



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

March 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

Employment decreased by 3,400 jobs between Q4 2015 and Q1 2016, in Newfoundland and Labrador. During this period, the size of the labour force declined by 2,900. As a result, the unemployment rate for the quarter increased by 0.3 percentage points to 13.9%. Job losses were in full-time employment (-3,700).

Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate was 1.3 percentage points higher. The size of the labour force decreased by 2,000 while employment declined by 5,500 jobs from a year ago. Of note, full-time employment decreased by 7,000 jobs while part-time employment increased by 1,500 jobs.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

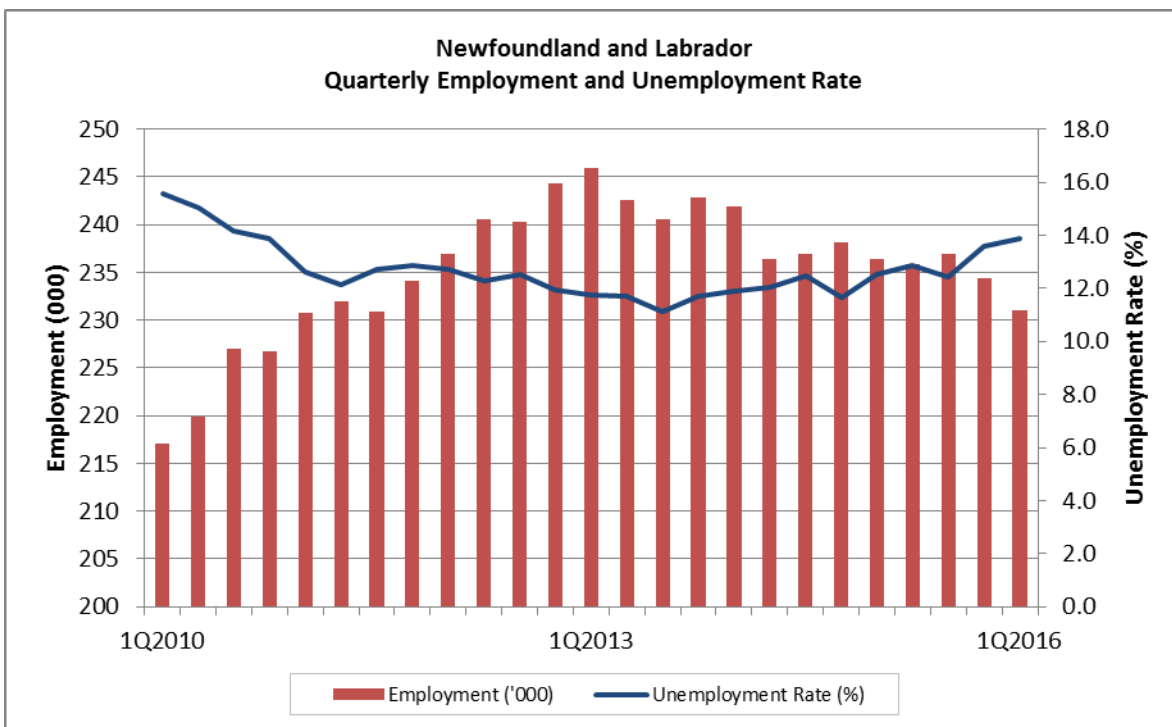
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	443.5	442.9	443.2	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.1
Labour Force ('000)	268.3	271.2	270.3	-2.9	-1.1	-2.0	-0.8
Employment ('000)	231.0	234.4	236.5	-3.4	-1.5	-5.5	-2.3
Full-Time ('000)	194.6	198.3	201.6	-3.7	-1.9	-7.0	-3.5
Part-Time ('000)	36.4	36.1	34.9	0.3	0.9	1.5	4.4
Unemployment ('000)	37.2	36.8	33.8	0.4	1.1	3.4	10.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.9	13.6	12.5	0.3	-	1.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	60.5	61.2	61.0	-0.7	-	-0.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	52.1	52.9	53.3	-0.8	-	-1.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

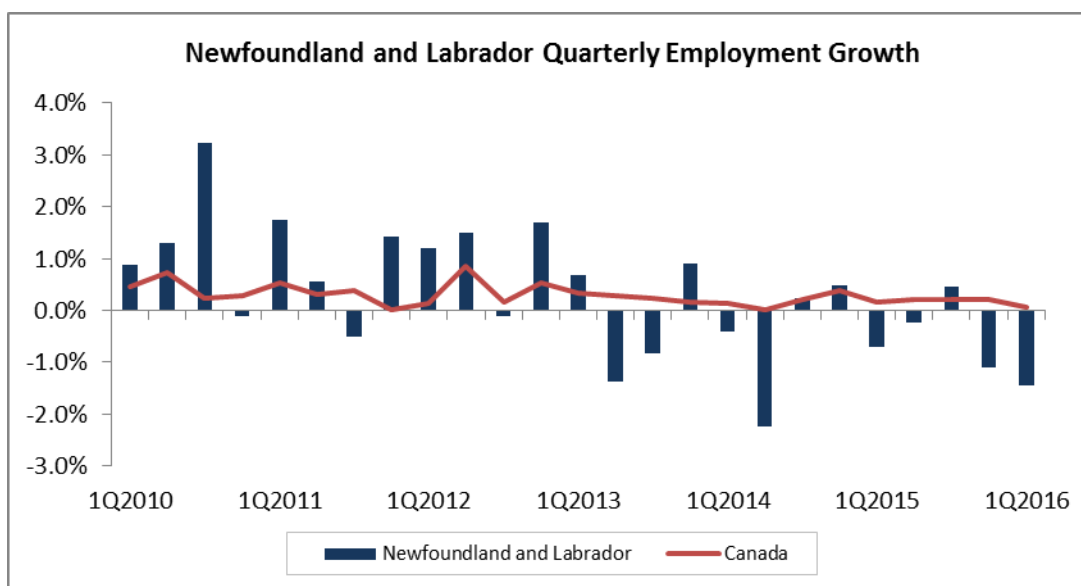
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

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, Accommodation and food services, Transportation and warehousing**, as well as **Health care and social assistance**.

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 remained relatively steady since then.



Since Q2 2013 the pace of employment growth in the province has generally lagged behind the rest of the country. The trend continued in Q1 2016 as Newfoundland and Labrador’s rate of employment growth (-1.5%) was notably weaker than the national rate (0.1%). Over the past two quarters, the province has experienced the strongest quarterly employment declines since Q2 2014.



The unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older increased slightly from 13.5% in the fourth quarter of 2015 to 13.6% in the first quarter of 2016. Employment decreased by 2,900 jobs while the labour force declined by 3,000. Job losses were almost entirely full-time in nature. A year ago the unemployment rate for this group was 12.0%. Employment levels have been on a generally downward trend since the last quarter of 2013, with 13,600 fewer jobs over this time for this group. This represents a 6.4% decline.

For males 25 years and older, the unemployment rate increased from 16.2% in the fourth quarter of 2015 to 16.4% in the first quarter of 2016. Employment and the size of the labour force both declined by 1,800 from the previous quarter. Full-time employment declined by 2,100 jobs while part-time employment had a small increase. Compared to the same quarter last year, employment was lower by 4,500 jobs with 3,100 jobs being full-time positions. The size of the labour force declined at a smaller pace, with 1,700 fewer people than in the first quarter of 2015. This raised the unemployment rate by 2.5 percentage points from 13.9% a year ago.

For females 25 years and older, the unemployment rate edged up to 10.5% from 10.4% in the previous quarter. Employment declined by 1,200 jobs, while the size of the labour force decreased by 1,100. Job losses were mainly full-time positions. Employment for this group was down by 1,000 jobs from the first quarter of 2015, while the size of the labour force decreased by 500. This resulted in an increase in the unemployment rate of 0.6 percentage points compared a year ago. Full-time employment declined by 3,000 jobs from a year ago while part-time employment increased by 2,000 jobs.

For youth (aged 15 to 24 years), the unemployment rate increased by 1.3 percentage points to reach 15.7%. The unemployment rate for this group had reached a record quarterly low in the previous quarter. Employment decreased by 400 jobs, while the size of the labour force increased by 100. The youth unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage points higher than it was a year ago, when it was 15.6%. Employment and the size of the labour force for this group have shown little change from a year ago, resulting in a very similar unemployment rate.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	2015 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	13.9	13.6	12.5	0.3	1.3
25 years and over	13.6	13.5	12.0	0.1	1.6
Men - 25 years and over	16.4	16.2	13.9	0.2	2.5
Women - 25 years and over	10.5	10.4	9.9	0.1	0.6
15 to 24 years	15.7	14.4	15.6	1.3	0.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	20.3	17.6	21.0	2.7	-0.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.9	11.5	11.3	-0.6	-0.4

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

Atlantic Canada - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People						
Not Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter 2016		1st Quarter 2015	Yearly Variation		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Number	%	
Population 15 + ('000)	66.5	1,908.3	65.0	1.5	2.3%	
Labour Force ('000)	41.6	1,152.8	42.5	-0.9	-2.1%	
Employment ('000)	31.7	1,020.1	35.8	-4.1	-11.5%	
Full-Time ('000)	25.4	837.5	29.5	-4.1	-13.9%	
Part-Time ('000)	6.3	182.6	6.2	0.1	1.6%	
Unemployment ('000)	9.9	132.7	6.7	3.2	47.8%	
Unemployment Rate (%)	23.9	11.5	15.8	8.1	-	
Participation Rate (%)	62.5	60.4	65.3	-2.8	-	
Employment Rate (%)	47.6	53.5	55.0	-7.4	-	

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 first quarter (Q1) of 2016, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.97 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 66,500 people. Employment among the Indigenous population stood at 31,700 representing a decline of -4,100 (-11.5%) from a year earlier. Full-time positions accounted for the decline (-4,100 or -13.9%), but this was partially offset by an increase in part-time positions (+100 or +1.6%).

In Q1 2016 the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population increased significantly from Q1 2015 to 23.9%, an increase of 8.1 percentage points, while that of the non-Indigenous population stayed the same at 11.5%. The participation rates among both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations declined slightly year-over-year to 62.5% (-2.8 percentage points) and 60.4% (-0.8 percentage points), respectively. The employment rate of both the Indigenous population and non-Indigenous population decreased to 47.6% (-7.4 percentage points) and 53.5% (-0.7 percentage points) respectively, compared to a year earlier.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In the first quarter of 2016, the **Goods-producing sector** lost 2,000 jobs compared to fourth quarter of 2015. Most of the sector's job losses were in **Construction**, where employment declined by 1,700 jobs. This was the largest quarterly job loss for **Construction** since the first quarter of 2009. Quarterly employment in this industry was down 11% from a record quarterly high of 23,700 set in the fourth quarter of 2014, to reach its lowest level since the fourth quarter of 2012.

The **Services-producing sector** declined by 1,300 jobs in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the fourth quarter of 2015. Overall employment in this sector showed little change throughout 2015. However, the most recent quarter has broken this trend with the recent job losses. **Public administration** experienced losses of 1,300 jobs in Q1 of 2016 compared to the last quarter of 2015. The industry has been declining since the end of 2013. Employment in **Professional, scientific and technical services** has been declining since reaching a high of 11,800 in the second quarter of 2015, losing 600 jobs in the most recent quarter. **Educational services** lost 500 jobs in the most recent quarter and 2,100 fewer jobs than a year ago. The yearly losses represent a 12.7% decline.

However, there were exceptions to the broader changes in service sector employment. Employment in **Trade** increased by 700 jobs since the previous quarter, and 2,800 more jobs than a year ago to reach a new high. **Transportation and warehousing** gained 500 jobs after declining to a new quarterly low in the previous quarter. Similarly, **Accommodation and food services** increased by 700 jobs, but this was after a year of notable decline. Even with the increase, employment in this industry was 1,100 jobs lower than a year ago.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	231.0	234.4	236.5	-3.4	-1.5	-5.5	-2.3
Goods-producing sector	50.5	52.5	54.7	-2.0	-3.8	-4.2	-7.7
Agriculture	1.2	1.1	1.7	0.1	8.8	-0.5	-27.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.9	15.2	16.6	-0.2	-1.5	-1.7	-10.2
Utilities	2.4	2.3	2.5	0.2	7.4	-0.1	-3.9
Construction	21.1	22.7	22.6	-1.7	-7.3	-1.5	-6.6
Manufacturing	10.7	11.2	11.3	-0.5	-4.2	-0.5	-4.7
Services-producing sector	180.6	181.9	181.8	-1.3	-0.7	-1.2	-0.7
Trade	43.6	43.0	40.8	0.7	1.6	2.8	6.9
Transportation and warehousing	9.2	8.7	10.6	0.5	5.4	-1.4	-13.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	8.5	8.9	7.7	-0.4	-4.1	0.8	10.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.7	11.3	11.1	-0.6	-5.0	-0.4	-3.9
Business, building and other support services	7.5	7.9	6.8	-0.5	-5.9	0.7	9.8
Educational services	14.2	14.7	16.2	-0.5	-3.6	-2.1	-12.7
Health care and social assistance	38.4	38.5	37.1	-0.1	-0.3	1.3	3.6
Information, culture and recreation	6.9	6.6	7.2	0.2	3.5	-0.4	-5.1
Accommodation and food services	14.9	14.3	16.0	0.7	4.7	-1.1	-6.9
Other services	12.7	12.6	11.8	0.0	0.3	0.9	7.6
Public administration	14.1	15.4	16.4	-1.3	-8.4	-2.2	-13.6

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 1.5 percentage points from a year ago to 11.0%, as employment declined slightly faster than the size of the labour force. Full-time employment decreased by 7,200 jobs, and part-time employment increased by 500. The **Services-producing sector** declined by 4,600 jobs compared to a year ago. Most of the job losses were in **Health care and social assistance**, **Public administration**, and **Accommodation and food services**. The **Goods-producing sector** lost 2,000 jobs compared to the same period a year ago. A gain of 800 jobs in **Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas** was outweighed by losses of 2,500 jobs in **Construction**. Other changes in the sector were very small. This was the second consecutive quarter where **Construction** lost 2,500 jobs or more compared to a year ago.

The **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** region's unemployment rate was 24.5% in the first quarter of 2016, up from 23.6% twelve months earlier. Employment decreased by 1,300 jobs over the same period last year. The labour force decreased as well, but at a slightly slower rate. The job losses were split between full-time and part-time employment. This was the first quarter with employment and labour force declines since the first quarter of 2015. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** showed a decline of 1,700 jobs from a year ago. This was mainly in **Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas**. **Manufacturing** lost 400 jobs compared to a year ago, while **Construction** recorded gains of 600 jobs over the same timeframe. Results were mixed in the **Services-producing sector** (up 400 jobs). **Trade** (+1,300) and **Health care and social assistance** (+2,900) showed significant employment gains from a year ago. However, **Educational services** lost 2,200 jobs. This was the third straight quarter that **Educational services** posted a notable decrease, and the losses have been getting larger over this period.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, the unemployment rate increased to 20.3% in the first quarter of 2015, from 17.9% a year earlier. While employment increased by 2,500 jobs from a year ago, the la-

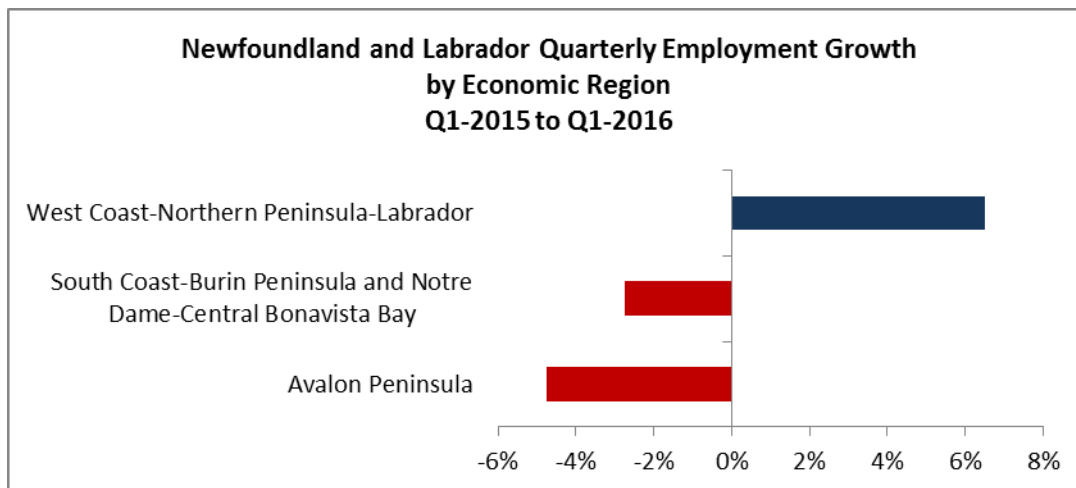
bour force increased at a faster pace, with 4,400 more people. The job gains were mainly in part-time employment. Prior to the most recent quarter, the economic region had four straight quarters with employment losses. Employment gains were mainly in the **Services-producing sector** (+3,100). There were notable employment increases in **Trade** (+1,700), as well as **Health care and social assistance** (+1,200). The **Goods-producing sector** lost 700 jobs compared to a year ago, mainly due to a decline of 900 jobs in **Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas**.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2016 ('000)	1st Quarter 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2016 (%)	1st Quarter 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	219.5	224.9	-2.4	16.0	14.3	1.7
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	132.3	138.9	-4.8	11.0	9.5	1.5
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	46.2	47.5	-2.7	24.5	23.6	0.9
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	41.0	38.5	6.5	20.3	17.9	2.4

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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