

*The Labour Market Monitor is an overview of the Northeast Ontario Economic Region. It includes the census division of Greater Sudbury and the districts of Parry Sound, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Cochrane and Algoma. The Labour Market Monitor is a monthly report focusing on labour market information produced by Ontario Region, Service Canada Labour Market and Socio-Economic Information Directorate. For further information contact: [lmi-imt@workingincanada.gc.ca](mailto:lmi-imt@workingincanada.gc.ca)*

### **Labour Force Trends**

Employment in the Northeast Ontario economic region increased by 9,900 from April 2010 to April 2011. Almost all job gains were in full-time employment (+8,900). This rise in employment, combined with an unchanged level in the working-age population, caused the employment rate to increase by 2.1 percentage points year-over-year to 55.4%. During this period, the number of unemployed people decreased (-3,800), lowering the unemployment rate from 10.3% in April 2010 to 8.7% in April 2011. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 9.1% to 8.2%.

For more information, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:  
<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfs05d-eng.htm>

### **Labour Market News by Industry**

#### **Accommodation and Food Services**

The Auberge MacDonald Guest Inn opened in Iroquois Falls. The 12-room hotel, which employs five people, is the only hotel in the region. An additional 20 rooms are expected to be added by 2013.

#### **Construction**

North Bay councillors approved 17 construction projects for 2011. The projects, worth a total of \$15.15 million, include:

- Main Street from downtown to overpass, including water and sanitary sewer (\$2.8 million);
- Ongoing street maintenance and resurfacing (\$2.5 million);
- Street lighting upgrades throughout the city (\$1.6 million);
- Cedar Heights water and sanitary sewer project (\$1.5 million)

Canadore College announced the building of a new residence on campus as a result of an increased demand for housing. The \$15-million residence is expected to open in 2012. Work on the residence is scheduled to start in June.

The Province of Ontario invested \$2 million to create a new access road connecting the Detour Gold mine project with Ontario Northland's rail facilities in Cochrane. The road, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012, will create approximately 30 construction jobs.

March of Dimes received an additional \$193,267 in funding from the provincial government for the Acquired Brain Injury Congregate Care Home in Sudbury. The funding is in addition to the \$810,000 already provided by the province to convert a former school into the care home. Expected to open this summer, the eight-bedroom home will create 29 new jobs, including 16 full-time and 13 part-time positions.

The Near North District School Board announced that it is proceeding with a \$1.4-million project to renovate Chippewa Intermediate and Secondary School. The upgrades include a new roof, windows and parking lot.

The provincial government contributed \$600,000 to construct a nurse practitioner clinic in Sault Ste. Marie. The project, with total costs of over \$1 million, includes building a 2,800-square-foot clinic. The clinic, which is expected to open this summer, will be operated by 10 full-time staff.

Preliminary data from Statistics Canada indicates the value of building permits in Greater

Sudbury in the first quarter of 2011 more than doubled year-over-year to a value of \$50.5 million.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) announced 15 housing starts in Greater Sudbury for the first quarter of 2011 compared to 30 in the first quarter of 2010.

[www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca)

### Education

The Algoma District School Board announced the elimination of 25 full-time high school teaching jobs next year due to low enrolment rates and a decrease in provincial funding. Approximately 3,783 high school students are expected to be enrolled next year, which represents about 300 less than last fall.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is cutting 24 jobs as a result of a \$2-million structural and funding deficit. Layoffs include both unionized and non-union staff in management and support positions at the Lakehead University campus in Thunder Bay and Laurentian University campus in Sudbury. No faculty members will be laid off during the restructuring phase."

Cambrian College announced it will cut 17 of its staff members by the end of May. The layoffs are a result of a \$1.8-million cut to the college's operating budget from the province. Included in the layoffs are 10 full-time faculty positions and seven support staff.

### Manufacturing

St. Marys Paper Corporation announced the layoff of its entire workforce as a result of mechanical problems at its mill and limited demand for its paper. The length of the layoffs, affecting approximately 200 employees, is undetermined. The mill restarted its operations in December 2010 following a nine month closure.

Goulard Lumber Limited accepted a wood supply offer from the Province of Ontario. The West Nipissing sawmill will use the wood allocation to produce a variety of products including lumber and timber for construction. The wood allocation will create 20 new positions and secure 29 existing jobs.

Chemini Lumber Inc., from Larder Lake, accepted a wood supply offer from the Province of Ontario. The wood allocation, which will be used to produce custom-sized dimension lumber for construction, will create 10 new positions and support 15 existing jobs.

Forest Tech, located in Wikwemikong on Manitoulin Island, accepted a wood supply offer from the Province of Ontario. The company, which produces cedar fencing, decking and outdoor furniture will be able to increase production levels and protect 16 jobs as a result of this wood allocation.

Shattercone Metallurgical Inc. in Greater Sudbury received \$154,000 from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). The recycling company, which extracts metal found in automotive catalytic converters, will use the funding to make additions to the plant and create 10 new jobs.

Elementa Group will expand its Pre-Commercial Demonstration Plant in Sault Ste. Marie and create about six new jobs. The Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-economy (CRIBE) is funding \$923,261 towards the expansion. The investment will enable Elementa to start using forest biomass as a feedstock.

South Wabi Sawmill, in Haileybury, accepted a wood supply from the Province of Ontario which will help modernize their mill and create three new jobs. The company produces pine and cedar millwork, panelling and barrel saunas.

*Note: In preparing this bulletin, Service Canada has taken care to provide clients with labour market information from reliable sources 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 the bulletin was published. Readers are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this bulletin does not necessarily reflect official policies of Service Canada.*