



Bearing the Brunt: Newfoundland and Labrador Fact Sheet

Poverty

- Poverty rate in 2007: 6.5%
- Child poverty rate in 2007: 6.5%
- Newfoundland and Labrador had the third lowest poverty rates in the country in 2007

Unemployment

- Newfoundland and Labrador had the second highest increase in unemployment in the country, rising from 13.8% in October 2008 to 17% in October 2009
- In October 2009, this was the highest unemployment rate in the country
- The Atlantic provinces combined lost 8,800 jobs between October 2008 and October 2009 (0.8%)

Employment Insurance

- Newfoundland and Labrador is the only province to have EI coverage decline during the recession, although it still has the second highest coverage in the country
- The Beneficiaries to Unemployed rate decreased from 104.6% in October 2008 to 97.3% in October 2009

Income Support

- Likely because of the high EI coverage, Newfoundland and Labrador had the second lowest increase in social assistance cases in the country
- The Income Support caseload increased 2.4% between October 2008 and December 2009, rising to 24,781 cases in December 2009
- In January 2010, the caseload increased even further to 24,984

Cost of living

- Food prices increased 5.9% in 2009, compared to core inflation of 0.3%
- Prices of fruit (5.6%) and vegetables (10.9%) increased more than 5%
- Average rent increased 4.8% between October 2008 and October 2009, much higher than the national average of 2.3%
- St. John's had the fourth highest rent increase in the country over this period at 4.9%

Bankruptcy

- Bankruptcies increased 17.9% between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009

Food bank use

- Food bank use increased by 10% in 2009
- 30,014 people needed to use a food bank in March 2009
- 37% of food bank users were children
- 9% of food bank users report employment income
- 14% of food bank users were EI recipients, the second highest in the country