

October 2009\*

### Valley employment 'flat' this year

- Employment crept up a bit during October but the job gains were all part-time positions net of full-time losses. The number of unemployed increased slightly because of a labour force increase in excess of the employment gain. The unemployment rate followed suit with a marginal increase.

- It has been a different year for the Valley labour market. Overall labour market performance has been flat so far this year with job levels staying within a narrow band between 56,000 and 58,000 workers. Last year by August, employment ranged between 53,000 and almost 63,000; with record high employment levels half way through the year.

- October's employment gains were provided by the Goods Sector. There were no really substantial increases but the largest employment increments occurred in the Construction industry group. In the Service Sector, Health and Education added to employment but losses in Trade, Transportation & Warehousing, Other Services, Accommodation & Food, Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing and Business, Building and Other Support Services brought the sector's overall employment level down from September.

- Goods Sector employment is greater than it was last October but Service Sector employment is down from that time by a substantial amount, particularly in Trade and Accommodation & Food Services.

Economic Region Data: 3 month average (ending in October 2009)					
	Cape Breton	North Shore	Annapolis Valley	Southern NS	Halifax
Population 15+	114,800	131,400	101,800	103,200	322,100
Labour force	64,600	82,100	62,400	62,600	230,200
Employed	55,800	73,500	57,100	57,400	214,500
Unemployed	8,800	8,600	5,300	5,200	15,700
Participation rate	56.3%	62.5%	61.3%	60.7%	71.5%
Unemployment rate	13.6%	10.5%	8.5%	8.3%	6.8%

**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

The **Municipality of the County of Annapolis** will be receiving substantial funding to improve water and wastewater treatment systems throughout the county. *Annapolis County Spectator - October 22, 2009*

A Nova Scotia company with a 40-year history in the province is expanding its contact centre operations with a new location opening in Windsor. **IMP Customer Care**, a division of IMP Group International Inc., plans to create up to 100 jobs over the next six years. Since 2000, the customer care division has been providing bilingual customer contact services to consumers and businesses in the travel, financial, and information technology sectors. It was a priority for the company to hire locally and 25 former KLJ employees have been rehired. The company has the potential to house 150 employees within the 48 workstations at the Windsor branch based on a 24/7 operation.

*Hants Journal - October 29, 2009*

Debate over a controversial gypsum mine expansion on the Avon Peninsula has heated up again. **Fundy Gypsum**, a subsidiary of United States Gypsum Company of Chicago, has presented its revised environmental assessment to the new NDP government for a final decision on whether the project can proceed. The government is expected to make its decision in January. Meanwhile, the public has until Nov. 23 to have its say.

*Chronicle Herald - October 28, 2009*

More than 900 faculty and professional support staff members employed by the **Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC)** have approved tentative agreements between the College and the **Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU)** on October 19. *Annapolis County Spectator - October 29, 2009*

The gates have closed for good at the **Upper Clements Wildlife Park** but the property will be redeveloped into what Upper Clements Parks General manager Greg Gaul describes as something new and exciting that is expected to double the 6 jobs currently generated by the wildlife park in addition to having a ripple effect that will impact the theme park. The new development is likely to be up and running by 2011 though possibly on a smaller scale by the fall of 2010.

*Hants Journal - October 8, 2009*

The province delivered some welcome news to 12 **daycare centres** recently with the approval of \$6.3 million in loans to help agencies expand their facilities. The government funding is expected to create 300 additional child-care spaces across Nova Scotia. The loans are available to full and part-day licensed commercial or non-profit child-care centres, and family home daycare agencies, according to a government news release. Funding comes from the province's 10-year Early Learning and Child Care Plan. *Chronicle Herald - October 28, 2009*

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