

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 July 2009 to July 2010, the size of the labour force in the Windsor-Sarnia economic region remained relatively stable. Employment increased by 6,700 due to full-time employment gains of 10,000 jobs, offset by a decrease of 3,300 part-time jobs. With the increase in employment, the employment rate increased by 1.2 percentage points to 56.9%. Unemployment fell by 8,600 over the past year and the unemployment rate decreased 2.4 percentage points from 13.7% 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 9.8% to 9.0%. 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

New highway service stations at Tilbury North and Tilbury South on Highway 401 have opened. The new centres currently offer fuel, washrooms, and convenience stores, but will soon feature sit-down dining through Tim Horton's, The Market and Burger King. They are expected to be completed in September 2010.

Administrative & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services

The City of Windsor voted this month to outsource parking enforcement services to the

Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. The move eliminates 13 positions from the city's operating budget. The Canadian Corps of Commissionaires hope to hire up to 15 people to assume their duties in January 2011.

The City of Windsor voted this month to allocate municipal waste collection services to a private company. Turtle Island Recycling Corporation will assume the responsibilities for the city as of January 1, 2011. The move cuts 63 positions from the city's operating budget.

Business Services

Aditya Birla Minacs held a job fair this month with the goal of hiring 100 English and French-speaking customer service specialists. The company, which opened its Chatham location in December 2009, is an international supplier of business process outsourcing.

Construction

Terra Industries, a manufacturer of fertilizer, will be planning a \$20-million shutdown of its Courtright plant this month. The shutdown is to conduct maintenance which could require up to 300 tradespeople to complete.

As part of the reconstruction effort for the area damaged by an F2 tornado last month, the County of Leamington will be constructing marked bicycle lanes on Seaclyff Park Drive between Erie Street and Sherk Street. The \$1.91-million contract was awarded to MR Dunn Construction of Tecumseh.

Wincon Construction of Windsor has been awarded the contract to construct a new Kindergarten-Grade 12 public school on Shields Street in Tecumseh. The Greater Essex County District School Board expects the school to accommodate up to 1300 students when it opens in September 2011.

Educational Services

The University of Windsor received a \$350,000 grant from the Province of Ontario to help attract and support aboriginal students. The University of Windsor has said it hopes to use some of the grant to hire an aboriginal outreach coordinator.

Health Care & Social Services

The Inn of the Good Sheppard's Lodge on Confederation Street in Sarnia had a slight delay in its plans to open for June 2010. The 25-bed emergency shelter's first phase is now expected to open in July 2010, and the second phase in September 2010.

Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital in Windsor will be coordinating a nine-week rotating shutdown of its operating rooms beginning this month. The cost-saving decision was made to accommodate physicians and staff vacations and to avoid a complete shutdown of non-emergency surgeries. Only two operating rooms will be affected at a time.

Charlotte Eleanor Engelheart Hospital in Petrolia will be scaling back its Emergency Room operating hours from 8:00am to 8:00pm. The decision was due to a lack of available doctors in the area, and the current 24-hour schedule having a tremendous strain on the four existing doctors staffing the location.

Information, Culture & Recreation

Sarnia hosted its eleventh annual Rogers Bayfest music festival this month. Musical acts such as Weezer, The Black Eyed Peas, Rush and Keith Urban drew thousands to the Sarnia area, filling every hotel room in the city and boosting local businesses.

Diversion Entertainment in Sarnia is preparing for its first theatrical production. The production company aims to involve students in the theatre. The company's production of Feldman and Finn's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" runs from July 29th to July 31st at the Sarnia Library Auditorium.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation gave \$61,000 in funding this month to The Little Tomato Theatre, The Leamington Tomato Festival and the Special Equestrians Therapeutic Riding Association, all of Leamington. The Ontario Trillium Foundation funds non-profit groups providing cultural, recreational and social services to communities.

The Ontario travel and tourism centre located at Huron Beach Road in Essex County is slated to

close on July 31, 2010. There are plans to open a new centre at the Tilbury rest station on Highway 401 just outside of the county.

Manufacturing

The General Motors Transmission Plant in Windsor closed July 28, 2010, affecting over 500 workers. The plant's closure ends a 90-year history with the City of Windsor.

Ford Motor Co. of Canada will lay off 489 workers at their engine plant in Windsor on November 1, 2010. One shift was eliminated, as the plant will cut back production from 2,200 engines per day to 840. Ford is recalling about 101 workers to the Essex engine plant later this year to help build V8 engines for the 2011 Mustang sports car.

Butcher Engineering in Windsor has finished its latest round of layoffs. The auto-parts manufacturer has been reducing its staff of 107 weekly since the summer began. The engineering firm had seen slowed demand for its products from the troubled auto-industry, but plans to remain open with its staff of 12.

Utilities

Amherstburg saw the opening of a solar energy park this month. International Power Canada and the Essex County Council celebrated the opening of the Harrow Wind Farm, which houses 24 wind turbines.

Macquarie Power & Infrastructure Income Fund and SunPower Corporation announced a future solar energy plant in Amherstburg. The Amherstburg Solar Park, a \$130-million project, hopes to create up to 100 jobs in the area.

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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