

## Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) shares best practices and develops opportunities for networking by acting as a liaison between business/industrial sectors, communities and the SEDC, thereby assisting with the foundation of collaborative partnerships. The committee is comprised of representatives from the municipalities covered by this newsletter, as listed below.

### Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Phone: 519-363-3039

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### Township of Chatsworth

Phone: 519-794-3232

Email: [psinnamon@chatsworth.ca](mailto:psinnamon@chatsworth.ca)

### Municipality of Brockton

Phone: 519-881-2223

Email: [info@brockton.ca](mailto:info@brockton.ca)

### Town of Minto

Phone: 519-338-2511

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### Municipality of South Bruce

Phone: 519-392-6623

Email: [clerk@southbruce.ca](mailto:clerk@southbruce.ca)

### Township of Southgate

Phone: 519-377-5057

Email: [gwalker@southgate.ca](mailto:gwalker@southgate.ca)

### Township of Wellington North

Phone: 519-848-3620

Email: [dsmall@wellington-north.com](mailto:dsmall@wellington-north.com)

### Municipality of Grey Highlands

Phone: 519-986-1216

Email: [ecdev@greyhighlands.ca](mailto:ecdev@greyhighlands.ca)

### Municipality of West Grey

Phone: 519-369-2200

Email: [info@westgrey.com](mailto:info@westgrey.com)

### Town of Hanover

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## Editor's Comments

The Economic Indicators for 2019 have shown to be similar to the start of 2018. Most indicators remain positive with employment opportunities remaining high. The unemployment rate in our region was reported lower than the Province. Real Estate is neutral as we see higher selling prices, but lower inventory. Attainable housing is again the topic of discussion and development projects continue to grow in this area. To conclude, 2019 is trending favorably and aimed to stay in the positive economic growth stage.

## Positive 2019 Indicators



**Unemployment**  
Down



**Social Assistance**  
Down



**Real Estate Sales**  
Higher prices/Less inventory



**New Motor Vehicle Sales**  
Up

## Negative 2019 Indicators



**Building Permits**  
Down



**Saugeen Economic Development Corporation**  
A Community Futures Development Corporation

Phone: 519-799-5750 or 1-877-335-7332 (SEDC)

Email: [info@sbdc.ca](mailto:info@sbdc.ca) • Website: [www.sbdc.ca](http://www.sbdc.ca)



# The Saugeen Economy

# 2019

## 1st Half

Front cover: Heritage Park in Palmerston, Minto, photo courtesy of SEDC

**Saugeen Economic  
Development Corporation  
in Partnership with the  
Regional Advisory Committee**

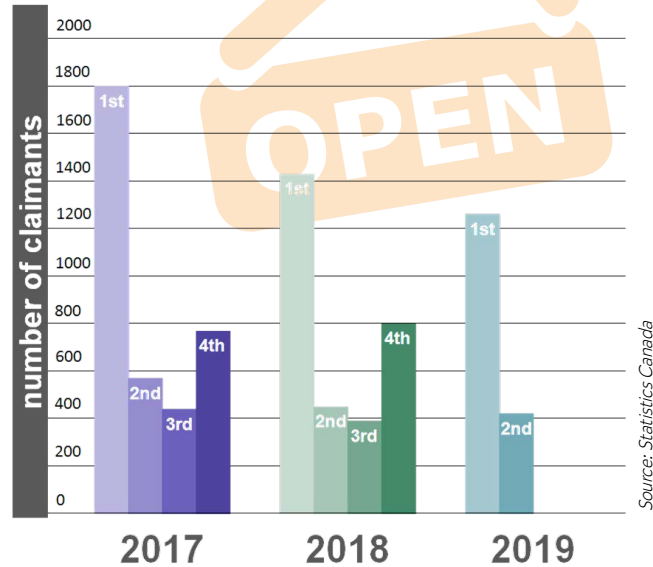


A COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## **Unemployment Saugeen**

### DECREASE IN CLAIMANTS

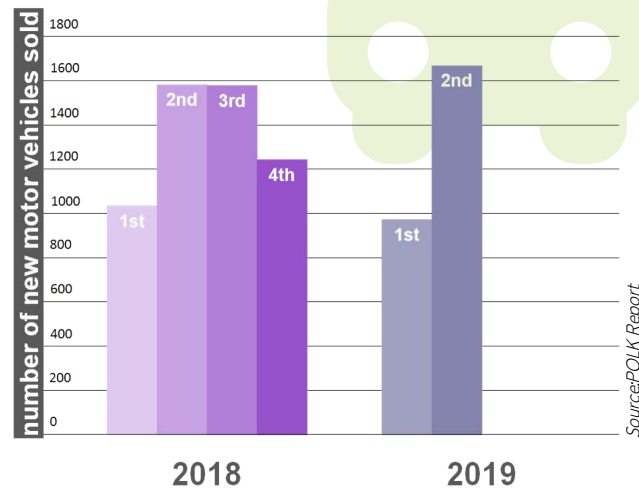
At the end of June 2019 there were 420 claimants for employment insurance compared to 450 in June 2018. The unemployment rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points to 3.4%. Ontario unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 5.6% in June 2019.



## **New Motor Vehicle Sales Local Area**

### AGAIN, OUT PACING REST OF PROVINCE!

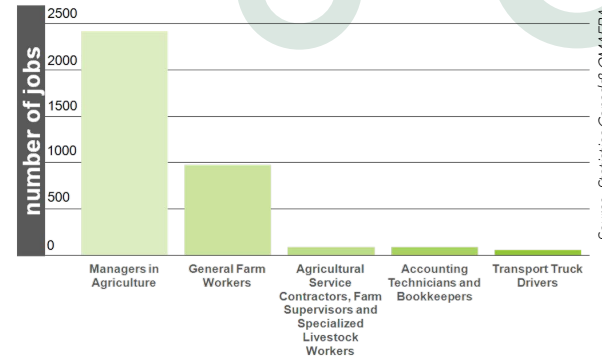
In the 1st half of 2019, Local Sales were reported at 2,642 unit's vs 2,618 in 2018. This represents an increase of 24 units or 1% in 2019. By comparison Ontario-wide sales had a 1.5% decrease over the same time period.



## **Agri-Sector Saugeen**

### LABOUR CHALLENGES PERSIST FOR THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

A survey of Ontario's agricultural employers revealed that the majority were not able to find sufficient labour and that more than one-half plan to increase the number of new hires in the next five years. Respondents also indicated that a large number of positions require postsecondary education. To try to fill this gap there has been greater recruitment efforts by educational institutions and talks to alter training to meet employer needs. Some of the key occupations in the agricultural industry in Ontario are shown below:



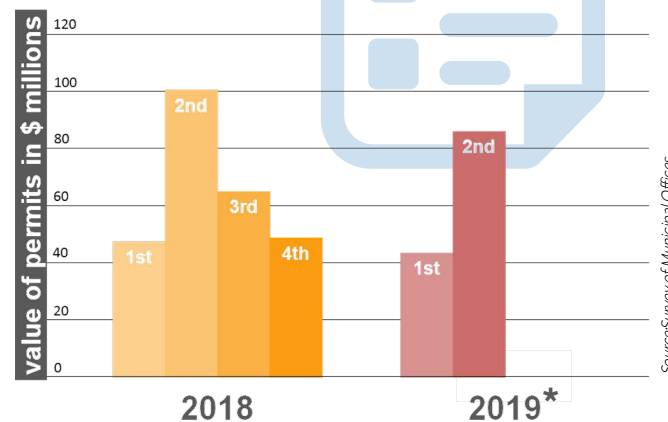
**NOTE:** The information in this newsletter was deemed accurate at the time of printing. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this document, and accept no responsibility for errors or omissions.

## **Building Permits Saugeen**

\* At time of printing Southgate data was unavailable

### PERMITS ON PAUSE

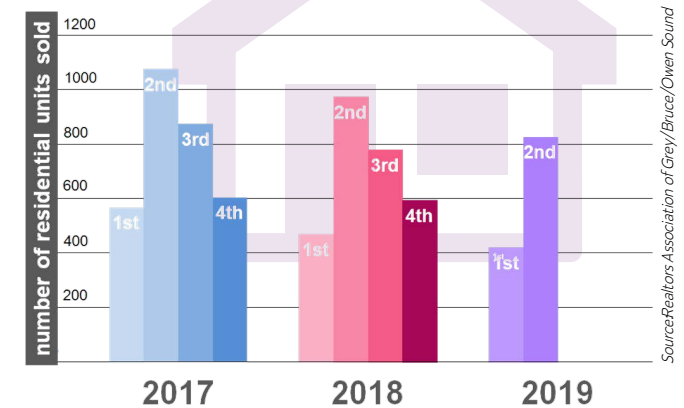
The value of building permits issued in the 1st half of 2019 was \$130 million, down \$18.4 million from the same time period in 2018. On the new housing front, 154 permits were issued in the 1st half. Agriculture had 150 permits, Commercial/ Industrial had 68 and Renovations had a total of 191 permits issued for the 1st half of 2019.



## **Real Estate Sales Grey/Bruce/Owen Sound**

### PRICES PUSH HIGHER AMID ONGOING SUPPLY SHORTAGE

In the first 6 months of 2019, home sales totaled 1,246 units, down 13.7% from the same time period in 2018. The average price of homes sold in the first 6 months of 2019 was \$369,350.96, up 9.3% from the same time in 2018. Total value of Agriculture, Vacant land and Commercial/Industrial in the 1st half of 2019 was \$73.3 million, down \$9.4 million from the 1st half of 2018. Total value of all properties sold was \$540 million, decreasing 6% from the same time period in 2018.



## **Social Assistance Grey/Bruce/Owen Sound/Wellington County\***

\* Not including the city of Guelph

### CASELOADS DIP IN 1ST HALF OF 2019

In the 1st half of 2019 the average caseloads were reported as 2,284. This represents a decrease of 44 caseloads when compared to the same time period in 2018.

