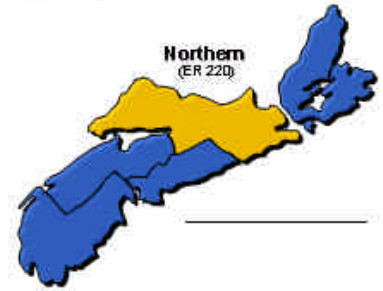




# Labour Market Bulletin

## Northern Nova Scotia

Economic Region 220



www.labourmarketinformation.ca

### March, 2009\*

### Overview

For the fifth straight month, Northern Nova Scotia employment decreased. These declines are quite normal seasonal occurrences from lower economic activity in the colder months. However, the 2,100 jobs lost this month is the largest employment decline for any March in at least the last 20 years. Most of the job losses (81%) were full-time positions. The labour force also decreased in March but by less than the employment decline. This added to the number of unemployed and ensured a rise in March's unemployment rate.

Northern	March 2009	February 2009	March 2008	March 2008 to March 2009
Population aged 15+	131,400	131,400	131,200	200
Labour force	76,100	76,900	75,400	700
Employed	66,800	68,900	68,200	-1,400
Full-time	53,500	55,200	56,000	-2,500
Part-time	13,300	13,700	12,100	1,200
Unemployed	9,300	8,000	7,300	2,000
Participation rate	57.9%	58.5%	57.5%	0.4pp**
Unemployment rate	12.2%	10.4%	9.7%	2.5pp**

Source: Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey.  
 \*\*Changes in the last column comparing rates are percentage point changes denoted by "pp".

Employment is also lower than it was in March of 2008. The jobs lost over the past year are all full-time, some of which have been replaced with part-time positions. Unemployment is up from last year at this time as is the unemployment rate.

### Industry Analysis

Employment in the **Goods Sector** is down from February and from March of last year. In both time periods, it is the Construction and Manufacturing industry groups that experienced the job losses.

The **Service Sector** also saw an overall employment decline this March. Employment in the sector

*\*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.*

is up from last March, though. The greatest employment decline in March was in the Trade industry group. Employment is also down in this industry from March 2008. Education also saw some job loss from February but employment is up from last year. The largest employment gains over the last 12 month period were in Accommodation & Food Services and in Health Care. Professional, Scientific & Technical Services saw the biggest decline when comparing this March's employment level with that of March 2008.

Employment	March 2009	February 2009	March 2008	March 2008 to March 2009
<b>Goods-Producing Sector</b>	16,200	17,300	18,900	-2,700
<b>Services-Producing Sector</b>	50,600	51,700	49,200	1,400
<i>Source: Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey</i>				

## In the News

A **Telecare program** is being launched in Nova Scotia to provide health care information by phone. Registered nurses will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide health information to callers. **McKesson Canada** won a 3-year contract to run the program for the province and will hire 15 full-time and 12 part-time telehealth nurses, as well as, support staff. *Various sources, March 25, 2009*

In Pictou County, a **regional sports centre** project received \$22 million in funding from federal and provincial governments. Local municipalities and groups are also contributing funds to the \$36 million project. Construction will take two years. *The News, March 28, 2009*

**Northern Pulp** has received a \$15 million loan from Nova Scotia's Industrial Expansion Fund. It will be used for maintenance and improvements to the pulp mill, which was built in 1967. *Various Sources, March 27, 2009*

**TeleTech Amherst** will hire up to 200 additional inbound customer support agents in anticipation of growth in the near future. Information and applications are available on their website at: [www.hirepoint.com](http://www.hirepoint.com) *March 18, 2009*

In response to a slowing economy, **Convergys's** call centre in Truro has cutback it's expenses by freezing the company contributions to their employee pensions as of July 1 and the number of paid holidays are being reduced from 10 to six, in keeping with the provincial minimum for statutory holidays. The centre employs more than 500 workers and no layoffs have been announced at the site. *Truro Daily News, March 3, 2009*

The **Bayview Memorial Health Care Centre** is planning for expansion that will include a new \$70,000 Primary Health Care Centre with facilities for Advocate's nurse practitioner. The hospital will also expand with space for two extra long term care beds, physiotherapy and a storage area. Groundbreaking for the expansion project is expected to begin in late spring or early summer, once finalization of the project is complete. *The Amherst Citizen, Mar 14, 2009*

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