



Labour Market Bulletin

Service Canada Centre of Canada

Thunder Bay

~ An Analysis of the Thunder Bay Area Labour Market ~ April - June 2006 ~

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The Thunder Bay SCC Labour Market Bulletin is a quarterly report produced by the area Labour Market Information Analyst. This bulletin and other LMI products can also be found on our Web site. (Aussi disponible en français).

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Note: In preparing this Review, 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 Review 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 Review does not necessarily reflect official policies of Service Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS

There was good news and bad news for the labour markets of Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario as summer approached.

Employment figures improved throughout the region. While unemployment rates increased from last quarter, this was due to people returning to the labour force. While this is to be expected over the summer months, it can be seen as a sign of some confidence in the labour market.

Even so, conditions remained significantly weaker compared to the same period last year.

Other indicators were also positive. EI claim load figures dropped to the same level as last year. Advertised opportunities provided the highest quarterly total in over two years.

The shadow of the forestry crisis continues to hang over the region. Talks continue on a number of fronts to save threatened mills, but no final outcomes have occurred to date.

EI claim load falls back in second quarter

At same level year over year

Opportunities continue to show improvement through second quarter of 2006

Third consecutive quarter of job growth.

In the Labour Force Survey:

- **Positive signs in Thunder Bay**
Conditions weaker year over year
- **Welcome job creation in the Northwest**
Still highest unemployment rate in Ontario

For the purpose of this publication, the **Thunder Bay SCC Area** includes the area ranging from English River in the west up to Marathon and Manitouwadge in the east. It includes all of the Northern Communities up to Webequie



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Labour Market News

Forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas

Funding for fish

The Dorion Fish Culture Station has received a pledge of \$13.2 million from the Ministry of Natural Resources for upgrades that will allow the station to produce up to 1.4 million fish per year. It is the only hatchery serving the Northwest and western Lake Superior. Fish stations are used by the ministry to maintain fish populations and support Ontario's fishing industry.

New agreement

The 240 employees at the Lac des Iles mine reached a three-year collective agreement with North American Palladium. The new contract will give the workers a 2% wage increase in the first two years of the contract and 2.5% in the final year.

Exploration in region

This summer will see significant exploration in the Manitowadge area. At least 30 mining projects between Greenstone and Manitowadge will be actively mapped, prospected or drilled over the next few months. Strong base and precious metal prices are bringing renewed interest to the area. Inco has been among the companies seen in the area. Even though the region is known for its copper, zinc and gold, Inco is looking for nickel deposits. Manitowadge is maintaining its infrastructure in hopes that another mine will eventually be set up in the vicinity.

Mining Rocks!

The Ontario Mining Association is promoting mining to high school students as a high-tech job. It is expected that there will be over 80,000 openings over the next 10 years across the province due to retirements.

Utilities

NWO coal plants to remain

The Ontario government announced that it was shelving plans to close coal plants in Northwestern Ontario on the advice of the Ontario Power Authority.

SynFuel pulls out

SynFuel has put its plans for gasification plants in Northwestern Ontario on hold as a result of the current difficulties being experienced by area pulp mills. With the closure of Cascades and the shutdown of one of Bowater's machines, SynFuel found itself without industrial customers. It is possible that the plans could be resurrected if a buyer for Cascades is found that is interested in having a co-generation plant. Ironically, the plants might have provided some assistance with high energy costs for local mills; however, the mills could not afford to commit to a 10-year contract that would be required before the plant was built.

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 *Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal*, the *Thunder Bay Post*, tbsource.com, the *Marathon Mercury*, the *Manitouwadge Echo*, the *Nipi gon Red Rock Gazette*, the *Times-Star* (Greenstone) and the *Terrace-Bay Schreiber News*.

Call for regional energy pricing

A campaign to bring regional-based electricity pricing to Northwestern Ontario continues. Municipal, union and business leaders in the region, including the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union, have called for lower electricity prices in the region given that the cost of generating power in Northwestern Ontario is significantly less than elsewhere in the province. High energy costs have been consistently cited as one of the major reasons for the decline of the forestry industry in Northwestern Ontario. A study into the pros and cons of the alternate system was commissioned from the Independent Electricity System.

Manufacturing

Rail car challenges

The decision by the Toronto Transit Commission to 'sole source' its contract for new subway cars with Bombardier has raised controversy. Some Toronto councilors and media have called for open bidding for the contract. Last fall, the city of Ottawa asked to be allowed to accept tenders for its light rail car contract from all interested bidders rather than deal solely with Bombardier. Ultimately, the contract was awarded to German-based Siemens, which will build the cars in its California plant. Thunder Bay residents participated in a letter-writing campaign in support of the TTC's decision and a website, www.madeincanadabiz.com, provides information on the contract negotiations.

Buchanan negotiates for Terrace Bay mill

Buchanan Forest Products has made an offer to purchase Neenah Paper's Terrace Bay mill. The mill has been shut down since February. The mill, citing a lack of wood fibre caused when its 250 woodlands workers went on strike, closed the mill, putting another 400 inside mill employees out of work.

The mill would be a good fit for Buchanan as it sends the wood chips from its Longlac and Nakina mills to the Terrace Bay mill. Currently the sawmills have a surplus of chips due to the shut down. Buchanan recently laid off 150 workers at Long Lake Forest Products because of the drop in demand for wood fibre.

The July 1st deadline for completing the conditions for the transfer came without an agreement being reached between Buchanan and the striking woodlands workers. It was agreed



that talks between Buchanan and Neenah Papers would continue past the deadline date. There was speculation that Buchanan would be able to reopen and run the plant without the woodlands workers as there is a glut of wood chips in the region, including at Buchanan's own mills, which could be used for the time being.

Cascades progress

The group interested in purchasing the idle Cascades mill in Thunder Bay received a letter of intent from Cascades to begin negotiations. This indicates that their business plan was deemed acceptable to the company and they will now begin a search for potential investors. It is also possible that SynFuel could revisit its plans to build a gasification power plant on site. Most of the issues that led to the mill closure remain: high energy prices and a rising Canadian dollar.

Bowater layoff figures

The union representing workers at Bowater's Thunder Bay mill have released final figures related to the shutdown of the kraft mill. Of the 220 workers impacted by the shutdown, 70 are eligible for retirement packages, leaving 150 of the workers permanently laid off. The shutdown was part of Bowater's expressed need to cut 20 percent of its workforce.

Mill and union work to save mill

Abitibi continues to assess its Thunder Bay mill as it struggles with high electricity costs and a strong Canadian dollar. Mill managers and union leaders have met to discuss changes that would make the mill more profitable by cutting operation costs. A similar approach was used with the company's Kenora mill, however, it was unsuccessful and the mill was ultimately closed. The Thunder Bay mill currently employs 260 mill workers.

Trade

New grocery store in Geraldton

WestFair Foods is preparing for the opening of its new store in Geraldton. The 25 people currently working at the existing Extra Foods store in town are expected to transfer to the new store and the company held a job fair to hire 30 additional people.

Transportation & warehousing

New deal for grain handlers

Thunder Bay's 650 grain handlers voted to accept a new three-year deal that will see them get an annual three percent salary increase for the duration of the contract. A major issue in negotiations was pensions and lost pension credits. The union was unable to arrange a return of lost credits. However, the company agreed to "bridge benefits" to assist workers until they receive CPP and OAS benefits.

Improved Port numbers

The Thunder Bay Port Authority is reporting increases in port

traffic in 2006. So far this year, the port has seen a 17 percent increase in activity compared to the same time last year. As well as increased shipments of grain, coal and general cargo, there has been an increase in the number of vessels in port.

Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing

Hold on to equity

Lending institutions are advising mortgage holders in Northwestern Ontario to hang on to their houses if they can. In towns like Terrace Bay, which have been hit hard by mill shutdowns, people are holding on to their homes even if they have left town to work elsewhere. It would be difficult to sell homes in the current situation, so owners face losing equity in their homes if they sell for a small price or default on their mortgages. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has not yet seen an increase in defaulted mortgages in Northwestern Ontario. They speculate that many homeowners in the area do not have mortgages as they probably have owned their homes for more than 20 years.

Professional, scientific and technical services

PARO hits the road

The PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise received funding from FedNor to buy a van and take its services to communities throughout Northwestern Ontario. The group provides women with business assistance through workshops, mentoring and counselling. The group also intends to stop in First Nations communities if there is a demand.

Employment agency website

The Employment Resource Committee launched a website designed to share links to employment agency sites. The site, www.employmentresourcecommittee.com, lists groups that can help with career decision making and job search and life skills. The committee is made up of various employment agencies, training and resource groups including Anishinabek Employment & Training Services, and Yes Employment.

Educational services

New elementary school planned

Thunder Bay city council has given conditional approval for a new public elementary school to be built off Woodcrest Road in the north ward. The school will be part of a new subdivision in the area. The location of the new school should allow over 100 students to walk to school rather than be bussed.

College expands program

The Job Connect Centre at Confederation College has expanded its services to include adult clients as well as youths. The Centre will continue to provide services aimed at the 16 to 24 age group. In addition, any interested resident may access its services and programs. Services include resume writing and job bank, skills upgrading and high school equivalency programs. The change in focus came after a consultation with



local unions concerned about keeping displaced workers in Northwestern Ontario. There are Job Connect Centres in Thunder Bay, Nipigon, Marathon and Geraldton.

Dual-credit program

Students at secondary schools in Thunder Bay completed a pilot project that gives them dual high school-college credits in the hospitality services program. Students considered at risk of dropping out received one semester of hands-on training, which gave them four high school credits and one college credit. The provincial government is expected to introduce a policy encouraging projects such as this as a means of encouraging students to explore a variety of career paths, not just university. Other Northwestern Ontario school boards are considering similar programs in other fields such as construction and forestry-related occupations.

Funding cuts impact EAs

The Ontario Secondary Teachers' Federation is concerned that funding cuts affecting the Superior Greenstone District School Board will result in fewer education aides in the classroom to assist students at risk. Provincial funding has been reduced due to a decrease in enrolment in the board area.

Health care & social assistance

Support for research centre

Ontario Premier Dalton McGinty announced \$2.2 million to retro-fit Thunder Bay's former Cancer Centre for the proposed new cancer and cardiac research centre. The city has already put aside \$5 million to help fund the centre that proponents claim will create hundreds of jobs for the city. The Premier also suggested that an additional \$12 million could be provided by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund. Supporters are confident that the necessary federal funding will be supplied. An industry partner, either Siemens Medical, General Electric, or Philips Medical, will contribute between \$7 million and \$9.2 million for the project.

More NWO family health teams

The Ministry of Health has announced four more Northwestern Ontario family health teams, including clinics in Greenstone and the Fort William First Nation. The clinics will put salaried doctors, nurse practitioners and other health professionals together under one roof. The Fort William health team could include a mobile service for aboriginal patients on reserves outside of Thunder Bay. It is hoped that family health teams in under-serviced areas such as Greenstone and Marathon will make it easier to attract physicians.

Deal reached

Hospital professionals across Ontario have agreed to a three-year deal. The contract will give lab technologists, pharmacists, diagnostic imaging technicians, physiotherapists and other paramedicals wage increases and improved job security language. There are 320 of these workers at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

First class from joint program

The first class of nurses graduated from the single stream program run by Lakehead University and Confederation College. The program is different from other joint nursing programs in that it is actually one stream between the two schools rather than two separate streams that graduate together.

Information, culture & recreation

American tourism

The impending requirement that American travelers will need a passport in order to return to the U.S. could have a negative impact on tourism in Northwestern Ontario. The requirement will come into effect in 2007 for air travel and 2008 for land travel. According to City of Thunder Bay data, U.S. tourism has declined 22 percent over the past three decades. While American sportsmen continue to come to the region, other U.S. tourists have cited high gas prices, difficulties in crossing the border and fears about terrorism as reasons for limiting travel to Canada.

Rock the Fort

Despite fears that damage caused by winter flooding would delay its opening, Fort William Historical Park was able to open on schedule on the May long weekend. Most of the damage to buildings was found to be cosmetic. Buildings with structural damage remained closed until repairs could be completed.

In June, the Fort hosted the second annual Rock the Fort, a three-day concert festival. The festival sold 15,000 weekend passes and a survey of those purchasing tickets indicated that over 12 percent were from outside of Thunder Bay. Officials estimate that the festival generated between \$2.5 million and \$3 million for the local economy.

Accommodation and food services

Smoke free across province

With the implementation of the Smoke Free Ontario Act on May 31st, all businesses in the province must be smoke free. This impacts bars and restaurants in a number of communities surrounding Thunder Bay that have welcomed smokers since the implementation of the city's no-smoking bylaw in 2004. For now, restaurants and bingo halls on Fort William First Nation land are expected to continue to offer smoking as they will be exempt from the ban. However, the Union of Ontario Indians passed a resolution for member reserves to work toward becoming smoke free. While maintaining that the provincial legislation does not apply to reserves, it is the intention of the Union to meet the spirit of the legislation by having reserves create their own regulations.



Public administration

Report on impact of forestry crisis

The North Superior Training Board released a report describing the extent of employment losses in Northwestern Ontario over the past nine months. The report, *Impact of Closures and Layoffs in the District of Thunder Bay*, details how the loss of more than 2,000 forestry and mining jobs across Northwestern Ontario has affected the economies and service demands of towns across the region.

According to the report 1,655 forestry jobs have been lost since September of 2005 as well as an estimated 400 and 1,000 related woodlands jobs. This compares to a total of 500 forestry jobs lost between 2001 and 2003.

The report provides suggestions as to how the towns can provide assistance to laid off and displaced workers including increased counselling and training resources.

New commission to help economy

The City of Thunder Bay formed the Economic Development Commission to improve and invigorate the local economy. The commission will have access to a development fund and a project initiation fund for use in supporting economic and business projects in the community. The commission will also be responsible for hiring an economic development manager for the city, which has been without one for nearly a year.

Greenstone 911

The 9-1-1 emergency telephone service will become available to Greenstone and nearby First Nations communities by the end of the year. Residents currently need to call local phone numbers in an emergency.

LU pushes for new arena

Lakehead University has asked city council to consider building a new 6,000 to 7,000 seat multi-use entertainment, sports and convention centre. LU believes the facility would attract top entertainers and sports tournaments. In June, Lakehead announced that the university has been awarded the right to host the 2009 and 2010 University Cup. Officials hope the announcement would encourage the city to take action on a new arena.

Marina development

The city of Thunder Bay is moving forward with its plans for a waterfront village at Marina Park. A waterfront committee will work towards implementing the recommendations of the best-use study, which was presented to council in January. The city hopes to start construction by late 2007.

National forum on job barriers

Thunder Bay hosted the first of six national forums on job barriers for aboriginals. The discussion centred on how the area's employers and aboriginals often can't connect: employers do not know how to contact aboriginal hiring agencies and many aboriginals don't understand the application and hiring process. The forum, which hoped to clear up false attitudes and stereotypes, was hosted by aboriginal employment firms and the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada. There are seven aboriginal employment groups in Thunder Bay.

NOMA committee

Northwestern Ontario leaders are looking for ways to improve the economic situation in the region. At the annual general meeting of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, a committee was formed to make suggestions to the government on improving the economy. The committee, made up of mayors, councillors and administrators from across the region, will look at issues impacting the region, including energy, tourism, housing and governance. With respect to governance, the committee will consider options that would see the people living in the region have more input and control over its dealings. This could be a municipal act along the lines of the City of Toronto Act, or making NOMA a governing body with the power to distribute funds to local municipalities.

Small Business Survey

Thunder Bay Ventures released the results of a Small Business Opinion Survey, which showed that business leaders expect the city's economy to decline more over the next year. Nearly one-third of the respondents were unsure if their business would survive and 13 percent expect to lay off staff in the next twelve months. Most believed that health care, technology and education had the greater growth potential. Among the factors hurting the economy, the survey pointed to municipal taxes, high cost of electricity, gas and insurance, and the Charity Casino.



Labour Supply and Demand

Employment Insurance Claim Load

EI claim load falls back in second quarter

Note: At this time, claim load data is only available for the broad geographic area served by the Thunder Bay Service Canada Centre. This area includes Thunder Bay, Marathon, Geraldton and the Surrounding Area.

The Employment Insurance claim load in the Thunder Bay SCC area fell over the course of the second quarter, resulting in a lower total figure compared to the first quarter.

Both male and female claimants decreased this quarter: males by nearly 11 percent and females by 16 percent. All age groups saw a decrease this quarter as well.

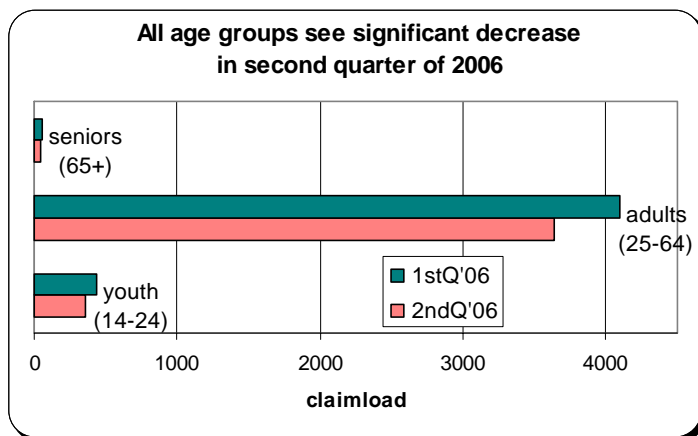
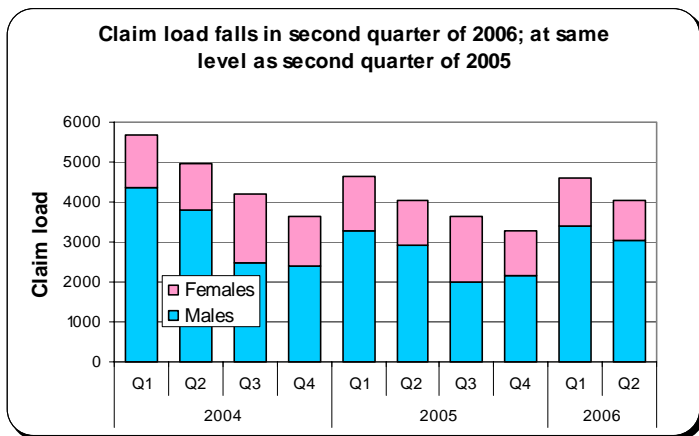
Employment Insurance claim load: The number of individuals with an active claim for regular Employment Insurance benefits. Data on Employment Insurance claimants is not an accurate measure of the absolute level of unemployment. The data does not include unemployed individuals who: (1) - have not met the program's eligibility requirements or (2) - have exhausted their benefit entitlement.

The decrease in claim load brings the area's claim load total down to the same level as the second quarter of 2005. Male claimants increased slightly by 3.3 percent; however, female claimants fell by nearly 10 percent, offsetting that increase.

Regular Employment Insurance Claimants – Thunder Bay Area

	April to June 2006			January to March 2006			April to June 2005		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Thunder Bay SCC Area	4,040	3,021	1,019	4,598	3,383	1,215	4,052	2,924	1,127

Source: SCC administrative data C-356



Employment Opportunities

Opportunities continue to show improvement through second quarter of 2006

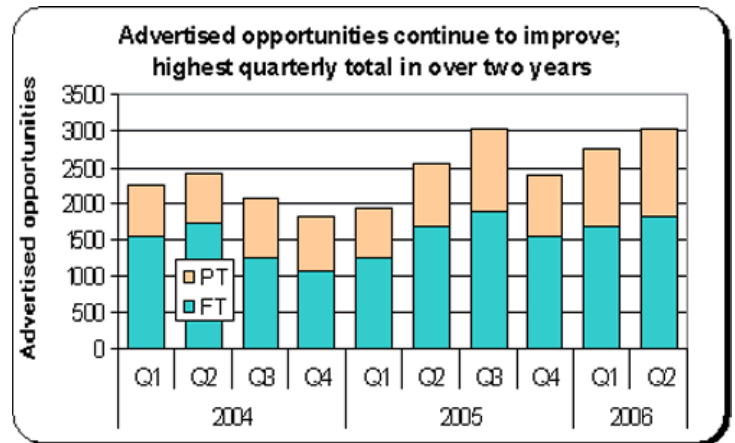
For the third consecutive quarter, the Thunder Bay SCC area saw an increase in advertised opportunities.

All areas saw an increase in vacancies this quarter with the exception of Geraldton, where a significant drop in part-time positions offset strong growth in full-time vacancies to result in a total comparable to last quarter.

The majority of advertised opportunities in the first quarter continue to be in **sales and service**. These vacancies make up over 45 percent of those found in the region. Positions in **Health** and **Natural & Applied Sciences** appear to be on the upswing, possibly reflecting a shift in the area's industrial focus.

Once again, the total number of advertised opportunities in the Thunder Bay SCC area was higher when compared to the same period last year. However, Marathon and Geraldton both registered overall decreases in vacancies year-over-year because of significant drops in full-time positions.

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.



Employment Opportunities – Thunder Bay Area

	April to June 2006			January to March 2006			April to June 2005		
	Total	F/T	P/T	Total	F/T	P/T	Total	F/T	P/T
Thunder Bay	2,645	1,588	1,057	2,392	1,480	912	2,181	1,411	770
Geraldton Area	125	82	43	126	65	61	158	131	27
Marathon Area	113	61	52	107	61	46	120	90	30
Surrounding Area	146	90	56	126	80	46	86	64	22
Thunder Bay SCC Area	3,029	1,821	1,208	2,751	1,686	1,065	2,545	1,696	849

Source: SCC vacancies and newspaper want ads

Employment Opportunities by Major Occupation Group Thunder Bay SCC Area

	April to June 2006	January to March 2006	April to June 2005
0 Management	120	152	140
1 Business administration	392	454	269
2 Natural & applied sciences	152	106	113
3 Health	152	155	95
4 Social science and education	196	184	224
5 Culture & recreation	35	46	39
6 Sales & service	1,368	1,217	1,112
7 Trades & transport	503	367	416
8 Primary industry	75	45	112
9 Manufacturing & utilities	36	25	25

Source: SCC vacancies and newspaper want ads



Labour Force Trends

Labour force survey highlights

Positive signs in Thunder Bay

Labour market conditions in the Thunder Bay CMA improved in the second quarter of 2006, the first really positive signs in a year. Employment rose more than three percent (+2,200). A seven-percent increase in full-time employment more than compensated for a decline in the number of people working part-time. The labour force also expanded (+2,500). Since these increases were almost offsetting, there was no substantive change to the level of unemployment in the CMA. Consequently, the unemployment rate remained at 8.1%. Significantly higher than Ontario's rate of 6.0%, this was the second-highest unemployment rate among Ontario's 11 CMAs. Windsor recorded the highest unemployment rate - 8.6% - in the quarter.

Even with these gains, conditions in Thunder Bay's labour market are weaker year over year. Despite a very small increase in the working age population, the labour force and

Definitions: *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* is that portion of the working age population who, during the Labour Force Survey reference week, were either employed or unemployed. The portion of the working age population that is neither employed nor unemployed is *not in the labour force*. The *participation rate* is the percentage of the working age population that is in the labour force. The *unemployment rate* is the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed. The *employment rate* is the percentage of the working age population that is employed.

employment decreased over the past four quarters. Thunder Bay's unemployment rate is slightly higher year over year, up from 7.9% in the second quarter of 2005 to the current 8.1%.

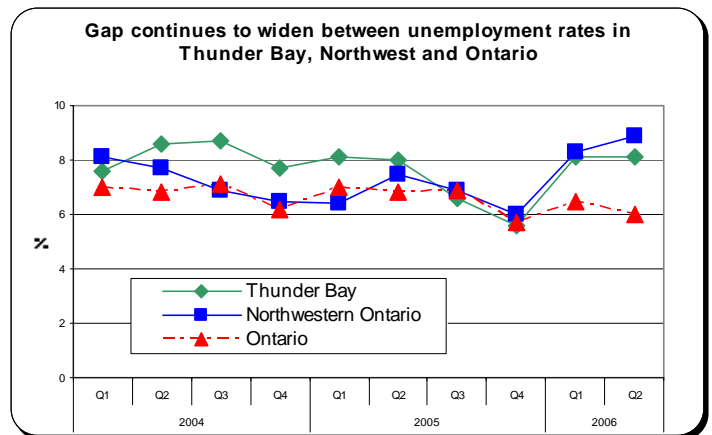
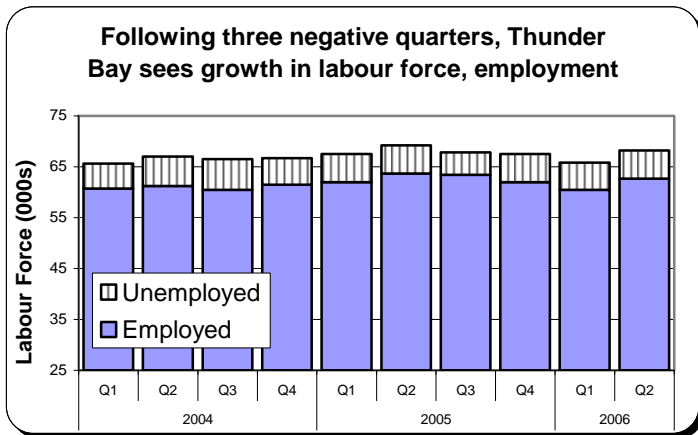
The **Thunder Bay CMA** is comprised of the City of Thunder Bay, and the Townships of Conmee, Gillies, Neebing, O'Connor, Oliver, Paipoonage and Shuniah. The Fort William 52 Reserve is excluded from this definition because Statistics Canada does not include residents of Reserves in the Labour Force Survey.

Thunder Bay Census Metropolitan Area Labour Force Trends

	April to June 2006	January to March 2006	April to June 2005	Change Quarter/Quarter		Change Year/Year	
				Absolute	%	Absolute	%
Population 15 +	104,300	104,200	103,700	100	0.1	600	0.6
Labour Force	68,200	65,700	70,800	2,500	3.8	-2,600	-3.7
Employed	62,700	60,500	65,200	2,200	3.6	-2,500	-3.8
Full-time	49,300	46,100	48,800	3,200	6.9	500	1.0
Part-time	13,300	14,400	16,400	-1,100	-7.6	-3,100	-18.9
Unemployed	5,500	5,300	5,600	200	3.8	-100	-1.8
Not in Labour Force	36,100	38,500	32,900	-2,400	-6.2	3,200	9.7
Participation Rate	65.4%	63.1%	68.3%	2.3		-2.9	
Unemployment Rate	8.1%	8.1%	7.9%	0.0		0.2	
Employment Rate	60.1%	58.1%	62.9%	2.0		-2.8	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.



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Welcome job creation in the Northwest

Despite a higher unemployment rate, labour market conditions in Northwestern Ontario showed welcome signs of improvement in the second quarter of 2006. Following five consecutive quarters of job losses, employment rose more than two percent (+2,200). More than two-thirds of these new jobs were full-time. The labour force expanded at a faster pace of three percent (+3,300). Since there were more new or returning job seekers than new jobs, unemployment increased. Consequently, Northwestern Ontario's unemployment rate climbed from 8.3% in the first quarter to 8.9%. Significantly higher than the provincial rate of 6.0%, this was the highest unemployment rate among Ontario's 11 economic regions in the second quarter. In addition, this was the highest quarterly unemployment rate posted for the region in more than five years.

In spite of these positive developments, Northwestern Ontario's labour market remains much weaker year over year. A total of 7,400 jobs were lost over the past four quarters, a

Statistics Canada's **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** is the major source of data for this Review. As relatively small sample sizes are utilized in compiling sub-provincial estimates for the survey, there is a chance of variation due to sampling error. Therefore, the reader is cautioned that small changes in some timeseries could be wholly or partially due to these statistical sampling errors, and may not necessarily reflect actual events in the labour force. Data are three-month moving averages.

For further information on the Labour Force Survey, visit Statistics Canada's website at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/3701.htm>

decline of nearly seven percent. At the same time, 6,200 individuals withdrew from the labour force, a decrease of just over five percent. Since the job loss outpaced the labour force contraction, unemployment increased. Consequently, Northwestern Ontario's unemployment rate climbed from 7.5% in the second quarter of 2005 to 8.9%.

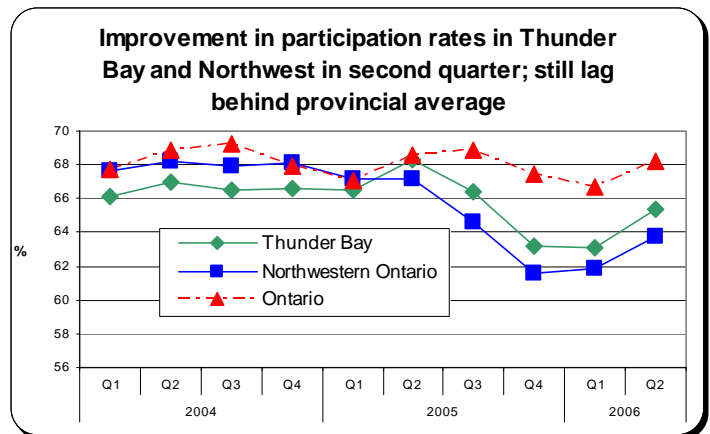
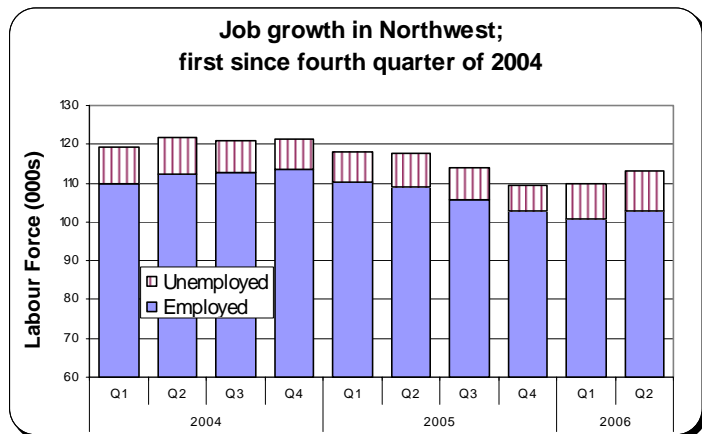
Northwestern Ontario (Economic Region 595) is comprised of three Census Divisions: the Districts of Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora.

Source: Economic Analysis & Information Directorate, Northern Ontario Region, Service Canada

Northwestern Ontario Labour Force Trends

	April to June 2006	January to March 2005	April to June 2005	Change Quarter/Quarter Absolute	Change Quarter/Quarter %	Change Year/Year Absolute	Change Year/Year %
Population 15 +	177,300	177,400	177,500	-100	-0.1	-200	-0.1
Labour Force	113,100	109,800	119,300	3,300	3.0	-6,200	-5.2
Employed	102,900	100,700	110,300	2,200	2.2	-7,400	-6.7
Full-time	80,900	79,400	82,900	1,500	1.9	-2,000	-2.4
Part-time	22,000	21,300	27,400	700	3.3	-5,400	-19.7
Unemployed	10,100	9,100	9,000	1,000	11.0	1,100	12.2
Not in Labour Force	64,200	67,600	58,200	-3,400	-5.0	6,000	10.3
Participation Rate	63.8%	61.9%	67.2%	1.9		-3.4	
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	8.3%	7.5%	0.6		1.4	
Employment Rate	58.0%	56.8%	62.1%	1.2		-4.1	

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



Note to readers:***Revisions to the LFS***

Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for the January 1987 to December 2005 period have undergone revisions. There are three reasons for the revision. First, the revision enables the use of improved population benchmarks in the LFS estimation process. These improved benchmarks provide better information on the number of non-permanent residents. There are also changes to the data for the public and private sectors from 1987 to 1999. In the past, the data on the public and private sectors for this period were based on an old definition of the public sector. The revised data better reflects the current public sector definition, and therefore result in a longer time series for analysis. Finally, the geographic coding of several small Census Agglomerations (CA) has been updated historically from 1996 urban centre boundaries to 2001 CA boundaries. This affects data from January 1987 to December 2004.

It is important to note that the changes to almost all estimates are very minor, with the exception of the public sector series and some associated industries from 1987 to 1999. Rates of unemployment, employment and participation are essentially unchanged, as are all key labour market trends. Users are cautioned that any comparisons of historical data should be done using these revised estimates.

The article "Improvements in 2006 to the LFS" ([71F0031XIE](#), free) provides further explanation for the revisions and an overview of the effect of these changes on the estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, The Daily, February 10, 2005

Employment by Industry Analysis

Readers of this quarterly labour market review may note that we have discontinued the tables and commentary on employment by industry sector as of the First Quarter, 2006. We have discontinued this content element because recent analysis indicates that the sampling error is too large to provide meaningful observation of changes in sector employment at the sub-provincial level over the short term.

