



# News Release

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For more information, contact:  
Mark Skeffington 519-756-1116, x228  
[mark@workforceplanningboard.org](mailto:mark@workforceplanningboard.org)

## BRANTFORD UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS

BRANTFORD (July 8, 2016) – Brantford’s jobless rate fell a full percentage point in June, bringing the local rate back below the national average.

June’s local seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5%, down from an one-year high of 7.5% set in May, according to Statistics Canada data released Friday.

Canada’s jobless rate was 6.8%, while unemployment in Ontario stood at 6.4% (both figures are not adjusted for seasonal factors).

For the last three months, Brantford’s participation rate – the percentage of the working age population active in the workforce – has been higher than the Ontario figure.

“A high participation rate is a sign of a healthy economy, so that’s good to see,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. “We know there are jobs out there, but we continue to see signs of a skills gap in our community where, unfortunately, some jobseekers don’t have the skills employers say they need.”

Halyk said local manufacturers have told the Workforce Planning Board that they desperately need CNC operators, millwrights, and tool and die workers, as well as skilled production workers who are willing to cross-train for various jobs.

“Many employers are struggling to find the workers they need. This is a good time for people to re-assess their skills and experience and let employers know what they have to offer. Anyone looking for work can connect with their local Employment Ontario office for help.”

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.

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