



Retail

Overview

The retail industry is the largest employment sector in Hastings County providing 1,795 jobs. Most retail is situated along the busy main streets of our eight urban centres including Bancroft, Deseronto, Coe Hill, Madoc, Marmora, Maynooth, Stirling and Tweed. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of local jobs in retail increased 6%

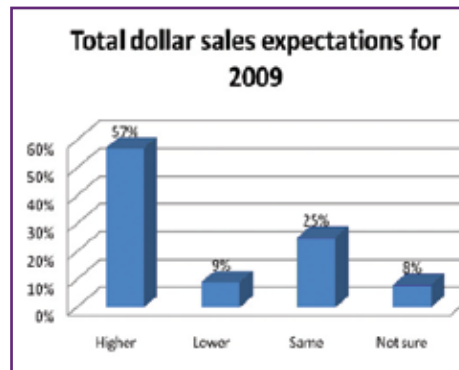
Labour Force

- Hastings County's total labour force is 17,510. Including the separated cities of Belleville and Quinte West it rises to 65,990
- Loyalist College, located in Belleville, offers many programs to support a skilled labour force in the local retail industry including Retail Management, Retail Floral Design and Business Sales and Marketing

Growth Potential

- Hastings County Population (14 member municipalities): 38,960
- Population including separated cities of Belleville and Quinte West: 130,474
- Between 2001 and 2006, the population grew nearly 4% and continues to grow steadily

- Between 1998 and 2006, person visits in Hastings County increased by 17% from 80,790 to 94,790
- In a survey of 49 counties and larger municipalities, Hastings County was listed as the 15th most visited according to Statistics Canada
- A recent survey of more than 100 County businesses uncovered great optimism with 82% stating their dollar sales will remain the same or increase in 2009



Location

- Hastings County is located halfway between Toronto and Ottawa, served by Canada's largest toll-free Highway 401, Trans Canada Highway # 7, and Highways 62, 37, and 28, offering excellent road accessibility
- Passenger rail service is provided by Via Rail Canada
- Greyhound Canada Bus Line provides bus transportation to

Hastings County with several stops within and around the County

- Located halfway between Pearson International Airport in Toronto, and Ottawa International Airport, as well as having several registered aerodromes in and around the County, Hastings County offers numerous options for air transportation



Festivals & Events

- Hastings County is home to an endless list of special events, always attracting consumers and tourists. Here are just a few of the exciting events the County has to offer:

- February: Bancroft Frosty Frolics Winter Carnival, Marmora Snofest & Sled Dog Races, Marmora Snofest, Crowe Valley Ice Fishing Derby, Stirling Groundhogfest
- April: Marmora Area Canoe & Kayak Festival
- May: Maynooth Celtic Festival
- June: Crowe Valley Lions Country Music Jamboree, Deseronto



Retail

Festivals & Events cont.

- Waterfront Festival, Centre Hastings Regatta, Stirling Truck Show & Shine
- July: Madoc Canadian Heritage Music & Arts Festival, Tweed Hungerford Agricultural Fair, Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree, Bancroft Stone Carver's Show & Symposium, Stirling Festival of the Arts
- August: Hastings County Farm Show & Plowing Match, Stirling Agriculture Fair, Shannonville's World's Fair, Bancroft Arts Festival, Hastings Highlands Loggers Games, Tweed Country/ Bluegrass Jamboree and BBQ, Central Hastings Amazing Race, Coe Hill Agriculture Fair
- September: Marmora Country Jamboree, Bancroft Septemberfest
- October: Tweed & Area Studio Tour

Cost Competitive

- Labour wages in the County are competitive, yet lower than the provincial average

Main Street Revitalization

- Eight urban centres are currently committed to the revitalization of their downtown commercial districts. Some projects to-date

include streetscape improvements (new lighting, banners, signage, flower boxes/baskets), marketing programs, more festivals and events downtown, identification of investment opportunities properties, and a concerted effort to bring organizations and individuals together to commit to improving the vibrancy of their downtown

Quality of Life

- Experience the Best of Both Worlds through small town charm and rural living that is so desirable while still being close to the big city life
- The upside of Hastings is easier access to outdoor activities, a less hectic lifestyle and a short commute to work whether along our scenic roads or over the Internet

Support for Retail

- There are many initiatives within the County to help support retail operations including several Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures Development Corporations, a Small Business Centre, business improvement associations and coalition projects among municipalities such as ComfortCountry.ca
- Economic Development staff can help you apply to the Eastern Ontario Development Program and other Cash Incentive Programs to fund façade and storefront signage improvements

The 14 Municipalities which make up Hastings County are:

- Town of Bancroft
- Carlow Mayo Township
- Centre Hastings
- Town of Deseronto
- Faraday Township
- Hastings Highlands
- Limerick Township
- Madoc Township
- Marmora & Lake Township
- Stirling-Rawdon Township
- Tudor & Cashel Township
- Municipality of Tweed
- Tyendinaga Township
- Wollaston Township

