



# Northern Nova Scotia Labour Market Monitor

~October 2010~



This is an overview of the Northern Region which includes Antigonish, Colchester, Cumberland, Guysborough and Pictou Counties. The Labour Market Monitor is a monthly report focusing on labour market information produced by a local Labour Market Information Analyst.

## Labour Force Trends

The labour market in Northern Nova Scotia decreased on a year-over-year basis, with the labour force falling by 2,400 on a year over year basis, and employment dropping by 1,000. The employment decrease was split evenly between full and part time jobs. With the labour force decreasing faster than employment, the level of unemployment fell by 1,400 in the region. The unemployment rate declined by 1.5 percentage points from 10.5 percent in October 2009 to 9 percent in October 2010.

For more information, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:

<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfs05b-eng.htm>

Northern NS	Oct	
	2009	2010
Region: 220		
Labour Force (000)	82.1	79.7
Employed (000)	73.5	72.5
Full Time	61.0	60.6
Part Time	12.5	11.9
Unemployed (000)	8.6	7.2
Participation Rate (%)	62.5	60.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.5	9.0

Data is 3 month moving average from the Labour Force Survey - Statistics Canada

## Labour Market News by Industry

### Administrative & Support Services

After five years in business, **TeleTech Holdings Inc.** is closing its Amherst call centre in mid-December, 2010. Some 215 staff, of which 75 per cent are full-time employees, will be losing their jobs. Some workers may be eligible for employment at other TeleTech call centres, but the company does not provide relocation allowances. TeleTech's call centre in Bayers Lake Business Park, Halifax are unaffected by the shutdown in Amherst. The reason stated for the closure is due to changing business needs in Canada and was not due to the loss of any particular contract. *Various Sources, October 27, 2010*

### Education Services

The Nova Scotia Community College received \$150,000 from the Nova Scotia government to start a training program for workers hired to build windmill blades at **Daewoo** Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, Trenton. It is expected to be available mid 2011. *The News, October 21, 2010*

**St. Francis Xavier University** will be offering a PhD in Educational Studies in collaboration with Acadia and Mount Saint Vincent Universities. It is the first doctoral degree offering for all three schools. The program will admit 14 students annually for 14-months of full-time residency starting in July 2011. *Guysborough Journal, October 20, 2010*

### Finance, Insurance & Real Estate & Leasing

Fifty-one unionized workers at **Bergengren Credit Unions** - Antigonish, St. Andrews and New Glasgow - accepted a new contract. The

Canadian Auto Workers Union negotiated a fifty-five cent per hour raise for 2010 and 50 cents per hour in the following three years. There is also a \$500 signing bonus for full-time workers and \$250 for part-time staff. *The News, October 23, 2010*

### **Health Care & Social Services**

Unionized workers at 36 long-term care homes across Nova Scotia have reached a tentative agreement with their employers including 400 employees at the **Glen Haven Manor, Valley View Villa and the Maritime Oddfellows Home**. In September, membership voted strongly in favour of strike action; the main issue being maintaining wage parity with acute care workers. *The News, October 1, 2010*

### **Manufacturing**

**Aecon Fabco** began refurbishment of its first vessel, a Navy tug, at its recently completed marine railway in Pictou, an eight-week contract with SNC Lavalin. Aecon Fabco has also added two supply vessels to its workload, with a ferry on the way. They have several bids in on ship repair jobs and hope to have work throughout the winter at the Pictou yard. They are 80 percent finished of the deconstruction of two navy destroyers and continue their module fabrication work. They are expecting to do some hiring in the near future. *Pictou Advocate, October 20, 2010*

**Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering** (DSME) and Nova Scotia Power (NSP) have agreed to build and use made-in Nova Scotia wind towers and blades across the province. A letter of intent gives DSME Trenton the chance to supply towers and blades for up to 100 megawatts of capacity over the next four years. NSP will also encourage independent power producers to use these components. Use of DSME products is subject to competitive pricing and quality. *Chronicle Herald, October 20, 2010*

### **Other Services**

The Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce joined forces with the Chambers from Manitoba, British Columbia and Saskatchewan to launch [www.thirdquarter.ca](http://www.thirdquarter.ca). It is a new pilot program aimed at tackling skilled labour shortages by persuading those nearing retirement to stay in the labour force and companies to consider these workers as eligible employees. The online job posting and resource site will connect employers with people over 50. Amherst, Nova Scotia and Summerside, P.E.I. are the first in this region to try the program. Workers will receive support and advice on job opportunities. Employers will be helped in assessing the workforce and deciding how experienced workers can increase productivity. *Telegraph Journal - October 26, 2010*

### **Public Administration**

The **Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Railway** was granted a \$3.5 million, 18-month extension to operate its short line railway from Sydney to Truro. CBNS employs about 50 workers and has an office located in Stellarton, Nova Scotia. *The News, October 29, 2010*

### **Trade, Wholesale & Retail**

**Proudfoot's Home Hardware**, Pictou County is planning to combine two retail outlets into one. The local hardware retailer is looking for a building site where a new larger store would replace its New Glasgow and Stellarton locations. Proudfoot's Pictou store will not be affected. *Pictou Advocate, October 6, 2010*

*Note: In preparing this document, Service Canada has taken care to provide clients with labour market information from reliable sources that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Service Canada.*

For more information contact your local Labour  
Market Information Analyst  
for Cumberland, Colchester:  
[ken.mills@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:ken.mills@servicecanada.gc.ca) or  
for Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough:

[diane.tibbo@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:diane.tibbo@servicecanada.gc.ca)  
Or visit our website at  
[www.labourmarketinformation.ca](http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca)