



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

March 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 - Employment increased in Ontario in the first quarter of 2019

- Employment increased by 79,500 in the province in the first quarter of 2019
- The growth was mainly influenced by improvement in full-time employment (+70,300)
- The provincial unemployment rate increased slightly to 5.8%, same as the national rate

Employment in Ontario increased by 79,500 in the first quarter of 2019 compared with the fourth quarter of 2018, due mainly to gains in full-time employment (+70,300). The unemployment rate edged up by 0.3 percentage point to reach 5.8% as more people looked for work. The participation rate stood at 64.9%, up from 64.3% in the previous quarter.

Employment growth was stronger when compared with the first quarter of 2018, with an increase of 179,100 (+2.5%), due mainly also to the rise in full-time employment of 143,900.

For youth 15-24, employment increased by 40,500 (+4.3%) in the first quarter of 2019, on the strength of gains in full-time employment (+36,500). The unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to reach 12.1% as more youth looked for work.

Meanwhile, employment in Canada increased by 133,000 (+0.7%) in the first quarter of 2019. Seven provinces reported quarterly increases with the largest gains in Ontario (+79,400) and Quebec (+31,200). Alberta experienced the largest loss of 16,900. The national unemployment rate remained at 5.8% for all months in the current quarter, but up from the 5.6% in the fourth quarter of 2018.

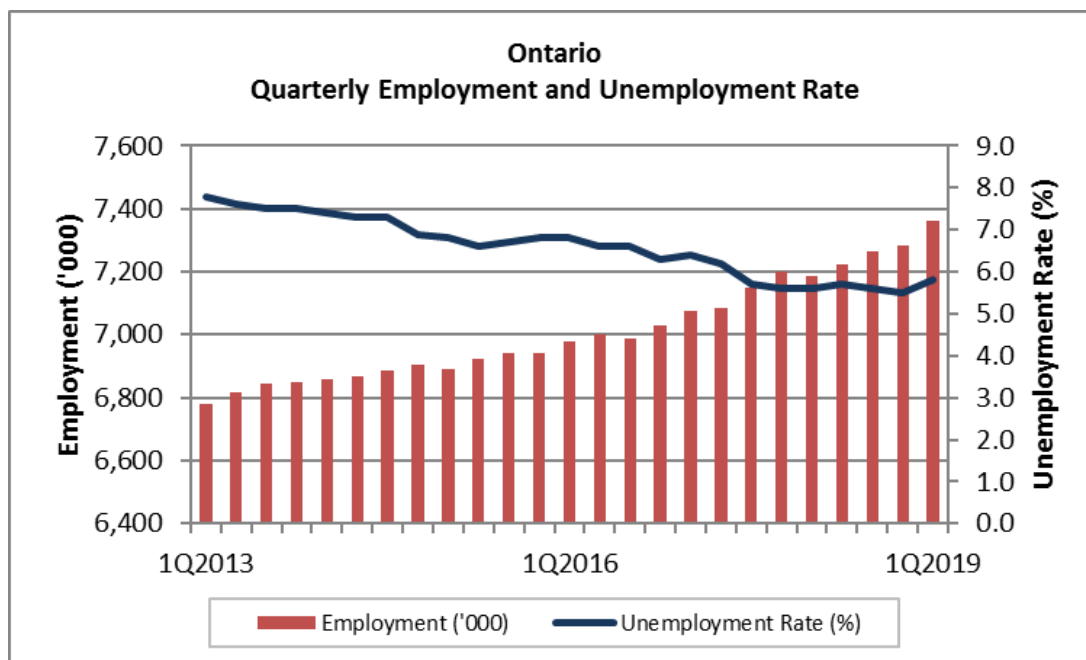
The United States (US) total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 196,000 in March 2019, with notable job gains in health care and in professional and technical services. Unemployment was unchanged and stood at 3.8%.¹ This month's gain is an improvement over the weak showing in February when the monthly gain was 20,000.²

Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	1st Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	12,036.4	11,982.00	11,810.3	54.4	0.5	226.1	1.9
Labour Force ('000)	7,813.6	7,708.70	7,607.1	104.9	1.4	206.5	2.7
Employment ('000)	7,363.6	7,284.10	7,184.5	79.5	1.1	179.1	2.5
Full-Time ('000)	6,006.3	5,936.00	5,862.4	70.3	1.2	143.9	2.5
Part-Time ('000)	1,357.3	1,348.20	1,322.1	9.1	0.7	35.2	2.7
Unemployment ('000)	450.0	424.60	422.5	25.4	6.0	27.5	6.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.8	5.50	5.6	0.3	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.9	64.30	64.4	0.6	-	0.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.2	60.80	60.8	0.4	-	0.4	-

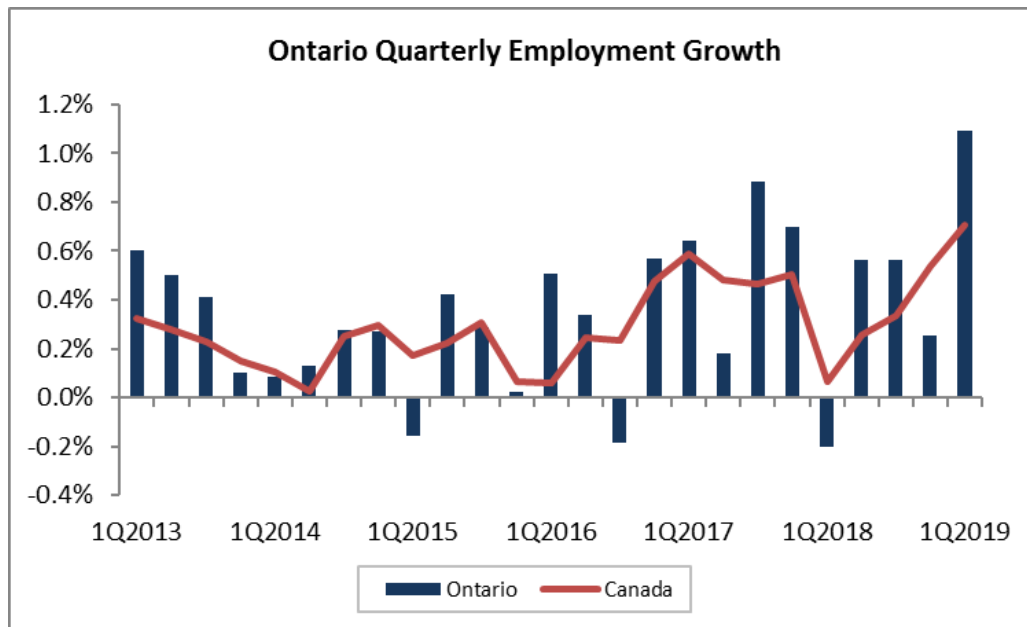
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics. Page 1. *United States Department of Labor*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>

² Bureau of Labor Statistics. *United States Department of Labor*. Retrieved from https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empsit_03082019.htm.



Ontario Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter 2019 (%)	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	1st Quarter 2018 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
	Total	5.8	5.5	5.6	0.3
25 years and over	4.7	4.5	4.6	0.2	0.1
Men - 25 years and over	4.8	4.6	4.3	0.2	0.5
Women - 25 years and over	4.6	4.4	4.7	0.2	-0.1
15 to 24 years	12.1	11.9	11.6	0.2	0.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.4	13.4	12.7	0.0	0.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.7	10.3	10.3	0.4	0.4

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

A look at labour market conditions for Ontario's Indigenous Peoples

In the first quarter (Q1) of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in Ontario was 12 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 2.2% of that, or 260,700 people. Employment among Indigenous people in Ontario was 145,200 representing an increase of +5,700 (+4.1%) from a year earlier (Q1 2018). Full-time positions accounted for all of this increase (+10,000 or 9.6%) which was slightly offset by a decrease in part-time positions (-4,300 or -12.2%).

In Q1 2019, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population increased +1.0 percentage point from a year earlier, to 9.4%. The unemployment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population nudged up to 5.9% (+0.3pp). The participation rate of the Indigenous population increased slightly to 61.4% (+0.9pp) year-over-year, while that of the non-Indigenous population edged up to 64.2% (+0.6pp). The employment rate among Indigenous people also increased from the previous year to 55.7% (+0.3pp) as well as for the non-Indigenous population to 60.4% (+0.4pp).

Ontario - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q1 2019	Q1 2018	number	%	Q1 2019	Q1 2018	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	260.7	251.7	9.0	3.6%	11,775.5	11,558.6	216.9	1.9%
Labour Force ('000)	160.2	152.3	7.9	5.2%	7,563.1	7,355.5	207.6	2.8%
Employment ('000)	145.2	139.5	5.7	4.1%	7,117.7	6,940.0	177.7	2.6%
Full-Time ('000)	114.3	104.3	10.0	9.6%	5,738.9	5,600.8	138.1	2.5%
Part-Time ('000)	30.9	35.2	-4.3	-12.2%	1,378.8	1,339.3	39.5	2.9%
Unemployment ('000)	15.0	12.8	2.2	17.2%	445.4	415.4	30.0	7.2%
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.4	8.4	1.0	-	5.9	5.6	0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.4	60.5	0.9	-	64.2	63.6	0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.7	55.4	0.3	-	60.4	60.0	0.4	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Goods-producing sector posted marginal increase in employment between Q4 2018 and Q1 2019

Employment increased in Ontario's goods-producing sector by 1,100 (+0.1%) between the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2018 and the first quarter (Q1) of 2019. Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas posted the largest gains (+3,900; +12.1%), while losses were observed in utilities (-3,800; -6.4%) and manufacturing (-2,600; -0.3%).

The news in the first quarter was somewhat rocky for the **mining** sector with 100 employees expecting to lose their jobs due to the closure of Victor Mine near Attawapiskat,³ and with KGHM International Ltd. cutting about 120 jobs at its Morrison Mine in Levack.⁴

In the **utilities** sector, good news came as the provincial government is investing \$27M in a new liquefied gas plant in Nipigon, which is expected to create up to several thousand jobs in the region.⁵

While employment increased in **construction** (+1,900; +0.4%) in Q1 2019, it was weaker than the quarterly gains reported in Q4 2018 (+4,600; +0.9%). Activities in the industry continued unfettered during the first quarter of 2019 with several large-scale developments planned or underway. Notably, the Government of Canada is provid-

³ CBC News Staff. (2019, March 7). Attawapiskat chief worried about the future after mine closure. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/de-beers-attawapiskat-reaction-1.5047368>

⁴ Rodya, C. (2019, January 16). Cuts to KGHM's Sudbury mining operations totals 120. *CTV News Northern Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/cuts-to-kg-h-m-s-sudbury-mining-operations-totals-120-1.4256210>

⁵ Ministry of Infrastructure. (2019, January 25). Province Bringing Jobs and Affordable Heating to Northern Ontario. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/moi/en/2019/01/province-bringing-jobs-and-affordable-heating-to-northern-ontario.html>

ing over \$42M to Big Trout Lake First Nation to build a new school,⁶ \$26.3M to restore the Port Dalhousie Piers in St. Catharines,⁷ \$3.5M towards the construction of a new art gallery in Thunder Bay,⁸ and \$3.9M for a net-zero energy residential construction project in London.⁹

Meanwhile, the Government of Ontario announced several investments. These include, \$633M towards two new facilities being built at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto,¹⁰ \$50M to the Thames Valley District School Board to fund renovations at several schools,¹¹ \$7.2M provided to Kingston Health Sciences Centre for improvements to Kingston General Hospital and Hotel Dieu Hospital,¹² and \$5M to transform a paper mill in Sault Ste. Marie into a centre for tourism.¹³

Other noteworthy non-residential developments include planned construction of the next stage of the \$4.6B Light Rail¹⁴ and the \$36M Elgin Street renewal project in Ottawa.¹⁵ There is also the extension of Toronto's underground PATH walking network,¹⁶ development of the Mon Sheong Foundation's \$80M new long-term care

⁶ Jung, C. (2019, March 20). KI First Nation receives over \$42M in funding to 'build new school up to Grade 12'. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/ki-new-school-funding-1.5063126>

⁷ DCN News Services. (2019, January 2). Repairs on Port Dalhousie Piers to start immediately. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2019/01/repairs-port-dalhousie-piers-start-immediately>

⁸ CBC News Staff. (2019, January 14). Ottawa announces \$3.5M to build new Thunder Bay Art Gallery. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-art-gallery-funding-1.4977340>

⁹ Lale, B. (2019, January 22). Feds contribute \$3.9M to 'first-of-its-kind' energy-efficient London building. *CTV News London*. Retrieved from <https://london.ctvnews.ca/feds-contribute-3-9m-to-first-of-its-kind-energy-efficient-london-building-1.4264375>

¹⁰ 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>

¹¹ Constituency Office of Jeff Yurek. (2019, February 1). Addition and Renovation Supports Growing Community at Kettle Creek Public School. *Port Stanley News*. Retrieved from http://www.portstanleynews.com/details/headline.aspx?menu=laptop_news_news_improved-school-facilities-in-port-stanley

¹² Pereira, J. (2019, February 5). KHSC receives \$6.8 million for infrastructure upgrades. *Kingston General Hospital*. Retrieved from <http://www.kgh.on.ca/kghconnect/news/khsc-receives-68-million-infrastructure-upgrades>

¹³ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2019, March 22). Sault embarking on new tourism initiative. *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/sault-embarking-on-new-tourism-initiative-1335386>

¹⁴ Willing, J. (2019, March 7). APPROVED: Council okays \$4.6B Stage 2 LRT contracts. *Ottawa Sun*. Retrieved from <https://ottawasun.com/news/local-news/council-approves-4-6b-stage-2-transit-contracts-the-largest-infrastructure-approval-in-ottawas-history/wcm/cd2758c2-67fb-4e22-8a3e-893421ce0866>

¹⁵ Blewett, T. (2019, January 7). Everything you need to know about the Elgin Street renewal in 2019 — and beyond. *Ottawa Citizen*. Retrieved from <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-elgin-street-renewal-in-2019-and-beyond>

¹⁶ 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>

home in Stouffville,¹⁷ and the \$50M smart grid system to be developed in Sault Ste. Marie by PUC Distribution Inc.¹⁸

Construction in the retail segment took off this quarter with new retail developments planned or underway in Newmarket,¹⁹ Windsor,²⁰ Guelph,²¹ Port Colborne,²² Red Lake²³ and Toronto.²⁴ Industrial activities continued to be bolstered by the construction of Whyte's Foods Inc.'s \$16.5M food-processing plant near Wallaceburg,²⁵ cannabis producer Eve and Co.'s \$18.7M greenhouse expansion in Strathroy,²⁶ Imtex Membranes Corp.'s \$15M plant to be built in Sarnia,²⁷ and the \$30M expansion of the KF Aerospace facility at the Hamilton International Airport.²⁸

While the residential construction segment continued to be buoyed by major condominium projects, it also received a boost from several recent federal and provincial government investments in affordable housing units in Northwestern Ontario,²⁹ Ajax,³⁰ London,³¹ Hamilton,³² and Woodstock.³³ Affordable housing for Indigenous

¹⁷ 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/>

¹⁸ Della-Mattia, E. (2019, February 11). Feds provide PUC with \$11.8 million for first-of-its-kind Smart Grid project. *The Sault Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/feds-provide-puc-with-11-8-million-for-first-of-its-kind-smart-grid-project>

¹⁹ Persico, A. (2019, February 23). What's Going on Here?: New shopping centre in Newmarket. *YorkRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9185137-what-s-going-on-here-new-shopping-centre-in-newmarket/>

²⁰ Jarvis, A. (2019, March 1). A vibrant vision for the entrance to the new Distillery District. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/a-vibrant-entrance-to-the-new-distillery-district>

²¹ Guelph Mercury Staff. (2019, March 5). Former Sears store at Guelph's Stone Road Mall to be torn down, rebuilt. *The Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9205583-former-sears-store-at-guelph-s-stone-road-mall-to-be-torn-down-rebuilt/>

²² Welland Tribune. (2019, March 20). A&W, small plaza going up on Main Street West in Port Colborne. *Welland Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://www.wellandtribune.ca/news-story/9231832-a-w-small-plaza-going-up-on-main-street-west-in-port-colborne/>

²³ CKDR Staff. (2019, March 26). Federal Funding For New Red Lake Pavilion. *CKDR*. Retrieved from <http://www.ckdr.net/news/793075136/federal-funding-new-red-lake-pavilion>

²⁴ Toneguzzi, M. (2019, February 7). 'The Well' to Transform Downtown Toronto Neighbourhood. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/2/the-well-to-transform-downtown-toronto-neighbourhood>

²⁵ Gough, D. (2019, March 15). Pickle plant on target to open later this year. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/pickle-plant-on-target-to-open-later-this-year/wcm/45c9ad2c-871d-49d2-9492-8fff8d026aed>

²⁶ Dubinski, K. (2019, March 20). Strathroy pot producer set to become major player in cannabis market. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/eve-and-co-cannabis-strathroy-1.5062981>

²⁷ Irwin, M. (2019, February 6). Sarnia lands another demonstration plant. *BlackburnNews.com* Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2019/02/06/sarnia-lands-another-demonstration-plant/>

²⁸ Michaels, K. (2019, February 15). KF Aerospace expands in Ontario. *Kelowna Capital News*. Retrieved from <https://www.kelownacapnews.com/news/kf-aerospace-expands-in-ontario/>

²⁹ NetNewsLedger Staff. (2019, March 12). Bob Nault Announces Funding for Kenora Riding Housing. *NetNewLedger*. Retrieved from <http://www.netnewsledger.com/2019/03/12/bob-nault-announces-funding-for-kenora-riding-housing/>

³⁰ Durham Radio News Staff. (2019, February 11). Feds investing \$60-million into affordable housing building in Ajax. *Durham Radio News*. Retrieved from <http://www.durhamradionews.com/archives/116937>

³¹ De Bono, N. (2019, February 11). London affordable housing gets \$4.4 million in federal support. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/london-affordable-housing-gets-4-4-million-in-federal-support>

³² Moro, T. (2019, January 23). Feds contribute \$10 million to future Hamilton YWCA on Ottawa Street. *The Hamilton Spec-tator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/9137769-feds-contribute-10-million-to-future-hamilton-ywca-on-ottawa-street/>

communities also received funding including, \$4.5M towards a housing facility for Indigenous people in Kenora³⁴ and up to \$12.8M in funding to support new housing construction at Cat Lake First Nation.³⁵

Employment declined in **manufacturing** (-2,600; -0.3%) in Q1 2019, in stark contrast to the gains observed in the sector in Q4 2018 (+6,900; +0.9%). The Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) continued its downward trend, falling to 50.5 in March. This was the slowest growth in factory activity since September 2016 owing to weaker production growth and decline in new export orders.³⁶

The sector was plagued by major layoffs and downsizings across the province during the first quarter. Some particularly significant announcements include Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) plans to cut the third shift at its Windsor Assembly Plant by September 2019, affecting about 1,500 employees,³⁷ and the shuttering of Erwin Hymer Group North America's recreational vehicle manufacturing plants in Cambridge and Kitchener impacting about 900 workers.³⁸ Multiplier effects from the FCA downsizing is projected to impact up to 300 more workers as Magna International Inc. will reduce production at its Integram Windsor Seating plant.³⁹ Other major announcements included the laying off of about 150 employees by high-tech eyewear designer North Inc. in Kitchener,⁴⁰ London-based auto-parts producer Brose Canada Inc. laying off 100 workers by the end of 2019,⁴¹ and Tenaris Algoma Tubes Inc. letting go of another 95 workers at its Sault Ste. Marie facility.⁴² The sector was further impacted by the announced closure of Dart Container Corporation's Campbellford plant,⁴³ the planned clo-

³³ Colgan, G. (2019, February 11). Affordable housing project receives \$2.9M. *Woodstock Sentinel Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/news/local-news/affordable-housing-project-receives-2-9m>

³⁴ Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. (2019, March 11). Ontario Taking Steps to Create New Housing in Kenora. *Government of Ontario*. Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mma/en/2019/03/ontario-taking-steps-to-create-new-housing-in-kenora.html>

³⁵ The Canadian Press. (2019, March 14). Feds sign deal promising millions to Ontario First Nation facing housing crisis. *Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/9223172-feds-sign-deal-promising-millions-to-ontario-first-nation-facing-housing-crisis/>

³⁶ Trading Economics Staff. (2019, March 1). Canada Manufacturing PMI. *Trading Economics*. Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/canada/manufacturing-pmi>

³⁷ The Canadian Press. (2019, March 28). Fiat Chrysler plant in Windsor, Ont., cutting 1,500 positions. *Global News*. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/5108736/windsor-chrysler-job-cuts/>

³⁸ Rubin, J. (2019, February 15). Cambridge RV maker Erwin Hymer shuts plant, 900 lose jobs. *The Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2019/02/15/rv-maker-erwin-hymer-closes-doors.html>

³⁹ Waddell, D. (2019, March 29). FCA decision painful but not crippling to local economy, auto experts say. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/fca-decision-painful-but-not-crippling-to-local-economy-auto-experts-say>

⁴⁰ Davis, B. (2019, February 22). Federal government freezes investment in wake of North Inc. layoffs. *The Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9188735-federal-government-freezes-investment-in-wake-of-north-inc-layoffs/>

⁴¹ 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>

⁴² 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>

⁴³ Campbell, J. (2019, February 28). Huge blow for Campbellford — Dart Cup is leaving town. *Brighton Independent*. Retrieved from <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/9198568-huge-blow-for-campbellford-dart-cup-is-leaving-town/>

sure of Cascades Inc.'s Whitby and Scarborough sites,⁴⁴ and the ceasing of operations at CS Wind Corp.'s Windsor facility.⁴⁵

The manufacturing sector received some much needed respite from the effects of these losses with several new job creation announcements. Algoma Steel Inc. received \$150M in combined funding from the federal and provincial governments which will create and maintain over 3,000 jobs.⁴⁶ Another 160 jobs were created at APG Elektronik Corp. and Service Mold + Aerospace Inc. in Windsor through \$5M in funding from the Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development.⁴⁷ Additionally, Alstom Canada Inc. expects to employ between 100 and 120 workers at its new light rail assembly facility in Brampton,⁴⁸ while Westmount Signs & Printing added more experienced installers to their workforce in Waterloo.⁴⁹

The cannabis industry has been a particularly bright spot for the sector. In the first quarter, 7ACRES expanded their Bruce County greenhouse and hired about 495 full-time greenhouse employees,⁵⁰ while AgMedica Bioscience Inc. increased production at its Chatham facility and indicated that it plans to hire more workers.⁵¹ Additionally, Green Relief Inc. expects to begin its Stoney Creek operations by April and plans to hire about 100 employees in coming months,⁵² Aphria Inc. held a job fair to fill 130 positions at its Leamington facility,⁵³ and Indiva expanded production at its London facility and plans to hire 25 to 30 people.⁵⁴

On a year-over-year quarterly basis, employment in the goods-producing sector increased by 3,800 (+0.3%), with construction reporting the largest increase (+9,900; +1.9%). Manufacturing was the only sector to report an employment loss of 15,600 (-2.0%).

⁴⁴ The Canadian Press. (2019, February 28). Cascades closing two tissue paper machines in Ontario, reports fourth-quarter loss. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-cascades-closing-two-tissue-paper-machines-in-ontario-reports-fourth/>

⁴⁵ Wilhelm, T. (2019, March 14). CS Wind stops producing wind turbines in Windsor. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/cs-wind-stops-producing-wind-turbines-in-windsor>

⁴⁶ 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/>

⁴⁷ CTV Windsor Staff. (2019, January 14). Over \$5M and almost 160 jobs announced for two Windsor companies. *CTV News Windsor*. Retrieved from <https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/over-5m-and-almost-160-jobs-announced-for-two-windsor-companies-1.4252713>

⁴⁸ Ali, D. (2019, March 8). Major Job Growth Expected In Brampton Through New Transport Plant. *inBrampton*. Retrieved from <https://www.inbrampton.com/major-job-growth-expected-in-brampton-through-new-transport-plant>

⁴⁹ Waterloo Chronicle Staff. (2019, January 10). Signs of the times: Local sign makers see increase in business with hot local economy. *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/>

⁵⁰ Kincardine Times Staff. (2019, March 21). 7ACRES celebrates further growth and expansion in Bruce County. *Kincardine Times*. Retrieved from <https://kincardinetimes.com/7acres-celebrates-further-growth-and-expansion-in-bruce-county/>

⁵¹ Shreve, E. (2019, January 31). AgMedica growing quickly in Chatham, prompting need to hire. *The Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/local-news/agmedica-growing-quickly-in-chatham-prompting-need-to-hire>

⁵² Pearson, M. (2019, January 1). Medical cannabis set to be growing at former Players Paradise by April. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/9105517-medical-cannabis-set-to-be-growing-at-former-players-paradise-by-april/>

⁵³ Schmidt, D. (2019, March 15). Aphria holding jobs fair to fill 130 positions for major pot greenhouse expansion. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/aphria-holding-jobs-fair-to-fill-130-positions-for-major-pot-greenhouse-expansion>

⁵⁴ Carruthers, D. (2019, March 18). Little pot grower that could, Indiva, looking for staff who think they can. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpress.com/news/local-news/little-pot-grower-that-could-indiva-looking-for-staff-who-think-they-can>

Services-producing sector reported major gains in Q1 2019

Employment increased in the services-producing sector by 78,200 (+1.3%) between Q4 2018 and Q1 2019. Most of these gains can be attributed to employment increases in professional, scientific and technical services (+25,300; +4.0%), wholesale and retail trade (+20,600; +1.9%), health care and social assistance (+13,700; +1.6%), and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+11,800; +2.1%). Among the three sectors that reported losses, business, building and other support services posted the largest decline (-10,600; -3.2%), followed by accommodation and food services (-9,300; -2.0%), and information, culture and recreation (-3,400; -1.1%).

The **professional, scientific and technical services** sector saw significant employment gains of 25,300 in the first quarter of 2019. Positive employment news dominated the sector with the expansion of cannabinoid company GBS Global Biopharma Inc. into Ottawa,⁵⁵ cybersecurity firm Datto Inc. opening its Canadian headquarters in Markham with 20 employees,⁵⁶ and United Controls International is opening a location in Owen Sound to support refurbishment activities at Bruce Power.⁵⁷ Additionally, web development and e-commerce firm Northern Commerce Inc. is expanding in London.⁵⁸

Wholesale and retail trade reported robust employment gains of 20,600 in Q1 2019. However, employment news indicated a challenging first quarter for the sector with several major players announcing closures that will impact employment in the coming months. January was marked by Hallmark Canada's announcement that it will be exiting its presence in about 20 company-owned stores across Canada in 2019,⁵⁹ while children's apparel retailer Gymboree Group, Inc. will close all 49 Canadian stores,⁶⁰ including 28 stores in Ontario. February brought announcements that all 37 Canadian Home Outfitters stores (17 in Ontario)⁶¹ and all 248 Payless ShoeSource Canada Inc. stores across the country (119 in Ontario) will be closing in 2019, impacting up to 3,000 workers in the retail sector, most of whom will be in Toronto.⁶² More bad news hit the sector in March with Green Earth Stores Ltd. announcing that it will close all 29 stores in Ontario in 2019.⁶³

⁵⁵ Cision Staff. (2019, March 19). GB Sciences Launches Global Expansion in Canada with GBS Global Biopharma, Inc. Cision. Retrieved from <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/gb-sciences-launches-global-expansion-in-canada-with-gbs-global-biopharma-inc--838040653.html>

⁵⁶ 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>

⁵⁷ Dunn, S. (2019, February 20). Another Bruce Power supplier in Owen Sound. *Owen Sound The Sun Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/another-bruce-power-supplier-in-owen-sound>

⁵⁸ De Bono, N. (2019, February 17). Surging London tech firm's staff set to double. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/surging-london-tech-firms-staff-set-to-double>

⁵⁹ 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>

⁶⁰ 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>

⁶¹ Evans, P. (2019, February 21). HBC shutting all 37 Home Outfitters stores across Canada. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/hbc-home-outfitters-1.5028740>

⁶² Evans, P. (2019, February 19). Payless seeks creditor protection, plans to close stores in U.S. and Canada. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/payless-shoe-stores-1.5024739>

⁶³ Kovach, J. (2019, March 13). Green Earth store closing at Lansdowne Place. *Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news-story/9221245-green-earth-store-closing-at-lansdowne-place/>

The sector did see some positive news including the opening of a number of high-end retail stores,^{64,65} establishment of physical stores by online retailers,^{66,67} and the hiring of seasonal workers across the sector.^{68,69,70}

Employment gains of 8,400 were reported in the **transportation and warehousing** sector. The sector saw several positive developments in Q1 2019 including Porter Airlines opening a maintenance base at Thunder Bay's International Airport creating 18 full-time maintenance-related jobs.⁷¹ Gordon Food Service is also expanding in Ajax,⁷² and international aircraft maintenance firm, AAR Corp, looking to hire about 160 staff in Windsor within the next two years.⁷³ Some concern for the sector came in the form of Cathay Pacific's announcement that it will close its cabin crew base in Toronto, potentially affecting about 120 employees.⁷⁴

The **business, building and other support services** sector experienced an employment decline of -10,600 in Q1 2019. News also came of the planned closure of TTEC Holdings Inc.'s call centre in the City of Sarnia at the end of April, impacting 170 employees.⁷⁵

The **information, culture, and recreation** sector reported an employment loss of 3,400 since Q4 2018. However, the sector has enjoyed an influx of investments and employment in the first quarter of 2019. This includes the announced Netflix Inc. production hub which is expected to create 1,850 jobs per year,⁷⁶ and the launch of Shopify Inc.'s TV and film content development and production house, both of which will be headquartered in

⁶⁴ Patterson, C. (2019, March 4). Valentino Unveils 1st Canadian Flagship. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/3/valentino-unveils-1st-canadian-flagship-photos>

⁶⁵ Marchionda, J. (2019, March 6). L.L. Bean Announces Location of 1st Store in Canada. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/3/ll-bean-announces-location-of-1st-store-in-canada>

⁶⁶ Marchionda, J. (2019, March 21). BRIEF: Alex and Ani Closing 1/2 Canadian Stores, Edo Japan Expands into Ontario. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/3/brief-alex-and-ani-closing-half-canadian-stores-edo-japan-expands-into-ontario>

⁶⁷ Retail Insider Staff. (2019, March 22). BRIEF: Endy Opening 1st Storefront, Upscale French Brand Shutters Only Canadian Store. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/3/brief-endy-opening-1st-storefront-upscale-french-brand-shutters-only-canadian-store>

⁶⁸ 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>

⁶⁹ Carter, B. (2019, March 9). Sun shines on opening day for Avondale Dairy Bar. *Niagara Now*. Retrieved from <http://www.niagaranow.com/news.phtml/1590-sun-shines-on-avondale-dairy-bars-2019-opening-day>

⁷⁰ Battagello, D. (2019, February 11). Home Depot set to hire locally for summer jobs. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/home-depot-set-to-hire-locally-for-summer-jobs>

⁷¹ 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>

⁷² Pfeiffer, R. (2019, February 19). What's Going On Here: Gordon Food Service warehouse. *DurhamRegion.com* Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/9174992-what-s-going-on-here-gordon-food-service-warehouse/>

⁷³ Cross, B. (2019, March 7). Aircraft maintenance firm could take lots more work if it could find the talent. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/aircraft-maintenance-firm-could-take-lots-more-work-if-it-could-find-the-talent>

⁷⁴ Park, K. (2019, February 12). Cathay Pacific to close crew base in Toronto as part of revamp, could affect 125 workers. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from <https://business.financialpost.com/transportation/airlines/cathay-pacific-to-close-crew-base-in-toronto-as-part-of-revamp>

⁷⁵ Irwin, M. (2019, March 21). Research park call centre closing. *Blackburn News*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2019/03/21/research-park-call-centre-closing/>

⁷⁶ Ahearn, V. (2019, February 19). Netflix announces creation of production hub in Toronto. *Canadian Manufacturing*. Retrieved from <https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/netflix-announces-creation-of-production-hub-in-toronto-227158/>

Toronto.⁷⁷ Kitchener's sector will get a boost with plans by Index Exchange Inc. to hire more software developers.⁷⁸

New investments also included a federal government investment of \$882K in Daisy Intelligence creating up to 29 high-skilled jobs in southern Ontario⁷⁹ and BDC Capital's \$1M investment in Ottawa-based Nuvvyo to support research and development of new products.⁸⁰ Employment in the sector also received a boost from the hiring of 100 new workers by Gateway Casinos & Entertainment in Chatham⁸¹ and the opening of the Rec Room, a 44,000-sq.-ft. entertainment complex by Cineplex Entertainment LP in Mississauga in March.⁸² While in negative news, there was an announcement of the planned lay-off of 64 employees by SAP Canada Inc., at its Toronto and Waterloo offices.⁸³

On a year-over-year quarterly basis, employment in the services-producing sector increased by 175,200 (+3.1%). The biggest contributors to these gains were transportation and warehousing (+40,500; +11.2%), health care and social assistance (+40,500; +4.8%), educational services (+38,200; +7.6%), and professional, scientific and technical services (+37,500; +6.0%). Employment losses were observed in only two sectors, namely, information, culture and recreation (-28,200; -8.7%) and accommodation and food services (-12,500; -2.7%).

⁷⁷ The Canadian Press. (2019, January 23). Shopify is getting into TV and film production. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/shopify-content-1.4989373>

⁷⁸ Pender, T. (2019, March 26). Challenge of working with big data helps Kitchener company hook talent. *Kitchener Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenerpost.ca/news-story/9241698-challenge-of-working-with-big-data-helps-kitchener-company-hook-talent/>

⁷⁹ Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario. (2019, February 6). FedDev Ontario supports growth of AI technology platform. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/02/feddev-ontario-supports-growth-of-ai-technology-platform.html>

⁸⁰ Aleksandrov, A. (2019, March 12). Cord-cutting DVR maker Nuvvyo receives \$1M funding from BDC Capital. *Ottawa Business Journal*. Retrieved from <https://obj.ca/article/cord-cutting-dvr-maker-nuvvyo-receives-1m-funding-bdc-capital>

⁸¹ Shreve, E. (2019, February 5). Casino opening could be part of Canada Day celebrations in Chatham. *The Chatham Daily News*. Retrieved from <https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/local-news/casino-opening-could-be-part-of-canada-day-celebrations-in-chatham>

⁸² 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>

⁸³ Jackson, B. (2019, March 10). SAP Canada confirms layoffs in Ontario, Quebec, and B.C. *IT World Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/sap-canada-confirms-layoffs-in-ontario-quebec-and-b-c/415788>

Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2019	2018	2018	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	7363.6	7284.1	7184.6	79.5	1.1	179.0	2.5
Goods-producing sector	1460.6	1459.5	1456.8	1.1	0.1	3.8	0.3
Agriculture	70.5	68.8	67	1.7	2.5	3.5	5.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.1	32.2	34.1	3.9	12.1	2.0	5.9
Utilities	55.9	59.7	51.8	-3.8	-6.4	4.1	7.9
Construction	532.7	530.8	522.8	1.9	0.4	9.9	1.9
Manufacturing	765.5	768.1	781.1	-2.6	-0.3	-15.6	-2.0
Services-producing sector	5902.9	5824.7	5727.7	78.2	1.3	175.2	3.1
Trade	1096.6	1076	1078.1	20.6	1.9	18.5	1.7
Transportation and warehousing	402.2	393.8	361.7	8.4	2.1	40.5	11.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	573.5	561.7	555.5	11.8	2.1	18.0	3.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	663.5	638.2	626	25.3	4.0	37.5	6.0
Business, building and other support services	321.9	332.5	314.7	-10.6	-3.2	7.2	2.3
Educational services	542.2	536.1	504	6.1	1.1	38.2	7.6
Health care and social assistance	883.5	869.8	843	13.7	1.6	40.5	4.8
Information, culture and recreation	296.1	299.5	324.3	-3.4	-1.1	-28.2	-8.7
Accommodation and food services	455	464.3	467.5	-9.3	-2.0	-12.5	-2.7
Other services	298.7	291	288.7	7.7	2.6	10.0	3.5
Public administration	369.5	361.6	364.2	7.9	2.2	5.3	1.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Toronto leads Ontario's employment growth in the first quarter of 2019

Employment grew by 96,900 (+2.8%) in the **Toronto** economic region between the first quarters of 2018 and 2019 (measured on a year-over-year, seasonally unadjusted basis). The regional unemployment rate moved up 0.7 percentage point to 6.4%, and labour force participation increased 0.8 percentage point to 66.1%. An estimated 133,800 people entered the workforce while 36,900 more workers became unemployed.

The Greater Toronto Area saw significant building projects announced. Metrolinx and Woodbine Entertainment Group will build a GO Transit station next to the Woodbine Racetrack in Etobicoke.⁸⁴ High-rise construction began on a six-storey apartment building in Mississauga by Starlight Group Property Holdings Inc.,⁸⁵ and the Ter-

⁸⁴ CBC News Staff. (2019, March 6). Metrolinx partners with private company to build new GO station in Etobicoke. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/metrolinx-go-station-woodbine-highway-427-etobicoke-1.5044753>

⁸⁵ Newport, A. (2019, March 11). A Brand New Rental Apartment is Under Construction in Mississauga. *insauga*. Retrieved from <https://www.insauga.com/a-brand-new-rental-apartment-is-under-construction-in-mississauga>

paces of Princess Gardens in Etobicoke, an affordable housing project by Princess Management with federal funding support.⁸⁶ Retail and accommodation projects include a Best Western Hotel in Ajax,⁸⁷ and a 300,000-sq.-ft. retail and commercial project in Newmarket by the RICE Group.⁸⁸ The CF Fairview Mall \$80M revitalization project in Toronto will start to redevelop this existing retail space.⁸⁹

Advanced manufacturing continues to expand locally. Bittele Electronics Inc., a manufacturer of printed circuit boards, will open a new 14,000-sq.-ft. assembly plant in Markham in June,⁹⁰ and Alstom Canada Inc. is nearing completion on a new light rail assembly facility in Brampton, which is expected to employ between 100 and 120 workers.⁹¹ Conavi Medical Inc., a manufacturer of medical technologies, will expand its facility in Toronto by 8,000-sq.-ft. and create 61 skilled full-time jobs.⁹² However, Cascades Inc. will shutter its tissue paper manufacturing plants in Whitby and Scarborough by August, affecting 68 employees.⁹³

In transportation and warehousing, Volvo Group opened a parts distribution centre in Milton with 38 employees.⁹⁴ Also, Gordon Food Service is constructing a new 342,000-sq.-ft. warehouse in Ajax that will create about 300 jobs when it opens in 2020.⁹⁵ In the self-storage industry, Vaultra Asset Management Inc. is building a 100,000-sq.-ft. facility in Ajax⁹⁶ and Bluebird Self Storage opened four outlets and plans to build another six locations in the Greater Toronto Area.⁹⁷

Other significant events included a fourth Chalo! FreshCo grocery store opening in Brampton creating over 100 jobs,⁹⁸ a HomeSense and Marshalls outlet store opening in Oshawa,⁹⁹ and online grocery retailer Fresh City Farms Inc. opening two stores in Toronto with expansion plans over the next couple of years.¹⁰⁰

⁸⁶ CBC News Staff. (2019, March 14). Feds announce \$89M for 16-storey Etobicoke building with 259 affordable units. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/affordable-housing-etobicoke-centre-1.5056395>

⁸⁷ Byrnes, S. (2019, March 20). What's Going On Here: Best Western Hotel in Ajax. *Ajax News Advertiser*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/community-story/9230074-what-s-going-on-here-best-western-hotel-in-ajax/>

⁸⁸ Persico, A. (2019, February 23). What's Going on Here?: New shopping centre in Newmarket. *YorkRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9185137-what-s-going-on-here-new-shopping-centre-in-newmarket/>

⁸⁹ Patterson, C. (2019, March 28). CF Fairview Mall Announces Significant Investment, Including Sears Box Redevelopment. *Retail Insider*. <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/3/cf-fairview-mall-announces-significant-investment-including-sears-box-redevelopment>

⁹⁰ EP&T Magazine Staff. (2019, February 27). Bittele to open new pcb assembly facility in Markham. *EP&T Magazine*. Retrieved from <https://www.ept.ca/2019/02/bittele-opens-new-pcb-assembly-facility-in-markham/>

⁹¹ Ali, D. (2019, March 8). Major Job Growth Expected In Brampton Through New Transport Plant. *inBrampton*. Retrieved from <https://www.inbrampton.com/major-job-growth-expected-in-brampton-through-new-transport-plant>

⁹² Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2019, February 13). FedDev Ontario supports cutting-edge technologies to benefit cardiovascular patients worldwide. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2019/02/feddev-ontario-supports-cutting-edge-technologies-benefit-cardiovascular-patients-worldwide.html>

⁹³ The Associated Press. (2019, February 28). Cascades closing two tissue paper facilities in Whitby and Scarborough. *CP24*. Retrieved from <https://www.cp24.com/news/cascades-closing-two-tissue-paper-facilities-in-whitby-and-scarborough-1.4316343>

⁹⁴ Menzies, J. (2019, March 26). Volvo Group opens new Canadian PDC in Milton. *Truck News*. Retrieved from <https://www.trucknews.com/equipment/volvo-group-opens-new-canadian-pdc-in-milton/1003090580/>

⁹⁵ Pfeiffer, R. (2019, February 19). What's Going On Here: Gordon Food Service warehouse. *Ajax News Advertiser*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/9174992-what-s-going-on-here-gordon-food-service-warehouse/>

⁹⁶ Pfeiffer, R. (2019, February 25). What's going on here: Vaultra Self-Storage. *Ajax News Advertiser*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/9185663-what-s-going-on-here-vaultra-self-storage/>

⁹⁷ Williams, P. (2019, February 14). Bluebird storage expansion takes flight in the GTA. *Daily Commercial News*. Retrieved from <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2019/02/bluebird-storage-expansion-takes-flight-gta>

⁹⁸ Vertolli, R. (2019, March 20). New Chalo! FreshCo has opened its doors in Brampton. *Brampton Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/9230191-new-chalo-freshco-has-opened-its-doors-in-brampton/>

Employment in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** region showed strong growth in Q1 2019 on a year-over-year basis (+44,900; +6.5%). The participation increased to 67.3% but the unemployment rate edged down to 5.0%, the second lowest in Ontario in the first quarter of 2019.

The region's robust economy has several technology employers looking for workers. eSentire Inc., a cybersecurity firm will move its headquarters into 65,000-sq.-ft. of office space in Waterloo this summer and is looking to grow by 300 employees. As well, Index Exchange Inc., an advertising and marketing company, is looking to hire about 50 software developers,¹⁰¹ and Kik Interactive Inc., an instant messaging company in Kitchener, is looking to hire 30 employees.¹⁰²

In industrial manufacturing, AMI Attachments Inc. in Hawkesville is looking to hire between 20 and 30 employees for various positions¹⁰³ and Avidbots Corp. plans to hire about 50 employees in Kitchener.¹⁰⁴ Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada is also adding workers for production of its RAV4 vehicle in Cambridge.¹⁰⁵

In construction, the Hospice of Waterloo Region will build the Gies Family Centre, a 28,000-sq.-ft. palliative care facility.¹⁰⁶ Preston Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd. is adding hot-mix asphalt and ready-mix concrete plants at its Wolfe Pit near St. Jacobs to support growing infrastructure demand¹⁰⁷ and the Pickle Barrel opened two restaurants in Waterloo and Cambridge, creating about 250 jobs.¹⁰⁸

In the **London** economic region, employment increased by 8,700 (+2.7%) in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the first quarter of 2018. The participation rate remained stable at 60.8% and the unemployment rate decreased to 5.3%.

⁹⁹ DurhamRegion.com Staff. (2019, March 15). HomeSense and Marshalls superstore in Oshawa offers 'irresistible finds at exceptional prices'. *DurhamRegion.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/9222278-homesense-and-marshalls-superstore-in-oshawa-offers-irresistible-finds-at-exceptional-prices/>

¹⁰⁰ Marchionda, J. (2019, March 21). BRIEF: Alex and Ani Closing 1/2 Canadian Stores, Edo Japan Expands into Ontario. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <https://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2019/3/brief-alex-and-ani-closing-half-canadian-stores-edo-japan-expands-into-ontario>

¹⁰¹ Pender, T. (2019, March 26). Challenge of working with big data helps Kitchener company hook talent. *Kitchener Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenerpost.ca/news-story/9241698-challenge-of-working-with-big-data-helps-kitchener-company-hook-talent/>

¹⁰² Pender, T. (2019, March 21). Kitchener's Kik Interactive growing into new space in Catalyst 137. *The Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9233110-kitchener-s-kik-interactive-growing-into-new-space-in-catalyst-137/>

¹⁰³ Davis, B. (2019, March 18). AMI Attachments expanding in Hawkesville. *The Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9226651-ami-attachments-expanding-in-hawkesville/>

¹⁰⁴ Davis, B. (2019, March 22). Kitchener maker of robotic floor scrubbers ramps up growth with big infusion of cash. *The Record*. Retrieved from <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9235246-kitchener-maker-of-robotic-floor-scrubbers-ramps-up-growth-with-big-infusion-of-cash/>

¹⁰⁵ De Bono, N. (2019, March 29). Toyota RAV4 launch in Cambridge touted as good government investment. *London Free Press*. <https://lfpres.com/business/local-business/toyota-celebrates-as-local-rav4-production-starts-amid-big-changes>

¹⁰⁶ Schulz, L. (2019, March 26). Construction begins on new Hospice of Waterloo Region facility. *Kitchener Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.kitchenertoday.com/local-news/construction-begins-on-new-hospice-of-waterloo-region-facility-1340322>

¹⁰⁷ Ali, F. (2019, March 7). Wellesley approves hot-mix asphalt plant at Boomer Line gravel pit operation. *The Observer*. Retrieved from <https://observerextra.com/2019/03/07/wellesley-approves-hot-mix-asphalt-plant-at-boomer-line-gravel-pit-operation/>

¹⁰⁸ Jackson, A. (2019, March 7). Pickle Barrel officially opens in Waterloo, Cambridge. *Waterloo Chronicle*. Retrieved from <https://www.waterloochronicle.ca/news-story/9210693-pickle-barrel-officially-opens-in-waterloo-cambridge/>

In the local cannabis industry, Indiva Ltd. added three new flower rooms to its facility in London and plans to hire between 25 and 30 people.¹⁰⁹ In the region's technology scene, Northern Commerce Inc., a web development and e-commerce firm, is hiring 25 employees and expects to add another 60 employees by the end of the year,¹¹⁰ and Mobials Inc., a software development firm, completed a \$4M expansion project and is looking to add another 15 employees.¹¹¹ Signature Graphics plans to add five to ten positions as they increase production.¹¹² In construction, the first half of Dundas Place in London is completed,¹¹³ and an \$8.8M road project in St. Thomas will start.¹¹⁴

Employment in the **Northeast** economic region increased by 13,700 (+5.8%) in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the first quarter of 2018. The participation rate rose but the unemployment rate decreased 0.8 percentage point to 6.3%.

In retail, a Freshmart grocery store opened in M'Chigeeng with 20 employees and may increase to 30 employees for the summer.¹¹⁵ Supporting health care, the Sault Area Hospital will have 128 new long-term care beds¹¹⁶ and the North Bay Nurse Practitioner-Lead Clinic opened with a variety of health care professionals.¹¹⁷ In construction, Teranorth Construction and Engineering Limited started the \$6.6M reconstruction of Seymour Street and Highway 11/17 in North Bay.¹¹⁸ In negative news, Midway Lumber Mills Ltd. in Thessalon is laying off 16 employees due to wood supply issues,¹¹⁹ and emergency shelters will close in Sudbury¹²⁰ and Matheson.¹²¹ Mining company Epiroc will let go 19 people from its office in North Bay.¹²²

¹⁰⁹ Carruthers, D. (2019, March 18). Little pot grower that could, Indiva, looking for staff who think they can. *London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/little-pot-grower-that-could-indiva-looking-for-staff-who-think-they-can>

¹¹⁰ De Bono, N. (2019, February 17). Surging London tech firm's staff set to double. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/surging-london-tech-firms-staff-set-to-double>

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Employment also increased in 4 additional economic regions in Q1 2019 including: **Ottawa, Kingston–Pembroke, Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula, and Windsor–Sarnia.**

Employment fell in three economic regions in the first quarter of 2019

Employment weakened in the **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula** economic region by 19,100 (-12.3%) between the first quarters of 2018 and 2019. The unemployment rate rose to 6.9%, the second highest in Ontario.

Despite the weak labour market data, the region did see some promising news heading into 2019. Supreme Cannabis Company Inc. expanded their Bruce County greenhouse by 30,000-sq.-ft. and hired about 495 full-time greenhouse employees.¹²³ The Bruce Power Unit 6 Major Component Replacement Project which is expected to begin in January 2020, has attracted 45 companies to open offices or manufacturing facilities in the region.^{124,125} The Saugeen Connects Partnership is launching a new loan program to help students try self-employment during the summer.¹²⁶

Employment dipped slightly in the **Northwest** economic region between Q1 2018 and Q1 2019.

The region saw promising construction investment news with the Government of Canada announcing up to \$12.8M in funding to support new housing construction at Cat Lake First Nation,¹²⁷ and additional affordable housing funding in Thunder Bay, Dryden and Sioux Lookout.¹²⁸ In education, the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board awarded the \$7.8M contract for renovations at Ear Falls Public School, with work beginning in March,¹²⁹ and Big Trout Lake First Nation received over \$42M from the Government of Canada to build a new school.¹³⁰ However, the De Beers Group will finish operations at the Victor Mine near Attawapiskat in May, laying off about 100 employees.¹³¹

Employment also fell in the **Muskoka-Kawarthas** economic region in the first quarter of 2019.

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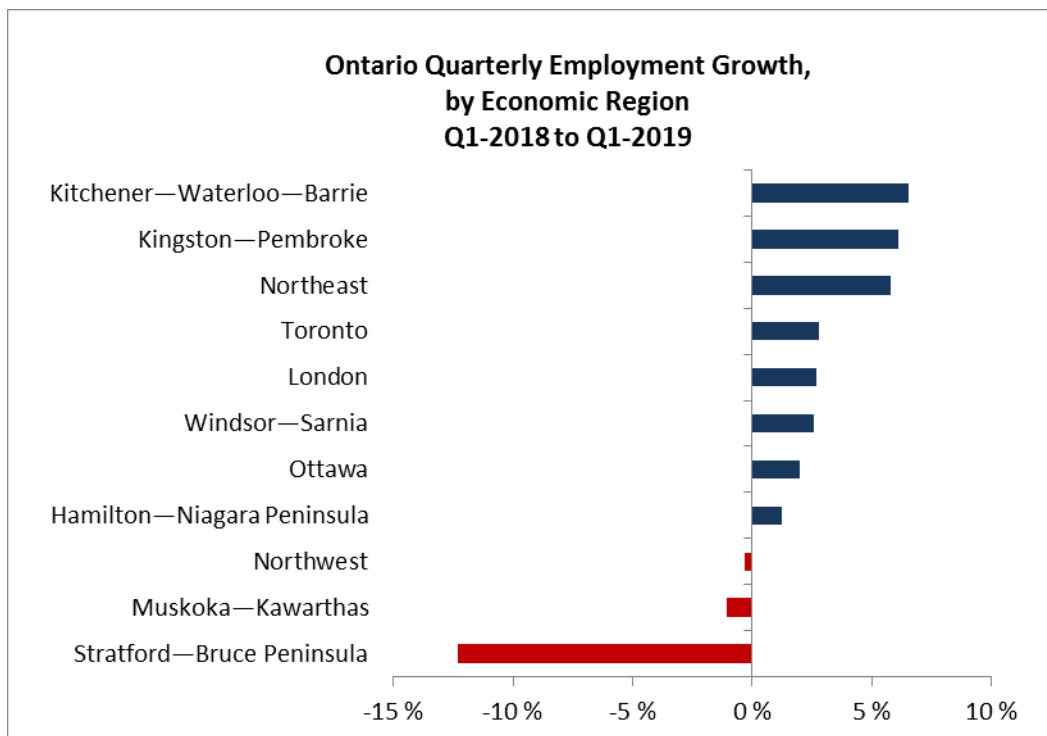
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Ontario Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2019 ('000)	1st Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2019 (%)	1st Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,268.2	7,082.3	2.6	5.9	5.7	0.2
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	715.3	701.5	2.0	5.1	5.1	0.0
Kingston—Pembroke	216.3	203.9	6.1	5.5	4.9	0.6
Muskoka—Kawarthas	168.8	170.6	-1.1	8.1	6.3	1.8
Toronto	3,563.5	3,466.6	2.8	6.4	5.7	0.7
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	733.8	688.9	6.5	5	5.7	-0.7
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	748.1	739.0	1.2	4.7	5.9	-1.2
London	333.6	324.9	2.7	5.3	6.3	-1.0
Windsor—Sarnia	302.3	294.7	2.6	6.5	5.9	0.6
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	136.5	155.6	-12.3	6.9	4.9	2.0
Northeast	250.2	236.5	5.8	6.3	7.1	-0.8
Northwest	99.8	100.1	-0.3	5.9	5.4	0.5

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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