

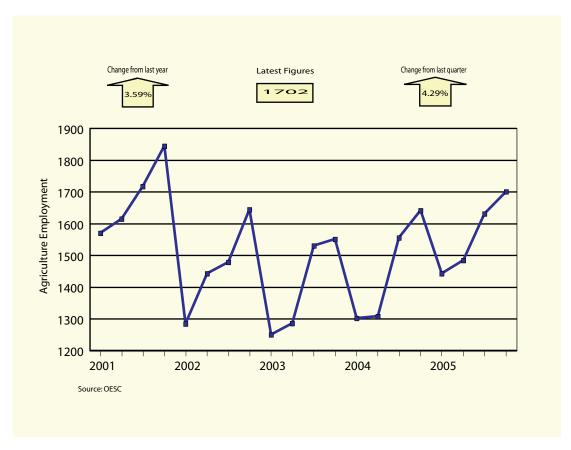
# SOIC Regional Economic Indicators: 70tal Employment

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Thirteen of the twenty business sectors in SOIC region contributed to the regional total employment increase in 2005. Total regional employment surged 3.5% (or an additional 5,349 jobs) of which the Mining sector (35.44% or 1,696 jobs) together with the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector (18.61% or 336 jobs) managed the greatest percentage gains between 2004 and 2005. After a substantial dip in regional total employment (-1.86%) between 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter of 2005, the region managed a slight gain in total regional employment (4.44%) between the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2005. The downturn between 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2005 may be attributed to the significant slip of total employment in Education Service sector (-22.91% or -4500 jobs). Over the entire time frame since the 1st quarter 2001, the regional Mining sector has added 2540 jobs to the regional economy.

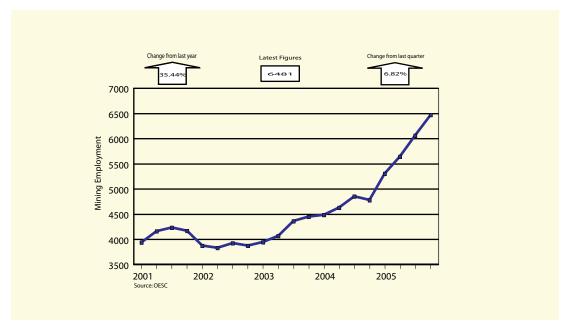
#### Chart 1: Total Agriculture Employment (NAICS 11)



Total Agriculture Employment for the regions 20 counties rose by 4.29% in 4th Qtr 2005.

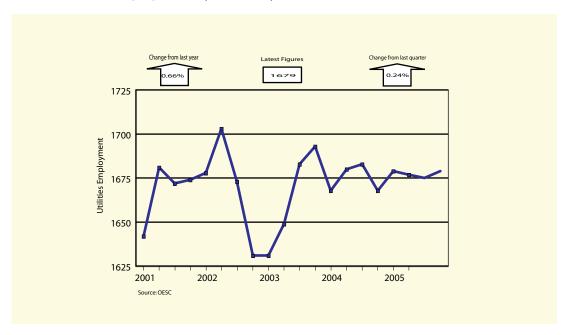


## Chart 2: Total Mining Employment (NAICS 21)



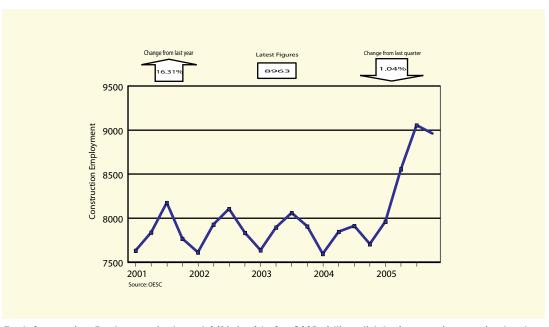
Total Mining Employment is up 6.82% on the quarter for a total of 6,481 laborers employed. This increase represents the first time during the graphed time period that Total Mining Employment has risen above 6,100 employees.

### Chart 3: Total Utilities Employment (NAICS 22)



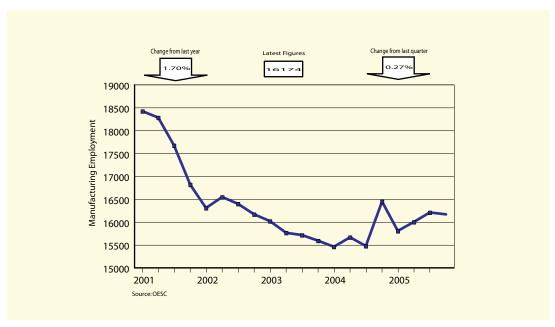
Employment in the region's utilities sector rose by 0.24% between 3rd Qtr 2005 and 4th Qtr 2005.

## Chart 4: Total Construction Employment (NAICS 23)



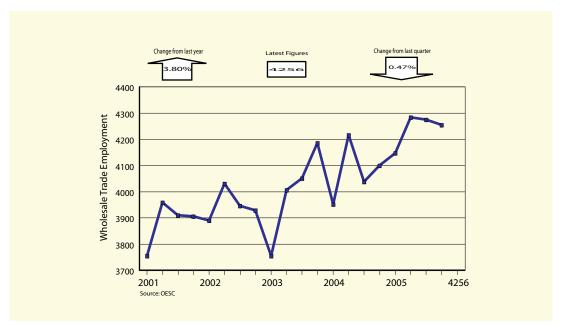
Total Construction Employment is down 1.04% in 4th Qtr 2005, falling slightly from an increase in the three previous quarters.

# Chart 5: Total Manufacturing Employment (NAICS 31-33)



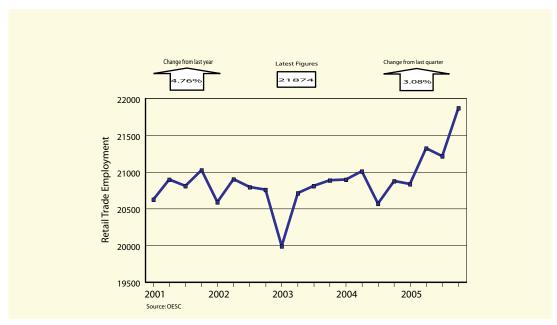
Total Manufacturing Employment is down 0.27% on the quarter for a total of 16,174 laborers employed.

#### Chart 6: Total Wholesale Trade Employment (NAICS 42)



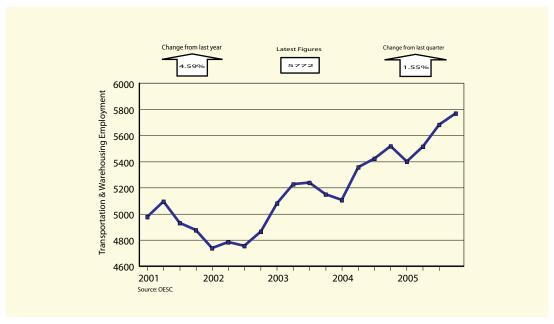
Total Wholesale Trade Employment is down 0.47% from the previous quarter with the combined loss totaling 20 jobs.

#### Chart 7: Total Retail Trade Employment (NAICS 44- 45)



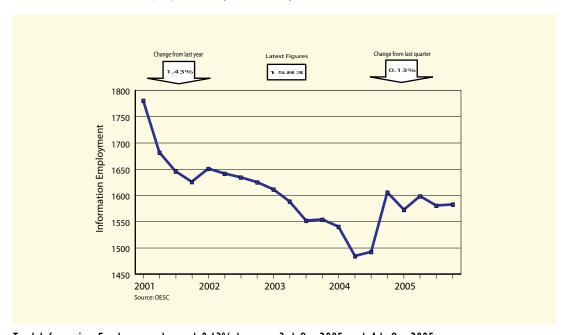
Employment in the region's retail trade sector rose by 653 jobs or 3.08% between 3rd Qtr 2005 and 4th Qtr 2005.

#### Chart 8: Total Transportation & Warehousing Employment (NAICS 48-49)



Total Transportation and Warehousing Employment is up 1.55% on the quarter for a total of 5,772 laborers employed. The increase represents three consecutive quarters that Total Transportation and Warehousing Employment has risen above 5,500 employees.

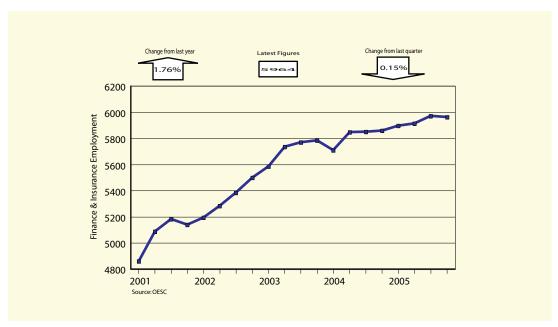
#### Chart 9: Total Information Employment (NAICS 51)



Total Information Employment dropped 0.13% between 3rd Qtr 2005 and 4th Qtr 2005.

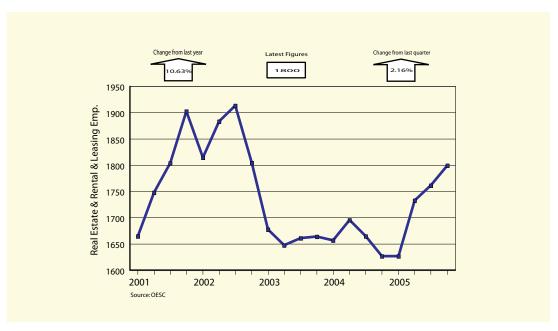


#### Chart 10: Total Finance & Insurance Employment (NAICS 52)



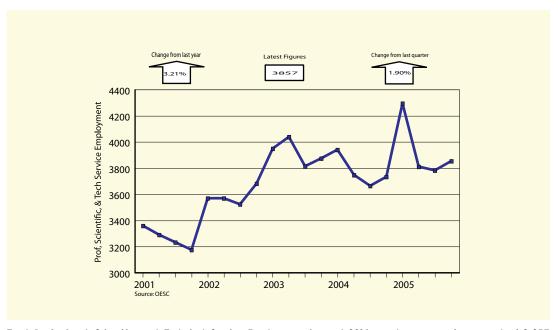
Total Finance and Insurance Employment dropped slightly in 4th Qtr 2005 by 0.15% after increasing the previous six quarters.

#### Chart 11: Total Real Estate, Rental & Leasing Employment (NAICS 53)



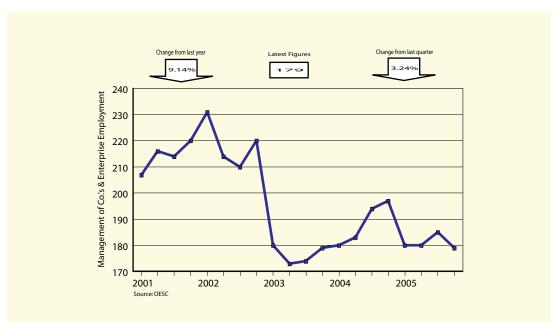
Employment in the region's real estate, rental, and leasing sector rose by 38 jobs or 2.16% between 3rd Qtr 2005 and 4th Qtr 2005.

#### Chart 12: Total Professional, Scientific, & Technical Employment (NAICS 54)



Total Professional, Scientific, and Technical Service Employment is up 1.90% on the quarter for a total of 3,857 laborers employed.

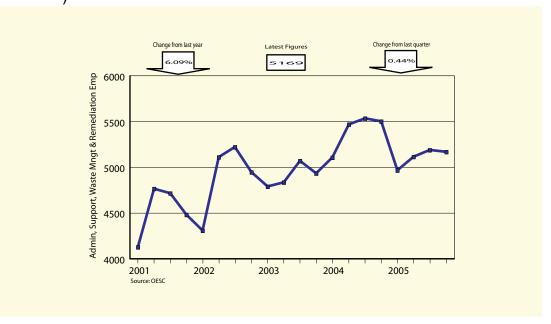
#### Chart 13: Total Management of Company & Enterprise Employment (NAICS 55)



Employment in the region's management of company and enterprise employment sector fell 3.24% between 3rd Qtr 2005 and 4th Qtr 2005.

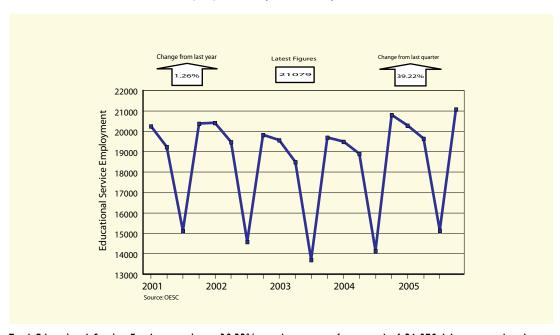


Chart 14: Total Administrative, Support, Waste Management & Remediation Service Employment (NAICS 56)



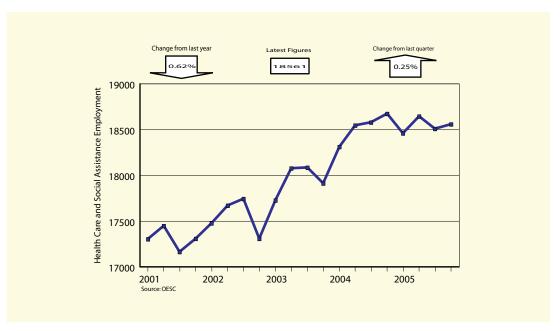
Total Administrative, Support, Waste Management, and Remediation Service Employment is down 0.44% on the quarter for a total of 5,169 laborers employed.

Chart 15: Total Education Service Employment (NAICS 61)



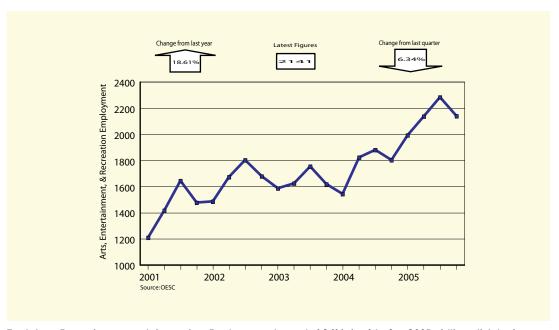
Total Educational Service Employment is up 39.22% on the quarter for a total of 21,079 laborers employed.

#### Chart 16: Total Health Care & Social Assistance Employment (NAICS 62)



Employment in the region's health care and social assistance sector rose 0.25% between 3rd Qtr 2005 and 4th Qtr 2005.

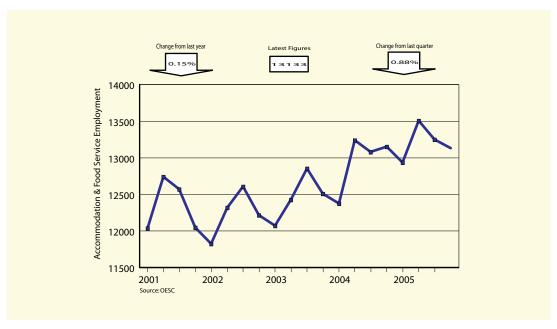
#### Chart 17: Total Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Employment (NAICS 71)



Total Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation Employment dropped 6.34% in 4th Qtr 2005, falling slightly from an increase in the three previous quarters.

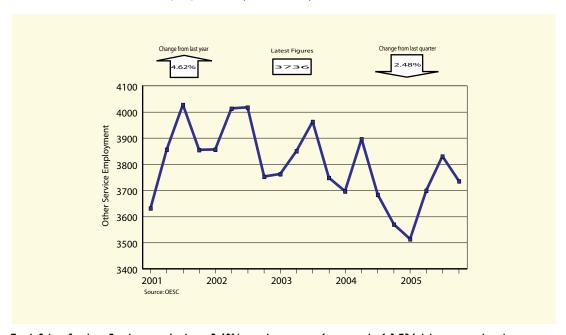


#### Chart 18: Total Accommodation & Food Service Employment (NAICS 72)



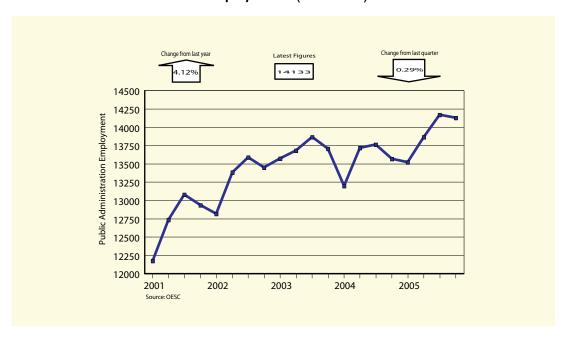
Total Accommodation and Food Service Employment is down 0.88% on the quarter for a total of 13,133 laborers employed.

#### Chart 19: Total Other Service Employment (NAICS 81)



Total Other Services Employment is down 2.48% on the quarter for a total of 3,736 laborers employed.

# Chart 20: Total Public Administration Employment (NAICS 92)



Total Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation Employment dropped 6.34% in 4th Qtr 2005, falling slightly from an increase in the three previous quarters.