

December 2009*

Largest December employment decline since 1995

A decline in the number of both full and part-time jobs brought December's overall employment to a level lower than that of November. The employment decline from November to December is the largest Southern Nova Scotia has seen since 1995. There was a slight drop in labour force size during the month but unemployment rose because of the job losses and along with it the unemployment rate.

Employment is also below that of last December. Part-time jobs have increased in number but the current labour market is supporting fewer full-time positions. Unemployment is greater this December and the unemployment rate is higher by 1.7 percentage points. It is the highest unemployment rate for any December since 1997.

December's employment decline from the previous month occurred in both the Goods and Services sectors. The Service sector experienced 80 percent of the job losses in the one month period, mostly in the Information, Culture & Recreation and the Accommodation & Food industry groups, both tourism-sensitive industry composites. In the Goods sector, Agriculture saw the largest decline.

Compared to last December, the Goods sector is employing fewer this year while the Service sector is supporting a greater number of jobs. Primary industries are responsible for most of the Goods sector's losses while Public Administration, Trade and Transportation & Warehousing have provided employment growth within the Service sector during the last 12 month period.

Economic Region Data: 3 month average (ending in December 2009)					
	Cape Breton	Northern NS	Annapolis Valley	Southern NS	Halifax
Population 15+	114,700	131,400	101,900	103,200	322,800
Labour force	63,300	80,400	62,900	60,900	230,200
Employed	54,300	72,200	57,500	54,000	216,700
Unemployed	9,000	8,300	5,400	6,900	13,500
Participation rate	55.2%	61.2%	61.7%	59.0%	71.3%
Unemployment rate	14.2%	10.3%	8.6%	11.3%	5.9%
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

Starlink Aviation announced in early December that it suspended all air service between Yarmouth, Halifax and Portland because the airline no longer has funding to keep the air service flying. The airline carried more than 6,000 passengers since its inaugural flight 10 months earlier. A \$2 million air service provincial subsidy fund that had been put in place to help the company build the service lasted less than a year. Starlink employed 10 people at its Yarmouth operation. *1 December 2009 - Yarmouth Vanguard*

In mid-December **Bay Ferries** announced that they would shut down their high speed ferry after the provincial government stated they would not provide a \$7 million subsidy this year. As a result, approximately 120 people will lose full or part-time employment - 80 of them in the Yarmouth area - and the local tourism industry expects a significant downturn. The seasonal service operated for nine years without government support but has needed the funding since 2007. In 2009, 76,000 passengers took the CAT, a decrease of 10 percent from 2008 and over 70 percent from 2001. *18 December 2009 - Yarmouth Vanguard*

AF Theriault & Sons, in partnership with an Alberta firm, celebrated the construction of their 50th **Hammerhead**, a remote controlled target used to provide training for military agents. Navies around the world use them to mimic small vessels attacking a warship. The German navy was the first client with Hammerheads deployed off the coast of West Africa in 2007. Units have also been sold to Canada, the United Kingdom, South Africa and the United States. *31 December 2009 - Yarmouth Vanguard*

A New Brunswick based firm, **Maxim 2000**, was awarded the tender to expand the **Rosedale Home for Special Care** in New Germany, Lunenburg County. The project, budgeted at \$4.25 million, will add a 12-bed wing and renovated administrative areas and will double the size of the kitchen. Construction is expected to begin early in 2010. *1 December 2009 - Bridgewater Bulletin*

ALC Construction Limited of Dartmouth was awarded a tender worth more than \$1.2 million to complete upgrades to **water and sewer services on Tannery Road in Lunenburg**. The work is expected to begin sometime in the spring of 2010. *2 December 2009 - Bridgewater Bulletin*

The **Town of Bridgewater** approved a developer's plans for **five, three-storey condominiums off Jubilee Road**. The application outlines the construction of two, 27-unit buildings to start, with the other three buildings built at a later date. The development will be called South Ridge. Construction can begin in mid-January if no one appeals the matter to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. *29 December 2009 - Bridgewater Bulletin*

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