



Labour Market Bulletin

Cornwall/Hawkesbury

Service Canada Centre

~ An Analysis of the Cornwall/Hawkesbury Area Labour Market ~ July-September 2006 ~

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An overview of the five counties of Stormont-Dundas and Glengarry and Prescott-Russell. The area includes the city of Cornwall and the towns of Alexandria and Hawkesbury. It is the easternmost section of the province of Ontario.

The labour market in this area performed surprisingly well considering the economic shocks from recent manufacturing closures.

The unemployment rate averaged 6.3%, well below the Ontario rate of 6.9%. The participation rate did show some weakening in the labour market by declining, both from the second quarter 2006, and from the third quarter of 2005.

Construction appeared to thrive with large projects impacting the numbers favourably. Retail trade, and accommodation and food services, saw a number of projects in the planning phases setting the stage for improved employment numbers in the near future. Manufacturing and agriculture struggled with the high dollar, foreign competition and rising costs. Most service-type industries had a good quarter, while most goods-producing industries, excluding construction, did not.

All in all, it was a very mixed bag. The third quarter had good and bad, it all depended on the industry you were in.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Large projects cause record construction year in Cornwall
- ▶ Mixed results in manufacturing
- ▶ Major project for shopping centre along the 417 Highway
- ▶ Commercial activity on the rise
- ▶ Average growing season-low prices for farmers
- ▶ Unemployment rate averages 6.3%
- ▶ Employment Insurance claims down from same period last year

The Cornwall-Hawkesbury SCC Labour Market Bulletin is a quarterly report produced by the area Labour Market Information Analyst. This bulletin and other LMI products may also be found on our website. (aussi disponible en français)

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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.

LABOUR MARKET NEWS

Highlights on industry activities that have an impact on the local labour market, this information is derived from several sources including local newspapers, newsletters and various publications. Please refer to "Notes to Readers" for additional information.

Agriculture

The growing season was described as average. A very wet spring meant many of the crops did not get off to a good start. Hay was the only crop to benefit from all of the rain. Prices for most crops are still at low levels. Production costs have risen especially because of rising fuel and fertilizer costs.

Recent prices for two major farm crops have local farmers concerned. Soybean and corn prices will cause local growers to lose money on their crops. Recent bean prices are \$212 a ton, about \$70 less than the cost of production.

The Ontario government announced in early July it would include paid farm workers, both migrant and domestic, under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Self-employed farmers with unpaid workers are still excluded from the Act, however the Agriculture Ministry said this new regulation is expected to raise awareness about the potential hazards to reduce risk of injury or death. Whether it be from handling dangerous chemicals, working with heavy machinery, or herding unpredictable animals, all aspects of farm life present a health and safety risk. Paid farm workers can now refuse unsafe work and have the right to know about any potential chemical, machine or animal hazards while employed on a farm.

Construction

Cornwall is in the midst of a record year for construction. As of the end of August, the total value of building construction in Cornwall sat at \$60.8 million, due in large part to expansions at St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre (\$36 million), McConnell Manor (\$13.8 million) and the Cornwall Courthouse (\$5 million). A planned \$4.9-million upgrade to the Cornwall Community Hospital- McConnell site will also push the value even higher before the year is up. The next closest year was 1988, when building construction value totalled \$56.2 million. While the total construction value may be up, the actual construction activity isn't. The city issued a total of 381 building permits to the end of August, down slightly from the 413 issued during the same period last year. Coleman said the city has seen less of the smaller projects such as the installation of pools and decks.

Cornwall-based Laplante Welding will be setting up

operations at the former Consoltex textiles plant in Alexandria in October, adding new production and processing capabilities. Once a partial retrofit, which began in October, is completed, the company will double its staff by an initial 30 employees, with the likelihood of adding even more in the future. The company will utilize one-third of the facility's 173,000 square feet to start with, and plans to expand the business over the next year.

A new subdivision has been approved in South Glengarry. Twenty-one residential lots will be built in South Lancaster, west of SDG 34, behind the new Tim Horton's. The second phase will allow another seven lots, along with a four acre park.

A major new road construction project began in late August to widen Brookdale Ave in Cornwall's west end from two lanes to five between Henry St and Tollgate Rd. The project will cost \$7.3 million and will take until October 2007 to complete. Cornwall Gravel will be the main contractor.

The governments of Ontario and Quebec have signed an agreement to facilitate access to the construction labour markets in both provinces. The plan, signed on June 2, 2006, was outlined at a special information session at the Hawkesbury town hall to more than 50 members of the construction work force and the general public. The agreement allows Ontario contractors and workers easier access to doing business in Quebec. Previously, Ontario workers who wanted to do business in Quebec needed to hold a Quebec competency card and belong to a Quebec union, as all construction workers in the province must do. This has made it hard for Ontario workers to find jobs across the border. With the new agreement, contractors can now bid on most contracts - notably those by Hydro Quebec, which were often unattainable. For other workers, the agreement allows them to qualify for "trade activity cards" from the Ontario government, which will be recognized in Quebec. Workers with these cards will also be allowed to work in all regions of Quebec rather than just in the Hull and Gatineau regions, as it was before.

Manufacturing

Advantech AMS, formerly known as United TriTech Corporation, won a contract to build a new product. Ottawa-based Enablence Technologies contracted with them to build fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) modems. The modems work on optical fiber and provide enormous transmission capacities. The goal is to build 5,000 modems a month. This means seven

to ten new jobs at the plant located in Cornwall's east-end industrial park.

Flaro Hockey Inc., in Martintown has signed a large deal with Home Hardware to supply their stores across Canada with hockey sticks and other related merchandise. The company employs nine people now, but as a result, is expected to expand.

Hunt Builders Ltd., a home-building products company based in Morrisburg, is winding down operations. The company, a subsidiary of Wood Structures Inc. of Maine, laid off 33 staff in early August. Another 11 staff will be let go at the end of December, once the closure is complete. Operations manager Rick Cheevers said the combination of a slowing U.S. housing market, the rising Canadian dollar, surging fuel prices and the software-lumber dispute "eroded the advantage of manufacturing in Canada." The company made roof trusses and wall panels for homes in the New England region.

The Nestle Job Action Centre had its official opening July 19th. The centre will assist the 300 workers who were laid off at the end of June in Chesterville. It has a \$200,000 budget, half from Nestle and the other half shared by the federal and provincial governments.

The strike at IKO Industries in Hawkesbury continues after reaching its one year anniversary on July 13. United Steelworkers Local 8580 had 72 members on strike initially. Twenty-four members have crossed the line and returned to work. The dispute centers around the length of a new contract and wages and benefits. Wages have ranged from \$17 to \$22 per hour.

Domtar sold its Second St East property, 123 acres plus buildings, to a local company for \$4 million. Paris Holdings, with investments from Jerry Rose and Trenholm Healey, closed the deal on September 22, 2006. Paris Holdings is headed by Stephen McDonald, Rose's stepson, and director Martin Rose, Rose's son. Demo Plus, another local firm will have a hand in the demolition and remediation of the site. Both companies have offices on-site.

Trade

The recently announced Plaza de l'est, pedestrian mall is being planned for a site with 1,000 feet of frontage along Highway 417, in Russell township. Four "big box" stores are involved with the project, two in the first phase and eventually two more modelled after an old Quebec village. The project will not appear like a traditional mall from the outside. The project will bring opportunities for employment in construction jobs and longer term full and part time retail work in the mall. McHugh says the promoters are committed to using as many local people - plumbers, electricians, landscapers, planners - as they can. He says a minimum of 1,500 construction workers

will be hired to build the first phase.

Mac's Milk, in Chesterville, closed on September 6, 2006, putting five employees out of work. The past year has seen Chesterville lose the Nestle plant, Ritchie Feed and Seed, the King Street Dollar store and a consignment shop.

Transportation & Warehousing

Delaney Bus Lines is investigating demand for a commuter bus line to Ottawa. Delaney is asking commuters to fill out a survey, posted as a PDF file at the company's website (www.delaney.on.ca), that asks respondents a number of questions about their commuting habits.

Health Services

Prescott Russell Construction Management and Peter van Kessel plan to build a retirement residence in Chesterville this fall. It will function as a "full-service retirement residence" for 75 seniors. Residents at the Garden Villa Retirement Residence will eat prepared meals in a common dining room and enjoy shared recreation areas, while living in dorm-style rooms.

Michel Quesnel, project officer with Prescott Russell Construction Management, said the concept differs from a nursing home. Residents are still independent but benefit from additional amenities and services, such as laundry and meals. "A retirement residence is more of a hotel-style, while a nursing home is more of a hospital-style."

Allegro Residences president Jean Bourcier announced an \$18.8-million expansion to McConnell Manor retirement home September 5, 2006, one which would see the first suite arrive in fall 2007. The new six floor, 118-unit, assisted-living residence will be situated next to the existing manor, and will be connected by an indoor walkway. The new suites will contain full kitchens and Internet access, and are designed for seniors looking for an increased level of security while still maintaining a degree of independence.

The food bank at Agape Centre in Cornwall had 162,000 visits in their fiscal 2005-2006. That was up 13% from the previous year. Judy Dancause, Executive Director, states that at least one-third of the visits are from the working poor. These are people working full-time but because of low wages cannot make ends meet. In the last five years traffic at the center has gone from a monthly average of 350 to 875. The St Vincent de Paul Society offers a food bank on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Nick Haramis, president of the food bank, reports a 25% increase in the last year.

Education Services

The City of Cornwall, along with St. Lawrence College and the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences,

will be exploring the feasibility of establishing a university in Cornwall through partnerships with other post-secondary institutions. An official from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa told the city's economic development department it took about 10 years of lobbying and roughly \$220 million to establish the institution, which opened in 2003. The city of Oshawa contributed \$7 million to the venture, while the surrounding Durham region invested more than \$10 million.

Eastern Ontario's French Catholic School Board will be setting up six new in-school day care centres in 2006-07, thanks to a balanced budget totalling just under \$160 million. The Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien (CSDCEO) budget also provides money for hiring 45 elementary teachers and 26 high school teachers. It will also ensure that two \$19-million construction projects in Casselman and Rockland will continue as planned.

The four education boards operating in this area passed balanced budgets before the September deadline. The English public board, which is the largest, stated that it would make cuts to administration and other staff because of a \$10.2 million deficit forecast on the \$298 million budget. The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) approved a balanced budget of \$132.6 million for the 2006 - 2007 school year on August 28, three days before the deadline. They also mentioned cuts, but did not provide details. The French Public School Board, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) got a head start on its budget deliberations, passing a \$115.8 million budget last June, a \$6 million increase over last year. Board spokesperson Lucie Boileau says that its student population has increased by three per cent over last year and that board projects this year included the construction of a new elementary school in Barrhaven. She added that none of the schools were affected negatively by the balanced budget, although the board did have to layoff 30 positions at the administrative level in order to cover a transportation deficit. The local French Catholic board, Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien, passed a budget of \$158,674,280 on August 29. Board spokesperson Johanne Cote says that the budget allowed for 71.3 new teachers, 45 at the elementary level and the rest at the high school level.

The Upper Canada Leger Centre for Education and Training has moved from St Lawrence College to Nav Canada. The centre hosts almost 60 international high school students across the Upper Canada District School Board. Students come from South Korea, China, Thailand, Mexico, Brazil, and Germany. They spend anywhere from four weeks to the full eight month school term learning the language and culture of the local area. The centre also has nine other projects it works on, including "Computers for kids."

The Upper Canada District School Board and the union representing about 1,400 workers in English- Language public schools have ratified a new collective agreement. The members of Local 5678 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees voted in favour of the pact after the board had approved the settlement August 24. Retroactive to September 1, 2005, and ending August 31, 2008, the agreement contains salary increases of 2.7 per cent in the first year of the contract, 2.5 per cent in the second year, and 3 per cent in the third year. CUPE represents 1,400 clerical, education assistants, instructional assistants, plant, custodial and maintenance, information technology, transportation, library and support staff in a vast territory that encompasses Prescott-Russell and Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry.

Public Administration

The city of Cornwall is considering adding a sporting events coordinator if the budget allows. The position would run for five years with the sole aim of attracting big-name sporting events to Cornwall. This is an effort to increase events in the city which will bring more people and revenue. Added tourism would help the accommodation and food services industry. Sporting events are recession-proof as they continue regardless of the economy. The job would carry a \$60,000 salary.

The Ministry of Labour announced an expansion of services so that Ontario workers can obtain and submit employment standards claims at Service Ontario Centres across the province, or via a 24/7 online website. A simplified, easy language claim form and guide is also available at the Ministry's website. The announcement, made on August 22 in North Bay, detailed the expanded service and a new Provincial Claims Centre to be located in Sault Ste. Marie. An easy language Self-Help kit was web-posted to assist workers to resolve disputes directly with employers in March 2006.

A total of 18 business owners in the two commercial areas in Cornwall have signed on to take part in Streetscapes, a program in which improvements are made to the interiors or exteriors of buildings. Under the program, the business owner covers the cost of the materials for the upgrades while the federal government covers the cost of labour. In the end, the crew hired to do the work gets to learn new skills and the business owner gets an upgraded building. Service Canada provides the funding and the project is coordinated by the Eastern Ontario Training Board. Grant-Marion Construction will provide the direct supervision and technical expertise. A crew of ten unemployed workers will be gaining new skills and contacts.

Accommodation and Food Services

American visits to Canada have sunk to an all-time low. The number of same day U.S. travellers has hit the lowest level

since record keeping started in 1972. August was the fourth consecutive month a record low was reached. High gas prices, the high Canadian dollar, and perceived hassles at the border have all contributed to the decline. Accommodation and food services is the sector most directly effected by tourism and travel.

Miscellaneous

North Lancaster will be getting high-speed internet service. A company from Trois Rivieres, Xittel Telecommunications, will provide a wireless service. The cost will be a \$200 installation fee and \$39.95 per month thereafter.

Consumer Price Index, September 2006

The 18.7% drop in gasoline prices substantially decreased the 12-month change of the All-items Consumer Price Index from 2.1% in August to 0.7% in September. However, excluding

energy, the index increased from 1.5% to 1.8% during the same period.

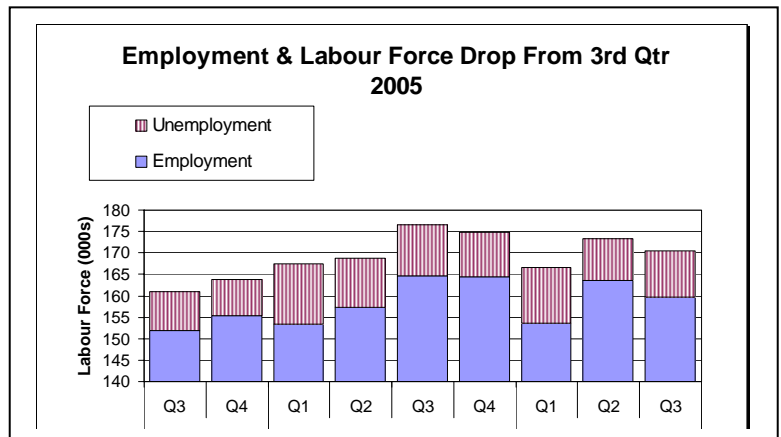
The Monster Employment Index Canada climbed by one point in September to a level of 131, reflecting continued growth in online recruitment activity following a significant surge the previous month. Five out of ten job classifications tracked by the Index registered gains during September, led by occupations in natural and applied sciences, sales and service, trades and transportation, and management positions. Natural and applied sciences jobs, which includes information technology, computer engineering, and computer services occupations, posted the strongest performance last month. In contrast, online recruitment in the areas of business and administration, as well as health care, showed some weakness compared to August.



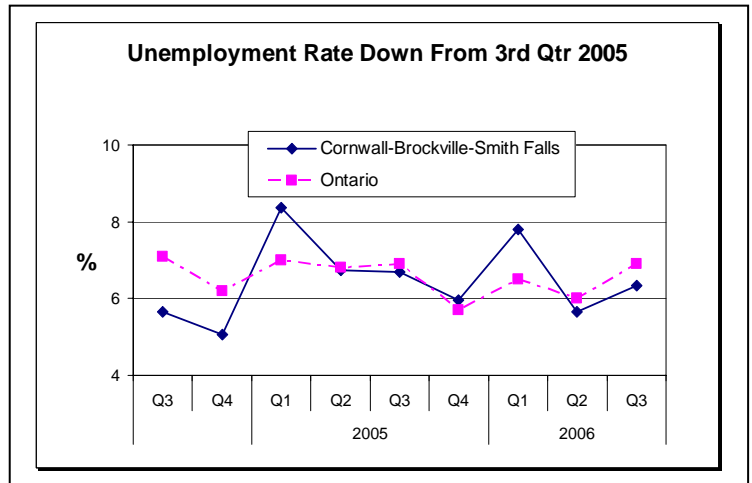
Quarter over quarter full time employment increases.

At the same time total employment drops and unemployment rises

In the 3rd quarter of 2006 the Cornwall-Brockville-Smith Falls labour market continued to send mixed signals. The labour force declined by 2,900 from the 2nd quarter of 2006. Within the labour force decline was an increase in unemployment of 1,000 and a decrease in employment of 3,800. Although part-time employment dropped by 3,800, the encouraging news is that full-time employment actually increased by 1,300 persons.



The Cornwall-Brockville-Smith Falls area is also known as 'Economic Region 510 less the Ottawa Census Metropolitan Area'. This area is comprised of the Census Divisions of: Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry United Counties, Prescott and Russell United Counties, Leeds and Grenville United Counties; and, Lanark County. Due to the economic structure of a large urban centre such as the Ottawa CMA, and its tendency to differ significantly from smaller, more rural, communities included within ER 510, this report excludes the Ottawa Census Division



The Cornwall-Brockville-Smith's Falls area labour force trends:

	Third Quarter 2006	Second Quarter 2006	Third Quarter 2005	Change			
				Quarter/Quarter Absolute	%	Year/Year Absolute	%
Population 15 +	270,900	270,400	268,400	500	0.2	2,500	0.9
Labour force	170,500	173,400	176,600	-2,900	-1.7	-6,100	-3.5
Employed	159,700	163,500	164,700	-3,800	-2.3	-5,000	-3.0
Full-time	134,400	133,100	136,300	1,300	1.0	-1,900	-1.4
Part-time	25,400	30,500	28,500	-5,100	-16.7	-3,100	-10.9
Unemployed	10,800	9,800	11,800	1,000	10.2	-1,000	-8.5
Not in labour force	100,400	96,900	91,900	3,500	3.6	8,500	9.2
Participation rate	62.9%	64.1%	65.8%	-1.2		-2.9	
Unemployment rate	6.3%	5.7%	6.7%	0.7		-0.3	
Employment rate	59.0%	60.5%	61.4%	-1.5		-2.4	

As mentioned, quarter-over-quarter unemployment increased by just over 10%, and consequently the unemployment rate rose from 5.7% in the 2nd quarter of 2006 to 6.3% in the 3rd quarter.

Year over year, unemployment dropped by 1,000 - a decrease of almost 9% - and the unemployment rate fell from 6.7% to 6.3% . However, this apparent improvement was only due to withdrawals from the labour force, while employment declined by a lesser amount than the labour force. Still, in the 3rd quarter of 2006, the Cornwall-Brockville-Smith Falls area unemployment rate is slightly below the Ontario rate of 6.9%

Definitions: *Population 15+* (the working age population) consists of all persons 15 years of age and over residing in Canada with the exception of residents of the territories, persons living on Indian Reserves, inmates of institutions and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces. The **labour force** is that portion of the working age population who, during the Labour Force Survey reference week, were either employed or unemployed. The portion of the working age population that is neither employed nor unemployed is **not in the labour force**. The **participation rate** is the percentage of the working age population that is in the labour force. The **unemployment rate** is the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed. The **employment rate** is the percentage of the working age population that is employed.

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) is the major source of data for this Review. As relatively small sample sizes are utilized in compiling sub-provincial estimates for the survey, there is a chance of variation due to sampling error. Therefore, the reader is cautioned that small changes in some timeseries could be wholly or partially due to these statistical sampling errors, and may not necessarily reflect actual events in the labour force. Data are three-month moving averages.

Note to readers:

Revisions to the LFS

Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for the January 1987 to December 2005 period have undergone revisions. There are three reasons for the revision. First, the revision enables the use of improved population benchmarks in the LFS estimation process. These improved benchmarks provide better information on the number of non-permanent residents. Second, there are also changes to the data for the public and private sectors from 1987 to 1999. In the past, the data on the public and private sectors for this period were based on an old definition of the public sector. The revised data better reflects the current public sector definition, and therefore result in a longer time series for analysis. Finally, the geographic coding of several small Census Agglomerations (CA) has been updated historically from 1996 urban centre boundaries to 2001 CA boundaries. This affects data from January 1987 to December 2004.

It is important to note that the changes to almost all estimates are very minor, with the exception of the public sector series and some associated industries from 1987 to 1999. Rates of unemployment, employment and participation are essentially unchanged, as are all key labour market trends. Users are cautioned that any comparisons of historical data should be done using these revised estimates.

The article "Improvements in 2006 to the LFS" ([71F0031XIE](#), free) provides further explanation for the revisions and an overview of the effect of these changes on the estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, The Daily, February 10, 2005

Employment by Industry Analysis

Readers of this quarterly labour market review may note that we have discontinued the tables and commentary on employment by industry sector as of the First Quarter, 2006. We have discontinued this content element because recent analysis indicates that the sampling error is too large to provide meaningful observation of changes in sector employment at the sub-provincial level over the short term.

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LABOUR SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Employment Insurance Claimload

There were fewer Employment Insurance (EI) claimants in the third quarter of 2006 than there were in the second quarter. There were also fewer than in the same quarter last year. It would appear that the fall-out from all of the closures has not yet impacted EI claim loads. Both Domtar and Nestle employee's claims have been delayed by large severance payouts. They should begin to claim in the next quarter.

Regular Employment Insurance Claimants

	July - Sept '06			April-June '06			July - Sept '05		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Cornwall/Hawkesbury	2572	1143	1429	3705	1097	2608	3021	1447	1574

Source: SCC administrative data C-356

Employment Opportunities

Historical employment opportunity data has not been included because it is not comparable to the current data set. The boundaries of Service Canada management areas have changed. The Cornwall/Hawkesbury area is now part of the Service Canada Ottawa Management area. The county of Leeds-Grenville has been added to the Cornwall/Hawkesbury area. Jobs posted for communities like Brockville, Gananoque, and Prescott are now grouped in with those in Cornwall/Hawkesbury.

Employment Opportunities - Cornwall/Hawkesbury

Occupations (NOC)	July-Sept '06	April-June '06	July-Sept '05
Total Vacancies	2683		
Management	77		
Business/Administration	616		
Natural & Applied Sciences	46		
Health	53		
Social Science & Education	82		
Culture & Recreation	25		
Sales & Service	773		
Trades & Transport	411		
Primary Industry	42		
Manufacturing & Utilities	558		



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Notes to Readers:

1. The **Cornwall/Hawkesbury Service Canada area** is comprised of the five counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott and Russell.
2. For the purpose of this publication, the **Cornwall/Hawkesbury Service Canada area** includes all of the above communities as well as Alexandria, Casselman, Morrisburg, Martintown, Lancaster, Chesterville, Winchester, Casselman, Alfred, L'Original, Rockland and Van Kleeck Hill.
3. The information contained in the Labour Market News section is gathered using a variety of internal and external sources. The primary sources of information include **Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey Data, the National Labour Market Information System, Statistics Canada 2001 Census, the C356 E.I. Administrative Data, and local newspapers.** Newspapers reviewed include the Chesterville Record, Glengarry News, Iroquois Chieftain, Le Carillon, Le Journal de Cornwall, Le Reflet/The News, Morrisburg Leader, National Post, Seaway News, Standard Freeholder, The Globe and Mail, The Ottawa Citizen, The Review, The Weekly Work Report, and The Winchester Press.
4. **Definitions – Labour Force Survey Data**
Population 15+ (the working age population) consists of all persons 15 years of age and over residing in Canada with the exception of residents of the Territories, persons living on Indian Reserves, inmates of institutions and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces. The **Labour Force** consists of people employed or unemployed and searching for work. Those who are neither employed nor unemployed and are not willing or able to supply labour services are considered **Not in the Labour Force**. The **Participation Rate** is the percentage of the working age population (15+) who are seeking work or are employed. The **Unemployment Rate** is the number of people who are unemployed and looking for work as a percentage of the number of people in the Labour Force. The **Employment Rate** is the number of people employed as a percentage of the working age population.
5. **Definitions – Service Canada Centre Corporate Data**
Employment Insurance claim load: The number of individuals with an active claim for regular Employment Insurance benefits. Data on Employment Insurance claimants is not an accurate measure of the absolute level of unemployment. The data does not include unemployed individuals who: 1/ have not met the program's eligibility requirements or 2/ have exhausted their benefit entitlement.
Employment Opportunities: Advertised employment opportunities are comprised of vacancies notified to the SCC offices in our area and newspaper want ads. This data is not a count of all labour market activity; in practical terms, such a count is not feasible. This data is useful to track short and long-term changes in the demand for individual occupations. The total number of opportunities is equal to full-time plus part-time and casual.
6. This review uses data from **Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS)**. In any survey there is a chance of variation due to sampling size. **Three-month moving averages** are used for selected labour force characteristics in an attempt to improve the reliability of this data. For further information on the Labour Force Survey, visit Statistics Canada's website at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/3701.htm>
7. For more information on Industrial and Occupational categories used in this review, visit **Statistics Canada's website** at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/index.htm>