

Economic Update **October 2019**



The **New Housing Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 97.1 in July 2019 down -1.8%*

The **Consumer Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 139.2 in August 2019 up 0.7%*

Retail trade for Newfoundland and Labrador was \$743 million in July 2019 down -2.2%*

* same month in the previous year. Source: Statistics Canada

... as of August 2019

Labour Force	123,400 (up 0.7%)
Unemployment Rate	7.9% (down -1.5 ppts)
Employment	114,400 (up 2.4%)
Participation Rate	66.3% (up 0.2 ppts)

St. John's CMA, seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average. Percentage change reflects the same month previous year. Source: Statistics Canada

Business Briefs



Verafin secures the largest ever venture deal in Canadian history

St. John's based fintech company [Verafin](#) has secured a \$515 million equity-and-debt deal, what the *Globe and Mail* is calling the biggest venture deal in Canadian history. The company provides lenders with software to detect and prevent fraud and money-laundering. Its annualized recurring revenue hit \$100 million in the first quarter of 2019 – up 87% from two years earlier. More than 3,000 banks and credit unions in the U.S. are now clients, including 25 with more than \$5 billion in assets. The deal allows the management and employees to be the largest shareholder group in the company, even after this latest half-a-billion injection. Verafin continues its stellar growth while remaining based in St. John's, where it employs more than 500 people. The company puts a lot of time and resources into employee training when they find the right people, which also helps them solve the skills-shortage problem facing so many high-tech businesses in the Atlantic region.

Destination Canada Mobility Forum

On October 17th and 18th [RDÉE TNL](#) – The NL Francophone Economic Development Network – will participate at Destination Canada in France and in Belgium, one of the most important French-speaking recruitment events for Canadian employers outside of Canada from November 15th to 19th. If your business is looking for skilled workers, RDÉE TNL can represent your job offers at no cost. Deadline to submit your job offers for Destination Canada in Paris and Belgium is November 8th, 2019. RDÉE TNL are also looking for employers to accompany them and meet candidates during the job fair. If you would like to send someone to represent your business contact services@rdeetnl.ca

The number of startups in Atlantic Canada increases

Entrevestor, a website that provides news and data on Atlantic Canada innovators, has released its Atlantic Canadian *Startup Data Report 2018*. According to the release, startups (their word for high-growth innovation companies) in Atlantic Canada attracted a record \$166.6 million in private capital in 2018, while increasing their revenues and adding about 1,000 employees. Entrevestor found 550 high-growth, innovation-driven companies in the region. There were a record 115 new companies and 66 failures in 2018. In the St. John's area (all the NL companies tracked are based in eastern Newfoundland), 24 new companies were launched in 2018 for a total of 69 companies in the ecosystem covered by the report, up from 28 companies in 2013. The oceantech sector, boosted by Canada's Ocean Supercluster, is now home to a young, vibrant group of ocean technology startups in Atlantic Canada. The full report is available to download on Entrevestor.com



City Building Permits (year to date)

As of October 7, 2019 the value of:

- **Commercial** permits were down -48% from \$227,993,647 in 2018 to \$118,938,171 in 2019
- **Industrial** permits were valued at \$5,000 for 2018 and \$1,737,266 for 2019
- **Government/Institutional** permits were down from \$12,683,470 in 2018 to \$2,440,150 in 2019*
- **Residential** permits were down -42% to \$34,420,805 for 2019 over \$59,497,500 for 2018
- **Repair** permits were down -25%, from \$2,191,900 in 2018 to \$2,028,458 in 2019
- **Total** value of all permits was down -47% to \$159,564,851 for 2019 over \$302,371,517 for 2018

* Note that this data does not include the full range of permit activity undertaken by the provincial government and Memorial University.



Business Approvals

Expedia Cruises, 45 Danny Dr.
Lane's Retirement Living, 22 O'Leary Ave.
Sale of collectibles, 31 Peet St.
Flips Flops, 70 Hamlyn Rd.
Calendar club of Canada, Avalon Mall
Just Cozy, Avalon Mall
Hickory Farms Limited, Avalon Mall
Mountain Warehouse, Avalon Mall
Broderick's Pub, 201 Water St.
Restaurant, 258 Water St.
Newfoundland Sausage Company, 626 Southside Rd.
Oceanside restaurant, 131 Duckworth St.
Elite Tattoo Studios, 38-42 Ropewalk Ln.
Tee Box Indoor Golf, 25-27 Stavanger Dr.

Home-based Businesses

Online Car Sales & Cleaning, 39 Mercer Dr.
Bakery, 85 Bond St.
Concierge Wellness, 92 Casey St.
Family home daycare, 91 Maurice Putt Cres.

2019 Total 120

- Regular 79
- Home-based 41

City Initiatives



Start and grow a business in St. John's

BDC Small Business Week™ October 20-26 is a time to celebrate small businesses. Entrepreneurs in our community help to grow the economy, create jobs and foster innovation. If you're thinking about starting or growing a business, the City of St. John's is here to help. We provide:

- guidance on how to apply for permits
- demographic information for preparing your business and marketing plans
- identification of funding sources
- business start-up information

The City frequently partners with the community to offer business information sessions including the [St. John's Board of Trade](#) where we host a biweekly *Business Solutions Pop-Up* in our Welcome Centre at 348 Water Street.

On **Monday October 21** at 2 p.m. we are partnering with the [BDC](#), [Futurpreneur](#) and [Metro Business Opportunities](#) to offer a drop-in info session on the topic of *business loans for entrepreneurs* in our [Welcome Centre](#) at 348

Water Street. Conveniently located, the City's walk-in business information service is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

We're planning a series of business info sessions and other pop-up events. Details will be posted to www.stjohns.ca For more information contact business@stjohns.ca

Upcoming Events

- Oct 15-18 [Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement](#)
- Oct 16-20 [St. John's International Women's Film Festival](#)
- Oct 16-17 [Newleaf green economy and clean technology conference](#)
- Oct 17 [Business Solutions Pop-Up](#)
- Oct 22-23 [Corporate Innovation Workshops](#)
- Oct 23 [Free Digital Marketing Seminar: Create & Supercharge Your Digital Plan](#)
- Oct 27-29 [Community Sector Summit](#)
- Oct 29 [NLOWE Entrepreneur of the Year Awards](#)
- Nov 5-7 [Maritime & Arctic Security & Safety Conference](#)
- Nov 6-9 [Mineral Resources Review 2019](#)



Department of Community Services | Economic Development, Culture and Partnerships
(709) 576-8107 | business@stjohns.ca | www.stjohns.ca

