



Labour Market Update

Cape Breton Island

Economic Region 210

www.labourmarketinformation.ca



September 2009

September Employment Decline Lower than in Recent Years

- Employment was at its highest for the year so far in August and now appears to be beginning the seasonal decline. September's job losses were among full-time positions only; part-time employment gains reduced the size of the overall decrease.
- Despite job losses, the number of unemployed remained unchanged from August. This is because a number equal to the employment decline left the labour force. With no change in unemployment, the labour force decrease pushed the unemployment rate up by one percentage point.
- The decrease in employment is lower than the decline that occurred last September and the September before that. In fact, it is the lowest since September of 2002.
- Goods Producing employment declined in September, with the most notable decrease occurring in the Primary sector (Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil & Gas). Goods sector employment has fallen over the last 12 months, however, with substantial losses in the Manufacturing sector and a smaller decline among the Primary industries.
- The Service Sector saw a small increase in employment from August. The sector's employment level this month is the same as it was last September. Employment declines since that time in Trade, Education and Public Administration have been offset by gains in other industry groups, with the largest occurring in Health Care.

Economic Region Data: 3 month average (ending in September 2009)					
	Cape Breton	North Shore	Annapolis Valley	Southern Nova Scotia	Halifax
Population 15+	114,900	131,400	101,700	103,200	321,700
Labour force	65,000	81,400	61,900	64,300	232,500
Employed	56,300	72,600	56,700	58,700	215,800
Unemployed	8,800	8,800	5,200	5,500	16,800
Participation rate	56.6%	61.9%	60.9%	62.3%	72.3%
Unemployment rate	13.5%	10.8%	8.4%	8.6%	7.2%

Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey

**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 - CB

Acrobat Research Ltd. will close its call centre in Cheticamp on October 29, resulting in the loss of 38 jobs. The company, which also announced the closure of its Canso centre, cited a downturn in business as the reason for the closures. *Cape Breton Post, September 4, 2009*

Copol International of North Sydney will receive an investment of \$280,000 over five years in payroll rebates through Nova Scotia Business Inc.. The payroll rebate will offset the cost of implementing a lean manufacturing program and in new equipment and product development. The rebate is conditional upon the company retaining its current staff of 48 employees. Copol was established in 1992 and is the only cast polypropylene film extruder in Canada. *Cape Breton Post, September 16, 2009*

Volume One bookstore in Port Hawkesbury has closed permanently. *Inverness Oran, September 16, 2009*

Construction is underway on a 33,000 sq. ft., \$3.5 million **business centre in Membertou** that will house professional service firms and a business incubation centre. Employment during construction is presently 15, but could reach 50 during peak periods. The centre is expected to open in 2010. *Cape Breton Post, September 19, 2009*

Effective January 1, 2010, the **government of Nova Scotia** will spend \$25 million to help manufacturers with costs of buying new technology, machinery and equipment. *Chronicle-Herald, September 19, 2009*

Mikjikj Enterprises Ltd. of Eskasoni, in a joint venture with **Harbour Tech Services Inc.** of Sydney has been awarded a \$3.1 million contract to operate and maintain a material processing facility for the Sydney tar ponds and coke ovens cleanup. **Joneljim Construction** of Sydney began building the facility in 2008. All construction vehicles will be cleaned at the facility before leaving the site. In addition, material and debris from remediation will be graded, sorted and washed at the facility. The operation will begin in October 2009 and will employ 5 people. *Cape Breton Post, September 23, 2009*

Marine Atlantic will undergo \$9.5 million in improvements to its docking facilities, which will include a second dock level. The work will be funded through the federal government's Infrastructure Improvement Fund and will result in shorter waiting times and enhanced ferry services. The contract for the work will be awarded this winter with an aim of finishing prior to the 2011 season. Construction is expected to take about a year and could employ more than 100 people. *Cape Breton Post, September 25, 2009*

MediaSpark of Sydney will receive \$438,478 from the National Research Council to expand its educational games and simulations product line. The company has recently hired five new people, bringing its staff level to about seventeen. *Cape Breton Post, September 26, 2009*

For more information please contact . . .

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