

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 a local Labour Market Information Analyst. For further information contact: lorie.truemner@servicecanada.gc.ca

Labour Force Trends

From April 2009 to April 2010, employment in the Muskoka-Kawarthas economic region increased by 7,600, with job gains in both part-time employment (+4,100) and full-time employment (+3,500). The labour force increased by 8,600 from April 2009 to April 2010. The unemployment rate rose slightly by 0.1 percentage points to 9.1%. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 9.1% to 9.0%.

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

Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

The Province of Ontario has decided to group all townships in Haliburton into the same tourism region. The original tourism regions, which were announced in December 2009, split the county between regions 11 and 12. Algonquin Highlands was to be placed in Region 12 with Muskoka. The remainder of the county was to go with the Ottawa Valley in Region 11. Algonquin Highlands will now be included in Region 11 with the rest of Haliburton county.

Education Services

Fleming has joined the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation that is funded by the Ministry of Research and Innovation. About 20 colleges in Ontario belong to this organization. Fleming will focus its expertise on the environment and sustainability. The local Industry Innovation Office will be at Fleming's Frost Campus in Lindsay where the college conducts applied research with its Centre for Alternative Wastewater Treatment.

Health Care & Social Services

A family medicine residency program is to start up in Peterborough, with four residents beginning work in July. Medical school graduates must complete a two-year residency program before they can start their own practices. Each resident will work with local family physicians. This program is part of the Queen's University medical residency program and will be in place in both Peterborough and Belleville.

The Peterborough-Victoria-Haliburton branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) plans to downsize its administrative services in Peterborough. The organization's intake and planning department will consolidate and centralize in London within 12 to 18 months, affecting about 20 jobs at the VON's Lansdowne St. location. Some people may lose their jobs while others might be able to find other positions within the organization. The organization states that its local programs and support services, such as homecare, palliative care and the youth at risk program, will be unaffected by the changes.

The peer-review team at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre has released a report to the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) board. It recommends closing

beds and cutting about 150 full-time employees, including over 120 nursing positions. This review was ordered by the LHIN to examine the hospital's budget. The hospital projects a \$13.9-million deficit for 2009-2010. Hospital officials stated that a hiring freeze, in place since January, might affect the number of layoffs.

The District of Muskoka has received a \$8-million federal/provincial grant to set up a district-owned wellness centre for seniors. It will be located next to Muskoka's new affordable housing project, also for seniors, in Bracebridge. The two projects will complement the neighbouring Pines long-term care nursing home.

Gravenhurst's Cottage Country Family Health Team (CCFHT) has moved into its new \$6.5-million facility. It is a new resource for those still seeking a family physician. The CCFHT estimates that almost 30% of people in the area do not have a doctor. Clinic staff includes a nurse practitioner, social worker, dietician and five registered nurses, among others. The clinic's upper floor will be leased to other medical professionals such as physiotherapists and chiropractors.

Manufacturing

The Muskoka Cottage Brewery has received approval from the Town of Bracebridge to expand its operations. The brewery currently operates 12 beer production tanks and hopes to double its production capacity. The business also plans to use additional space at the Armoury building across the street. The brewery recently hired seven new staff and may hire more people for the summer. The \$500,000 expansion will not affect any neighbouring businesses.

Northumberland, Kawartha and Quinte manufacturers' associations will share up to \$1.55 million in federal Community Adjustment Funding to train and hire employees. This funding allows individuals and groups to obtain training at half the normal cost. Potential employees develop portable skills that can be used at several different jobs. When a manufacturer hires a youth intern or a displaced

worker, an additional \$1,000 will be provided for each person. Administered by the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Commission, this program will operate until March 2011.

Professional, Scientific & Technical Services

Engineering firm D.M. Wills and Associates is building a new headquarters in Peterborough. The new building, to be completed by mid-2011, will allow the company to expand its workforce, currently at 90 employees. The federal government is contributing \$775,000 from the Community Adjustment Fund.

Utilities

Peterborough Utilities Inc. will build the Lily Lake Solar farm on land it purchased earlier this year. The facility will have a capacity of 10 megawatts and is expected to cost \$42 million to build. Construction is being carried out by Aecon, which is expected to hire local workers. The solar farm should be in operation in 2011.

The newly upgraded Port Hope Sewage Treatment Plant officially opened in April. The federal and provincial governments, and the Municipality of Port Hope shared the costs of the \$35-million project. The new sewage treatment plant has double the treatment capacity of the previous facility, which was built in 1956. Over the last several years, \$65 million has been spent on infrastructure in Port Hope. Projects included a new water treatment plant, a new water tower and the new sewage treatment facility.

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.