



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

January 2017



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 in Newfoundland and Labrador grew in January compared to the previous month. There were increases in full-time jobs while part-time employment remained unchanged. The size of the labour force decreased in January from the previous month. These changes resulted in a decrease in the unemployment rate to 13.8%.

Employment is down by 2,200 jobs compared to a year ago. Despite the job losses, the unemployment rate went down because the number of people working or actively searching for work declined faster than employment. Job losses over the past year have been in full-time employment, with the number of part-time jobs increasing slightly.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

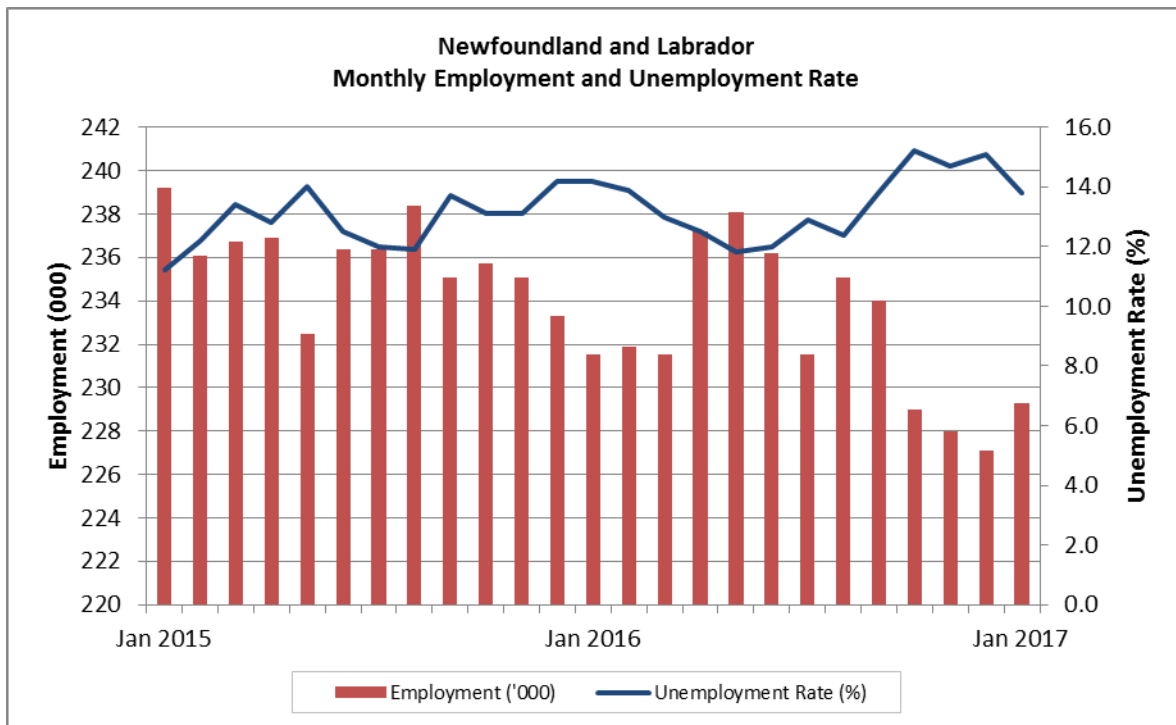
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Jan 2017	Dec 2016	Jan 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	445.2	445.0	443.3	0.2	0.0	1.9	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	265.9	267.6	269.8	-1.7	-0.6	-3.9	-1.4
Employment ('000)	229.3	227.1	231.5	2.2	1.0	-2.2	-1.0
Full-Time ('000)	191.2	188.9	194.2	2.3	1.2	-3.0	-1.5
Part-Time ('000)	38.2	38.2	37.4	0.0	0.0	0.8	2.1
Unemployment ('000)	36.6	40.5	38.2	-3.9	-9.6	-1.6	-4.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.8	15.1	14.2	-1.3	-	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.7	60.1	60.9	-0.4	-	-1.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.5	51.0	52.2	0.5	-	-0.7	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Over the past two years, employment levels have generally declined with occasional gains. However, there has been a notably sharp drop since May 2016. Of note, employment has been below 230,000 for the past four months. The number of jobs in the province has not been this low for an extended period of time since the last

quarter of 2010. There has been a slight increase in part-time employment over this period while full-time employment has trended downward. Overall, employment is 9,900 less in January than it was two years previously. The unemployment rate has been trending upward, being 2.6 percentage points higher in January compared to two years earlier.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate decreased by 2.7 percentage points in January compared to the previous month, dropping below the 20% mark for the first time since August 2016. However, the lower unemployment rate was not due to job growth, as employment went down by 600 jobs. Rather, it was because the size of the labour force decreased by 2,000, a notable decline considering the relatively small size of this group. There were gains in full-time jobs, but these were outweighed by losses in part-time work.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Jan 2017	Dec 2016	Jan 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	13.8	15.1	14.2	-1.3	-0.4
25 years and over	12.9	14.0	13.5	-1.1	-0.6
Men - 25 years and over	16.2	17.3	16.1	-1.1	0.1
Women - 25 years and over	9.3	10.4	10.6	-1.1	-1.3
15 to 24 years	19.7	22.4	18.3	-2.7	1.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	22.6	27.8	22.4	-5.2	0.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	16.2	16.5	14.1	-0.3	2.1

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

The unemployment rate for those 25 years and older decreased by 1.1 percentage points as employment increased while the size of the labour force remained steady. Employment gains were evenly split between full-time and part-time work. In addition, there were notable job gains for both males and females. Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate for males in this age group was virtually unchanged as employment and the

labour force both decreased. In contrast, the unemployment rate for females 25 years and older dropped by 1.3 percentage points as employment grew faster than the labour force.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In January, most of the job gains compared to the previous month were in the **Goods-producing sector** as the **Services-producing sector** showed little change. Compared to twelve months ago, employment in the **Goods-producing sector** decreased by 4.9% or 2,500 jobs, while the **Services-producing sector** was relatively steady.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Jan 2017	Dec 2016	Jan 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	229.3	227.1	231.5	2.2	1.0	-2.2	-1.0
Goods-producing sector	48.3	46.5	50.8	1.8	3.9	-2.5	-4.9
Agriculture	0.9	1.1	1.1	-0.2	-18.2	-0.2	-18.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.7	12.4	15.3	1.3	10.5	-1.6	-10.5
Utilities	2.8	2.7	2.7	0.1	3.7	0.1	3.7
Construction	21.7	21.2	20.9	0.5	2.4	0.8	3.8
Manufacturing	9.1	9.0	10.9	0.1	1.1	-1.8	-16.5
Services-producing sector	181.0	180.6	180.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
Trade	41.5	41.3	43.7	0.2	0.5	-2.2	-5.0
Transportation and warehousing	10.3	10.0	9.5	0.3	3.0	0.8	8.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	7.3	7.6	8.7	-0.3	-3.9	-1.4	-16.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.7	10.9	10.8	-0.2	-1.8	-0.1	-0.9
Business, building and other support services	6.5	6.5	7.7	0.0	0.0	-1.2	-15.6
Educational services	14.6	15.1	13.9	-0.5	-3.3	0.7	5.0
Health care and social assistance	40.5	39.8	38.6	0.7	1.8	1.9	4.9
Information, culture and recreation	8.0	7.4	6.8	0.6	8.1	1.2	17.6
Accommodation and food services	14.8	14.9	14.9	-0.1	-0.7	-0.1	-0.7
Other services	11.8	11.7	12.5	0.1	0.9	-0.7	-5.6
Public administration	15.1	15.4	13.6	-0.3	-1.9	1.5	11.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The largest monthly job gains occurred in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** (+1,300); though employment in this industry was considerably lower than a year ago. Despite the monthly gains, employment in this industry is down by 6,400 jobs since February 2014. **Construction** had small gains but employment has been weaker in the past year as major projects have passed their peak construction phases. Compared to the record high of 24,400 reached in August 2015, **Construction** employment was down by 2,700 jobs in January.

In the **Services-producing sector**, most of the industries experienced small monthly changes in January. The bulk of the employment gains occurred in **Health care and social assistance** industry (+700) and **Information, culture, and recreation** (+600). Employment levels in **Health and social assistance** have been slowly increasing over the past two years. **Education** declined slightly in January after a short-lived gain in December. Employment in this industry decreased sharply in 2014 and has remained relatively steady at this lower level since then, with the industry facing budgetary pressures and experiencing some school closures.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

On the **Avalon Peninsula** the unemployment rate increased even though there were employment gains. This was because there was an even larger increase in the size of the labour force as more people were actively looking

for work. Between January 2016 and 2017, full-time employment growth was strong while part-time employment showed a small decline. This region has shown employment and labour force gains in recent months. Despite strong job gains in **Construction**, employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** declined. This was mainly due to declines in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas**. The **Services-producing sector** experienced employment gains for the seventh straight month. Results were mixed in this sector. There were notable increases in **Health care and social assistance** and **Public administration**. The largest employment declines were in **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing**, as well as **Professional, scientific and technical services**.

In the **South Coast – Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame – Central – Bonavista Bay** economic region the unemployment rate increased by 1.7 percentage points. Employment levels and the size of the labour force both recorded notable declines. Job losses were full-time in nature. Most of the employment reduction was in the **Services-producing sector**. There were large reductions in **Wholesale and retail trade, Health care and social assistance, and Accommodation and food services**, which declined for the sixth month in a row. The **Educational services** industry recorded significant employment gains for the fifth straight month. In the **Goods-producing sector** job losses in **Construction** and **Manufacturing** outweighed gains in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas**.

The **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** economic region was the only area of the province to experience a decrease in the unemployment rate between January 2016 and 2017. This region's unemployment rate fell for the tenth straight month as the labour force declined faster than employment. For the sixth month in a row, full-time employment losses outweighed part-time gains by a considerable margin. Most of the employment losses were in the **Goods-producing sector**. Employment levels edged down in the **Services-producing sector**. Results within the sector were mixed, with the largest decline in **Wholesale and retail trade, and Transportation and warehousing** experiencing the largest job gains. Of note, **Accommodation and food services** has not experienced employment losses for ten straight months.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2017 ('000)	Jan 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Jan 2017 (%)	Jan 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	222.1	227.0	-2.2	15.5	14.6	0.9
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	134.8	133.4	1.0	12.1	9.9	2.2
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	47.0	51.1	-8.0	22.7	21.0	1.7
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	40.2	42.5	-5.4	17.3	20.0	-2.7

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.

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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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