

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 2005 ~

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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. The local labour force is benefiting from recent long-term employment growth in the manufacturing sector. Improved economic conditions in the local construction and tourism industries have increased the number of seasonal employment opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Local building contractors expect 2005 to be a good year for the area's construction industry.
- Local school boards reach new contract agreements with their teachers and other unionized board employees.
- Dundalk's Trim Trends plant is currently under U.S. bankruptcy protection.
- Kodiak Company purchased Markdale's Terra Footwear.
- A new manufacturer starts up operation in Owen Sound.
- Collingwood's Nacan plant will soon employ up to 50 people.
- The number of tourists visiting Owen Sound this spring is up over last year.
- Economic Region 580's labour market continues to show job losses compared with a year ago, as employment levels return to more normal levels.
- Labour market surges in Economic Region 540 as summer job gains propel employment to a new high.
- Employment Insurance claim load declines by 24.0% during second quarter.



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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.

Construction

Area contractors forecast that 2005 will be a good year for the local construction industry. A construction boom that began several years ago in the Collingwood and Town of Blue Mountains region has spread across much of Grey and Bruce Counties. Some local contractors credit the number of people moving to the area and excess demand from the Collingwood region, as the reason behind the building boom. Other contractors credit a combination of low interest rates, high employment levels and a generally higher degree of confidence in the Ontario economy.

Education

Elementary and secondary school teachers of the Bluewater District School Board each negotiated a new four year contract. It will provide a total salary increase of 10.0%, along with more preparation time and smaller class sizes. The contracts will expire in August of 2008.

The Bluewater board reached tentative agreements with their professional and technical staff and their professional support staff. Details of the agreement have not yet been released.

The Bruce Grey Catholic District School board reached a contract settlement with their elementary and secondary teachers. It provides for a 10.2% increase over four years along with more preparation time and smaller class sizes. In addition, there will be a one time signing bonus of \$512.00 paid out.

The Bruce Grey Catholic School board reached a contract agreement with its Association of Professional Student Services Personnel. Members of the association include social workers and speech pathologists. The four-year agreement allows for a 10.2% increase and various enhancements to their benefit package.

The Simcoe District School Board announced they will lay off up to 100 elementary teachers at the end of August. Declining enrolment and fewer retirements precipitated this action.

Officials at the Owen Sound campus of Georgian College were pleased with the Ontario government's decision to spend up to \$6.2 billion on post secondary education by 2010. Starting this year, \$44 million will be applied toward increased training and apprenticeship spaces. A great deal of apprenticeship training takes place at the Owen Sound campus.

Health Care

Employees of Participation Lodge agreed to a new three-year contract. It will help address issues dealing with shift scheduling and the amount of notice workers get prior to a lay off. Union officials indicated there will be a "modest wage increase" as well.

The Grey Bruce Women's Centre closed its Durham sexual assault centre and will lay off 12 employees. There are renewed efforts, within the community, to secure other funding that would allow the centre to re-open.

Owen Sound was one of 52 Ontario communities approved to set up a Family Health Team. It is expected that this will help address the doctor shortage in the region. The Ontario government will provide funding to hire support staff, such as nurse practitioners, a dietician, social workers and registered nurses. This will provide the necessary medical support for approximately 21 doctors to work in a clinic environment, offering around the clock access to medical services.

Manufacturing

The U.S. parent company of Dundalk's Trim Trends has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States bankruptcy law. This protects the Dundalk plant from creditors, while a new owner is sought. The plant, which employs approximately 124 people, continues to operate as normal. It manufactures various car parts. According to company officials, current economic conditions in the auto industry caused them to seek protection under Chapter 11.

The Kodiak Company purchased the local Terra Footwear plant in Markdale. The combined company will employ close to 450 people. Officials expect to increase production at the Markdale location by bringing back some of the work that Kodiak previously outsourced to Asia. Increased fuel costs have made off shore production less attractive for some manufacturers. Terra Footwear had invested heavily into new equipment and technology at their Markdale site, which made it the logical location for increased productivity. They are currently in the process of hiring more staff.

In July, St. Clair Technologies, a manufacturer of auto wire harnesses, began operations in Owen Sound. They initially hired 20 to 25 people, but hope to expand their workforce if economic conditions warrant. Owen Sound previously had a company that produced wire harnesses for the auto industry.



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However it closed in July 2001, causing the lay off of almost 200 people. St. Clair Technologies decided in part to relocate to Owen Sound because of the skilled labour that still remains in the area.

Creemore Springs Brewery was purchased by Molson Breweries, in April 2005. There is no immediate indication of how the sale would affect staffing levels.

Collingwood's former Nacan starch plant is one of five sites approved for production of ethanol gas. Power Steam Energy Services of Toronto was awarded \$7.3 million in federal funding to begin production by the spring of 2006. Initially, 50 people will be hired, with the possibility of doubling the workforce during the first year of operation. Over 100 people were laid off when the Nacan plant closed in November 2004.

Owen Sound's RBW Graphics hired a number of new employees in response to newly installed printing presses.

Sensor Technology of Collingwood, manufacturer of equipment used in underwater and geophysical exploration was recently awarded a 12-month contract by the Canadian Space Agency to develop geophysical instruments for use on Mars.

Public Administration

The Walkerton Clean Water Centre opened at the end of May. The centre will provide training on the proper management of drinking water systems. Currently there are only two staff members, but this is expected to increase to 13 by next year.

Arran-Elderslie unionized workers reached a three-year deal with the municipality. The contract calls for an overall 3.0% wage increase. Hourly rates of pay were also adjusted to be more in line with similar sized local municipalities.

Tourism

Owen Sound's tourist centre had a 40.0% increase in visitors this spring, over the spring of 2004. Most of the increased tourism comes from outside Canada. The City's tourism manager predicts that 2005 will be a "solid tourism season" for the entire area.





LABOUR FORCE TRENDS

Ontario's labour force expanded during the second quarter, resulting in a noticeable increase in people working full-time. It was primarily fuelled by people entering the labour force after a period of absence. The unemployment rate declined by 0.2% as the number of people finding new jobs outpaced growth in the labour force. Typically, gains in employment during this period of time are heavily influenced by youth working more hours during the summer months. On a yearly basis, Ontario's population increased by almost 178,000 people, with over half entering the work force. Close to 54,000 people found full-time work, while the remaining 40,000 worked part-time hours.

	April to June	January to March	April to June	Quarter/Quarter Change Absolute		Year/Year	Change
	2005	2005	2004			Abso	lute
Population 15+('000)	10045.4	9998.4	9867.7	47	0.5%	177.7	1.8%
Labour Force ('000)	6894.9	6718.8	6799.9	176.1	2.6%	95	1.4%
Employed ('000)	6426.9	6248.4	6333	178.5	2.9%	93.9	1.5%
Full-time ('000)	5266.2	5019.3	5212.4	246.9	4.9%	53.8	1.0%
Part-time ('000)	1160.7	1229.1	1120.6	-68.4	-5.6%	40.1	3.6%
Unemployed ('000)	468	470.4	466.8	-2.4	-0.5%	1.2	0.3%
Not in Labour Force ('000)	3150.5	3279.6	3067.8	-129.1	-3.9%	82.7	2.7%
Participation Rate (%)	68.6	67.2	68.9	1.4		-0.3	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.8	7	6.9	-0.2		-0.1	
Employment Rate (%)	64	62.5	64.2	1.5		-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

Stratford-Bruce Peninsula experienced a relatively weak spring expansion in the second quarter of 2005. Labour force and employment levels showed their smallest second quarter increases since the current time series began in 1987. They flattened out early in the quarter, following a fairly steep decline since last fall. The normal spring expansion had begun to take hold by the end of the quarter. The modest increase in employment compared with the first quarter, combined with little change in labour force participation, trimmed the unemployment rate from 5.2% to 4.8%. Youth employment rose sharply over the quarter, as students entered the labour market to begin summer jobs. However, a drop in the number of prime-aged workers offset this growth. The youth unemployment rate dropped from 16.1% to 11.9%.

Stratford-Bruce Peninsula continued to show losses compared with a year earlier, as employment levels returned to normal levels following an unusual expansion last year. Employment was down by 9.4%, or 15,000 workers, from its second quarter 2004 level. However, a similar drop in labour force participants meant that the unemployment rate was up by only half a percentage point, from 4.3%. In contrast, the area's participation and employment rates were down by about seven percentage points each. While the weak spring expansion was a contributing factor, the magnitude of theses changes reflects the uncharacteristically sharp rise in labour force and employment levels that were reported last summer, and peaked last October. The correction which followed over the next six months returned labour force and employment to their second quarter 2003 levels.



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	April to June	January to March	April to June	Quarter/Quarter Change		Year/Year	Change
	2005	2005	2004	Abso	Absolute		lute
Population 15+ ('000)	243.3	242.5	240.7	0.8	0.3%	2.6	1.1%
Labour Force ('000)	157	156.8	172.3	0.2	0.1%	-15.3	-8.9%
Employed ('000)	149.5	148.5	165	1	0.7%	-15.5	-9.4%
Full-time ('000)	118.3	119.2	130	-0.9	-0.8%	-11.7	-9.0%
Part-time ('000)	31.2	29.3	35	1.9	6.5%	-3.8	-10.9%
Unemployed ('000)	7.5	8.2	7.4	-0.7	-8.5%	0.1	1.4%
Not in Labour Force ('000)	86.3	85.7	68.3	0.6	0.7%	18	26.4%
Participation Rate (%)	64.5	64.7	71.6	-0.2		-7.1	
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.8	5.2	4.3	-0.4		0.5	
Employment Rate (%)	61.4	61.2	68.6	0.2		-7.2	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

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Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie's labour market surged ahead in the second quarter, propelled by summer job gains for youth. Employment rose by 3.1% or 19,500, with full-time job gains accounting for nearly all of that. However, a record high increase in labour force participants absorbed all of the job growth. Youth accounted for most of the increase, although the number of prime-aged participants, age 25 to 54, also rose. This nudged the unemployment rate up to 5.5% from 5.3% last quarter. While the rate had been rising steadily since the beginning of the year, it began to drop at the end of the quarter. The youth unemployment rate dropped to 11.6% from 12.5% last quarter.

The larger than normal expansion this quarter maintained last quarter's sharp increases from labour force and employment levels a year earlier. Employment was up by 5.2%, or almost 32,000 workers above its second quarter 2004 level. Ontario's employment level was up by 1.5% by comparison. Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie has enjoyed a period of above average growth since last summer. The vibrant labour market has brought an even larger increase in job seekers, which pushed the unemployment rate up from 5.0% a year ago. Still, labour force and employment growth have outpaced the increase in working age population, raising the participation rate and employment rate by about two percentage points each. The employment rate hit its highest level since January 1990, while the participation rate reached a 13 year high.

Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie / Economic Region 540 Area Labour Force Trends

	April to June	January to March	April to June		Quarter/Quarter Change		Change
	2005	2005	2004	Absolute		Abso	lute
Population 15+ (000)	928.3	922.6	907.1	5.7	0.6%	21.2	2.3%
Labour Force ('000)	678.8	657	642.3	21.8	3.3%	36.5	5.7%
Employed ('000)	641.5	622	610	19.5	3.1%	31.5	5.2%
Full-time ('000)	522.1	503.5	498.2	18.6	3.7%	23.9	4.8%
Part-time ('000)	119.3	118.6	111.8	0.7	0.6%	7.5	6.7%
Unemployed ('000)	37.3	35	32.3	2.3	6.6%	5	15.5%
Not in Labour Force ('000)	249.5	265.6	264.8	-16.1	-6.1%	-15.3	-5.8%
Participation Rate (%)	73.1	71.2	70.8	1.9		2.3	
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.5	5.3	5	0.2		0.5	
Employment Rate (%)	69.1	67.4	67.2	1.7		1.9	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

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Employment by Industry

On a quarterly basis, the numbers of new Ontario jobs was almost evenly split between the Goods-Producing Sector (GPS) and the Service-Producing Sector (SPS). Construction accounted for about half of all GPS jobs, followed by agriculture and manufacturing. New SPS jobs were almost evenly distributed across its many sub-industries. The health care and social services industry recorded, at 10,000 the largest decline in jobs. Compared to a year ago, only SPS recorded a net gain in new jobs. The majority occurred in the trade; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing; educational services and public administration industries. New GPS jobs in construction and agriculture were offset by job losses in manufacturing and utilities.

OntarioArea Employment by Industry ('000)

	April to June	January to March	April to June	Quarter/ Chai		Year/Year	Change
	2005	2005	2004	Absolute		Absolute	
Total	6426.9	6248.4	6333	178.5	2.9%	93.9	1.5%
Goods-Producing Sector	1659	1578.2	1659.7	80.8	5.1%	-0.7	0.0%
Agriculture	93.6	74	82.7	19.6	26.5%	10.9	13.2%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	34.5	33.5	35.7	1	3.0%	-1.2	-3.4%
Utilities	50.9	48	61	2.9	6.0%	-10.1	-16.6%
Construction	398.9	353.1	364.9	45.8	13.0%	34	9.3%
Manufacturing	1081.1	1069.7	1115.4	11.4	1.1%	-34.3	-3.1%
Services-Producing Sector	4767.9	4670.2	4673.3	97.7	2.1%	94.6	2.0%
Trade	989.5	971.3	947.4	18.2	1.9%	42.1	4.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	291	291.6	306.2	-0.6	-0.2%	-15.2	-5.0%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	455.4	441.9	425.8	13.5	3.1%	29.6	7.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	434.4	436.3	435.1	-1.9	-0.4%	-0.7	-0.2%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	272.7	258.1	279.4	14.6	5.7%	-6.7	-2.4%
Educational Services	440.2	420.8	403.5	19.4	4.6%	36.7	9.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	624.5	635.1	637.7	-10.6	-1.7%	-13.2	-2.1%
Information, culture and recreation	301.7	289.5	303.2	12.2	4.2%	-1.5	-0.5%
Accommodation and food services	367.5	359.3	369	8.2	2.3%	-1.5	-0.4%
Other services	260	257	259.8	3	1.2%	0.2	0.1%
Public administration	331	309.3	306.1	21.7	7.0%	24.9	8.1%

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





Seasonal hiring in agriculture and construction, as well as an increase within educational services created most of the job growth this quarter. However, the area saw employment levels fall in utilities; manufacturing; health care and social assistance; and other services. Employment levels in these industries have been dropping since last fall, when the current trend began.

Most industries showed lower employment levels than they did a year ago. Construction; health care and social assistance; and other services recorded the largest declines. For most of the industries showing losses, employment levels peaked last fall. Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing produced the only noteworthy increase in workers. That increase reflects employment growth in the first quarter of this year.

Stratford - Bruce Peninsula / Economic Region 580Area Employment by Industry ('000)

	April to June	January to March	April to June		/Quarter Inge	Year/Year	Change
	2005	2005	2004	Absolute		Absolute	
Total	149.5	148.5	165	1	0.7%	-15.5	-9.4%
Goods-Producing Sector	61	59.7	65.2	1.3	2.2%	-4.2	-6.4%
Agriculture	11.7	8	11	3.7	46.3%	0.7	6.4%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas							
Utilities	5.4	7.3	7.2	-1.9	-26.0%	-1.8	-25.0%
Construction	11	9.2	14.6	1.8	19.6%	-3.6	-24.7%
Manufacturing	31.3	34.7	32.1	-3.4	-9.8%	-0.8	-2.5%
Services-Producing Sector	88.5	88.9	99.7	-0.4	-0.4%	-11.2	-11.2%
Trade	23.2	23	23.1	0.2	0.9%	0.1	0.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	7	6.5	7.4	0.5	7.7%	-0.4	-5.4%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	6.5	7.4	4.7	-0.9	-12.2%	1.8	38.3%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	3.1	3.2	5.4	-0.1	-3.1%	-2.3	-42.6%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	2.5	2.7	3.4	-0.2	-7.4%	-0.9	-26.5%
Educational Services	9.1	6.8	8.9	2.3	33.8%	0.2	2.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	14.6	15.7	19.4	-1.1	-7.0%	-4.8	-24.7%
Information, culture and recreation	5.4	4.9	6	0.5	10.2%	-0.6	-10.0%
Accommodation and food services	7.6	7.2	7.8	0.4	5.6%	-0.2	-2.6%
Other services	6.1	7.5	9.2	-1.4	-18.7%	-3.1	-33.7%
Public administration	3.3	3.9	4.5	-0.6	-15.4%	-1.2	-26.7%

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

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Employment levels increased across most industries this quarter. The largest gains came from trade, and transportation and warehousing. Manufacturing, and professional, scientific and technical services also showed sizable increases. Construction employment dropped the most, which was unexpected for this time of year. Employment peaked last quarter following a rapid expansion in the second half of 2004.

Most industries also increased their workforces compared with a year ago. Trade dominated this growth, adding more than 13,000 workers. Employment in that industry surged in the second half of 2004. In contrast, both health care and social assistance, and public administration showed noteworthy declines in workers. The drop within health care and social assistance is largely the result of a correction in the fourth quarter of 2004, following a spike in employment during the first half of the year. Employment in public administration is down from historically high levels last summer.

	April to June	January to March	April to June	Quarter/ Cha		Year/Year	Change
	2005	2005	2004	Absolute		Absolute	
Total	641.5	622	610	19.5	3.1%	31.5	5.2%
Goods-Producing Sector	209.8	207	200	2.8	1.4%	9.8	4.9%
Agriculture	13.3	13.1	8.9	0.2	1.5%	4.4	49.4%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas							
Utilities	3.7	1.5	1.9	2.2	146.7%	1.8	94.7%
Construction	47.2	51.9	42.3	-4.7	-9.1%	4.9	11.6%
Manufacturing	143.8	139.6	145.1	4.2	3.0%	-1.3	-0.9%
Services-Producing Sector	431.7	415.1	410	16.6	4.0%	21.7	5.3%
Trade	99.9	94.8	86.5	5.1	5.4%	13.4	15.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	29.3	22.9	24.6	6.4	27.9%	4.7	19.1%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	35.5	37.1	29.1	-1.6	-4.3%	6.4	22.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	31.2	26.5	30.3	4.7	17.7%	0.9	3.0%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	25	23.7	22.8	1.3	5.5%	2.2	9.6%
Educational Services	45.5	46.1	47.5	-0.6	-1.3%	-2	-4.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	56.3	56	63.4	0.3	0.5%	-7.1	-11.2%
Information, culture and recreation	23.1	21.3	19.1	1.8	8.5%	4	20.9%
Accommodation and food services	38.1	39.7	36.5	-1.6	-4.0%	1.6	4.4%
Other services	25.4	23.6	23.7	1.8	7.6%	1.7	7.2%
Public administration	22.3	23.4	26.3	-1.1	-4.7%	-4	-15.2%

Kitchener - Waterloo - Barrie / Economic Region 540Area Employment by Industry ('000)

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 Claim Load

The number of people in receipt of regular E.I. benefits was lower at the end of June compared to March 2005 and June 2004. Many local seasonal jobs begin during the period of April to June, which has a noticeable impact on quarterly E.I. claim load figures; especially for men. This year, there are fewer unemployed people in the manufacturing sector than a year ago.

Regular Employment Insurance Claimants - Owen Sound Management Area

	April to June 2005		January to March 2005			April to June 2004			
Area	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Owen Sound HRCC	3195	1192	2003	4215	1357	2858	3548	1282	2266
Management Area									

Source: HRCC administrative data C-356





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 employed 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: <u>http://www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/index.htm</u>



