



News Release

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BRANTFORD JOBLESS RATE HOLDS AT 4.2%

BRANTFORD (March 10, 2017) – Brantford’s jobless rate remained steady at a three-year low of 4.2% in February.

After seeing several consecutive months of dramatic decline, Brantford’s unemployment rate held firm at 4.2% last month, according to seasonally adjusted figures released by Statistics Canada Friday.

Canada’s jobless rate fell to 6.6% from 6.8% in January, matching a two-year low, as a greater number of full-time jobs were created than was expected. Ontario’s unemployment rate also declined last month, settling at 6.2%.

Over the last six months, the number of people employed in Brantford has swelled by 6,000, according to the government’s monthly labour force survey. In February, 68.6% of the population was participating in the labour force.

“It’s a positive that we’ve been able to sustain the job growth over the last few months,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. “We have other local information that suggests the job growth will continue this year.”

Two-thirds of the 364 area employers who completed January’s EmployerOne survey said they will be hiring this year, filling an estimated 3,000 positions, said Halyk. Seventy-seven per cent of employers said they hired in 2016.

Halyk added that a larger number of employers report they are finding it harder to fill positions, as there appear to be a shrinking number of qualified applicants. “So, even with the positive strides we’ve made in the last few months, we still have work to do to address the skills gap we’re seeing.”

More results from the annual EmployerOne survey will be released by the Workforce Planning Board in the coming months.

[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.