

Monthly Economic Monitor – March, 2010

KEY INDICATORS

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

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Unemployment Rates – Windsor CMA (%)			
	February 2010	January 2010	February 2009
Windsor CMA	12.8	12.7	13.8
Ontario	8.9	8.7	7.9
Canada	8.5	8.7	8.3

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

Labour Force Characteristics – Windsor CMA			
	February 2010	January 2010	February 2009
Labour Force	172,000	172,100	176,400
Employed	149,900	150,300	152,100

Source: Statistics Canada, December 2009, figures represent an unadjusted 3 month moving average.

Labour market indicators stabilized somewhat in February, with the unemployment rate and the size of the labour force almost unchanged since January. The unemployment rate in the Windsor CMA has declined since February 2009, while the provincial and national figures have increased. The number of people employed has dropped slightly.

Labour Force Characteristics – Windsor-Essex			
	Q4 2009	Q3 2009	2008
Population 15+	324,100	325,100	332,100
Labour force	203,700	210,400	213,300
Employment	182,500	182,700	194,000
Full-time	143,200	142,100	154,100
Part-time	39,300	40,600	39,900
Unemployed	21,300	27,700	19,300
Not in labour force	120,300	114,800	118,800
Unemployment rate (%)	10.5	13.2	9.0
Participation rate (%)	62.9	64.7	64.2
Employment rate (%)	56.3	56.2	58.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Market Survey

Employment by Industry - WindsorEssex		
Industry	Q4 2009	Q4 2008
Agriculture	2,800	2,400
Forestry, fishing, mining and oil and gas extraction	0	0
Utilities	1,500	1,800
Construction	9,300	7,700
Manufacturing	40,700	43,600
Trade	24,700	29,400
Transportation and warehousing	8,000	7,000
Finance and insurance real estate and leasing	7,500	8,900
Professional, scientific and technical services	8,400	9,600
Business, building and other support services	5,900	5,000
Educational services	15,100	15,700
Health care and social assistance	22,300	23,000
Information and cultural and recreation	7,100	8,900
Accommodation and food services	11,100	15,400
Other services (except public administration)	9,300	8,200
Public administration	7,800	7,100
Total	182,500	194,600

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Market Survey

Note: 0 are estimates less than 1500

Job Gains/Losses – WindsorEssex		
	February 2010	Year-to-Date
Job Gains Announced	629	1029
Job Losses Announced	0	0

Source: Service Canada; The Windsor Star

Several major new job announcements were made in February, although the actual hiring will be spread over several years in some cases. The province announced that it will invest up to \$81 million to retain and create up to 757 jobs at Ford's Essex Engine Plant. When the original announcement was made in 2008 that the plant would be re-opening, only 548 jobs were expected to be created, so this announcement involves an additional 209 jobs. Windsor Regional Hospital announced that the expansion of its Western Campus will result in the creation of 530 long term jobs. The original announcement was that 200 jobs would be created. Windsor manufacturer Ground Effects announced the planned hiring of up to 90 new employees to fulfill orders for the modular shelters it is producing in partnership with Ottawa-based HousAll Systems Corp.

Housing Starts – Windsor-Essex				
	Q4 2009	Q4 2008	Year-to-date 2009	Year-to-date 2008
Amherstburg	16	10	40	34
Essex	4	5	17	31
Kingsville	14	13	57	65
Lakeshore	25	25	101	125
LaSalle	36	25	93	77
Leamington	15	17	31	45
Tecumseh	4	4	12	14
Windsor	62	56	145	203
Total	176	155	496	594

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Company (CMHC)

Housing Starts – Windsor CMA				
	February 2010	February 2009	Year-to-date 2010	Year-to-date 2009
Singles	23	3	39	11
Multi-Family	4	0	4	6
Total	27	3	43	17

Source: CMHC Press Release

According to preliminary data released by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), housing starts in the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area I (CMA) totaled 27 units in February, up from the 3 units started in February 2009.

“Lower inventories of completed new homes available for sale means starts must rise as demand strengthens,” said Margot Stevenson, Market Analyst for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. “With the resale market tightening and borrowing costs stable, prospects for the spring market appear positive” added Stevenson.

Building Permits – Windsor-Essex				
	February 2010	February 2009	Year-to-date 2010	Year-to-date 2009
Industrial	\$33,104,697	\$743,950	\$33,484,697	\$943,950
Commercial	\$1,500,000	\$1,490,400	\$2,638,000	\$3,975,250
Institutional	\$23,205,083	\$2,996,000	\$26,406,383	\$20,819,000
Total	\$57,807,780	\$5,230,350	\$62,529,080	\$25,738,200

Source: Municipal Building Departments

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

Two major construction projects in the Town of Amherstburg are largely responsible for the very high building permit values for the month of February. The Town of Amherstburg issued permits for a \$30 million sewage treatment plant and for a new arena valued at almost \$24 million.

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