

Local Labour Market Monitor – August 2018

This Monitor focuses on local labour market news by industry. Industries are listed within the Goods and Services Sectors in the labour force. Within the Goods Sector are the following Industries: Agriculture; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas; Utilities; Manufacturing & Construction. The Services Sector is comprised of Transportation & Warehousing; Trade; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Business, Building & Other Support Services; Information, Culture & Recreation; Accommodation & Food Services; Educational Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; Other Services; Public Administration

Goods

Construction

- Panoramic Properties reported work remains at a standstill at its 700 Paris Street location, however it remains committed to development. The \$80 million project to create 215 condominium units has been greatly anticipated since the company purchased the former hospital in 2010 from the Sisters of St Joseph (The Sudbury Star, August 21, 2018)
- Road construction improvements of MR 35 are scheduled to begin in September. The \$34 million project is expected to be completed in late 2019 or early 2020 (Northern Life, August 30, 2018)
- Hwy 69 South four laning is on hold and under review by the new provincial PC government. Once work is complete between Alban and the CN Rail Line at Highway 22, there will be only 68 kilometres left to complete. To date, about \$850 million has been spent on four laning since 2003, expanding 132 kilometres of roadway. The previous Liberal government was projecting to finish the project by 2020 (Northern Life, August 30, 2018)

Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil & Gas

- Glencore reported it made \$8.3 billion for the first half of 2018, a 13% increase in net revenue. The company reported earnings benefitted from a surge in coal prices, increased copper production and strong results from its trading business. Glencore is one of the world's largest global diversified natural resource companies and a major producer and marketer of more than 90 commodities. Its Integrated Nickel Operations in the city employ about 1300 workers (The Sudbury Star, August 10, 2018)

Manufacturing

- Lepidoco, an Australian based lithium company announced it is exploring the option of building a processing plant in the city to extract lithium concentrate from hardrock deposits. The company stated it is in the early stages and is completing a full feasibility study. Lepidoco is exploring a number of prospective sites in the area. Up to 70 people would be directly employed initially and more if the plant upscales to full production. A number of byproducts may be generated which could be used to produce gypsum and fertilizer. The plant would be a high end chemistry plant, unlike the high temperature smelter plants in the city and smaller than the ferrochrome smelter plant previously proposed by Noront. It would be a zero effluent facility. Pending study results, approvals and processes, the plant could be in production as early as late 2020 (The Sudbury Star, August 31, 2018)

Services

Educational Services

- The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in America Local 2486 received \$278,000 to buy new training equipment for its apprentices. The money was used to purchase a new dust collector and forklift. The union reported in the last five years, about five percent of people who come through its pre-apprenticeship program are women. The federal government also announced new funding for an Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women and a new Woman in Construction Fund (The Sudbury Star, August 21, 2018)
- Cambrian College is the only college in the province of Ontario offering an advanced flight paramedic program. This component is integrated into the advanced care paramedic (APPD) graduate certification program (cambriancollege.ca)

Health Care & Social Assistance

- The Ontario Nurses Association reported Health Sciences North is expected to trim more nursing staff later in 2018. The ONA stated so far this year, the equivalent of 60 full time RNs have been cut and more cuts are anticipated while the number of beds and services has not decreased accordingly (The Sudbury Star, August 2018)
- The Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada reported it is closing 26 offices across Canada including one in Sudbury. The Foundation is redesigning its community fund raising model due to a decline in funds collected from community fundraising. New technology will allow donors to donate online while reducing its real estate footprint and associated costs (The Sudbury Star, August 13, 2018)

Information, Culture & Recreation

- Gateway Casinos reaffirmed their commitment and interest to build a \$60 million casino in the city creating up to 350 new jobs. Gateway stressed the investment is 100% private sector money. The city is planning on moving ahead with development as the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal gets ready to hear appeals against the project on November 6th (The Sudbury Star, August 16, 2018)

Other Services

- The Sudbury Action Centre for Youth announced it has suspended its Casual Employment Program due to a lack of provincial government funding. The program had been running for over thirty years providing casual labour jobs for youth and young adults who were struggling with retaining full time employment. It provided key services to marginalized and vulnerable populations in the community with an opportunity to learn skills, boost self esteem and contribute to a productive and healthy lifestyle (The Sudbury Star, August 21, 2018)

Other Information

The Conference Board of Canada released its Metropolitan Outlook detailing economic forecasts for 16 medium cities. Greater Sudbury reported the following highlights:

- GDP growth hit 1.2% in 2018 and is expected to remain the same for 2019
- Unemployment rate will rise to 7% in 2018 over 6.7% in 2017
- Housing starts will fall to 165 units in 2018 but is expected to rebound to 280 units in 2019
- Employment is projected to fall for the fifth straight year for a cumulative loss of 2.7%
- Increased investments by Vale and Glencore in new mine investments, improving metal markets and growth in the construction sector will help the city's economy
- An aging population and the city's role as a medical hub for the north will help medical tourism as the outlying population access medical resources (The Conference Board of Canada)