Health Care and Social Assistance

Atlantic Region

2017

ABSTRACT

With 177,700 people employed in 2016, the Health care and social assistance industry group is the largest industry sector in Atlantic Canada. Growth rates since 1980 have consistently exceeded those of the Retail trade sector and the industry group should continue to be the leading employer in the near future.

This profile provides an overview of recent labour market conditions in Health care and social assistance in the Atlantic Region, and provides sub-regional analysis on key trends. The specific sub-industries covered in this report are: Hospitals, Ambulatory services (e.g. doctor’s offices), and Nursing and residential care facilities, and Social assistance services (including day-cares). Trends and outlooks for employment in the Atlantic Region are provided when relevant and sufficient data are available.

The following are some key highlights:

- Faced with increasing costs, and growing demand for services, the Health care and social assistance sector is under pressure to find innovative solutions to modernize its services and address its human resource challenges.

- The Health care and social assistance industry group accounted for 16.1% of Atlantic Canada’s total employment in 2016, higher than the national figure of 12.9%.

- While employment in Health care and social assistance has been growing at an annual rate of 2.3% since 1980, growth has slowed in recent years in response to provincial budget restraints. Accordingly, expectations for the near term are for a more modest expansion of 0.9% per year on average between 2017 and 2019.

- The Newfoundland and Labrador labour market is expected to shed a substantial number of jobs between 2017 and 2019 due to dwindling resource sector activity. It is anticipated that Health care and social assistance will be one of many sectors facing an employment decline as government revenues are impacted.

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