



# News Release

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## BRANTFORD SHRINKING LABOUR FORCE A CHALLENGE

BRANTFORD (July 7, 2017) – Brantford’s jobless rate fell last month, but it wasn’t all good news as more evidence emerged that our labour force is shrinking.

Brantford’s unemployment rate was 4.6% in June, falling back to the recent average after hitting 5.1% in May, according to seasonally adjusted figures released by Statistics Canada Friday. Only Guelph has a lower jobless rate in the area, at 3.8%.

Canada’s monthly jobless rate was 6.5% in June, with about 45,000 mostly part-time jobs added. Ontario’s rate was 6.4%.

In Brantford, the overall size of the labour force continues to shrink, with thousands fewer people working today than six months ago. There were 6,000 fewer people employed in June compared to January, even though the number of unemployed remained the same.

“Although the low unemployment rate is a positive sign, the overall indication shows a shrinking labour force,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

“We have a tightening job market, with fewer people looking for or available for work. This increases the challenges for local employers looking to hire.”

Halyk said that retirements are likely a major reason for the shrinking labour force, and further research is needed to confirm the extent of this trend. “We’re starting to see the impact of an aging population on our community’s labour force.”

BrantJobs posted 509 paid jobs in June, down slightly from May. Manufacturing-related jobs accounted for 1 in 3 positions posted on the local job board, followed by those in sales, retail, trades, and transportation and warehousing.

[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.