

Local Labour Market Monitor – March 2017

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

Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil & Gas

- Vale announced it will be suspending operations at its historic Stobie Mine. Approximately 230 employees will be affected likely resulting in some workforce reductions. The company cited ongoing market challenges and seismic activity have restricted production. After more than 120 years in production, the mine is reaching the end of its natural life and has produced more ore than any other mine in the city (Sudbury.com, March 10, 2017)
 - Local 2020 representing office, clerical, technical and professional employees voted to accept a four year contract with Vale. The membership voted to accept the agreement despite recommendations by the union's leadership to turn it down due to benefit concessions. The union represents 300 workers (The Sudbury Star, March 31, 2017)
- The Greater Sudbury Development Corporation and the Sudbury Area Mining Supply and Services Association (SAMSSA) announced it signed a collaborative letter of intent with the State of Guerrero in Mexico. The state has an extensive mining history and it is hoped the agreement will lead to developing commercial enterprise, capacity building and technical innovation. It is anticipated the local mining cluster will benefit from supplying operations in the emerging Guerrero Gold Belt (Sudbury.com, March 14, 2017)

Services

Accommodation & Food Services

- Twiggs Coffee Roasters announced it will opening up a location on the Kingsway in June. The 2,800 square foot store will serve coffee, healthy deli options, smoothies and cater. Twiggs originated in North Bay with four locations. The roaster plans on opening at least two locations in the city and will be hiring 35 to 40 full time and part time staff (Sudbury.com, March 13, 2017)

Educational Services

- Cambrian College and Laurentian University announced an agreement to boost research and innovation in Northern Ontario. This facilitates the creation of collaborative partnerships and enables faculty, students and staff at both schools to pursue large scale research projects (The Sudbury Star, March 9, 2017)

Health Care & Social Assistance

- Monarch Recovery Services announced it will be moving into the site of the former St. David's School on Dupont Street in the Donovan. The addictions centre will be amalgamating its two locations into one central site. The increased space will also result in the option to expand programming and services (Sudbury.com, March 10, 2017)

Public Administration

- City councilors approved a consultant report from PricewaterhouseCoopers to proceed with the next steps to build a new \$100 million 5,800 seat arena and event centre. Councilors approved \$200,000 to fund the next step on a financing plan and site selection. This report will be due before June. There are 15 potential sites which will be explored for construction (Northern Ontario Business, March 8, 2017)
- A proposed fire and paramedic services optimization plan is recommending nine of 24 fire halls be closed in the area while others would be composite stations staffed by full time firefighters and volunteers. Full time fire fighter staffing levels would increase from 108 to 166, however, volunteer fire fighters would be reduced to about 175 from 350. If implemented, it is estimated it would take a minimum of seven years to execute (The Sudbury Star, March 9, 2017)

Trade

- Sunrise Records announced they will be opening up at the New Sudbury Shopping Centre in the site of the former HMV. Sunrise is one of the only Canadian-owned, independently operated record store chains left in all of Canada. It has been in business since 1977 (CBC Radio, sunriserecords.com)

Other Information

- The Provincial government announced it will be increasing the general minimum wage to \$11.60 in October. Changes are announced by April 1 of each year and take effect on October 1. Since 2014, increases have been tied to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI). Industries employing the most minimum wage earners are accommodation and food, retail trade and information, culture and recreation. Between 1996 and 2003, minimum wage remained frozen at \$6.85/hr (news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2017/03/ontario-increasing-minimum-wage-to-support-workers-and-families)
- Niagara Region was selected as the successful bidder to host the 2021 Canada Summer Games. The City of Greater Sudbury was one of four Ontario cities vying to host the country's largest multi-sport competition for young athletes. The Games would have brought 4,600 coaches and athletes, covered 23 sports and drew 20,000 spectators over a two week period (The Sudbury Star, March 31, 2017)
- The 2016 Census Profile for Greater Sudbury (CMA) reported the population grew by only 1% between 2011 and 2016. The population in 2016 was reported to be 164,689, an increase of about 1600 in five years (Statistics Canada)
- The 2017 Construction Confidence Indicator, an annual survey of construction contractors conducted by the Ontario Construction Secretariat, reported the majority of Ontario's construction firms expect to conduct more business this year than last. Central Ontario reported the highest confidence score at 62 while Northern Ontario reported the lowest confidence score (57) out of all regions (<http://iciconstruction.com/2017/03/10/2017-ocs-construction-confidence-survey/>)