Retail Trade
Atlantic Region
2017

ABSTRACT

The Retail trade sector is a large employer in Atlantic Canada, and a significant contributor to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the region. Atlantic Canada has the highest concentration of retail trade employment among any region in Canada.

This profile provides an overview of recent labour market conditions for the Retail trade industry in the Atlantic Region, highlighting the growing number of older workers in the industry and the blossoming trend of e-commerce. The specific industries covered in this report include: Food and beverage stores, Motor vehicle and parts, Gasoline stations, General merchandise, Health and personal care, Building materials and garden equipment, Clothing and accessories, Furniture and home furnishings, Electronics and appliances, Sporting goods, and so forth. Trends and outlooks for employment in the Atlantic Region are provided when relevant and sufficient data are available.

The following are some key highlights:

- In 2016, Retail Trade comprised an average 6.9% of total GDP in the region, this compares to 5.5% nationally.
- Retail Trade was the second largest employing industry in Atlantic Canada in 2016.
- On-line retail sales in Canada grew at over five times the rate of total retail sales in 2014.
- In 2016, older workers comprised 20% of the labour force in the retail sector.
- The unemployment rate in Atlantic Canada’s retail sector averaged 4.5% in 2016, similar to the national unemployment rate in Retail Trade. This unemployment rate was half of what it was for all industries in Atlantic Canada.
- Only New Brunswick is expected to have employment growth in Retail Trade during the 2017 to 2019 period.

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