



# Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

January 2019



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Ontario, including the regions of Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula, Kingston—Pembroke, Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie, London, Muskoka—Kawarthas, Northeast, Northwest, Ottawa, Stratford—Bruce Peninsula, Toronto and Windsor—Sarnia.

## OVERVIEW

### Labour Force Trends – Ontario started the year with favourable employment growth

- Employment increased by 41,400 in January
- The growth was strongly influenced by improvement in full-time employment (+34,000)
- The provincial unemployment rate rose to 5.7%, but is below the national rate

Employment in Ontario increased by 41,400 in January 2019 compared with December 2018, due mainly to gains in full-time employment (+34,000). This was the fifth consecutive monthly increase in total employment, and the largest gain reported since July 2018. The unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 5.7% this January, as more people looked for work. The participation rate reached 64.8%, up from 64.3% in the previous month.

Employment growth was stronger when compared with January 2018, with an increase of 170,300 (+2.4%), due to improvements in both full-time (+114,100) and part-time employment (+56,200).

The gain in youth employment was robust in January and was up by 27,900 (+3.0%) in the province with increases in both full-time employment (+17,300), and part-time (+10,600) employment. The unemployment rate increased by 0.8 percentage points to reach 12.3% as more youth participated in the workforce. Between January 2018 and January 2019, estimates show weaker employment conditions for youth with employment gains of only 4,700 (+0.5%) over this period.

Employment in Canada increased by 66,800 (+0.4%), well ahead of analysts' predictions.<sup>1</sup> This monthly gain was led by Ontario (+41,400), and Quebec (+16,400). Losses were reported in only two regions, Alberta (-15,500), and Saskatchewan (-2,800). The national unemployment rate edged up by 0.2 percentage points to 5.8%, and there was an uptick in the participation rate to 65.6%.

The United States (US) total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 304,000 in January. Growth occurred in several industries, but the largest changes were in leisure and hospitality, construction, and health care. The US federal government's partial 35-day shutdown had no obvious impact on the estimates of employment, hours, and earnings based on the establishment survey. Federal employees who were on furlough during the period were considered employed in this survey because they worked or received pay (or will receive pay) for the pay period that included the 12th of the month.<sup>2</sup> However, this disruption has created a delay in the measurement and availability of current merchandise trade statistics indicators for Canada and the US.<sup>3</sup>

### Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	Monthly Varia- tion		Yearly Varia- tion	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	12021.3	11,998.70	11793.7	22.6	0.2	227.6	1.9
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	7789.3	7,717.30	7595.6	72.0	0.9	193.7	2.6
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	7341.9	7,300.50	7171.6	41.4	0.6	170.3	2.4
Full-Time ('000)	5970.7	5,936.70	5856.6	34.0	0.6	114.1	1.9
Part-Time ('000)	1371.2	1,363.90	1315	7.3	0.5	56.2	4.3
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	447.4	416.70	424	30.7	7.4	23.4	5.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.7	5.40	5.6	0.3	-	0.1	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	64.8	64.3	64.4	0.5	-	0.4	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	61.1	60.8	60.8	0.3	-	0.3	-

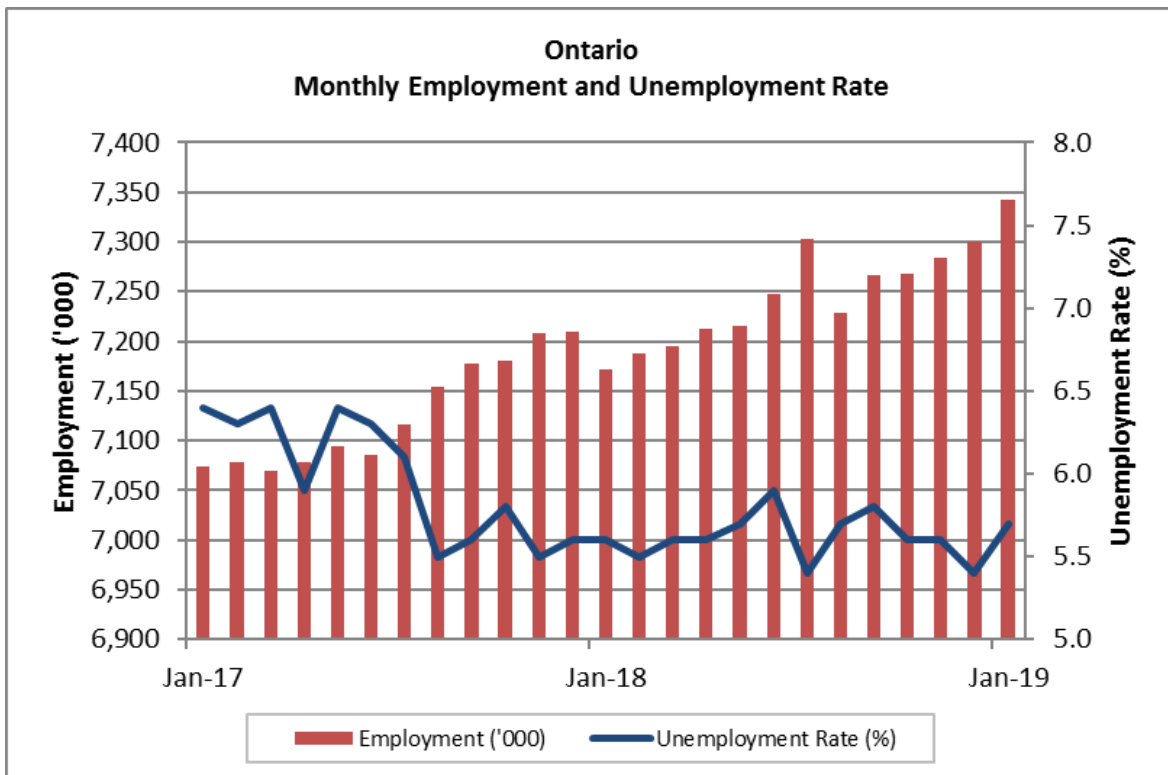
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

<sup>1</sup> Argitis, T. Bloomberg News. (2019, February 8). Canada unexpectedly gains almost 67,000 jobs as private-sector hiring hits record. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <https://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/canadas-job-market-surges-on-record-private-sector-hiring>

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. Pages, 2, 3 & 5. *United States Department of Labour*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. (2019, January 17). Impacts of the US government shutdown on the upcoming release of Canadian international merchandise trade data. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190117/dq190117b-eng.htm>



**Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
	%	%	%		
<b>Total</b>	5.7	5.4	5.6	0.3	0.1
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.7	4.4	4.6	0.3	0.1
Men - 25 years and over	4.9	4.6	4.4	0.3	0.5
Women - 25 years and over	4.5	4.3	4.7	0.2	-0.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.3	11.5	11.6	0.8	0.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.5	12.8	12	0.7	1.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.8	10	11.1	0.8	-0.3

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

### Employment declined in goods-producing sector due to decreases in construction, manufacturing and utilities

Ontario's goods-producing sector observed a net loss of 8,400 (-0.6%) in employment in January, the sector's third decrease in four months. There were monthly employment declines in construction (-7,300; -1.4%), manufacturing (-3,600; -0.5%), and utilities (-2,200; -3.7%). Employment rose in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+3,600; +11.3%) and agriculture (+1,200; +1.7%).

Employment fell in **construction** by 1.4% in January, however activities in the industry remain buoyant with several large-scale developments planned or underway. Notably, the Government of Ontario is investing up to \$633M towards two new facilities being built at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto,<sup>4</sup> and \$1M in Kenora's Downtown Revitalization Project for a plaza and infrastructure upgrades which will create 75 new jobs.<sup>5</sup> Other non-residential developments include construction on an extension of Toronto's underground PATH walking network,<sup>6</sup> the Mon Sheong Foundation's new long-term care home in Stouffville,<sup>7</sup> and Menkes Developments Ltd.'s renovation of 270,000-sq.-ft. of space at the former Canada Permanent Trust Building in Toronto.<sup>8</sup>

On the residential side, housing starts increased by 6.2% in January 2019 when compared with the previous month, but was down 11.3% when compared with January 2018.<sup>9</sup>

Employment in **manufacturing** also declined in January by 0.5%. The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 53.0 in January, indicating the slowest growth in factory activity since December 2016, as new export orders fell slightly. However, Ontario did show greater strength in factory activity growth than most other provinces.<sup>10</sup>

There were also significant news about downsizings in the sector across the province. Among them, Brose Canada Inc., an auto-parts producer based in London, is laying off 100 workers by the end of this year due to shifting automotive customer demands.<sup>11</sup> Layoffs were also announced by motorhomes producer Erwin Hymer Group

<sup>4</sup> Ontario Office of the Premier. (2019, January 30). Ontario Investing in Essential Mental Health Care Infrastructure. *Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2019/01/ontario-investing-in-essential-mental-health-care-infrastructure.html>

<sup>5</sup> Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. (2019, January 11). Ontario Creating Jobs and Supporting Economic Development in Kenora. *Ontario Newsroom*. Retrieved from [https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/01/ontario-creating-jobs-and-supporting-economic-development-in-kenora.html?\\_ga=2.186752749.433975502.1547570089-1389556930.1547570089](https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/01/ontario-creating-jobs-and-supporting-economic-development-in-kenora.html?_ga=2.186752749.433975502.1547570089-1389556930.1547570089)

<sup>6</sup> City of Toronto Media Room Staff. (2019, January 3). Long-term restrictions on York Street for new PATH extension. *City of Toronto*. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.ca/home/media-room/news-releases-media-advisories/?nrkey=F997DF574DE3D8B585258377004BA15B>

<sup>7</sup> Queen, L. (2019, January 29). Ground-breaking ceremony launches Stouffville's Mon Sheong seniors home. *Stouffville Sun-Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9149157-ground-breaking-ceremony-launches-stouffville-s-mon-sheong-seniors-home/>

<sup>8</sup> DCN News Services Staff. (2019, January 16). Menkes, TD Greystone to renovate 320 Bay St. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2019/01/menkes-td-greystone-renovate-320-bay-st>

<sup>9</sup> Statistics Canada. (2019, February 8). [Table: 34-10-0158-01](#) (formerly CANSIM 027-0054). Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, all areas, Canada and provinces, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, monthly (x 1,000).

<sup>10</sup> Trading Economics Staff. (2019, February 8). Canada Manufacturing PMI. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

<sup>11</sup> London Free Press Staff. (2019, January 24). London auto-parts maker to lay off 100 by year's end. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from: <https://lfpres.com/business/local-business/london-auto-parts-maker-to-lay-off-100-by-years-end>

North America Inc. at three locations in Waterloo Region,<sup>12</sup> and at Tenaris Algoma Tubes Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie.<sup>13</sup>

There were positive job creation news that will help to offset the effects of losses. Algoma Steel Inc. received \$150M in combined funding from the federal and provincial governments. The contribution will create and maintain over 3,000 jobs, and also improve technologies, productivity, and help the company remain competitive especially in light of the steel tariff imposed by the United States in 2018.<sup>14</sup>

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the goods-producing sector remained relatively stable, increasing slightly by 0.1% (+1,100), with utilities (+6,900; +13.8%) and agriculture (+7,400; +11.5%) showing significant strength, while construction also increased (+5,000; +1.0%). The manufacturing industry reported the largest decline among goods-producing industries (-20,400; -2.6%).

### **Employment gains in the services-producing sector buoyed by the trade, and professional, scientific and technical services sectors**

Employment increased in the services-producing sector by 49,700 (+0.9%) in January, with the largest contributors to these net gains in the trade sector (+18,700; +1.7%), and the professional, scientific and technical services sector (+14,400; +2.2%). In contrast, the business, building and other support services sector (-5,700; -1.7%), and the accommodation and food services sector (-3,000; -0.6%) observed the largest net losses among the Ontario services-producing industries.

In **retail** trade, Lowe's Canada is looking to hire about 2,650 full-time, part-time and seasonal staff at its stores in Ontario.<sup>15</sup> While there were other smaller-scale job creation news, there were many high-profile layoff news which will impact employment in the sector in following months. These include Hallmark Canada exiting its presence in about 20 company-owned stores across Canada in 2019 by either transitioning them to independent ownership or closing them.<sup>16</sup> In addition, children's apparel retailer Gymboree Group, Inc. will close all 49 Canadian stores,<sup>17</sup> including 28 stores in Ontario.

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<sup>12</sup> CTV Kitchener Staff. (2019, January 21). Several managers suspended, investigation underway at Cambridge manufacturer. *CTV Kitchener*. Retrieved from: <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/several-managers-suspended-investigation-underway-at-cambridge-manufacturer-1.4262365>

<sup>13</sup> CTV Northern Ontario Staff. (2019, January 25). Another round of layoffs at Tenaris Tubes in the Soo. *CTVNews*. Retrieved from: <https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/another-round-of-layoffs-at-tenaris-tubes-in-the-soo-1.4267867>

<sup>14</sup> Pounder, M. (2019, January 10). Algoma Government Funding Will Help Save Jobs. *Sault Online*. Retrieved from: <https://saultonline.com/2019/01/provincial-federal-governments-jointly-announce-funding-for-algoma/>

<sup>15</sup> Lowe's Canada Staff. (2019, January 16). Lowe's Canada is recruiting to fill more than 6,350 positions in stores this spring and some 150 positions at its Boucherville head office. *Cision Newswire*. Retrieved from <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/lowe-s-canada-is-recruiting-to-fill-more-than-6-350-positions-in-stores-this-spring-and-some-150-positions-at-its-boucherville-head-office-874228485.html>

<sup>16</sup> Toneguzzi, M. (2019, January 9). Hallmark Canada Shifts Retail Strategy with New Management. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/1/hallmark-canada-shifts-retail-strategy-with-new-management>

<sup>17</sup> Patterson, C. (2019, January 17). Gymboree to Close All 49 Canadian Stores Amid Bankruptcy. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/1/gymboree-to-close-all-49-canadian-stores-amid-bankruptcy>

In **educational services**, good news came with Ontario Emerging Jobs Institute (OEJI) at the Nav Centre in Cornwall officially opening its doors and providing skills training in areas with worker shortages.<sup>18</sup>

Other major developments in the provincial services-producing sector include Porter Airlines opening a maintenance base at Thunder Bay's International Airport in February, creating 18 full-time maintenance-related jobs in the **transportation and warehousing** sector.<sup>19</sup> Also the Rec Room, a 44,000-sq.-ft. entertainment complex by Cineplex Entertainment LP, is scheduled to open in Mississauga in March, adding jobs to the **arts, entertainment and recreation** sector.<sup>20</sup>

Year-over-year, the services-producing sector posted net employment gains of 169,200 (+3.0%) from January 2018 to 2019. The increase was led by the transportation and warehousing sector (+56,900; +16.3%) and the health care and social assistance sector (+43,300; +5.1%), while the only notable employment loss was the information, culture and recreation sector (-33,800; -10.4%).

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<sup>18</sup> Hambleton, T. (2019, January 14). Ontario Emerging Jobs Institute at Nav Centre has its official opening. *Cornwall Standard-Freeholder*. Retrieved from <https://www.standard-freeholder.com/news/local-news/ontario-emerging-jobs-institute-at-nav-centre-has-its-official-opening/wcm/8ed24a89-b591-4b03-b801-633f8319f96d>

<sup>19</sup> CBC News Staff. (2019, January 8). Porter Airlines to open maintenance base at Thunder Bay International Airport in February. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/porter-airlines-maintenance-base-1.4970285>

<sup>20</sup> Newport, A. (2019, January 11). You'll Soon be Able to go Bowling in Square One in Mississauga. *InSauga*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/youll-soon-be-able-to-go-bowling-in-square-one-in-mississauga>

## Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	7341.9	7300.5	7171.6	41.4	0.6	170.3	2.4
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	1455	1463.4	1453.9	-8.4	-0.6	1.1	0.1
Agriculture	71.6	70.4	64.2	1.2	1.7	7.4	11.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	35.4	31.8	33.1	3.6	11.3	2.3	6.9
Utilities	57	59.2	50.1	-2.2	-3.7	6.9	13.8
Construction	523.1	530.4	518.1	-7.3	-1.4	5.0	1.0
Manufacturing	767.9	771.5	788.3	-3.6	-0.5	-20.4	-2.6
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	5886.9	5837.2	5717.7	49.7	0.9	169.2	3.0
Trade	1089.7	1071	1084.3	18.7	1.7	5.4	0.5
Transportation and warehousing	407	404.1	350.1	2.9	0.7	56.9	16.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	564.8	560.3	561.8	4.5	0.8	3.0	0.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	655.4	641	626.3	14.4	2.2	29.1	4.6
Business, building and other support services	326.9	332.6	313.1	-5.7	-1.7	13.8	4.4
Educational services	538.2	539.6	500.8	-1.4	-0.3	37.4	7.5
Health care and social assistance	886	879	842.7	7.0	0.8	43.3	5.1
Information, culture and recreation	292.7	294.1	326.5	-1.4	-0.5	-33.8	-10.4
Accommodation and food services	462.3	465.3	464.8	-3.0	-0.6	-2.5	-0.5
Other services	301.3	294.7	285.9	6.6	2.2	15.4	5.4
Public administration	362.5	355.5	361.5	7.0	2.0	1.0	0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

### Toronto and Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie dominate provincial employment growth

Employment increased in the **Toronto** economic region by 45,300 (+1.3%) between January 2018 and January 2019 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). Gains were mainly in part-time employment (+34,100) and the regional unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 5.6%.

There were a few notable events in different sectors in the region. In construction, the Mon Sheong Foundation broke ground on the new 6-storey, 320-bed, long-term care home in Stouffville,<sup>21</sup> while work continued on Cineplex Inc.'s Whitby Playdium entertainment complex.<sup>22</sup> Looking ahead, construction activities will also be boosted with the City of Toronto's approval of the 'Housing Now' plan which includes the development of 10,000 units, of which about 3,600 must be defined as affordable residences.<sup>23</sup> There were also some recent expansion news in manufacturing, including Pliteq Inc. in Vaughan,<sup>24</sup> Mold Hotrunner Solutions in Georgetown,<sup>25</sup> and Muir Tapes & Adhesives Ltd., with a new 40,000-sq.-ft. facility in Oakville.<sup>26</sup> Further, Stackt, a marketplace constructed out of shipping containers, is scheduled to open downtown Toronto in the spring and will feature about 30 businesses.<sup>27</sup> Also, Datto, Inc., an international cybersecurity firm, opened its Canadian headquarters in Markham with about 20 employees.<sup>28</sup>

Employment grew by 45,000 (+6.4%) in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region and the regional unemployment rate fell from 4.3% to 3.6% over the past year, the lowest rate in Ontario. Construction activities remained strong in the region and among the news IN8 Developments is expected to start work in early 2019 on

<sup>21</sup> Queen, L. (2019, January 29). Ground-breaking ceremony launches Stouffville's Mon Sheong seniors home. *Stouffville Sun-Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9149157-ground-breaking-ceremony-launches-stouffville-s-mon-sheong-seniors-home/>

<sup>22</sup> Pfeiffer, R. (2019, January 02). What's Going On Here: Whitby Playdium. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from: <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/9093695-what-s-going-on-here-whitby-playdium>

<sup>23</sup> Gray, J. (2019, January 30). Housing affordability plan approved by Toronto council, despite concerns for poorest. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/toronto/article-john-torys-housing-now-plan-moves-forward/>

<sup>24</sup> Government of Canada. (2018, December 17). New Clean Tech Manufacturing Facility Opens in Vaughan. *Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2018/12/new-clean-tech-manufacturing-facility-opens-in-vaughan.html>

<sup>25</sup> Garbutt, H. (2019, January 4). Georgetown company says sale to U.S. company will allow expansion of local operation. *Independent Free Press*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theifp.ca/news-story/9109905-georgetown-company-says-sale-to-u-s-company-will-allow-expansion-of-local-operation/>

<sup>26</sup> Lea, D. (2019, January 02). Muir Tapes & Adhesives opens 40,000-square-foot facility in Oakville. *Oakville Beaver*. Retrieved from: <https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/9106455-muir-tapes-adhesives-opens-40-000-square-foot-facility-in-oakville/>

<sup>27</sup> CBC Staff. (2019, January 06). Giant market made primarily of shipping containers set to open in Toronto. *CBC*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/giant-market-shipping-containers-1.4966981>

<sup>28</sup> Coop, A. (2019, January 24). Datto opens Canadian headquarters, says it will onboard 25-30 partners per month. *Channel Daily News*. Retrieved from: <https://channeldailynews.com/news/datto-opens-canadian-headquarters-says-it-will-onboard-25-30-partners-per-month/63934>



Kitchener's 39-storey condo tower DTK development,<sup>29</sup> while work began on Urban Legend Development Ltd.'s Blackstone Condominium development in Waterloo which is scheduled to be completed in 2021.<sup>30</sup> Several retail stores also opened including an Ashley Homestore in Barrie.<sup>31</sup> Generally, the growing number of various types of businesses in the region is spurring demand for signage and boosting opportunities for Westmount Signs & Printing in Waterloo, which is expanding its workforce and hiring experienced installers.<sup>32</sup> On the negative side, Erwin Hymer Group North America Inc., a Cambridge-based manufacturer of motorhomes, laid off about 100 employees at three locations in Waterloo Region.<sup>33</sup>

The **Ottawa** economic region experienced an employment gain of 4,200 (+0.6%), over the past year, and the regional unemployment rate remained the same at 4.9%.

Ottawa's research hub is expanding. Cominar Real Estate Investment Trust reported that Ford Motor Company of Canada has signed a lease for 40,000-sq-ft. of office space at a new building being constructed in Kanata. The facility will be home to one of the automaker's research and development centres, and is slated for completion in 2020.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, with growth also occurring in Ottawa's technology and government sectors, office vacancy rates in the capital region are expected to continue declining, and reach 7.7% by the fall of 2019, compared with 10.4% two years ago.<sup>35</sup>

Employment in the **Windsor-Sarnia** economic region increased by 2,700 (+0.9%). In the construction sector, work is continuing on the NOVA Chemicals Corporation's expansions in St. Clair Township, near Sarnia. The \$2B projects are expected to create 800 to 1,000 jobs at the peak of construction and approximately 150 manufacturing jobs, upon completion in late 2021.<sup>36,37</sup> Encouraging news also came from the restaurant industry with

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<sup>29</sup> Williams, P. (2018, December 20). 39-storey tower to be Kitchener's tallest building. *Construct Connect Canada, Inc.* Retrieved from:

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2018/12/39-storey-tower-kitcheners-tallest-building>

<sup>30</sup> Modi, N. (2018, December 28). WHAT'S GOING ON HERE: Blackstone Condo development takes shape in northeast Waterloo with strong sales. *Waterloo Chronicle*. Retrieved from: <https://www.waterloochronicle.ca/whatson-story/9102049-what-s-going-on-here-blackstone-condo-development-takes-shape-in-northeast-waterloo-with-strong-sales/>

<sup>31</sup> Barrie Advance Staff. (2019, January 22). Ashley Homestore now in Barrie's Park Place. *Barrie Advance*. Retrieved from: <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/9131040-ashley-homestore-now-in-barrie-s-park-place/>

<sup>32</sup> Jackson, B. (2019, January 10). Signs of the times. *Waterloo Chronicle*. Retrieved from: <https://www.waterloochronicle.ca/news-story/9119486-signs-of-the-times-local-sign-makers-see-increase-in-business-with-hot-local-economy/>

<sup>33</sup> CTV Kitchener Staff. (2019, January 21). Several managers suspended, investigation underway at Cambridge manufacturer. *CTV Kitchener*. Retrieved from: <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/several-managers-suspended-investigation-underway-at-cambridge-manufacturer-1.4262365>

<sup>34</sup> CNW Group Ltd Release. (2018, December 9). Cominar Set to House a New R&D Facility for the Ford Motor Company. Retrieved from <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/cominar-set-to-house-a-new-rd-facility-for-the-ford-motor-company-703124111.html>

<sup>35</sup> OBJ Staff. (2019, January 16). Ottawa's industrial and office vacancy rates to fall further in 2019: report. *Ottawa Business Journal*. Retrieved from: <https://obj.ca/article/ottawas-industrial-and-office-vacancy-rates-fall-further-2019-report>

<sup>36</sup> Morden, P. (2018, December 28). Property tax windfall not expected from Nova expansion. *Sarnia Observer*. Retrieved from: <https://lfp.com/news/local-news/property-tax-windfall-not-expected-from-nova-expansion>

<sup>37</sup> Nova Chemicals Press Release. Volume 2, Number 1, December 2017. retrieved from <http://www.novachem.com/Connections/December%202017.pdf>

openings planned by Sunset Grill Restaurants Ltd.,<sup>38</sup> Five Guys, and Qdoba Mexican Eats, all in Windsor. In addition, Planet Fitness is expected to open its first health club franchise in the area at the end of the month.<sup>39</sup>

The **Northeast** economic region experienced an employment gain of 9,200 (+3.8%), however news announcements were mixed in the area. Weak news came out of the mining sector with KGHM International Ltd. planning to lay off 120 workers at its Morrison Mine in the Levack community of Greater Sudbury at the end of March 2019, and placing the operation in care and maintenance mode. Lower copper and nickel prices are blamed for the unprofitability of the operations, however the company is re-opening the nearby McCreehy West Mine, which could absorb some of these workers.<sup>40</sup> In other losses, Tenaris Algoma Tubes Inc. plans to lay off another 95 workers in early February 2019 at its manufacturing facility in Sault Ste. Marie. This brings the total number of affected workers to 218 since June of last year. The company provides products to the energy sector, and the job cuts can be attributed to several factors including, unstable oil and gas prices, a reduction in drilling activities, steel tariffs, and the increase in local pipe inventories resulting from a significant rise in tubular imports.<sup>41,42</sup> Yet, significant \$150M public sector investment made in Algoma Steel Inc. will help to boost the region's employment base.<sup>43</sup>

Employment in the **Northwest** economic region was flat over the year, but several thousand jobs are expected to come into the area due to plans to expand access to natural gas with the provincial government providing \$27M towards a new liquefied gas plant in Nipigon.<sup>44</sup> Construction of the plant is expected to begin in spring 2019 and the operations start in 2020.<sup>45</sup> In other news, a facility for mental health and addiction crises will open in April in Kenora<sup>46</sup> while the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, a 37,000-square-foot facility including six separate exhibition spaces is expected to be constructed.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>38</sup> McQuaid, K. (2019, January 26). OPENING SOON: Sunset Grill All Day Breakfast Restaurant. *Windsorite*. Retrieved from <https://windsorite.ca/2019/01/opening-soon-sunset-grill-all-day-breakfast-restaurant-on-division-road>

<sup>39</sup>Hill, S. (2018, December 19). Planet Fitness, Five Guys and Qdoba opening in January. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/planet-fitness-five-guys-and-qdoba-opening-in-january>

<sup>40</sup>Rodya, C. (2019, January 16). Cuts to KGHM's Sudbury mining operations totals 120. *CTVNews*. Retrieved from: <https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/cuts-to-kghm-s-sudbury-mining-operations-totals-120-1.4256210>

<sup>41</sup>CTV Northern Ontario Staff. (2019, January 25). Another round of layoffs at Tenaris Tubes in the Soo. *CTVNews*. Retrieved from: <https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/another-round-of-layoffs-at-tenaris-tubes-in-the-soo-1.4267867>

<sup>42</sup> Soo Today Staff. (2019, January 24). BREAKING: Tenaris to lay off another 95 Sault employees. *Soo Today*. Retrieved from: <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/breaking-tenaris-to-lay-off-another-95-sault-employees-1211282>

<sup>43</sup> Pounder, M. (2019, January 10). Algoma Government Funding Will Help Save Jobs. *Sault Online*. Retrieved from: <https://saultonline.com/2019/01/provincial-federal-governments-jointly-announce-funding-for-algoma/>

<sup>44</sup>Government of Ontario. (2019, January 29). Province Bringing Jobs and Affordable Heating to Northern Ontario. *Ministry of Infrastructure*. Retrieved from: <https://news.ontario.ca/moi/en/2019/01/province-bringing-jobs-and-affordable-heating-to-northern-ontario.html>

<sup>45</sup>Alex, K. (2019, January 25). 'Big win' for northern Ontario says infrastructure minister of LNG plant for Nipigon. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/nipigon-lng-gas-plant-1.4993647>

<sup>46</sup>Pinder, E. (2019, January 25). Mental health and addictions housing facility slated for spring to serve dire need: official. *Kenora Daily Miner & News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com/news/local-news/mental-health-and-addictions-housing-facility-slated-for-spring-to-serve-dire-need-official>

<sup>47</sup> CBC Staff. (2019, January 14). Ottawa announces \$3.5M to build new Thunder Bay Art Gallery. *CBCNews*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-art-gallery-funding-1.4977340>

Employment also grew in four other economic regions, including, **Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula, Kingston-Pembroke, London, and Muskoka-Kawarthas.**

The **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic region posted the largest employment decrease (-13,000; -8.2%) in Ontario between January 2018 and January 2019. On the positive side, the Bruce Power long-term refurbishment project continues to attract new suppliers to the region, and more recently, news came that Stevecon Packaging & Logistics Ltd. will set up a facility in Owen Sound to manufacture crates.<sup>48</sup>

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2019 ('000)	January 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2019 (%)	January 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Ontario</b>	7,293.3	7172.6	1.7	5.2	5.2	0.0
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Ottawa	706.9	702.7	0.6	4.9	4.9	0.0
Kingston—Pembroke	211.6	201.6	5.0	5.5	4.4	1.1
Muskoka—Kawarthas	179.3	175.2	2.3	5.4	5.9	-0.5
Toronto	3552.8	3507.5	1.3	5.6	5.4	0.2
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	748.7	703.7	6.4	3.6	4.3	-0.7
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	757.5	756.9	0.1	4.7	5	-0.3
London	333.9	321.5	3.9	4.9	6.1	-1.2
Windsor—Sarnia	306.7	304	0.9	4.9	4.4	0.5
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	145	158	-8.2	4.5	4.4	0.1
Northeast	249.9	240.7	3.8	6	6.1	-0.1
Northwest	100.9	100.8	0.1	5.1	5.3	-0.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

<sup>48</sup>Dunn, S. (2019, January 28). Another Bruce Power rebuild supplier coming to Owen Sound. *Owen Sound The Sun Times*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/another-bruce-power-rebuild-supplier-coming-to-owen-sound>

**Note:** In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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