



News Release

For more information, contact:
Jill Halyk 519-756-1116, x227
jhalyk@workforceplanningboard.org

NEW BUSINESSES GOOD NEWS FOR EMPLOYMENT

BRANTFORD (March 9, 2018) – Brantford’s labour market shrank last month, pushing up February’s jobless rate, but other signs are pointing in a positive direction.

Brantford’s unemployment rate climbed to 5.1% in February, from 4.7% in January, according to seasonally adjusted estimates from Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey, released Friday.

Canada’s job market added about 15,000 full-time jobs in February, one month after a big loss in part-time work. February’s national unemployment rate dipped by 0.1 percentage points to 5.8%, while Ontario’s rate stayed at 5.5%.

Brantford’s labour market shed several hundred full-time and part-time jobs in February, one month after employment hit an one-year high in January. Yet, more people were employed last month compared to February 2017, even though the jobless rate was lower a year ago.

“All of our indicators continue to point to a strong and stable labour market,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. “Employers continue to tell us they are having a hard time finding quality employees to meet their needs.”

Halyk said that almost two thirds of the 336 area employers who filled out January’s EmployerOne survey said they planned to hire in 2018. Almost half of surveyed employers said they had a hard-to-fill job, with not applicants being the No. 1 reason.

Another positive indicator is that Brantford saw 334 new businesses open between June and December 2017, Halyk said. The largest growth came in construction, agriculture, transportation and warehousing, retail, and in professional service businesses.

However, Halyk also cautioned that businesses are coping with significant changes and uncertainty as a result of Bill 148, uncertain NAFTA negotiations and fluctuating exchange rates. “It will take a bit of time to know how these factors impact employment.”

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.

- 30 -

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.