

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

Labour Force Trends

Employment in the Northeast Ontario economic region increased by 14,200 from February 2010 to February 2011. Almost all job gains were in full-time employment (+13,300). This rise in employment, combined with an unchanged level in the working-age population, caused the employment rate to increase by 3.1 percentage points year-over-year to 55.9%. During this period, the number of unemployed people decreased (-6,400), lowering the unemployment rate by 2.5 percentage points from 9.5% in February 2010 to 7.0% in February 2011. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 8.8% to 7.8%.

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

Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

Cinéfest Sudbury International Film Festival received \$227,910 from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) to support marketing activities and services for the annual Cinéfest film festival. Two full-time jobs, including a project manager and visitor services officer, and two part-time jobs are expected to be created.

Construction

Improvements to two bridges located on Highway 144 near Gogama began this month. Funded by Ontario's Northern Highways Program, the project is expected to create about 40 jobs. The work is contracted to Bot Construction Ltd. and is expected to be completed later this year.

The Sault Ste. Marie city council awarded Avery Construction Ltd. the contract for the first phase of the Pine Street extension. The 500 metre extension, designed to help reduce traffic on Great Northern Road, is expected to be completed in the fall of 2012.

Northern College started construction on a new Corporate Training Centre this month. Previously the site of the Caboose Daycare Centre, the new \$500,000 facility will be used primarily by businesses for onsite training and will house the College's NORCAT Testing Centre. The work is contracted to Qualitech Construction and the centre is expected to open in June 2011.

A new GoodLife Fitness Centre in Timmins is expected to open in April 2011. Approximately \$1.45 million was invested by the company to convert the second floor of an old Canadian Tire into the fitness centre.

Education Services

Canadore College announced the suspension of a dozen programs including business co-op, dental assisting, hotel and restaurant administration/operations and law clerk. Thirteen faculty members and two support staff were laid off. The college is also introducing five new programs such as civil engineering technician and mobile application developer. The college cites changing market demands for the decisions.

The Rainbow District School Board is closing its Educational Media Centre at the end of June. due to a decline in the use of the centre's services. Nine positions will be eliminated as a

result of the closure. The school board will save approximately \$625,500 by redistributing the media centre resources to school libraries in the spring.

Forestry, Mining, Oil and Gas

The price of gold rose above the US\$1400 mark this month. In the Timmins and Kirkland Lake areas, the rising price has meant more drills in the ground as financing of projects becomes easier. From junior exploration companies to established mines, exploration efforts are doubling. In the Kirkland Lake area there are currently nearly 200 active exploration projects. This heightened activity has led to some occupational shortages, including diamond drillers. A recruitment spokesperson for Cabo Drilling Corporation of Kirkland Lake says the company would hire 40 drillers immediately, if they were available. Northern College, which offers a driller program locally, reports that all of their graduates to date have received a job offer by their graduation.

The province of Ontario has begun to announce successful proposals of the Stage II: Provincial Wood Supply Competitive Process. To date, 11 companies have received wood supply offers, estimated to create over 160 jobs and sustain an additional 400 in Northern Ontario.

www.news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2011/02/creating-jobs-in-ontarios-forestry-industry.html

Manufacturing

Millson Forestry Service Inc. received a \$1-million provincial investment through NOHFC to produce a mobile briquettes plant. The mobile plant will collect branches and other materials from various harvest sites and then use them to make the briquettes. About 17 jobs will be created once the project is fully operational.

The Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada announced that it can no longer support the employees affected by the closing of Grant Forest Products in Timmins. As a result, 105 workers received their last lock-out pay this month.

Health Care and Social Services

The Sudbury Regional Hospital is expanding its kidney dialysis program. An extra dialysis station and additional staff will be added to the Elliot Lake, Little Current, Kapuskasing and Parry Sound satellite sites.

Club Action Hearst received \$374,710 in funding from the NOHFC to build a 14,000-square foot, two-storey multi-purpose centre. The new health and recreation centre for seniors, scheduled to open in the spring, will create employment for a new full-time program co-ordinator.

Transportation and warehousing

Beginning May 4, Porter Airlines Inc. will offer up to two daily roundtrip flights from Sault Ste. Marie to Toronto. The flights will land in downtown Toronto at the Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

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.

