

The Labour Market Monitor is an overview of the **Northeast Ontario Economic Region** which 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:

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Labour Force Trends

Employment in the Northeast Ontario economic region increased by 7,400 from August 2010 to August 2011. Gains in full-time employment (+11,600), were reduced by losses in part-time employment (-4,200). The rise in employment caused the employment rate to increase by 1.7 percentage points year-over-year to 58.2%. During this period, the number of unemployed people fell (-3,200), lowering the unemployment rate from 9.6% in August 2010 to 8.4% in August 2011. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 9.1% to 8.1%.

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

Agriculture

The Northern Ontario Aquaculture Association in Little Current will receive an investment of \$269,490 from FedNor over a three-year span. This will allow the company to expand and implement a rainbow trout program with a fully functioning fish farm. The program is expected to create up to eight new jobs.

Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

The Government of Ontario announced \$1 million in funding through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation's (NOHFC) Infrastructure and Community Development Program to the City of Greater Sudbury. Xstrata Canada Inc. and the City of Greater Sudbury also contributed \$1 million and \$500,000 respectively. The funding will assist the City in building a Northern Water Sports Centre. Construction of the 16,000-square-foot centre is expected to begin in October and be completed by September 2012. The project will create 23 jobs.

Educational Services

The NOHFC approved a total of \$519,350 in funding through the Infrastructure and Community Development Program for the second phase of the Aviation Infrastructure Development Program at Sault College. The expansion project is expected to create up to 10 jobs.

Information and Culture

Metroland North Media expanded their business and is now distributing a newspaper entitled *The North Bay Nippissing News*. The initiative will create 12 jobs and several additional contract and carrier positions.

Manufacturing

Soo Foundry & Machine Ltd. in Sault Ste. Marie received \$475,000 in funding from the NOHFC in order to expand business and buy new equipment. The funding will protect eight jobs and create two more.

Flanagan Foodservice Inc. in Greater Sudbury received a \$1-million grant from the NOHFC's Enterprise North Job Creation program. This will help the company expand their warehouse by 10,200-square-feet and create 15 jobs. Construction is to be completed by May 2012.

AbitibiBowater Inc. announced it will lay off approximately 60 workers at its paper mill in Iroquois Falls. The company cites between \$12

and \$17 million in planned upgrades at the mill over the next 12 to 18 months for the downsizing.

Transportation and Warehousing

The Government of Ontario contributed \$2 million to extend municipal services in the North Bay area. The City of North Bay is planning to expand their airport business park with the funds. The project is expected to create approximately 44 jobs.

The federal and provincial governments each contributed \$15 million in funding to reconstruct the Huron Central Railway. The project will include track bed improvements with new ballast, crossties, rail replacement and bridge upgrades. Reconstruction is expected to be completed over a four-year period, securing 49 jobs in Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie and the NOHFC's Infrastructure and Community Development Program have contributed a total of \$1.2 million in grants to the expansion of J.D. Aero Technical Inc. at Sault Ste. Marie airport. Construction started in July to build a \$3 million 22,320-square-foot hangar as well as a 39,600-square-foot apron. The expansion, expected to be completed in November, will create up to 70 jobs in aircraft maintenance, inspection and management services during peak periods.

Utilities

Ontario Power Generation is upgrading three hydroelectric stations in Harmon, Kipling and Little Long, and reconstructing an existing dam in Smoky Falls. The \$2.5-billion project is expected to be completed over a five-year span, providing an additional 440-megawatts of electric power. It is expected that the project will employ up to 1,200 people.

Starwood Energy Group Global, LLC began the first of a three-phase solar energy project in Sault Ste. Marie. Phase one consists of two 10-megawatt photovoltaic solar farms and is a \$10 million project made possible through the

provincial Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program. Several local companies were hired to work on the project. When combined, the three phases of the solar energy program will create 420 construction jobs.

The Government of Ontario announced \$1 million in funding through the NOHFC's Enterprise North Job Creation Program to Heliene Canada based in Sault Ste. Marie. The company plans to expand the solar panel manufacturing plant by 12,000 square feet and install two additional soldering machines and silicon application units. The funding will create 16 new jobs.

The Government of Ontario announced \$1 million in funding through NOHFC's Infrastructure and Community Development Program to the Blind River Development Corporation for the construction of a 17,500-square-foot clean technology facility. The project will create 18 jobs and construction will be completed by the spring of 2012.

The Ontario's Feed-in Tariff program awarded contracts to Hydromega Energy Group in 2010. Since then, the company has constructed four new 5.5-megawatt dams in the Kapuskasing River. The project is expected to employ an additional 70 people over the next couple of years.

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