

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 increased by 4,600 from September 2010 to September 2011. Gains in full-time employment (+5,600), were partially offset by losses in part-time employment. During this period, more people looked for work leading to an increase in the participation rate and the size of the labour force. The number of unemployed people fell by 1,100, causing the unemployment rate to decline from 7.7% in September 2010 to 6.5% in September 2011. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 9.2% to 8.0%

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

Miller Northwest Ltd. secured a contract to make improvements to the Sioux Lookout Truck Bypass and to resurface 28 kilometres of Highway 17 and 36 kilometres of Highway 72 near Dryden. Approximately 100 jobs will be

created and construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2012.

Belanger Construction Ltd. was awarded a contract to replace the Black Water Bridge on Highway 17 near Marathon. The project, which is expected to create about 35 jobs, will be completed in the fall of 2012.

Health Care and Social Services

The North West Local Health Integration Network announced over \$2 million in funding to hire 28 nurses specializing in telemedicine. The nurses will provide virtual health care services such as consultations, assessments and training to patients across the region.

Trade, Wholesale and Retail

Walmart Canada announced the company has finished negotiations with Target Canada and will purchase the leases of two Zellers stores in Thunder Bay. The stores, located at the County Fair Plaza and at the Arthur Street Marketplace, are expected to be operating under the Walmart brand in late 2012.

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.