

An overview of the Economic Region 570, ranging from Windsor to Sarnia, includes the census division of Chatham-Kent, and the counties of Essex and Lambton. The Labour Market Monitor is a monthly report focusing on labour market information produced by local Labour Market Information Analysts. For further information contact:

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Labour Force Trends

From April 2009 to April 2010, the labour force in the Windsor-Sarnia economic region fell by 3,100 as fewer people were searching for work. Net employment increased slightly by 1,300 due to full-time employment gains of 8,200 jobs offset by a decrease of 6,900 part-time jobs. As a result, the unemployment rate decreased 1.2 percentage points to 11.0%. This is the highest unemployment rate among all eleven economic regions in Ontario. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell slightly from 9.1% to 9.0%. For more information, visit the Statistics Canada website at:

<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfss05d-eng.htm>

Labour Market News by Industry

Agriculture

Walleye quotas for Essex County will be cut by an additional 10% this year. Walleyes are the primary commercial fishing catch for the county, which has seen the quotas fall by 32% in 2009 and 30% in 2008. The lower quotas will continue to force some people out of the industry similar to previous years.

Point Pelee National Park is receiving \$3 million in funding through Canadian's Economic Action Plan to help it upgrade and develop its infrastructure and exhibits. The park hopes to use several local contractors for the proposed work in order to create as many jobs as possible.

Construction

The former Dow Chemical Canada Sarnia facility will be receiving \$17 million to update its rail and truck loading bays. Calgary-based Provident Energy Trust purchased the storage facility in early April 2010. The upgrades will allow the company to store 12.1-billion barrels of natural gas products, as well as lease space to outside companies.

Kanter Marine of St. Thomas will be constructing a new ship-building facility in Wallaceburg. Funding for the project was aided by a \$717,225 grant from the federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). The company hopes the facility will bring up to 90 jobs to the area.

Construction of the Windsor-Essex Parkway will begin in 2011 after the City of Windsor and Ontario governments reached an agreement. The project will cost an estimated \$1.8-billion and could create up to 12,000 jobs. More than \$120-billion worth of goods are transported through the area each year.

Housing construction in the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area was up 56% in March 2010 over March 2009, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In the first quarter of 2010, 67 single-detached units were started, up 103% from the first quarter of 2009.

Health Care & Social Services

École secondaire Saint-François-Xavier in Sarnia will soon be home to an \$8.5-million community centre. The city's growing francophone population will now have access to a gymnasium, trade workshop, music/dance halls and several classrooms. It will be located at 901 The Rapids Parkway.

The Community Girls' Home in Sarnia learned it will be closing its doors permanently on March 31, 2011. The centre cites a lack of funding at the provincial level as a reason for its closure. The Community Girls' Home is located on Michigan Avenue.

Manufacturing

Lakeside Plastics Inc., a Windsor-based manufacturer of plastics for the automotive industry has received a \$2.5 million grant from FedDev Ontario to assist with production and to add 30 to its workforce. They hope to double their staff within the next five years.

Chrysler Canada Inc.'s Windsor Assembly Plant will be taking in over 100 former employees from Johnson Controls, which closed in late March 2010. The employees were migrated under an agreement reached by Canadian Auto Workers Local 444, Johnson Controls and Chrysler in November 2009.

A welding shop at Lambton College will be renovated due to a \$400,000 donation from Imperial Oil Limited. The shop, which is 40-years-old will now help train students in a safer and more sophisticated environment.

Schletter Inc., a German manufacturer of solar panel components has opened a plant in Windsor and intends to launch production in May 2010. The facility, located on Devon Drive, will manufacture aluminium racking for solar panels and could employ up to 100 people.

Advanced Emissions Technology of Wallaceburg will be using a \$650,000 grant from FedDev Ontario to create a new production facility, which will be used to design and produce tools for the petrochemical industry. The new facility will be located on Mason Street and will require additional staff to operate.

General Motors Canada has set a tentative date of June 28, 2010, for the closure of its transmission plant in Windsor, ending a 90-year history with the city. Over 600 employees still work at the facility as of April 2010.

Professional, Scientific & Technical Services

The Investors Group in Windsor has taken over the fifth floor of the Chrysler Building in the city's downtown core on Riverside Drive West. The 25-employee company has outgrown its current location and hopes that an additional 50 employees will join them as it expands.

Surface to Surface Inc. of Petrolia will be expanding due to interest in a prototype geothermal mixing and grouting tool. The expansion is aided by a \$143,438 grant from FedDev Ontario. The company expects to hire 5 to 10 additional employees to meet demand for the unique tool.

StarTek, a call-centre, will close its Sarnia office in September 2010, putting 300 people out of work. The company has offered to transfer some employees to an office it still maintains in Kingston.

Trade, Wholesale & Retail

The Windsor area will see upgrades to two highway service centres. Service centres operated by Host Kilmer Service Centres and fuel stations operated by Canadian Tire Petroleum will open at the Tilbury North and Tilbury South locations. The Tilbury South location will also feature an Ontario tourism centre. Province-wide, twenty stations are hoped to provide up to 2,500 jobs.

Utilities

Buckeye Partners LP, a fuel pipeline company based in Houston, Texas, has announced it will continue with plans to develop a natural gas pipeline that will extend to Sarnia. The company will begin market assessments in mid-2010.

Woodland Biofuels Inc. in Toronto has announced that Sarnia will be the site of a new \$10-million pilot facility. The ethanol conversion facility will be located in Sarnia's University of Western Ontario Research and Development Park.

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.

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