



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

December 2016



The Quarterly Edition of the Labour Market Bulletin is a look back over the past three months, providing an analysis of quarterly Labour Force Survey results for the province of Nova Scotia, including the regions of Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton, Southern, Halifax and North Shore.

OVERVIEW

Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage points to 8% between the third and fourth quarters of 2016. A modest increase in employment, limited to part-time positions, contributed to the decline in the rate. Higher labour force levels had a limited effect on the reduction in unemployment. Part-time employment rose in each of the Atlantic Provinces while full-time employment declined in each province in the region with the exception of New Brunswick where there was a small full-time employment gain.

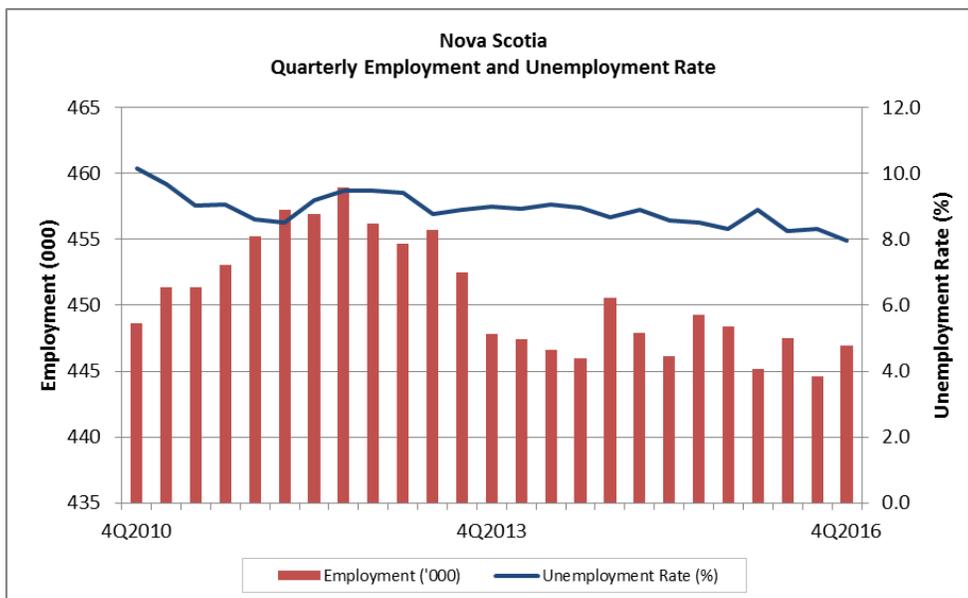
Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2016	3rd Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	789.8	789.2	786.8	0.6	0.1	3.0	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	485.7	485.1	489.2	0.6	0.1	-3.5	-0.7
Employment ('000)	446.9	444.6	448.4	2.3	0.5	-1.4	-0.3
Full-Time ('000)	358.8	363.1	371.2	-4.3	-1.2	-12.4	-3.3
Part-Time ('000)	88.1	81.5	77.2	6.6	8.1	11.0	14.2
Unemployment ('000)	38.8	40.4	40.9	-1.7	-4.1	-2.1	-5.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	8.3	8.3	-0.4	-	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.5	61.4	62.2	0.1	-	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.6	56.3	57.0	0.3	-	-0.4	-

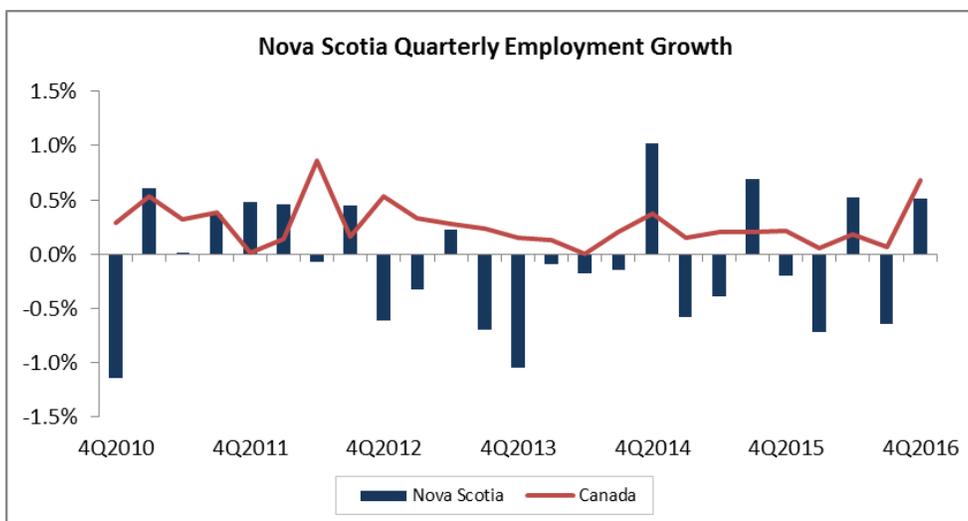
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

A large reduction in the labour force resulted in the unemployment rate declining 0.3 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 2016 compared to the same quarter of 2015. Over this same period, a gain of 11,000 in part-time employment was negated by an even larger drop in full-time employment.



Quarterly employment in Nova Scotia over the past three years has been somewhat variable, and only once reached a level exceeding 450,000. A more-pronounced pattern of growth and decline occurred over the preceding three years, between 2010 and 2012, influenced by post-recession government stimulus spending. The unemployment rate has fallen more often than it rose during the previous six years. Normally, falling employment would be accompanied by a higher unemployment rate. However, in the past three years, lower employment has occurred at the same time as a lower unemployment rate. This indicates that people were leaving the labour force. Overall, the labour force has been in decline since the third quarter of 2012.



The reduction in full-time employment between the third and fourth quarters of 2016 was mostly in the youth (15 to 24 years) and older (55 years and older) age groups. The 25 to 54 year old group had a much smaller full-time employment loss during this period. In fact, this age group had an overall employment gain as a result of a large increase in the number of part-time workers. However, when comparing the employment changes for this group from the fourth quarter of the previous year, the large gain in part-time employment (8,500) was negated by an even larger loss in full-time employment (-11,300). Furthermore, a large reduction in the labour force meant a similar decline in the unemployment rate from the previous quarter and the previous year.

Youth (15 to 24 years) employment fell due to a sharp decline in full-time employment, but there was an even larger reduction in the labour force. The level and rate of unemployment thus decreased for this age group despite the overall lower employment levels.

In the older (55 years and over) age group, full-time employment increased (4,100) between the fourth quarters of 2015 and 2016 while part-time employment remained virtually constant. The unemployment rate, however, rose by 0.9 percentage points as 5,400 more people entered the labour force.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2016 (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.0	8.3	8.3	-0.4	-0.4
25 years and over	6.8	7.4	7.1	-0.5	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	9.1	9.4	8.3	-0.3	0.7
Women - 25 years and over	4.5	5.2	5.8	-0.7	-1.3
15 to 24 years	15.2	14.2	15.8	1.0	-0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.0	19.0	16.0	-2.0	1.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.4	9.4	15.6	4.0	-2.2

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

In the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2016, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.98 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 66,900 people. Employment among the Indigenous population stood at 36,600 representing a decline of -2,900 (-7.9%) from a year earlier. The declines were all in full-time (-2,900) positions.

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q4 2016	Q4 2015	number	%	Q4 2016	Q4 2015	number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	66.9	66.3	0.6	0.9%	1,914.1	1,906.5	7.6	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	39.4	42.3	-2.9	-6.9%	1,175.4	1,175.9	-0.5	0.0%
Employment ('000)	33.6	36.5	-2.9	-7.9%	1,066.9	1,070.2	-3.3	-0.3%
Full-Time ('000)	26.6	29.5	-2.9	-9.8%	873.9	894.4	-20.5	-2.3%
Part-Time ('000)	6.9	6.9	0.0	0.0%	193.0	175.7	17.3	9.8%
Unemployment ('000)	5.8	5.9	-0.1	-1.7%	108.6	105.7	2.9	2.7%
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.7	13.8	0.9	-	9.2	9.0	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	58.9	63.9	-5.0	-	61.4	61.7	-0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.2	55.1	-4.9	-	55.7	56.1	-0.4	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table.

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 14.7% in Q4 2016, representing a +0.9 percentage point (pp) increase from the previous year. Among the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate edged up slightly to 9.2% in Q4 2016 (+0.2pp year-over-year). Between Q 2015 and Q4 2016, the participation rate among the Indigenous population declined to 58.9% (-5.0pp), and that of the non-Indigenous population edged down to 61.4% (-0.3pp year-over-year). Over the same time period, the employment rate of

the Indigenous population declined to 50.2% (-4.9pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population fell slightly to 55.7% (-0.4pp).

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Most of the job gains which occurred during the fourth quarter of 2016 were in the **Goods-producing sector**. The employment level in this sector rose by 2,000 while employment in the **Services-producing sector** increased by 300. **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** had the largest employment gain (1,500) followed by **Construction** (600). Construction employment, however, was down sharply from the fourth quarter of 2015. The remaining industries in the **Goods-producing sector** were relatively stable. The **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry has generally followed the overall trend of the **Goods-producing sector** and has been on a downward trend since 2013.

The **Retail and Wholesale Trade, Other Services** and **Public Administration** industries all showed employment growth but were offset by declines in the remaining eight industries in the **Services-producing sector**. Among these industries, only **Health care and social assistance** saw an employment decline of more than 1,000. Employment in the **Trade** industry has been on a strong, upward trend like the **Service-producing sector** overall, though there has been some more variability in this industry.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2016	2016	2015	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	446.9	444.6	448.4	2.3	0.5	-1.4	-0.3
Goods-producing sector	81.6	79.6	85.0	2.0	2.6	-3.4	-4.0
Agriculture	4.8	4.8	5.8	0.0	-0.7	-1.0	-16.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	12.0	10.5	11.2	1.5	14.2	0.8	7.1
Utilities	3.5	3.4	3.8	0.0	1.0	-0.3	-8.0
Construction	33.0	32.3	33.8	0.6	2.0	-0.8	-2.4
Manufacturing	28.3	28.4	30.5	-0.1	-0.4	-2.2	-7.1
Services-producing sector	365.4	365.1	363.4	0.3	0.1	2.0	0.6
Trade	74.1	72.1	71.1	1.9	2.7	3.0	4.2
Transportation and warehousing	19.8	20.3	20.7	-0.6	-2.8	-1.0	-4.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	23.3	24.1	24.2	-0.8	-3.2	-0.9	-3.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.7	27.8	26.5	-0.1	-0.4	1.2	4.5
Business, building and other support services	17.0	17.3	18.7	-0.3	-1.5	-1.7	-9.1
Educational services	36.2	36.3	36.3	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.5
Health care and social assistance	74.8	75.9	73.0	-1.0	-1.4	1.8	2.5
Information, culture and recreation	16.0	16.4	16.4	-0.4	-2.2	-0.4	-2.2
Accommodation and food services	27.8	28.3	29.8	-0.5	-1.6	-1.9	-6.5
Other services	20.4	19.2	18.6	1.2	6.3	1.8	9.5
Public administration	28.2	27.4	28.0	0.8	3.0	0.2	0.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in the Halifax (2,600) and Cape Breton (1,100) economic regions between the fourth quarter of 2015 and 2016. The North Shore had the largest employment decline (-2,600). The unemployment rate, however, fell in each of the economic regions, primarily due to weak labour force growth.

As was typical across the Atlantic region, employment growth in Cape Breton between the fourth quarter of 2015 and 2016 was the result of more part-time employment as the level of full-time employment declined. The labour force rose slightly but the level and rate of unemployment both declined during this period. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** was responsible for the employment increase while the **Services-producing sec-**

tor experienced a slight employment decline. **Construction** employment was the main driver in the **Goods-producing sector** in Cape Breton while **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas** had the largest employment decline. In the **Services-producing sector**, employment increased in **Other Services and Public administration** and declined in **Retail trade**.

In the **North Shore** economic region, the unemployment rate fell in the fourth quarter of 2016 compared to the same quarter in 2015, despite a decline in the level of employment (-2,600), mostly in full-time employment. The labour force also fell sharply, reducing the level and rate of unemployment in the region. The overall employment decline in the region occurred because the decline in the **Services-producing sector** was far greater than the small increase in the **Goods-producing sector**. Within the **Goods-producing sector**, the **Agriculture** industry had the largest employment growth while the **Manufacturing industry** experienced the largest decline. Only three industries within the **Services-producing sector** had employment growth including **Public Administration, Other Services** and **Health Care and Social Assistance**. The largest employment declines were in the **Transportation and warehousing** and **Information, culture and recreation** industries.

The **Annapolis Valley** economic region was one of the few areas where full-time employment grew but overall employment still fell as part-time employment in this region declined sharply. The unemployment rate declined by 0.5 percentage points as the labour force experienced an even larger decline between the fourth quarter of 2015 and 2016. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** fell during this period, largely due to a loss of 1,100 jobs in **Construction. Agricultural** employment also declined slightly but the remaining industries in this sector saw slight employment increases. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** dropped as well with employment in **Retail and wholesale trade** having the largest decline. The largest employment growth was in the **Professional, scientific and technical services** industry group.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	Yearly Variation	4th Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	Yearly Variation
	('000)	('000)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)
Nova Scotia	448.1	448.6	-0.1	7.4	7.8	-0.4
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	47.4	46.3	2.4	13.5	14.7	-1.2
North Shore	70.9	73.2	-3.1	7.3	7.8	-0.5
Annapolis Valley	54.7	55.6	-1.6	6.7	7.2	-0.5
Southern	47.5	48.4	-1.9	9.9	10.5	-0.6
Halifax	227.7	225.1	1.2	5.6	5.8	-0.2

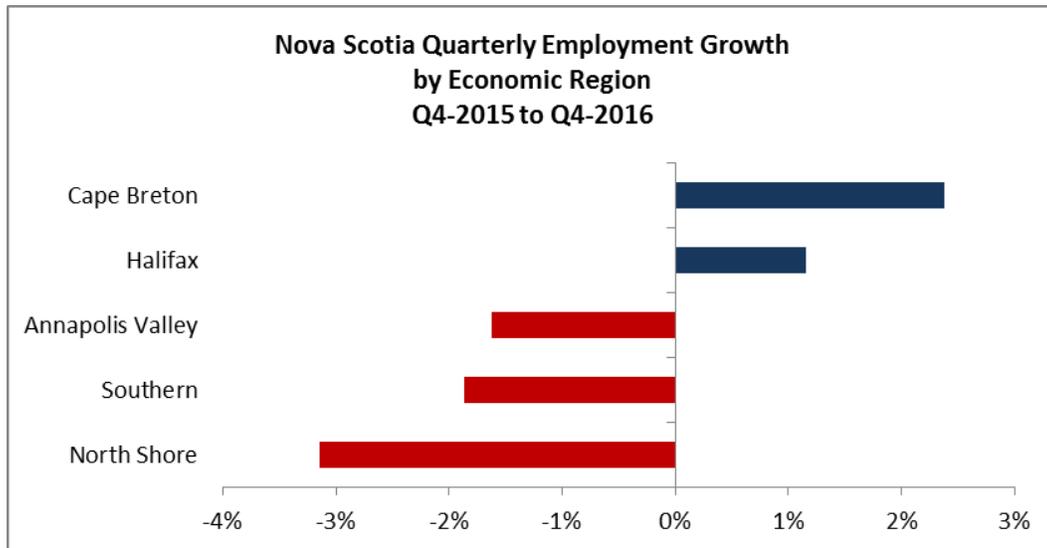
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

A decline in part-time employment was also felt in the **Southern** region between the fourth quarter of 2015 and the same quarter in 2016, overshadowing slight growth in full-time employment. Labour force reductions lowered the unemployment rate despite the decline in the level of employment. There were 1,400 fewer people in the labour force while only 900 fewer people were employed. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** grew by 1,000 between the fourth quarter of 2015 and 2016. Most of this increased employment came from **Public Administration** (2,300) but the net change was lowered by employment declines in **Educational services, Business, building and other support services**, and **Professional, scientific and technical services**. The decline in the **Goods-producing sector** was mainly in the **Manufacturing** and **Agricultural** industries.

Part-time employment in the **Halifax** economic region increased by 12,200 between the fourth quarter of 2015 and 2016. The impact of this increase was partially offset by a large decline of 9,600 full-time jobs. The labour force also increased but the level and rate of unemployment fell slightly. Employment gains were almost wholly in the **Services-producing sector**. The largest employment increase occurred in the **Retail and wholesale trade**

industry which typically has a large proportion of part-time workers. The **Transportation and warehousing** and **Educational services** industries also had good employment growth during this period. **Public administration** and **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** had the largest employment declines in this sector. A decline in employment across almost all of the industries in the **Goods-producing sector** reduced the overall employment gains from the **Services-producing sector**. **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** was the only exception and experienced slight growth in employment. The largest employment declines were in the **Manufacturing, Construction, and Agriculture** industries.



Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

Prepared by: the Labour Market Analysis Directorate (LMAD), Service Canada, Nova Scotia

For further information, please contact the Labour Market Analysis Directorate at:

NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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