

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 August 2009 to August 2010, the size of the labour force in the Windsor-Sarnia economic region remained relatively stable. Employment increased by 5,300 due to full-time employment gains of 7,800 jobs, partially offset by a decrease of 2,400 part-time jobs. With the rise in employment, the employment rate increased by 0.9 percentage points to 56.8%. Unemployment fell by 6,900 over the past year and the unemployment rate declined 2.0 percentage points from 13.3% to 11.3%. Windsor-Sarnia has the highest unemployment rate among all eleven economic regions in Ontario. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell from 9.9% to 9.1%.

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

I Luv Juicy Inc., a smoothie and juice bar, has opened another location on St. Clair Street in Chatham.

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting

LaNassa Foods will reopen the former Kingsville Fishermen's Company fish plant, dock facility and a retail store in September. The company may hire 15 to 20 workers as it expands.

The Great Lakes Fish Corporation, located in Wheatley, Ontario, has given layoff notices to 130 workers. The company's assets have been acquired by companies associated with La Nassa Foods and VenGrowth, a private equity firm.

Business, Building & Support Services

A joint initiative between Wilsondale Assets Management Inc. and the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association is providing rent-free storefronts located on Ouellette Avenue in downtown Windsor to new business owners. It aims to attract new start-ups and businesses in a bid to diversify the downtown core.

A new Goodwill Career Centre, located on Lacroix Street in Chatham, will be opening in September to help people develop job skills and connect with local employers.

A new Employment and Learning Centre has opened in Lambton College. The centre provides employment services for job seekers in Petrolia and surrounding communities.

The StarTek call centre in Sarnia has delayed its closing date to the end of December due to unexpected increase in their workload. The centre was initially slated to close at the end of August 2010.

Construction

A new \$22-million sewage treatment plant will replace the current sewage lagoons at Grand Bend and serve the communities of Bluewater, Lambton Shores and South Huron. Construction is expected to begin in early spring of 2011. The federal government has contributed \$15 million to the infrastructure project through the Building Canada Fund.

The Windsor Port received \$10.1 million as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund for the construction of a new marine facility. Another \$10 million in funding will come from the private sector. The facility is expected to be completed by March 2011.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), there were 73 housing starts in Windsor in July 2010 compared to 34 in July 2009. In Chatham-Kent, there were 53 starts during the period of January to July 2010 compared to 24 during the same period in 2009. In Sarnia, there were 120 starts between January and July in 2010 compared to 88 in 2009.

The opening of the Miracle League baseball diamond in Amherstburg for disabled kids has been postponed from September to October 2010. Bad weather and difficulty in booking contractors were accounted for the delay in the construction of the \$24-million arena project.

Educational Services

Seven child care centres and two satellite after-school programs owned by the City of Windsor will close at the end of August. Full-day kindergarten will be phased in beginning this September.

Information, Culture & Recreation

To attract internationally trained professionals and skilled workers into the area, the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce and the Cultural Coalition of Chatham-Kent have launched a new program, C-K Global Experience @Work.

Caesars Windsor is eliminating 23 full-time security guards this month as part of their cost-cutting measures. The smoking ban, competition from U.S., and delays at the border were the reasons cited for the layoff.

Professional & Technical Services

GreenField Ethanol Inc. in Chatham-Kent received \$4 million from the provincial government as part of the Innovation Demonstration Fund. This funding will be used in the development of bio-fuel technology. It could generate up to 20 new jobs.

Public Administration

Relocating the Ontario Tourism Information Centre near the Windsor Ambassador Bridge has been delayed until the end of September.

The decision to relocate the centre to the new 401 service station near Tilbury will be discussed between provincial and regional officials.

Leamington's town officials will transfer the current police service to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission to reduce municipal expenses. This transition is expected to be completed by early December of 2010. During the transition, three full-time and five part-time positions could be lost.

Trade, Wholesale & Retail

Liquidation World Inc., a chain of retail outlets, will be opening a new location in Sarnia by October 2010. The store will be located on London Road.

Lillie Belles Wedding Store & Photography has opened in Petrolia this month. It is located on Petrolia Line near Tank Street.

To serve the increasing number of out-of-town customers, Jackie's Alterations and Bridal Shop in Chatham is relocating to Sarnia at the end of October.

Made in Windsor, an arts-and-crafts store on Ottawa Street in Windsor, is closing at the end of August.

Bedroom Depot, a furniture retailer, has declared bankruptcy. All six locations across Canada including one on Walker Road in Windsor will soon close.

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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