



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

August 2016



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 – Ontario employment increased in August, as did unemployment

- Ontario employment figures increased by 10,500 in August, following a large decline of 36,100 in July
- Full-time employment (+8,600) and part-time employment (+1,700) both improved over the month
- The unemployment rate rose to 6.7%, up 0.3 percentage points from the previous month, due to an increase of 20,000 in unemployment

Employment figures in Ontario climbed by 10,500 (+0.2%) in August, the first monthly increase in the past three months, with increases in both full-time employment (+8,600) and part-time employment (+1,700). However, the provincial unemployment rate rose to 6.7%, up 0.3 percentage points from July, as unemployment increased by 20,000 over the month. The labour force expanded by 30,400, as the participation rate inched up by 0.2 percentage points to 64.8%.

In Canada, employment increased by 26,200 (+0.1%) in August, as growth in full-time work (+52,200) offset a decrease in part-time work (-26,000). Employment gains were better than economists' expectations, who had anticipated Canada's labour market would add about 16,000 in employment over the month,¹ with gains strongest in public administration and trade. The national unemployment rate inched up slightly to 7.0%.

In the United States, total non-farm payroll employment increased by 151,000 in August, a modest employment gain south of the border, after its strong recovery over June and July. The federal unemployment rate remained steady at 4.9%. Average hourly earnings increased by 2.4% from August 2015 to August 2016, another indication of a positive labour market in the U.S. that may have reached full employment, although the participation rate has hovered at historically low levels, at 62.8% in August. Despite this, the job report has sustained optimism

¹ CBC News Staff. (2016, September 9). [Canada adds 26,000 jobs in August, beating estimates](http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canada-jobs-august-1.3753302). *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canada-jobs-august-1.3753302>

about the American labour market, and the U.S. Federal Reserve may raise its benchmark interest rate as early as September.²

Between August 2015 and August 2016, employment in Ontario increased by 37,200 (+0.5%) year-over-year, with part-time employment observing most of the gains. The unemployment rate inched down by 0.1 percentage point, due to a decrease of 8,200 (-1.6%) in unemployment. However, the participation rate dropped by 0.5 percentage points, as the growth in population (+1.3%) outpaced the increase in labour force (+0.4%).

The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 in Ontario rose by 0.4 percentage points to 14.6% in August, as unemployment figures climbed up by 4,900 (+3.2%). However, the participation and employment rates also went up over the month, due to growths in youth labour force and employment figures. The provincial youth unemployment rate was higher than the national youth unemployment rate of 13.2% in August, as Ontario's youth unemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage points from 12 months ago.

During the summer months, Statistics Canada collects labour market data on youths aged 15 to 24 who were full-time students in March and plan to return to school full-time in the fall. Among these students in Ontario, employment fell by 19,600 (-3.7%) from 12 months ago to 504,100 in August. However, the unemployment rate among these students decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 16.3% as unemployment (-7.8%) also dropped sharply, although the participation rate also fell over the year. The provincial full-time student unemployment rate was higher than the national figure of 14.4%.

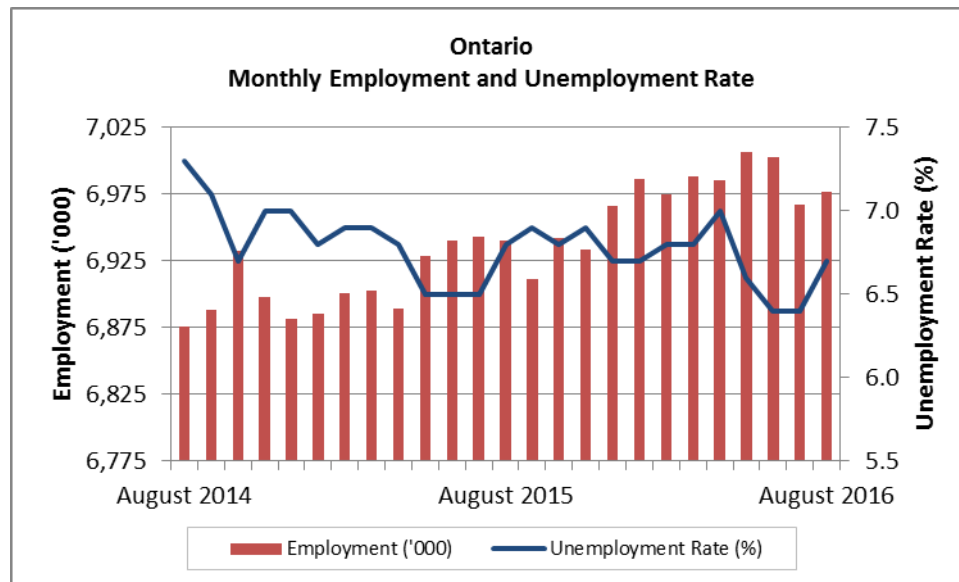
Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,545.9	11,531.4	11,401.1	14.5	0.1	144.8	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	7,477.4	7,447.0	7,448.3	30.4	0.4	29.1	0.4
Employment ('000)	6,977.1	6,966.6	6,939.9	10.5	0.2	37.2	0.5
Full-Time ('000)	5,672.2	5,663.6	5,671.4	8.6	0.2	0.8	0.0
Part-Time ('000)	1,304.8	1,303.1	1,268.4	1.7	0.1	36.4	2.9
Unemployment ('000)	500.3	480.3	508.5	20.0	4.2	-8.2	-1.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.7	6.4	6.8	0.3	-	-0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.8	64.6	65.3	0.2	-	-0.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.4	60.4	60.9	0.0	-	-0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

² Gillespie, P. (2016, September 2). Hiring slows: America gains 151,000 jobs in August. *CNNMoney*. Retrieved from <http://money.cnn.com/2016/09/02/news/economy/august-jobs-report/index.html>



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.7	6.4	6.8	0.3	-0.1
25 years and over	5.4	5.1	5.6	0.3	-0.2
Men - 25 years and over	5.6	5.2	5.7	0.4	-0.1
Women - 25 years and over	5.1	5.1	5.4	0.0	-0.3
15 to 24 years	14.6	14.2	14.1	0.4	0.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.8	16.1	15.5	-0.3	0.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.3	12.3	12.7	1.0	0.6

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment growth in the goods-producing sector driven by gains in construction

Employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector declined by 4,500 in August, after an expansion of 13,800 in July. A month-over-month gain was recorded in construction (+7,000), while losses were recorded in manufacturing (-5,000), agriculture (-4,200), forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil, and gas (-1,700), and utilities (-700).

Employment in **construction** rose in August, following a 3.9% year-over-year increase in building permit values in July,³ and higher housing starts, up by 47.0% in July from 12 months ago.⁴ There were a number of funding an-

³ Statistics Canada. (2016, September 9). CANSIM Table 026-0006, Building permits, by type of structure and area, seasonally adjusted monthly (dollars unless otherwise noted). Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=260006>

⁴ Statistics Canada. (2016, August 5). 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). Retrieved from

nouncements for new infrastructure projects across the province in August, including \$3.0B for transit projects⁵ and \$2.7M in restoration funding for four First Nations airports in Sachigo Lake, Lansdowne House, Deer Lake and Bearskin Lake.⁶ In addition, the Port of Algoma redevelopment project in Sault Ste. Marie continued its progress, with the project expected to create about 1,350 full-time jobs,⁷ while the Government of Ontario announced that FPInnovations in Thunder Bay will receive \$4.5M to build a new bio-refinery plant.⁸

In addition to the infrastructure funding announcements, the Crown Ridge Place nursing home in Trenton announced that it will begin construction to upgrade their long-term care facility. This is one of the first nursing homes in the province to receive funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's redevelopment program, one that plans to eventually upgrade 300 care facilities across the province.⁹

Despite some factory expansions and funding announcements for new projects, employment declined by 5,000 in **manufacturing** in August, following a gain of 13,000 in July. National Steel Car Limited, one of Hamilton's largest employers, announced it would lay off 300 workers at its Hamilton plant, a significant loss for the industry.¹⁰ A number of manufacturing indicators, such as provincial manufacturing sales and the RBC Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), have fallen slightly in recent months. As of June, manufacturing sales have mostly declined this year,¹¹ while lower client demand resulted in Ontario's manufacturers reporting a slow pace of production growth in June.¹² Nevertheless, the PMI remains in expansionary territory for Ontario in August.¹³

Expansions announced by manufacturers in August across Ontario may result in a positive outlook for the industry over the next few months, including Highbury Canco HCC, who is hiring 200 seasonal workers, some with the potential to be permanent, at its food processing and packaging plant in Leamington.¹⁴ Ford Motor Co. also announced they will extend the production of its GT supercar from two years to four at Multimatic Inc., an auto

<http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=0270054&&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=-1&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

⁵ CNW Staff. (2016, August 23). **The Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Ontario announce agreement under new federal infrastructure funding program.** *CNW Group*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/the-prime-minister-of-canada-and-the-premier-of-ontario-announce-agreement-under-new-federal-infrastructure-funding-program-591030371.html>

⁶ Bradley, S. (2016). **Rehabilitation funding for First Nations airports.** *The Sioux Lookout Bulletin*. Retrieved from <http://www.siouxbulletin.com/rehabilitation-funding-for-first-nations-airports?id=1620>

⁷ Content Team. (2016, July 27). **Lieutenant Governor attends First Nations signing of Unity Pact with Port of Algoma.** *Sault Online*. Retrieved from <http://saultonline.com/2016/07/lieutenant-governor-attends-first-nations-signing-of-unity-pact-with-port-of-algoma/>

⁸ Government of Ontario, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. **Ontario Supporting Forestry Innovation.** Retrieved from https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2016/08/ontario-supporting-forestry-innovation.html?utm_source=digest&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p

⁹ Kuglin, E. (2016, August 2). **Long-term investment for Crown Ridge Place.** *Trenton Trentonian*. Retrieved from <http://www.trentonian.ca/2016/08/02/long-term-investment-for-crown-ridge-place>

¹⁰ Arnold, S. (2016, August 30). **Steel Car: Company lays off 300 as orders slump.** *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6829947-steel-car-company-lays-off-300-as-orders-slump/>

¹¹ Statistics Canada. (2016, September 9). **CANSIM Table 304-0015**, Manufacturing sales, by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and province monthly (dollars x 1,000). Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=3040015>

¹² Markit Economics Limited. (2016, June 1). **RBC Canadian Manufacturing PMI™ Regional Report.** *RBC*. Retrieved from <http://www.rbc.com/newsroom/assets-custom/pdf/20160601-pmi-rgnl.pdf>

¹³ IHS Markit Staff. (September 1, 2016). **Markit Canada Manufacturing PMI.** *IHS Markit*. Retrieved from <https://www.markiteconomics.com/Survey/PressRelease.mvc/9fbb7f80696546669bac83b2117b1732>

¹⁴ Loiselle, A. (2016, July 29). **Highbury Canco Needs Hundreds Of Seasonal Workers.** *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/windsor/windsor-news/2016/07/29/highbury-canco-needs-hundreds-seasonal-workers/>

components company in Markham.¹⁵ Manufacturers secured a number of new contracts and grants as well, including Bombardier, who received a \$428M order from Metrolinx for 125 GO Transit rail cars, with the production of the two-level commuter cars scheduled to start in Thunder Bay by 2019.¹⁶ In addition, Arnprior Aerospace Inc. won two major contracts from Boeing Corp. to build parts for a new commercial aircraft.¹⁷

Over the past 12 months, employment in the goods-producing sector grew by 11,800, as gains were registered in construction (+24,400) and manufacturing (+3,700). Offsetting this gain were losses in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-14,000), agriculture (-1,600), and utilities (-700) over the year.

Services-producing sector employment supported by gains across various industries

Ontario's services-producing sector recorded an expansion of 15,000 in August. Gains were recorded in educational services (+21,600), other services (+6,000), health care and social assistance (+5,100), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+3,600), transportation and warehousing (+3,200), public administration (+2,800), and information, culture and recreation (+2,000).

The **information and cultural industries** is likely to benefit from some announcements in August, including a new Cineplex Entertainment LP theatre complex in Kitchener that plans to employ approximately 150 part-time workers¹⁸ and the provincial plan to invest \$2.3M into five film and TV productions shooting in Sudbury.¹⁹ However, Arc Productions Ltd., an animation and visual effects studio in Toronto, filed for bankruptcy, impacting more than 500 employees.²⁰ Some of this was turned around, though, when Ottawa-based Jam Filled Entertainment announced that it would take over the former Arc studio and open an animation office with about 200 staff.²¹ This is the company's first expansion into the Toronto market.

Employment gains were offset by losses in business, building and other support services (-11,700) and accommodation and food services (-7,400). **Professional scientific and technical services** also recorded a decline (-6,500), with Cisco Systems Inc., a communications and Internet solutions company, announcing plans to lay off approximately 5,500 employees worldwide. Although the total job impact on Ontario is currently unknown, almost 1,300 Cisco Systems employees are currently based in Ontario.²² On a brighter note, Start.ca, a high-speed

¹⁵ Canadian Manufacturing.com Staff. (2016, August 19). Ford to extend production run on Markham, Ont.-built GT supercar. *CanadianManufacturing.com*. Retrieved from http://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/technology/ford-extend-production-run-markham-ont-built-gt-supercar-174244/?custnum=13868762119&title=&utm_source=CMO&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1608181

¹⁶ Spurr, B. (2016, August 2). Bombardier gets \$428M order for GO Transit rail cars. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2016/08/02/bombardier-gets-428m-order-for-go-transit-rail-cars.html>

¹⁷ Carter, J. (2016, August 18). Arnprior Aerospace buoyed by two major Boeing contracts. *Arnprior Chronicle-Guide*. Retrieved from <http://www.insideottawavalley.com/news-story/6815689-arnprior-aerospace-buoyed-by-two-major-boeing-contracts/>

¹⁸ Davis, B. (2016, August 17). It's almost showtime at Cineplex cinemas in Kitchener. *The Kitchener Record*. Retrieved from <http://www.therecord.com/news-story/6813933-it-s-almost-showtime-at-cineplex-cinemas-in-kitchener/>

¹⁹ Government of Ontario, Office of the Premier. (2016, August 6). Ontario Supporting Film and TV Jobs Across Northern Ontario. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2016/08/ontario-supporting-film-and-tv-jobs-across-northern-ontario.html>

²⁰ Lewis, M. (2016, August 2). Toronto's Arc Productions locks out staff after filing for bankruptcy. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2016/08/02/torontos-arc-productions-locks-out-staff-after-filing-for-bankruptcy.html>

²¹ Wolfe, J. (2016, August 22). Jam Filled Entertainment Acquires Arc Productions. *Animation World Network*. Retrieved from <http://www.awn.com/news/jam-filled-entertainment-acquires-arc-productions>

²² Thomson Reuters Staff. (2016, August 17). Cisco laying off 5,500 employees amid tech upheaval. *Thomson Reuters*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/cisco-layoffs-report-1.3724491>

Internet service provider, is expanding and has purchased a new building in downtown London, employing over 100 people.²³

The **wholesale and retail trade** industry declined by 4,200, partly due to the closure of Canadian retailer Ben Moss Jewellers Western Canada Ltd. after more than a century in business. The company has 19 locations in Ontario.^{24,25,26} Despite the decline in employment, several retail openings were also announced in August, which are likely to bear fruit in the upcoming months. This includes: Walmart Canada's second location in Guelph, which will employ around 170 full and part-time workers; K-Mobile's first flagship store in Toronto's East York Town Centre, with plans to expand to 250 stores across the Greater Toronto Area and hire 1,000 employees, including 100 Syrian refugees; and CF Rideau Centre's expansion in downtown Ottawa.^{27,28,29,30}

Over the past 12 months, employment in the services-producing sector grew by 25,400. The health care and social assistance (+34,200), information, culture, and recreation (+12,300), professional, scientific and technical service (+8,600), and accommodation and food services (+6,800) industries led the province in growth. Employment gains in the sector were moderated by declines in educational services (-42,500), business, building and other support services (-9,600), and wholesale and retail trade (-700).

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	6,977.1	6,966.6	6,939.9	10.5	0.2	37.2	0.5
Goods-producing sector	1,416.9	1,421.4	1,405.1	-4.5	-0.3	11.8	0.8
Agriculture	75.4	79.6	77.0	-4.2	-5.3	-1.6	-2.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	32.5	34.2	46.5	-1.7	-5.0	-14.0	-30.1
Utilities	50.0	50.7	50.7	-0.7	-1.4	-0.7	-1.4
Construction	506.6	499.6	482.2	7.0	1.4	24.4	5.1
Manufacturing	752.4	757.4	748.7	-5.0	-0.7	3.7	0.5
Services-producing sector	5,560.2	5,545.2	5,534.8	15.0	0.3	25.4	0.5
Trade	1,037.6	1,041.8	1,038.3	-4.2	-0.4	-0.7	-0.1
Transportation and warehousing	324.9	321.7	321.1	3.2	1.0	3.8	1.2

²³ DeBono, N. (2016, August 14). **Cable, Internet provider grows again**. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2016/08/14/cable-internet-provider-grows-again>

²⁴ Retail Insider Staff. (2016, July 19). **Taschen! Shutters Stores Amid Bankruptcy Proceedings**. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2016/7/taschen>

²⁵ CBC News Staff. (2016, July 31). **Winnipeg-based jewelry chain Ben Moss closing doors across the country**. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-based-jewelry-chain-ben-moss-closes-1.3702689?cmp=rss>

²⁶ CNW Staff. (2016, July 29). **Going-Out-Of-Business Sales Begin At All Ben Moss Jewellers Stores Saturday, July 30th**. *CNW Group*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/going-out-of-business-sales-begin-at-all-ben-moss-jewellers-stores-saturday-july-30th-588717351.html>

²⁷ Guelph Mercury Staff. (2016, August 3). **Walmart number two set to open in Guelph**. *Guelph Mercury Tribune*. Retrieved from <http://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/6793792-walmart-number-two-set-to-open-in-guelph/>

²⁸ Digital Home Staff. (2016, August 8). **K-Mobile Launches With New Smartphone and Opens Flagship Store in Ontario**. *Digital Home*. Retrieved from <http://www.digitalhome.ca/2016/08/k-mobile-launches-with-new-smartphone-and-opening-of-flagship-store-in-ontario/>

²⁹ Retail Insider Staff. **CF Rideau Centre Opens Substantial Four-Level Expansion [Photos and Floor Plan]**. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2016/8/rideau-centre>

³⁰ Orillia Today Staff. (2016, August 2). **Work starts on Orillia COSTCO**. *Orillia Today*. Retrieved from <http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/6791649-work-starts-on-orillia-costco/>

Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	553.4	549.8	550.6	3.6	0.7	2.8	0.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	590.5	597.0	581.9	-6.5	-1.1	8.6	1.5
Business, building and other support services	317.6	329.3	327.2	-11.7	-3.6	-9.6	-2.9
Educational services	488.8	467.2	531.3	21.6	4.6	-42.5	-8.0
Health care and social assistance	845.9	840.8	811.7	5.1	0.6	34.2	4.2
Information, culture and recreation	325.9	323.9	313.6	2.0	0.6	12.3	3.9
Accommodation and food services	448.2	455.6	441.4	-7.4	-1.6	6.8	1.5
Other services	281.3	275.3	277.5	6.0	2.2	3.8	1.4
Public administration	345.8	343.0	340.2	2.8	0.8	5.6	1.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Despite job gains, growth in the Toronto economic region slowed in August 2016

Employment increased in the **Toronto** economic region by 29,500 between August 2015 and August 2016.³¹ Although employment rose for the fifth month in a row, this was the region's smallest year-over-year gain in 2016. Both the participation and employment rates were also down slightly from August 2015. K-Mobile opened its first mobile store in August, its first foray into the Toronto landscape.³² The company plans to open 250 locations in the Greater Toronto Area and hire 1,000 staff.

Kingston–Pembroke had another solid performance with an employment gain of 17,200 over the past year. The employment rate increased to 58.0% in August 2016, its highest level in almost two years. The unemployment rate also remained below the provincial figure at 5.7%. The local manufacturing industry saw some positive developments in August. Kruger Products L.P. will invest \$52M in its tissue paper manufacturing plant in Trenton, creating 119 jobs.³³ In addition, Tri-Art Manufacturing Inc. will invest about \$1M to upgrade its paint and audio products plant in Kingston, creating 10 jobs.³⁴

Employment grew in the **Windsor–Sarnia** economic region by 11,300 in August 2016. This was the region's largest year-over-year increase in 2016. The local unemployment rate also fell to 6.8%, as more residents secured work. The region saw several events that will likely boost the local labour market in the months ahead. Firstly, construction will start on a \$70M redevelopment project at Devonshire Mall in Windsor.³⁵ This will be the largest

³¹ Measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis.

³² Heins, J. (2016, August 20). **K-Mobile To Hire 100 Syrian Refugees to Work in 250 New Stores**. *K-Mobile*. Retrieved from <https://www.k-mobile.ca/blogs/news>

³³ Canadian Manufacturing.com Staff. (2016, August 31). **Kruger launching \$52M expansion at Trenton, Ont. plant, will create 119 jobs**. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/financing/kruger-launches-52m-expansion-at-trenton-ont-plant-to-create-119-jobs-174982/>

³⁴ Canadian Manufacturing.com Staff. (2016, August 05). **Kingston, Ont. paint manufacturer Tri-Art launching \$1M expansion**. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/kingston-ont-paint-manufacturer-launching-1m-expansion-173362/>

³⁵ Danese, R. (2016, August 17). **Windsor's Devonshire Mall getting \$70-million facelift**. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/windsors-devonshire-mall-getting-70-million-facelift>

expansion in 20 years with work planned until 2018. Nearby in Chatham, Enviroshake Inc. announced that it plans to add four production lines to its plant by the end of the year.³⁶ The company manufacturers recycled roofing materials.

Employment rose in both the **Northeast** and **Northwest** economic regions over the last year. Northern Ontario saw a few more mining projects advance in August 2016. Goldcorp Inc. announced that it would invest \$90M at its Musselwhite Mine in northwestern Ontario to improve ore handling;³⁷ Lake Shore Gold Corp. will spend \$80M on expansion work at its Bell Creek Mine in Timmins;³⁸ and Gowest Gold Ltd. will continue exploration activities at its Bradshaw Gold Deposit just north of Timmins.³⁹

Elsewhere in the province, employment rose in the **Ottawa** economic region between August 2015 and August 2016. All of the gains were in part-time positions. In mid-August, the newly renovated CF Rideau Centre officially opened to shoppers in downtown Ottawa. The project took 36 months to complete and cost \$360M.⁴⁰

Labour market conditions remained weak in some parts of central Ontario in August 2016

Employment fell or was relatively unchanged in five economic regions between August 2015 and August 2016. The **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** saw the largest employment decline, with a loss of 19,900 in August 2016. At the same time, the regional unemployment rate climbed 0.5 percentage points to 6.6%. National Steel Car Limited, one of the region's largest employers, announced in late August that it would lay off 300 workers at its rail transportation manufacturing plant in Hamilton.⁴¹ Shortly after, the company revealed that if orders do not improve in the near term, the plant might be idled by the end of the year.⁴² The manufacturer cites less demand for rail tanker cars because of lower oil prices as the reason for the downturn. National Steel Car employs about 2,400 staff at its Hamilton plant.

Employment fell in **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** over the past year, with the entire decline in full-time work. However, the labour market may improve in the coming months as some companies open and expand in the region. Index Exchange will move into a larger office in Kitchener in the fall and will hire 40 more employees to

³⁶ Vega, N. (2016, August 18). **Enviroshake Expanding In Chatham**. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/chatham/chatham-news/2016/08/18/enviroshake-expanding-chatham/>

³⁷ Sudbury Mining Solutions Journal. (2016, August 22). **Goldcorp announces \$90 million investment for winze construction at Musselwhite Mine**. *Sudbury Mining Solutions Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.sudburyminingolutions.com/goldcorp-announces-90-million-investment-for-winze-construction-at-musselwhite-mine.html>

³⁸ Gillis, L. (2016, August 10). **Lake Shore Gold launches \$80-million expansion**. *Timmins Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.timminspress.com/2016/08/10/lake-shore-gold-launches-80-million-expansion>

³⁹ Giorno, F. (2016, August 06). **More info on \$17.6-M Gowest Gold deal**. *Timmins Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.timminstoday.com/local-news/more-info-on-176-m-gowest-gold-deal-350911>

⁴⁰ Pilioci, V. (2016, August 09). **Architect behind massive Rideau Centre remodelling says it was all about creating breathing room**. *Ottawa Citizen*. Retrieved from <http://ottawacitizen.com/business/local-business/architect-behind-massive-rideau-centre-remodelling-says-it-was-all-about-creating-breathing-room>

⁴¹ Arnold, S. (2016, August 30). **Steel Car: Company lays off 300 as orders slump**. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6829947-steel-car-company-lays-off-300-as-orders-slump/>

⁴² Arnold, S. (2016, September 02). **More National Steel Car layoffs loom**. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6836537-more-national-steel-car-layoffs-loom/>

support its advertising technology operations,⁴³ while construction is set to begin on a Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd. location in Orillia. When complete, the store will employ about 250 workers.⁴⁴

Similarly, the **London** economic region saw a drop in employment over the last 12 months. The local unemployment rate jumped to 6.9% in August 2016 as more residents were out of work. Meanwhile, employment growth was flat in the **Muskoka–Kawarthas** and the **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic regions between August 2015 and August 2016.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August 2016 ('000)	August 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August 2016 (%)	August 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,083.3	7,045.7	0.5	6.9	7.1	-0.2
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	699.8	694.7	0.7	7.0	7.3	-0.3
Kingston—Pembroke	219.7	202.5	8.5	5.7	7.9	-2.2
Muskoka—Kawarthas	163.3	163.1	0.1	8.2	6.6	1.6
Toronto	3,421.2	3,391.7	0.9	7.2	7.6	-0.4
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	707.1	713.1	-0.8	5.7	5.6	0.1
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	721.6	741.5	-2.7	6.6	6.1	0.5
London	338.3	345.1	-2.0	6.9	5.8	1.1
Windsor—Sarnia	309.1	297.8	3.8	6.8	8.0	-1.2
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	143.7	144.3	-0.4	5.1	6.1	-1.0
Northeast	257.9	253.0	1.9	6.9	7.8	-0.9
Northwest	101.6	98.9	2.7	6.4	6.3	0.1

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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⁴³ Pender, T. (2016, August 06). [Online auctions for digital ads spur growth at Index Exchange](http://www.therecord.com/news-story/6797763-online-auctions-for-digital-ads-spur-growth-at-index-exchange/). *The Record.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.therecord.com/news-story/6797763-online-auctions-for-digital-ads-spur-growth-at-index-exchange/>

⁴⁴ Orillia Packet and Times. (2016, August 02). [Orillia leases lane to Costco for construction](http://www.orilliapacket.com/2016/08/02/orillia-leases-lane-to-costco-for-construction). *Orillia Packet and Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.orilliapacket.com/2016/08/02/orillia-leases-lane-to-costco-for-construction>