



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

December 2016



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 the fourth quarter of 2016, labour market conditions weakened from the previous quarter and the same period a year ago. Both employment and the size of the labour force declined. The job losses were full-time in nature, with part-time employment stable from the previous quarter and increasing from a year ago.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

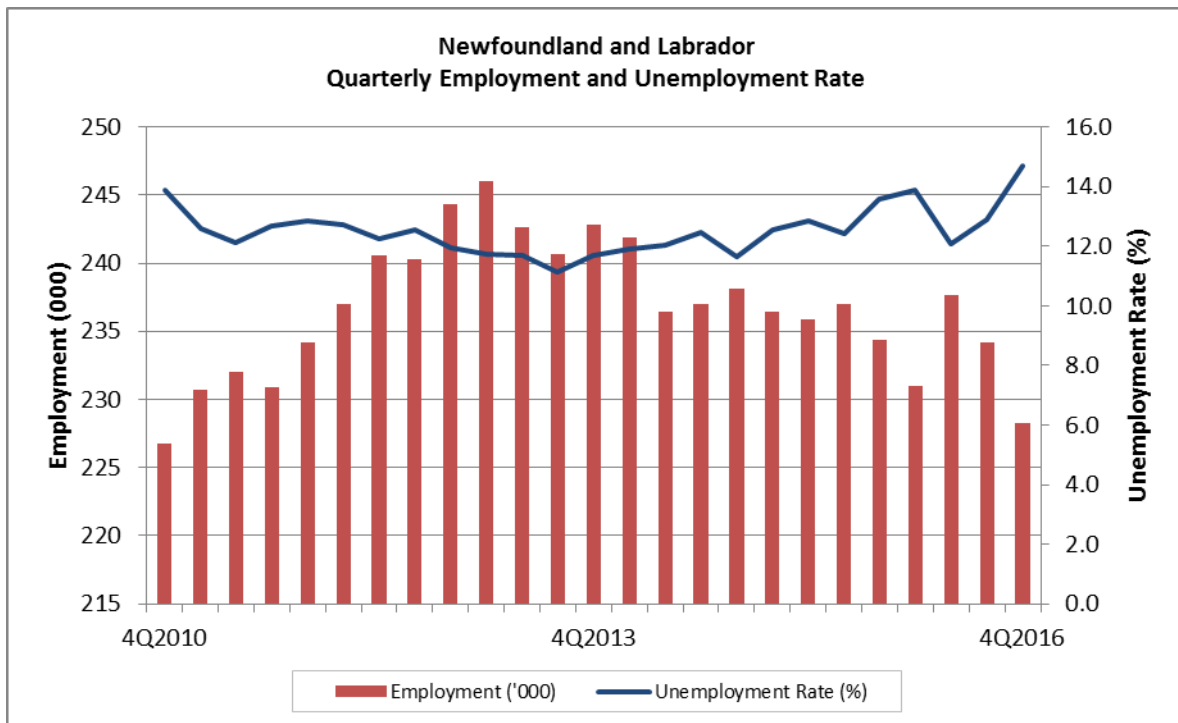
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2016	3rd Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	444.9	444.7	442.9	0.2	0.0	2.0	0.5
Labour Force ('000)	267.7	269.0	271.2	-1.3	-0.5	-3.5	-1.3
Employment ('000)	228.3	234.2	234.4	-5.9	-2.5	-6.1	-2.6
Full-Time ('000)	190.4	196.5	198.3	-6.1	-3.1	-7.9	-4.0
Part-Time ('000)	37.9	37.7	36.1	0.1	0.4	1.8	5.0
Unemployment ('000)	39.4	34.8	36.8	4.6	13.3	2.6	7.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.7	12.9	13.6	1.8	-	1.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	60.2	60.5	61.2	-0.3	-	-1.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.3	52.7	52.9	-1.4	-	-1.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

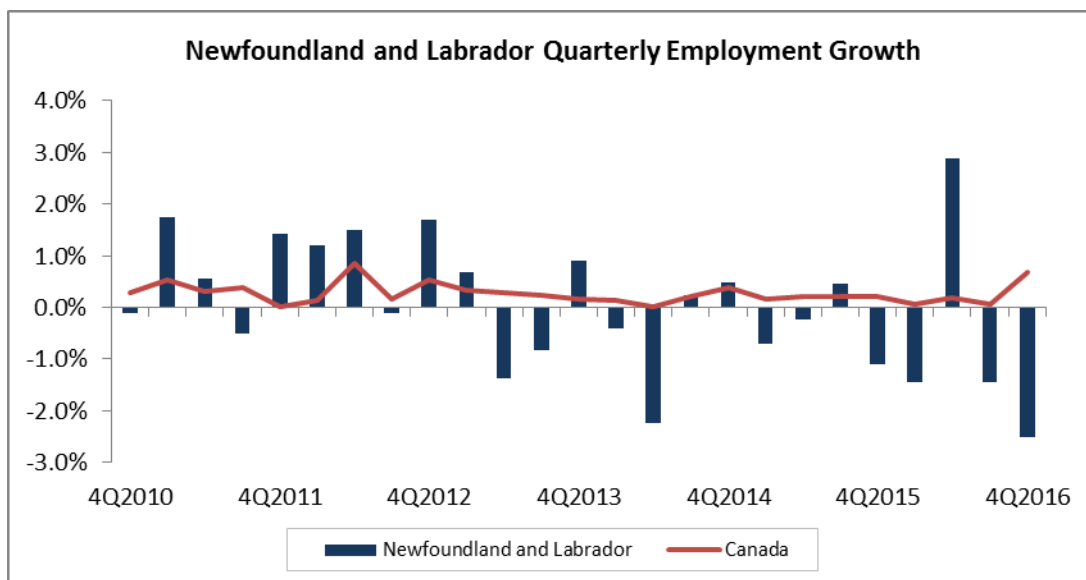
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

After reaching a quarterly record high of 246,000 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, Other services, Manufacturing**, as well as **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**.

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 11.1% in the third quarter of 2013, mostly due to a decrease in employment as the size of the labour force has declined to a lesser extent.



Since Q2 2013 the pace of employment growth in the province has generally lagged behind the rest of the country. The notable exception to this trend was in Q2 2016, when provincial employment had its strongest quarterly growth since Q3 2010. Four of the five most recent quarters have produced the province’s strongest quarterly employment declines since Q2 2014. In addition, Newfoundland and Labrador ranked last among all provinces in employment growth in three of the past five quarters.



The unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older increased between the third and fourth quarters of 2016. Employment decreased notably faster than the size of the labour force. Job losses were almost entirely full-time in nature. Employment levels have been on a generally downward trend since the last quarter of 2013, with 13,500 fewer jobs over this time for this group.

For males 25 years and older, the unemployment rate increased by 1.8 percentage points between the third and fourth quarters of 2016. Employment decreased at a much faster rate than the size of the labour force. Most of the job loss was in full-time employment. Compared to the same period in 2015, employment declined with the number of full-time jobs decreasing and an increase in part-time employment. The size of the labour force declined at a smaller pace, raising the unemployment rate by 0.6 percentage points to 16.8%.

For females 25 years and older, the unemployment rate increased by 1.3 percentage points since the previous quarter. Employment declined while the size of the labour force showed a small gain. Job losses were mainly full-time positions. Employment for this group was down slightly from the fourth quarter of 2015, while the size of the labour force was virtually unchanged. This resulted in a very small increase in the unemployment rate compared a year ago. Full-time employment declined from a year ago while part-time employment increased slightly. Over the past two years, the decline in employment for males of this age group was five times greater than for females.

For youth (aged 15 to 24 years), the unemployment rate increased to 20.5%. This was the highest quarterly unemployment rate for youth since Q3 2011. The youth unemployment rate was 6.1 percentage points higher than it was a year ago, when it was 14.4%. Employment has declined by 3,300 jobs over that time, with most of these losses in full-time work.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2016 (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	14.7	12.9	13.6	1.8	1.1
25 years and over	13.8	12.3	13.5	1.5	0.4
Men - 25 years and over	16.8	15.0	16.2	1.8	0.6
Women - 25 years and over	10.5	9.3	10.4	1.3	0.2
15 to 24 years	20.5	16.9	14.4	3.6	6.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	25.4	19.8	17.6	5.6	7.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.2	13.5	11.5	1.7	3.7

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

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q4 2016	Q4 2015	number	%	Q4 2016	Q4 2015	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	66.9	66.3	0.6	0.9%	1,914.1	1,906.5	7.6	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	39.4	42.3	-2.9	-6.9%	1,175.4	1,175.9	-0.5	0.0%
Employment ('000)	33.6	36.5	-2.9	-7.9%	1,066.9	1,070.2	-3.3	-0.3%
Full-Time ('000)	26.6	29.5	-2.9	-9.8%	873.9	894.4	-20.5	-2.3%
Part-Time ('000)	6.9	6.9	0.0	0.0%	193.0	175.7	17.3	9.8%
Unemployment ('000)	5.8	5.9	-0.1	-1.7%	108.6	105.7	2.9	2.7%
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.7	13.8	0.9	-	9.2	9.0	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	58.9	63.9	-5.0	-	61.4	61.7	-0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.2	55.1	-4.9	-	55.7	56.1	-0.4	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table.

In the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2016, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.98 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 66,900 people. Employment among the Indigenous population stood at 36,600 representing a decline of -2,900 (-7.9%) from a year earlier. The declines were all in full-time (-2,900) positions.

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 14.7% in Q4 2016, representing a +0.9 percentage point (pp) increase from the previous year. Among the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate edged up slightly to 9.2% in Q4 2016 (+0.2pp year-over-year). Between Q 2015 and Q4 2016, the participation rate among the Indigenous population declined to 58.9% (-5.0pp), and that of the non-Indigenous population edged down to 61.4% in Q4 2016 (-0.3pp year-over-year). Over the same time period, the employment rate of the Indigenous population declined to 50.2% (-4.9pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population fell slightly to 55.7% (-0.4pp).

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In the fourth quarter of 2016, the **Goods-producing sector** lost 2,100 jobs compared to previous quarter. Most of the sector's job losses were in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**. In addition, **Construction** and **Manufacturing** each lost jobs over the quarter. **Manufacturing** had its lowest quarterly employment on record, with data going back to 1976. Similarly, **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** has not been this low since Q3 1977. **Mining and oil and gas extraction** have been mainly responsible for this industry's decline.

The **Services-producing sector** declined by 3,800 jobs in the fourth quarter of 2016 compared to the previous quarter. Quarterly employment in this sector was at its lowest level since Q1 2011. Most of the last quarterly employment losses were in **Trade**. After reaching a record quarterly high in Q2 2016 employment in **Accommodation and food services** showed a notable decline. Other industries in this sector showed little change from the previous quarter. Quarterly employment in **Transportation and warehousing** has increased since reaching a record low one year ago. **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** has shown a loss in each of the past four quarters.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2016	3rd Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	228.3	234.2	234.4	-5.9	-2.5	-6.1	-2.6
Goods-producing sector	49.1	51.2	52.5	-2.1	-4.1	-3.3	-6.4
Agriculture	1.6	1.8	1.1	-0.1	-7.5	0.5	44.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.5	14.4	15.2	-0.9	-6.0	-1.7	-11.0
Utilities	2.9	3.1	2.3	-0.2	-6.4	0.7	29.4
Construction	22.0	22.5	22.7	-0.5	-2.1	-0.7	-3.2
Manufacturing	9.0	9.5	11.2	-0.5	-4.9	-2.2	-19.6
Services-producing sector	179.2	183.0	181.9	-3.8	-2.1	-2.7	-1.5
Trade	40.9	44.2	43.0	-3.3	-7.5	-2.1	-4.8
Transportation and warehousing	9.9	9.5	8.7	0.3	3.5	1.2	13.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	7.4	7.7	8.9	-0.3	-4.3	-1.5	-16.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.6	10.1	11.3	0.4	4.3	-0.7	-6.2
Business, building and other support services	6.5	6.3	7.9	0.2	2.6	-1.4	-18.1
Educational services	14.6	14.1	14.7	0.5	3.5	-0.1	-0.5
Health care and social assistance	39.5	39.5	38.5	0.0	0.0	0.9	2.4
Information, culture and recreation	7.2	6.9	6.6	0.3	4.3	0.6	8.5
Accommodation and food services	15.4	16.9	14.3	-1.5	-9.1	1.1	7.9
Other services	11.7	11.9	12.6	-0.2	-1.7	-1.0	-7.7
Public administration	15.6	15.6	15.4	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	0.9

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 2.9 percentage points from a year ago to 11.7%. Eleven of the past twelve quarters have shown an increase in the unemployment rate. While this economic region registered the only employment gain in Q4 2016, the labour force grew at a much faster rate. Full-time employment increased while part-time employment produced a small loss. The **Services-producing sector** increased from a year ago. Notable job gains were in **Health care and social assistance**, **Accommodation and food services**, and **Transportation and Warehousing**. **Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing** declined. The **Goods-producing sector** lost 900 jobs compared to the same period a year ago. A loss in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** outweighed gains in **Construction**. This was the second consecutive quarter where **Construction** showed an increase after losing jobs for four straight quarters.

The **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** region's unemployment rate was 20.6% in the fourth quarter of 2016, up from 18.2% twelve months earlier. Employment decreased by 5,000 jobs over the same period last year. The size of the labour force also showed a notable decline, but at a slightly slower rate. Full-time employment had a steep decline while part-time work increased. This was the fourth straight quarter with employment and labour force declines. Employment losses were mainly in the **Services-producing sector**, which lost 4,400 jobs. **Trade**, **Accommodation and food services**, and **Health care and social assistance** had the largest declines. However, **Educational services** increased from a year ago. The Goods-producing sector lost 500 jobs. **Construction** and **Manufacturing** each lost jobs while **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** increased after losses for five straight quarters.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, the unemployment rate decreased to 14.9% in the fourth quarter of 2016, from 17.5% a year earlier. This was the only economic region with a decline in the unemployment rate. However, the lower rate was not due employment gains. In fact, employment declined by 2,500 jobs from a year ago, while the labour force increased at a faster pace. The job losses were in full-time employment. Employment losses were mainly in the **Goods-producing sector** (-2,000), led by losses in **Construction**. The Services-producing sector lost 500 jobs, showing mixed results through its industries. The largest gains were in

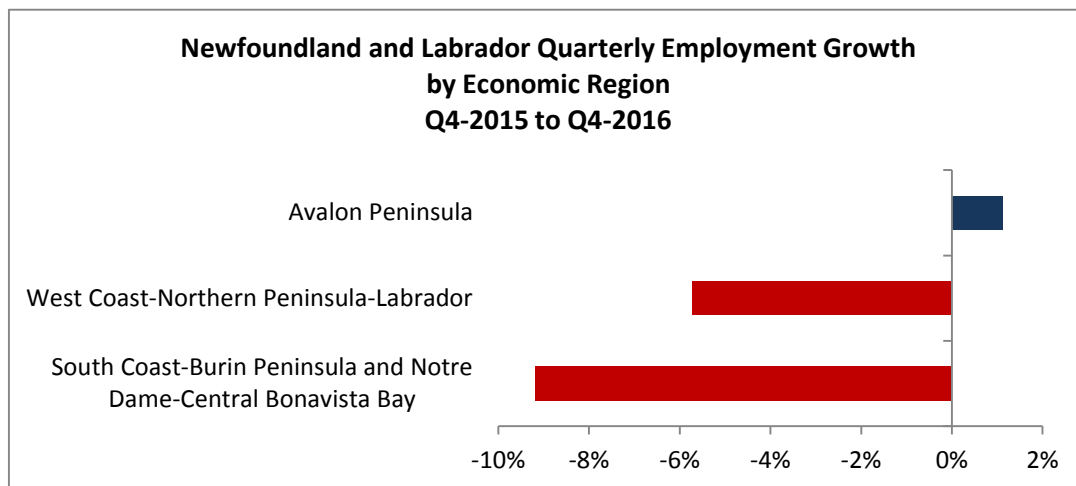
Transportation and warehousing and Accommodation and food services. Business, building and other support services and Educational services both lost jobs.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2016 ('000)	4th Quarter 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2016 (%)	4th Quarter 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	227.4	233.4	-2.6	14.4	12.9	1.5
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	136.8	135.3	1.1	11.7	8.8	2.9
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	49.4	54.4	-9.2	20.6	18.2	2.4
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	41.2	43.7	-5.7	14.9	17.5	-2.6

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.

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

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