



News Release

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BRANTFORD'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LOWEST IN YEAR

BRANTFORD (Jan. 6, 2012) – Brantford-Brant's unemployment rate has fallen to the lowest level in a year, more in line with Ontario and national figures.

Brantford-Brant's unemployment rate fell to 7.4 per cent in December from 8.2 per cent in November, according to Statistics Canada numbers released Friday by [BrantJobs](#). The unemployment rate was down 1.3% from December 2011, when it stood at 8.7%.

For the first time in a year, the local unemployment rate has dipped below the national (7.5%) and Ontario averages (7.7%) after being consistently higher than both.

"It's good to see that we've narrowed the gap with the provincial unemployment numbers. That's a sign that some recovery is happening, although it's modest," said Jill Halyk, executive director of the [Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie](#).

"We know that some new companies have come to the area and they are slowly creating new jobs. We've also heard that local retailers had a healthy holiday season."

The Workforce Planning Board's own monthly survey of Grand Erie employers shows little change in employment in December. Of the 78 employers who participated, three-quarters reported their staffing level was unchanged. Thirteen employers reported hiring 27 people, while 10 firms laid off 24 positions, with most of those jobs being seasonal.

BrantJobs listed 164 job postings in December, down slightly from a year earlier.

The Workforce Planning Board is one of 25 non-profit organizations in Ontario that play a leadership role in labour force planning.

BrantJobs is a service of the City of Brantford and County of Brant, providing a broad range of employment solutions to local employers and job seekers.

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