



News Release

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NORFOLK LABOUR FORCE CONTINUES TO SHRINK

SIMCOE (July 8, 2016) – Norfolk County’s workforce has shrunk by 1,500 people in the last year, new statistics show.

Some 30,000 Norfolk residents were employed in June, 1,500 fewer than a year ago, according to Statistics Canada figures. The county has lost 700 full-time and 900 part-time jobs over the last 12 months, the data shows.

These numbers were among the statistics released Friday along with the unemployment rate, which stood at 7.4% in June, compared to 6.8% in June 2015. The statistics are purchased by the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie every 3 months.

The latest Norfolk figures show that the number of people “not in the labour force” – residents who are not working or actively looking for work - has grown by 1,600. The percentage of the working age population participating in the job market fell three percent in the last year, to 60.7% from 63.7%.

“Multiple factors may be responsible for some of the statistics, including an aging population and more Baby Boomers retiring,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board.

“Information from local employers and employment agencies suggest that there are jobs that are waiting to be filled in Norfolk. We need to encourage people to reassess their skills and experience. Anyone looking for work can connect with their local Employment Ontario office for help.”

Halyk said quarterly job numbers have to be approached with some caution, especially in smaller communities, since they are based on a survey.

The [Workforce Planning Board](#) is one of 26 non-profit organizations funded through the Government of Ontario that play a leadership role in labour force planning.

- 30 -

Note: Statistics Canada’s monthly Labour Force Survey provides estimates of employment and unemployment, based on a sampling of households in communities.