



Sectoral Profile

Agriculture

Atlantic Region

2017



ABSTRACT

The Agriculture sector in Atlantic Canada is diverse and is characterized by small-scale farming and the production of a variety of crops and animals. The sector is affected by local and global climatic and economic conditions, in addition to changing technologies and consumer dietary preferences. Recently, increased demand for locally sourced food and alcohol has improved the financial viability of local specialty crops, particularly for certified organic goods.

This profile provides an overview of recent labour market conditions for the Agriculture sector. The specific sub-sectors addressed in this profile are: Crop production, Animal production and aquaculture and support activities for the industry. Trends and outlooks for employment in the Atlantic Region are provided when relevant and sufficient data are available.

The following are a few key highlights:

- In 2016, the Agriculture sector in Atlantic Canada accounted for 1.0% of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 1.3% of employment.
- During the spanning from 2006 to 2016, this sector's GDP increased at over twice the pace of the overall economy, while employment declined.
- Median wages in Agriculture are significantly lower than the average rate observed across all industries, reflecting its greater reliance on lower-skilled labour.
- Males and older workers are significantly over-represented in Agriculture.
- Specific crops and sub-sectors are highly concentrated in certain regions, such as fur-bearing animals in Nova Scotia and potato farming in Prince Edward Island.
- Very little employment growth is anticipated over the forecast horizon, as many producers struggle with high factor costs and low revenues. A favourable exchange rate and low fuel cost may mitigate the expected decline.

If you would like a pdf copy of the full profile, please contact the Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region at: ATL-LMI-IMT-GD@hrdc-drhc.net