



News Release

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BRANTFORD JOBLESS RATE CLIMBS

BRANTFORD (June 9, 2017) – Brantford’s jobless rate climbed in May, but remains well below what it was a year ago.

Brantford’s unemployment rate was 5.1% in May, up from the 4.7% recorded in both April and March, according to seasonally adjusted figures released by Statistics Canada Friday. Even though 5.1% is the highest the jobless rate recorded this year, it is still well below the 7.5% it was in May 2016.

Canada’s monthly jobless rate was 6.6% in May, climbing slightly as a gain of an estimated 55,000 jobs was partly offset by more people participating in the labour market. Ontario’s rate was virtually unchanged at 6.1%.

In Brantford, the number of people working shrunk for the third straight month, pushing up the unemployment rate.

“We’re watching the job numbers cautiously and hope it is just due to seasonal factors,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

Halyk said that Brantford’s unemployment rate spiked in 2016 from March to May, similar to what has taken place this year. However, there are clear signs of improvement year over year. For instance, there were 3,800 people unemployed last month, compared to 5,600 in May 2016.

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.