

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: imi-imt@workingincanada.gc.ca

Labour Force Trends

Employment in the Northeast Ontario economic region increased by 14,700 from March 2010 to March 2011. Almost all job gains were in full-time employment (+13,700). This rise in employment, combined with an unchanged level in the working-age population, caused the employment rate to increase by 3.2 percentage points year-over-year to 55.6%. During this period, the number of unemployed people decreased (-5,000), lowering the unemployment rate by 2.1 percentage points from 10.3% in March 2010 to 8.2% in March 2011. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 9.2% to 8.2%.

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

Mackey Hotels announced the opening of the Holiday Inn Express and Suites hotel in Temiskaming Shores. The hotel includes 70 rooms, a meeting room, a pool and outdoor patio. The hotel is expected to create 15 jobs. The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) contributed \$1 million towards the project.

A new sushi restaurant is opening in Sault Ste. Marie. Shogun Sushi will offer both Japanese and Asian cuisine and has a seating capacity of 90 patrons.

Business, Building and Support Services

Zedd Customer Solutions in North Bay announced that the company is looking at increasing its workforce from about 180 to at least 250 employees. The hiring of additional employees is due to an increase in clients since the call centre was acquired last June.

Construction

The federal and provincial governments announced funding of \$9.4 million toward the repair and renovation of 2,708 existing social housing units in Sudbury. The repairs eligible for funding through the Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program include improvements, energy saving conversions and home modifications for persons with disabilities.

The city of Timmins received \$473,000 from the Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Link funding program. The funds will be used for repairs to Highway 101's Porcupine and Mattagami River bridges and to a portion of the highway in South Porcupine.

Forestry, Mining, Oil and Gas

First Nickel Inc. announced that it has obtained the \$30 million in financing needed to advance the Depth project at its Lockerby nickel / copper mine in Sudbury. These capital expansions include extending the ramp and improvements to some surface and underground infrastructures. The mine's initial production is expected to start in the third quarter of 2011 and increase to full production by mid 2012. At full production, Lockerby Mine will create employment for approximately 120 workers. First Nickel is currently looking to fill a number of staff positions.

Kirkland Lake Gold Inc. had a profitable third quarter with a net income of \$4.2 million and production of 20,231 ounces of gold. The

company added an extra 48 employees this quarter to its workforce of 600.

Surface drilling started at the McGarry and Kerr-Addison properties near Kirkland Lake. The \$2.5-million drilling program follows a surface exploration program that took place in 2009. Armistice Resources Corporation plans to start its gold production by the end of 2011.

Manufacturing

The owners of True North Hardwood Plywood Inc. in Cochrane accepted an offer from a group of investors and employees to repurchase the plant, originally destined to be liquidated and moved to Africa. Approximately 200 workers were laid off due to the site closure. The project leaders are hoping to restart activities in August.

Lachance Saw & Planer, from Val Côté, accepted a wood supply offer from the province of Ontario. The wood allocation will be used to produce custom lumber, mining boxes, flooring, siding and trims.

Health Care and Social Services

The Sault Area Hospital laid off 24 of its employees due to a budget deficit. The layoffs were mostly in administrative and management

positions. Full-time and part-time nurses have also been laid off.

Trade

Warehouse One-The Jean Store opened its doors in the Kirkland Lake Mall this month.

Transportation and Warehousing

The Corporation of the Town of Cochrane received funding from the NOHFC to expand its airport. The project cost, budgeted at \$1.4 million, includes a new hanger, expansion of the terminal building and apron as well as improvements to existing infrastructures such as the runway. Between six to 10 jobs will be created.

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.