



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

February 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 February, the unemployment rate in Newfoundland and Labrador decreased from the prior month to 14.1%. Employment increased slightly while the size of the labour force was relatively unchanged. Most of the employment gains were in full-time work. Compared to a year ago, the labour force was virtually the same size, while employment has fallen by 4,200 jobs, concentrated in full-time employment. This has brought the unemployment rate up by 1.4 percentage points over this time.

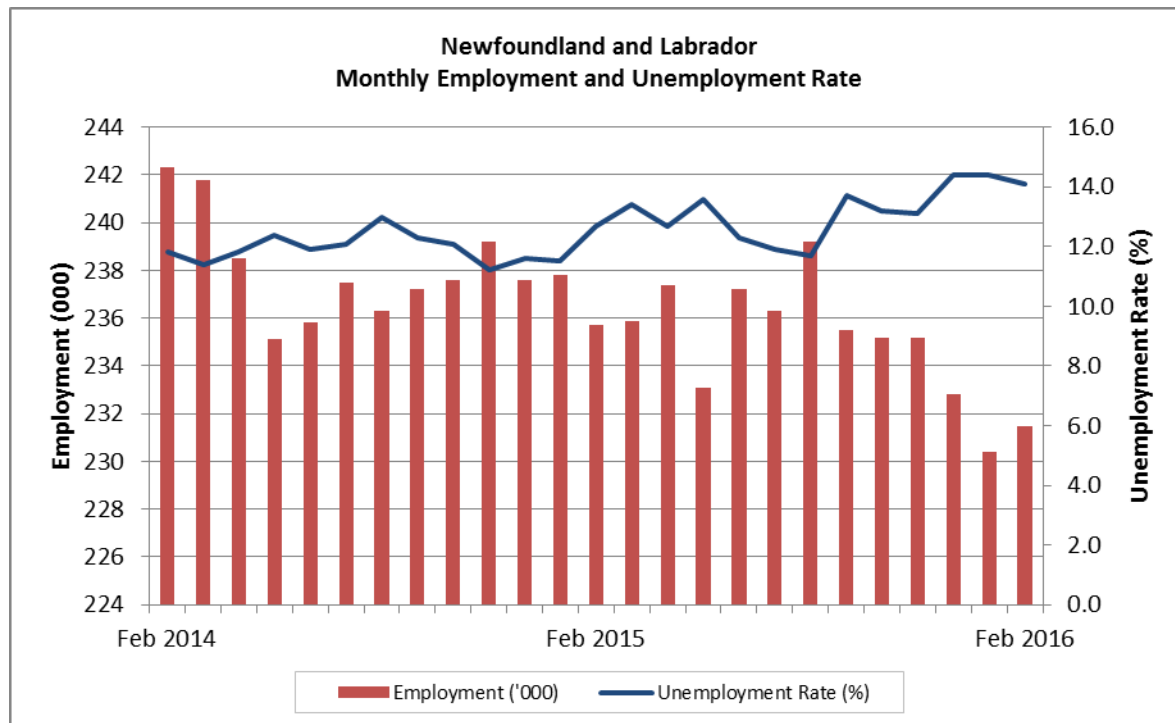
Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15+ ('000)</b>	443.5	443.3	443.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	269.6	269.2	269.9	0.4	0.1	-0.3	-0.1
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	231.5	230.4	235.7	1.1	0.5	-4.2	-1.8
Full-Time ('000)	194.6	193.8	201.2	0.8	0.4	-6.6	-3.3
Part-Time ('000)	36.9	36.7	34.5	0.2	0.5	2.4	7.0
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	38.1	38.8	34.2	-0.7	-1.8	3.9	11.4
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	14.1	14.4	12.7	-0.3	-	1.4	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	60.8	60.7	60.9	0.1	-	-0.1	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	52.2	52.0	53.2	0.2	-	-1.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The decrease in employment has been particularly strong since August of 2015, with employment declining by 7,700 jobs. In addition, the losses have been in full-time work. This was the sixth consecutive month with an unemployment rate of 13% or higher. The last time the unemployment rate was this high for six straight months was in 2010.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate was 14.6% in February, a decrease of 3.4 percentage points from the previous month and the fifth lowest on record. Employment increased by 700 jobs in February compared to January, while the size of the labour force decreased by 800. Full-time employment increased by 1,800 jobs while part-time employment decreased by 1,100 jobs. While the participation rate for this group declined to 66.5% in February, it was the fourth highest rate on record. The youth population has been decreasing over the past year, while the labour force has shown a slight increasing trend.

The unemployment rate for men 25 years and older in February increased by 0.5 percentage points from the month before to 17.2%. The size of the labour force showed a small gain while employment was virtually unchanged. There was a loss of 500 full-time jobs and a gain of 400 part-time jobs. Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate was 3.8 percentage points higher as employment was down by 5,000 jobs while the size of the labour force has declined by 1,700. The employment decrease has happened mainly since August of 2015.

The unemployment rate in February for women 25 years and older was 10.5%, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points from January. Employment increased slightly faster than the size of the labour force, though both changes were small. Full-time employment decreased by 500 jobs, while part-time employment showed gains of 1,100 jobs. Compared to a year ago the unemployment rate increased by 1.1 percentage points, due to a decline of 400 jobs and an increase of 800 in the size of the labour force increased. While both changes were relatively small, they combined to change the unemployment rate in a more notable way.

## Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	14.1	14.4	12.7	-0.3	1.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	14.1	13.8	12.1	0.3	2.0
Men - 25 years and over	17.2	16.7	14.4	0.5	2.8
Women - 25 years and over	10.5	10.7	9.4	-0.2	1.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.6	18.0	16.5	-3.4	-1.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.1	22.3	22.0	-1.2	-0.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.4	13.5	12.0	-6.1	-4.6

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job gains in February were evenly split between the **Goods-producing sector** and the **Services-producing sector**. Over the past twelve months, employment in the **Goods-producing sector** decreased by 7.0% or 3,800 jobs. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** decreased by 400 jobs, or 0.2%, over the past year.

In the **Goods-producing sector**, job gains from January were mainly in **Construction** while other goods-producing industries were relatively unchanged. **Construction** employment increased by 700 jobs compared to January. Despite the monthly gain, **Construction** employment has been generally declining since August of 2015. While employment in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas** showed little change in February from the previous month, there were 2,000 fewer jobs in this industry compared to a year ago. This was an 11.8% decline.

The **Services-producing sector** showed a gain of 500 jobs in February compared to January. Results were mixed throughout the sector. **Trade** gained 700 jobs to reach the highest employment level on record for the industry. After gains for three straight months, employment in **Transportation and warehousing** decreased by 700 jobs to reach the second lowest level on record. The historic low of 8,200 was reached in October 2015. **Business, building and other support services** declined by 800 jobs from the month before, but remained 400 jobs higher than a year ago. **Public administration** gained 800 jobs in February compared to the month before. However, employment was down by 2,000 jobs or 12.3% from a year ago. The industry has experienced a declining trend over the past two years, showing a drop in employment or no change in 18 of the past 24 months.

## Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	231.5	230.4	235.7	1.1	0.5	-4.2	-1.8
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	50.7	50.2	54.5	0.5	1.0	-3.8	-7.0
Agriculture	1.3	1.1	1.4	0.2	18.2	-0.1	-7.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.9	15.1	16.9	-0.2	-1.3	-2.0	-11.8
Utilities	2.4	2.5	2.6	-0.1	-4.0	-0.2	-7.7
Construction	21.3	20.6	22.8	0.7	3.4	-1.5	-6.6
Manufacturing	10.7	10.9	10.8	-0.2	-1.8	-0.1	-0.9
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	180.8	180.3	181.2	0.5	0.3	-0.4	-0.2
Trade	44.2	43.5	41.0	0.7	1.6	3.2	7.8
Transportation and warehousing	8.8	9.5	10.5	-0.7	-7.4	-1.7	-16.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	8.5	8.7	7.6	-0.2	-2.3	0.9	11.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.8	10.8	11.3	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-4.4
Business, building and other support services	7.1	7.9	6.7	-0.8	-10.1	0.4	6.0
Educational services	14.2	14.1	16.3	0.1	0.7	-2.1	-12.9
Health care and social assistance	38.2	38.5	36.8	-0.3	-0.8	1.4	3.8
Information, culture and recreation	7.3	6.8	7.5	0.5	7.4	-0.2	-2.7
Accommodation and food services	15.1	14.6	15.8	0.5	3.4	-0.7	-4.4
Other services	12.5	12.5	11.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	8.7
Public administration	14.2	13.4	16.2	0.8	6.0	-2.0	-12.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In February, there were notable job losses on the **Avalon Peninsula** compared to twelve months earlier while the **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** region experienced strong employment gains. The unemployment rate increased from a year ago for all three economic regions.

On the **Avalon Peninsula**, the unemployment rate was 10.7% in February, up 2.2 percentage points from twelve months ago. Employment was down by 7,200 jobs, while the size of the labour force declined by 4,300. Job losses were in full-time employment. Employment levels and labour force size have both declined for seven straight months, with the decreases trending larger over this period.

Most of the job losses on the **Avalon Peninsula** were in the **Services-producing sector**. **Health care and social assistance** decreased by 2,500 jobs from a year ago while **Public administration** (-2,000), **Accommodation and food services** (-1,300), and **Transportation and warehousing** (-800) also had steep declines in employment. However, the largest drop in employment was in **Construction**, which showed losses of 2,800 jobs from twelve months earlier. **Construction** declined by 20.9% from a year ago. This was the industry's sixth straight month with job losses in this economic region.

The unemployment rate in the **South Coast – Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame – Central - Bonavista Bay** economic region in February was 23.4%, an increase of 2.1 percentage points from twelve months ago. The unemployment rate was higher because the size of the labour force grew (+1,600) while employment showed little change. There were minor gains in full-time work (+500), while part-time employment showed a slight decline (-600). Labour force size has increased for ten straight months. While it was quite small, employment showed its first decline since April 2015. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** increased by 2,100 jobs compared to twelve months earlier, led by gains in **Health care and social assistance** as well as **Trade**. However, **Educational services** experienced losses of 1,900 jobs, the seventh straight month with a decline in employment. The **Goods-**

**producing sector** lost 2,200 jobs, mostly in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas**. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** decreased for the eleventh straight month.

In the **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** region, the unemployment rate increased to 20.4%, a change of 4.0 percentage points compared to February 2015. The size of the labour force increased by 5,000, or 10.5%, over this period. In comparison, employment gains in the economic region were not as strong, with an increase of 2,100 jobs. The job gains were mainly in part-time work. The **Services-producing sector** led the increase with gains of 2,700 jobs from twelve months prior. It was the sector's second straight increase in employment after twelve straight months of losses. **Trade** led the increase with 2,400 more jobs than a year ago. The **Goods-producing sector** lost 600 jobs as **Construction** job gains (+700) were outweighed by losses in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas** (-1,600). Other industries in the **Goods-producing sector** showed little change in their employment levels. **Construction** employment has been driven by the Muskrat Falls Hydroelectric Project, while low mineral prices have been a key factor behind jobs losses in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas**.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2016 ( '000)	Feb 2015 ( '000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Feb 2016 (%)	Feb 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	222.3	227.6	-2.3	15.7	12.9	2.8
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	132.8	140.0	-5.1	10.7	8.5	2.2
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	47.7	47.9	-0.4	23.4	21.3	2.1
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	41.8	39.7	5.3	20.4	16.4	4.0

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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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