

September, 2009*

Unemployment rate rises after five consecutive monthly declines

- Employment fell for the third consecutive month in September. Overall, employment showed minimal fluctuation throughout the first nine months of 2009.
- The level of unemployment increased in September, as is usual for the fall.
- The rising level of unemployment and falling employment have lead to a higher unemployment rate. This was the first increase following five consecutive months of decline.
- Both the labour force and the labour force participation rate rose slightly in September 2009. However, the participation rate has been lower than in the same month in 2008 for the past four months.
- Service-Producing employment has been falling for five months and is well below September 2008. Goods-Producing employment rose for the sixth consecutive month but was too small to offset the decrease in Service employment.

Economic Region Data 3 Month Average (Ending in September 2009)					
Economic Region	Cape Breton	Northern	Valley	Southern	Halifax
Population 15+	114,900	131,400	101,700	103,200	321,700
Labour force	65,000	81,400	61,900	64,300	232,500
Employed	56,300	72,600	56,700	58,700	215,800
Unemployed	8,800	8,800	5,200	5,500	16,800
Participation rate	56.6%	61.9%	60.9%	62.3%	72.3%
Unemployment rate	13.5%	10.8%	8.4%	8.6%	7.2%

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

Michelin Tire has extended its work-share program to April 2010 for about 500 employees. Service Canada accepted Michelin's application in April to start an 18-week program, reducing the hours of participating employees and topping up their reduced paycheques with Employment Insurance Benefits. The program would have wrapped up in August, when Michelin expected to be able to re-evaluate market fluctuations; instead, the company and Service Canada have extended the work-share another 32 weeks, to April 3, 2010. The work-share program has allowed Michelin to avoid layoffs and maintain their workforce, even in the wake of dramatic drops in the truck tire market. **Kings County Register – September 10, 2009**

Proprietor Scott Geddes of the **Woodshire Inn and Cocoa Pesto Bistro** in Windsor has applied for a lounge license and plans to open "**Strays**" this fall. The Lounge is already under construction. The Woodshire Inn and Bistro currently employs 27 people most of whom are full-time, and he adds this new enterprise would look at providing more than a dozen new positions. A decision by the Utility and Review Board could take up to 60 days to finalize. **Hants Journal – September 24, 2009**

Representing more than 900 faculty and professional support employees of the **Nova Scotia Community College**, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union filed strike notice with Labour and Workforce Development Minister Marilyn Moore on September 23. **Kentville Advertiser - September 29, 2009**

George Moody, chairman of the **Kings Mutual Century Centre** campaign committee commissioned an economic impact study through Acadia University this spring. The building project will go through \$15 million in phase one which is currently underway. The province contributed \$4 million and the federal government \$4 million - an \$8 million injection into the local economy. The winning construction tender came from Cambridge's **Roscoe Construction**. The study indicates \$4 million will go directly to construction wages with local contractors doing site excavation, concrete work, electrical and other services. **Kings County Register – September 10, 2009**

Plans for the **Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre's (KRRC)** to purchase and develop the former Kings County Christian School property on Highway 1 in Cambridge were scrutinized at a public meeting on September 17. The KRRC wants to place a rehabilitation facility on the 5.7 acre site, zoned Institutional 1. **Kings County Register – September 24, 2009**

After 10 years of discussions and planning, the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association will be getting its first real startup funding. West Nova MP Greg Kerr delivered a \$285,000 speech in Annapolis Royal announcing that the UNESCO-endorsed **biosphere reserve project** will receive \$57,000 each year through 2013 from Ottawa and hinted that depending on outcomes, funding might continue annually. **Nova Scotia Business Journal – September 3, 2009**

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