



Southern Nova Scotia Labour Market Monitor

~November 2010~



This is an overview of the Southern Region which includes Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens and Lunenburg 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 force in Southern Nova Scotia grew sharply from November 2009 to November 2010, rising by 2,700 on a year over year basis. Employment increased by 1,700, reflecting an increase in full time, and to a greater extent, part time employment. With the increase in the labour force being significantly greater than employment growth, the level of unemployment rose by 900 on a year over year basis, and the unemployment rate increased from 9.8 percent in November 2009 to 10.8 percent in November 2010.

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

<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfss05b-eng.htm>

Labour Market News by Industry

Fishing

The lobster season in LFA 34 and 33 opened in late November. Last season, both areas landed just under 5 million pounds, worth over \$200 million, accounting for approximately two-thirds of the Maritime Region's inshore commercial lobster value in 2009-10. There are roughly 1,700 licence holders in the two districts. A spokesperson for the industry stated that the number one issue going into the season is the price being paid for the lobster. Last year, the opening price was \$3.75 a pound, considered too low by the fishermen to pay for their expenses. Early indications are for an opening price between \$4.25 and \$4.75 a pound, but price generally tends to drop when the southwestern lobster fishery opens because of the volume of catches.

Yarmouth Vanguard - 23 November 2010

Lobster Fishing District 35, the upper portion of the Bay of Fundy, reported very good catches early this season, which started in mid-October. Catches are on par with catches reported seven to ten years ago with water temperatures a couple degrees warmer, creating more migration for the lobsters. In addition, prices being paid were averaging 75 cents a pound more than last year.

Digby Courier - 25 November 2010

Southern NS	Nov	
	2009	2010
Region: 240		
Labour Force (000)	61.0	63.7
Employed (000)	55.1	56.8
Full Time	43.7	44.0
Part Time	11.4	12.8
Unemployed (000)	6.0	6.9
Participation Rate (%)	59.1	61.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.8	10.8

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

Utilities

Nova Scotia Power's wind farm in Digby Neck is up and running with half of its 20 planned turbines generating electricity. It is expected that the facility will be fully operational by the end of the year. The utility says that the wind farm will produce 30 megawatts of power, enough electricity to power about 10,000 homes.

Chronicle Herald - 26 November 2010

Construction

Existing social housing in Nova Scotia will receive over \$21 million for repairs and renovations. In addition, there will be nearly \$11 million for the construction of new housing for low-income seniors and people with disabilities. The joint federal, provincial announcement is funded through Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Bridgewater Bulletin - 2 November 2010

APM Construction Services was awarded the \$1.8 million tender to renovate Bridgewater's provincial building. Upgrades include mechanical, electrical, roof and masonry repair. The project is expected to be completed by next August.

Bridgewater Bulletin - 2 November 2010

Residential building starts were down substantially in the Municipality of Barrington for the first six months of the 2010/11 fiscal year. The value of residential permits issued was \$851,500, compared to \$1,191,100 for the same period in 2009, representing a 39 percent decrease.

Shelburne Coastguard - 2 November 2010

The provincial government announced funding to build a new middle school for south Queens. Construction costs are estimated to be in the range of \$15-\$18 million, with the earliest opening date set for September 2013.

Liverpool Advance - 9 November 2010

Manufacturing

Tri-Star Industries, a Yarmouth-based manufacturer of ambulances and specialty vehicles, secured a contract to provide Panama's Tocumen Airport with two custom built disaster units and a full compliment of emergency equipment.

Yarmouth Vanguard - 23 November 2010

AbitibiBowater announced it was coming out of bankruptcy protection in late-November. The local Brooklyn Mill was not included in the bankruptcy protection hearing because it is 49 percent owned by the Washington Post. However, there were layoffs, pay changes and the mill was reduced to half capacity in 2009 but 2010 saw only one shut down in March. The company still faces many challenges, including the Canadian dollar staying close to parity and continued declining demand for newsprint in North America.

Liverpool Advance - 30 November 2010

Trade

The grand opening of the Giant Tiger retail location at Bridgewater's Gateway Plaza happened in mid-November. The new location is the tenth Giant Tiger store in the Maritimes.

Bridgewater Bulletin - 9 November 2010

Education

The South Shore School Board and Tri-County Regional School Board are bracing for massive budget cuts. The province has asked all school boards in the province to make plans for budget reductions of 22 percent over the next three years. A spokesperson stated that if unchanged, massive cuts will be needed and likely come from support programs and staff, the board office and increasing class sizes.

Various Sources - 23 November 2010

Health Care and Social Assistance

South Shore Health cut one vice-president and eight last-level management positions, shaving a half million dollars off its annual operating expenses. A spokesperson for the Board stated that the rationale for the cutback is that the district has to live with its means.

Bridgewater Bulletin - 30 November 2010

Information, Culture and Recreation

The television series Haven, filmed at various South Shore locations, was renewed for a second season. The renewal means that it will become a base show that keeps much of the local industry working in Nova Scotia. A local spokesperson stated that for every dollar spent on crew another is spent on spin-off benefits like gas, car rentals, construction and food services. The series' budget is estimated at \$25 to \$26 million with filming from April to early September.

Bridgewater Bulletin - 2 November 2010

Accommodation & Food Services

A community meeting in Yarmouth between tourism-related businesses and local politicians quickly concluded that the loss of the CAT Ferry this past summer was crippling to the local area. A tourism development officer stated that there were only 500 American visitors this year compared to 3,000 last year, a decrease of 63 percent. Hotels, museums, retail and real estate businesses all reported losses and significant decreases of American tourists. An event developer for the Town of Yarmouth stated that hotel rooms available in Yarmouth have fallen by close to 50 percent in the past decade, making it more difficult to attract larger events.

Yarmouth Vanguard - 2 November 2010

The Region of Queens reported a 15 percent decrease in tourists this season, despite provincial numbers showing a slight increase. Although not positive, the expectations were even worse before the tourism season began. The loss of the CAT ferry between Yarmouth and Maine was seen as the main reason for the 61 percent decline in tourists from New England, but the number of people travelling from Europe increased, as did campground and RV travel.

Liverpool Advance - 23 November 2010

Public Administration - Federal

The federal government announced \$25,000 in funding for two Lunenburg County community groups so they can pursue projects to benefit seniors. The Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum will chronicle senior's stories for a history book, and Rosedale New Horizons Seniors' Club will buy computer equipment to teach computer skills.

Bridgewater Bulletin - 16 November 2010

Note: *In preparing this bulletin, 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 the bulletin was published. Readers are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this bulletin does not necessarily reflect official policies of Service Canada.*

For more information please contact:
David Doucette
Labour Market Information Analyst
david.doucette@servicecanada.gc.ca
or visit our website at:
www.labourmarketinformation.ca