



September, 2009*

Halifax unemployment rate rising despite record employment levels

- Though there have been some seasonal ups and downs, the employment level has been at record high levels in Halifax during 2009.
- Full-time employment has also shown record high levels in 2009, while part-time employment is about average for the past five years.
- By September 2009, the level of unemployment reached its highest level in the past ten years. Thus, the labour force also has had record high levels in 2009.
- The unemployment rate reached 7.2% in September 2009, up from a low of 3.9% in December 2007.
- Employment in the Service-Producing industries fell in September for the second straight month but is well above employment levels in previous years. Goods-Producing employment also decreased in September for the second straight month and is below the September level of the two previous years.

Economic Region Data 3 Month Average (Ending in September 2009)					
<i>Economic Region</i>	Cape Breton	Northern	Valley	Southern	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%

Note: Data is not seasonally adjusted

Source: Statistics Canada's LFS

*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

The **Irving Shipyard** will begin work immediately on nine new midshore patrol vessels for the Canadian Coast Guard. The first vessel will be ready by the fall of 2011, with the remaining vessels to be in service by 2013. The project is expected to result in 150 more jobs at the yard, which currently has contracts to build seven navy frigates by 2017, and an offshore supply vessel for Atlantic Towing. (Chronicle-Herald, Sept.3).

Six three-story buildings with 400,000 square feet of office space, 50,000 square feet of commercial space, large courtyards and parking lots will be constructed at the corner of Wright Avenue and Burnside Drive in Dartmouth. The project is being developed by **The Hardman Group**, who feels the space may be attractive to tenants from the financial/insurance field. The project may take five to seven years to complete, and it is hoped construction will begin in 2010. (Chronicle-Herald, Sept.18)

Fifty-five workers at **Minacs** call centre in downtown Halifax may be laid off at the end of October, 2009, as one of its clients is ending a contract with the company. However, Minacs is looking for new business opportunities and hopes to avoid layoffs. About 342 employees work there. (Chronicle-Herald, Sept.5)

Precision BioLogic of Dartmouth, which develops, manufactures, and markets diagnostic products used to test blood clotting abnormalities, will add up to 30 jobs over five years with financial support from Nova Scotia Business Inc. (Chronicle-Herald, Sept.24)

Metro Transit recently began a new regional express transit service from the Tantallon area to downtown. Over the next few years, Metro Transit will expand to other communities outside its traditional boundaries. A community transit run from Sambro to Spryfield has also recently begun as a pilot project. (Chronicle-Herald, Sept.1)

More than 90 percent of community college faculty and support staff in Nova Scotia have voted in favour of a strike. The 900 members of the **Nova Scotia Teachers Union** says the Education Department is unwilling to provide them with the 2.9 percent salary increase and improved medical benefits that it gave to public school teachers. The union has been without a contract since August 31, 2008, and talks will continue. (Chronicle-Herald, Sept.30)

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