



Labour Market Bulletin

Human Resource Centre of Canada

Owen Sound HRCC Management Area

~ An Analysis of the Grey, Bruce Counties And Georgian Triangle Area Labour Market ~ April To June 2004 ~

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An overview of the labour market for the Counties of Grey, Bruce and the Georgian Triangle area.

Employment opportunities tend to ramp up during the second quarter of the year. Increased tourism and construction activity provide for increased job opportunities. Student employment accounts for much of the new job growth during this period, as they re-enter the workforce following the completion of the school year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Farm income declined in 2003.
- ▶ Municipalities report higher 2004 building permit values over 2003.
- ▶ Changes to provincial classroom sizes prompts school board to consider hiring additional teachers.
- ▶ Layoffs announced at the Owen Sound site of the Grey Bruce Health Services.
- ▶ Several local manufacturers expand their plants and workforce.
- ▶ Grey County is closing two daycare centres.
- ▶ Grey Roots Museum opened in June.
- ▶ Local Unemployment rates decline as employment levels increase.
- ▶ Gains in employment primarily confined to the Service Producing Sector.
- ▶ Regular Employment Insurance claimload declines during 2nd quarter, but up from June 2003.

The Owen Sound HRCC 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, HRSDC 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 HRSDC.



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.

Agriculture

Statistics Canada recently announced that 2003 net farm income was down by 43% over 2002. It was 37% below the previous 5-year average and the lowest it had been in 25 years. Much of the decline was attributed to the closure of the U.S. border to live cattle and the economic impact it was having on the entire industry.

A local group of farm activists are considering a pilot project where farmers would sell beef directly to consumers. The beef would be sold in 50 pound lots for around \$200.00. This way, farmers would be certain of a more stable return, while still offering consumers quality meat at a very competitive price.

Construction

A new \$13-million high school is currently being built in the Town of Wiarton. This will replace the current high school, which the board decided to close down.

The long awaited plan for the development of Collingwood's waterfront property was announced in June. Over 600 residential units will be built, including a 6 storey, 70 unit condominium. The waterfront property was the home of the Collingwood Shipyards. Originally opened in 1883, it once employed between 800 and 1,000 people. However, in the early 1980's, employment levels had declined significantly, until it eventually closed down in 1985.

Building permit values for The Town of Blue Mountains are expected to reach another milestone this year. The total value for the first 3 months of 2004 was over 42 million. The total for all of 2003 was 52 million. Dollars?

Owen Sound's building permit value reached 15 million in the first 4 months of 2004, exceeding last year's value. Several major commercial and institutional construction projects contributed to this sudden rise in value.

Education

The Bluewater District School Board plans to hire the equivalent of 12 more primary teachers next year, in order to meet the new provincial standard for classroom size. The province announced measures that would limit the size of classrooms to 20 students for JK to Grade 2. In total, 20 new positions will be added to the board's workforce. At the same

time, they will be closing down an Owen Sound elementary school, due to a combination of declining enrolment and anticipated maintenance costs.

Health Care

The Grey Bruce Health Services announced plans to lay off up to 16 full-time RPNs from their Owen Sound location. The layoffs were attributed to changes in the level of skill required to perform the necessary duties.

The Grey Bruce Health Services also announced plans to close 25 Owen Sound convalescent and palliative beds. Money saved from this would be directed toward reducing increased operating times and expanded cancer and heart disease clinics.

Manufacturing

Durham Furniture's multi-million dollar Chesley plant expansion is expected to be completed soon. Employment levels have increase significantly over the last year in proportion to productivity levels. The company, with two locations, now has a combined workforce of over 700 people, making it one of the area's largest employers.

Another local furniture maker plans to expand their Owen Sound workforce. Frontier Furniture will build a 700 square meter addition to accommodate the new staff and the growing demand for their wood products.

Collingwood's Sensor Technology expanded their plant and added another 6 employees, bringing their total workforce to 32. The company manufactures ceramic products that contain sensors. These very high tech sensors are activated by electrical current and have been widely used by government and large companies and agencies such as NASA.

Collingwood's Pilkington Glass plant successfully negotiated a three year contact with its union employees. The contract calls for a signing bonus of \$500.00 in the first year and a 1% increase in each of the next two years. The union, for their part, considered the new contract a success when the employer agreed not to proceed with plans to pay new workers a lower starting wage.

Public Administration

The County of Grey plans to close its 2 day care centres, resulting in the layoff of 17 employees. The County maintains



that it is more cost effective for them to purchase daycare spaces from existing service providers than it is to provide it themselves.

visitors with a detailed history of the County, as well acting as a tourism centre and archive facility.

Tourism

Grey County officially opened its 11 million dollar tourist centre and museum, in June. "Grey Roots" will provide

LABOUR FORCE TRENDS

Ontario's June 2004 Unemployment Rate was virtually unchanged from a year ago. Proportional increases in the labour force and more importantly, the employed labour force, limited the rate's decline to .1%. Still, growth in full-time employment was evident, as many workers increased their hours of work from part-time to full-time. On a quarterly basis, seasonal workers traditionally return to their summer employment during the period of April to June. Students are often responsible for much of these seasonal fluctuations in the labour force as they re-enter the workforce.

Ontario Area Labour Force Trends

	April to	January to	April to	Quarter/Quarter		Year/Year	
	June	March	June	Change		Change	
	2004	2004	2003	Absolute		Absolute	
Population 15+('000)	9930.7	9886.1	9762.7	44.6	0.5%	168	1.7%
Labour Force ('000)	6815.2	6675	6708.4	140.2	2.1%	106.8	1.6%
Employed ('000)	6344.7	6203.3	6235.5	141.4	2.3%	109.2	1.8%
Full-time ('000)	5239	5044.1	5090.9	194.9	3.9%	148.1	2.9%
Part-time ('000)	1105.7	1159.2	1144.6	-53.5	-4.6%	-38.9	-3.4%
Unemployed ('000)	470.5	471.6	472.9	-1.1	-0.2%	-2.4	-0.5%
Not in Labour Force ('000)	3115.5	3211.2	3054.2	-95.7	-3.0%	61.3	2.0%
Participation Rate (%)	68.6	67.5	68.7	1.1		-0.1	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.9	7.1	7	-0.2		-0.1	
Employment Rate (%)	63.9	62.7	63.9	1.2		0	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Please note, that Labour Force Survey data can vary depending upon the sample size. For this reason, it is important to keep this in mind when assessing the Labour Force Survey results



The Unemployment Rate for Economic Region 580 declined by over a full percentage point from a year ago. Year-over-year growth in the employed labour force was primarily responsible for the decline. Most of the new jobs went to people that were either new to the labour force or had been out of the workforce for an extended period of time. This combined with declines in the number of people unemployed or working part-time, resulted in more full-time jobs. Youth would have contributed significantly to the rise in employment levels during the period of April to June.

Economic Region 580 Area Labour Force Trends

	April to	January to	April to	Quarter/Quarter		Year/Year	
	June	March	June	Change		Change	
	2004	2004	2003	Absolute		Absolute	
Population 15+ ('000)	237.3	237	236.3	0.3	0.1%	1	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	168.3	161	155.3	7.3	4.5%	13	8.4%
Employed ('000)	160.7	150.9	146.3	9.8	6.5%	14.4	9.8%
Full-time ('000)	127.2	116.1	111.9	11.1	9.6%	15.3	13.7%
Part-time ('000)	33.5	34.8	34.4	-1.3	-3.7%	-0.9	-2.6%
Unemployed ('000)	7.5	10.1	9	-2.6	-25.7%	-1.5	-16.7%
Not in Labour Force ('000)	69	76	81.1	-7	-9.2%	-12.1	-14.9%
Participation Rate (%)	70.9	67.9	65.7	3		5.2	
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	6.3	5.8	-1.8		-1.3	
Employment Rate (%)	67.7	63.7	61.9	4		5.8	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Please note, that Labour Force Survey data can vary depending upon the sample size. For this reason, it is important to keep this in mind when assessing the Labour Force Survey results

The Unemployment Rate in Economic Region 540 declined slightly on a year-over-year comparison. Full-time employment posted gains on both a yearly and quarterly basis. Youth returning to the workforce for the summer were primarily responsible for the increase in quarterly employment figures.

Economic Region 540 Area Labour Force Trends

	April to	January to	April to	Quarter/Quarter		Year/Year	
	June	March	June	Change		Change	
	2004	2004	2003	Absolute		Absolute	
Population 15+ (000)	911.4	906.5	891.6	4.9	0.5%	19.8	2.2%
Labour Force ('000)	646.5	626.1	635.5	20.4	3.3%	11	1.7%
Employed ('000)	612.6	590.5	601.3	22.1	3.7%	11.3	1.9%
Full-time ('000)	502.5	484.2	486.9	18.3	3.8%	15.6	3.2%
Part-time ('000)	110.1	106.2	114.4	3.9	3.7%	-4.3	-3.8%
Unemployed ('000)	33.9	35.6	34.2	-1.7	-4.8%	-0.3	-0.9%
Not in Labour Force ('000)	265	280.4	256	-15.4	-5.5%	9	3.5%
Participation Rate (%)	70.9	69.1	71.3	1.8		-0.4	
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.2	5.7	5.4	-0.5		-0.2	
Employment Rate (%)	67.2	65.1	67.4	2.1		-0.2	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Please note, that Labour Force Survey data can vary depending upon the sample size. For this reason, it is important to keep this in mind when assessing the Labour Force Survey results



Employment by Industry

Ontario's Service – Producing Sector was responsible for the majority of employment gains on a year-over-year basis. Seven of the 11 industry sectors posted yearly employment gains, with Transportation / Warehousing, Educational Services, and Health Care / Social Assistance leading the way. Quarterly employment gains were more evenly split between the Goods and Service Producing Sectors. Employment in Construction and Manufacturing showed the strongest quarterly gains of all 16 industry sectors.

OntarioArea Employment by Industry ('000)

	April to June 2004	January to March 2004	April to June 2003	Quarter/Quarter Change		Year/Year Change	
				Absolute	%	Absolute	%
Total	6344.7	6203.3	6235.5	141.4	2.3%	109.2	1.8%
Goods-Producing Sector	1656.2	1580.1	1647.1	76.1	4.8%	9.1	0.6%
Agriculture	83.5	76.1	84.9	7.4	9.7%	-1.4	-1.6%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	37.6	32.3	32.7	5.3	16.4%	4.9	15.0%
Utilities	54	53.8	54.8	0.2	0.4%	-0.8	-1.5%
Construction	382.2	344.1	382.2	38.1	11.1%	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	1098.8	1073.8	1092.6	25	2.3%	6.2	0.6%
Services-Producing Sector	4688.5	4623.2	4588.4	65.3	1.4%	100.1	2.2%
Trade	947.2	950.1	935.3	-2.9	-0.3%	11.9	1.3%
Transportation and Warehousing	308.4	304.7	278	3.7	1.2%	30.4	10.9%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	447.9	435	432.9	12.9	3.0%	15	3.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	433.8	434.7	456.3	-0.9	-0.2%	-22.5	-4.9%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	273.2	269	262.5	4.2	1.6%	10.7	4.1%
Educational Services	415.6	416.8	392.9	-1.2	-0.3%	22.7	5.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	623.9	618.8	598.4	5.1	0.8%	25.5	4.3%
Information, culture and recreation	300.3	284.3	287.8	16	5.6%	12.5	4.3%
Accommodation and food services	373.1	358.6	379.6	14.5	4.0%	-6.5	-1.7%
Other services	259.1	246.1	262.3	13	5.3%	-3.2	-1.2%
Public administration	306	305.2	302.3	0.8	0.3%	3.7	1.2%

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

Please note, that Labour Force Survey data can vary depending upon the sample size. For this reason, it is important to keep this in mind when assessing the Labour Force Survey results



Region 580's Service – Producing Sector outpaced employment gains in the Goods – Producing Sector during the previous 12 months. Seven of its 11 industry sectors posted higher employment levels, with Transportation / Warehousing, Educational Services, and Other Services leading the way. Construction and Manufacturing posted strong gains in the Goods – Producing Sector. Overall, quarterly advances in employment fell short of the yearly increases. Ten of the 16 industry sectors recorded increased employment levels.

Economic Region 580 Area Employment by Industry ('000)

	April to June 2004	January to March 2004	April to June 2003	Quarter/Quarter Change		Year/Year Change	
				Absolute		Absolute	
Total	160.7	150.9	146.3	9.8	6.5%	14.4	9.8%
Goods-Producing Sector	62.7	57.9	58.6	4.8	8.3%	4.1	7.0%
Agriculture	10.5	9.5	11.2	1	10.5%	-0.7	-6.2%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Utilities	6.1	7.1	11	-1	-14.1%	-4.9	-44.5%
Construction	14.6	9	9	5.6	62.2%	5.6	62.2%
Manufacturing	31.2	31.5	26.7	-0.3	-1.0%	4.5	16.9%
Services-Producing Sector	98.1	93	87.7	5.1	5.5%	10.4	11.9%
Trade	22.6	21.3	25.8	1.3	6.1%	-3.2	-12.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	7.3	6.9	5	0.4	5.8%	2.3	46.0%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	4.9	5.9	7.2	-1	-16.9%	-2.3	-31.9%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	5.4	4.2	3.9	1.2	28.6%	1.5	38.5%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	3.5	3.2	3.7	0.3	9.4%	-0.2	-5.4%
Educational Services	9.2	7.6	5.7	1.6	21.1%	3.5	61.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	18	16.2	17.9	1.8	11.1%	0.1	0.6%
Information, culture and recreation	5.6	5.3	4	0.3	5.7%	1.6	40.0%
Accommodation and food services	8	9.8	7	-1.8	-18.4%	1	14.3%
Other services	9	7.4	3.9	1.6	21.6%	5.1	130.8%
Public administration	4.6	5.1	3.6	-0.5	-9.8%	1	27.8%

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

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Region 540's Service – Producing Sector recorded a higher yearly employment gain than the Goods – Producing Sector. However, only 5 of its 11 industries actually employed more people. Educational Services, Health Care / Social Assistance and Public Administration lead the way. Only Manufacturing, of the Goods –Producing Sector, recorded higher employment. On a quarterly basis, the Service – Producing Sector again outpaced the Goods – Producing Sector, with increased employment occurring in 8 of its 11 industries. Both Manufacturing and Construction showed quarterly gains in the Goods – Producing Sector.

Economic Region 540 Area Employment by Industry ('000)

	April to June 2004	January to March 2004	April to June 2003	Quarter/Quarter Change		Year/Year Change	Change
				Absolute	%	Absolute	%
Total	612.6	590.5	601.3	22.1	3.7%	11.3	1.9%
Goods-Producing Sector	201	196.1	199.7	4.9	2.5%	1.3	0.7%
Agriculture	8.7	8.6	9.8	0.1	1.2%	-1.1	-11.2%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Utilities	1.7	3.6	2.8	-1.9	-52.8%	-1.1	-39.3%
Construction	44.5	39.8	45.9	4.7	11.8%	-1.4	-3.1%
Manufacturing	144.3	142.9	140.4	1.4	1.0%	3.9	2.8%
Services-Producing Sector	411.6	394.4	401.6	17.2	4.4%	10	2.5%
Trade	86.8	82.6	90.4	4.2	5.1%	-3.6	-4.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	24.1	24.7	24.4	-0.6	-2.4%	-0.3	-1.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	30.6	34.6	41.1	-4	-11.6%	-10.5	-25.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	30.9	31.2	30	-0.3	-1.0%	0.9	3.0%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	22.3	20.4	19.3	1.9	9.3%	3	15.5%
Educational Services	48.7	47.6	37.4	1.1	2.3%	11.3	30.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	62.1	56.7	50.7	5.4	9.5%	11.4	22.5%
Information, culture and recreation	19	17.5	26.6	1.5	8.6%	-7.6	-28.6%
Accommodation and food services	37.3	32.1	37.1	5.2	16.2%	0.2	0.5%
Other services	23.5	22.4	24.4	1.1	4.9%	-0.9	-3.7%
Public administration	26.3	24.7	20.3	1.6	6.5%	6	29.6%

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

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LABOUR SUPPLY

Employment Insurance Claimload

In the second quarter of 2004, the local regular benefit claimload had increased by 26% or 742 people, over that of the same period last year. This is due primarily to one particular employer in the area. The employer is experiencing a temporary slowdown in production, which has resulted in brief one to two-week plant shutdowns. This employer exports a large percentage of their products to the United States. Consequently, the higher Canadian dollar has made it more difficult for the company to compete for market share south of the border.

On a quarterly basis, the claimload declined by 23% or 1,069 people. Employment levels tend to ramp up during the second quarter of the year, as many seasonal workers return to the workforce. As a result, the number of people receiving regular benefit declines.

Regular Employment Insurance Claimants - Owen Sound Management Area

Area	April to June 2004			January to March 2004			April to June 2003		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Owen Sound HRCC Management Area	3548	1282	2266	4617	1433	3184	2806	1124	1682

Source: HRCC administrative data C-356



A number of local labour market information products can be found at www.labourmarketinformation.ca and at <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=/en/on/lmi/lmi.shtml&hs=on0#Owen%20Sound> Web sites. The 2003 Wage Book has been posted to the second site.

Notes to Readers:

1. The **Owen Sound HRCC Management Area** is comprised of Counties of Grey, Bruce and the Georgian Triangle area.
2. For the purpose of this publication, Economic Region 580 consists of the Counties of Grey, Bruce, Perth and Huron. Economic Region 540 consists of the Counties of Simcoe, Wellington, Dufferin and the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.
3. 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 **Owen Sound Sun Times, the Collingwood Enterprise Bulletin and the Hanover Post.**
4. **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.
5. **Definitions - HRSDC 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 HRCC 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.
6. 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/concepts/labour/index.htm>
7. 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>

