



News Release

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BRANTFORD BUCKS TREND, KEEPS JOBS

BRANTFORD (Feb 9, 2018) – The local job market held steady in January, even while employment fell in many parts of Canada.

Brantford's jobless rate was unchanged at 4.7% last month, according to seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey estimates released by Statistics Canada on Friday.

The size of Brantford's labour force grew by a couple hundred people, with about 78,800 people working, while other figures were virtually unchanged.

That stable picture was in contrast to Canada as a whole, which saw the unexpected loss of about 88,000 net jobs, pushing the national monthly jobless rate up to 5.9%.

Most of Canada's job losses were in part-time work, which declined by 137,000 positions, due at least in part to the end of seasonal service jobs. Full-time employment grew by 49,000 jobs.

Ontario was particularly hard hit in January, losing 51,000 part-time jobs, but the province's monthly unemployment rate stayed at 5.5% as less people participated in the labour market. Those job losses are being blamed by some observers on the hike in Ontario's minimum wage, which increased January 1.

"It's good to see the local job market has remained healthy and most signs point to that continuing, as we know employers are looking for people," said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

"Still, two large groups of people have lost or are losing their jobs, at Sears and NutraBlend, and our community will need to work together to help those individuals get new jobs. We also need to watch to see if our community is affected by the loss of part-time work like elsewhere in Ontario."

The Workforce Planning Board expects to learn more about the hiring plans of area employers for 2018 when it reviews responses to the annual EmployerOne survey, which has just closed.

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. Brantford's unemployment figures are reported on a 3-month moving average, while Canada's and Ontario's are monthly.