



Labour Market Bulletin

Northern Nova Scotia

Economic Region 220

www.labourmarketinformation.ca



April, 2009*

Overview

In Northern Nova Scotia, employment fell while the level of unemployment rose between March and April 2009. The result was a 0.8 percentage point increase in the unemployment rate. The employment decline was in full-time employment with part-time employment rising, thereby reducing the net employment loss. Both the level and rate of labour force participation fell during this period.

Northern	April 2009	March 2009	April 2008	April 2008 to April 2009
Population aged 15+	131,400	131,400	131,200	200
Labour force	76,000	76,100	76,200	-200
Employed	66,100	66,800	68,400	-2,300
Full-time	52,500	53,500	56,900	-4,400
Part-time	13,600	13,300	11,500	2,100
Unemployed	9,900	9,300	7,800	2,100
Participation rate	57.8%	57.9%	58.1%	-0.3 pp*
Unemployment rate	13.0%	12.2%	10.2%	2.8 pp*

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

Between April 2008 and April 2009 the unemployment rate rose by 2.8 percentage points to 13 percent. This was the result of employment falling and the level of unemployment rising. Over 4,000 full-time jobs were lost but a significant increase in part-time employment reduced the overall net job loss. As with the monthly change, labour force participation fell. In March and April of 2009 the large year-over-year declines in employment and increases in unemployment and the unemployment rate began to occur. This indicates the labour market in Northern Nova Scotia did not begin to feel the effects of the economic downturn until March.

Industry Analysis

The employment reduction was mostly in the Goods-Producing Sector with the Service-Producing Sector experiencing net employment growth in April 2009 from the previous year. The Construction and

**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.*

Manufacturing Industries experienced the largest employment reduction in the Goods Sector. Employment growth in the Primary Industries reduced the overall net loss.

Employment	April 2009	March 2009	April 2008	April 2008 to April 2009
Goods-Producing Sector	15,300	16,200	19,100	-900
Services-Producing Sector	50,800	50,600	49,300	+200
Source: Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey				

In the Service-Producing Sector employment growth was strongest in the Accommodations & Food Services and Health Care & Social Assistance industries. The largest employment losses were in the Professional, Scientific & Technical Services and Trade industries.

Employment reductions in the Construction, Manufacturing and Trade industries, which are all sensitive to consumer demand, are indications of the labour market effects of an economic downturn.

In the News

The province, through Nova Scotia Business Inc., is supporting Debert-based Peter Kohler Windows and Entrance Systems' growth plans with a five-year payroll rebate. The investment will allow the company to create as many as 150 new jobs over the term of the agreement. - *Truro Daily News, April 23, 2009*

Due to the low market prices for lumber, the Harrison's mill, which has operated in the halfway river community for three generations, has shut down lumber production for the time being. About 20 mill workers have been laid off with no anticipated date of recall. - *The Citizen, April 11, 2009*

A new North Nova Correctional Centre will soon be constructed to replace the aging jail facilities in Amherst. The \$18-million facility will be built in Springhill near the federal prison. The announcement noted that in addition to retaining existing jobs there would also be an increase in job numbers. Construction is expected to begin this fall. - *Amherst Daily News, April 30, 2009*

ICT, an outbound call centre in Pictou County, will close in June 2009. About 150 to 200 workers will lose their jobs. ICT say economic conditions are responsible for the closing. - *The News, April 09, 2009*

The Northern Pulp mill in Pictou County avoided layoffs by reaching an agreement with employees and their union. They have agreed to an early retirement package and work re-organization plan to take place over the next 12 to 18 months. This includes a reduction of 20 permanent positions. - *Various Sources, April 29, 2009*

During 2008, Pictou County had \$60 million in residential and commercial development, according to the Pictou District Planning Commission. The five towns had \$31 million in construction while \$29 million of construction took place in the County. - *The News, April 30, 2009*

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