



News Release

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MARCH JOBLESS RATE JUMPS A FULL PERCENTAGE POINT

BRANTFORD (April 8, 2016) - Brantford's jobless rate climbed in March to its highest level since last summer, as more people competed for jobs.

March's local seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.9%, more than a percentage point higher than February's 5.8%, according to Statistics Canada figures released Friday.

Canada's jobless rate fell to 7.1% in March, as employment grew by a higher than expected 41,000 jobs across the country. Ontario's unemployment rate was 6.8%.

In Brantford, more people participated in the job market in March than in recent months. Also, more people were employed locally in March, compared to last August when the jobless rate was almost identical.

"Although it may appear at first glance that we've lost ground, more people were working and active in the labour force last month compared to last summer," said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. "The long term trend has been positive."

Halyk added that the recent EmployerOne 2016 survey also shows positive trends. Sixty-one per cent of the 260 employers surveyed in Grand Erie said they anticipate hiring more than 2,000 people this year – a 51% increase over 2015's anticipated hiring.

"Those are businesses and organizations of all sizes saying they believe in the quality of the local workforce and they will be hiring," she said.

BrantJobs posted 509 jobs in March, up 15% from a year ago. Manufacturing- and retail-related jobs consistently top the list of posted positions, followed by postings in the trades and for equipment operators, and transportation and warehousing. The majority of postings are full-time jobs.

[BrantJobs](#) is a service of the City of Brantford and County of Brant, providing a broad range of employment solutions to local employers and jobseekers. 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.