

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

Labour Force Trends

From September 2009 to September 2010, the size of the labour force in the Windsor-Sarnia economic region remained relatively stable. Employment increased by 4,200 all due to full-time employment gains. With the rise in employment, the employment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points to 57.0%. Unemployment fell by 5,400 over the past year and the unemployment rate declined 1.6 percentage points from 12.3% to 10.7%. Windsor-Sarnia has the highest unemployment rate among all eleven economic regions in Ontario. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell from 9.6% to 9.2%.

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

Antonino's Original Pizza has opened a second location on Manning Road in Windsor.

Construction

Provident Energy is investing a total of \$27 million to upgrade its newly acquired property at the former Dow Chemical site at LaSalle Line and Highway 40 in Sarnia. The upgrades are expected to be completed in March 2011. The site currently employs 14 workers.

Construction began on Dalhousie Street from Pickering Drive to Front Road South, and Thomas

Road from Concession 2 North to Alma Street in Amherstburg. The total cost of the two construction projects is estimated to be \$3.5 million. The federal government contributed \$2 million to the projects. Completion is expected at the end of October 2010.

The planned maintenance on the Nova Chemical, Suncor Energy and Lanxess sites in Sarnia provided temporary employment for almost 900 trade workers. Nova Chemical repaired its gasoline unit for four weeks in September. Suncor Energy's alkylation refinery unit underwent maintenance for six weeks in September. Lanxess spent close to \$1 million on 45 month-long projects.

The Town of Leamington has purchased a \$400,000 property for the construction of a new public parking lot on Mill Street East. The federal government will pay half the construction costs. The project is expected to be completed by March 2011.

Educational Services

The Ontario's Literacy and Basic Skills Program is providing funding for five organizations in Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent to build a more highly skilled and educated workforce. A total of \$396,653 will be received by these organizations to help adult learners pursue new careers or continue on to higher education as part of the Open Ontario Plan.

The Greater Essex County District School Board has added 43 new full-time teaching positions in its elementary schools, due to higher-than-expected enrolment and the province's expansion into full-day kindergarten.

Darul Uloom Canada, an all-boys Muslim school providing private faith-based learning, has opened at the former Chatham Collegiate Institute site on Prince Street North in Chatham. The school is currently offering Ontario curriculum in grades 4 to 8 as well as Islamic classes.

Bluewater Lighthouse Christian Academy, a private school for kindergarten to grade 8 in Sarnia, has closed this month. Declining enrolment was cited as the reason for closure.

Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing

RE/MAX Preferred Realty will be relocating to a new office in Kingsville this fall. The new location will contain offices for nine staff with four-to-five more offices possible in the future.

Health Care & Social Services

The Ontario government is providing \$15,408,086 to fund senior health care programs in Chatham-Kent-Essex as part of the provincial Aging at Home Strategy. The program provides easier access to health care services for seniors at their own homes.

The Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre opened a new satellite office on Walpole Island last month. A nurse practitioner, a chiroprapist, a dietician and mental health counsellors are currently working at the site.

Hospitals are experiencing difficulty keeping their emergency departments open 24-hours a day in the Sarnia-Lambton area. Health Force Ontario has recruited seven doctors to work on 12-hour shifts in Petrolia. The emergency department in Petrolia will reduce its hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. starting on September 29, 2010.

Information, Culture & Recreation

Theatre Kent is recruiting 27 performers for its upcoming Christmas show, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Auditions were held on September 19 and 20 inside the theatre on Stanley Avenue.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the grand opening of Chatham's Capitol Theatre. Two performances have sold out during the opening festival week. The theatre has 1,241 seats and is located on King Street in downtown Chatham.

Manufacturing

Nemak will spend \$8 million to retool its Windsor facility and manufacture V6 engine blocks for a new contract with General Motors. About 240 jobs will be secured as a result of the contract, which included a wage-cutting labour agreement. Nemak will also receive \$3 million in tax incentives from the City of Windsor. The contract will keep the plant open for another five years.

Southwestern Manufacturing Inc. will be recruiting 20 trade workers at its Windsor plant this month.

At least ten welders, six assemblers and a project manager will be hired at the plant.

Chrysler Canada plans to hire 60 workers for the production of 2011 Town and Country and Dodge Grand Caravan minivans at the Windsor Assembly Plant. The candidates will be selected from a pool of laid off workers from the Brampton and Etobicoke plants. The plant produces about 1,400 minivans daily and is projecting increased production next year.

Public Administration

Tilbury Fire Station No.19, located on Superior Street, has re-opened this month after a \$1.1-million renovation to combine the firefighter unit with Emergency Medical Services. Jorden & Cook Architect Ltd. and Titan Construction were hired to complete this project.

Trade, Wholesale & Retail

Windsor's downtown Farmers' Market will continue in 2011 at its current location at the former Greyhound bus terminal on University Avenue.

The Party Warehouse has opened a temporary location on Provincial Road in Windsor. It will be open until the beginning of November to sell Halloween items.

Utilities

OYA Solar Inc. is undertaking a \$20-million project to install a solar rooftop on the Atlas Tube manufacturing plant. The project will generate 3.5 megawatts, capable of supplying electricity for 300 homes and providing 30 percent of Atlas Tube's annual energy consumption. It is expected that the first phase of the project will be installed by the spring of 2011.

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