



News Release

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HIRING CLIMBED AT END OF 2017

BRANTFORD (Jan. 5, 2018) – Local employment reached a 10-month high in December, likely boosted by the hiring of part-time staff for the holiday season.

Brantford's unemployment rate dipped a fraction to 4.7% last month, down from 4.8% in November, according to seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey numbers released by Statistics Canada on Friday.

Canada as a whole posted a strong December, adding 79,000 jobs, with the majority of those being part time. The national monthly jobless rate fell to 5.7%, while Ontario's rate was unchanged at 5.5%.

Brantford's December's job numbers mirror those of December 2016, when the city recorded the same unemployment, employment and participate rates. Yet, the size of the local labour force has grown over the last 12 months by an estimated 1,100 people.

"Local hiring trends continue to be strong," said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. "Employers across all sectors indicate that they are looking for workers in all levels of jobs, but that people need to be reliable and work hard."

More information on what types of skills employers are seeking is expected to emerge from the annual EmployerOne survey, being conducted this month by the Workforce Planning Board and a number of community partners. Employers who want to participate are asked to contact the Workforce Planning Board or go to its website: www.workforceplanningboard.org

The [Workforce Planning Board](http://www.workforceplanningboard.org) 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. Brantford's unemployment figures are reported on a 3-month moving average, while Canada's and Ontario's are monthly.