



# Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario



May 2015

The Monthly Edition of the Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of monthly Labour Force Survey results for the province of Ontario, including the regions of Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula, Kingston—Pembroke, Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie, London, Muskoka—Kawarthas, Northeast, Northwest, Ottawa, Stratford—Bruce Peninsula, Toronto and Windsor—Sarnia.

## OVERVIEW

### Labour Force Trends – Ontario employment showed a strong gain of 43,900 between April and May

- Monthly job growth was in both full-time (+31,100) and part-time work (+12,700)
- The unemployment rate fell to 6.5%
- The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 declined to 14.6%

After a disappointing April, Ontario's employment rebounded strongly by 43,900 in May with gains in both full-time (+31,100) and part-time work (+12,700). Also promising, the province's unemployment rate dropped below the national average for the first time since 2006, decreasing by 0.3 percentage points to 6.5%.

Ontario, along with British Columbia, drove national employment up 58,900 compared to April. However, Canada's employment growth was much more evenly distributed between full- and part-time work. An increased number of job-seekers helped to hold the unemployment rate steady at 6.8% for a fourth consecutive month.

U.S. nonfarm payroll employment grew again in May, adding 280,000 following a downward revision of April's increase. The unemployment rate edged up to 5.5%, driven by growth in the labour force. This could signal greater confidence in the job market,<sup>1</sup> encouraging the U.S. Federal Reserve which has hinted at an interest rate increase.

Between May 2014 and May 2015, Ontario employment grew by 53,000, all in full-time employment (+78,700) and partially mitigated by a decline in part-time (-25,600). While the unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points over 12 months, much of that may have come from fewer job seekers in the province.

<sup>1</sup> Mutikani, L. (June 5, 2015). **Sturdy U.S. jobs report boosts chances of Fed rate hike**. *Reuters*. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/05/us-usa-economy-idUSKBN0OLOCE20150605>

The Ontario unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 fell 0.6 percentage points to 14.6% between April and May. While it remains higher, the provincial rate has improved against the national average of 13.2%.

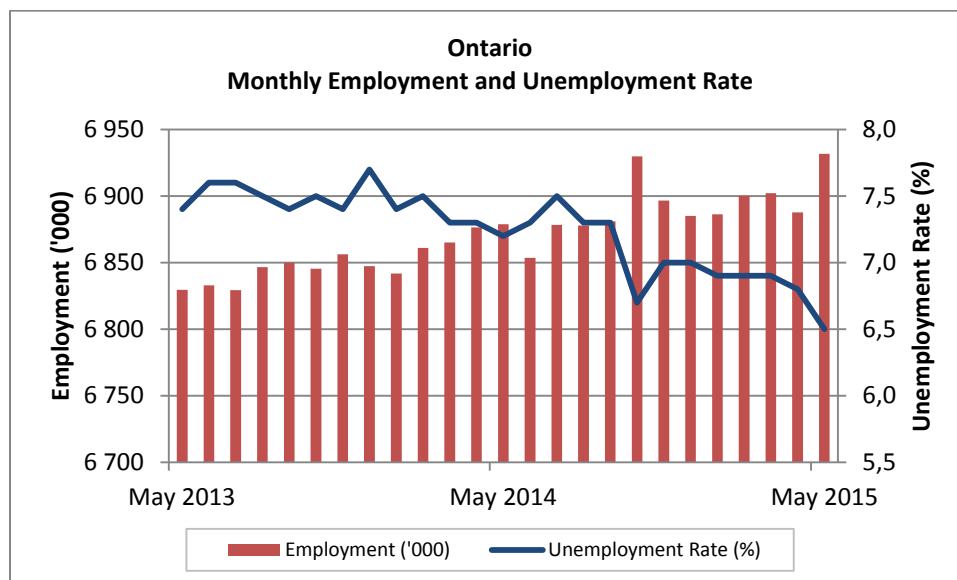
Student summer employment declined in Ontario compared to a year ago.<sup>2</sup> During the summer months, Statistics Canada collects labour market data on youth aged 15 to 24 who were full-time students in March and who plan to return to school full-time in the fall semester. Student employment decreased in May to 405,000; 23,300 lower (-5.4%) compared to May 2014. However, the unemployment rate amongst returning students declined by 1.1 percentage points to 22.7% as fewer of them looked for work. June and July typically see more students searching for and taking on jobs once the school year ends. The provincial student unemployment was 2.2 percentage points higher than the national student rate.

**Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics**

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,364.9	11,356.6	11,252.8	8.3	0.1	112.1	1.0
Labour Force ('000)	7,415.3	7,391.4	7,413.8	23.9	0.3	1.5	0.0
Employment ('000)	6,931.7	6,887.8	6,878.7	43.9	0.6	53.0	0.8
Full-Time ('000)	5,612.8	5,581.7	5,534.1	31.1	0.6	78.7	1.4
Part-Time ('000)	1,318.9	1,306.2	1,344.5	12.7	1.0	-25.6	-1.9
Unemployment ('000)	483.6	503.5	535.2	-19.9	-4.0	-51.6	-9.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.5	6.8	7.2	-0.3	-	-0.7	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.2	65.1	65.9	0.1	-	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.0	60.7	61.1	0.3	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087



<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 282-0006: Labour Force Survey estimates by students during summer months, seasonally unadjusted monthly data CANSIM 282-0006.

## Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.5	6.8	7.2	-0.3	-0.7
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.1	5.3	5.7	-0.2	-0.6
Men - 25 years and over	5.3	5.3	5.8	0.0	-0.5
Women - 25 years and over	4.9	5.4	5.7	-0.5	-0.8
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.6	15.2	15.5	-0.6	-0.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.7	16.9	15.9	-1.2	-0.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.5	13.6	15.1	-0.1	-1.6

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

## Goods-producing sector showed strong monthly employment gains

Employment in the goods-producing sector rose by 17,800 in May 2015, representing the largest monthly gain since October 2014, a welcome shift from the sluggish growth recorded in the first quarter. The manufacturing industry led the way (+15,700) in May, overshadowing other industries.

Manufacturing employment improved for the third month in a row in Ontario. Provincial manufacturing sales increased by 2.6% in March 2015, after starting the year off on a slow note.<sup>3</sup> Manufacturing sales for motor vehicles were the key contributor as production resumed at the Oakville and Windsor plants, which had sat idle for retooling earlier this year.<sup>4</sup> Despite the positive turn in employment, the industry expects three large layoffs over the next few quarters. Lear Corporation will close its Kitchener plant, putting 150 employees out of work.<sup>5</sup> The firm once operated several plants throughout Ontario but has trimmed operations in line with declining automotive production. Kitchener-based BlackBerry also delivered some bad news as the firm will lay off staff worldwide and reduce smartphone operations.<sup>6</sup> Smartphone sales are expected to moderate as two of the world's largest markets—China and the U.S.—approach maturity and demand for lower-cost devices in emerging economies rises. Weaker demand in China, as well as in Russia and Latin America, will also affect Bombardier Inc. The company will cut up to 480 staff at its Toronto plant due to softening sales of its business aircrafts in key markets.<sup>7</sup> However, manufacturing saw several other firms expand operations and invest in capital to grow capacity over the month.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 304-0015: Manufacturing sales, by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and province, monthly (dollars) CANSIM 304-0015

<sup>4</sup> CBC News. (2015, February 13). [Retooling begins at Chrysler's Windsor assembly plant](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/retooling-begins-at-chrysler-s-windsor-assembly-plant-1.2957270). CBC News. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/retooling-begins-at-chrysler-s-windsor-assembly-plant-1.2957270>, Wheels.ca. (2015, March 02). [Productions Of The All-New 2015 Ford Edge Officially Kicks Off With 400 New Employees](http://www.wheels.ca/news/productions-of-the-all-new-2015-ford-edge-officially-kicks-off-with-400-new-employees/). Wheels Automotive Network. Retrieved from <http://www.wheels.ca/news/productions-of-the-all-new-2015-ford-edge-officially-kicks-off-with-400-new-employees/>

<sup>5</sup> CTV Kitchener. (2015, May 06). [Lear confirms closure of Kitchener plant; shutdown date not known](http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/lear-confirms-closure-of-kitchener-plant-shutdown-date-not-known-1.2362234). CTV News Kitchener. Retrieved from <http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/lear-confirms-closure-of-kitchener-plant-shutdown-date-not-known-1.2362234>

<sup>6</sup> CBC News. (2015, May 23). [BlackBerry lays off unspecified number of employees globally](http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/blackberry-lays-off-unspecified-number-of-employees-globally-1.3085232). CBC News. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/blackberry-lays-off-unspecified-number-of-employees-globally-1.3085232>

<sup>7</sup> [Bombardier adjusts its global 5000 and global 6000 aircraft production rate](http://www.bombardier.com/en/media-centre/newsList/details.bombardier-businessaircraft20150514bombardieradjustsitsglobal500.bombardiercom.html?). (May 14, 2015). Bombardier.com. Retrieved from <http://www.bombardier.com/en/media-centre/newsList/details.bombardier-businessaircraft20150514bombardieradjustsitsglobal500.bombardiercom.html?>

Several mining projects advanced recently in northern Ontario<sup>8</sup> and there was some positive news from manufacturers closely tied to the resource sector. Prendiville Industries Ltd. is ramping up efforts to restart its Kenora Forest Products stud mill in fall 2015 following its closure during the U.S. housing crash.<sup>9</sup> The price and demand for lumber may firm up south of the border with U.S. housing starts soaring in April. Also, Tenaris Algoma Tubes Inc. recalled 240 workers to its Sault Ste. Marie plant after cutting back amid falling crude prices and less drilling activity.<sup>10</sup> A move from the U.S. to curb oil production as of late has caused prices to rebound slightly but it will likely take some time for the excess global supply to wane and prices to level off.

For the third month in a row, employment in the construction industry failed to gain ground in Ontario. Despite sluggish job growth, the provincial housing market forged ahead, led by strong activity in Toronto. Prices for new homes continue to soar<sup>11</sup> while housing starts continue to be buoyed by demand.<sup>12</sup> Housing activity will likely remain solid in Ontario with some market analysts not expecting conditions to cool until sometime next year. Turning to non-residential construction, several institutional projects moved forward this month including work on a correctional facility, hospital, children's treatment centre, military site and border crossing.<sup>13</sup> With the Government of Ontario committing \$130B over the next 10 years towards infrastructure, it is likely that more projects will be in the pipeline throughout the province. Industrial spending may also rise as manufacturing activity continues to pick up and firms look to add capacity to meet demand at home and south of the border.

Since May 2014, employment in the goods-producing sector increased by 26,300. Employment grew or was relatively unchanged in all industries except for agriculture (-5,600).

### Employment back on track in the services-producing sector with a big monthly gain

Employment in the services-producing sector rose by 26,100 following a decline in April. The largest gains were in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, in trade, and in health care and social assistance. Meanwhile, the largest dip was in accommodation and food services with the rest of the industries experiencing only minor employment swings over the month.

<sup>8</sup> Premier Gold Mines Limited. (2015, April 28). Premier Initiates Hasaga, Red Lake Exploration Program. *Premier Gold Mines Limited*. Retrieved from <http://www.premiergoldmines.com/s/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=705369>, Tarikh, S. (2015, May 13). Lake Shore ups its exploration efforts at 144 Gap zone. *The Northern Miner*. Retrieved from <http://www.northernminer.com/news/lake-shore-ups-its-exploration-efforts/1003605164/?&er=NA>, 89.5thelake. (2015, April 22). New Gold Ready To Begin Work On Open Pit Mine Next Month. *Acadia Broadcasting Ltd.* Retrieved from <http://895thelake.ca/news/634356061/new-gold-ready-begin-work-open-pit-mine-next-month>

<sup>9</sup> Aiken, M. (2015, June 04). Info session tonight for jobs at Kenora Forest Products. *KenoraOnline*. Retrieved from <http://www.kenoraonline.com/local/13169-info-session-tonight-for-jobs-at-kenora-forest-products>

<sup>10</sup> Kelly, B. (2015, May 13). Workers return to Tenaris. *Saultstar.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.saultstar.com/2015/05/13/workers-return-to-tenaris>

<sup>11</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 327-0046: New housing price index monthly (index, 2007=100) CANSIM 327-0046

<sup>12</sup> Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2015 May). Housing Information Monthly. *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation*. Retrieved from [http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/odpub/esub/61504/61504\\_2015\\_M05.pdf?fr=1433430026345](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/odpub/esub/61504/61504_2015_M05.pdf?fr=1433430026345)

<sup>13</sup> Richmond, R. (2015, May 05). \$8.5M facility to house 112 inmates, ease strain on Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre. *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2015/05/05/85m-facility-to-house-112-inmates-ease-strain-on-elgin-middlesex-detention-centre>, tbnewswatch.com. (2015, June 01). Work begins on St. Joe's \$52 million expansion. *tbnewswatch.com*. Retrieved from

[http://www.tbnewswatch.com/News/371793/Work\\_begins\\_on\\_St\\_Joes\\_\\$52\\_million\\_expansion](http://www.tbnewswatch.com/News/371793/Work_begins_on_St_Joes_$52_million_expansion), Kelly, B. (2015, May 24). Major customs plaza work starts in June. *Saultstar.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.saultstar.com/2015/05/24/major-customs-plaza-work-starts-in-june>

The relatively quiet transportation and warehousing industry saw several positive announcements recently. A stronger economic climate, greater consumer spending and increased manufacturing activity may keep Ontario's ports busy into the new shipping season. Grain shipments through the Port of Thunder Bay were at their highest level since 1997 and the Port is actively hiring new workers to keep up with the volume.<sup>14</sup> Meanwhile, the Ports of Hamilton, Windsor and Toronto, all saw elevated levels of cargo handled in recent years.<sup>15</sup> As well, the Port of Oshawa is expanding and attracting new customers.<sup>16</sup> It recently opened a \$4.1M rail spur, a new \$2.5M cargo pad, and welcomed its first international vessel, as it aims to strengthen its footing on the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Seaway.<sup>17</sup>

Since May 2014, employment in the services-producing sector rose by 26,800. Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing saw the largest rise in employment (+42,700) while public administration and the other services industry lagged (-22,700 and -22,500, respectively).

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<sup>14</sup> Port of Thunder Bay. (2015, June 01). [Port of Thunder Bay Off to Strong Start](http://www.portofthunderbay.com/article/june-1-2015-port-of-thunder-bay-off-to-strong-start-1380.asp). *Port of Thunder Bay*. Retrieved from <http://www.portofthunderbay.com/article/june-1-2015-port-of-thunder-bay-off-to-strong-start-1380.asp>, Lundmark, J. (2015, May 14). [Local port off to strong start after banner year for grain shipments](http://www.tbnewswatch.com/News/371162/Local_port_off_to_strong_start_after_banner_year_for_grain_shipments). *tbnewswatch.com*. Retrieved from [http://www.tbnewswatch.com/News/371162/Local\\_port\\_off\\_to\\_strong\\_start\\_after\\_banner\\_year\\_for\\_grain\\_shipments](http://www.tbnewswatch.com/News/371162/Local_port_off_to_strong_start_after_banner_year_for_grain_shipments)

<sup>15</sup> Hamilton Port Authority. (2014). [HPA Newsletter Spring 2015](http://www.hamiltonport.ca/Assets/PDF/2015/HPA%20Newsletter%20Spring%202015.pdf). *Hamilton Port Authority*. Retrieved from <http://www.hamiltonport.ca/Assets/PDF/2015/HPA%20Newsletter%20Spring%202015.pdf>, PortsToronto. (2015, March 25). [Port of Toronto Achieves Eight-Year High for Cargo Imports](http://www.portstoronto.com/PortsToronto/Media-Room/News/Port-of-Toronto-Achieves-Eight-Year-High-for-Cargo.aspx). *PortsToronto*. Retrieved from <http://www.portstoronto.com/PortsToronto/Media-Room/News/Port-of-Toronto-Achieves-Eight-Year-High-for-Cargo.aspx>, Port Windsor. (2014, June 11). [Annual General Meeting](http://www.portwindsor.com/img/pdf/2014%20chairmans%20address.pdf). *Port Windsor*. Retrieved from <http://www.portwindsor.com/img/pdf/2014%20chairmans%20address.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Port of Oshawa. (2015, March 25). [New Port of Oshawa Company Generates Jobs and Economic Benefits](http://www.portofoshawa.ca/news-and-media-releases/50-new-port-of-oshawa-company-generates-jobs-and-economic-benefits). *Port of Oshawa*. Retrieved from <http://www.portofoshawa.ca/news-and-media-releases/50-new-port-of-oshawa-company-generates-jobs-and-economic-benefits>

<sup>17</sup> Port of Oshawa. (2015, April 21). [Port of Oshawa Off To Flying Start As New Shipping Season Opens](http://www.portofoshawa.ca/news-and-media-releases/51-port-of-oshawa-off-to-flying-start-as-new-shipping-season-opens). *Port of Oshawa*. Retrieved from <http://www.portofoshawa.ca/news-and-media-releases/51-port-of-oshawa-off-to-flying-start-as-new-shipping-season-opens>

## Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	6,931.7	6,887.8	6,878.7	43.9	0.6	53.0	0.8
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	1,400.1	1,382.3	1,373.8	17.8	1.3	26.3	1.9
Agriculture	76.8	74.5	82.4	2.3	3.1	-5.6	-6.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	46.6	41.3	30.2	5.3	12.8	16.4	54.3
Utilities	51.1	51.3	51.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.6
Construction	475.5	481.0	463.7	-5.5	-1.1	11.8	2.5
Manufacturing	750.0	734.3	746.1	15.7	2.1	3.9	0.5
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	5,531.6	5,505.5	5,504.8	26.1	0.5	26.8	0.5
Trade	1,061.0	1,045.6	1,050.5	15.4	1.5	10.5	1.0
Transportation and warehousing	319.9	318.5	335.8	1.4	0.4	-15.9	-4.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	545.8	524.6	503.1	21.2	4.0	42.7	8.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	571.9	574.1	558.3	-2.2	-0.4	13.6	2.4
Business, building and other support services	337.7	334.4	335.9	3.3	1.0	1.8	0.5
Educational services	521.1	522.2	495.2	-1.1	-0.2	25.9	5.2
Health care and social assistance	808.7	800.5	794.2	8.2	1.0	14.5	1.8
Information, culture and recreation	311.3	312.1	319.4	-0.8	-0.3	-8.1	-2.5
Accommodation and food services	440.8	458.3	453.9	-17.5	-3.8	-13.1	-2.9
Other services	271.0	270.7	293.5	0.3	0.1	-22.5	-7.7
Public administration	342.4	344.4	365.1	-2.0	-0.6	-22.7	-6.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

## Toronto leads the economic regions in employment growth

**Toronto** led the economic regions in employment growth with a gain of 17,900 (+0.5%) between May 2014 and May 2015 (measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis). The region had not made employment gains in almost a year, although the unemployment rate has continued to decline since the fall. While the unemployment rate decreased 0.6 percentage points to 7.2% in May, it remains above the provincial average. This month saw positive announcements as 200 jobs will be created at the peak of construction at each of the ErinoakKids' treatment and development centres in Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville. Work is underway at the first two sites.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, Baycrest Health Sciences will receive about \$65.5M in provincial and federal government funding for a brain aging research centre opening in Toronto in the fall of 2015,<sup>19</sup> and the Ontario Bioscience Innovation Organization (OBIO) will receive about \$3.9M in federal funding to help bioscience

<sup>18</sup> Celebrating the start of construction on ErinoakKids' new Brampton site and respite centre. (May 1, 2015). *Newswire.ca*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1528829/celebrating-the-start-of-construction-on-erinoakkids-new-brampton-site-and-respite-centre>

<sup>19</sup> Brain aging research centre to open in Toronto this fall. (May 22, 2015). *Theglobeandmail.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/brain-aging-research-centre-to-open-in-toronto-this-fall/article24572128/>

companies create up to 293 full-time jobs.<sup>20</sup> Many of the OBIO's cluster firms are located in the Toronto economic region. On a related note, transportation company SCI Logistics Ltd. has opened a 78,000 sq.-ft. facility in the Greater Toronto Area providing national supply chain services to the health care industry.<sup>21</sup> Transportation and warehousing is also set to receive a boost from Ikea Canada's 397,000 sq.-ft. distribution centre in Mississauga, which will open in October 2015 creating 150 jobs.<sup>22</sup> However, looming cuts of approximately 110 television operation jobs at Rogers Media Inc., mainly at the Omni multicultural stations,<sup>23</sup> will negatively impact the information, culture, and recreation industry.

The **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** economic region continues to demonstrate strength as it posted its 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of year-over-year employment gains in May. Regional employment increased by 14,900 (+2.2%) between May 2014 and 2015 and the unemployment rate declined 0.3 percentage points over the same period to 6.2%. Announcements were particularly bright in the region's construction industry. The City of Cambridge approved the initial phase of the Creekside Corporate Campus multi-use industrial park, with construction set to begin this year.<sup>24</sup> Elsewhere in the region, Canadian Forces Base Borden received \$22.5M from the federal government to improve military housing and build a larger ammunition transit facility by 2017.<sup>25</sup> Work began on Collingwood's new École élémentaire catholique Notre-Dame-de-la-Huronie which is scheduled to open in September 2016.<sup>26</sup> However, the tech sector in Waterloo faced some set-backs as Open Text Corporation will cut 5% of its global workforce to streamline operations,<sup>27</sup> affecting an unknown number of staff in their Ontario offices, and BlackBerry announced additional layoffs as part of its turnaround. On the other hand, Communitech Corporation received federal government funding of up to \$3M to establish the Open Data Exchange (ODX) which is expected to create 370 direct and indirect jobs,<sup>28</sup> mitigating losses in the sector.

Three other economic regions made employment gains in May including **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula**, **Windsor–Sarnia** and **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula**.

<sup>20</sup> Harper government announces support for the bioscience cluster in Southern Ontario. (May 22, 2015). *News.gc.ca*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=9&nid=978149&crtr.tp1D=1>

<sup>21</sup> SCI Logistics opens a new healthcare-dedicated facility in Greater Toronto Area. (May 12, 2015). *NewsWire.ca*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1535199/sci-logistics-opens-a-new-healthcare-dedicated-facility-in-greater-toronto-area>

<sup>22</sup> Ikea continues to expand operations in Canada. (May 21, 2015). *NewsWire.ca*. Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1540721/ikea-continues-to-expand-operations-in-canada>

<sup>23</sup> Lewis, M. (May 7, 2015). Omni drops multi-language newscasts as impact of streaming services is felt. *TheStar.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/business/2015/05/07/omni-drops-multi-language-newscasts-as-impact-of-streaming-services-is-felt.html>

<sup>24</sup> Hicks, J. (May 12, 2015). 2,000 jobs promised: 'Prestige' industrial park gets Cambridge OK. *TheRecord.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.therecord.com/news-story/5612900-2-000-jobs-promised-prestige-industrial-park-gets-cambridge-ok/>

<sup>25</sup> Minister Fantino Announces \$22.5 million Investment to Improve Infrastructure at CFB Borden. (May 11, 2015). *News.gc.ca*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=973099>

<sup>26</sup> École élémentaire catholique Notre-Dame-de-la-Huronie construction to begin shortly: board. (May 23, 2015). *TheEnterpriseBulletin.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.theenterprisebulletin.com/2015/05/19/ecole-elementaire-catholique-notre-dame-de-la-huronie-construction-to-begin-shortly-board>

<sup>27</sup> Pender, T. (May 21, 2015). OpenText cutting jobs as it focuses on cloud. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5636967-opentext-cutting-jobs-as-it-focuses-on-cloud/>

<sup>28</sup> Harper government announces funding to establish the Open Data Exchange. (May 19, 2015). *News.gc.ca*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=975799>

## Employment declined in six economic regions in May

The **Ottawa** economic region continued its downward trend, posting a loss of 8,900 (-1.3%) between May 2014 and 2015. The region's unemployment rate declined by 0.5 percentage points to 6.4%, likely due to fewer people looking for work. Ottawa's services-producing sector has struggled in 2015 and news that the luxury retailer Coach plans to lay off the majority of part-time workers from their 21 locations in Ontario,<sup>29</sup> two of which are in Ottawa, dampens the employment outlook for the local retail industry. Good news came from Saks Fifth Avenue's OFF 5<sup>th</sup>, a discount outlet for the luxury retailer owned by Hudson's Bay Co., which will open up to 25 stores across Canada.<sup>30</sup> One of the first will open in Ottawa in spring 2016. Furthermore, the federal government's investment of \$3.9M in OBIO may translate to job gains at the cluster's companies in Ottawa, compensating for some of the region's losses.

Employment losses were also posted in **Muskoka–Kawarthas**, **London**, the **Northeast**, the **Northwest** and **Kingston–Pembroke** economic regions.

**Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2015 (‘000)	May 2014 (‘000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2015 (%)	May 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Ontario</b>	6,870.9	6,842.6	0.4	7.0	7.6	-0.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Ottawa	686.3	695.2	-1.3	6.4	6.9	-0.5
Kingston—Pembroke	203.4	204.3	-0.4	8.3	10.5	-2.2
Muskoka—Kawarthas	174.7	179.2	-2.5	10.3	7.8	2.5
Toronto	3,272.6	3,254.7	0.5	7.2	7.8	-0.6
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	704.9	690.0	2.2	6.2	6.5	-0.3
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	710.7	702.9	1.1	5.8	7.2	-1.4
London	320.2	324.4	-1.3	5.7	7.5	-1.8
Windsor—Sarnia	301.4	294.7	2.3	9.3	8.6	0.7
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	154.6	148.9	3.8	5.3	5.0	0.3
Northeast	246.4	250.6	-1.7	7.9	7.8	0.1
Northwest	95.8	97.6	-1.8	6.5	6.5	0.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

<sup>29</sup> Coach quietly lays off its Canadian part-time workers. (May 21, 2015). *Huffingtonpost.ca*. Retrieved from [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/05/21/coach-layoffs-canada\\_n\\_7360346.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/05/21/coach-layoffs-canada_n_7360346.html)

<sup>30</sup> Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH reveals its first Canadian store locations. (May 6, 2015). *Hbc.com*. Retrieved from <http://www3.hbc.com/press-release-container/saks-fifth-avenue-off-5th-reveals-its-first-canadian-store-locations/>



**Note:** In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at:

<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfss05d-eng.htm>

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