



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

November 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

In November, employment declined slightly from the month prior, with full-time employment losses outweighing part-time gains. Over the same period, the size of the labour force declined by a minimal amount, resulting in a decrease in the unemployment rate to 14.4%, from 14.5%.

Employment was down by 4,200 jobs compared to a year earlier. The size of the labour force also decreased, but by an even larger amount and, as a result, the unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage points. Most of the employment losses from a year ago were full-time in nature.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

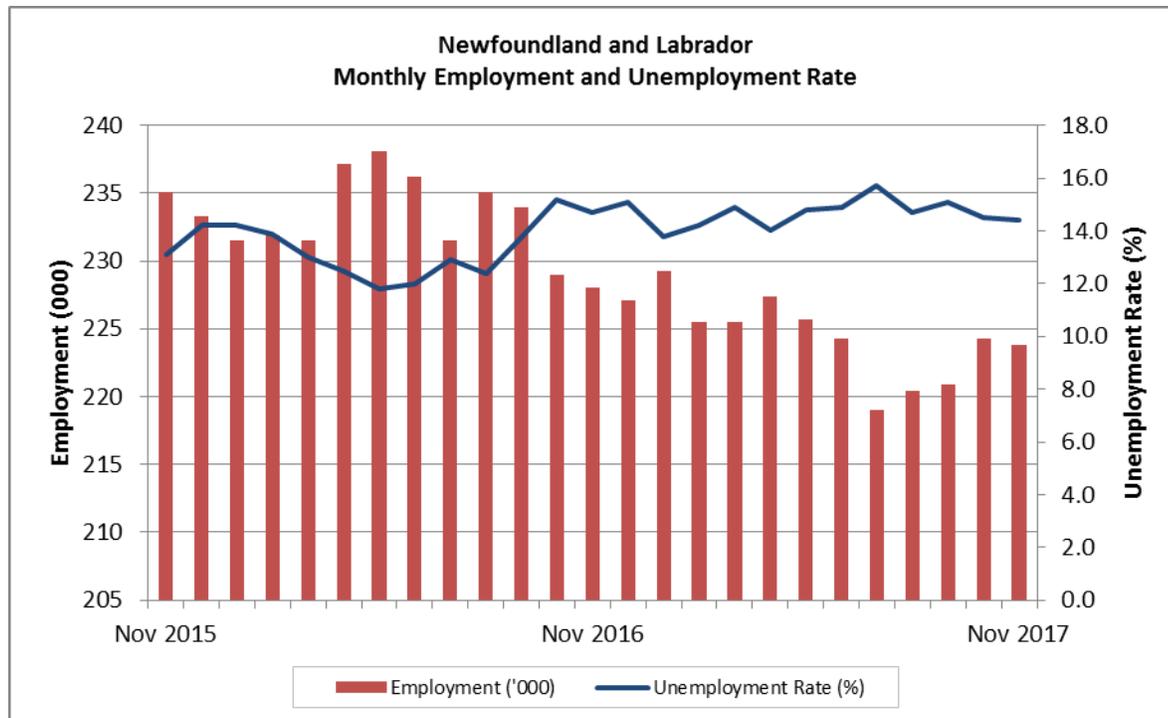
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	445.1	445.4	444.8	-0.3	-0.1	0.3	0.1
Labour Force ('000)	261.6	262.5	267.2	-0.9	-0.3	-5.6	-2.1
Employment ('000)	223.8	224.3	228.0	-0.5	-0.2	-4.2	-1.8
Full-Time ('000)	189.5	192.0	191.9	-2.5	-1.3	-2.4	-1.3
Part-Time ('000)	34.3	32.3	36.1	2.0	6.2	-1.8	-5.0
Unemployment ('000)	37.8	38.1	39.3	-0.3	-0.8	-1.5	-3.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.4	14.5	14.7	-0.1	-	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	58.8	58.9	60.1	-0.1	-	-1.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.3	50.4	51.3	-0.1	-	-1.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Over the past two years, with the exception of a few occasional gains, employment levels have generally declined. The decline in employment was fairly consistent from the spring of 2016 to the spring of 2017. The labour force also declined, but to a lesser extent, resulting in an increase in the unemployment rate. More recently, the changes in the size of the labour force have been somewhat similar to the changes in employment. This has created a relatively stable unemployment rate over the past year that is higher than recent years. At

219,000 in July 2017, the level of employment was not only at its lowest level since April of 2010, but was also 27,500 below its record high. The unemployment rate of 15.7% in July 2017 was also the highest since April 2010. Since July 2017, there has been a mild rebound in employment while the labour force has not increased at the same pace. Despite a corresponding decline in the unemployment rate, it still remains high when compared to earlier in the decade, when it reached a record low.



In November, the youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points compared to the previous month. The size of the labour force declined more than employment. The employment loss was part-time in nature. Compared to a year earlier, youth employment exhibited little change, but the number of youth who were active in the labour market declined, which lowered the unemployment rate.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	14.4	14.5	14.7	-0.1	-0.3
25 years and over	14.1	14.0	13.4	0.1	0.7
Men - 25 years and over	17.7	17.7	15.7	0.0	2.0
Women - 25 years and over	10.4	10.2	11.0	0.2	-0.6
15 to 24 years	17.0	17.6	22.6	-0.6	-5.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	22.0	20.2	27.9	1.8	-5.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.4	14.9	17.0	-3.5	-5.6

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

The unemployment rate among males aged 25 years and older was unchanged from the previous month as employment and the size of the labour force both declined slightly. Compared to a year earlier, employment fell by 5,800. Full-time employment has been the primary driver of this loss. The size of the labour force has also fallen, but not to the same extent as employment. This has raised the unemployment rate for this group. One

positive note about the past year is that labour market conditions have stabilized in recent months, with the sharpest declines happening in the first half of the year.

In contrast to males, November's unemployment rate for females 25 years and older were lower than a year ago. Employment and the size of the labour force both had gains over this period. An increase in full-time employment outweighed part-time losses. Females 25 years and older had a lower unemployment rate than for males of the same age group, continuing a long-term trend.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In November, losses in the **Goods-producing sector** were larger than gains in the **Services-producing sector**. The **Services-producing sector** has shown a slight rebound in employment over the past two months after a period of losses. However, when compared to twelve months earlier, both sectors showed lower employment levels.

In the **Services-producing sector**, **Transportation and warehousing** and **Public Administration** had the largest monthly gains. Employment in **Trade** declined in five of the past six months. Over the past year, **Educational services** and **Transportation and warehousing** have shown the largest employment gains in this sector. Employment in **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** generally declined since reaching a record high in October 2015. However, the past three months have shown increases for this industry. A slowing economy has been a key factor in this industry's decline in recent years. **Professional, scientific and technical services** showed little change in employment from a month ago, remaining considerably lower than the record high in June 2015. Over the past couple of years, most of this industry's losses have been in architectural, engineering and design services.

The monthly employment loss in the **Goods-producing sector** was mainly due to a decrease in **Construction**. Since reaching a record high two years ago, employment has been generally declining in this industry, but remains relatively strong from a long-term perspective. The winding down and completion of construction of the Hebron Oil Project was a key factor in the recent decreases. Work continues on the Muskrat Falls Hydroelectric Project while a recent announcement of construction related to the West White Rose Oil Project has also been positive for the industry. **Manufacturing** was the only industry in this sector to have an employment gain in November. Over the past year, **Construction** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** had the greatest losses, while **Manufacturing** had the largest gain.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	223.8	224.3	228.0	-0.5	-0.2	-4.2	-1.8
Goods-producing sector	47.3	48.9	50.4	-1.6	-3.3	-3.1	-6.2
Agriculture	2.1	2.5	2.2	-0.4	-16.0	-0.1	-4.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.4	11.8	13.7	-0.4	-3.4	-2.3	-16.8
Utilities	3.4	3.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	13.3
Construction	20.5	21.8	22.7	-1.3	-6.0	-2.2	-9.7
Manufacturing	10.0	9.5	8.9	0.5	5.3	1.1	12.4
Services-producing sector	176.5	175.4	177.5	1.1	0.6	-1.0	-0.6
Trade	39.4	40.1	39.9	-0.7	-1.7	-0.5	-1.3
Transportation and warehousing	11.9	11.0	9.6	0.9	8.2	2.3	24.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.9	6.4	7.3	0.5	7.8	-0.4	-5.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	8.9	8.8	10.4	0.1	1.1	-1.5	-14.4
Business, building and other support services	7.1	6.9	6.6	0.2	2.9	0.5	7.6
Educational services	16.0	16.2	14.5	-0.2	-1.2	1.5	10.3
Health care and social assistance	38.6	38.4	39.1	0.2	0.5	-0.5	-1.3
Information, culture and recreation	5.9	6.7	7.1	-0.8	-11.9	-1.2	-16.9
Accommodation and food services	15.4	14.9	15.7	0.5	3.4	-0.3	-1.9
Other services	11.3	11.8	11.8	-0.5	-4.2	-0.5	-4.2
Public administration	15.1	14.3	15.5	0.8	5.6	-0.4	-2.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The **Avalon Peninsula** had a large decline in employment and size of the labour force from a year ago while other regions had an increase. **West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador** economic region was the only one in the province to have a lower unemployment rate than a year ago.

On the **Avalon Peninsula** the unemployment rate was unchanged compared to November of last year. Employment and the size of the labour force both had notable decreases. The region produced an employment loss of 10,000 or greater for the fourth straight month when compared to a year ago. Full-time and part-time employment showed similar losses in November. The employment decline was mainly in the **Services-producing sector**, with the largest job losses in **Trade**. This was the eighth straight month with a decrease in this industry. **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** increased for the first month since August 2016. Like **Trade**, this industry has been experiencing the effects of an economic downturn. **Professional, scientific and technical services** declined in each month since March 2016. **Public administration** and **Information, culture and recreation** also had notable losses in November. The **Goods-producing sector** also had a notable employment decline in November, with the largest losses occurring in **Construction**. After a period of relative stability over the past year, losses in this industry have been deep since May. Much of this decrease was related to the completion of construction phase for the Hebron Oil Project. **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** has also been a notable source of job loss for this region.

In the **South Coast – Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame – Central – Bonavista Bay** economic region, the unemployment rate increased by 1.6 percentage points compared to November of last year. The size of the labour force increased slightly faster than employment. Job gains were full-time in nature. The employment increase was mainly in the **Services-producing sector**. This was the sector's first increase since January 2016. Notable gains in **Trade** and **Transportation and warehousing** outweighed losses in **Health care and social assistance** and **Accommodation and food services**. The **Goods-producing sector** was relatively unchanged as a loss in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** was balanced by gains in **Construction** and **Manufacturing**.

The unemployment rate in the **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** economic region decreased by 1.5 percentage points from a year ago. Employment increased faster than the size of the labour force. Jobs gains were full-time in nature. Employment gains were mainly in the **Services-producing sector**. This sector had an employment gain for the fifth month in a row after eight months of job losses. Most of the increase was in **Educational services**, while **Accommodation and food services** also produced notable growth. Over the past twelve months, **Health care and social assistance** has generally increased. However, **Trade** had the largest loss among all industries in November, and **Public administration** has declined for eleven straight months in this economic region. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** was virtually unchanged from a year ago, with no notable changes among the goods-producing industries.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2017 ('000)	Nov 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Nov 2017 (%)	Nov 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	226.3	233.0	-2.9	13.4	13.2	0.2
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	129.5	139.5	-7.2	11.1	11.1	0.0
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	52.8	51.7	2.1	18.9	17.3	1.6
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	44.0	41.8	5.3	13.0	14.5	-1.5

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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