

*The Labour Market Monitor is an overview of the Stratford - Bruce Peninsula Economic Region. It includes the counties of Bruce, Grey, Huron and Perth. This monthly report is produced by a local Labour Market Information Analyst. For further information, contact:*

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#### **Labour Force Trends**

In the economic region of Stratford-Bruce Peninsula, employment increased by 10,800 from June 2009 to June 2010, all in full-time jobs (+13,600), partially offset by losses in part-time employment (-2,800). With the increase in employment, the employment rate rose by 4.2 percentage points to 62.4%. The number of people unemployed decreased by 2,300 from June 2009 to June 2010. As a result, the unemployment rate decreased from 8.5% to 6.7%, the lowest rate among all economic regions in Ontario. Over this same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell from 9.4% to 8.8%.

For more information, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:

<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfss05d-eng.htm>

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

#### **Agriculture**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched a *Young and Beginning Farmers* section on their website. Young farmers will have better information on government tools, programs and services. For more information visit:

[www.agr.gc.ca/youngfarmers](http://www.agr.gc.ca/youngfarmers).

The federal government announced \$4.7 million in funding for the Canadian Aquaculture Industry. The funds will be used to strengthen investments and create jobs in rural coastal communities. For more information visit:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>.

#### **Construction**

The value of building permits declined in the city of Owen Sound. However, the number of permits increased and totalled 156 in January to May 2010, compared with 123 for the same period in 2009. The increase was mainly due to residential construction activities.

In South Bruce Peninsula, the number of building permits increased by 88%, from 92 for the period ending May 2009 to 173 in 2010. Nearly all areas of construction activities increased over the period.

Construction activities are strengthening in the Municipality of Kincardine. During January to May 2010, 117 building permits valued at \$9.9 million were issued, compared with 87 permits valued at \$7 million in 2009.

Construction of a new playground in Cromarty Ball Park in West Perth is scheduled to begin at the end of June. A \$35,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation will assist with the cost of the project.

Phase 1 of the expansion to the Elma Logan Recreation Complex in North Perth is underway. The project is receiving federal and provincial funding of over \$300,000 under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program.

The estimated \$1.3-million expansion to the Chesley Medical Clinic will go to tender in summer 2010.

#### **Education**

More high schools across the region are implementing the provincially designed Specialist High Skills Major program. Students can focus on a specific career path to better prepare for post secondary studies and the job market.

The Accommodation Review Committee of the Avon Maitland District School Board recommended the closure of three schools effective September 2012: Brussels Public School, Usborne Central Public School and Zurich Public School. Current and projected

enrolment in each school were among the issues considered. Some staff and students will be relocated.

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

In May 2010, the number of homes sold in Grey and Bruce Counties was 241, up 6% from May 2009. The average house price was \$226,063 in May of this year, an increase of 8% over the previous year.

In Huron and Perth Counties, 164 homes were sold in May 2010, an increase of 20% over the same month last year. The average house price was \$229,992 in May 2010, up 15% over May 2009.

#### **Health Care & Social Services**

In Goderich, two family physicians will join the Maitland Valley Family Health Team in August 2010 and August 2011.

In Grey County, the social assistance caseload declined from 1433 cases in March 2010 to 1406 cases in April 2010. The numbers were rising steadily in the past 18 months.

#### **Information & Culture**

The provincial government announced \$3.1 million in funding for the development of a new regional tourism organisation in tourism region 4: Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Wellington. The funding will help strengthen investments in tourism activities and create jobs in rural communities. For more information on the 13 tourism regions initiative visit:  
<http://www.tourism.gov.on.ca/english>.

#### **Manufacturing**

The federal government announced funding of over \$4 million to the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters for a literacy and essential skills development project. The project aims to create an educated and skilled workforce by

encouraging innovation, productivity and safety in the workplace.

#### **Other Services (except Public Administration)**

In Bruce County, a \$30,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant will assist in hiring staff for the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network for another two years.

The Job Finding Centre in Stratford closed, resulting in the loss of five full-time jobs.

#### **Public Administration**

Huron County launched a new website, [www.investinhuron.ca](http://www.investinhuron.ca). The site will provide up-to-date information on business start up, investment opportunities and sector profiles.

#### **Trade, Wholesale & Retail**

A Toyota dealership opened in the City of Stratford and is expected to create 18 jobs in sales, service and parts operations.

Kemble Mountain Roastery opened in Port Elgin, creating two part-time jobs.

*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 and Socio-economic Information Directorate, Ontario Region.*