



Labour Market Update

Cape Breton Island

Economic Region 210

www.labourmarketinformation.ca



November 2009

November's job losses are lower than historical declines for the month

- Employment has decreased each month since August when it reached the highest level for the year. All of the employment losses since August have been full-time; part-time jobs have increased in number.
- Declining employment is typical for this time of year, although this month's employment decline in Cape Breton is less than the November average for the last ten years.
- A decline in employment was matched by a corresponding drop in the region's labour force, which resulted in a marginal increase in the unemployment rate. Unemployment remained unchanged from the previous month.
- This month's employment level is below that of last November which was the highest of any November since 1987. The labour force and the working age population have decreased since last November as well.
- The employment decline over the last 12 months has occurred mostly within the Goods sector; in Construction, Manufacturing and the Primary industry group. The Service Sector saw the greatest employment declines in Trade and Educational Services. Gains in Health Care and Transportation & Warehousing employment kept the overall decline in the sector at a minimum.

Economic Region Data: 3 month average (ending in November 2009)					
	Cape Breton	North Shore	Annapolis Valley	Southern Nova Scotia	Halifax
Population 15+	114,800	131,400	101,900	103,200	322,500
Labour force	64,100	81,200	63,400	61,000	229,100
Employed	55,300	73,000	57,600	55,100	214,400
Unemployed	8,800	8,200	5,800	6,000	14,600
Participation rate	55.8%	61.8%	62.2%	59.1%	71%
Unemployment rate	13.7%	10.1%	9.1%	9.8%	6.4%

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

The province has given **NewPage Port Hawkesbury** its approval to sell timber harvested on Crown land to a proposed biomass-fuelled generating facility. The proposed biomass project will involve installing a steam turbine at NewPage's Point Tupper site, which would generate about 60 megawatts of electrical generating capacity a year. Strait Bio-Gen would sell the energy to Nova Scotia Power. *Cape Breton Post, November 4, 2009*

The **Port of Sydney** is seeking requests for proposals to dredge the 8.5 kilometre harbour entrance channel to a depth of 17 metres. The deeper channel will open Sydney harbour to deeper draft vessels and set the stage for the development of a possible container terminal. A contract is expected to be awarded toward the end of the first quarter of 2010, and dredging would likely be completed before the end of 2010. *Cape Breton Post, November 13, 2009.*

Classic Frozen Foods is expected to open for business in December 2009 at the Sydport Industrial Park in Point Edward. The company will produce frozen uncooked cookies and muffins, as well as cooked cheesecakes. The target market includes grocery stores, restaurants and institutions such as nursing homes. The company expects to employ seven to ten people when operations begin. *Cape Breton Post, November 13, 2009.*

The **Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy** opened October 21, 2009 in the Island Gateway Plaza in Port Hawkesbury. In addition to the owner/pharmacist, the business employs a pharmacy technician and two part time employees. *Port Hawkesbury Reporter, November 18, 2009.*

PostNet opened an outlet at the Bell Plaza in Sydney on November 20, 2009. *Cape Breton Post, November 20, 2009.*

Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health opened a new assessment centre in Sydney on November 19, 2009. The centre is part of the largest cancer study ever to take place in Canada, and will collect samples and personal, medical and employment histories from study participants. The centre will operate until the spring of 2010. *Cape Breton Post, November 18, 2009.*

East Coast Credit Union will close its branch locations in North Isle Madame and North East Margaree as part of a restructuring plan to respond to the economic downturn and current business conditions. The branches will close in February 2010 and will affect six full time employees. *Cape Breton Post, November 25, 2009.*

The **Bargain Shop in Bras d'Or** will be closed early in 2010, affecting approximately 12 employees. *Cape Breton Post, November 28, 2009.*

For more information please contact . . .

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