



News Release

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BRANTFORD JOBLESS RATE JUMPS UNEXPECTEDLY

BRANTFORD (June 5, 2015) – Brantford’s unemployment rate climbed half a percentage point in May, reversing three straight months of positive news.

May’s local seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 5.7%, up from 5.2% in April, according to Statistics Canada figures released Friday. This is the highest Brantford’s unemployment rate has been since January, when it was 6%.

Canada’s jobless rate remained at 6.8% for the fourth straight month, with an estimated 59,000 jobs added across the Canada. Ontario’s unemployment rate fell to 6.5% as it recorded the bulk of the hiring, mainly by the private sector.

In Brantford, an estimated 2,800 fewer people were employed in May, driving down the employment rate by 2.5% from April.

“This is a significant month-over-month drop in the employment rate but we can’t point to any major changes in the Brantford area that may have caused this,” said Jill Halyk, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. “The employment picture has been positive recently and we know there are new retailers and other businesses opening or building in Brantford, which will add new jobs.”

Statistics Canada figures show a drop in the number of Brantford area residents employed in management, health care, teaching, and sales and service jobs. Employment in the trades, transportation and manufacturing remained the same.

BrantJobs posted 463 paid jobs last month, up 10% from the same period last year. The top 3 job posting categories for the last 12 months are: Manufacturing, Processing and Utilities (27.1%); Sales, Retail, and Specialty Services (20.6%); and Trades and Equipment Operators (15.2%).

BrantJobs has found that 40% of jobseekers visiting their website use their smartphones or tablets to do so; that’s up 10% from a year ago.

[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 25 non-profit organizations in Ontario that play a leadership role in labour force planning.