



News Release

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NEW JOB SEEKERS SWELL JOBLESS RATE

BRANTFORD (June 10, 2016) – Nine hundred more people entered Brantford’s labour force in May, with two thirds of them finding work.

May’s local seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 7.5%, from 7.2% in April, according to Statistics Canada figures released Friday.

Canada’s jobless rate fell to 6.9% even though employment was virtually unchanged, with only 14,000 net jobs, which were largely full time, were added. Ontario’s jobless rate fell to 6.6% from 7%.

In Brantford, 600 of the 900 people who entered the labour force in May were able to find work, leaving 300 new people unemployed, pushing up the jobless rate.

“These kind of numbers may be a sign of what’s known as labour force churn, where some types of jobs are disappearing at the same time as new ones are being created,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. “Our community will need to continue to work on ensuring local residents have the skills that match the needs of local employers.”

The number of people employed in Brantford last month was the highest in the last year, at 69,000. However, the number of people reporting they were out of work was also at a 12-month high: 5,600. Over the past year, our population grew by an estimated 1,100 people, another factor to take into account when looking at the local job market, Halyk said.

BrantJobs posted 556 jobs in May, a new monthly high and almost 100 jobs more than in May 2015.

[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.

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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.