



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Human Resource Centre of Canada

### Quinte Area

~ An Analysis of the Quinte Area Labour Market ~ January - March, 2005 ~

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*An overview of the Quinte Area which includes: Hastings County, Prince Edward Division; the majority of Lennox and Addington County; and the eastern part of Northumberland.*

Employment in Economic Region 515 worsened during the first quarter of 2005 with 7,700 fewer jobs. All losses were in full-time employment while part-time opportunities rose by over 5,000.

Major job losses occurred in the construction, and accommodation and food services industries reflective of the seasonal downturn. Together, these two sectors lost over 7,000 jobs. The Quinte Area reflected this trend with the number of regular employment insurance claims more than doubling in the trades and transport occupational group.

Compared to the same time last year, labour market conditions are much better with over 9,000 more jobs.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Construction activity in 2005 is anticipated to be as good as or better than 2004.
- ▶ Two major Quinte employers announce they are closing their businesses affecting 160 people.
- ▶ Value Village opens in Belleville creating 65 jobs.
- ▶ CFB Trenton could become an inter-modal transportation hub, creating numerous job opportunities.
- ▶ Quarterly employment insurance claimload up 50 percent.

The Quinte Area 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.*

### Construction

Construction activity remained strong throughout the Quinte area in 2004. In Belleville, construction activity increased by \$13 million; while in Quinte West, it was up by \$19 million. The Municipality of Prince Edward bettered their 2003 record by \$96,000 and Brighton's 2004 year-to-date total was up \$14 million.

It is anticipated that 2005 construction activity in the Quinte Area will be as good as or better than 2004. New home construction is expected to continue to be robust throughout the area this year.

Bancroft will be home to a new 25,000 sq. ft. No Frills grocery store. Construction is expected to begin this summer with an anticipated opening by October 2005.

In Belleville, water and sewer work for the new Quinte Exhibition and Raceway track and slots parlor is already underway. Construction of the complex is expected to begin later this year. A new Tim Horton's is under construction in Belleville's north end. Also to be built in this area is a new 100,000 sq. ft. Loblaws superstore and gas bar which should be open by 2006. Belleville's new \$7 million library will be built in the downtown area.

Construction is continuing at the new Lenadco Home in Napanee. At a construction value of \$22 million, the home is expected to open in September of this year. A new Tim Horton's is planned for the east end in Napanee and is expected to be opened by late summer.

The Municipality of Prince Edward received \$747,452 from the Federal and Provincial governments to be used in the \$1.1 million project to upgrade four well supply systems in the county.

In Quinte West, a \$157,000 Farmer's Market is to be built. A number of local businesses were involved in the first phase of the \$6 million expansion at the RCAF Museum in Trenton. At a cost of \$3.4 million, the first phase involved the construction of a 45,000 sq. ft. building that houses a restored Halifax bomber. The second phase is set to start in the fall of 2005. The museum draws 30,000 to 40,000 visitors each summer and once the expansion is completed, upwards of 100,000 visitors are expected.

Construction activity at CFB Trenton could top \$14 million over the next two to three years. Construction of a new \$2.5

million firefighting foam system is expected to begin later this summer in the search and rescue hangar with completion in early 2006. A new \$9 million nuclear/biological/chemical (NBC) building is expected to be tendered later this year and be completed in 2007. Proposals for 2006/2007 include a garage/transport facility (\$10 million), a new control tower (\$8 million) and a new aircraft refinishing facility (\$6 million).

### Manufacturing

Two manufacturers announced the closure of their plants this quarter. As expected, G-P Flakeboard in Bancroft announced the permanent closure of their particleboard plant. Production at the plant was shut down in May 2003 affecting 100 employees at that time. Pre-Con Inc. of Belleville closed its doors permanently on March 14<sup>th</sup> putting its 60 employees out of work.

### Trade

A number of businesses opened in the area. In Bancroft, Wood Bugs and Guitar Nuts opened. Ultimate Powersports & RV in Belleville is undergoing an expansion and plan on hiring at least 6 new full-time sales people. Value Village opened their new store in Belleville and employs 65 full- and part-time staff. The new Shoppers Drug Mart superstore opened in the east end of Belleville. Charm Diamond Centre opened in the Quinte Mall employing 6 staff. Other small businesses opening in Belleville include Ink-King, Defining Moments Scrapbooks and The Minnow Shack.

### Transportation and warehousing

Three ticket agents lost their jobs when Greyhound Canada relocated their Belleville bus depot to the City's downtown bus terminal. This was a result of the company cutting back in the number of runs between Belleville and Toronto and Belleville and Ottawa.

### Finance, insurance and real estate

Jones DesLauriers Insurance Management Inc. of Toronto purchased the Insurance Management Inc. offices in Belleville and Port Hope. The company now plans to expand both operations. There are 20 employees at the Belleville office.

### Professional, scientific & technical services

The Community Futures Development Corporation of North Hastings and South Algonquin received \$455,000 in funding



from Industry Canada. The money will be used in their programs and services that support community economic development and small business growth.

Trenval Business Development Corporation will receive \$625,000 in federal government funding for its economic work. As well, they will receive \$102,900 to research and develop a new heritage-based tourist attraction.

The Youth Internship Program, under the Eastern Ontario Development Fund, has provided funding of almost \$100,000 to Quinte Area municipalities. The money allows the municipalities to hire seven post-graduates to work on community-based projects related to their academic training.

### **Educational services**

A County Arts College could become a reality in the Municipality of Prince Edward thanks to the efforts of the Prince Edward County Chamber of Tourism and Commerce. The Chamber has been in discussions with local businesses, colleges and educational institutions about the feasibility of such a college. A culinary arts program is the first course running from March 14 to June 14, 2005.

A feasibility study is underway to determine if Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville should be turned into a university for the deaf and hard of hearing. At the moment, Canadians wishing to attend a post-secondary institution for the deaf and hard of hearing must travel to the United States. The study should be completed by the end of this year.

The Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board was the recipient of funding from the Ministry of Education. They will receive a grant of \$652,127 from the Good Schools Open program. The money will allow the rural public boards to hire additional education assistants, teachers, secretaries, network technicians, and general maintenance and custodial staff.

Members of the Hastings and Prince Edward local of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario and of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation have both voted in favour of strike action. Their contracts expired in August 2004. Also negotiating a new contract are members of the Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association, representing both elementary and secondary teachers, and the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. These teachers have also been without a contract since August 2004.

### **Health care and social services**

Two physicians are moving to Belleville. Dr. Abdul Rana, a neurologist, specializes in the treatment of Parkinson's disease

and movement disorders. His office will be in the Belleville Family Medical Centre. Dr. Nadia Knarr will open a community practice in Belleville this fall.

The following area health services will receive funding from the province:

- Quinte Health Care (QHC) \$1,764,264 for 40 new long-term care beds.
- QHC will receive \$545,300 of the \$200-million special allotment by the province.
- \$76,930 to four area organizations that help the handicapped, seniors and the terminally ill
  - Regional Hospice of Quinte \$26,155
  - Pathways to Independence \$12,516
  - Prince Edward County Community Care \$4,830
  - Cheshire Homes Inc. \$33,710.

A new branch of the John Howard Society opened in Belleville. The Society assists people who have been in conflict with the law.

Trenton has a new daycare centre. Petits Treasures French Immersion Child Care Centre caters to preschool age children.

A contract settlement was reached between OPSEU Local 356 and North Hastings Children's Services. Employees will receive a 3% increase in wages to their base salary.

### **Information, culture and recreation**

Belleville has a new nutrition and fitness centre. Truestar for Women opened in February

### **Accommodation and food services**

The following restaurants opened this quarter:

- TJ's Diner and Chameleon's Cave, Bancroft
- The Caribbean Sizzler Vijay, Belleville
- Planet Pita, Trenton

### **Public administration**

Numerous employment opportunities will be coming to the Quinte Area if a proposal to locate an inter-modal transportation hub at CFB Trenton occurs. The hub will link air, rail and bus services on the base. Avbnk Corporation is preparing the proposal and will present it to the Minister of Defense.

The Belleville Police Service and the 81 police officers and the 27 civilian workers reached a new three-year agreement. The 2005-2007 agreement gives employees a raise of 11.5%.



LABOUR FORCE TRENDS

(By Rick Lymer, Ontario Regional Economist, Economic Analysis and Information Directorate, Ontario)

The usual winter downturn in economic activity reduced jobs and increased the unemployment rate for the Kingston-Quinte-Pembroke region. The 7,700 reduction in employment was a little more than average. Of more concern, however, were the nearly 13,000 fewer full-time jobs. The more normal ratio between winter job loss and full-time job loss is 1 to 1 rather than 1 to 1.5.

The unemployment rate continued to climb through the first quarter of 2005. While loss of employment continued, fewer than normal the number of people chose to drop out of the labour force at the end of December. This can be gleaned by comparing how similar the participation rates were between the low unemployment rate of the fourth quarter of 2004 and the higher unemployment rates of the first quarter of 2005. Despite 3.6% fewer jobs, the same number of people remained in the labour force. This means most of the job openings that were available had many more candidates applying than usual.

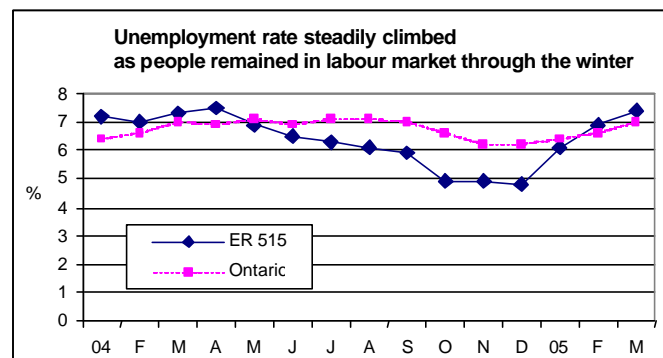
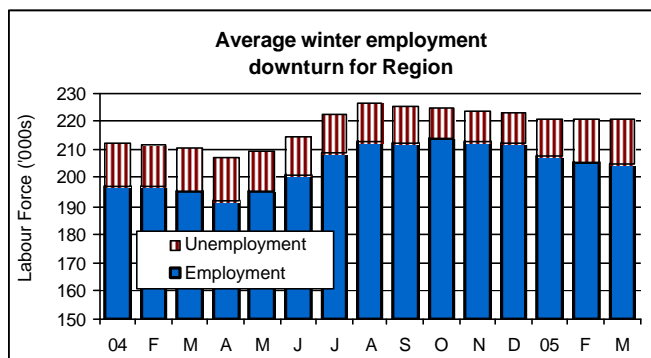
Compared to last year, the labour market conditions continued to be much better with employment growth approaching 5% or 9,100 jobs.

Kingston-Quinte-Pembroke (ER 515) Labour Force Trends

	January to	October to	January to	Quarter/Quarter		Year/Year	
	March	December	March	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
	2005	2004	2004				
Population 15 + ('000)	356,000	355,300	351,900	700	0.2	4,100	1.2
Labour Force ('000)	220,900	222,900	210,800	-2,000	-0.9	10,100	4.8
Employed ('000)	204,500	212,200	195,400	-7,700	-3.6	9,100	4.7
Full-time	154,400	167,300	147,700	-12,900	-7.7	6,700	4.5
Part-time	50,200	44,800	47,700	5,400	12.1	2,500	5.2
Unemployed ('000)	16,300	10,800	15,300	5,500	50.9	1,000	6.5
Not in Labour Force ('000)	135,100	132,300	141,200	2,800	2.1	-6,100	-4.3
Participation Rate (%)	62.1	62.7	59.9	-0.6		2.2	
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4	4.8	7.3	2.5		0.1	
Employment Rate (%)	57.4	59.7	55.5	-2.3		1.9	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.



**Employment by Industry**

The seasonal work slowdown was reflected in two industry groups normally affected by seasonal change which were construction, and accommodation and food service.

Construction's job decline of 4,200 was more than half of the general decline in the goods-producing service. All the goods-producing industries lost jobs. The 7,800 total positions lost actually exceeded the quarterly workforce loss for the Region.

The services-producing sector had a small net gain of workers. The gains were relatively small and spread through many industries. The losses were concentrated in a few. The largest of the declining service industries was accommodation and food services with over 3,000 fewer positions. Wholesale and retail trade also lost over 2,000 workers.

The job growth that has taken place compared to last year was concentrated in a few industries. Public administration contributed over half of the new jobs. Trade also contributed a significant portion of the more than 9,000 added workers. The goods-producing sector had more mixed results. The seasonal influence of agriculture produced a large downward push that overcame the positive news from forestry and construction. Manufacturing, which makes up half of the goods-producing jobs, also continued to shed workers. Overall, the industries were evenly split between losers and gainers compared to last year.

**Kingston-Quinte-Pembroke (ER 515) Employment by Industry**

Industry	January to	October to	January to	Quarter/Quarter		Year/Year Change	
	March 2005	December 2004	March 2004	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,500</b>	212,200	195,400	-7,700	-3.6	9,100	4.7
<b>Goods-Producing Sector</b>	<b>41,600</b>	49,400	42,000	-7,800	-15.8	-400	-1.0
Agriculture	1,800	...	4,900	...	...	-3,100	-63.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	2,400	4,000	...	-1,600	-40.0	2,400	...
Utilities	1,500	1,800	1,700	-300	-16.7	-200	-11.8
Construction	12,900	17,100	10,400	-4,200	-24.6	2,500	24.0
Manufacturing	23,000	25,200	24,300	-2,200	-8.7	-1,300	-5.3
<b>Services-Producing Sector</b>	<b>162,900</b>	162,800	153,500	100	0.1	9,400	6.1
Trade	32,500	34,700	28,100	-2,200	-6.3	4,400	15.7
Transportation and warehousing	10,800	11,300	10,300	-500	-4.4	500	4.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6,900	6,700	7,100	200	3.0	-200	-2.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	9,800	8,300	10,300	1,500	18.1	-500	-4.9
Management, administrative and other support	8,400	7,400	9,700	1,000	13.5	-1,300	-13.4
Educational services	16,200	15,700	17,900	500	3.2	-1,700	-9.5
Health care and social assistance	32,200	31,500	28,600	700	2.2	3,600	12.6
Information, culture and recreation	4,900	3,900	4,900	1,000	25.6	0	0.0
Accommodation and food services	13,300	16,400	14,900	-3,100	-18.9	-1,600	-10.7
Other services	10,700	12,000	9,700	-1,300	-10.8	1,000	10.3
Public administration	17,300	14,800	12,100	2,500	16.9	5,200	43.0

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



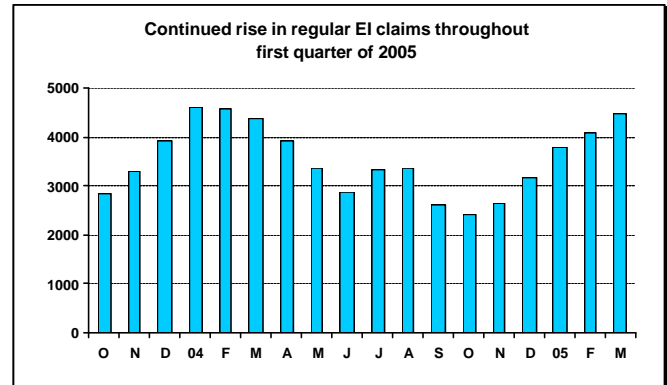
LABOUR SUPPLY AND DEMAND

**Employment Insurance Claimload**

The Quinte Area regular Employment Insurance (EI) claimload continued to rise throughout the first quarter of 2005. Up 1,371 claims from the previous quarter, volumes were highest in the trades and transport occupational group. This is typical for the winter months as construction activity declines during the colder weather.

The number of men on claim almost doubled quarter to quarter. Again this is typical for this time of year as male dominated occupations in construction face seasonal layoffs.

The largest increase in claims this quarter occurred in the two largest age groups - the 25 to 44 and 45 to 64 groups. The number of claims in each group grew by almost 50% quarter to quarter.



Compared to the same time a year ago, the Quinte Area claimload is down 9%.

**Regular Employment Insurance Claimants - Quinte Area**

Occupations (NOC)	January - March '05	October - December '04	January - March '04
<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>4112</b>	<b>2741</b>	<b>4518</b>
Management	173	155	176
Business/administration	371	353	371
Natural & applied sciences	188	130	194
Health	57	62	54
Social science & education	105	127	92
Culture & recreation	44	33	41
Sales & service	561	498	627
Trades & transport	1800	874	2068
Primary industry	234	128	256
Manufacturing & utilities	581	381	635

Source: HRCC administrative data C-356

**Employment Opportunities**

**Caution:** Only vacancies published in the local newspapers have been included in the analysis of employment opportunities. As well, data prior to October 2002 included vacancies advertised daily. Beginning October 2002 the data includes vacancies advertised on Wednesdays and Saturdays of each week. For this reason, the data should be used with extreme caution. If this data is included in a timeseries of employment opportunity statistics, HRSDC vacancy activity must be removed from the historical data in order to ensure a consistent data set is being used.



When compared to the previous quarter, the Quinte area experienced a 14% increase in advertised employment opportunities. The largest increase occurred in the sales and services group of occupations where advertised opportunities jumped 56%. Only the trades and transport and primary industry occupations showed a decline in quarterly vacancies. Top employment opportunities were:

- Other elemental sales occupations (82)
- Retail salespersons and sales clerks (54)
- Cooks (52)
- Light duty cleaners (44)
- Janitors, caretakers and building superintendents (40)

Eight out of ten occupational groups had more work advertised this year than last year. Overall, advertised employment opportunities increased 9% from a year ago. The sales and services occupations posted the largest increase (+149).

### Employment Opportunities - Quinte Area

Occupations (NOC)	January- March '05	October- December '04	January- March'04
<b>Total Vacancies</b>	<b>1262</b>	<b>1111</b>	<b>1156</b>
Management	84	55	68
Business/administration	134	120	128
Natural & applied sciences	29	28	27
Health	98	93	75
Social science & education	62	32	60
Culture & recreation	44	8	40
Sales & service	496	317	347
Trades & transport	220	361	333
Primary industry	14	23	36
Manufacturing & utilities	81	74	44
Source: local newspaper ads			



**Notes to Readers:**

1. The **Economic Region 515: Kingston-Quinte-Pembroke** is comprised of the Counties of Frontenac; Lennox and Addington; Hastings; Prince Edward; and Renfrew .
2. For the purpose of this publication, the **Quinte Area** includes Hastings County, Prince Edward Division, the majority of Lennox and Addington and the eastern part of Northumberland.
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 **The Bancroft Times, Belleville Intelligencer, Marmora Herald, Napanee Beaver, Picton Gazette and The Trentonian newspapers.**
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/sdds/3701.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> .

