



News Release

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

BRANTFORD JOBLESS RATE LOWEST IN ONTARIO

BRANTFORD (April 7, 2017) – Brantford’s jobless rate remains the lowest in Ontario.

After sitting at a three-year low of 4.2% the last two months, Brantford’s unemployment rate climbed to 4.7% in March, according to seasonally adjusted figures released by Statistics Canada Friday. Only one other Ontario community has a jobless rate of less than 5%: Peterborough at 4.9%.

Canada’s jobless rate inched up to 6.7% in March, as 19,000 new jobs were offset by more people searching for work, Statistics Canada said. Ontario’s rate was 6.4%.

In Brantford, about 6,300 more people were employed last month than in March 2016, with 4,300 of those jobs being full time and the remaining 2,000 being part time.

“There’s been a lot of great opportunities for job seekers over the last year,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

“But as the labour market tightens, local employers are facing greater challenges to fill vacancies. Employers may need to expand their recruitment methods to reach the talent they need to continue to grow.”

Halyk said new research the Workforce Planning Board has done shows that full-time employment in Brantford reached a 10-year high of 56,700 jobs in 2016, while part-time has remained around 13,500.

Of the full-time positions, 90% are permanent, meaning the jobs don’t have a set end date. And almost 60% of people working full time have been in their jobs for at least 5 years. “Full-time, permanent positions are the long-term, sustainable jobs that any community wants to have, so we are seeing a healthy job market,” Halyk said.

BrantJobs posted 519 jobs in March – 77% of those full time - up from 400 in February.

[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.