



Bearing the Brunt: Nova Scotia Fact Sheet

Poverty

- Poverty rate in 2007: 8.2%
- Child poverty rate in 2007: 8.4%

Unemployment

- Unemployment increased from 7.6% in October 2008 to 9.3% in October 2009
- The Atlantic provinces experienced combined job losses of 8,800 between October 2008 and October 2009 (0.8%)

Employment Insurance

- Nova Scotia had the second highest rate of EI coverage in the country
- The Beneficiaries to Unemployed rate increased from 87.7% in October 2008 to 97.3% in October 2009

Employment Support and Income Assistance

- The Employment Support and Income Assistance caseload increased 4.2% between October 2008 and December 2009 after 5 years of declining caseloads
- In December 2009, the caseload was 27,894
- The caseload increased even higher in January 2010, to 28,069
- 29% of welfare recipients are children

Cost of living

- Food prices increased 5.5% in 2009, compared to core inflation of -0.2%
- The price of fruit (5.9%) and vegetables (12.9%) had higher increases than average
- Average rent increased 2.8% between October 2008 and October 2009 as the vacancy rate declined from 3.5% to 3.1%
- Halifax saw a decline in rental affordability in 2009

Bankruptcies

- Bankruptcies increased by 21.2% between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009

Food bank use

- Food bank use increased 20% in 2009
- 20,344 people needed to use a food bank in Nova Scotia in March 2009
- 34% of food bank users in Nova Scotia are children
- 8% of food bank users report employment income
- 6% of food bank users are EI recipients