

**November, 2009\***

## Unemployment Rate Rises But Still Lower Than in November 2008

- The unemployment rate rose from October but was lower than in November 2008. The monthly unemployment increase was caused by a very large drop in full-time employment. Part-time employment had a small increase.
- Employment, particularly full-time employment, has typically fallen at this time of year in Southern Nova Scotia. Thus, the labour force and labour force participation rate also decreases during this period as people leave the labour market.
- In the first half of 2009, the unemployment rate was higher than average over the past five years, but it fell below average levels in the second half of 2009.
- Employment in the **Goods-Producing** sector has been falling since July, particularly in the Other Primary Industries.
- Employment in the **Service-Producing** sector has been decreasing for the past three months, particularly in Retail Trade and Health Care & Social Assistance.

Economic Region Data 3 Month Average (Ending in November 2009)					
<i>Economic Region</i>	<b>Cape Breton</b>	<b>Northern</b>	<b>Valley</b>	<b>Southern</b>	<b>Halifax</b>
<b>Population 15+</b>	114,800	131,400	101,900	103,200	322,500
<b>Labour force</b>	64,100	81,200	63,400	61,000	229,100
<b>Employed</b>	55,300	73,000	57,600	55,100	214,400
<b>Unemployed</b>	8,800	8,200	5,800	6,000	14,600
<b>Participation rate</b>	55.8%	61.8%	62.2%	59.1%	71.0%
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	13.7%	10.1%	9.1%	9.8%	6.4%

*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

Fishermen along South West Nova Scotia and the South Shore are skeptical about the lobster season, which opened on the last day of November. Similar to last season, the price their catch will fetch is the biggest issue. In 2008, fishermen saw an opening price of \$3.50 per pound, substantially lower than the norm, around \$5 per pound. In addition, the strong Canadian dollar will also mean a smaller return on shipments to the U.S. A typical season in lobster fishing areas 33 and 34 will bring in about \$240 million worth of lobster. That number was down 25 percent last year due to lower lobster prices. **Various Sources 24 November**

**Starlink Aviation** announced the suspension of air services from Yarmouth in late November. The airline no longer has the funding to keep the service running, having used up the \$2 million provincial subsidy, which was expected to last four years, in nine months. Starlink employed 10 people locally. **Yarmouth Vanguard 26 November**

Contract talks between 3,500 CUPE hospital workers and eight district health authorities across the province broke off in early November. There are 800 CUPE employees within the **South West Health** district. Examples of workers involved in these contract negotiations are: food and nutrition services, maintenance, housekeeping, laundry, LPNs, PCWs, various technologists and therapists, dieticians and social workers. **Yarmouth Vanguard 3 November**

The emergency department at **Digby General Hospital** was closed for part of 13 days during the month of November. The closures were due to physician unavailability. **Digby Courier 5 November**

For the second time in three years, Christmas tree farmers are faced with the problem of strong Canadian currency as they try to market their harvest. Transportation cost for South Shore trees is estimated to be 30 percent higher simply because of distance to the north eastern U.S. market. The higher valued dollar does not affect sales, just profit margin for the growers. Forty percent of Nova Scotian trees come from Lunenburg and Queens counties. **Bridgewater Bulletin 17 November**

The **Association de al Garderie de la Rive Sud** received a \$585,401 provincial loan to have a day care attached to Cookville's new French school, located on Highway 10 in Cookville. The day care will serve about 40 children, ranging in age from 18 months to four year of age, in French and employ seven workers. The school and day care are expected to open next year. **Bridgewater Bulletin 10 November**

Construction began on the **18-bed addition to Harbour View Haven Home for Special Care** in Lunenburg. The new unit is expected to be opened in August 2010 and staff has been actively recruiting for the 30 additional full-time and part-time positions created by the expansion. The cost of the addition is \$6 million, primarily funded through the provincial Department of Health. **Bridgewater Bulletin 24 November**

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