



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

April 2017



This Labour Market Bulletin is a report providing an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, including the regions of Avalon Peninsula, West Coast—Northern Peninsula—Labrador, Notre Dame—Central Bonavista Bay and South Coast—Burin Peninsula.

OVERVIEW

The size of the provincial labour force was relatively unchanged, while employment grew in April compared to the previous month. There were increases in full-time jobs while part-time employment declined slightly. These changes resulted in a decrease in the unemployment rate to 14.0%.

Employment was down by 9,800 jobs compared to a year ago. The size of the labour force also decreased during this period, but to a lesser extent. These changes resulted in more people looking for work and caused the unemployment rate to rise compared to a year ago. Job losses over the past year have been in both full-time and part-time employment. Full-time employment has generally declined throughout the past year. However, most of the part-time job losses have occurred since January.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

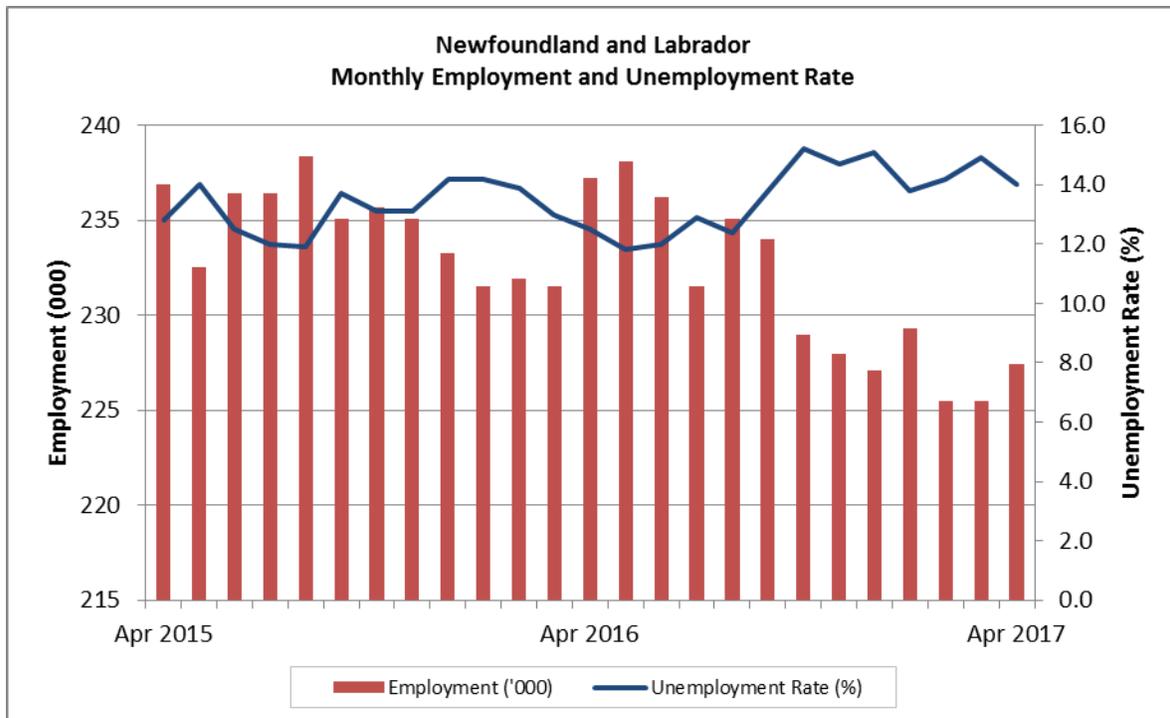
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	445.7	445.6	443.9	0.1	0.0	1.8	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	264.5	264.9	271.1	-0.4	-0.2	-6.6	-2.4
Employment ('000)	227.4	225.5	237.2	1.9	0.8	-9.8	-4.1
Full-Time ('000)	193.7	191.2	197.9	2.5	1.3	-4.2	-2.1
Part-Time ('000)	33.8	34.3	39.3	-0.5	-1.5	-5.5	-14.0
Unemployment ('000)	37.0	39.4	33.9	-2.4	-6.1	3.1	9.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.0	14.9	12.5	-0.9	-	1.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.3	59.4	61.1	-0.1	-	-1.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.0	50.6	53.4	0.4	-	-2.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

After climbing to a record high in January 2013, employment levels have returned to what they were in the last quarter of 2010. Over the past two years, employment levels have generally declined with some occasional gains. There has been a notably sharp drop since May 2016, and employment has been below 230,000 for the

past seven months. Prior to this, employment had not been below this level since June of 2011. Employment was 9,500 less in April than it was two years ago. Full-time employment has declined by 10,700 jobs while part-time employment has increased slightly. The unemployment rate has been trending upward, with the rate being 13.8% or higher in each month since September of last year. Two years ago, an unemployment rate of 13% or lower was common.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate decreased by 3.2 percentage points in April compared to the previous month. At 15.5%, the youth unemployment rate has not been this low since August of last year. Employment increased by 1,700 from the previous month, mainly in full-time employment. While the size of the labour force also increased for this group, it was not as notable as employment, resulting in a lower unemployment rate.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	14.0	14.9	12.5	-0.9	1.5
25 years and over	13.7	14.3	12.2	-0.6	1.5
Men - 25 years and over	17.3	18.0	13.9	-0.7	3.4
Women - 25 years and over	10.0	10.2	10.3	-0.2	-0.3
15 to 24 years	15.5	18.7	14.5	-3.2	1.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.4	21.0	16.1	-1.6	3.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.4	17.1	13.5	-5.7	-2.1

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

The unemployment rate for males 25 years and older decreased by 0.7 percentage points as employment increased slightly while the size of the labour force had a small decline. Employment gains were mainly in full-time work. The employment gain for this group was an exception when looking at recent years. Since reaching a record high in February 2014, employment for this group has declined by 14,100 jobs.

In contrast, the unemployment rate for females 25 years and older showed little change, only decreasing by 0.2 percentage points to 10%. Both employment and the size of the labour force had small declines. Compared to males of the same age group, the labour market for females 25 years and older has been relatively steady.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In April, most of the job gains over the previous month were in the **Services-producing sector**. Compared to twelve months ago, employment in the **Goods-producing sector** decreased by 12.2% or 6,500 jobs, while losses in the **Services-producing sector** were not as deep, declining by 1.8% or 3,500 jobs.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	227.4	225.5	237.2	1.9	0.8	-9.8	-4.1
Goods-producing sector	46.8	46.3	53.3	0.5	1.1	-6.5	-12.2
Agriculture	2.0	2.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	81.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	12.4	12.1	15.8	0.3	2.5	-3.4	-21.5
Utilities	2.8	2.8	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	16.7
Construction	21.5	21.2	22.3	0.3	1.4	-0.8	-3.6
Manufacturing	8.1	8.2	11.8	-0.1	-1.2	-3.7	-31.4
Services-producing sector	180.6	179.2	184.0	1.4	0.8	-3.4	-1.8
Trade	41.9	41.6	44.2	0.3	0.7	-2.3	-5.2
Transportation and warehousing	10.7	11.2	9.6	-0.5	-4.5	1.1	11.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.3	6.3	8.4	0.0	0.0	-2.1	-25.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.3	10.2	9.8	0.1	1.0	0.5	5.1
Business, building and other support services	6.4	6.1	7.3	0.3	4.9	-0.9	-12.3
Educational services	14.7	14.3	14.6	0.4	2.8	0.1	0.7
Health care and social assistance	41.8	40.5	39.0	1.3	3.2	2.8	7.2
Information, culture and recreation	6.8	7.8	7.3	-1.0	-12.8	-0.5	-6.8
Accommodation and food services	13.5	13.9	15.7	-0.4	-2.9	-2.2	-14.0
Other services	12.3	11.7	12.5	0.6	5.1	-0.2	-1.6
Public administration	15.8	15.5	15.4	0.3	1.9	0.4	2.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The largest monthly job gains occurred in **Health care and social assistance** (+1,300). Employment in this industry has been generally increasing over the past two years, adding 4,800 jobs and reaching its third-highest level on record in April. Other industries in the **Services-producing sector** had relatively small changes in employment from March, with the exception of **Information, culture, and recreation**. While this industry lost 1,000 jobs from the previous month, employment has been generally steady over the past five years, averaging 7,200 jobs. The **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** industry has shown signs of weakness over the past year, losing 2,100 jobs. **Accommodation and food services** has declined considerably since reaching a record high in May of last year. On a positive note, **Transportation and warehousing** has increased by 1,100 jobs from a year ago.

Employment changes from the previous month were minimal for industries in the **Goods-producing sector**. However, this sector had most of the job losses when compared to a year ago. **Manufacturing** employment has declined by 3,700 jobs since April of last year, with most of these losses in food manufacturing. The fish processing industry has been negatively affected by lower quotas for species such as shrimp. In addition, heavy ice conditions are affecting the ability to fish and bring catches to the plants. **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** lost 3,400 jobs over the past year. Most of the losses have been in mining and oil and gas.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment levels in the province's economic regions changed at varying degrees, with the Avalon Peninsula experiencing less of an employment decline. The increase in the unemployment rate was notably higher outside the Avalon Peninsula.

On the **Avalon Peninsula** the unemployment rate was virtually unchanged from a year ago as employment and the size of the labour force experienced small declines. Between April 2016 and 2017, the decrease in employment was part-time in nature, as full-time employment experienced small gains. The employment decline was mainly in the **Goods-producing sector**, with the largest losses being in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas**. This industry has experienced declines for twelve months in a row, with the losses being deeper in recent months. In contrast, the **Services-producing sector** experienced employment gains for the eleventh straight month. Results were mixed in this sector. There were notable increases in **Health care and social assistance** and **Public administration**. The largest employment declines were in **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing**, as well as **Professional, scientific and technical services**.

In the **South Coast – Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame – Central – Bonavista Bay** economic region the unemployment rate increased by 2.8 percentage points. Employment levels declined while the size of the labour force was relatively unchanged. Job losses were full-time in nature. Most of the employment reduction occurred in the **Goods-producing** sector, particularly **Manufacturing** and **Construction**. **Manufacturing** employment has declined for nine straight months, with losses deepening through this period. While the **Services-producing** sector showed no change in employment from a year ago, results varied within the sector. There were large reductions in **Health care and social assistance, Wholesale and retail trade**, while **Transportation and warehousing** and **Educational services** recorded notable employment gains. **Wholesale and retail trade** has declined for twelve straight months while **Educational services** has increased for eight months in a row.

The **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** economic region had the sharpest increase in the unemployment rate from a year ago. This was mainly because employment declined faster in this region than elsewhere in the province. Losses were split between full-time and part-time employment. This region's unemployment rate increased for the second straight month after experiencing declines in the previous eleven months in a row. Employment declined for the ninth month in a row, with losses getting deeper through this period. Most of the employment losses were in the **Services-producing sector**, with the largest declines in **Wholesale and retail trade, Educational services** and **Accommodation and food services**. Employment in **Educational services** declined for the eleventh straight month. Employment levels declined to a lesser extent in **Goods-producing sector**. However, **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** showed a notable decline. Employment has dropped in this industry for nine straight months. **Construction** had small job gains.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2017 ('000)	Apr 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Apr 2017 (%)	Apr 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	215.7	223.1	-3.3	16.8	15.3	1.5
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	131.9	134.1	-1.6	11.0	10.9	0.1
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	45.8	47.8	-4.2	25.6	22.8	2.8
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	38.0	41.2	-7.8	23.2	19.1	4.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

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.

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

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