Professional Scientific and Technical Services

Atlantic Region

2017

ABSTRACT

The Professional, scientific and technical services industry group is comprised of seven industry subgroups. The distinguishing feature of this sector is that most of the component industries have production processes that are almost wholly dependent on worker skills and equipment and materials are not of major importance.

This profile provides an overview of recent labour market conditions in Professional, scientific and technical services in the Atlantic Region, and provides sub-regional analyses on key trends. 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, the Professional, scientific and technical services industry group employed 56,500 workers in Atlantic Canada, which represented 5.1% of total employment in the region and 6.4% of service sector employment.

- Of the four Atlantic provinces, Professional, scientific and technical services is most significant in Nova Scotia. The province accounted for 48.7% of the sector’s employment in the region in 2016, and 48% of the value of production (i.e., gross domestic product, or GDP).

- In recent years, Professional, scientific and technical services has surpassed every other industry group of the Atlantic labour market in its rate of job creation. Between 2010 and 2016 employment averaged 3.2% growth per year, outpacing the national growth rate of 2.3% for the industry group.

- The Architectural, engineering and related services industry subgroup employed the greatest proportion (24.6%) of workers in the sector in 2016, followed by Computer systems design (22.7%).

- The pace of job growth within the Professional, scientific and technical services industry group in the Atlantic Region is expected to slow over the next couple of years in response to a less robust economic environment, slowing construction activity, and tight government budgets.

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