



# News Release

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## BRANTFORD JOBLESS RATE SECOND LOWEST IN ONTARIO

BRANTFORD (Jan. 6, 2016) – Brantford’s jobless rate hit a 3-year low last month, as about 2,200 more people found work.

December’s unemployment rate was 4.7%, down from 4.8% in November, according to seasonally adjusted Statistics Canada figures released Friday. You have to go back to November 2013 to find a lower jobless rate: 4.2%.

The only other Ontario community with an unemployment rate under 5% is Guelph, which sits at 4.5%. Ontario’s unemployment rate was 6.4% and Canada’s was 6.9% in December.

“The employment situation in Brantford continues to be very positive,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. “We’ve are hearing that local businesses are hiring and some continue to have trouble filling positions, especially in the trades.”

Brantford’s December job growth came on the heels of 1,400 positions created the month before, bringing the two-month total to 3,600.

Halyk said that Brantford was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of 33 Canadian cities for employment growth over a 1-year period from October 2015 to October 2016, according to a recent study. “Last month’s job numbers confirm that trend of employment growth in Brantford is continuing,” she said.

Companies’ hiring plans for 2017 is a key piece of information that is now being collected in the EmployerOne survey, which is open until the end of January, Halyk said. “Information from employers gives us the fullest picture of the local labour market and their needs, so we encourage businesses big and small to complete EmployerOne.”

BrantJobs posted 338 paid jobs in December, down from 488 in November. Manufacturing-related jobs continue to lead the way locally, followed by those in sales, retail and the trades.

[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.

**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.