



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

February 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

The employment level in Newfoundland and Labrador fell by 3,800 in February 2017 from the previous month with reductions in both full-time and part-time employment. Most of the job losses were in part-time employment during this period. Despite the job losses, the unemployment rate went up only slightly, because a large number of people exited the labour force altogether. The labour force participation rate was its lowest since February of 2010 (58.9%).

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2017	Jan 2017	Feb 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	445.4	445.2	443.5	0.2	0.0	1.9	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	262.8	265.9	269.4	-3.1	-1.2	-6.6	-2.4
Employment ('000)	225.5	229.3	231.9	-3.8	-1.7	-6.4	-2.8
Full-Time ('000)	190.1	191.2	194.7	-1.1	-0.6	-4.6	-2.4
Part-Time ('000)	35.4	38.2	37.2	-2.8	-7.3	-1.8	-4.8
Unemployment ('000)	37.3	36.6	37.4	0.7	1.9	-0.1	-0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.2	13.8	13.9	0.4	-	0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.0	59.7	60.7	-0.7	-	-1.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.6	51.5	52.3	-0.9	-	-1.7	-

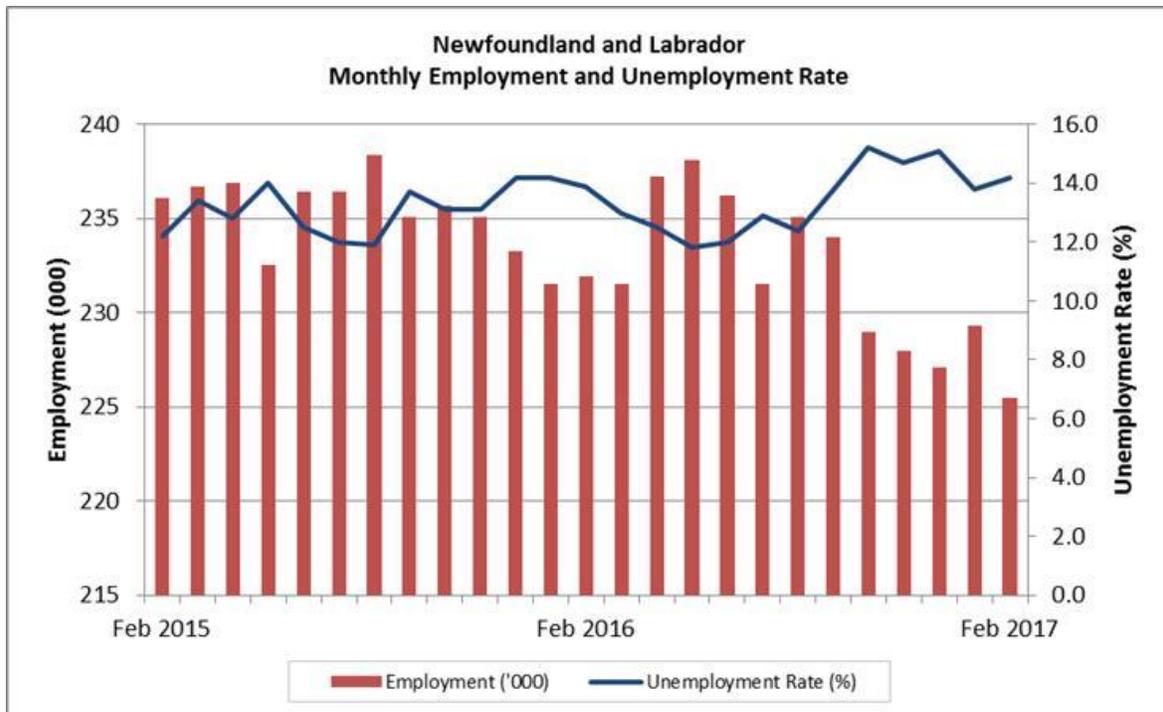
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared to a year ago, employment declined by 6,400, with most of the job losses in full-time work. The size of the labour force also decreased, but at a slower rate than employment. This raised the unemployment rate by 0.3 percentage points.

The chart below shows a declining trend in employment over the past two years. The job losses have been mainly in full-time work as part-time employment has remained relatively steady. Employment increased briefly in

the spring of 2016. Since then the province has seen deeper job losses. Major projects in oil and gas and hydroelectricity have moved beyond their peak employment periods. High-paying job losses combined with high taxes have been responsible for notable decreases in **Trade** as well as **Accommodation and food services** over this period. Over the past two years, employment has declined slightly faster than the size of the labour force. As a result, the unemployment has been slowly increasing over this time.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate fell by 2.7 percentage points to 17.0% between January and February 2017, despite a decrease in the level of employment. The small increase in part-time employment was outweighed by a decline in full-time work. The size of the labour force decreased faster than employment, thereby lowering the unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate for males 25 years and older rose by 1.3 percentage points between January and February 2017 and surpassed the youth unemployment rate in February 2017. The unemployment rate increased as employment declined faster than the labour force. Employment losses were both full-time and part-time in nature. Employment and the labour force are down by more than 3,000 from February 2016.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2017	Jan 2017	Feb 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	14.2	13.8	13.9	0.4	0.3
25 years and over	13.7	12.9	13.9	0.8	-0.2
Men - 25 years and over	17.5	16.2	16.9	1.3	0.6
Women - 25 years and over	9.7	9.3	10.5	0.4	-0.8
15 to 24 years	17.0	19.7	14.2	-2.7	2.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.7	22.6	20.7	-0.9	1.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.3	16.2	7.0	-3.9	5.3

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

The unemployment rate for females 25 years and older was 9.7% in February, up from 9.3% the month before. Full-time employment increased for this group during this period but the gains were negated by larger decreases in part-time employment. The size of the labour force decreased, but slower than employment. This caused the unemployment rate to rise. The unemployment rate for this group was lower than in February 2016 as employment increased but the labour force size was virtually unchanged.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The employment decline from the previous month was mostly in the Services-producing sector (-2,400), though the **Goods-producing sector** also experienced an employment decline (-1,400). The Services-producing sector has about four times as many jobs as the Goods-producing sector.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2017	Jan 2017	Feb 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	225.5	229.3	231.9	-3.8	-1.7	-6.4	-2.8
Goods-producing sector	46.9	48.3	50.9	-1.4	-2.9	-4.0	-7.9
Agriculture	2.2	0.9	1.2	1.3	144.4	1.0	83.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	12.1	13.7	14.9	-1.6	-11.7	-2.8	-18.8
Utilities	2.9	2.8	2.5	0.1	3.6	0.4	16.0
Construction	21.0	21.7	21.6	-0.7	-3.2	-0.6	-2.8
Manufacturing	8.7	9.1	10.6	-0.4	-4.4	-1.9	-17.9
Services-producing sector	178.6	181.0	181.0	-2.4	-1.3	-2.4	-1.3
Trade	40.7	41.5	44.2	-0.8	-1.9	-3.5	-7.9
Transportation and warehousing	10.7	10.3	8.9	0.4	3.9	1.8	20.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.7	7.3	8.5	-0.6	-8.2	-1.8	-21.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.7	10.7	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business, building and other support services	6.3	6.5	7.0	-0.2	-3.1	-0.7	-10.0
Educational services	14.1	14.6	14.0	-0.5	-3.4	0.1	0.7
Health care and social assistance	39.3	40.5	38.2	-1.2	-3.0	1.1	2.9
Information, culture and recreation	7.6	8.0	7.4	-0.4	-5.0	0.2	2.7
Accommodation and food services	13.6	14.8	15.3	-1.2	-8.1	-1.7	-11.1
Other services	13.0	11.8	12.6	1.2	10.2	0.4	3.2
Public administration	15.9	15.1	14.3	0.8	5.3	1.6	11.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In the **Goods-producing sector**, the largest job losses were in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (-1,600). Employment levels in this industry reached a record high in April 2016. Since then, employment has fallen well below levels seen any in recent history. The **Manufacturing** industry declined by 400 jobs between January and February 2017. Recent months have produced some of the lowest employment levels on record for this industry. **Construction** also experienced a slight decline in employment as major project activity drops from peak levels. These losses were partially offset by unusually strong gains in **Agriculture of 1,300 jobs from the previous month**.

In the **Services-producing sector**, **Trade** employment fell by 3,500, the largest job losses of any industry group. This decline has mainly occurred since the industry reached a record high of 44,600 in August. Employment in **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** and **Accommodations and food services** also dropped during this period. **Accommodations and food services** employment has not been this low since June of 2014 and **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** had this previous low in March 2011. **Transportation and warehousing** employment had the largest growth of any industry in the province between February of 2016 and

2017. After falling to 13,600 in January 2016, **Public administration** has regained some of the job losses of recent years.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In February 2017 the unemployment rate fell in the **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** economic region compared to February 2016, but not in the other two regions of Newfoundland and Labrador. The region recorded the largest decline in employment in the province but the unemployment rate went down because a large number of people exited the labour force.

The **Avalon Peninsula** had a 1.3 percentage point increase in the unemployment rate to 12.0% in February 2017 from twelve months earlier. Employment was virtually unchanged as the large decline in part-time work was offset by increases in full-time. The labour force increased by 2,400, increasing the unemployment rate was more people were looking for work. In this economic region the **Goods-producing sector** experienced a decline of 2,000 jobs, mostly in the **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry. **Construction** had a small increase. The **Services-producing sector** experienced an employment increase that offset the reduction in Goods employment. Despite the budget restrictions in the provincial government, the **Public Administration** industry had the largest employment increase in the sector. **Trade, Health care and social assistance**, and **Information, culture and recreation** all had annual employment increases in the range of 1,000. The largest employment decline (-1,600) was in the **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** industry.

The unemployment rate in the **South Coast – Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame – Central - Bonavista Bay** economic region in February 2017 was 23.9%, an increase of 0.5 percentage points from twelve months ago. Employment declined slightly faster than the size of the labour force, with both showing deep losses. This raised the unemployment rate. Almost all of the employment loss was full-time in nature. The **Services-producing sector** lost 1,600 jobs with the largest decline in the **Retail and wholesale trade** industry. The **Accommodations and food services** and **Health care and social assistance** industries also had significant employment declines. These losses were partially offset by gains in **Educational services** and **Professional, scientific and technical services**.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2017 ('000)	Feb 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Feb 2017 (%)	Feb 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	217.3	222.3	-2.2	16.2	15.7	0.5
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	132.9	132.8	0.1	12.0	10.7	1.3
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	45.7	47.7	-4.2	23.9	23.4	0.5
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	38.7	41.8	-7.4	19.7	20.4	-0.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

In the **West Coast – Northern Peninsula – Labrador** region, the unemployment rate decreased to 19.7%, a drop of 0.7 percentage points compared to February 2016. Over this period, the labour force fell by 4,300 while employment declined by 3,100. The result was fewer people actively looking for work, decreasing the unemployment rate. Almost all of the employment loss was in full-time employment. This economic region's employment decline between February 2016 and 2017 was evenly split between the **Services-producing** and **Goods-producing sectors**. In the **Goods-producing sector**, losses were spread throughout the sector, with only the **Utilities** industry producing a gain. The largest decline in employment was in the **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying,**

oil and gas industry. In the **Services-producing sector**, the largest employment decline was in **Retail and wholesale trade**. **Educational services** and **Business, building and other support services** also had significant reductions in employment. These losses were partially offset by gains in **Transportation and warehousing** as well as **Health care and social assistance**.

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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