

An overview of the Northeast Ontario Economic Region. It includes the census division of Greater Sudbury and the districts of Nipissing, 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:
Imi-imt@workingincanada.gc.ca

Labour Force Trends

On January 28, 2011, Statistics Canada released revised estimates for the Labour Force Survey. Some of these modifications include the adjustment of all historical Labour Force Survey estimates to reflect population counts based on the 2006 Census and updates to industry, occupation and geography classification systems. Based on the revised data, employment in the Northeast Ontario economic region increased by 12,400 from January 2010 to January 2011. All job gains were in full-time employment (+12,600). During this period, the number of unemployed people decreased (-7,100), lowering the unemployment rate by 2.7 percentage points from 9.1% in January 2010 to 6.4% in January 2011. This was the lowest unemployment rate among all eleven economic regions in Ontario. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 8.6% to 7.6%.

For more information, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:
<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfss05d-eng.htm>

Labour Market News by Industry

Accommodation and food services

Attawapiskat Catering Limited Partnership was awarded a \$6-million annual contract for catering and operating services at the De Beers Canada Victor Mine site. The company, which is

100% First Nation owned and operated, partnered with Outland Camps, a remote camp service company, to bring expertise and training opportunities for employees. Attawapiskat Catering will take over the catering, laundry, and janitorial services currently provided by ESS Support Services in early February. Existing employees will be offered positions.

Steamy Bean Coffee Company is expanding its Sault Ste. Marie operations. A new full-menu site is opening in the downtown core in February. A kiosk in the Great Lakes Forestry Centre was opened recently.

Business, building and other support services

A new call centre is opening in North Bay. On-Line Support (OLS) Inc. announced that an inbound call centre will open this March in the former Teletech Holdings Inc. building on Lakeshore Drive. The firm is initially looking to hire 65 bilingual employees with plans to hire another 60 workers in March, including English-speaking positions. OLS hopes to be up and running by March 1, and to increase its workforce to 300 by the end of the year.

Construction

A new \$6.2 million flight training centre will be built in Sault Ste. Marie. A 4,600-square-foot state-of-the-art facility will house Ontario's only high-tech flight simulator for CL-415 heavy water bombers, used for fighting forest fires. Until now Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources pilots and engineers had to travel to Quebec to train on a flight simulator. About 13 jobs will be created during the construction period commencing in the summer of 2011 with completion scheduled for the spring of 2013. Several spin-off jobs are expected to be created in the community upon completion.

Three hotels in the Timmins area received funding totalling over \$940,000 from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), under its Enterprise North Job Creation Program. In Timmins, the Days Inn Hotel will be adding seven high-end suites and

upgrading its fitness centre. Cedar Meadows Resort is building five year-round cottages and a Nordic spa, while Auberge McDonald Guest House in Iroquois Falls is completing a 12-unit facility.

Greater Sudbury City Council has approved a new \$40 million biosolids plant. The new facility will treat sludge from nine sewage plants, currently being processed by Vale. Another \$20 million for operating and maintaining the plant is required, bringing the total value of the contract to \$60 million. Tenders for the project are expected to be finalized by July 2011 with completion due for January 1, 2013 when the current agreement with Vale ends.

Finance, insurance and real estate

Housing is becoming scarce in the Timmins area due to ongoing and heightened mineral exploration and development activity. Reflective of this, the city's 2010 apartment vacancy rate, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, was 1.7%. The Timmins Economic Development Corporation has underlined the need to attract a residential developer to build affordable homes in the mid-price range of about \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Forestry, mining, oil and gas

Lake Shore Gold Corporation announced plans to almost triple its gold production in 2011 to a target of 140,000 ounces. This includes not only production from its main Timmins Mine but also from its advanced exploration Thunder Creek project and Bell Creek property. The company will spend about \$75 million this year on capital works largely related to development work at Thunder Creek and Timmins Mine. Exploration spending is projected to increase to about \$31 million this year.

Detour Gold Corporation announced projected spending of \$14 million on exploration in 2011 at its project north of Cochrane. Construction of a \$1.2 billion mine was expected to get underway this month.

Exploration is underway at the Frankfield Gold project of Gowest Amalgamated Resources Ltd., in the Timmins area. The company has raised \$2.5 million to finance this work.

Information and culture

More than 30 Sault Ste. Marie area residents are being hired as extras in a feature film to be

shot in the city. The movie, based on Edwin Boyd, a 1940's Toronto bank robber, is expected to commence filming in February 2011.

Between 20 and 30 people in the Sudbury area will also have an opportunity to work in front of a camera. Carte Blanche Films Inc. is looking for extras as it films five episodes of its French language television series, Les Bleus de Ramville in the city. Shooting is expected to commence in February 2011. This is the second time they have used Sudbury for the series, having filmed the first five episodes in the fall of 2010.

Manufacturing

Grant Aggregate and Industrial Supply Inc. received almost \$800,000 from the NOHFC to expand its Sudbury location. Four new jobs will be created as the company builds a 15,000-square-foot addition allowing it to consolidate its mining supply business in one central site.

Fuller Industrial, a mining supply company located in Sudbury, will be providing carbon steel, rubber lined pipe and fittings for a mine located in Mongolia. The Ivanhoe Mining/Rio Tinto Oyu Tolgoi project will be one of the world's largest copper and gold mines when it opens in 2013. A company spokesperson stated that while there would be new jobs created immediately, the final number is not yet known.

Essar Steel Algoma issued temporary layoff notices to 90 employees in January. A company spokesperson stated up to 400 staff could be laid off over the next several months. That is subject to change depending upon market conditions and the number of workers who retire over the next few months.

Trade

A new Shoppers Drug Mart opened in Sudbury. The 14,000-square-foot store, located in downtown Sudbury, employs more than 40 staff.

After more than 50 years in business, the Northern store in Wawa closed its doors. Owned by The North West Company, the company stated poor sales of general merchandise is to blame along with its desire to concentrate on stores in more northern communities. Five people lost their jobs due to the closure.

Transportation and warehousing

The Greater Sudbury Airport will continue its expansion and upgrades with the help of \$1 million from the Ontario government's NOHFC. The money will be used to install water, sewer and electrical services, along with developing parking for up to 30 aircraft.

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market and Socio-economic Information Directorate, Ontario Region
