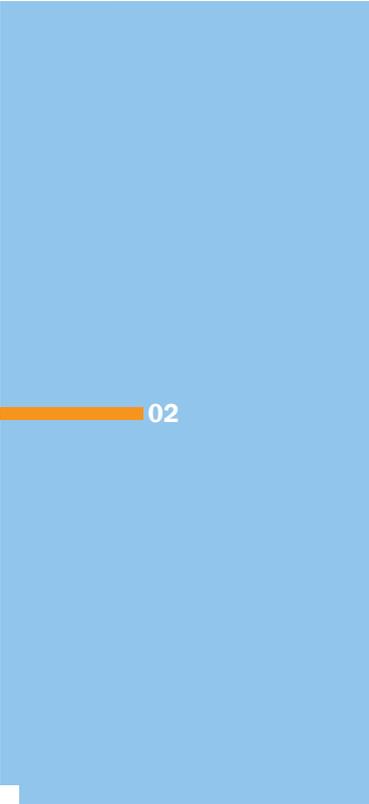




*Progressive by Nature*  
*Municipal Profiles*





02





# Location, Location, Location!

Elgin County is ideally situated in the heart of southwestern Ontario with immediate access to a market of over 439,000 people, including the cities of St. Thomas and London. More than 10 million people are located within a 2½ hour drive. Strategically located with convenient access to Highways 401, 402 and 403, the cities of Windsor, the GTA, London, Woodstock, Chatham-Kent, and Brantford are all within easy reach.

The U.S. border is just a short 2-hour drive away, enabling fast transport and just-in-time delivery of products to customers south of the border. For air transportation, the St. Thomas municipal airport is nearby, with facilities that accommodate recreational and commercial activities.



# Elgin County

Situated in the heart of southwestern Ontario on the north shore of Lake Erie, Elgin County has enjoyed a long and colourful history since its origins as the Talbot settlement in 1803.

Founded as a primarily agricultural community, the County has established a solid base of manufacturing, ship building, commercial fishing, rail, and tourism industries. Key manufacturers that have done business in and around Elgin County include Ford of Canada, Steelway Building Systems, and Imperial Tobacco.

Rail has historically played a prominent role in the County's economic development, offering employment to residents and stimulating growth in surrounding communities such as St. Thomas, Port Burwell, Port Stanley, Talbotville, and others.

More recently, the drive to reduce effects of climate change and meet Kyoto requirements have enabled Elgin County to benefit from an increased interest in alternative energy and fuel sources. To support the green movement, the Townships of Bayham and Malahide host Erie Shores Wind Farm wind-generated power operations, while the Town of Aylmer is home of a new ethanol plant. Many of our local businesses implement leading-edge environmental processes in their manufacturing, recycling and disposal operations.

The cities of St. Thomas and London are in close proximity to communities in Elgin County, with St. Thomas geographically located in the centre of it all. Although not a part of Elgin County, these two cities put the County within close or easy reach of a market of 439,000 people. More than 10 million exists within a 2½ hour drive, including the cities of Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara Falls and Windsor.

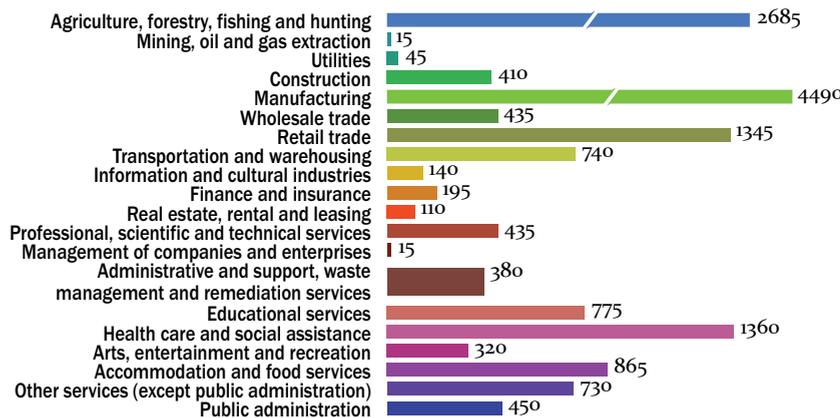
## Population and Labour Force

Elgin County has experienced a 3.1% growth in population over the last decade, with the 2006 census reporting 49,235 residents. Currently, the population is subdivided into eastern (Malahide, Aylmer and Bayham), central (Central Elgin and Southwold) and western (West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich) areas of Elgin, with the eastern position reporting the area's largest populace, followed by central, then the western area.

Provincial projections estimate a 9.5% population growth in the coming years for Elgin County, including St. Thomas.

A diverse and by comparison to other areas in Ontario, young labour force of both skilled and semi-skilled workers are readily available to support the area's industry growth and new opportunities.

## Elgin County - Labour Force Place of Work



Statistics Canada, 2006

## Elgin County - Population by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total of all ages	49235	24555	24680
65+ years	6605	2990	3615
45-64 years	13440	6765	6675
25-44 years	12205	6160	6045
15-24 years	6800	3515	3285
>15 years	10185	5125	5060

Statistics Canada, 2006

# Town of Aylmer

**Location:** 20 kilometres south of Highway 401 on Highway 3 lies the historic and picturesque town of Aylmer. With its location in the eastern portion of the County, the town acts as a centre for commerce and business activity. Not far to the east of Aylmer you'll find the Ontario Police College, in the township of Malahide.

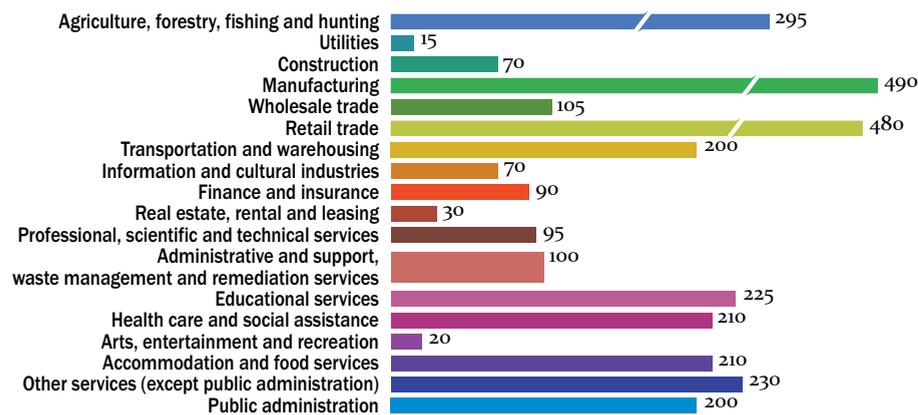
**Population:** Aylmer is home to a busy commercial district and diverse industrial area, serving 7,070 residents and a trade area of approximately 18,000 people.

**Labour:** Home to a broad range of manufacturing companies as well as small and medium-sized businesses, Aylmer's labour force totals approximately 3,135.

**Investment Success:** Aylmer is proud of its infrastructure and capacity to deliver almost unlimited resources for its business customers. Water is received from Lake Erie, while sewage treatment, telephone service, and natural gas services are all provided by municipal and local suppliers. Aylmer offers business customers a fully-serviced business park with flexible lot configurations and sizes - ideal for any size of operation.



## Aylmer - Labour Force Place of Work



Statistics Canada, 2006

## Aylmer - Population by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total of all ages	7070	3350	3720
65+ years	1205	475	730
45-64 years	1675	800	875
25-44 years	1680	835	845
15-24 years	1055	505	550
>15 years	1455	735	720

Statistics Canada, 2006



# Municipality of Bayham

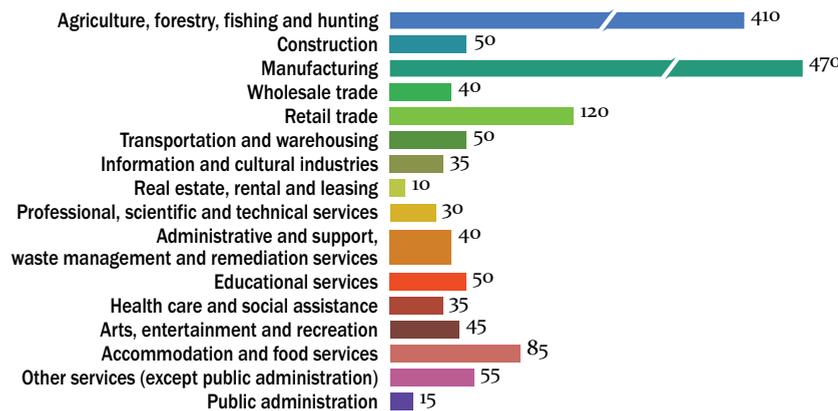
**Location:** Situated at the eastern end of Elgin County, the Municipality of Bayham is directly south of Tillsonburg and Oxford County, with Port Burwell as its southernmost community.

**Population:** Home to 6,745 people, Bayham features a variety of town and villages, with a tremendous range of recreation and heritage resources.

**Labour:** The local economy is focused primarily on manufacturing, agriculture and business services, with a labour force of approximately 1,540.

**Investment Success:** Fine growing conditions in Bayham allow the agricultural community to firmly focus on growing fruit and vegetable crops such as cucumber, tomatoes and apples. Lake Erie's shoreline is a major attraction for visitors, with Port Burwell Provincial Park just west of the village providing a taste of the area's natural setting. Bayham is one of three host municipalities to the Erie Shores Wind Farm that spreads along 29 kms of lakefront.

## Bayham - Labour Force Place of Work



Statistics Canada, 2006

## Bayham - Population by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total of all ages	6745	3465	3280
65+ years	730	355	375
45-64 years	1685	865	820
25-44 years	1630	830	800
15-24 years	1065	565	500
>15 years	1635	850	785

Statistics Canada, 2006



# Municipality of Central Elgin

**Location:** A growing municipality, Central Elgin is home to the villages of Union, Sparta, Belmont and Port Stanley, and boasts one of the finest stretches of sandy beach on Erie's north shore, making these communities popular with day-trippers.

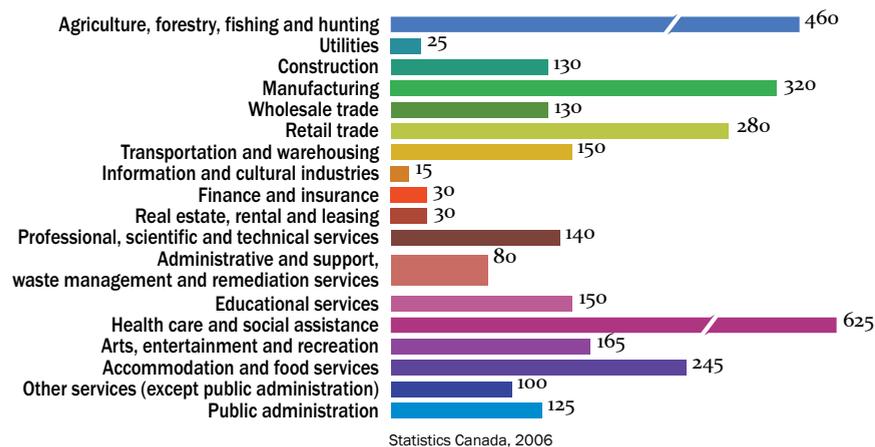
**Population:** The largest population concentration in Elgin County is found in Central Elgin, with 12,730 residents.

**Labour:** The local economy is largely concentrated in manufacturing, tourism, business and other services, supporting a labour force of approximately 3,200.

**Investment Success:** Central Elgin is best described as the quintessential charming country getaway, with a variety of unique shops and restaurants, inns, B&B's, artisans, theatre, golfing, and of course, the beach. A variety of recreational, leisure and cultural activities can be found in Central Elgin, including a marina and charter boat operations. This community is also home to Port Stanley – the largest inland federal harbour on the north side of Lake Erie. Central Elgin also enjoys a flourishing agricultural and agri-business community, including greenhouses, nursery growers, organic farming and several wineries.



## Central Elgin - Labour Force Place of Work



## Central Elgin - Population by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total of all ages	12730	6340	6390
65+ years	1735	820	915
45-64 years	4050	2050	2000
25-44 years	3130	1570	1560
15-24 years	1575	790	785
>15 years	2240	1110	1130

Statistics Canada, 2006



# Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich

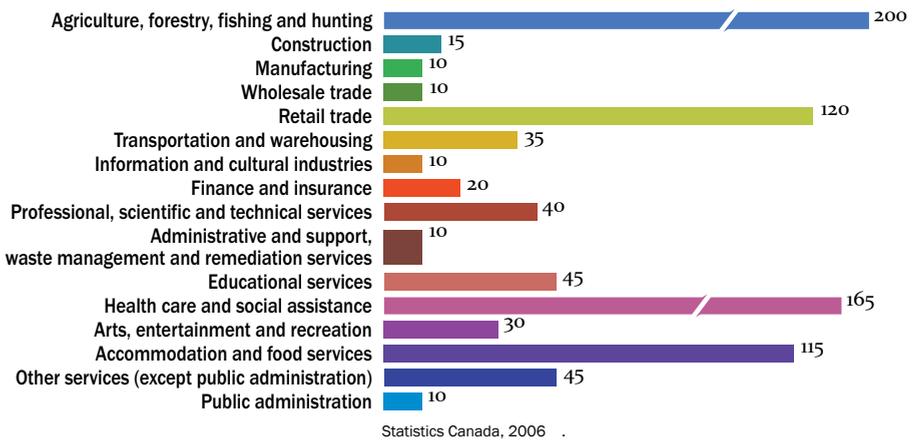
**Location:** Providing immediate access to Highway 401, Dutton/Dunwich has become attractive for families seeking a “small town” alternative to the busier urban lifestyle, yet still within easy reach of larger centres like St. Thomas and London. The municipality also benefits from its location on the Trans Canada Trail, offering recreational opportunities for residents and visitors on the longest recreational trail in Canada.

**Population:** Dutton/Dunwich has experienced one of the highest population growth rates in Elgin County, growing an estimated 6.1% over a 10-year period to 3,825.

**Labour:** The municipality’s labour force of approximately 880 is spread across manufacturing, agriculture, business services, healthcare and social services, with agriculture reporting the largest concentration of workers.

**Investment Success:** Dutton/Dunwich recognizes the importance of home-based businesses, as evidenced by the more than 70 businesses already located in the municipality.

## Dutton-Dunwich - Labour Force Place of Work



## Dutton-Dunwich - Population by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total of all ages	3825	1880	1945
65+ years	580	245	335
45-64 years	1000	495	505
25-44 years	970	480	490
15-24 years	460	240	220
>15 years	815	420	395

Statistics Canada, 2006



# Township of Malahide

**Location:** Malahide is home to the villages of Springfield, Lyons, Mount Salem, Copenhagen and Port Bruce. The area is known for its rich agricultural industry, as well as its unique Carolinian forests, which surround the town of Aylmer.

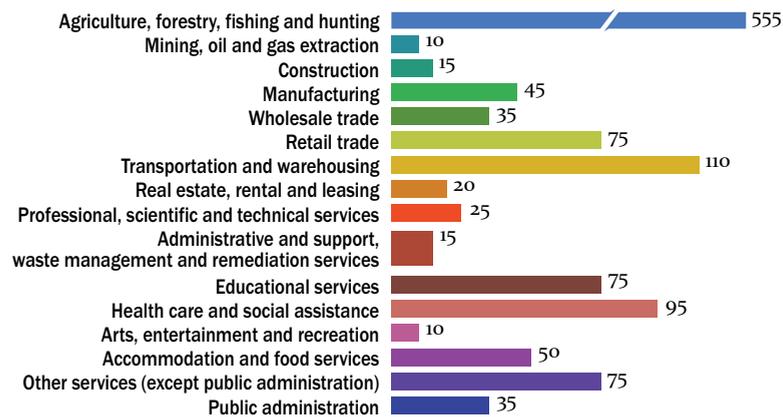
**Population:** Malahide has experienced a healthy growth in population and labour force, with a current population of 8,840.

**Labour:** Employing a labour force of approximately 1,245, the municipality's greatest proportion of workers are found in agriculture, transportation and warehousing, healthcare and social assistance.

**Industrial Success:** Malahide Township is well-known today as the home of the Ontario Police College. A former R.C.A.F. training base, this area is also the location of a popular migratory bird viewing area managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources.



## Malahide - Labour Force Place of Work



Statistics Canada, 2006

## Malahide - Population by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total of all ages	8840	4450	4390
65+ years	895	420	475
45-64 years	2105	1070	1035
25-44 years	2280	1160	1120
15-24 years	1325	695	630
>15 years	2235	1105	1130

Statistics Canada, 2006



# Township of Southwold

**Location:** Southwold communities nicely blend “friendly rural” with “urban industrial”, from the apple orchards in the south through the small, charming villages of the municipality.

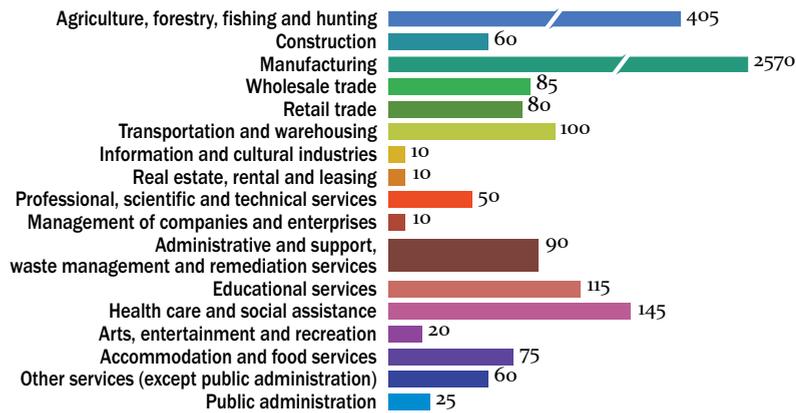
**Population:** With proximity to the city of St. Thomas, Southwold has enjoyed the greatest increase in population in Elgin County over the last 10 years at 10.6%.

**Labour:** Southwold’s labour force is concentrated in manufacturing, agriculture and other resource-based industries and business services, employing approximately 3,910 people.

**Investment Success:** North Star Windows and Doors operates their manufacturing facility in the heart of Southwold. Northstar is an industry leader in the manufacture of attractive and energy-efficient vinyl windows and doors. A significant number of manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, industrial supply and support service operations have also been attracted to the municipality.

**Southwold:** Southwold’s small hamlets and beautiful countryside are charming and enticing to visitors and residents alike. The “country estate living” lifestyle is appealing to country-seekers and urban dwellers, made possible by the proximity to the cities of St. Thomas and London.

## Southwold - Labour Force Place of Work



Statistics Canada, 2006

## Southwold - Population by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total of all ages	4685	2405	2280
65+ years	590	285	305
45-64 years	1320	670	650
25-44 years	1260	665	595
15-24 years	595	325	270
>15 years	920	460	460

Statistics Canada, 2006



# Municipality of West Elgin

**Location:** West Elgin includes Rodney, West Lorne, and Port Glasgow, and features a new health centre and schools. The west is traditionally known as the land of resources, opportunity and beauty, and West Elgin is no exception, with its ideal situation for companies interested in proximity to the 401 corridor midway between Windsor and Toronto.

**Population:** The tobacco industry played a large role in West Elgin's development, and the area has built a strong community as a result, now consisting of 5,340 residents.

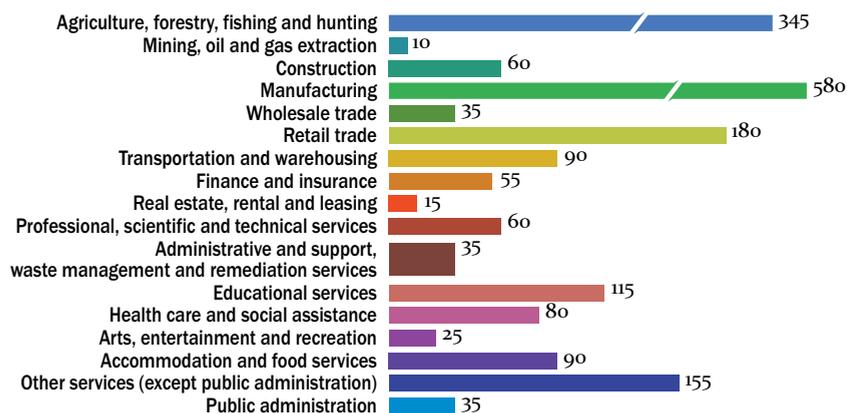
**Labour:** Largely concentrated in agriculture, manufacturing and retail trade. West Elgin's industries employ approximately 1,965 workers.

**Investment Success:** An optimal place to do business, West Elgin offers rich land and a hard-working labour force, and hosts many successful local farm and nursery enterprises due to business-oriented investors. Fully serviced industrial properties are available within easy reach of Highway 401, making it ideal for businesses servicing the St. Thomas-Chatham corridor.

West Lorne is proud to be a key contributor to West Elgin's economy, with its growing businesses. A recent agreement between century-old Erie Flooring and Wood Products and energy leader Dynamotive has resulted in an environmentally-friendly partnership converting wood scraps and sawdust into BioOil®, for use as vehicle fuel and chemicals.



## West Elgin - Labour Force Place of Work



Statistics Canada, 2006

## West Elgin - Population by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total of all ages	5340	2635	2705
65+ years	850	370	480
45-64 years	1625	815	810
25-44 years	1250	620	630
15-24 years	705	380	325
>15 years	910	450	460

Statistics Canada, 2006



## Contact Information:

**County of Elgin**  
Economic Development

450 Sunset Drive  
St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 5V1  
Phone: 519 631-1460 ext. 168  
Fax: 519 631-4549  
Email: [info@elgin-county.on.ca](mailto:info@elgin-county.on.ca)

**Website: [www.progressivebynature.com](http://www.progressivebynature.com)**



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