



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Sault Ste. Marie and Area

### Service Canada Centre

~ An Analysis of the Sault Ste. Marie and Area Labour Market ~ April to June 2006 ~

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

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**Note:** In preparing this bulletin, Service Canada has taken care to provide clients with labour market information from reliable sources that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since the bulletin was published. Readers are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this bulletin does not necessarily reflect official policies of Service Canada.

*An overview of the area served by the Service Canada Centre of Sault Ste. Marie, including Sault Ste. Marie, Elliot Lake, Blind River, Wawa, and St. Joseph Island.*

Labour market conditions in the Sault Ste. Marie management area continued to strengthen through the second quarter of 2006. The strong Canadian dollar and rising energy costs clouded the picture slightly, especially for smaller manufacturing entities. Michigan Maple and Arc Tube were both affected by these issues. However, larger manufacturers such as Algoma Steel and Tenaris Algoma Tubes which have had several consecutive profitable years, are both indicating substantial hiring activity on the horizon, especially in the area of skilled trades. Several national retail and restaurant chains announced plans to open in Sault Ste. Marie, showing their confidence in the economic health of the community.

Advertised job vacancies were up by over 50 per cent compared to the same time last year. Regular Employment Insurance claims continued a slow, but steady pattern of decline.

The Northeastern Ontario labour market showed modest improvement in the second quarter of 2006, but overall, remained weaker than the second quarter of 2005.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Algoma Steel reports its twelfth consecutive quarterly profit.
- ▶ Northern Breweries facing bankruptcy.
- ▶ Michigan Maple closes its Sault plant; 22 jobs lost.
- ▶ Arc Tubes closing; 65 jobs to be eliminated.
- ▶ More big-box/national restaurant chains coming to Sault Ste. Marie.
- ▶ Modest improvement in Northeastern Ontario labour market.
- ▶ Employment Insurance claimload continues to drop.
- ▶ Record level of advertised jobs for a 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.*

### **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas**

The Island Gold Project, a gold mine located 50 kilometres northeast of Wawa, is on schedule to commence operation in August 2006. The joint venture between Richmond Mines Inc. and Patricia Mining Corp. is expected to produce between 60,000 and 65,000 ounces of gold per year. It is estimated that there are close to 600,000 ounces of gold in four zones the partnership owns. The company currently employs over 100 workers.

Bio Forest Technology Inc. of Sault Ste. Marie is set to introduce its patented pesticide micro-injection tool for trees to the North American market. The EcoJet™ system delivers a concentrated dose of pesticide directly into the trunk of the infected tree. It works particularly well in trees infected with the emerald ash borer and asian longhorned beetle, which have killed over 10 million trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Southwestern Ontario. The company currently employs 11 people.

### **Utilities**

Enquest Power Corporation is still waiting to receive a certificate of approval from the Ministry of Environment before it can commence a one-year pilot project at the Sault Ste. Marie landfill site. Enquest wants to test a technology that converts municipal waste into gas, hydrogen, electricity, steam and carbon-based liquids. The process does not use combustion or incineration, but rather converts waste into energy through steam reformation. A company spokesperson states the technology Enquest is developing could reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by 90 per cent. Enquest and the Ministry of Environment are continuing discussions.

### **Manufacturing**

Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) reported its twelfth consecutive quarterly profit for the three-month period ending March 31, 2006. Net income for the first quarter of 2006 was \$32.7 million, compared to \$55 million the previous quarter and \$89.1 million for the first quarter of 2005. The reduced profit came despite record shipments of

643,000 tons of steel. Several factors contributed to the lower earnings. Tax payments were almost \$21 million higher than the fourth quarter, the company had no coke sales this quarter, and the cost of operation (raw materials, employment, energy, transportation) all increased. The price of steel dropped by \$20 a ton compared to the fourth quarter of 2005 and \$122 a ton year-over-year. Employment remains in the 3,000 range, with strategic hiring expected where needed and to replace retiring workers.

United Steelworkers Local 8748 walked off the job June 1, 2006 in their first ever strike against Tenaris Algoma Tubes. The 460 union members ignored the bargaining committee's recommendation and overwhelmingly rejected the contract, with only 19 per cent voting in favour. The work stoppage ended June 9, 2006. Primary issues were wage and an appraisal system for promotions that the union felt placed too much emphasis on subjective evaluation and not enough on seniority. The new contract calls for an 11.25 per cent increase over three years. The contract that was rejected on June 1<sup>st</sup> had a three year increase of 8.7 per cent for production workers and 7.2 per cent for maintenance workers. Tenaris Algoma Tubes is preparing to invest \$50 million into the new company. They hope to increase production from 185,000 tons to 350,000 tons annually over three years. The workforce will also be increased by over 100.

Northern Breweries and its 40 Sault Ste. Marie jobs are hanging by a thread. Chief executive officer Bill Sharpe, stated that the debt load of the company and poorer than expected sales have put the company at the edge of bankruptcy. When the company was purchased in November 2004, the new owners took on \$7 million in debt. Forecast sales of 500,000 cases annually never materialized, reportedly only hitting the 150,000 mark. Investors who had indicated they would be backing the company failed to deliver needed capital.

Northern Michigan Maple Ltd., operated by Soo Mill and Lumber Company, closed its maple wood product mill in June 2006. The company's 22 employees produced butcher blocks, kitchen counters and cribbage



boards. The company blames the high Canadian dollar, high energy costs and Ministry of Environment regulations.

Arc Tube, owned by Cooper-Standard Automotive of Novi, Michigan, will cease operations this summer. The company acquired a larger plant that makes the same product as the Sault Ste. Marie operation. The company is consolidating production at the new facility at a lower cost. Approximately 65 people will be laid off.

NorWa Manufacturing and Distribution has signed a multi-million dollar letter of intent to sell all of their operating assets to Starwood Manufacturing of Mississauga. The current five-person workforce works one shift five days a week. Production will increase to three shifts, six days a week at the Wawa facility.

### **Trade**

More big box stores are coming to Sault Ste. Marie. Future Shop and Mark's Work Warehouse will be co-located in a 32,000 square-foot building next to Wal-Mart and Home Depot. It is expected that each new store will employ between 45 and 60 full- and part-time employees.

Liquidation World, a discount retailer with over 100 stores across North America, opened a new 20,000 square-foot store in Sault Ste. Marie at the end of June. There were 28 full- and part-time jobs created.

Pino's Get Fresh IGA will be adding an additional 15,000 square-feet to its current 17,000 square-foot building. The \$4 million project is expected to be complete by the fall of 2007. The store currently employs eight full-time managers, 28 full-time employees and 77 part-time employees.

Three years after Tim Horton's expressed interest in the Wawa area, the company has been given the go-ahead to begin construction. The final hurdle, dealing with tractor-trailer parking along the highway, has been cleared up. Construction is due to begin in August 2006. No completion date has been announced.

### **Transportation and warehousing**

Algoma Central Railway Inc. (ACRI) has received \$3.6 million from Transport Canada to upgrade some of its

rail passenger cars. The funding will allow ACRI to continue operating its remote rail service between Sault Ste. Marie and Hearst. More than 9,000 passengers use the service annually.

Air Canada has added an additional flight to its Sault Ste. Marie-Toronto schedule. As of June 1, 2006 there are six daily return flights between 6 AM and midnight. Bearskin Airlines now offers 36 flights weekly to locations such as Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Ottawa.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie is committing \$157,000 to a feasibility study to find out how successful it could be as a multi-modal transportation hub. The study will be done in four stages: a market assessment, followed by an infrastructure and feasibility study, a business case, and finally, if warranted, an implementation strategy. Total cost of the study is estimated to be in the \$550,000 range, shared by the city, Fednor, Transport Canada, and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

### **Business, building and other support services**

Cross Country Automotive Services announced a significant hiring initiative. The roadside assistance centre is seeking an additional 150 to 200 employees to complement the current staff of 400. The company provides roadside assistance to General Motors, Daimler-Chrysler, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Nissan, Subaru and Toyota. New clients to be served by Cross Country include Acura, Aston Martin, Infiniti, Mercedes Benz and Volvo. The four major call centres in Sault Ste. Marie collectively announced plans to hire an additional 500 representatives this year, in addition to normal replacement needs.

### **Educational services**

White Mountain Academy of Arts in Elliot Lake closed its doors in April with the presentation of 11 graduation certificates to its final graduating class. The school had 22 full-time students but needed a minimum of 40 to qualify for funding from Heritage Canada. White Mountain employed 18 full- and part-time employees.

### **Health care and social assistance**

The Province of Ontario has increased its share of construction costs for the new Sault Area Hospital from 70 to 90 per cent. While no final amount has been announced, it is expected to cost between \$250 and \$260 million. The province is also funding 100 per cent of the



design and planning work, as well as 100 per cent of the costs for the radiation therapy centre. The municipality now has to provide all of the funding for equipment and furnishing. However it is anticipated that the city will save several million dollars under the new plan.

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

The City of Sault Ste. Marie received \$344,906 as its share of casino slot machine revenues for the period January 1, 2006 to March 31, 2006. This was \$27,612 less than the previous quarter and \$48,214 less than the same period in 2005. Payout for the 2005-2006 fiscal year totaled \$1.52 million, down from fiscal year 2004-2005 total of \$1.78 million. Revenues have declined since the June 1, 2004 smoking ban was implemented. The city is setting aside \$1 million in casino revenues annually to help pay for the new hospital. The rest of the money is being used to help with physician recruitment.

Sault Ste Marie's new sports and entertainment centre will be called the Steelback Centre. Steelback Brewery will pay \$1.35 million over a 10-year period in exchange for signage and exclusive rights to sell draft beer at the facility. Steelback, through its subsidiary, D'Angelo Brands Ltd., will also have exclusive rights to sell D'Angelo brand bottled and canned soft drinks. Fountain drinks are not included as part of the agreement. Local residents have, for the most part, welcomed the name chosen as it fits in with the city's historical reputation as a steel town. The Steelback Centre will be located in Memorial Square, named in memory of the previous arena, the Memorial Gardens and encompassing the Memorial Tower, which was retained.

Greenbelt Bingo Hall closed its doors in June 2006. Attendance had dropped since the implementation of the city's non-smoking bylaw June 1, 2004. Attendance dropped further with the July 2005 opening of the bingo hall on the Garden River First Nation, where smoking is still allowed. More than 20 bingo halls have closed since the introduction of non-smoking bylaws across Ontario. Bingo Plus in Elliot Lake is also struggling and may have to lay off seven employees in order to continue operation.

### **Accommodation and food services**

Several national restaurant chains are poised to enter the Sault Ste. Marie market. Currently Swiss Chalet is the only national restaurant chain located in the city,

excluding fast-food outlets. Boston Pizza is expected to open in November of 2006 with a staff of 100. Joey's Only seafood restaurant plans on opening a local outlet in the near future. T.G. I. Friday's is tentatively scheduled to open as part of the Borealis tourism development. An announcement is expected to be made soon regarding a national chain steakhouse to be built on Great Northern Road.

### **Tourism**

Elliot Lake continues to promote innovative ideas that increase tourist traffic in the community. Up to 3,500 tourists are expected to travel to Elliot Lake in July for a weekend of drag racing. Additionally, 1,000 team and family members of the 350 racers are expected to converge on Elliot Lake. Elliot Lake is also home to two Ontario Cycling Association races, which last year brought in over 600 competitors to the two competitions.

The St. Mary's River Boardwalk in Sault Ste. Marie will be extended easterly from city hall to the Art Gallery Plaza. The current westerly route will take you right up to the historic Sault Locks, where you can cross the canal and continue walking right up to the waters edge of the St. Mary's River rapids. The \$1.77 million construction project is expected to commence in August 2006 and be completed by the end of October 2006. The Boardwalk is considered on the city's busiest and most beautiful destinations.

Marketing efforts for Borealis, Sault Ste. Marie's \$54 million waterfront tourist development have already commenced, before a shovel hits the ground. Developer Philip Garforth has hired a marketing director, printed brochures for distribution, and made plans to attend a trade show in Mackinaw City, Michigan over the 2006 Canada Day weekend. Mackinaw gets between three and four million tourists each year and only a small portion take the 45 minute drive north to Sault Ste. Marie. Mr. Garforth plans to provide tourists with free return bus rides between Mackinaw City and Borealis. More than 42 million people live within an eight hour drive of Sault Ste. Marie. Mr. Garforth also intends on developing an agreement with a charter airline to bring some of these people to Sault Ste. Marie. Land preparation will start in August 2006 with actual constructing of the buildings to commence in the summer of 2007. Ribbon cutting is expected in the spring of 2008.





LABOUR SUPPLY AND DEMAND

**Employment Insurance Claimload**

In the second quarter, the number of regular Employment Insurance claims in Sault Ste. Marie and area dropped by almost 450, compared to the previous quarter. The start of the summer construction and the tourist season both contributed to the decline. This is a normal situation heading into spring and summer.

Year-over-year totals declined by seven per cent. Female claimants declined significantly compared to the decline in male claimants.

**Regular Employment Insurance Claimants – Sault Ste. Marie Management Area**

	April to June 2006	January to March 2006	April to June 2005	Change			
				Quarter/Quarter #	Quarter/Quarter %	Year/Year #	Year/Year %
Male	2,130	2,401	2,186	-271	-11.3	-56	-2.6
Female	1,012	1,188	1,188	-176	-14.8	-176	-14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,142</b>	<b>3,589</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>-447</b>	<b>-12.5</b>	<b>-232</b>	<b>-6.9</b>

Source: Service Canada Administrative Data C-356 (Average of month-end totals for the quarter)

The amount of regular Employment Insurance Benefits paid during the second quarter of 2006 was \$8,602,379. This was \$2,454,985 less than the benefits paid in the previous quarter and a slight decline of almost 2% compared to the second quarter of 2006.

**Employment Opportunities**

There was a decline of 435 advertised vacancies this quarter compared to the first quarter of 2006. Advertised vacancies historically drop in the second quarter of the year compared to the first quarter.

Year-over-year advertised vacancies increased by 51 per cent. The volume of advertised vacancies this quarter was the largest second quarter total recorded in more that 10 years of tracking this data.

**Employment Opportunities – Sault Ste. Marie Management 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
<b>Sault Ste. Marie Area (excluding Elliot Lake)</b>	<b>1,730</b>	1,342	388	<b>2,135</b>	1,592	543	<b>1,088</b>	818	270
<b>Elliot Lake (including Blind River)</b>	<b>73</b>	53	20	<b>103</b>	56	47	<b>103</b>	71	32
<b>Management Area Total</b>	<b>1,803</b>	1,395	408	<b>2,238</b>	1,648	590	<b>1,191</b>	889	302

Source: Service Canada National Job Bank vacancies and newspaper want ads



Sales and service occupations and business/administration occupations led the way, the result of on-going hiring by local call centres. Trades and transport occupations continued to show strength, rising by almost 15 per cent compared to the same period last year.

**Advertised Vacancies by Major Occupational Grouping-Sault Ste. Marie Management Area**

Occupations (NOC)	April to June 2006	January to March 2006	April to June 2005	Change		Year/Year	
				Quarter/Quarter #	%	#	%
<b>Total Vacancies</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>-435</b>	<b>-19.4</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>51.4</b>
Management	72	44	44	28	63.6	28	63.6
Business/administration	516	560	139	-44	-7.9	377	271.2
Natural & applied sciences	194	413	54	-219	-53.0	140	259.2
Health	55	43	48	12	27.9	7	14.5
Social science & education	107	88	137	19	21.6	-30	-21.9
Culture & recreation	25	19	15	6	31.6	10	66.7
Sales & service	544	743	453	-199	-26.8	91	20.1
Trades & transport	244	278	213	-34	-12.2	31	14.6
Primary industry	22	38	46	-16	-42.1	-24	-52.2
Manufacturing & utilities	24	12	42	12	100.0	-18	-42.9

Source: Service Canada National Job Bank vacancies and newspaper want ads.

*LABOUR FORCE TRENDS - NORTHEAST*

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

**Modest improvements in the Northeast**

First quarterly job increase in a year

The labour market of Northeastern Ontario showed modest improvement in the second quarter of 2006. Employment climbed slightly more than one percent (+2,900). This was the first quarterly increase in the region in a year. All of the quarter's job growth was in full-time employment (+6,200), more than compensating for a six-percent decline in the number of people working part-time (-3,300). This growth pushed the region's employment rate up from 55.1% in the first quarter to 55.8%. Despite the increase, this was the lowest employment rate posted among Ontario's 11 economic regions for the quarter. While employment rose, the labour force expanded at a slightly slower pace (+1,600). Since the number of new jobs was almost double the number of new and returning labour force participants, unemployment decreased. As a result, Northeastern Ontario's unemployment rate fell from 7.4% in the first quarter of the year to 6.9%. Even with these improvements, this remained the third-highest unemployment rate among Ontario's 11 economic regions, behind Northwestern Ontario (8.9%) and Windsor-Sarnia (7.7%). All of these regions were well above the Ontario rate of 6.0%.

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.



**Northeast remains weaker year over year**

Despite these modest improvements, the labour market of Northeastern Ontario remains significantly weaker year over year. The labour force contracted three percent over the past four quarters (-8,400). However, because employment fell at a slightly slower pace (-7,100), unemployment decreased. As a result, Northeastern Ontario's unemployment edged down from 7.1% in the second quarter of 2005 to the current 6.9%.

**Northeastern Ontario (Economic Region 590) Area Labour Force Trends**

	Second Quarter 2006	First Quarter 2006	Second Quarter 2005	Change			
				Quarter/Quarter Absolute	%	Year/Year Absolute	%
<b>Population 15 +</b>	<b>453,200</b>	453,000	452,300	200	<b>0.0</b>	900	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Labour force</b>	<b>271,400</b>	269,800	279,800	1,600	<b>0.6</b>	-8,400	<b>-3.0</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>252,700</b>	249,800	259,800	2,900	<b>1.2</b>	-7,100	<b>-2.7</b>
<b>Full-time</b>	<b>204,300</b>	198,100	206,100	6,200	<b>3.1</b>	-1,800	<b>-0.9</b>
<b>Part-time</b>	<b>48,400</b>	51,700	53,600	-3,300	<b>-6.4</b>	-5,200	<b>-9.7</b>
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>18,700</b>	20,000	20,000	-1,300	<b>-6.5</b>	-1,300	<b>-6.5</b>
<b>Not in labour force</b>	<b>181,800</b>	183,200	172,500	-1,400	<b>-0.8</b>	9,300	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Participation rate</b>	<b>59.9%</b>	59.6%	61.9%	0.3		-2.0	
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	7.4%	7.1%	-0.5		-0.2	
<b>Employment rate</b>	<b>55.8%</b>	55.1%	57.4%	0.7		-1.6	

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

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

**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.

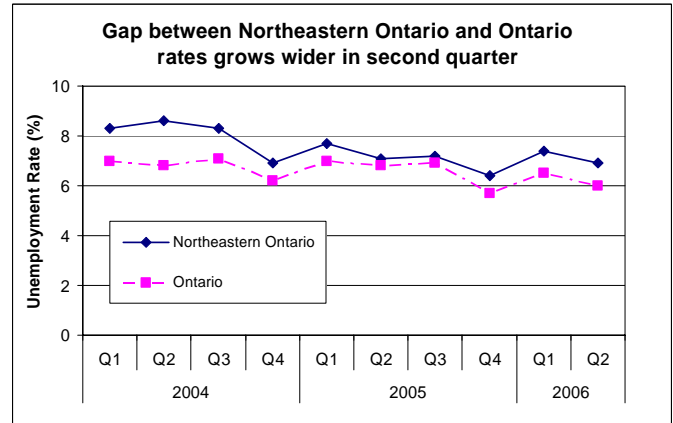
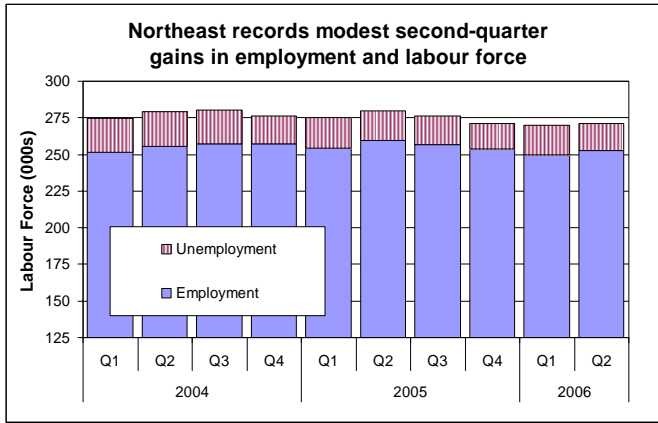
The article "Improvements in 2006 to the LFS" ([71F0031XIE](#), free) provides further explanation for the revisions and an overview of the effect of these changes on the estimates.

**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.





*FROM THE AUTHOR'S DESK*

As part of the Service Canada initiative, citizens in the Sault Ste. Marie management area can obtain their pleasure craft licenses through their local Service Canada Centre.

As of April 2006, all 320 Service Canada Centres, including Sault Ste. Marie and Elliot Lake, offer pleasure craft licenses on behalf of Transport Canada. A pleasure craft license is no longer available from the Canada Border Services Agency.

A pleasure craft license is the number placed on the sides of each recreational vehicle as required under the Small Vessel Regulations of the *Canada Shipping Act*. All recreational vessels under 15 gross tons (12 meters or less) and powered by an engine 10 horsepower (7.5 kilowatts) or more must be licensed or registered, regardless of where they operate in Canada. The license number is used to assist law enforcement and search and rescue organizations in identifying each individual pleasure craft.

To learn more about pleasure craft licensing go to <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/> and click on [Services Where You Live](#), call 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) or visit the local Service Canada Centres in Sault Ste. Marie and Elliot Lake.





**Notes to Readers:**

1. The **Sault Ste. Marie Management Area** is comprised of Sault Ste. Marie and Elliot Lake.
2. For the purpose of this publication, the **Sault Ste. Marie Management Area** includes the above communities as well as White River, Wawa, Dubreuilville, St. Joseph Island, Bruce Mines, Thessalon, Iron Bridge, Blind River, Spragge and Spanish. The area covers most of the Algoma District.
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 Sault Star, Sault This Week, Sootoday.com, The Elliot Lake Standard, Northern Ontario Business, Algoma News Review, Service Canada Administrative Data and Statistics Canada.**
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 – Service Canada Centre Corporate Data**  
**Employment Insurance claim load:** The number of individuals with an active claim for regular Employment Insurance benefits. Data on Employment Insurance claimants is not an accurate measure of the absolute level of unemployment. The data does not include unemployed individuals who: 1/ have not met the program's eligibility requirements or 2/ have exhausted their benefit entitlement.  
**Employment Opportunities:** Advertised employment opportunities are comprised of vacancies notified to the SCC offices in our area and newspaper want ads. This data is not a count of all labour market activity; in practical terms, such a count is not feasible. This data is useful to track short and long-term changes in the demand for individual occupations. The total number of opportunities is equal to full-time plus part-time and casual.
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/index.htm>
8. Labour Market Information is now being delivered by Service Canada-the Government of Canada's new service delivery network that brings a range of federal services and benefits together to meet your individual needs. Service Canada offers easy-to-access, one-stop, personalized service. For more information about Service Canada or to find the Service Canada Centre nearest you, visit us at: [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) or call 1 800 O-Canada

