

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 June 2009 to June 2010, the size of the labour force in the Windsor-Sarnia economic region remained stable. Employment increased by 6,600 due to full-time employment gains of 12,400 jobs, offset by a decrease of 5,800 part-time jobs. With the increase in employment, the employment rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to 57.0%. Unemployment fell by 5,900 over the past year and the unemployment rate decreased 1.8 percentage points from 12.8% to 11.0%. Windsor-Sarnia has the highest unemployment rate among all eleven economic regions in Ontario. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell from 9.4% to 8.8%. For more information, visit the Statistics Canada website at: <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfss05d-eng.htm>

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

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

The City of Windsor hosted the Red Bull Air Race this month. The competition was estimated to fill 4,500 hotel rooms and boost local businesses during the three-day event.

#### **Agriculture**

An F2 tornado in Leamington resulted in tens-of-millions of dollars worth of damage to regional greenhouses and tree nurseries. The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers estimated that sixteen acres of greenhouses were destroyed across the region. Damage was also reported to

nurseries and orchards in Harrow and Essex Counties. The storm did not lead to any severe injuries or deaths. The Province of Ontario announced that \$1 million has been set aside to assist with rebuilding.

The Monsanto Company closed its corn seed manufacturing plant in Chatham this month. Seven full-time positions were eliminated, though employees were offered positions at Monsanto's business office in Guelph. The plant's closure was due to an increasing need for extensive repairs.

#### **Construction**

For the month of May 2010, Windsor had a total of 67 dwelling starts, up from 41 in May 2009. There were 44 dwelling completions in May 2010, up from 34 in May 2009. From January to May 2010, there have been 183 dwelling starts and 65 dwelling completions. During the same period in 2009, there were 93 dwelling starts and 80 dwelling completions.

The City of Windsor approved an \$848,400 contract with Windsor-based Rorison Industrial Electric to build a new data centre. The current centre at city hall was becoming outdated and unable to accommodate the machines necessary for the data storage. The city has purchased a building across from city hall as the proposed site.

The Town of Tecumseh has purchased 65 acres of land at Manning Road and Riverside Drive for a proposed park near the Lake St. Clair waterfront. The town hopes the \$6.9-million purchase will create jobs and draw tourism to the area.

A sustainable energy home will be having its groundbreaking ceremony next month at Lambton College in Sarnia. The \$1.2-million "smart-home" will demonstrate technologies in renewable energy and be open to both students and the general public.

#### **Educational Services**

St. Francis Roman Catholic Elementary School in Windsor will be closing its doors due to

declining enrolment. The west-end school on Detroit Street will close after 109 years on June 30, 2010.

The Lambton Kent District School Board has voted to close Ridgetown Public School in East Kent by June 2011. The school will be consolidated with Ridgeview Morvian Elementary School to accommodate Kindergarten through Grade 6, while students in Grade 7 and 8 will now attend Ridgetown District High School.

### **Health Care & Social Services**

Bluewater Health on Norman Street in Sarnia held a ribbon cutting event to celebrate the completion of a 325,000 square foot addition to its main facility. The addition is expecting to receive patients beginning July 3, 2010.

Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital in Windsor will be bringing in two new physician assistants to help alleviate emergency room wait times.

Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres opened a new centre this month in Chatham. The centre, located at Richmond Street and Lacroix Street will offer dental, medical and nursing services to the community.

### **Information, Culture & Recreation**

The International Children's Games of 2013 will be held in Windsor. The organization estimates that between 1500 and 2000 coaches, athletes and support staff will accompany the games, bringing up to \$2.5-million to the region.

An investment of \$2 million is being made towards the Leamington Municipal Marina by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. The investment is in addition to the \$325,000 granted by the same agency in April 2010 and will help the marina recover from the damage of an F2 tornado in early June.

### **Manufacturing**

The Ford Motor Company confirmed this month that 5.0 litre V-8 engines being built at the Essex Engine Plant are designed for the company's F-150 model truck. Company officials expect a second shift of up to 250 individuals could be added to accommodate production of the engine at the Essex plant.

Martinrea Fabco, a manufacturer of auto parts on Division Road in Windsor has closed their plant permanently, putting 150 employees out of work. The closure was due to the numerous difficulties facing the auto sector in recent years.

### **Other Services**

The Great Canadian Oil Change on Seacliff Drive in Leamington suffered massive damage during the F2 tornado that hit the area this month. The damage was in the tens-of-thousands of dollars and it is unknown when the service centre will reopen.

### **Professional & Technical Services**

In Windsor, the Province of Ontario and Ontario Aerospace Council hosted the On the Wings of Innovation symposium which was held in conjunction with the Red Bull Air Race. Representatives from Boeing, Bombardier Aerospace, European Aeronautic Defense, Space Canada Inc., and others connected with local aerospace companies such as CentreLine Ltd., Valiant Corporation, Radix Controls, Technicut Tools Inc., Platinum Aerospace and Albah Manufacturing Technologies.

St. Clair College's, Windsor Campus, opened its new mediaplex this month. Located at University and Victoria Avenue the mediaplex, which houses the college's journalism program, is expected to grow from 80 students to 300 by 2015.

### **Transportation & Warehousing**

WestJet began direct flights from Windsor to Calgary this month after a five year absence of service. WestJet has committed three years of service to the route, which will run seasonally between May 31 and October 30.

*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*