

The Labour Market Monitor is an overview of labour market information for the **Northwest Ontario Economic Region** which includes the districts of Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora. 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 us at: lmi-imt@workingincanada.gc.ca

Labour Force Trends

Employment in the Northwest Ontario economic region decreased by 3,100 from July 2010 to July 2011. All job losses were in part-time employment. During this period, fewer people looked for work leading to a decline in the size of the labour force and a drop in the participation rate. A small increase in the number of unemployed people caused the unemployment rate to rise from 7.3% in July 2010 to 7.8% in July 2011. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 9.0% to 8.1%.

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

Construction

Pioneer Construction Inc. was awarded a \$5.2-million contract to resurface 24 kilometres of Highway 11 west of Fort Frances. Construction is set to be completed in September and will create 35 local jobs.

- <http://www.news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2011/07/improving-highway-11-near-fort-frances.html> - July 19, 2011
- <http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Around-the-North/110718/Resurfacing-for-Rainy-River-area-highway.aspx> - July 21, 2011

Preliminary data from Statistics Canada indicates the value of building permits in Thunder Bay totalled \$ 73 million in the second quarter of 2011. This represents an increase of 48.9% over the second quarter of 2010.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/110805/t110805b3-eng.htm>
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/100805/t100805a3-eng.htm>

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced 99 housing starts in Thunder Bay in the first two quarters of 2011, compared to 77 in the first two quarters of 2010.

www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/odpub/esub/64695/64695_2011_M07.pdf
released July 11

Education Services

The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced \$1.5 million in initial funding and an additional \$800,000 for each year thereafter, to help Lakehead University establish the first law degree program in Northern Ontario. The new program will have a strong focus on Aboriginal Law, legal issues relevant to practice in rural and remote communities and law relating to natural resource management. It is expected that 55 students will be enrolled for the scheduled school opening in the fall of 2013.

- <http://www.rainyriverrecord.com/node/12691> - July 12, 2011
- <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/07/lakehead-university-law-school-to-focus-on-aboriginal-issues/> - July 12, 2011
- Chronicle Journal, July 5, A5
- Chronicle Journal, July 6, front page/A4
- Kenora Daily Miner & News, July 7, p.3
- <http://news.ontario.ca/tcu/en/2011/07/first-law-school-in-northern-ontario.html> - July 5, 2011

Lakehead Public Schools announced it will lay off 20 teaching positions for the upcoming school year. The school board cites an eight percent decline in enrolment as the reason for

the layoffs which affect the secondary school system.

- <http://www.tbnewswatch.com/news/152528/Education-cuts> - June 28, 2011
- <http://thunderbaydaily.com/2011/06/28/education-cuts/> - June 28, 2011
- Kenora Daily Miner & News, June 30, p.5

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services

The Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-Economy together with Natural Resources Canada invested \$1.3 million in FPInnovations for a laboratory and demonstration plant at the AbitibiBowater mill in Thunder Bay. The lab will study potential uses of lignin extracted from the black liquor waste product from mills. The lignin pilot plant will create three jobs for Lakehead University graduates and a total of six will be employed by December. Additional jobs are expected to be created over the long term.

- http://www.fpinnovations.ca/pdfs/news/2011/june/20110624-pr_cribe_en.pdf - June 24, 2011
- Chronicle Journal, June 25, A4
- <http://forestalk.com/index.php/2011/05/11/update-on-lignin-production-in-thunder-bay/>

The Government of Ontario announced nearly \$4 million in funding through the Northern

Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation's Emerging Technology Program for a new health research centre. The Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute will conduct research into the early detection and treatment of diseases. The new centre, which will house a cyclotron and laboratory, will create 194 construction jobs and 50 jobs at the facility.

- <http://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2011/07/thunder-bay-to-launch-new-health-research-centre.html> - July 4, 2011
- <http://www.ckdr.net/news/index.php> - July 4, 2011
- <http://netnewsledger.com/2011/07/04/new-home-found-for-cyclotron/> - July 4, 2011

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.