

Local Labour Market Monitor – December 2016

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

- City council approved a request for rezoning to build a large seniors complex on Paris Street. Dalron received approval to build a multi storey building with at least 70 units (The Sudbury Star, December 13, 2016)

Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil & Gas

- Weir Minerals opened up a 6,000 foot warehouse on Old Falconbridge Rd. The company designs and manufactures products and services for the minerals, oil and gas and power industries. Its customers include large miners, major oil services businesses and nuclear and conventional power generation companies. In Sudbury, the company has an engineering and field service team. The Weir Group has a presence in more than 70 countries and employs over 16,300 people worldwide (The Sudbury Star, December 21, 2016)
- Glencore announced its Norman West exploration project hit a significant find in 2015, however more drilling must occur. Finding new local ore bodies is a challenge for the company as its flagship Nickel Rim South Mine which opened in 2010 is expected to be mined out by 2021. Collective agreements with the company's two unions expire on February 1 and March 1, 2017 respectively (The Sudbury Star, December 14, 2016)

Utilities

- Union Gas announced it will be replacing aging pipe in its local pipeline in the summer of 2018. The \$63 million project will replace 10 inch pipe with 12 inch pipe in a 23 km pipeline from Coniston to Walden in the summer when demand is at its lowest (The Sudbury Star, December 2, 2016)

Services

Accommodation & Food Services

- The Mighty Canadian Donut closed its only location on 944 Barrydowne. The shop opened in early 2016 and was the city's only family owned gourmet donut shop. High operating costs were cited to be the main reason for the closure (<https://www.facebook.com/mightycanadiandoughnuts>)

- Gino's Pizza will be opening at the Rainbow Centre in the former location of Sanpa Foods

Educational Services

- Laurentian University announced it created the Maamwizing Indigenous Research Institute. The Institute will focus on enhancing the use of indigenous specific health data for health services and policy planning (Sudbury.com, December 5, 2016)
 - Thorneloe University announced it has received a \$62,500 grant from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation towards unique film and TV production workshops for students. Students enrolled in the university's Motion Picture Arts curriculum within Thorneloe's Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program are eligible to take the workshops

Health Care & Social Assistance

- ReBalance Physiotherapy and Chiropractic opened at 1390 Kingsway. The centre is the city's newest interdisciplinary health clinic (The Sudbury Star, December 5, 2016)

Information, Culture & Recreation

- Gateway Casinos and Entertainment announced it will be the service provider for North Gaming Bundle. It will take over operations of the Slots at Sudbury Downs in the spring of 2017. Current OLG employees will transfer to Gateway where the company is required to retain them for at least a year and provide eligible employees with benefits and a registered pension plan. Gateway is a Burnaby B.C based company who has been in business for almost 25 years and employs about 4,000 workers. The company said it is too early to comment on whether plans for Sudbury include a new casino. It confirmed it will be building a casino in North Bay and Kenora (The Sudbury Star, December 14, 2016)
- City council approved \$5 million for Place de Arts, a downtown shared arts facility for francophones. It is hoped the city commitment will help to leverage provincial and federal grants required to build the \$30 million facility. If further funding is secured, construction could begin as early as the summer of 2018 with the doors opening in the spring of 2020. The 60,000 square foot facility would house Centre franco-ontarien de folklore, Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario, La Nuit sur l'étang, Éditions Prise de parole, Galerie du Novel-Ontario, Salon du livre du Grand Sudbury and Laurentian University's franchophone theatre. A bar and restaurant area will be included with a capacity for 100 people for local performances as well as two theatres each sitting 150 and 300 respectively (Sudbury.com, Dec 19, 2016)
- Northern Ontario Film Studios (NOFS) announced it expanded and opened a location in North Bay. The Studio reported the expansion was required to accommodate increased filming in the North and surrounding area. NOFS now has locations in Sudbury and North Bay (nofstudios.com/news)

Other Services

- Rock City Auto Wreckers located in Azilda closed its doors. The auto recycler closed its doors due to circumstances unrelated to the current economic climate

Professional, Scientific & Technical Services

- SNC Lavalin announced it will be closing its Sudbury office and shedding five jobs. The office closure is part of a national downsizing campaign resulting in the departure of 405 staff, with 70% of these staff working in the mining and metallurgy division. The company cited weakness in the mining sector and ongoing efforts to boost its profit margin as reasons for the reduction. Despite the office closure, the company reported 50 employees will remain in the city (The Sudbury Star, December 9, 2016)

Trade

- BE Greater Organics will be opening at 1556 Lasalle Blvd. The store is a locally owned health store specializing in organic food, vitamins, cosmetics and supplements (<http://begreater.ca/>)
- Surplus Furniture and Mattress Warehouse opened at 670 Falconbridge Rd in the former Leisure Days RV building. The store sells new living room, bedroom and dining room furniture, mattresses, lamps, desks and accessories at discounted prices (<http://www.surplusfurniture.com/en/sudbury>)
- Party City opened on the corner of Barrydowne and the Kingsway. Party City is a large franchise novelty chain with stores in Canada, the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The store in Sudbury employs 18 people and up to 40 or 50 in special seasons such as the Holiday Season or Halloween (Sudbury.com, December 31, 2016)

Transportation & Warehousing

- oRide announced it is now ready to offer its ride sharing service in the city. Similar to Uber, drivers can connect with passengers who need a lift using a mobile app. At least 50 drivers in the city have now registered with the company allowing its service to be operational in the city. The company is operating in Ottawa with 150 drivers and is planning on expanding to North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay (The Sudbury Star, December 16, 2016, CBC News, Sept 29, 2016)

Other Information

- The 2017 Canada Summer Jobs Program announced employers can begin to apply for federal grants to hire summer students. The federal government approved a three year funding increase aimed to boost summer jobs for students in the city for ages 15 to 30 intending to return to full time studies in 2017 (Sudbury.com, December 13, 2016)
- The Remax 2017 Housing Market Outlook reported the average selling price of a home in the city increased by 2.5% from January to October. The average selling price was estimated to be \$256,801, up from \$250,593 in 2015. The report forecasts an average sale price of \$261,937 in 2017, an increase of another 2%. It cited the investment in infrastructure projects will lead to increased consumer confidence and big city services, a stable economy and close proximity to nature will continue to make the city an attractive relocation community for retirees looking to downsize (The Sudbury Star, December 12, 2016)
- A new study by the Fraser Institute entitled *The Five Solitudes of Ontario: A Regional Analysis of Labour Market Performance in Post-Recession Ontario* reported that in 2015, Northern Ontario had 21,000 fewer jobs than it did prior to the 2008 global recession (<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/five-solitudes-of-ontario-news-release.pdf>)