



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador



December 2015

This Labour Market Bulletin is a report providing an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, including the regions of Avalon Peninsula, West Coast—Northern Peninsula—Labrador, Notre Dame—Central—Bonavista Bay and South Coast—Burin Peninsula.

OVERVIEW

In Newfoundland and Labrador, employment between Q3 and Q4, 2015 decreased by 2,800 jobs. During this period, the size of the labour force was relatively unchanged. As a result, the unemployment rate for the quarter increased by 1.1 percentage points to 13.5%.

Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate was 1.9 percentage points higher. Labour force size increased by 1,500 while employment declined by 3,800 jobs from a year ago. Of note, full-time employment accounted for almost all of the decrease with a loss of 3,500 jobs.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2015	2015	2014	Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	442.9	442.4	443.3	0.4	0.1	-0.5	-0.1
Labour Force ('000)	271.1	270.6	269.6	0.4	0.2	1.5	0.5
Employment ('000)	234.5	237.3	238.4	-2.8	-1.2	-3.8	-1.6
Full-Time ('000)	198.7	203.2	202.2	-4.5	-2.2	-3.5	-1.7
Part-Time ('000)	35.8	34.1	36.2	1.7	5.1	-0.4	-1.0
Unemployment ('000)	36.5	33.3	31.2	3.2	9.7	5.3	17.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.5	12.3	11.6	1.1	-	1.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.2	61.2	60.8	0.0	-	0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	53.0	53.6	53.8	-0.6	-	-0.8	-

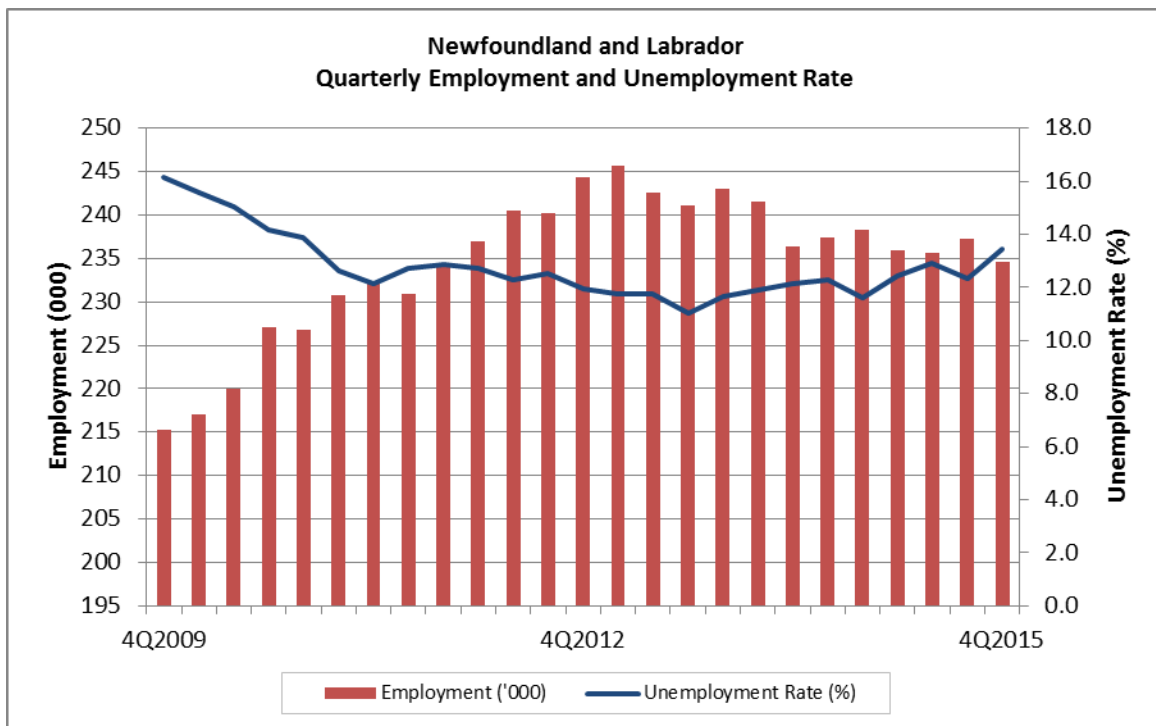
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey—CANSIM Table 282-0087

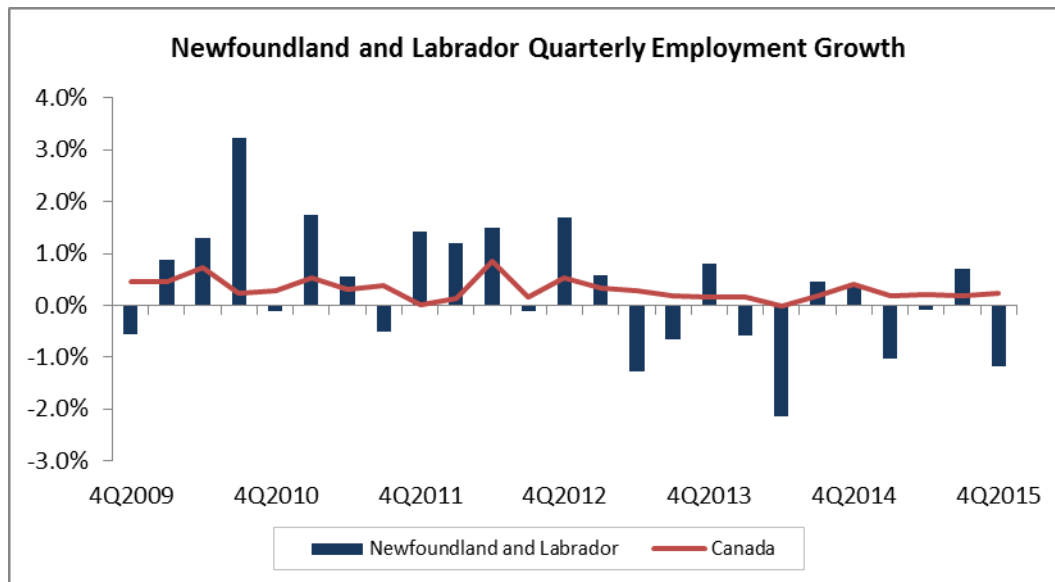
After reaching a record high in the first quarter of 2013, employment has generally trended downward in Newfoundland and Labrador. This has been mainly due to job losses in **Public administration, Educational services, Accommodation and food services, Transportation and warehousing**, as well as **Health care and social assistance**. **Construction** employment has been relatively strong in the province, though it is below the record quar-

terly high reached in Q4 of 2014. A key contributor to **Construction** employment has been the presence of major projects in oil and gas as well as hydroelectricity. **Trade** employment reached a new high in Q4 2015.

A broader look at the data shows the province’s unemployment rate has been on an upward trend since it reached a quarterly low of 10.8% in the third quarter of 2013, mostly due to a decrease in employment as the size of the labour force remained relatively flat since then.



Since Q2 2013 the province has generally lagged behind the country in its pace of employment growth. The trend continued in Q4 2015 as Newfoundland and Labrador’s rate of employment growth (-1.2%) was notably weaker than the national rate (0.2%). This most recent quarter produced the strongest quarterly employment decline for the province since Q2 2014.



The unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older increased from 11.5% in the third quarter of 2015 to 13.3% in the fourth quarter. Employment decreased by 4,000 jobs while the labour force remained fairly stable. Job losses were virtually all full-time in nature. Employment levels have been on a generally downward trend since the last quarter of 2013, with 10,700 fewer jobs over the past two years for this group. This represents a 5.0% decline.

For males 25 years and older, the unemployment rate increased from 14.0% in the third quarter to 16.0% in the fourth quarter. Employment declined by 2,800 jobs from the previous quarter while the size of the labour force showed little change. Compared to the same quarter last year, employment was lower by 4,100 jobs with 2,900 jobs being full-time positions. The labour force was relatively unchanged from a year ago, raising the unemployment rate by 3.4 percentage points from 12.6% a year ago.

For females 25 years and older, the unemployment rate increased to 10.3% from 8.6% in the previous quarter. Employment declined by 1,200 jobs, while the size of the labour force increased by 700. Job losses were full-time positions as part-time jobs increased over the quarter. Employment was down slightly from the fourth quarter of last year, while the labour force had a small increase. This resulted in an increase in the unemployment rate of 1.4 percentage points compared a year ago.

For youth (aged 15 to 24), the unemployment rate declined by 2.9 percentage points to reach 14.6%. This was the lowest quarterly unemployment rate on record in the province for this group. Employment increased by 1,200 jobs while the size of the labour force was unchanged. The youth unemployment rate was 1.9 percentage points lower than it was a year ago, when it was 16.5%. Employment for this group increased by 1,200 jobs from a year ago, while the labour force increased by 500 people.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2015 (%)	2015 (%)	2014 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	13.5	12.3	11.6	1.1	1.9
25 years and over	13.3	11.5	10.8	1.8	2.5
Men - 25 years and over	16.0	14.0	12.6	2.0	3.4
Women - 25 years and over	10.3	8.6	8.9	1.7	1.4
15 to 24 years	14.6	17.5	16.5	-2.9	-1.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.5	23.2	21.1	-5.8	-3.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.9	11.7	12.3	0.2	-0.4

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In the fourth quarter of 2015, the **Goods-producing sector** lost 2,800 jobs compared to the previous quarter. Most of the sector's job losses were in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas**, where employment declined by 1,800 jobs. **Construction** lost 400 jobs but remained relatively strong from a historical perspective.

The **Services-producing sector** was virtually unchanged in the fourth quarter of 2015 and from a year ago. Overall employment in this sector has levelled off in 2015 after declining from record high levels over the previous two years. **Trade** employment reached a new quarterly high for the third straight quarter. **Health care and social assistance** showed a gain for the second consecutive quarter after three quarters of losses. As a result, employment in this industry increased by 1,300 jobs from a year ago. Employment in **Professional, scientific and technical services** has been stable and near the record high level for this industry over the past year. This is mainly related to major project activity in oil and gas, as well as hydroelectricity. **Educational services** gained 600 jobs in the fourth quarter. However, this industry has generally declined over the past two years. Employment was down by 2,300 jobs from a year ago. After being quite stable through the first three quarters of 2015, **Transportation and warehousing** had a decline of 1,800 jobs in the fourth quarter to reach a new low. **Accommodation and food services** experienced a loss of 900 jobs in the fourth quarter, compared to the previous quarter. After being stable for the first half of 2015, employment in this industry steadily declined over the past two quarters. Employment in **Public administration** increased by 100 jobs compared to the previous quarter, but at a broader level this industry has been in a downward trend for the past two years. Employment in this industry was down by 900 jobs from a year ago.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	234.5	237.3	238.4	-2.8	-1.2	-3.8	-1.6
Goods-producing sector	52.5	55.3	56.4	-2.8	-5.0	-3.8	-6.8
Agriculture	1.1	0.9	1.5	0.2	22.2	-0.4	-26.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	15.1	17.0	17.3	-1.8	-10.8	-2.2	-12.5
Utilities	2.3	2.5	2.8	-0.2	-9.3	-0.5	-18.1
Construction	22.8	23.3	24.0	-0.4	-1.9	-1.1	-4.7
Manufacturing	11.2	11.7	10.9	-0.5	-4.0	0.3	3.1
Services-producing sector	182.0	182.1	182.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Trade	43.0	41.8	39.2	1.2	2.8	3.8	9.6
Transportation and warehousing	8.7	10.5	10.5	-1.8	-17.1	-1.8	-17.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	8.9	8.3	8.2	0.6	6.8	0.7	8.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	11.3	11.1	11.4	0.1	1.2	-0.1	-1.2
Business, building and other support services	7.9	7.4	6.6	0.5	7.2	1.3	19.7
Educational services	14.6	14.0	16.9	0.6	4.0	-2.3	-13.6
Health care and social assistance	38.5	37.9	37.2	0.6	1.7	1.3	3.5
Information, culture and recreation	6.7	7.6	7.6	-0.9	-11.8	-0.9	-12.2
Accommodation and food services	14.3	15.2	16.1	-0.9	-6.1	-1.8	-11.2
Other services	12.7	12.7	11.9	0.0	0.0	0.8	6.7
Public administration	15.5	15.4	16.4	0.1	0.4	-0.9	-5.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

On the **Avalon Peninsula**, the unemployment rate increased by 1.6 percentage points from a year ago to 8.8%, as employment declined slightly faster than the size of the labour force. Full-time employment decreased by 4,900 jobs, and part-time employment declined by 600. The **Services-producing sector** declined by 4,500 jobs compared to a year ago. Most of the job losses were in **Transportation and warehousing**, **Health care and social assistance**, and **Accommodation and food services**. The **Goods-producing sector** lost 1,000 jobs compared to the same period a year ago. Gains in **Manufacturing** as well as **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas** were outweighed by a loss of 2,800 jobs in **Construction**.

The **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** region's unemployment rate was 18.2% in the fourth quarter of 2015, down from 18.6% twelve months earlier. Employment increased by 2,900 jobs over the same period last year. The labour force increased as well, but at a slightly slower rate. The job gains were in full-time employment. This was the third straight quarter with employment and labour force gains after experiencing five straight quarters of losses. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** showed a gain of 4,900 jobs from a year ago. This was mainly in **Trade** as well as **Health care and social assistance**. In the **Goods-producing sector**, employment declined by 2,000 jobs over the past twelve months, mainly in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas**.

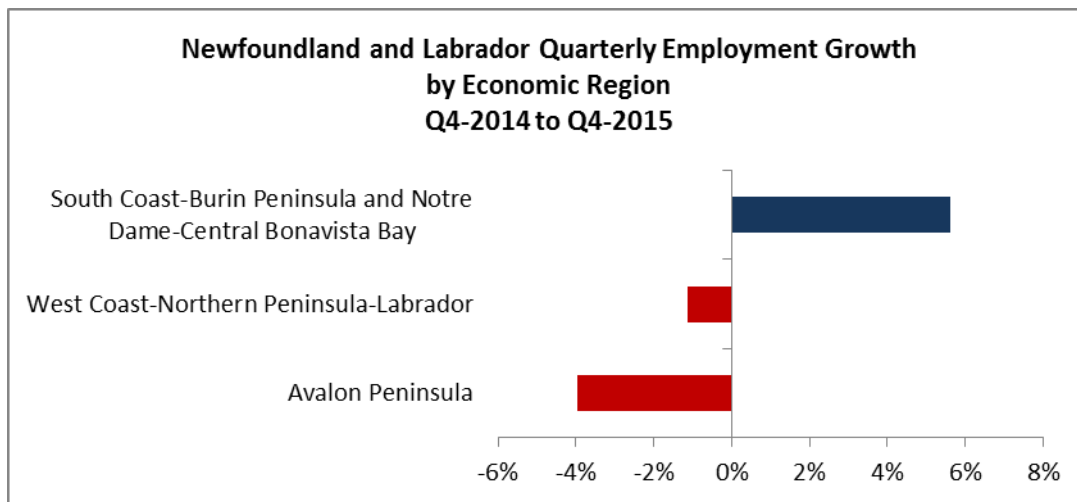
In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, the unemployment rate increased to 17.5% in the fourth quarter of 2015, from 12.8% a year earlier. This change was mainly due to an increase of 2,300 in the size of the labour force. Employment decreased by 500 jobs over the same period last year. The job losses were in full-time employment. This was the fourth straight quarter with employment losses. There were notable employment gains in **Construction**, **Trade**, as well as **Business, building and other support services**. However, this was slightly outweighed by losses in most other industries, particularly **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas**.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2015 ('000)	4th Quarter 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2015 (%)	4th Quarter 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	233.4	236.6	-1.4	12.9	11.0	1.9
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	135.3	140.9	-4.0	8.8	7.2	1.6
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	54.4	51.5	5.6	18.2	18.6	-0.4
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	43.7	44.2	-1.1	17.5	12.8	4.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122



Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region at: NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2016, all rights reserved