

January 2010*

Unemployment rate is highest for any January since 1998

- Employment is down from December's level in Northern Nova Scotia and the declines are all in full-time jobs. The number of part-time jobs increased.
- Unemployment rose because of the job loss but the extent of the increase was lessened by a labour force decline. The unemployment rate increased in response to the higher unemployment and lower labour force numbers.
- Employment is also down from last January and the decline in that 12 month period is primarily among full-time positions although part-time job losses also occurred.
- The number of unemployed is much higher than it was in January 2009 not just because of the lower employment this year but also because the labour force has increased and added to the number of job seekers. This is reflected in a higher unemployment rate this January, the highest for any January since 1998.
- The job losses from December to January were almost equally distributed among the Goods sector, where Manufacturing experienced most of the decline, and the Service sector which saw small losses within several industry groups.
- The employment decline from January 2009 was concentrated in the Service sector. Trade suffered a substantial loss of jobs and other declines in Accommodation & Food and Education, while smaller, were still significant.

Economic Region Data: 3 month average (ending in January 2010)					
	Cape Breton	North Shore	Annapolis Valley	Southern Nova Scotia	Halifax
Population 15+	114,700	131,400	102,000	103,200	323,200
Labour force	61,600	79,400	62,400	60,300	229,500
Employed	52,300	70,100	56,900	51,500	215,300
Unemployed	9,300	9,300	5,500	8,800	14,100
Participation rate	53.7%	60.4%	61.2%	58.4%	71.0%
Unemployment rate	15.1%	11.7%	8.8%	14.6%	6.1%
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

The **Nova Scotia Agricultural College** is receiving \$7 million in combined provincial and federal funding towards the building of its Atlantic **Centre for Agricultural Innovation** at AgriTECH Park in Bible Hill. The centre will play a critical role in addressing the commercialization gap between agricultural research and development for startup and established agricultural businesses. *Truro Daily News, Jan 25, 2010*

The Federal government has committed \$850,000 toward an interpretive and research centre, in Parrsboro, dedicated to in-stream tidal power technology. The 3,500-square foot facility called **FORCE – the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy** will house an operations and visitors centre. FORCE will become North America's first demonstration centre for the emerging in-stream technology. *Amherst Daily News, Jan 29, 2010*

Transcontinental Media recently announced to its employees it was centralizing all page layout and ad building operations of its Maritime newspapers in a new centre to be located in Charlottetown. The transfer of all pre-press operations will be starting in March and should be complete by the end of the year. The changes will affect up to four positions at the Truro Daily News. The new positions created will be offered to the employees of the local newspapers holding similar positions. *Truro Daily News, Jan 21, 2010*

Louisbourg Seafoods has signed a lease with the **Canso Harbour Authority** and will begin construction of its \$1.25 million fish processing plant at the beginning of 2010. Employment at the plant is expected to be 30 to 40 workers. *Guysborough Journal, Jan 6, 2010*

DSRA Envision Architecture won a contract to design the **Pictou County Sport, Recreation and Wellness Centre**, scheduled to open in 2012. The \$34 million centre will be operated jointly by the YMCA and the Pictou County Shared Services Authority. Project funding will come from federal (\$12 million), provincial (\$10 million) and municipal governments (\$9 million), plus, \$3 million from corporate donors. Plans are to tender site work in the spring and the construction in the fall of 2010. *Various Sources, Jan 27, 2010*

The **Havre Boucher sewage treatment plant** and collection system expansion is set to begin construction in the spring of 2010 with completion one year later. The **Municipality of the County of Antigonish** awarded the \$3 million contract to **ACL Construction Ltd**. *Antigonish Casket, Jan 27, 2010*

The **East Coast Credit Union** decided *not* to close 3 branches, including Mulgrave, at the end of February 2010. This will allow 7 full-time employees to keep their jobs. East Coast Credit Union will continue to operate the branches for 12 to 18 months while looking at options available to improve business. *Guysborough Journal, Jan 27, 2010*

Ocean Nutrition will receive \$3 million in funding from the Atlantic Innovation Fund for a R&D project. Ocean is working on a biofuel production system to provide an alternative source of clean energy. The total cost is estimated at \$4.9 million. *Guysborough Journal, Jan 27, 2010*

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