

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT Q4 2009	December- 07	December - 08	December 09	08-09 % Change	Trend
LABOURFORCE					
Employment ('000)	211.3	213.1	215.3	1.0%	↑
Labour force size ('000)	221.2	225.3	230.8	2.4%	↑
Participation rate	70.4%	70.7%	71.5%	0.8	↑
Unemployment rate	4.5%	5.3%	6.8%	1.5	↑
HOUSING					
Average housing sale price * yr to date	\$212,795	\$229,899	237,214	3.2%	↑
New housing price index	145.1	150.3	151.1	0.5	↑
Housing starts*	2,489	2,096	1,733	-17.3%	↓
Housing sales*	6,945	6,210	5,862	-5.6%	↓
TRANSPORTATION					
Aircraft passengers* (enplaned/deplaned)	3,469,062	3,578,931	3,417,164	-4.5%	↓
Total Cargo Volume* (metric tonnes)	4,228,260	3,197,776	2,776,846	-13.2%	↓
Containerized Imports* (metric tonnes)	1,685,408	1,285,438	975,361	-24%	↓
Containerized Exports* (metric tonnes)	2,542,852	1,912,338	1,801,485	-25%	↓
CONSUMPTION					
Inflation rate	3.1%	-0.1%	2.5\$	2.6	↑
Retail sales (\$ millions)*	5,831.0	6,081.0	6085	0.7	↑
CONSTRUCTION					
Building permits (\$ millions)	28.3	28.9	33.3	15.2%	↑
Investment in non-residential construction (\$ millions)	83	97	102	5.2%	↑
TOURISM					
Room Nights Sold* ('000)	1,350	1,329	1,332	-5%	↓
Occupancy Rate*	58%	64%	58%	-4	↓
Cruise Ships*	92	125	118	-5.6%	↓
Cruise Ship Passengers*	176,742	228,133	227,797	-0.1%	↓
EDUCATION					
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	% Change	Trend
Full-time University enrolment – Greater Halifax	23,812	23,512	24,092	2.5%	↑
International student enrolment – Greater Halifax	2,329	2,423	2,913	20.2%	↑
Full-time Nova Scotia Community College enrolment - Greater Halifax Campuses	3,834	4,020	4382	9.0%	↑