



Sectoral Profile

Fishing Industry

Atlantic Region

2015



ABSTRACT

The Fishing industry in Atlantic Canada accounted for 74% of total fisheries production in Canada in 2014. The Fishing industry has long been a part of Atlantic Canada's economy and local culture, but has seen two decades of decline in employment and high vulnerability to seasonality.

This profile provides an overview of recent labour market conditions for the Fishing industry in the Atlantic Region and outlines some of the high-value species found within the Atlantic fisheries. The major occupations covered in this report are: Fishermen/women, Fishing vessel deckhands, and Fishing masters and officers. Trends and outlooks are provided when relevant and sufficient data are available.

The following are some key highlights:

- Each of the Atlantic Provinces experienced reductions to their respective Fishing employment bases over the past twenty years, with Newfoundland and Labrador having experienced the greatest loss.
- The Fishing industry in Atlantic Canada has one of the highest proportions of older workers compared to other industries, with about 30% over the age of 55 years (compared to 21% for all industries).
- The industry has the highest unemployment rate among all industries in Atlantic Canada, in a large part due to its seasonal nature, with an average rate of 27% in 2014 compared to 10% for all industries.
- The outlook for employment in Atlantic Canada's Fishing industry is expected to be limited over the forecast horizon (2015-2017) due in part to limited commercial access to fishing resources.
- The most important species of fish to the Atlantic fishery (by value) are lobster, queen (snow) crab and shrimp. Combined, these species account for 76% of the total landed value of fish in the Region.

If you would like a pdf copy of the full profile, please contact the Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region at:

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