

**July, 2009\***

**Employment declines inconsistent with seasonal trends**

- Employment levels fell slightly in July 2009, contrary to the normal seasonal growth trend.
- There was a sharp decline in unemployment between March and July, similar to 2008. With the corresponding decrease in employment, labour force levels declined.
- In the past couple of years, both the labour force and labour force participation rate, rose. This year, however, they both declined indicating lower confidence in the labour market. The unemployment rate fell for the past four months due to reduced unemployment levels.
- Goods Sector employment grew in the four months leading up to July while Service Sector employment declined. While this is typical for Goods Sector employment, the Sector is less predictable.
- Construction and Agriculture were the growth industries in the Goods Sector. Professional, Scientific & Technical Services and Other Services had the largest employment declines in the Service Sector.

<b>Economic Region Data 3 Month Average (Ending in July 2009)</b>					
<i>Economic Region</i>	<b>Cape Breton</b>	<b>Northern</b>	<b>Valley</b>	<b>Southern</b>	<b>Halifax</b>
<b>Population 15+</b>	115,000	131,400	101,600	103,300	321,000
<b>Labour force</b>	64,800	80,900	62,000	65,300	235,100
<b>Employed</b>	55,800	71,700	57,200	59,200	219,600
<b>Unemployed</b>	9,000	9,300	4,800	6,100	15,400
<b>Participation rate</b>	56.3%	61.6%	61.0%	63.2%	73.2%
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	13.9%	11.5%	7.7%	9.3%	6.6%

*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

**Winners** is scheduled to open in late August in New Minas while **Cora's Breakfast and Lunch** is now open at 9049 Commercial Street in New Minas. Staff - July 31, 2009

The grand opening of **Snapdragon Café and Bakery** at 109 Gerrish Street in Windsor was held in July. Hants Journal – July 23, 2009

The grand opening of **Sawmill Creek** in Cambridge took place in July. The first phase is now open and offers 25 large home sites. Kentville Advertiser - July 14, 2009

Nova Scotia's **pork producers** held their annual meeting on June 19. Producers faced a crippling 2007 and 2008 that saw the industry drop from close to 80 growers to the dozen left today. The focus is on working to restructure into weaner pig production or niche markets, including on-farm sales and omega-enriched meat. Pork Nova Scotia chairman **Gerald Vermeulen's** Sheffield Mills hog farm will wrap up operations this fall after 26 years. In addition, **Maple Lane Farm Limited's** 550-acre pork farm in Greenhill has been sold. Kings County Register - July 2, 2009/Hants Journal - July 16

Farmer **Bill Reid**, who owns a provincially-inspected beef and pork abattoir in Melanson had renovated a building beside the beef and pork facility with the hope of establishing a provincially-inspected **chicken abattoir**. He says the future of his farm depends on getting a permit from the Department of Environment, as a foreclosure deadline looms. He expects he would be able to hire two more people if his business improves if there was a provincially-inspected chicken facility. Kings County Register - July 23, 2009

**Acadia University** has applied to Service Canada for funding through the Work-Sharing Program. Two of the three employee groups at Acadia are willing to participate in the program of reduced hours with the remainder of their hours covered by Employment Insurance. Senior administration at Acadia has also accepted a 5% salary reduction. Acadia has about 500 full-time and part-time employees. First time applications are up 10%, which is ahead of last year this time. Kentville Advertiser - July 28, 2009

Tenders for 13 **highway projects** have been called to improve highways, bridges and secondary roads across the province valued at a total of \$17.5 million. The province expects to spend \$325 million on highway construction and major maintenance projects this year, surpassing last year's amount by more than \$100 million. The two projects announced for **Kings County** include over half a kilometre of sub-grading, graveling, and repaving work on Wellington Dyke Road; and a 2.16 km passing lane on Highway 101 (Phase 1), Coldbrook to Kingston. Kentville Advertiser - July 21, 2009

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