

October 2009*

Employment level still down from 2008

Southern Nova Scotia employment decreased in October. The jobs lost were full-time; part-time gains mitigated the overall employment decline from September. The labour force also saw a decrease over the month which brought the number of unemployed down and reduced the unemployment rate despite the loss of jobs.

October's downward trend in employment mirrors the usual seasonal cycle of the region which saw employment peak in August. Compared to last year at this time, though, the area is supporting fewer jobs and in particular, fewer full-time jobs.

The number of unemployed and the unemployment rate are both lower than they were in October, last year. This is because the labour force and the working-aged population have declined over the last 12 months.

The jobs lost in October were concentrated in the Service sector. Goods sector employment rose although there were some losses within the Primary industries. Service sector employment declines occurred in Trade, Transportation & Warehousing and Accommodation & Food for the most part.

While Service sector employment is up from last October, jobs in the Goods sector are down. Employment this year is lower in the Primary industries as well as in Manufacturing and Construction.

Economic Region Data: 3 month average (ending in October 2009)					
	Cape Breton	North Shore	Annapolis Valley	Southern NS	Halifax
Population 15+	114,800	131,400	101,800	103,200	322,100
Labour force	64,600	82,100	62,400	62,600	230,200
Employed	55,800	73,500	57,100	57,400	214,500
Unemployed	8,800	8,600	5,300	5,200	15,700
Participation rate	56.3%	62.5%	61.3%	60.7%	71.5%
Unemployment rate	13.6%	10.5%	8.5%	8.3%	6.8%
Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey Data					

*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

Best Western will open a new 63-room hotel in the growing commercial district north of Bridgewater in Cookville, next to the Boston Pizza restaurant. The three-story hotel is expected to open in spring 2010 and create 20 to 30 new jobs. It will feature a pool equipped with a waterslide and a 360-square-metre convention centre.

Bridgewater Bulletin - 13 October 2009

The federal government announced in early October that they had set aside funding for approximately one-third of the total cost of the **Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC)**, up to a maximum contribution of \$10.35 million. The facility is expected to be completed by 2012 within the business park area on York Street in Bridgewater. The goal is for the LCLC to contain two ice surfaces with seating, a pool, a public library, and community and cultural spaces.

Bridgewater Bulletin - 6 October 2009

The number of **tourists in Liverpool** was comparable to last season according to local museums and the tourist bureau. However, last year's numbers were low because of the economy, the price of fuel, passport legislation and an election. The Liverpool VIC has averaged 9,000 to 11,000 visitors annually in the last two years. Five years ago that number was approximately 18,000. *Liverpool Advance - 13 October 2009*

Four local jobs will be lost when **Bridgewater's Bell Aliant call centre** closes next year. Eleven call centres in Atlantic Canada will close by next April. Bell is attempting to cut costs and improve efficiency by centralizing work in larger centres. *Bridgewater Bulletin - 20 October 2009*

The federal government announced \$500,000 in funding, through the ACOA Innovative Communities Fund, to the **Yarmouth Mariners Centre** in mid-October. The funding will be used to purchase new floor coverings for the facility's two ice surfaces, upgrades to the kitchen facilities and the addition of a generator.

Yarmouth Vanguard - 20 October 2009

Université Sainte-Anne received \$2.5 million in federal and provincial funding to incorporate renewable energy technologies into the campus. Solar hot water installations will provide domestic hot water and heat to campus buildings, a 50kW wind turbine will reduce reliance on purchased electricity, and a woodchip fuelled hot water boiler will replace the existing fuel oil-fired heating plant. The projects are expected to reduce the university's operating costs substantially, allowing more money to be targeted for new programs and student services.

Yarmouth Vanguard - 13 October 2009

Wastewater treatment plants in Digby and Annapolis counties received a total of \$4.5 million in federal funding. Digby's plant upgrade will see a regional facility developed at Smith's Cove and the current town treatment plant become an aeration and pumping facility. In Annapolis County, the Deep Brook plant will be upgraded and sewer lines extended. *Digby Courier - 1 October 2009*

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