

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: [lmi-imt@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:lmi-imt@servicecanada.gc.ca)

### **Labour Force Trends**

From May 2009 to May 2010, the labour force in the Windsor-Sarnia economic region fell slightly as fewer people were searching for work. Net employment increased by 4,000 due to full-time employment gains of 10,500 jobs offset by a decrease of 6,400 part-time jobs. As a result, the unemployment rate decreased 1.4 percentage points 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 9.1%. 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 Fogcutter Dining Lounge in Kingsville, dating back to 1865, will be getting a \$500,000 renovation. The owners hope to have the historic Main Street East inn open for July 2010.

#### **Construction**

The total value of building permits in Windsor for January to April 2010 was \$125,481,500 - over four times the value for the same period last year. The 2010 figure was aided by the construction of an \$88-million engineering building at the University of Windsor.

St. Clair Meadows Housing Co-Operative Inc. in Sarnia was given more than \$310,000 through Canada's Economic Action Plan to replace doors and windows at its Wellington Street facility. More than 80 residents occupy St. Clair Meadows.

The federal government this month offered the State of Michigan \$550 million to cover the American share of the costs for a new Detroit-Windsor border crossing. The two cities, which share North America's largest border crossing, hope to generate up to 25,000 construction jobs on both sides of the border for the project.

Pelee Island will be receiving a \$1.94-million grant from the federal and provincial governments to improve its road system. Each of the governments is pledging \$969,000, while the Township of Pelee is contributing \$194,000.

Three major road construction projects are underway in Sarnia and will continue into the summer. Projects at Wellington Street east of Murphy Road; between Highway 40 West and Finch Drive; and a second project on Wellington Street between Finch Drive and Murphy Road were funded through Canada's Economic Action Plan. All three projects involve sewer and watermain construction.

A sewer separation project at East Street, between Devine Street and Kathleen Avenue will keep East Street closed through the summer as the \$3.6-million project is completed.

Housing start-up construction in the City of Windsor in April 2010 was up 264% over April 2009 according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. There were 45 dwelling start-ups in April 2010 compared to 17 in April 2009.

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

Organizers held a ceremonial groundbreaking for St. Clair College's new \$32-million Centre for Applied Health Sciences building in Windsor. The college expects the expansion to increase the number of health sciences students from

1,500 to at least 1,800 when it opens in 2012. Half the construction costs were paid through Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Organizers held an official groundbreaking ceremony for the \$4.2-million expansion of Pathways Health Centre in Sarnia. About \$1.2 million of the funding came from provincial and federal funding, while the remaining \$3 million will be acquired through fundraising. Located on Murphy Road, the centre currently serves up to 2,300 special needs children.

Bluewater Health in Sarnia may lose up to six of its twelve palliative care beds. The Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network, which represents Bluewater Health, expects that there should be no job losses.

Goodwill Industries in Essex Kent Lambton will receive \$276,079 in federal Skills Link funding to support its Goodwill Future Focus project. The project helps 181 youths facing difficulties in finding employment develop the skills necessary to continue their education or return to work.

More than 60 daycare workers for the City of Windsor received layoff notices this month. In total, 118 daycare workers will be affected by the layoffs. The layoffs were in response to the province's decision to implement full-day junior and senior kindergarten.

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

The Chatham Capitol Theatre will receive a \$25,000 grant from the Canadian Arts Presentation Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. The theatre, in its inaugural year, is promoting their opening season festival which begins September 2010.

The City of Windsor has given support to a cultural master plan which increases funding for

arts and culture in the city by more than \$1 million over the next five years. The city currently supports art and culture with about \$770,000 worth of annual funding.

#### **Manufacturing**

Solar Source Corporation plans to start production at its Windsor-based solar-panel plant by the end of 2011. The City of Windsor has spent \$4-million to build the facility which will then be leased to the Solar Source Corporation. The plant hopes to employ 200 persons within a year, and 500 within three years.

#### **Public Administration**

The City of Windsor is welcoming its new summer interns. More than 130 student applicants selected from Windsor's Summer Student Lottery Program will work in the city's parks, recreation centres and roads this summer before they return to school in the fall.

#### **Transportation & Warehousing**

The City of Windsor will be receiving \$4 million towards an aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facility at the Windsor airport. The project was funded by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

*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*