

January, 2010*

Sharp Increase in the Unemployment Rate

- While the unemployment rate typically rises between December and January due to seasonal factors, the unemployment rate was 3.6 percentage points higher than in January 2009 and was the highest rate recorded rate in January (since 1988).
- The labour force and labour force participation rate fell between December and January.
- While the number of part-time and full-time workers both decreased, most of the losses were full-time jobs.
- This was the second straight year where January employment was lower than in the previous year.
- Employment in the **Goods Sector** fell by 4,400 jobs with major decreases in all of the industry groups.
- The overall growth in **Service Sector** employment (2,600) occurred mostly in the Trade, Transportation, and Education industry groups.

Economic Region Data 3 Month Average (Ending in January 2010)					
Economic Region	Cape Breton	Northern	Valley	Southern	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%

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

Shelburne Ship Repair received an \$8.8 million loan, through the province's Industrial Expansion Fund, to upgrade the marine railway slip and wharf, allowing the company to resume building and repairing ships. The restoration will employ 15 to 25 people now and up to 45 employees during peak periods. Work began in January and is expected to take a year to complete. If jobs are created and a steady business is maintained, 80 percent of the loan will be forgivable. **12 January 2010 - Shelburne Coastguard**

The federal government announced \$500,000 in funding for the Barrington Business Park in Shelburne County. The funding will support phase one of the project, an initiative aimed at improving Barrington's capacity to attract and retain industrial and commercial companies. Initial work will include site preparation, upgrading of water mains and installation of fibre optics. The project is expected to create immediate short term employment opportunities and subsequent long term employment as new businesses are established. **26 January 2010 - Shelburne Coastguard**

Transport Canada cancelled their contract with Graham Construction of Yarmouth for work on the ferry terminal. The contract was valued at over \$250,000 and included fencing and lighting at the terminal. **19 January 2010 - Yarmouth Vanguard**

The Town of Bridgewater reported a spike in building permits seeking home add-ons and renovations highlighted another active year of construction in Bridgewater. Last year saw the most renovation permits issued since 1994, with a value of \$647,500 or over 50 percent above the previous year. Also, there were 92 residential addition permits valued at 889,628, over 66 percent higher than 2008. In total, there were 194 residential and non-residential permits issued with a value of \$17.9 million compared to \$13.7 million in 2008. **12 January 2010 - Bridgewater Bulletin**

The Town of Bridgewater awarded a \$265,000 tender to Terrain Group to provide engineering design services for the \$2.3 million project to upgrade the town's sewer system. The project includes installation of new storm sewers, street work and pumping station construction. All three levels of government are funding the project. **26 January 2010 - Bridgewater Bulletin**

Online Support in Liverpool is currently searching for as many as 60 employees, despite a difficult economic climate, to work in various positions. The company provides outsourced call centre services and have stated that their business is booming. **26 January 2010 - Liverpool Advance**

For more information please contact . . .

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