



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Sudbury

### Service Canada Centre

~ An Analysis of the Sudbury Area Labour Market ~ October – December 2005 ~

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*An overview of the Sudbury area, which includes The City of Greater Sudbury (formerly The City of Sudbury, Nickel Centre, Onaping Falls, Rayside Balfour, Valley East, Walden, and Capreol), Sudbury East and the Espanola, Manitoulin Island areas*

Inco announced plans to acquire Falconbridge in October. The company hoped to complete the transaction by year's end, however, the deal was delayed by regulators in the U.S. and Europe. The news is of particular interest in the Sudbury area, where the merger will have a significant impact on the community.

Labour market conditions in the Sudbury area were fairly stable in the fourth quarter. Labour Force Survey results for Greater Sudbury showed slight gains in employment. The unemployment rate dipped to 7.3% from 8.4% in the third quarter.

Advertised job vacancies declined in the fourth quarter in every occupational group except Social Science and Education, where results were stable, increasing by 2.6%. However, compared to the same time last year, the fourth quarter recorded a significant increase in job opportunities in almost every occupational group.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Inco Ltd. tables offer to acquire Falconbridge Ltd., a deal worth more than \$12 billion
- ▶ Domtar trims 28 positions at Espanola's pulp and paper mill
- ▶ Study finds mining industry will have to recruit 81,000 new employees in the next ten years
- ▶ Island Ford closing its two locations
- ▶ ABC taxi closes, laying off 75 employees
- ▶ Neureka closes its doors - can't meet payroll
- ▶ Marsh Entertainment creates 50 new jobs
- ▶ Greater Sudbury Police Service to hire 14 officers
- ▶ Employment insurance claims down month-to-month and year-over-year

The Sudbury SCC Labour Market Bulletin is a quarterly report produced by the area Labour Market Information Analyst. This bulletin and other LMI products may also be found on our website. (aussi disponible en français)

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*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.*



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LABOUR MARKET NEWS

*Highlights on industry activities that have an impact on the local labour market, this information is derived from several sources including local newspapers, newsletters and various publications. Please refer to “Notes to Readers” for additional information.*

**Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas**

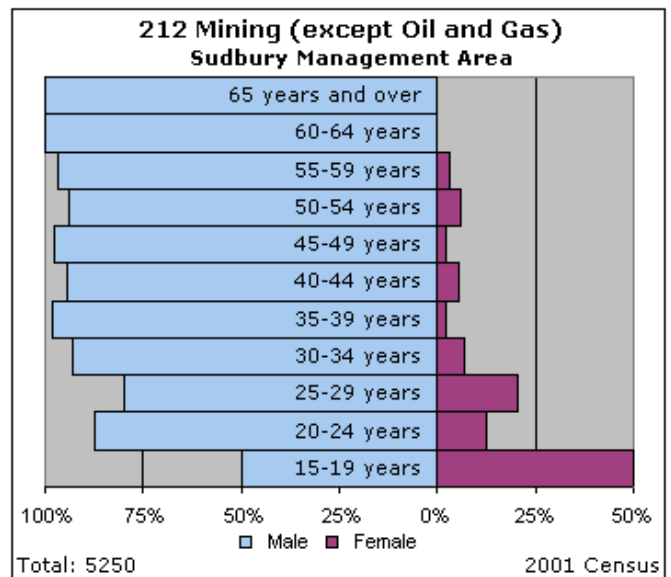
In October, FNX Mining Company Inc. announced the acquisition of Dynatec Corporation’s remaining interest in FNX’s Sudbury assets. The acquisition consolidates 100% ownership by FNX of all of the assets of the former Sudbury Joint Venture. These assets include its operating mines, the Levack Mine, which is expected to be in production in 2006; the Podolsky Mine, which, pending a favourable feasibility study, is expected to be put into production in 2007; and the recent high-grade Levack Footwall discovery. Dynatec will provide mining contractor services for a two-year period, under the supervision and direction of FNX.

In October, Inco Ltd. announced plans to acquire long-time rival Falconbridge Ltd. for more than \$12 billion. It is hoped that this move will prevent an attempt by Swiss-based Xstrata PLC to take over the Canadian miner. Officials say the new Inco could save \$350 million annually in operational synergies. As well, it is expected the marriage will allow Inco to bring mines into production that previously would not have been viable. Company officials said plans call for 100 to 150 jobs to be eliminated in the short-term, but will mean hundreds of new jobs in the medium- to long-term as production is increased. Municipal, provincial, and federal governments have endorsed the plan and believe it will lead to the long-term stability of the mining industry in the Sudbury basin. Union officials support the plan but have not endorsed it. They caution that human resources and local investment issues must be handled carefully for a successful merger and the future of mining in Sudbury. The deal has been approved by Canadian regulators but has yet to be approved by U.S. and European officials.

A two and a half year study, *Prospecting the Future, Meeting Human Resource Challenges in the Canadian Minerals and Metals Sector*, concluded the mining industry will have to recruit 81,000 new employees over the next ten years. The study, conducted by the Mining Industry Training and Adjustment Council (MITAC), showed a high percentage of workers in every occupational group in the industry are 50 years and older. Among scientist and engineers, only 9% were 30 years or under. The age imbalance is most striking among skilled trades and miners where the 30 years or under group represents only 7%. The study notes only 13,800 students are expected to enroll in mining-related programs in the next 10 years, leaving a gap of 67,200 workers who will have to be recruited elsewhere. MITAC is actively promoting the mining industry to youth, women, immigrants, and aboriginal people

as a safe, environmentally friendly and technologically advanced career option. According to the study, new Canadians represent only 3% of the industry compared to an average of 12.6% in other occupations. Women represent only 13% of the mining industry workforce, compared to a national average of 46%.

NAICS 212 Mining Industry (except Oil and Gas), Sudbury Management Area, by age and sex, 2001 Census



**Construction**

A rezoning application filed by Dalron Construction Limited was accepted by a city council planning committee in November. Dalron intends to build 149 homes on a 16-hectare property off Main and Donald streets in Val Caron. Several concerns including drainage were yet to be addressed. The area will be developed in stages, likely beginning in 2006.

Collège Boréal began construction of their new Trades Training and Apprenticeship Centre on the south side of the main campus on Lasalle Boulevard. The first phase of construction, estimated to cost \$3.7 million, is expected to be completed by August 2006. The project, which will see its first students in September 2007, was made possible through funding from FedNor, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, and Union Gas.



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In October, the Province announced a private-sector financing plan to complete phase two construction of the Sudbury Regional Hospital. The hospital construction is to be paid for under the province's alternative finance and procurement (AFP) strategy. Tenders for the project are expected to go out by January, 2006. Construction should begin in the spring and completion is projected for 2008.

In November, Dynamic Earth announced that construction of phase-two was underway. The facility was originally planned to be built in one stage but because of funding constraints the plan was divided into three phases. The second stage of construction includes a 4,500 square-foot addition and new earth sciences exhibits. The latest addition is estimated to cost between \$4 million and \$4.5 million and its completion is expected in March 2007.

### **Manufacturing**

Domtar announced it will eliminate 28 jobs at their Espanola pulp and paper mill through attrition. The job cuts are part of a larger cost-cutting plan in which 1,800 positions are being eliminated nation wide. Domtar is Espanola's primary employer. The mill employs over 700 in the town of 5,500. The company cited the high Canadian dollar, rising energy, fuel and transportation costs as contributing factors to the cuts. The plan included closing the Cornwall mill and two papermaking machines in Ottawa, and selling a mill in Vancouver.

### **Trade**

Another new store opened its doors at the Rio-Can centre in October. It is the first Northern Ontario franchise of Trade Secrets, which sells beauty salon products. The new 1,400 square-foot business employs six full- and part-time employees.

The downtown Sudbury Hart store was closed in November after a fire caused extensive damage. The store employed more than 30 full-time staff. The company hoped to offer jobs to some of them at its Hanmer location while repairs were made. The store was closed through the Christmas season and was expected to open sometime in the New Year.

Aila Galleri, a new clothing store, opened in the new strip mall across from Kelsey's on The Kingsway in November. The new store carries both men's and women's clothing and is targeted at younger adults aged 18 to 35.

The Giant Tiger department store in New Sudbury is planning an 11,000 square-foot expansion to their existing 20,000 square-foot space in early 2006. Bingo Country will be vacating the space next door at the end of January 2006, at which time Giant Tiger will begin renovations. The project should be finished in April 2006. A representative estimated

an additional 12 to 15 staff members will be added to the current complement of 64 full- and part-time employees.

The Little Current Guardian Pharmacy relocated to its new location on Highway 6 in November. The new store is quite significant as it is the first new commercial property built in Little Current in approximately 10 years.

Men Are From Mars, a new gift store that sells items targeted at men, opened its doors in the New Sudbury Shopping Centre in November. The store is expected to employ several full- and part-time staff.

Island Ford announced it would close both its Gore Bay and Little Current locations by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005. The decision came as a result of a notice from Ford Credit that it would no longer authorize shipment of new car inventory to the Island dealership. After reviewing the dealership, a Ford representative determined that the market was too small to remain viable. The 25 year-old Manitoulin Island company employed 12 people.

### **Transportation and Warehousing**

ABC Taxi removed its fleet of 30 cabs from the streets of Sudbury in December. The family-owned business was closed after the owner passed away. Seventy-five employees, including 60 drivers and 15 office staff, were laid off.

### **Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services**

Neureka, the Northern Centre for Biotechnology and Clinical Research, was forced to close its doors after the non-profit company's emergency funding dried up. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the company informed its employees that it would no longer be able to meet its payroll obligations. Neureka operated with the assistance of more than \$7 million in public funding since the late 1990s. The company failed to secure any further government funding. While Neureka reportedly had up to 50 employees at one time, 20 were employed at the time of its closure.

The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory unveiled its new \$10 million research facility in November. The three-storey, 33,000 square-foot above-ground facility will house SNO staff and research projects led by international scientists. A major underground expansion is now half-way to completion at SNO.

### **Educational Services**

In October, Collège Boréal hosted a two day symposium for executives from nine francophone school boards, focused on promoting trades and technology as a career option for francophone students. The college is partnering with the school boards to offer more French language trades training.



For students, it means not having to change to English secondary schools to obtain the trades training they seek. For Boréal, it means increased enrollment and expansion of their trades programs.

In November, Cambrian College announced plans to build a Sustainable Energy Centre of Excellence, designed to compliment its new Energy Systems Technology program. The three-year diploma program is the first of its kind in Ontario. Graduates will be trained to work with engineering and architectural firms, utilities, technology and equipment manufacturing and as entrepreneurs in the sustainable development field. The centre of excellence, a 4,000-square foot facility, will also serve as a laboratory for students enrolled in a number of Cambrian's technology programs. It will also be open to local businesses and entrepreneurs seeking to test sustainable design and energy systems they are developing. The college hopes to begin construction in the spring of 2006.

Also in November, Cambrian College and Collège Boréal received \$450,000 and \$584,530 from the provincial government, their share of \$10 million in new funding for nursing schools across the province. The schools will use the money to invest in simulation equipment for labs that are used to teach clinical and patient assessment skills to nursing students. Clinical simulators are anatomically correct, computer-run mannequins designed to exhibit signs and symptoms of injury, and responses to treatments, just as a human does.

### **Health Care and Social Assistance**

The Doctor Recruitment and Retention initiative attracted 17 new doctors to Greater Sudbury in 2005. The program has successfully recruited 65 new physicians to Greater Sudbury since it began in 2000.

The Sudbury and District Board of Health's budget included room to hire 26 new employees in 2006. The new hires, in human resources, accounting, health promotion as well as several new clinicians resulted from a new provincial funding formula designed to enhance the total funding available for public health in order to improve local public health capacity.

### **Information, Culture and Recreation**

Marsh Entertainment, home of the cartoon series *Chilly Beach*, announced the creation of 50 new positions in the third quarter. Founder Dan Hawes, originally from Coniston, said they needed to fill the positions by January 2006, bringing the staff in the Sudbury office to 100. The company has begun production of a new "Maple Shorts" series called *The Very Good Adventure of Yam Roll in Happy Kingdom*. The 11-minute cartoons should begin airing on CBC in January.

The CBC and the Canadian Media guild announced a deal that brought back 5,500 employees across Canada who were locked-out since August 15, 2005. The employees were scheduled to go back on payroll as of October 7, 2005. The new contract included improved rights for contract and temporary employees and a \$1,000 signing bonus. Also among the highlights was a new "interpreters' premium" of \$800 per year for northern employees required to work in more than one language.

### **Accommodation and Food Services**

Bistro du Nord, a new restaurant, opened in downtown Sudbury in November. The restaurant is located in the Best Western Downtown at the corner of Larch and Minto streets. Seven employees were hired.

Sportsbury's Pub & Grub, Sudbury's newest sports bar, opened its doors in November. Sportsbury's is located on Elgin Street, near the Sudbury Arena.

### **Public Administration**

Northeast Town workers on Manitoulin Island were on strike through the fourth quarter. The town hired temporary staff in December to deal with the year-end and get the 2006 budget out.

The Greater Sudbury Police officially received permission from the province to hire 14 new officers. The Police Service had applied for 15 officers under a special Northern Ontario funding formula announced in August. It covers 100% of the cost, up to \$70,000. Police Chief Ian Davidson said they would begin hiring in 2006 and hoped to have them all on the street by the end of 2007.





LABOUR FORCE TRENDS

GREATER SUDBURY CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA

QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE TRENDS:

**Conditions in Greater Sudbury generally calm**

Small changes result in lower unemployment rate

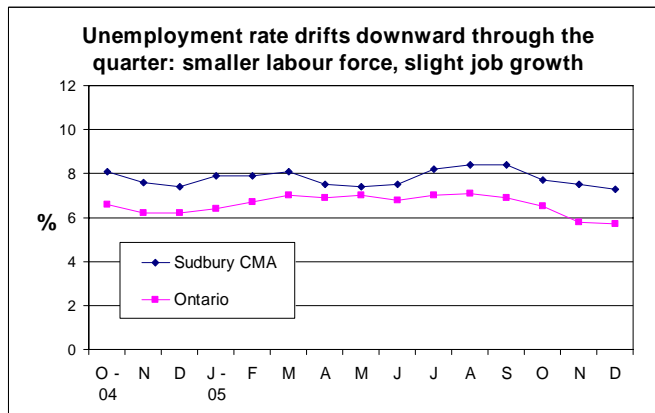
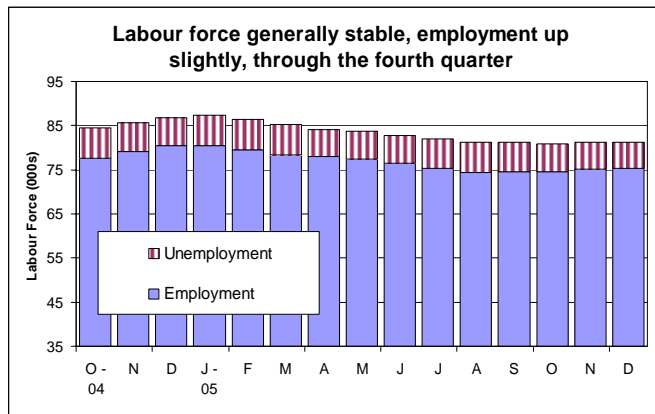
**Year over year losses in services sector**

Led by Public Administration

There were few changes to the overall condition of the Greater Sudbury labour market in the fourth quarter of 2005.

However, a couple of very small movements resulted in a marked decrease in the unemployment rate of the CMA. Labour force participation was unchanged from the third quarter of the year. At the same time, employment edged up slightly, as a 36-percent jump in part-time employment more than offset a decline in the number of people working full-time. These changes yielded a net employment gain of slightly more than one percent. The combination of stable labour force participation and the small job gain caused the unemployment rate to drop from 8.4% in the third quarter to 7.3%.

The Sudbury labour market was weaker year over year. Employment in the fourth quarter of 2005 was more than six percent lower than in the fourth quarter of 2004 (-5,000). The labour force also contracted year over year (-5,500). However, since the withdrawals were slightly higher than the job losses, unemployment decreased. Consequently, Sudbury's unemployment rate was slightly lower year over year



The **Greater Sudbury CMA** is comprised of the City of Sudbury, and the Townships of Nickel Centre, Onaping Falls, Rayside-Balfour, Valley East and Walden. The Whitefish Lake 6 Reserve is excluded from this definition because Statistics Canada does not include residents of Reserves in the Labour Force Survey.

Greater Sudbury Census Metropolitan Area labour force trends

	October to December 2005	July to September 2005	October to December 2004	Change			
				Quarter/Quarter		Year/Year	
				Absolute	%	Absolute	%
Population 15 +	132,300	132,100	131,500	200	0.2	800	0.6
Labour force	81,300	81,300	86,800	0	0.0	-5,500	-6.3
Employed	75,400	74,500	80,400	900	1.2	-5,000	-6.2
Full-time	58,500	62,100	63,900	-3,600	-5.8	-5,400	-8.5
Part-time	16,900	12,400	16,500	4,500	36.3	400	2.4
Unemployed	5,900	6,800	6,400	-900	-13.2	-500	-7.8
Not in labour force	51,000	50,800	44,800	200	0.4	6,200	13.8
Participation rate	61.5%	61.5%	66.0%	0.0		-4.5	
Unemployment rate	7.3%	8.4%	7.4%	-1.1		-0.1	
Employment rate	57.0%	56.4%	61.1%	0.6		-4.1	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.  
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



### Service sector continues to decline

There were no significant changes to the distribution of employment by industry in the Greater Sudbury CMA in the fourth quarter of 2005. A two-percent gain in the services-producing sector was partially offset by a small decline in the goods-producing sector.

In contrast, the year-over-year employment decline recorded in the CMA came from the services-producing sector. Employment in the sector was more than eight percent lower

than in the fourth quarter of 2004, with losses in six of the sector's 11 industry groupings. A portion of these losses was offset by a nine-percent increase in Trade.

Employment in the goods-producing sector was slightly higher year over year. Though there was a 14-percent increase recorded in Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas, most of this gain was offset by losses in other industry groupings within the sector.

### Greater Sudbury Census Metropolitan Area employment by industry

Industry	October to December 2005	July to September 2005	October to December 2004	Change			
				Quarter/Quarter Absolute	%	Year/Year Absolute	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,400</b>	74,500	80,400	900	1.2	-5,000	-6.2
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	<b>17,200</b>	17,400	16,900	-200	-1.1	300	1.8
Agriculture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	<b>7,900</b>	8,000	6,900	-100	-1.3	1,000	14.5
Utilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Construction	<b>4,400</b>	4,000	5,000	400	10.0	-600	-12.0
Manufacturing	<b>4,200</b>	4,800	4,300	-600	-12.5	-100	-2.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	<b>58,200</b>	57,100	63,500	1,100	1.9	-5,300	-8.3
Trade	<b>13,200</b>	13,900	12,100	-700	-5.0	1,100	9.1
Transportation and warehousing	<b>3,500</b>	3,200	2,700	300	9.4	800	29.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	<b>4,000</b>	3,800	3,600	200	5.3	400	11.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	<b>3,400</b>	2,700	3,200	700	25.9	200	6.2
Business, building and other support services	<b>3,700</b>	2,500	2,900	1,200	48.0	800	27.6
Educational services	<b>7,200</b>	5,900	8,100	1,300	22.0	-900	-11.1
Health care and social assistance	<b>8,600</b>	10,400	10,900	-1,800	-17.3	-2,300	-21.1
Information, culture and recreation	<b>2,700</b>	2,100	3,400	600	28.6	-700	-20.6
Accommodation and food services	<b>4,700</b>	4,900	6,400	-200	-4.1	-1,700	-26.6
Other services	<b>3,300</b>	3,400	3,400	-100	-2.9	-100	-2.9
Public administration	<b>4,100</b>	4,300	6,800	-0200	-4.7	-2,700	-39.7

Note: "... " indicates that data are too small to be expressed and are not appropriate for release. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey



## NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO – ECONOMIC REGION 590

### QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE TRENDS:

#### Labour force decline outpaces job losses

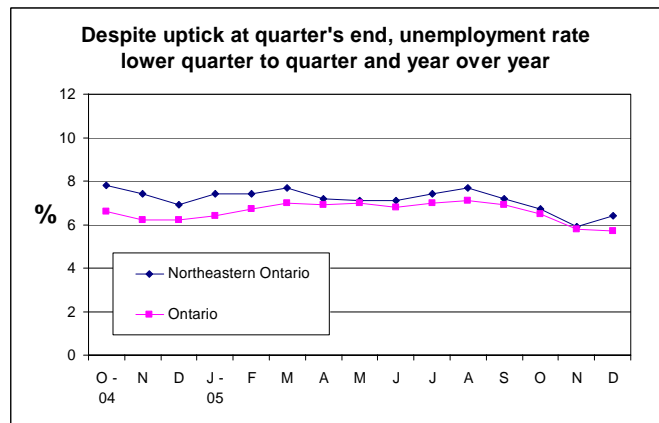
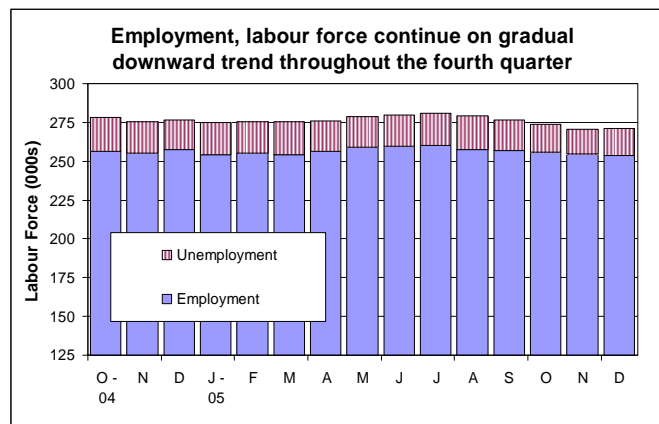
Results in lower unemployment rate

#### Declines in services-producing sector

Employment at lowest point in over a year

The Northeastern Ontario labour market continued to weaken in the final quarter of 2005. The labour force contracted two percent, pushing the participation rate down from 61.1% in the third quarter to 59.9%. Despite a 15-percent increase in the number of people working part-time, employment fell more than one percent due to a large decline in full-time jobs. However, since the labour force contraction outpaced the employment decline, unemployment decreased. As a result, Northeastern Ontario's unemployment rate fell from 7.1% in the previous quarter to 6.4%.

The unemployment rate posted in the fourth quarter of 2005 was lower than the rate of 6.9% posted in the fourth quarter of 2004. Again, however, this was the result of a smaller labour force, as opposed to higher employment. In fact, employment fell nearly two percent over the past four quarters (-4,100). The labour force contraction was larger (-6,000), which resulted in lower unemployment, and a lower unemployment rate, year over year.



**Northeastern Ontario** (Economic Region 590) is comprised of eight Census Divisions: the Districts of Nipissing, Parry Sound, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Cochrane and Algoma, and the Greater Sudbury Division.

### Northeastern Ontario labour force trends

	October to December 2005	July to September 2005	October to December 2004	Change			
				Quarter/Quarter Absolute	%	Year/Year Absolute	%
<b>Population 15 +</b>	<b>453,000</b>	452,800	452,100	200	0.0	900	0.2
<b>Labour force</b>	<b>271,200</b>	276,600	276,400	-5,400	-2.0	-5,200	-1.9
<b>Employed</b>	<b>253,800</b>	256,800	257,300	-3,000	-1.2	-3,500	-1.4
<b>Full-time</b>	<b>200,000</b>	210,300	199,300	-10,300	-4.9	700	0.4
<b>Part-time</b>	<b>53,900</b>	46,500	58,000	7,400	15.9	-4,100	-7.1
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>17,400</b>	19,800	19,100	-2,400	-12.1	-1,700	-8.9
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>181,800</b>	176,200	175,700	5,6	3.2	6,100	3.5
<b>Participation rate</b>	<b>59.9%</b>	61.1%	61.1%	-1.2		-1.2	
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	7.2%	6.9%	-0.8		-0.5	
<b>Employment rate</b>	<b>56.0%</b>	56.7%	56.9%	-0.7		-0.9	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



### Declines in services-producing sector

Nearly two-thirds of the job losses recorded in Northeastern Ontario in the fourth quarter of 2005 came from the services-producing sector. A one-percent decline pushed total employment in the sector to its lowest point in more than a year. Losses were recorded in seven of the 11 industry groupings within the sector. On the goods-producing side of the labour market, employment fell two percent during the quarter. The Manufacturing industry posted the largest quarterly loss.

Even with the small loss posted in the goods-producing sector at the end of the year, employment in the sector was 18 percent higher year over year. Most of this growth was centered in Manufacturing. In contrast, the number of people working in the services sector fell more than six percent from the level recorded in the last quarter of 2004. Losses were seen in 10 of 11 industry groups, with only Transportation and warehousing posting a year-over-year gain.

### Northeastern Ontario employment by industry

Industry	October to December 2005	July to September 2005	October to December 2004	Change		Year/Year Absolute	%
				Quarter/Quarter Absolute	%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>253,800</b>	256,800	257,300	-3,000	<b>-1.2</b>	-3,500	<b>-1.4</b>
<i>Goods-producing sector</i>	<b>62,600</b>	63,800	53,200	-1,200	<b>-1.9</b>	9,400	<b>17.7</b>
Agriculture	<b>3,900</b>	3,000	2,100	900	<b>30.0</b>	1,800	<b>85.7</b>
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	<b>14,800</b>	15,400	15,700	-600	<b>-3.9</b>	-900	<b>-5.7</b>
Utilities	...	1,600	2,400	...	...	...	...
Construction	<b>17,500</b>	15,300	15,300	2,200	<b>14.4</b>	2,200	<b>14.4</b>
Manufacturing	<b>25,000</b>	28,400	17,700	-3,400	<b>-12.0</b>	7,300	<b>41.2</b>
<i>Services-producing sector</i>	<b>191,200</b>	193,100	204,100	-1,900	<b>-1.0</b>	-12,900	<b>-6.3</b>
Trade	<b>42,500</b>	43,500	45,200	-1,000	<b>-2.3</b>	-2,700	<b>-6.0</b>
Transportation and warehousing	<b>15,000</b>	11,700	11,300	3,300	<b>28.2</b>	3,700	<b>32.7</b>
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	<b>9,600</b>	11,300	11,600	-1,700	<b>-15.0</b>	-2,000	<b>-17.2</b>
Professional, scientific and technical services	<b>8,000</b>	7,300	10,100	700	<b>9.6</b>	-2,100	<b>-20.8</b>
Business, building and other support services	<b>10,900</b>	10,400	11,200	500	<b>4.8</b>	-300	<b>-2.7</b>
Educational services	<b>20,200</b>	17,300	21,200	2,900	<b>16.8</b>	-1,000	<b>-4.7</b>
Health care and social assistance	<b>35,500</b>	37,600	39,000	-2,100	<b>-5.6</b>	-3,500	<b>-9.0</b>
Information, culture and recreation	<b>10,000</b>	11,500	10,100	-1,500	<b>-13.0</b>	-100	<b>-1.0</b>
Accommodation and food services	<b>16,100</b>	16,200	18,400	-100	<b>-0.6</b>	-2,300	<b>-12.5</b>
Other services	<b>8,900</b>	11,600	9,900	-2,700	<b>-23.3</b>	-1,000	<b>-10.1</b>
Public administration	<b>14,500</b>	14,800	16,100	-300	<b>-2.0</b>	-1,600	<b>-9.9</b>

Note: "..." indicates that data are too small to be expressed and are not appropriate for release. Totals may not add due to rounding.  
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey





LABOUR SUPPLY AND DEMAND

**Employment Insurance Claimload**

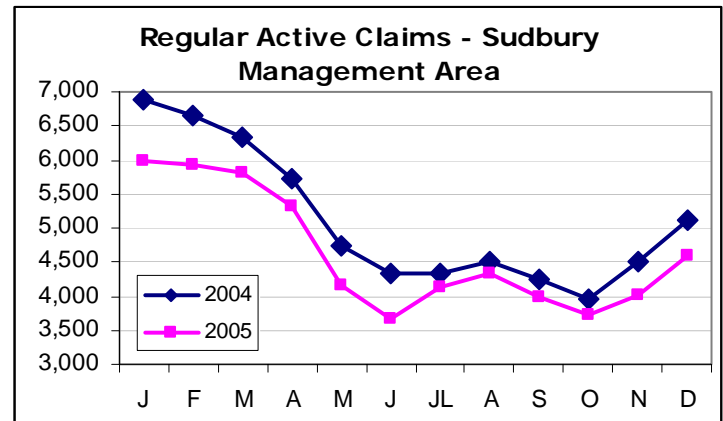
In the fourth quarter, Employment Insurance claims in the Sudbury Area dropped to 4,595 from 4,637 in the previous quarter, a decline of less than one percent. Claims by females were down 15%, while claims by males increased by 14% to 2,540, accounting for 55% of total claims. The claimload was three percent lower year over year.

**Regular Employment Insurance Claimants – Sudbury Area**

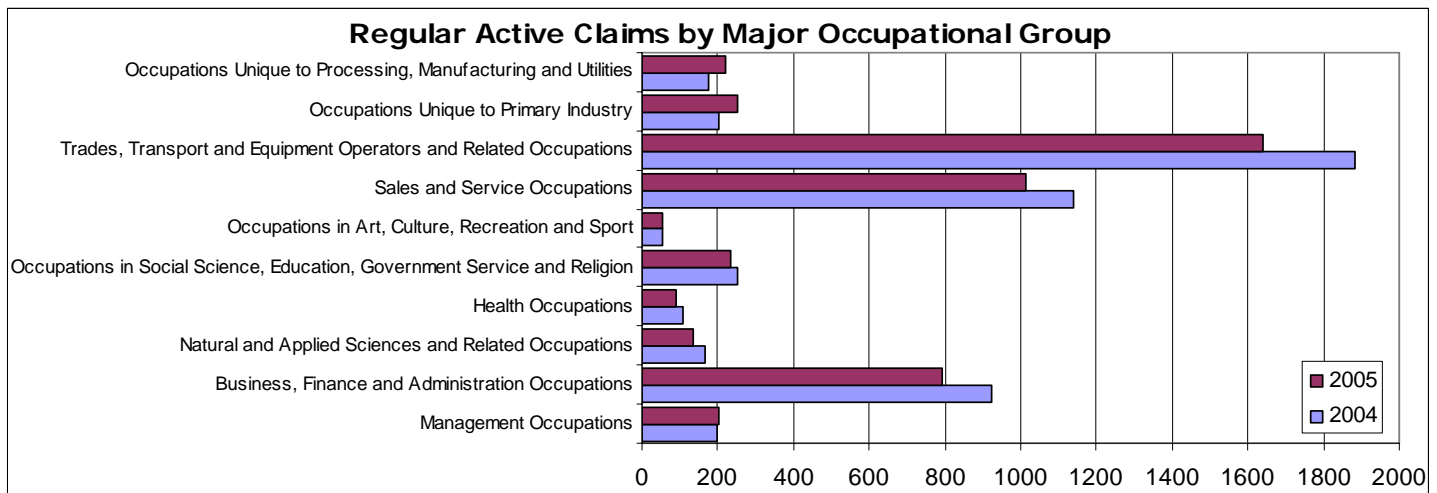
	October - December '05			July - September '05			October - December '04		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
<b>Sudbury Area</b>	<b>4,595</b>	2,055	2,540	<b>4,637</b>	2,413	2,224	<b>4,734</b>	2,188	2,546

Source: SCC administrative data C-356

(right) Throughout 2005, regular active claim levels were consistently below those of 2004. The biggest divergence in claim levels occurred at the beginning of the year, with nearly 1000 fewer persons on claim in January 2005 than in January 2004.



(below) Comparing active claims for all of 2005 to the previous year, the most significant declines by occupation category were observed in trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, sales and services occupations, and the business, finance and administration occupations.



### Employment Opportunities

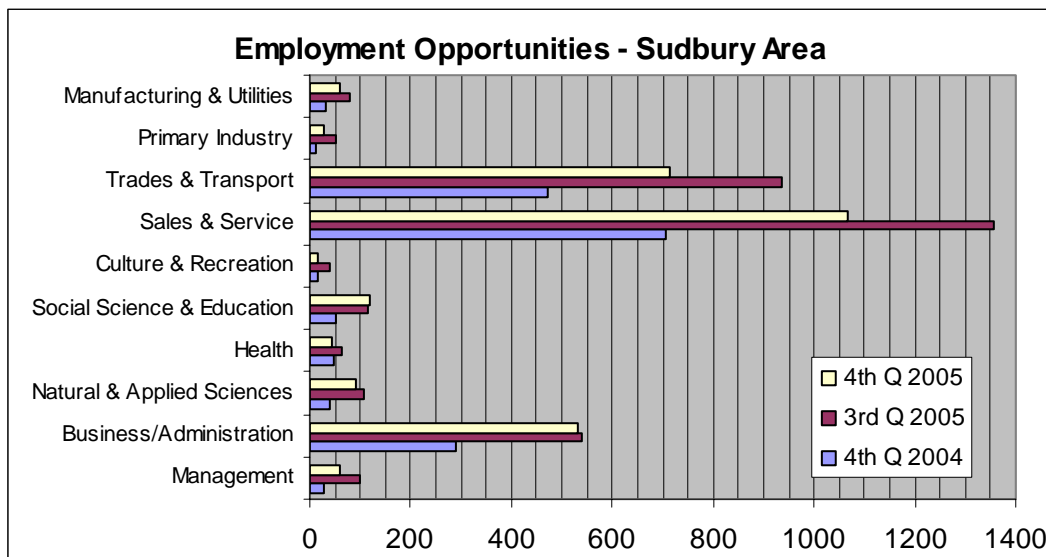
Advertised job opportunities fell by 19.6% in the fourth quarter. The number of job ads typically falls in the fourth quarter as a result of seasonal slow downs in construction and other sectors. Sales and service job ads dropped in the fourth quarter from unusually strong third quarter results related to significant retail expansion in Sudbury. However, year over year, there were more opportunities leading up to the Christmas season.

Fourth quarter results showed an increase of 61% compared to the same time last year. The only areas of decline were in Health and Culture and recreation. In addition to the jump in Sales and service during the Christmas season noted above, increases were recorded in trades and transport, and business/administration.

### Employment Opportunities – Sudbury Area

Occupations (NOC)	Oct – Dec '05	July – Sept '05	Oct – Dec '04	Change			
				Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Total Vacancies</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>3,391</b>	<b>1,692</b>	-666	-19.6	1,033	61.1
Management	61	100	29	-39	-39.0	32	110.3
Business/Administration	531	538	290	-7	-1.3	241	83.1
Natural & Applied Sciences	92	107	40	-15	-14.0	52	130.0
Health	44	64	47	-20	-31.3	-3	-6.4
Social Science & Education	119	116	50	3	2.6	69	138.0
Culture & Recreation	14	39	16	-25	-64.1	-2	-12.5
Sales & Service	1,065	1,357	704	-292	-21.5	361	51.3
Trades & Transport	713	936	472	-223	-23.8	241	51.1
Primary Industry	28	53	13	-25	-47.2	15	115.4
Manufacturing & Utilities	58	81	31	-23	-28.4	27	87.1

Source: SCC vacancies



*FROM THE AUTHOR'S DESK*

According to Canadian Business magazine's fourth annual ranking of "Best cities for Business", Sudbury is the eighth best city in the country for doing business. Only Hamilton, at sixth, outranked Sudbury among Ontario cities. The list ranked cities based on annual average operating costs of local business, the city's cost of living index, building permit growth, underemployment rate change and crime rate per 100,000 people. Operating costs were based on a company with 300 employees, with average real estate, energy and other expenses.

Worthy of note this quarter are a couple of new web sites that provide industry specific occupational profiles, including employment prospects information from a provincial or national perspective:

- The Construction Sectoral Council has a new web site at <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca>

It provides a wealth of information on careers in construction, with up to-date information on the job market and their human resource requirements, based on the results from a recent study completed by the Sector Council.

- Also, launching a new web presence is the Automotive Manufacturing Sector Council at <http://www.cahr-crha.ca>

While perhaps not as pertinent to the Northern Ontario labour market, there is good information here on the wide range of careers involved in this industry, from engineers to skilled trade persons to production workers.

Another website to keep in mind is Service Canada's own labour market information web site which offers information on job prospects, wages, potential employer and training information at the local level. Visit the web site at <http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca> and search for information in your geographic area.



**Notes to Readers:**

1. **Northeastern Ontario (Economic Region 590)** is comprised of eight Census Divisions: the Districts of Nipissing, Parry Sound, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Cochrane and Algoma. The **Sudbury Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)** is comprised of the City of Greater Sudbury (Nickel Centre, Onaping Falls, Rayside Balfour, Valley East, and Walden) and the Whitefish Reserve. The Whitefish Lake 6 Reserve is excluded from this definition because Statistics Canada does not include residents of Reserves in the Labour Force Survey. Statistics Canada will incorporate the new **City of Greater Sudbury** boundaries into a future revision of the Survey.
2. The **Sudbury Area** is comprised of The City of Greater Sudbury (formerly The City of Sudbury, Nickel Centre, Onaping Falls, Rayside Balfour, Valley East, Walden, and Capreol), Sudbury East and the Espanola, Manitoulin Island areas.
3. For the purpose of this publication, the **Sudbury Area** includes all of the above communities as well as Sudbury East, the French River area and Kilarney.
4. The information contained in the Labour Market News section is gathered using a variety of internal and external sources. The primary sources of information include **The Globe and Mail, The Sudbury Star, The Northern Life, Le Voyageur, Northern Ontario Business, The Mid-North Monitor, The Manitoulin Expositor and Sudbury Mining Solutions Journal**
5. **Definitions – Labour Force Survey data**  
**Population 15+** (the working age population) consists of all persons 15 years of age and over residing in Canada with the exception of residents of the Territories, persons living on Indian Reserves, inmates of institutions and full-time members of the Canadian Armed forces. The **Labour Force** consists of people employed or unemployed and searching for work. Those who are neither employed nor unemployed and are not willing or able to supply labour services are considered **Not in the Labour Force**. The **Participation Rate** is the percentage of the working age population (15+) who are seeking work or are employed. The **Unemployment Rate** is the number of people who are unemployed and looking for work as a percentage of the number of people in the Labour Force. The **Employment Rate** is the number of people employed as a percentage of the working age population.
6. **Definitions – Service Canada Centre Corporate Data**  
**Employment Insurance claim load:** The number of individuals with an active claim for regular Employment Insurance benefits. Data on Employment Insurance claimants is not an accurate measure of the absolute level of unemployment. The data does not include unemployed individuals who: 1/ have not met the program's eligibility requirements or 2/ have exhausted their benefit entitlement.  
**Employment Opportunities:** Advertised employment opportunities are comprised of vacancies notified to the SCC offices in our area and newspaper want ads. This data is not a count of all labour market activity; in practical terms, such a count is not feasible. This data is useful to track short and long-term changes in the demand for individual occupations. The total number of opportunities is equal to full-time plus part-time and casual.
7. This review uses data from **Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS)**. In any survey there is a chance of variation due to sampling size. **Three-month moving averages** are used for selected labour force characteristics in an attempt to improve the reliability of this data. For further information on the Labour Force Survey, visit Statistics Canada's website at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/3701.htm>
8. For more information on Industrial and Occupational categories used in this review, visit **Statistics Canada's website** at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/index.htm>

