

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 Ontario Region, Service Canada Labour Market and Socio-Economic Information Directorate. For further information contact us at: [Imi-imt@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:Imi-imt@servicecanada.gc.ca)

### **Labour Force Trends**

From November 2009 to November 2010, the size of the labour force in the Windsor-Sarnia economic region rose slightly. Employment increased by 5,700 mostly due to full-time employment gains of 5,400. With the rise in employment, the employment rate increased by 0.9 percentage points to 57.4%. Unemployment fell slightly over the past year and the unemployment rate declined 0.6 percentage points from 10.0% to 9.4%. Windsor-Sarnia has the highest unemployment rate among all eleven economic regions in Ontario. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell from 8.4% to 7.9%. For more information, visit the Statistics Canada website at: <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfs05d-eng.htm>

### **Labour Market News by Industry**

#### **Accommodation & Food Services**

The former Chophouse Smokin' Grill in Tecumseh Town Centre is nearing the end of its renovations, converting it into The RyeGate. The Troup Group of Companies hope the restaurant will be open by December 1.

The Royal Canadian Legion in Leamington has relocated to a new site at 27 Erie Street North.

The two Marble Slab Creamery locations in the City of Windsor have closed. The ice-cream franchise had lost a large part of its

market to the partnership between competitor Cold Stone Creamery and Tim Hortons.

#### **Construction**

Housing starts for 2010 in the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) increased over 2009 figures. In October, there were 61 starts compared to 40 in October 2009. Between January and October, there were 485 starts compared to 288 during the same period of 2009.

The Province of Ontario announced the team that will build the Windsor-Essex Parkway. The Windsor Essex Mobility Group consortium members include ACS Infrastructure Canada Inc., Acciona Concessions Canada, Fluor Canada Ltd., Dragados Canada Inc. and Acciona Infrastructure Canada Inc. This construction group will collaborate to design and construct the \$1.6-billion project linking Highway 401 in Ontario to Interstate 75 in the U.S. state of Michigan. The group will also be responsible for maintenance of the route until 2040.

The Federal Government and VIA Rail have partnered to build a \$6.3-million new train station in Windsor. Construction is expected to be completed by the fall of 2011. It will be combined with \$17-million of railway upgrades between Windsor and Chatham.

The Ontario Municipal Board has given approval for a \$25-million seniors' residence to be built on Riverside Drive East in Tecumseh. The facility will accommodate 115 seniors with a staff of 55 health-care professionals. Construction is expected to start in 2011.

The University of Windsor's board of governors has voted to request proposals for the design of an on-campus "Innovation Centre". The project could begin by autumn 2011, at a cost of \$25 to \$40 million.

Enbridge Inc. will require 30 - 50 welders, labourers and equipment operators to complete repairs and maintenance on sections of pipe Line 6B beneath the St. Clair River. A contractor has not yet been selected.

## Education Services

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is adding 13 full-day kindergarten classes to schools in the region in 2012. The schools to receive the additions are; Christ the King of Wallaceburg; St. Michael in Ridgetown; Good Sheppard in Thamesville; St. Joseph in Tilbury; St. Ursula in Chatham; Holy Rosary in Wyoming; St. Joseph in Corunna; St. Phillip in Petrolia; and Sacred Heart in Sarnia. Three full-day classes will be added in 2011, with one at St. Joseph in Chatham and two at St. Matthew in Sarnia.

The YMCA's Skills Link Program received a \$1.5-million grant from the federal government. The funding will allow the program to provide support to 110 youths in the regions of Chatham-Kent, Petrolia and Sarnia. The funding will also be used to initiate similar programs in Blenheim, Forest, Goderich and Wallaceburg.

## Health Care & Social Services

Pinnacle Rehabilitation opened a partner company, Renew Physiotherapy in the former CBI Physiotherapy Clinic at Leamington Memorial Hospital.

## Information & Culture

The City of Windsor purchased the Capitol Theatre for \$240,000. The theatre declared bankruptcy in March 2007 and has been in the care of a bankruptcy trustee. The city hopes that access will be shared between the community, the University of Windsor and St. Clair College.

## Manufacturing

The Chrysler assembly plant in Windsor produced the last of its 2010 model automobiles and closed for one week to undergo renovations. The renovations will allow the plant to begin production on the 2011 Dodge Grand Caravan and the Chrysler Town and Country minivans.

The Ford Motor Company of Canada's Essex Engine Plant was shut down on November 23 due to a shortage of parts from a Mexican

supplier. The company expects that the shortages will continue, periodically affecting the plant's abilities to function.

## Professional, Scientific & Technical Services

Central Machine and Marine of Sarnia has been granted a \$15-million contract with Lower Lakes Towing Ltd. to retrofit the SS Michipicoten with a cleaner diesel engine. The contract could generate work for up to 50 people over the winter.

## Public Administration

The Town of Leamington will have new Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers, ending the local municipal police force. All former municipal officers were offered positions within the OPP, but a few retired.

## Trade, Wholesale & Retail

Chrysler Group LLC has announced the two Windsor dealerships that will sell the Fiat 500 automobile in Canada. Pinnacle Chrysler and Windsor Chrysler are expected to begin selling the subcompact car in January 2011.

## Utilities

The AGRIS Solar Co-operative and Northwind Solutions of Oshawa have partnered together to place at least 1,000 ground-mounted solar units on farms in Southern Ontario. Northwind Solutions expects to hire 50 workers from the region to complete the work.

*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.*

*Prepared by: Labour Market and Socio-economic Information Directorate, Ontario Region*