

An overview of the Muskoka-Kawarthas Economic Region, which includes the census division of the Kawartha Lakes, the counties of Haliburton, Northumberland and Peterborough, and the district municipality of Muskoka. 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@servicecanada.gc.ca

Labour Force Trends

From May 2009 to May 2010, employment in the Muskoka-Kawarthas economic region increased by 7,700, with all job gains in full-time employment (+8,900) partially offset by part-time employment losses (-1,100). The labour force increased by 7,200 from May 2009 to May 2010. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 8.6% as the number of people unemployed fell. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 9.4% to 9.1%.

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 & Food Services

The Wolff's Den, a European-style coffeehouse, was slated to open in late May in Gravenhurst. Located next to the Century 21 office building, it will operate on the ground floor with office space available for lease on the second floor. Serving specialty coffees, the coffeehouse will also offer a variety of lunch and dessert items.

Construction

Local entrepreneurs plan to renovate the old distribution building in Donald into a small contractor and green builder co-op in Haliburton

County. The building was formerly operated by Standard Chemical Company over sixty years ago. They will apply to have the building rezoned for commercial activities and will then seek grant funding to assist with the renovations. Contractors and green building suppliers will be invited to sign up for the co-op and will be asked to donate money or labour for the renovations. Students at Fleming College's green building renovation program may be asked to participate as well, as part of their course work. The centre is planned to be operational in two years.

Finance, Insurance & Real Estate & Leasing

The Town of Huntsville approved a 63-unit subdivision, Muskoka Algonquin Village. Almost half of the 50 homes in the first of two phases in the subdivision have already sold. Construction may begin this summer, with the project taking four years to complete. The homes will range from 1,200 to 2,000 square feet, with several different styles available. Located near Huntsville District Memorial Hospital, the development is being marketed to seniors.

Health Care & Social Services

The Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) hopes to save \$1.6 million annually by cutting 20 management and non-unionized positions. Eight of the positions were vacant and four were already cut earlier in 2010. The PRHC employs over 2100 people, with 137 in non-union and management positions. Meanwhile, a peer review of the local hospital has called for 71 beds to be eliminated and 151 full-time equivalent unionized jobs to be cut in order to help reduce the hospital's deficit and balance its budget.

The Division Street Legal Aid office is closing its doors in Cobourg in June. The number of jobs affected is unknown. Clients requiring an in-person meeting with a Legal Aid representative can still do so at the Legal Aid Ontario Duty Counsel office in the Cobourg courthouse.

Information & Culture

Funding is being provided to the Gamiing Nature Centre in the Lindsay area via the federal government's Career Focus program. The centre will use the \$29,000 fund to recruit two post-secondary graduates, who will be able to gain experience in their field. The Gamiing Nature Centre is a not-for-profit organization that concentrates on ecologically sound practices related to lakes and lakeshores.

Manufacturing

A \$1-million loan from the federal government will help install a \$1.5-million integrated, robotic assembly line at Limpact International Limited, which manufactures custom products in the zinc and copper electrolytic metals refining industry. The Cobourg company has clients around the world. It employs about 60 people and plans to add an additional 40 in the next three years. The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) provided the interest-free loan.

The Eastern Ontario Development Fund is providing Lindsay-based Cameron Steel Incorporated a \$680,000 grant for its current expansion project. The maker of custom designed industrial equipment is expanding its production facilities and installing new equipment. This project will help increase its production of specialized heavy equipment for industrial projects such as oil sands

development and mining. The company's facility will grow to about 75,000 square feet. The company employs about 50 people, and plans to add 10 to 30 new employees when the expansion is complete.

GE Motors in Peterborough won a \$30-million contract to supply 18 quadramatic motors to Taiyuan Iron & Steel (Group) Company Limited (TISCO) in China. The motors will be used in TISCO's iron-ore mine and will be built by mid 2011. In its bid process GE worked with industry specialists located in China, the U.S. and Peterborough, including SGS Lakefield Research. No additional jobs should be created locally as a result of this contract.

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.