

An overview of the London-Woodstock Economic Region including Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford counties. The Labour Market Monitor is a monthly report focusing on labour market information produced by a local Labour Market Information Analyst.

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### **Labour Force Trends/Survey**

From July 2009 to July 2010 employment in the London economic region rose by 11,600, with gains in both full-time and part-time employment. With the increase in employment, the employment rate increased by 1.6 percentage points to 62.6%. As employment expanded year-over-year the number of unemployed people fell by 8,700. This caused the unemployment rate to fall from 10.8% to 8.3%, a drop of 2.5 percentage points over the past year. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell from 9.8% to 9.0%.

For more information, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:  
<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfs05d-eng.htm>

### **Labour Market News by Industry**

#### **Accommodation & Food Services**

Forrat's Chocolate shop opened at 629 Richmond Street. The store sells chocolates and Shaw's ice cream.

The West Lorne and Dutton service centres on Highway 401 are open and will be operational by September 2010.

#### **Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting**

The Munsee Tree Corporation opened and has over 40 employees from Chippewa, Munsee-

Delaware and Oneida First Nations. The Munsee Tree Corporation is a tree farm growing poplars and willows.

#### **Arts, Entertainment & Recreation**

Backyard Aquatics, a swim school, opened.

#### **Construction**

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) reported that the number of housing starts in the London Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) decreased by 53% in June 2010 from the same month last year. The demand for single detached homes increased by 34%, but there were no apartment starts.

In the City of London, the number of building permits increased to 611, up by 28% from June 2009.

St. Thomas will have a new courthouse on Wellington Street. The new building will combine two existing courthouses: on Wellington Street and the other on Curtis Street. Three construction companies, (PCL Constructors Inc., Balfour Beatty Construction, and EllisDon Incorporation), have been pre-qualified for the project by Infrastructure Ontario and the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Woodstock City Council approved the construction project to turn E.E. Paquette factory into 42 residential apartments.

#### **Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, & Leasing**

The London St. Thomas Association of Realtors (LSTAR) reported that the number of total home sales decreased by 14% from June 2009. The average price of all residential units increased by 4% from June 2009.

#### **Health Care & Social Service**

The Odd Job Squad program is being offered at the Woodstock Service Canada Centre for

Youth. The program provides work opportunities for students who are looking for summer positions. Around 30 students have signed up for the program. For more information, please contact [the Woodstock Service Canada Centre for Youth](#).

### Information & Culture

Gaming Union Incorporation, a start-up video game publication, signed an investment deal with RBJ Holdings Incorporation. This investment will help Gaming Union expand its downtown London office and marketing team while boosting sales. Gaming Union is planning to hire one sales representative. It will also join with DIG London to host the first ever Gaming Union Expo in November 2010.

### Manufacturing – Automotive

Ingersoll's CAMI Automotive Inc., will hire 100 employees by the end of summer. It also plans to add 100 more staff by the end of 2010. The increase in hiring is due to the demand for its Equinox and Terrain crossover utility vehicles.

Rieter Automotive, an auto-parts maker, will add 60 more positions. Rieter currently employs about 180 workers.

Takumi Stamping Canada will expand its facility on Dennis Road in St. Thomas to accommodate increased production at the Woodstock Toyota plant. Construction will be completed within a year. Takumi plans to increase its workforce by hiring 30 to 50 new positions. Additional information can be found at this [website](#)

Accuride, a wheel manufacturer, re-called 40 laid-off workers. Accuride has 130 workers in London.

### Manufacturing – General

CEVA Logistics, a supplier to General Dynamics Land Systems Canada, will open 30 positions for forklift drivers, and clerical, shipping and receiving staff.

General Dynamics Land Systems Canada won a \$33.2 million order to produce 21 RG-31 Mk5EM and 6 RG-31 Mk5E vehicles for US Marine Corps Systems Command.

Masco Canada Limited, a subsidiary of Masco Corporation, will be moving its distribution centre from Brantford to St. Thomas in 2011. Three operations in London, Brantford and St. Thomas will be consolidated into one. Currently, there are approximately 187 employees in London, 120 employees in St. Thomas and 102 employees in Brantford.

### Other Services

Hyde Park United Church, a 134-year-old historic building, will close in September 2010. Its congregation of 30 to 50 members will attend Riverside United Church.

Window Medics International, a company that specializes in restoring windows, opened a dealership in London. Window Medics plans to hire up to 10 new employees. For more information, please visit the [Window Medics website](#).

### Professional, Scientific & Technical Services

First Impression, a resume service provider, opened. For more information, visit the [First Impression website](#)

### Trade, Wholesale & Retail

Divine Décor, a home furniture store, opened at 122 Dundas Street.

The Old Navy store in Wellington Commons re-opened after an extensive renovation.

### Utilities

Purifics, a London-based water treatment company, will have 20 workers by the end of this year. Purifics has recently won several contracts in Canada, Australia, France and the United States. For current opportunities, please visit the [Purifics website](#).

The Dynamotive Energy Systems Corporation's plant in West Lorne closed. The Vancouver-based company converted wood wastes into biofuel to produce electricity.

*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.*

*Prepared by: Labour Market Information and Socio-economic Information Directorate, Ontario Region*

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