

Monthly Economic Monitor – April, 2010

KEY INDICATORS

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

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Unemployment Rates – Windsor CMA (%)			
	March 2010	February 2010	March 2009
Windsor CMA	12.9	12.8	15.2
Ontario	9.2	8.9	8.9
Canada	8.8	8.5	8.8

Source: Statistics Canada, April 2010, figures represent an unadjusted 3 month moving average.

Labour Force Characteristics – Windsor CMA			
	March 2010	February 2010	March 2009
Labour Force	169,800	172,000	173,800
Employed	147,800	149,900	147,400

Source: Statistics Canada, April 2010, figures represent an unadjusted 3 month moving average.

The unemployment rate in the Windsor CMA rose very slightly from February to March, but is significantly below the rate of one year ago. In contrast, the unemployment rate in Ontario and in Canada rose over the past month and is the same or slightly higher than it was a year ago. The decrease in Windsor's unemployment rate since March 2009 was the result of a small increase in the number of jobs and a larger decrease in the size of the labour force.

Labour Force Characteristics – Windsor-Essex			
	Q1 2010	Q1 2009	2009
Population 15+	327,400	329,800	327,000
Labour force	203,200	210,200	209,800
Employment	178,300	179,100	182,500
Full-time	137,800	136,200	140,000
Part-time	40,400	42,900	42,500
Unemployed	25,000	31,200	27,300
Not in labour force	124,200	119,500	117,200
Unemployment rate (%)	12.3	14.8	13.0
Participation rate (%)	62.1	63.7	64.2
Employment rate (%)	54.5	54.3	55.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Market Survey

Employment by Industry - WindsorEssex		
Industry	QI 2010	QI 2009
Agriculture	3,400	3,300
Forestry, fishing, mining and oil and gas extraction	0	0
Utilities	1,600	0
Construction	6,300	7,100
Manufacturing	35,900	36,100
Trade	25,800	28,700
Transportation and warehousing	7,400	7,800
Finance and insurance real estate and leasing	7,900	9,400
Professional, scientific and technical services	8,200	8,600
Business, building and other support services	5,700	5,600
Educational services	15,200	14,600
Health care and social assistance	24,600	19,700
Information and cultural and recreation	8,100	10,300
Accommodation and food services	12,000	13,00
Other services (except public administration)	9,000	7,900
Public administration	6,900	4,900
Total	178,300	179,100

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Market Survey

Note: 0 are estimates less than 1500

Job Gains/Losses – WindsorEssex		
	March 2010	Year-to-Date
Job Gains Announced	33	1062
Job Losses Announced	0	0

Source: Service Canada; The Windsor Star

The Spitfire & Firkin, a new pub franchise, has opened a restaurant on Tecumseh Road in Windsor. The business hired 33 employees. The 100 former employees of Johnson Controls who lost their jobs with the plant's closure in March were not included in the table above, as they are all expected to start work at Chrysler's Windsor Assembly Plant in April. Butcher Engineering learned in March that Ford would be ending its contract with the company. Job losses are expected, but the exact number has not yet been determined.

Housing Starts – Windsor-Essex				
	Q1 2010	Q1 2009	Year-to-date 2010	Year-to-date 2009
Amherstburg	4	4	4	4
Essex	5	8	5	8
Kingsville	9	8	9	8
Lakeshore	13	7	13	7
LaSalle	23	5	23	5
Leamington	2	2	2	2
Tecumseh	1	0	1	0
Windsor	30	19	30	19
Total	87	53	87	53

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Company (CMHC)

Housing Starts – Windsor CMA				
	March 2010	March 2009	Year-to-date 2010	Year-to-date 2009
Singles	28	9	67	20
Multi-Family	0	9	4	15
Total	28	18	71	35

Source: CMHC Press Release

According to preliminary data released by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), housing starts in the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) totaled 28 units in March, up from the 18 units started in March 2009.

“First quarter new residential construction is up this year, given Windsor’s brighter prospects,” said Margot Stevenson, Market Analyst for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. “Green energy investment plans, recalls of workers and a closer balance between listings and sales in the existing home market have been positive factors,” added Stevenson.

Starts in the Windsor area were all single-detached homes, up 56 per cent from March 2009 figures. Year-to-date, builders started 67 single-detached homes and four townhouse units in the Windsor CMA, up 103 per cent from the first quarter of 2009.

Building Permits – Windsor-Essex				
	March 2010	March 2009	Year-to-date 2010	Year-to-date 2009
Industrial	\$1,467,000	\$32,000	\$32,497,000	\$975,950
Commercial	\$1,628,000	\$1,241,000	\$4,008,000	\$5,216,250
Institutional	\$62,000	\$178,000	\$26,468,383	\$20,997,000
Total	\$3,157,000	\$1,451,000	\$62,973,383	\$27,189,200

Source: Municipal Building Departments

Note: Figures are preliminary and are subject to change. Figures do not include Lakeshore.

The value of building permits issued in March 2010 was more than double the value from March 2009, due to a significant increase in industrial building permits. The largest building permit in March 2010, issued in the Town of Essex, was for an addition, valued at \$600,000 for Refac Industrial Contractors. There were no other permits valued at more than \$500,000.

Regional GDP by Sector – Windsor CMA			
	2009* (Mil. \$ 2002)	2008 (Mil. \$ 2002)	2007 (Mil. \$ 2002)
Total	10661	11345	11664
Goods Sector	3370	4027	4424
Primary Industries and Utilities	216	234	235
Manufacturing	2767	3364	3746
Construction	387	429	443
Services Sector	7291	7317	7240
Transportation and Communication	633	635	624
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1155	1175	1134
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1999	1968	1956
Commercial Services	1575	1619	1633
Non-Commercial Services	1525	1526	1505
Public Administration and Defence	403	393	388

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada, November 2009

Ranking of Windsor CMA's GDP Growth Compared to Other CMAs		
Year	Growth Rate	Rank
2009	-6.0	27 th
2010*	2.6	13 th
2011*-2014*	3.7	8 th

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada, Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2010

Retail Sales – Windsor CMA			
	2010*	2009	2008
Total Sales (\$ millions)	3,441	3,328	3,502
Percentage Change	3.4	-5.0	0.8

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada, Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2010

Employment – Windsor CMA			
	2010*	2009	2008
Total Employment	151,000	151,000	160,000
Unemployment Rate	0.6	-5.8	1.0

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada, Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2010

Bankruptcies – Windsor CMA			
	2008	2007	2006
Consumer	1,690	1,417	1,240
Business	41	70	77

Source: Conference Board of Canada Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2010

Regional Employment by Sector – Windsor CMA (000s)			
Sector	2010*	2009	2008
Total	151.0	151.0	160.0
Goods Sector	41.0	40.0	45.0
Manufacturing	31.2	30.6	36.0
Construction	7.1	7.2	6.9
Primary Industries and Utilities	2.3	2.5	2.2
Services Sector	111.0	110.0	115.0
Transportation and Communication	7.6	7.9	8.0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	22.6	23.0	23.4
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	6.8	6.9	6.8
Commercial Services	36.1	35.5	37.8
Non-Commercial Services	32.5	31.7	33.2
Public Administration and Defence	5.3	5.2	5.6

* Forecast data

Source: Conference Board of Canada Metropolitan Outlook Report Winter 2010