

Monthly Economic Monitor – March, 2009

KEY INDICATORS

Population		
	2006	2001
Windsor-Essex	393,402	374,975

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Unemployment Rates – Windsor CMA (%)			
	February 2009	January 2009	February 2008
Windsor CMA	13.8	11.2	9.4
Ontario	7.9	7.2	6.1
Canada	7.5	7.8	5.8

Source: Statistics Canada, March 2009 (released monthly), figures represent an unadjusted 3 month moving average.

Labour Force Characteristics – Windsor CMA			
	February 2009	January 2009	February 2008
Labour Force	176,400	176,200	177,000
Employed	152,100	156,400	160,300

Source: Statistics Canada, March 2009 (updated monthly), figures represent an unadjusted 3 month moving average.

While the size of the labour force in Windsor-Essex grew slightly from January to February, the number of people employed declined by over 4,000, resulting in a spike in the unemployment rate. The following tables contain statistics for the entire Windsor-Essex region, rather than the Census Metropolitan Area, which is made up of Windsor, LaSalle, Amherstburg, Tecumseh and Lakeshore.

Labour Force Characteristics – WindsorEssex			
	2008	2007	2006
Population 15+	332,100	329,700	329,800
Labour force	213,300	213,100	222,300
Employment	194,000	193,900	202,800
Full-time	154,100	153,300	158,600
Part-time	39,900	40,600	44,100
Unemployed	19,300	19,200	19,500
Not in labour force	118,800	116,700	107,500
Unemployment rate (%)	9.0	9.0	8.8
Participation rate (%)	64.2	64.6	67.4
Employment rate (%)	58.4	58.8	61.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Market Survey

Employment by Industry - WindsorEssex		
Industry	1st Quarter 2009	1st Quarter 2008
Agriculture	2,400	3,000
Forestry Fishing, Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	0
Utilities	1,800	0
Construction	7,700	8,200
Manufacturing	43,600	44,600
Trade	29,400	29,400
Transportation and Warehousing	7,000	9,500
Finance and Insurance real estate and leasing	8,900	7,900
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	9,600	8,900
Business, building and other support services	5,000	5,400
Educational Services	15,700	16,300
Health Care and Social Assistance	23,000	25,800
Information and Cultural and Recreation	8,900	7,000
Accommodation and Food Services	15,400	13,900
Other Services(except Public Admin)	8,200	7,000
Public Administration	7,100	6,800
Total	194,600	195,000

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Market Survey

Job Gains/Losses – WindsorEssex		
	February 2009	Year-to-Date
Job Gains Announced	0	165
Job Losses Announced	150	150

Source: Service Canada; The Windsor Star

In February, Windsor Match Plate and Tool was put into receivership, resulting in job losses for its 150 employees, many of whom had been laid off for over a year. February also saw the closure of Nemak's Windsor Aluminum Plant, which had been announced in 2008.

Housing Starts – Windsor-Essex				
	Q4 2008	Q4 2007	Year-to-date 2008	Year-to-date 2007
Amherstburg	10	15	34	57
Essex	5	16	31	47
Kingsville	13	39	65	98
Lakeshore	25	32	125	131
LaSalle	25	24	77	123
Leamington	17	13	45	41
Tecumseh	4	7	14	18
Windsor	56	62	203	285
Total	155	208	594	800

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Company (CMHC) (produced quarterly)

Housing Starts – Windsor CMA				
	February 2009	February 2008	Year-to-date 2009	Year-to-date 2008
Singles	3	6	11	12
Multi-Family	0	5	6	10
Total	3	11	17	22

Source: CMHC Press Release (produced monthly)

According to preliminary data released by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), builders started a total of three housing units in the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), down from the 11 units started in February 2008.

“An adequate supply of listings in the resale market has impacted consumer demand for new housing ” said Margot Stevenson, Market Analyst for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

All three starts in the Windsor area were single detached homes. Year-to-date a total of 11 single-detached homes and six townhouse units have started in the Windsor CMA, down 23 per cent from the same period in 2008.

Building Permits – Windsor Essex				
	February 2009	February 2008	Year-to-date 2009	Year-to-date 2008
Industrial	\$743,000	\$777,000	\$943,950	\$1,298,000
Commercial	\$1,382,400	\$5,641,300	\$3,732,250	\$12,424,300
Institutional	\$2,996,000	\$14,305,000	\$20,819,000	\$16,652,000
Total	\$5,121,400	\$20,723,300	\$25,495,200	\$30,374,300

Source: Municipal Building Departments (updated monthly).

Note: Figures are preliminary and are subject to change.

The largest permit issued in the City of Windsor in February was for interior finishing to the Shoppers Drug Mart on Tecumseh Road, valued at \$700,000. The Town of Tecumseh issued Essex County’s largest permit in February, for a new pumping station. In considering the drop in commercial and institutional building permits, it should be noted that the 2008 figures includes permits valued at over \$5,000,000 to start construction on a new commercial centre at the corner of Patillo Road and County Road 22 in the Town of Lakeshore, as well as a new arena for the Town of Essex.

Regional GDP by Sector – Windsor CMA		
	2008* (Mil. \$ 2002)	2007 (Mil. \$ 2002)
Total	11617	11748
Goods Sector	4113	4578
Primary Industries and Utilities	230	251
Manufacturing	3437	3871
Construction	446	457
Services Sector	7504	7169
Transportation and Communication	627	601
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1168	1095
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2074	1991
Commercial Services	1692	1635
Non-Commercial Services	1530	1450
Public Administration and Defence	413	397

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada, December 3, 2008

Ranking of Windsor CMA's GDP Growth Compared to Other CMAs		
Year	Growth Rate	Rank
2008	-1.1	26 th
2009*	-0.6	27 th
2010*-2013*	2.3	20 th

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada, Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2009 (produced semi-annually)

Retail Sales – Windsor CMA			
	2009*	2008	2007
Total Sales (\$ millions)	3,666	3,593	3,480
Percentage Change	2.0	3.2	-0.4

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada, Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2009 (produced semi-annually)

Employment – Windsor CMA			
	2009*	2008	2007
Total Employment	157,000	160,000	158,000
Unemployment Rate	9.3	9.1	9.4

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada, Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2009 (produced semi-annually)

Bankruptcies – Windsor CMA			
	2007	2006	% Change
Consumer	1,525	1,303	+17.0%
Business	78	84	-7.1%

Source: Conference Board of Canada Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2009 (produced semi-annually)

Regional Employment by Sector – Windsor CMA (000s)			
Sector	2009*	2008	2007
Total	157.0	160.0	158.0
Goods Sector	42.0	45.0	46.0
Manufacturing	32.8	35.2	36.0
Construction	7.0	7.4	7.3
Primary Industries and Utilities	2.2	2.1	2.2
Services Sector	115.0	115.0	113.0
Transportation and Communication	8.0	7.9	8.0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	23.6	23.8	21.8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	6.9	6.8	6.5
Commercial Services	38.0	38.0	39.3
Non-Commercial Services	32.9	33.0	31.8
Public Administration and Defence	5.7	5.7	5.4

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2009 (produced semi-annually)

Number of Businesses by Sector – WindsorEssex			
Sector	June 2008	June 2005	% Change
Total	21,381	20880	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,078	1204	(10.5%)
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	17	17	.0%
Utilities	17	18	(5.6%)
Construction	2,553	2849	(10.4%)
Manufacturing	1,152	1197	(3.8%)
Wholesale Trade	876	853	2.7%
Retail Trade	2,356	2487	(5.3%)
Transportation and Warehousing	1,605	1136	41.3%
Information and Cultural Industries	129	135	(4.4%)
Finance and Insurance	1,239	836	48.2%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,020	1957	3.2%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	2,032	1993	2.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	982	940	4.5%
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgt. & Remediation Serv.	940	969	(3.0%)
Educational Services	180	180	0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,102	962	14.6%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	301	369	(18.4%)
Accommodation and Food Services	1,094	1160	(5.7%)
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,692	1606	5.4%
Public Administration	16	12	33.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Business Patterns Product, June 2005 and June 2008 (produced semi-annually)