

Manufacturing sales rose in February for the first time since July 2008 and, it would seem that a rebound in Ontario's auto sector is behind most of the gains. After slowdowns and shutdowns in January, the industry has resumed some operations in February resulting in a gain in sales of approximately 35%, however sales are still down 40% from this time last year.

Across Canada, sales increased by 2.2% to \$42.9 billion. Ontario reported the 2nd highest percentage change in Canada since January with an increase of +7.2%. The highest % change was in Newfoundland and Labrador at +8.4%.

In Ontario the number of people working has decreased by 151,000 from March 2008 to March 2009. Those employed full-time has dropped by 189,000 while those working part-time has increased by 38,000 in the same period.

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| Manufacturing Sales February 2009 |
| +2.2% |
| \$42.9 billion |
| Ontario +7.2% |

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|---|
| Employment Kitchener CMA (adjusted) March 2009 |
| March 2009 – 9.8% |
| Total Employed – 252,700 |
| # unemployed increased by 1,300 |
| Manufacturing – 51,000 |

In March 2009, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Kitchener CMA rose to 9.6%. The number of people employed decreased by 700 from February. The rapid growth in the number of people looking for work has settled down from the large increases we saw towards the end of last year. The total labour force grew by only 600 people compared to 5,500 in November 2008.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

| Employment by Industry Kitchener CMA March 2009 | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 15,000 | Professional, Scientific & Technical | 6,000 | Information, Culture & Recreation |
| 13,000 | Accommodation & Food | 31,000 | Education |
| 8,000 | Transportation | 33,000 | Trade & Retail |

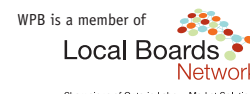
Manufacturing employment in Kitchener CMA fell by approximately 2,000 from February 2009 to March 2009 to 51,000.

In the same period, employment in the following sectors increased by approximately 1,000: Professional, Scientific & Technical and Education. Trade decreased by 4,000 and Accommodation, Information Culture and Transportation were all down by approx. 1,000.

The following sectors remained the same: Finance, Health, Other Services, Public Administration and Construction.

The Workforce Planning Board (WPB) is a community directed, non-profit corporation leading Waterloo Region, Wellington and Dufferin County in their approach to workforce development and labour market planning. WPB functions as a neutral broker of research, disseminator of information, and facilitator of collaborative partnership development.

The WPB mandate is to provide guidance regarding important workforce and employment challenges facing Waterloo, Wellington and Dufferin.



Champions of Ontario Labour Market Solutions