¹³ Myslik, J. (2017, August 11). Construction of new Groves hospital officially underway. *The Wellington Advertiser*. Retrieved from <http://www.wellingtonadvertiser.com/comments/index.cfm?articleID=36991>

¹⁴ IHS Markit. (2017, September 1). Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI. *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/PressRelease.mvc/c6b7d68ccbce4922baef0f051dd00a9b>

¹⁵ CHEX TV Staff. (2017, August 25). General Electric shutting down Peterborough plant in 2018. *Global TV*. Retrieved from <http://globalnews.ca/news/3696024/ge-shutting-down-peterborough-plant/>

¹⁶ CTV News Staff. (2017, August 31). Industry downturn blamed for layoffs at Com Dev. *CTV News Kitchener*. Retrieved from <http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/industry-downturn-blamed-for-layoffs-at-com-dev-1.3570636>

¹⁷ CTV News Staff. (2017, August 14). Rumors swirl about layoffs at Vale. *CTV Northern Ontario*. Retrieved from <http://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/rumors-swirl-about-layoffs-at-vale-1.3544900>

¹⁸ Meldrum, E. (2017, August 1). Dome underground mine closing in December. *Timmins Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.timminspress.com/2017/08/01/dome-mine-closing-in-december>

¹⁹ Statistics Canada. (2017, May 4). Table 080-0020 - Retail trade, sales by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), monthly (dollars). *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?id=0800024>

Statistics Canada. (2017, May 4). Table 080-0024 - Retail trade, sales, chained dollars and price index based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), monthly. *Statistics Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?id=0800024>

influenced outlooks.²⁰ On the bright side, a new Foodland grocery store in Owen Sound will open in spring 2018 and create approximately 60 new jobs.²¹ Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd. will also open a new store this fall in Hamilton.²²

In other industry news, professional, scientific, and technical services continued to benefit from Ontario's innovation economy. Cambridge Cybersecurity firm eSentire Inc., plans to add about 200 employees over the next few years due to a large private investment.²³ Likewise, Accenture Inc. is expanding, and opened Liquid Studios in Toronto to assist companies with new technologies and software. The company plans to hire 1,000 people in Canada this year.²⁴ The Ottawa tech sector is also expected to add up to 3,000 new positions over the next few months as companies such as Blackberry QNX and Ford continue to expand.²⁵

Compared to the same time last year, services-producing sector employment in August added 145,500 positions (+2.6%). Gains were most pronounced in professional, scientific, and technical services (+48,000), health care and social assistance (+36,200), and trade (+35,900). Losses were felt in other services (-15,500) and educational services (-14,400).

²⁰ Nanos Research. (2017, September 3). Weekly look at Canada's Economic Mood. *Bloomberg Nanos Canadian Confidence Index (BNCCI)*. Retrieved from <http://www.nanosresearch.com/tickers/PDF/Bloomberg%20Nanos%20BNCCI%202017-09-01.pdf>

²¹ Gowan, R. (2017, August 17). New Owen Sound Foodland to be built. *Owen Sound Sun Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/2017/08/17/new-owen-sound-foodland-to-be-built>

²² Pearson, M. (2017, August 24). Winona Costco to open this fall, says spokesperson. *Stoney Creek News via Hamilton News*. Retrieved from <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/7519983-winona-costco-to-open-this-fall-says-spokesperson/>

²³ Drew, L. (2017, August 23). Cambridge cybersecurity firm gets big investment. *570 News*. Retrieved from <http://www.570news.com/2017/08/23/cambridge-cybersecurity-firm-gets-big-investment/>

²⁴ Accenture. (2017, August 15). Accenture launches Liquid Studios in Toronto to Help Clients Accelerate Digital Business Transformation. *Canadian News Wire*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/accenture-launches-liquid-studio-in-toronto-to-help-clients-accelerate-digital-business-transformation-640504253.html>

²⁵ Kupfer, M. (2017, August 21). Help wanted: Ottawa tech companies recruiting to fill thousands of jobs. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-kanata-thousands-tech-jobs-1.4251048>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7137.4	7106.3	6983.7	31.1	0.4	153.7	2.2
Goods-producing sector	1426.0	1423.5	1417.8	2.5	0.2	8.2	0.6
Agriculture	68.5	65.9	75.4	2.6	3.9	-6.9	-9.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	34.2	35.7	32.6	-1.5	-4.2	1.6	4.9
Utilities	46.1	45.3	50.0	0.8	1.8	-3.9	-7.8
Construction	511.7	508.1	507.2	3.6	0.7	4.5	0.9
Manufacturing	765.4	768.6	752.6	-3.2	-0.4	12.8	1.7
Services-producing sector	5711.4	5682.8	5565.9	28.6	0.5	145.5	2.6
Trade	1069.9	1079.2	1034.0	-9.3	-0.9	35.9	3.5
Transportation and warehousing	348.6	341.2	325.6	7.4	2.2	23.0	7.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	562.8	549.9	554.4	12.9	2.3	8.4	1.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	637.6	638.3	589.6	-0.7	-0.1	48.0	8.1
Business, building and other support services	319.7	319.9	318.2	-0.2	-0.1	1.5	0.5
Educational services	481.9	472.7	496.3	9.2	1.9	-14.4	-2.9
Health care and social assistance	881.1	883.7	844.9	-2.6	-0.3	36.2	4.3
Information, culture and recreation	323.5	315.3	325.1	8.2	2.6	-1.6	-0.5
Accommodation and food services	452.6	445.3	448.5	7.3	1.6	4.1	0.9
Other services	265.5	272.0	281.0	-6.5	-2.4	-15.5	-5.5
Public administration	368.3	365.3	348.3	3.0	0.8	20.0	5.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment gains reported in six economic regions across the province

Employment increased in the **Toronto** economic region by 46,600 (+1.4%), between August 2016 and August 2017 (measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis). The majority of the increase was in part-time employment. The unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage points to 6.8% as fewer people participated in the workforce between August 2017 and last year.

A significant development came out of the regional entertainment and recreation industry as Great Canadian Gaming Corporation and Brookfield Business Partners L.P. won the bid to operate certain gaming facilities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The investments anticipated at the three GTA facilities, namely at Woodbine, Ajax Downs and the Great Blue Heron Casino in Port Perry, are expected to create several hundred jobs over the longer term.^{26,27} Meanwhile in municipal affairs, the Toronto Police Service is temporarily lifting a hiring freeze and plans to have 80 new uniformed police officers join the Service by the end of this year.²⁸

The news was noticeably mixed in manufacturing. With provincial support, over 450 jobs will be created together as Apotex Inc. invests in new technology and product development at the Etobicoke facility,²⁹ and Mississauga-based, Cyclone Manufacturing Inc. expands production of precision parts for the aerospace industry.³⁰ Yet the closure announced earlier in the year by Northstar Aerospace at its plant in Milton, which is expected to take effect by October 2017, will result in the loss of about 200 jobs³¹ and reduce some of the job gains in manufacturing.

Employment in the **Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie** region maintained the growth momentum started earlier in the year. In August, 45,700 jobs were added (+6.5%) compared to the previous year. Despite higher labour force participation, the unemployment rate fell to 5.1% this month. This rate is below the provincial average and one of the lowest among all economic regions in Ontario.

²⁶Rider, D. (2017, August 8). Woodbine's 'city-within-a-city' casino expansion expected to generate 2,500 jobs. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2017/08/08/great-canadian-gaming-brookfield-partnership-picked-to-run-toronto-area-casinos.html

²⁷Brookfield Business Partners Press Release. (2017, August 8). Great Canadian Gaming and Brookfield Awarded GTA Bundle in Ontario Gaming Modernization Process. Retrieved from <https://bbu.brookfield.com/en/press-releases/2017/08-08-2017-135951833>

²⁸Gillis, W. (2017, August 10). Toronto police board backtracks on hiring freeze, plans to hire 80 officers. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/crime/2017/08/10/toronto-police-board-backtracks-on-hiring-freeze-plans-to-hire-80-officers.html>

²⁹Newsroom Ontario. (2017, August 30). Ontario Supports Life Sciences Innovation in Toronto. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2017/08/ontario-supports-life-sciences-innovation-in-toronto.html>

³⁰Newsroom Ontario. (2017, August 9). Ontario Supports Aerospace Innovation in Mississauga. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2017/08/ontario-supports-aerospace-innovation-in-mississauga.html>

³¹Canadian Manufacturing News. (2017, August 10). Unifor takes over Northstar Aerospace manufacturing plant in Milton, Ont. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/unifor-takes-northstar-aerospace-manufacturing-plant-milton-ont-199144/>

Construction activities ramped up in the region with institutional projects breaking ground, including the new \$144-M Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Wellington County.³² The development at the Seasons Retirement Communities' eight-storey seniors' building in Cambridge was also set to begin³³.

On the technology front, eSentire Inc., a cybersecurity firm in Cambridge, plans to add a couple hundred employees over the next few years due to a large private investment.³⁴

Several manufacturers also announced expansion intentions. Private and provincially supported investments will result in new production lines and additional hiring at Pilkington Glass of Canada Ltd. in Collingwood,³⁵ and Kuntz Electroplating Inc. (KEI) in Kitchener.³⁶ Also, animal vaccine manufacturer Gallant Custom Laboratories Inc. in Cambridge is planning to increase production when the company moves into a newer and larger facility in a year's time.³⁷ However the City of Cambridge was also affected by two significant layoff announcements which will have a sizeable impact on the regional labour market. Honeywell Aerospace, formerly Com Dev International Ltd., laid off workers citing the downturn in the global space and satellite industry as the reason. Based on unconfirmed reports, over 140 persons were affected.³⁸ Also luggage-maker Rimowa is laying off 149 workers from the local plant.³⁹

In the **Northwest region**, there are indications that labour market conditions are strengthening.

Employment reached a high of 105,400 in August, and a 3.7% increase over the previous year. While the participation rate continues to rise, the unemployment rate is declining and stood at 5.1% in August, down from 6.4% in August 2016.

Several initiatives were recently announced which will support employment growth and also specifically benefit the region's Indigenous community. These include multi-million dollar funding commitments by the Government

³² Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. (2017, August 9). Construction begins on new \$144M hospital near Fergus. *CBC News Kitchener-Waterloo*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/construction-fergus-elora-hospital-groves-memorial-2020-1.4240273>

³³ Martin, R. (2017, July 29). New seniors' development in west Galt. *Cambridge Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/7474664-new-seniors-development-in-west-galt>

³⁴ Drew, L. (2017, August 23). Cambridge cybersecurity firm gets big investment. *570 News*. Retrieved from <http://www.570news.com/2017/08/23/cambridge-cybersecurity-firm-gets-big-investment>

³⁵ Edwards, J. (2017, August 17). Province gives Collingwood glass plant \$436,000 grant. *Simcoe News*. Retrieved from <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7507182-province-gives-collingwood-glass-plant-436-000-grant/>

³⁶ Douglas, M. (2017, August 24). Kitchener manufacturer gets \$1M funding to make bigger products with a larger workforce. *570 News*. Retrieved from <http://www.570news.com/2017/08/24/kitchener-manufacturer-gets-1m-funding-make-bigger-products-larger-workforce/>

³⁷ Davis, B. (2017, August 24). Cambridge-based vaccine maker says new facility will cure space crunch. *Cambridge Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/news-story/7517766-cambridge-based-vaccine-maker-says-new-facility-will-cure-space-crunch>

³⁸ Ceolin, C. (2017, September 1). Reduced customer demand blamed for layoffs at Cambridge Com Dev manufacturing plant. *570 News*. Retrieved from <http://www.570news.com/2017/09/01/reduced-customer-demand-blamed-layoffs-cambridge-com-dev-manufacturing-plant/>

³⁹ Sharkey, J. (2017, August 3). 149 workers laid off from Rimowa luggage plant in Cambridge. *CBC News Kitchener-Waterloo*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/rimowa-cambridge-luggage-suitcase-layoff-1.4233294>

of Canada to upgrade the water treatment system in the Neskantaga First Nation community,⁴⁰ as well as to build new homes and renovate existing structures in 17 First Nation communities in the Treaty #3 area of Northwestern Ontario.⁴¹ Wataynikaneyap Power LP is also receiving funding to construct a 117-km power line connecting Pikangikum First Nation to the province's electricity grid.⁴² About 200 workers from 22 First Nation communities in the region will be hired through the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project Training Program to support the energy sector.⁴³

Commitments were also made to replace the Rainy River–Baudette International Bridge at the Canada–USA border.⁴⁴ While in other construction news, the province released plans to build a new cardiovascular surgery facility at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.⁴⁵

In educational services, the federal government is partnering with Teach For Canada to help provide 158 youth from Thunder Bay and Toronto with opportunities to teach in elementary, middle or high schools in Indigenous communities in northern Ontario.⁴⁶ Good news also came from the region's transportation sector as Wasaya Airlines LP will improve the frequency, as well as launch new services between areas in Northwestern Ontario and Winnipeg.⁴⁷

In the **Muskoka-Kawarthas** region, employment increased by 19,200 (+11.8%) all full-time, as part-time employment remained unchanged. However, more than 350 jobs will be lost when General Electric (GE) Canada ceases manufacturing operations at the plant in Peterborough by fall 2018. The company cited lower volumes over the last four years as the reason for the impending closure. The engineering services section of the plant will retain about 50 workers. The company had previously announced plans to lay off 150 employees in January.^{48,49}

⁴⁰ Government of Canada Press Release. (2017, July 27). Government and First Nations Work to end Drinking Water Advisory at Neskantaga First Nation. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-northern-affairs/news/2017/07/government_and_firstnationsworkstoenddrinkingwateradvisoryatnesk.html

⁴¹ Government of Canada Press Release. (2017, August 18). Government of Canada and the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 work together to support housing initiatives on reserve. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-northern-affairs/news/2017/08/government_of_canadaandtheanishinaabenationintreaty3worktogether0.html

⁴² Government of Canada Press Release. (2017, August 17). The Government of Canada invests in bringing clean, safe and reliable electricity to Pikangikum First Nation in northwestern Ontario. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-northern-affairs/news/2017/08/the_government_ofcanadainvestsinbringingcleansafeandreliableelec.html

⁴³ Forbes, R. (2017, July 27). Canada investing into Indigenous workforce. *Kenora Online*. Retrieved from <https://www.kenoraonline.com/local/canada-investing-into-indigenous-workforce>

⁴⁴ Government of Canada Press Release. (2017, August 24). Governments of Canada and Ontario invest in the replacement of Rainy River - Baudette International Bridge. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2017/08/governments_of_canadaandontarioinvestinthereplacementofrainyriver.html

⁴⁵ Newsroom Ontario. (2017, July 12). Ontario Supporting New Cardiovascular Surgery Program in Thunder Bay. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2017/07/ontario-supporting-new-cardiovascular-surgery-program-in-thunder-bay.html>

⁴⁶ Government of Canada Press Release. (2017, August 4). Government of Canada provides opportunities for youth working in northern Indigenous communities. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2017/08/government_of_canadaprovidesopportunitiesforyouthworkinginnorthe.html?wbdisable=true

⁴⁷ Northern Ontario Business News. (2017, July 25). Wasaya keeps winging west to Winnipeg. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/wasaya-keeps-winging-west-to-winnipeg-679628>

⁴⁸ Mojtehdzadeh, S. (2017, August 25). Peterborough GE plant with lethal legacy closing down. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/08/25/peterborough-ge-plant-with-lethal-legacy-closing-down.html>

⁴⁹ Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. (2017, August 25). Peterborough General Electric plant to stop manufacturing, shed 358 jobs. *CBC News Toronto*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/peterborough-general-electric-job-cuts-1.4263520>

On a more positive note, expansion plans were reported elsewhere in manufacturing, namely at Kawartha Dairy Limited in Bobcaygeon,⁵⁰ and at Dynacast Ltd. in Peterborough.⁵¹

Employment also increased in the **Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula** and **Stratford-Bruce Peninsula** economic regions.

Tech boom to help boost weak showing in Ottawa's employment numbers

The **Ottawa** economic region reported a weak employment situation with the shedding of 9,800 jobs (-1.4%) in August compared to August 2016. Nearly all the losses were in part-time employment.

Yet the revival in business activities in the region's technology cluster is expected to boost the employment numbers. Among the top news stories in the month, many tech companies reported favourable hiring intentions, including Amdocs, Lixar IT and You.i TV.⁵² Research facilities established earlier in the Kanata area by Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited and BlackBerry QNX in relation to autonomous vehicle projects,⁵³ are also strengthening the sector. Several hundred IT-related jobs such as software developers and engineers are being generated to support these initiatives.⁵⁴ The high tech sector is also helping to fuel demand in the commercial real estate market, with most recent reports indicating a decline in the citywide office vacancy rate.⁵⁵

Meanwhile, the \$800-M contract awarded by the federal government to Thales Canada Inc. will generate about 60 jobs locally to service the incoming fleet of Arctic offshore patrol ships.⁵⁶

In the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region, employment declined by 2,800. The gains in part-time employment were more than offset by losses in full-time jobs (-9,400). The unemployment rate held steady at 6.8% between August 2016 and 2017. The planned closure by Enviroshake, a manufacturer of composite roofing materials at the end of 2017 in Chatham, and the loss of nearly 50 jobs will further weaken employment in the region. The company intends to focus on another product line which will be consolidated at a plant in the United States.⁵⁷

The **London** economic region again reported a setback in the year-over-year employment numbers. In August 2017, employment declined by 6,500 (-1.9%). The participation rate also fell to 62.3% from 65.0% last year.

⁵⁰ Newsroom Ontario. (2017, August 2) Ontario Supporting New Food Processing Jobs in Bobcaygeon. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2017/08/ontario-supporting-new-food-processing-jobs-in-bobcaygeon.html>

⁵¹ Newsroom Ontario. (2017, August 31). Ontario Supporting Economic Growth in Peterborough. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/sb/en/2017/08/ontario-supporting-economic-growth-in-peterborough.html>

⁵² Kupfer, M. (2017, August 21). Help wanted: Ottawa tech companies recruiting to fill thousands of jobs. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-kanata-thousands-tech-jobs-1.4251048>

⁵³ Pilienci, V. (2017, March 30). Ford, BlackBerry cap six months of secretive dealings with shift of Ottawa tech talent. *Ottawa Citizen*. Retrieved from <http://ottawacitizen.com/business/local-business/ford-plans-337-9m-rd-centre-in-ottawa-for-self-driving-car-technology>

⁵⁴ Kupfer, M. (2017, August 21). Help wanted: Ottawa tech companies recruiting to fill thousands of jobs. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-kanata-thousands-tech-jobs-1.4251048>

⁵⁵ (2017, August 23). Ottawa Office Leasing Market Showing Positive Trends in Mid-2017. *Primecorp*. <https://www.primecorp.ca/newsroom/2017/08/lower-vacancies-in-ottawa-office-leasing-market-driven-by-high-tech-demand/>

⁵⁶ Lord, C. (2017, August 17) Update: Thales Canada adding 60 Ottawa jobs with \$800M Arctic ship support contract. *Ottawa Business Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.obj.ca/article/thales-canada-adding-60-ottawa-jobs-800m-arctic-ship-support-contract>

⁵⁷ Rodriguez, J. (2017, August 25). Enviroshake, Chatham-Kent's 2017 Industry of the Year, leaving for Michigan with 50 jobs. *Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2017/08/25/chatham-production-moving-to-michigan-almost-50-workers-to-lose-jobs>

Employment losses were also reported in the **Kingston-Pembroke** and **Northeast** economic regions.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August 2017 ('000)	August 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August 2017 (%)	August 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,213.7	7,083.3	1.8	6.3	6.9	-8.7
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	690.0	699.8	-1.4	6.8	7.0	-0.2
Kingston—Pembroke	209.3	219.7	-4.7	6.9	5.7	1.2
Muskoka—Kawarthas	182.5	163.3	11.8	6.3	8.2	-1.9
Toronto	3467.8	3421.2	1.4	6.8	7.2	-0.4
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	752.8	707.1	6.5	5.1	5.7	-0.6
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	767.6	721.6	6.4	5.2	6.6	-1.4
London	331.8	338.3	-1.9	5.7	6.9	-1.2
Windsor—Sarnia	306.3	309.1	-0.9	6.8	6.8	0.0
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	145.7	143.7	1.4	3.4	5.1	-1.7
Northeast	254.5	257.9	-1.3	7.2	6.9	0.3
Northwest	105.4	101.6	3.7	5.1	6.4	-1.3

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.

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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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