



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

April 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 April, the unemployment rate in Newfoundland and Labrador decreased by 0.6 percentage points from the prior month to 12.5%. While employment increased by 6,100 jobs (up 2.6%), the size of the labour force increased by 5,200 (up 2.0%). Employment gains were split between full-time and part-time work. Compared to a year ago, employment and the size of the labour force showed little change. These small changes brought the unemployment rate down by 0.2 percentage points over this time.

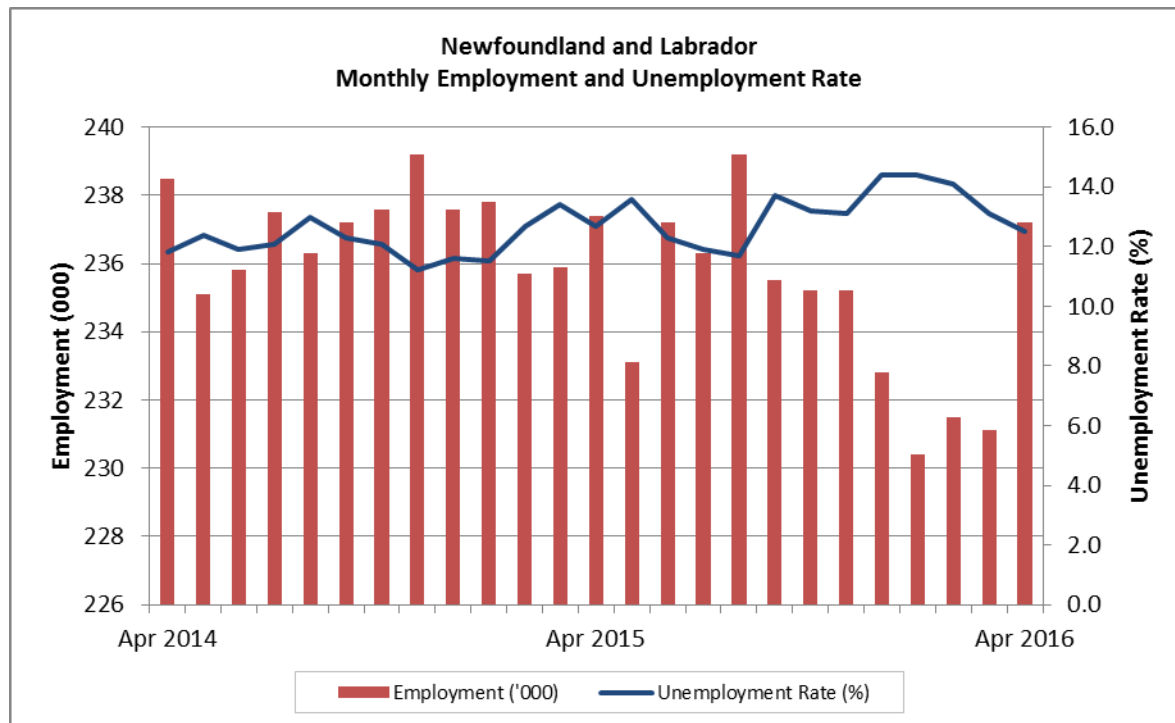
Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	443.9	443.8	443.1	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.2
Labour Force ('000)	271.2	266.0	271.8	5.2	2.0	-0.6	-0.2
Employment ('000)	237.2	231.1	237.4	6.1	2.6	-0.2	-0.1
Full-Time ('000)	198.1	195.5	204.3	2.6	1.3	-6.2	-3.0
Part-Time ('000)	39.2	35.6	33.0	3.6	10.1	6.2	18.8
Unemployment ('000)	33.9	34.8	34.4	-0.9	-2.6	-0.5	-1.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.5	13.1	12.7	-0.6	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.1	59.9	61.3	1.2	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	53.4	52.1	53.6	1.3	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The employment increase in April was a notable change from recent months. Employment had declined by 8,100 jobs between August of 2015 and March 2016, but April's monthly increase of 6,100 jobs erased much of the losses accumulated over these months. Overall employment levels are quite similar to twelve months ago. Full-time employment decreased by 6,200 jobs while part-time employment gained 6,200 jobs to reach a record high in April. In addition, this was the first month with an unemployment rate of less than 13% since August 2015.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate was 14.9% in April, an increase of 0.4 percentage points from the previous month and the eighth lowest on record. Employment increased by 300 jobs in April compared to March, while the size of the labour force increased by 500. Full-time employment decreased by 800 jobs while part-time employment increased by 1,100 jobs. The growth in the size of the youth labour force increased the participation rate for this group 64.0% in April, up 0.9 percentage points.

The unemployment rate for men 25 years and older in April decreased by 1.6 percentage points from the month before to 13.7%. This was the lowest unemployment rate for this group since July 2015, when it was 13.4%. Employment increased by 3,500 jobs compared to March, while the size of the labour force increased by 1,800. Full-time employment increased by 2,400 jobs and part-time employment gained 1,100 jobs from March. Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage points higher as employment was virtually unchanged while the size of the labour force increased by 800.

The unemployment rate in April for women 25 years and older was 10.4%, an increase of 0.2 percentage points from March. The size of the labour force (+2,800) increased slightly faster than employment (+2,200). Job gains were split between full-time employment and part-time employment. Compared to a year ago the unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points, as the size of the labour force increased by 600 while employment was virtually unchanged.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	12.5	13.1	12.7	-0.6	-0.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	12.1	12.9	11.8	-0.8	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	13.7	15.3	13.5	-1.6	0.2
Women - 25 years and over	10.4	10.2	10.0	0.2	0.4
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.9	14.5	18.1	0.4	-3.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.6	17.5	25.6	-0.9	-9.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.3	11.7	11.6	1.6	1.7

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job gains in April 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 1.7% or 900 jobs, while employment in the **Services-producing sector** increased by 700 jobs, or 0.4%.

In the **Goods-producing sector**, most of the 2,700 job gains since March occurred in **Manufacturing** as well as **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil & gas**. These two industries each had gains of 1,200 jobs. **Construction** employment increased by 800 jobs compared to March. Despite the gains, **Construction** had 500 fewer jobs than a year ago and was down by 2,200 jobs from a near-record high in August 2015.

The **Services-producing sector** gained 3,300 jobs in April compared to March. Results were mainly positive throughout the sector, with most industries having small gains. **Trade** gained 1,000 jobs to reach a record high of 44,200. Employment in **Transportation and warehousing** increased by 300 jobs from March, and five of the past six months have shown increases for this industry. Employment in April was 1,300 jobs higher than the historic low of 8,200 reached in October 2015. **Educational services** increased by 700 jobs from March. This was the seventh month in the past eight where employment in this industry either increased or was unchanged. **Public administration** gained 400 jobs in April compared to the month before. However, employment was down by 1,000 jobs or 6.2% from a year ago. **Information, recreation and culture** increased by 900 jobs from a month ago, recovering losses of 800 jobs that occurred in March. **Professional, scientific and technical services** had the only notable decline in April among service industries, with losses of 700 jobs from March. Employment in April was 9,800 jobs. This was the first month this industry had fewer than 10,000 jobs since April 2014.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	237.2	231.1	237.4	6.1	2.6	-0.2	-0.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	53.2	50.5	54.1	2.7	5.3	-0.9	-1.7
Agriculture	1.0	1.3	1.6	-0.3	-23.1	-0.6	-37.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	16.0	14.8	16.4	1.2	8.1	-0.4	-2.4
Utilities	2.3	2.4	2.7	-0.1	-4.2	-0.4	-14.8
Construction	22.1	21.3	22.6	0.8	3.8	-0.5	-2.2
Manufacturing	11.8	10.6	10.8	1.2	11.3	1.0	9.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	184.0	180.7	183.3	3.3	1.8	0.7	0.4
Trade	44.2	43.2	40.9	1.0	2.3	3.3	8.1
Transportation and warehousing	9.5	9.2	10.7	0.3	3.3	-1.2	-11.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	8.7	8.3	8.3	0.4	4.8	0.4	4.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	9.8	10.5	11.6	-0.7	-6.7	-1.8	-15.5
Business, building and other support services	7.4	7.4	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	5.7
Educational services	14.9	14.2	16.0	0.7	4.9	-1.1	-6.9
Health care and social assistance	38.9	38.5	36.9	0.4	1.0	2.0	5.4
Information, culture and recreation	7.4	6.5	7.2	0.9	13.8	0.2	2.8
Accommodation and food services	15.5	15.1	15.9	0.4	2.6	-0.4	-2.5
Other services	12.5	13.0	12.7	-0.5	-3.8	-0.2	-1.6
Public administration	15.2	14.8	16.2	0.4	2.7	-1.0	-6.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In April, the **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** region experienced strong employment and labour force gains compared to twelve months earlier while other regions recorded declines.

On the **Avalon Peninsula**, the unemployment rate was 10.9% in April, up 1.4 percentage points from twelve months ago. Employment was down by 4,600 jobs, while the size of the labour force declined by 2,700. Job losses were in full-time employment (-7,100) with part-time employment showing gains of 2,400 jobs. Employment levels and labour force size have both declined for nine straight months.

Most of the job losses on the **Avalon Peninsula** were in the **Goods-producing sector**. Losses in this sector were concentrated in **Construction**, where employment declined by 2,800 jobs (or -22.6%) from a year ago. Employment in this industry has declined for eight straight months. The **Services-producing sector** experienced job losses for the twelfth straight month. **Health care and social assistance** decreased by 2,500 jobs from a year ago while **Public administration** and **Accommodation and food services** each lost 1,400 jobs. However, **Trade** employment increased by 1,300 jobs from a year ago.

The unemployment rate in the **South Coast – Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame – Central - Bonavista Bay** economic region in April was 22.8%, a decrease of 0.4 percentage points from twelve months ago. The unemployment rate was lower because the size of the labour force declined slightly faster than employment. There were 900 fewer full-time jobs, while part-time employment dropped by 500 jobs from a year ago. Labour force size decreased for the second consecutive month after ten months of gains. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** decreased by 1,300 jobs compared to twelve months earlier, led by gains in **Educational services** (-2,100). This was the ninth straight month with a decline in employment. **Transportation and warehousing** lost 1,200 jobs from a year ago. However, **Health care and social assistance** (+2,900) experienced employment gains for the tenth straight month. The **Goods-producing sector** was relatively unchanged from a year ago, with losses in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas** (-1,400) offset by gains in **Construction** (+1,500).

In the **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** region, the unemployment rate decreased to 19.1%, a change of 1.1 percentage points compared to April 2015. Employment (+7.3%) increased faster than the size of the labour force (+6.0%). The job gains were mainly in part-time work. This economic region had the highest rate of job growth in the province for the fourth straight month. The **Services-producing sector** led the increase with gains of 2,600 jobs from twelve months prior. It was the sector's fourth straight increase in employment after twelve straight months of losses. **Trade** led the increase with 1,400 more jobs than a year ago, while **Health care and social assistance** increased by 1,200 jobs. The **Goods-producing sector** gained 200 jobs as small gains in **Construction** and **Manufacturing** were slightly larger than the job losses in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas**. **Construction** employment has been driven by the Muskrat Falls Hydroelectric Project. This industry has grown for eleven consecutive months. However, low mineral prices have been a key factor behind jobs losses in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas**. This industry experienced job losses for fifteen straight months in this economic region.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2016 ('000)	Apr 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Apr 2016 (%)	Apr 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	223.1	226.3	-1.4	15.3	14.7	0.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	134.1	138.7	-3.3	10.9	9.5	1.4
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	47.8	49.2	-2.8	22.8	23.2	-0.4
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	41.2	38.4	7.3	19.1	20.2	-1.1

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

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