



February 2010*

Record employment losses in Manufacturing over the last 12 months

Full-time job losses outpaced part-time gains in February and resulted in an overall employment decline from January. The labour force also decreased but by less than the employment decline so that the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate rose.

Employment declines occurred in both the Goods and Services Sectors during February. Construction and Manufacturing saw diminished employment in the Goods Sector as did the Service Sector industry groups: Transportation & Warehousing; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing; Health Care, and Other Services.

More are employed this February than during the same month last year, however, although fewer are working in full-time jobs. The labour force is also higher than last February. This has resulted in a greater number of unemployed despite the better employment numbers this February.

Service Sector employment is up over last February. A large decline in Transportation & Warehousing was offset by an equally large increase in Accommodation & Food.

Employment in the Goods Sector is lower than it was last February. The decline occurred in the Manufacturing industry group where employment hasn't been this low for the month of February since 1997. Over 4,000 Manufacturing jobs were lost between February 2009 and 2010, a record employment decline for the sector.

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

Internetworking Atlantic Inc. (www.internetworking-atlantic.com), a local technology company, opened a \$1-million server farm in downtown Halifax this month. The company is hoping to attract local, national and international customers to the secure data storage facility. Internetworking currently employs twelve staff, but expects to add two or three more employees by the end of 2010. Source: *Chronicle Herald* 2010-02-11

Irving's Halifax Shipyard Ltd. (www.irvingshipbuilding.com) was awarded a \$20-million five-year loan from the province's Industrial Expansion Fund, which will go toward rebuilding wharfs, refurbishing and replacing cranes, and improving fabrication areas and offices. According to the president of Local 1 of the CAW Marine Workers Federation (www.cawlocal.ca/CAWMWF/), the investment will very soon lead to new jobs for skilled tradespersons. Last fall the shipyard was awarded a \$219-million contract to build nine mid-shore patrol vessels for the Canadian Coast Guard. Source: *Chronicle Herald* 2010-02-26

Ottawa has given the Halifax area \$1.6 million to be divided among five **recreational projects**. The Clayton Park soccer facility received \$1 million for a new indoor soccer pitch, the Dartmouth Sportsplex received \$320,000 for various upgrades, with the remaining funds going toward the pathways in Portland Hills, a new multi-purpose room at the Big Cove YMCA Camp and refurbishing the clubhouse at Banook Canoe Club. The funding is through the **Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program**. Source: *Chronicle Herald* 2010-02-22

More than 70 full- and part-time psychiatrists at the **QEII** (www.cdha.nshealth.ca) and **IWK Health Centre** (www.iwk.nshealth.ca) have been without a new contract since 2006. A memorandum of understanding was reached with the psychiatrists, which is retroactive to April 2008 and raises the psychiatrists' hourly rate by 2.9 percent to \$147.99. Although according to a **Doctors Nova Scotia** spokesperson, the hourly rate isn't necessarily what a psychiatrist earns. The agreement also increased the number of billable hours per year to 2,237 from 1,840 hours. A final, detailed contract is close to being signed. Source: *Chronicle Herald* 2010-02-25

The **Halifax Shopping Centre** (www.halifaxshoppingcentre.com) and **Mic Mac Mall** (micmacmall.shopping.ca) saw sales go up in 2009, compared to 2008. The two malls each had improved sales of one percent and 5.5 percent respectively. Both shopping malls have added several new stores, which helped boost sales and traffic. According to the general manager of Mic Mac Mall, they are expecting sales to increase in 2010 by six to eight percent.

Source: *Chronicle Herald* 2010-02-03

Online tour operator, **Go Travel South**, shut down this month. The Ottawa based company, formerly known as Go Travel Direct, had an office at Purdy's Wharf in Halifax. No reason was given for the closure.

Source: *Chronicle Herald* 2010-02-26

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