

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 December 2009 to December 2010, the size of the labour force in the Windsor-Sarnia economic region rose by 4,900. Employment increased by 6,100 mostly due to full-time employment gains of 5,800. With the rise in employment, the employment rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to 57.2%. Unemployment fell slightly by 1,100 over the past year and the unemployment rate declined 0.5 percentage points from 9.9% to 9.4%. Windsor-Sarnia has the second highest unemployment rate among all eleven economic regions in Ontario. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell from 8.3% to 7.5%.

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

Labour Market News by Industry

Accommodation & Food Services

Guesthouse Getaway, a bed and breakfast located on Middleside Road, has opened this month in McGregor in the Town of Essex.

Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

The new Art Gallery of Lambton on Christina Street in Sarnia has received a \$1.5 million gift from local business owners for its restoration work. The gallery will now be called the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery.

Artifacts Plus, an art supply store has been operating since June 2010, in Petrolia. It replaced the Bear Creek Studio, which closed March 2010.

Construction

Ontario public officials have committed to the construction of the Windsor Essex Parkway. The project will be built for \$1.4 billion, below the earlier estimate of \$1.6 billion. It is expected to be completed by 2014 and to create 12,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Kehoe Marine Construction, located near Gananoque Ontario, received the contract to repair the damaged waterfront caused by an F2 tornado in Leamington in June 2010. The \$1.2-million renovation project should be completed by April 2011.

Educational Services

The Specialist High Skills Major Initiative, offered by the province, has expanded to 14 programs within the Lambton Kent District School Board this year. It will allow students to focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests.

The University of Windsor has received the final \$500,000 installment of the \$2.5-million provincial grant for its automotive engineering program as part of the Strategic Skills Initiative. The funding will enhance the program and provide students with hands-on training.

Lambton College's Skilled Trades Training Centre received a \$100,000 donation from Chemfab Industries Inc., an industrial fabrication contractor located in Corunna which employs graduates from the college. The donation will be used to maintain the trade and technology shops and acquire new equipment.

Health Care & Social Services

The YMCA of Chatham-Kent will be recruiting 15 full-time positions for its new facility on Courthouse Lane in Chatham. Positions will be in the membership and health and wellness sectors. Hiring will begin in spring 2011.

The Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre is recruiting various health care related occupations.

Three local organizations in Chatham-Kent, Acceptational Riders, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Habitat for Humanity, received \$220,200 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to expand and enhance their programs and services provided to the local communities.

Manufacturing

Chrysler Canada Inc. is adding up to 25 new positions from a pool of laid-off workers from Martinrea Fabco at its Windsor assembly plant. An additional 18 positions were filled from a pool of candidates from former Chrysler workers in Brampton and Etobicoke. The positions were created to adhere to the new manufacturing standards under Fiat SpA's World Class Manufacturing process.

Professional, Scientific & Technical Services

The Sarnia-Lambton Industrial Alliance received \$85,000 in grants from the National Research Council to promote local businesses' products and services outside of their traditional markets. The funding will be used to launch organizational websites, fund educational initiatives and assist with administrative costs.

Public Administration

The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario has introduced the Prosperity Initiative Fund for businesses, non-profit organizations and education institutions in southwestern Ontario. There will be up to \$210 million available over the next four years.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the County of Essex will receive a total of \$309,680 in provincial funding as part of the Municipal Immigration Information Online program. The funding will be used to enhance their immigration portals to stimulate economic growth.

Residential waste in Windsor is being collected by Turtle Island Recycling starting on December 13, 2010, as part of the seven-year contract between the private Toronto-based company and the City of Windsor. The city's former waste collectors are being transferred to the parks department.

The vehicle licence office at the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce has closed after nearly 90 years. The service has been relocated to the

Bayside Mall on Christina Street in Sarnia. Eight staff were laid off.

Trade, Wholesale & Retail

An arts and crafts store has opened temporarily for two weeks before Christmas inside The House on Elliott Street in Windsor to meet the demand for holiday gifts.

The Price Chopper grocery store on Exmouth Street in Sarnia will close on February 5, 2011. Six full-time and 35 part-time workers employed at the store will be laid off this month. The closure decision was made by the parent company based on a review of operations.

Transportation & Warehousing

A major snowstorm in Sarnia and Lambton County caused a three-day closure of Highway 402 between Sarnia and County Road 22. The military and the Ontario Provincial Police were involved in the evacuation of 237 people who were trapped in the storm and the clean-up 324 stranded vehicles.

The snowstorm in Sarnia and Lambton County caused delays in delivering fuel to many gas stations in Windsor and Essex County. Between 70 and 100 trucks waited two days to cross the Bluewater Bridge to Canada.

Utilities

The Pointe-Aux-Roches wind power plant, located in the Town of Lakeshore, has received 27 towers that were made by Essar Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. This plant is expected to create 126 construction and spin-off jobs, and generate up to 46.8 megawatts of electricity per year.

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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