



February, 2010*

Employment levels continue to decrease

- Employment levels were down in February from January; this is the sixth consecutive month employment has declined in the region. Just over half of the employment decline in January was in full-time positions.
- Since the labour force decreased by the same amount as the decline in the number employed, the number unemployed in February remained unchanged relative to the previous month.
- While the number unemployed was unchanged, the unemployment rate in February increased because of a smaller labour force.
- Close to 1,500 fewer people were employed in February compared with this time last year. February's employment levels were the lowest for the month of February since 2005.
- Although employment was lower, there were fewer unemployed this month than in February of last year. This resulted from a decline in the size of the labour force.
- In February employment was lower in both the Goods and Services producing sectors relative to January 2010 and to February 2009. Construction and Manufacturing industries experienced job losses in both periods. Employment was down across most Service sector industries relative to January. Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing, as well as Information & Culture recorded small increases in employment for February.

Economic Region Data: 3 month average (ending in February 2010)					
	Cape Breton	Northern NS	Annapolis Valley	Southern NS	Halifax
Population 15+	114,600	131,400	102,000	103,200	323,600
Labour force	59,600	78,600	61,300	60,000	229,000
Employed	50,300	68,600	56,100	50,500	214,600
Unemployed	9,300	10,000	5,200	9,500	14,400
Participation rate	52.0%	59.8%	60.1%	58.1%	70.8%
Unemployment rate	15.6%	12.7%	8.5%	15.8%	6.3%

Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey Data

*This report is an analysis of three month moving average data from Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey. The reader should be cautioned that because of relatively small sample sizes in subprovincial regions, data reliability may be an issue.

In the News – Cape Breton

Xstrata Coal Donkin management announced it would move ahead with an underground coal mining operation in Donkin, although on a smaller scale than originally expected. The focus will be on mining coking coal used in many industrial processes, which will likely be sold to markets in Europe, South America, India and China. The operation will include the construction of a coal washing plant and a barge where coal will be loaded onto large ships. The mining operation will employ an estimated 200 persons onsite, and company officials estimated another 1,000 spin-off jobs. With annual production estimated at 2.75 million tonnes, officials estimated that the mine's resources could support production for well over 25 years. **Cape Breton Post, February 2, 2010**

The **Chéticamp** façade and streetscape program will involve eligible businesses from the Chéticamp River to the Grand Étang border. The \$1.3 million project will be administered over a period ending January 31, 2011 with major funding from Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and Nova Scotia Rural Economic Development. **Inverness Oran, February 3, 2010**

Signature Styles Canada Corp. of New Waterford will receive a \$1.8 million forgivable loan from the provincial government's Industrial Expansion Fund to invest in new technology and position the contact centre for future growth. In return, the company is investing \$6 million and must maintain current employment levels to qualify for loan forgiveness. The company has operated in New Waterford since 2003 and employs approximately 350 people. **Cape Breton Post, February 12, 2010**

Construction of **Meadows Pharmasave** in Sydney Forks is nearing the final stages. The new pharmacy outlet will also include a medical clinic, and is slated to open this spring. **Cape Breton Post, February 17, 2010**

Construction is set to begin on a new \$2 million cultural and heritage centre in North Sydney. The centre will be built by **Joneljim Concrete Construction** and will house several organizations, including the local MLA constituency office and the Northside branch of the Cape Breton Regional Library. **Cape Breton Post, February 20, 2010**

New Page Corp. announced that the corporation's sales declined by 29 percent in 2009, but that it expected to take less market-related downtime at its mills this year. Sales of coated paper declined during 2009, although sales for the fourth quarter were higher than the fourth quarter of 2008. The corporation's mill at Point Tupper employs approximately 550 people. **Cape Breton Post, February 20, 2010**

The **Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage** released statistics revealing that room nights sold in Cape Breton in 2009 were on par with the previous year. Overall room nights sold declined in every other region in the province, and were down four percent for Nova Scotia in 2009. **Cape Breton Post, February 25, 2010**

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