



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

March 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

In the first quarter of 2017, the unemployment rate decreased to 14.3% from 15.0% in the previous quarter as the size of the labour force declined faster than employment. Job losses were part-time in nature, as full-time employment experienced small gains. However, full-time employment is down by 4,000 jobs from a year ago.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

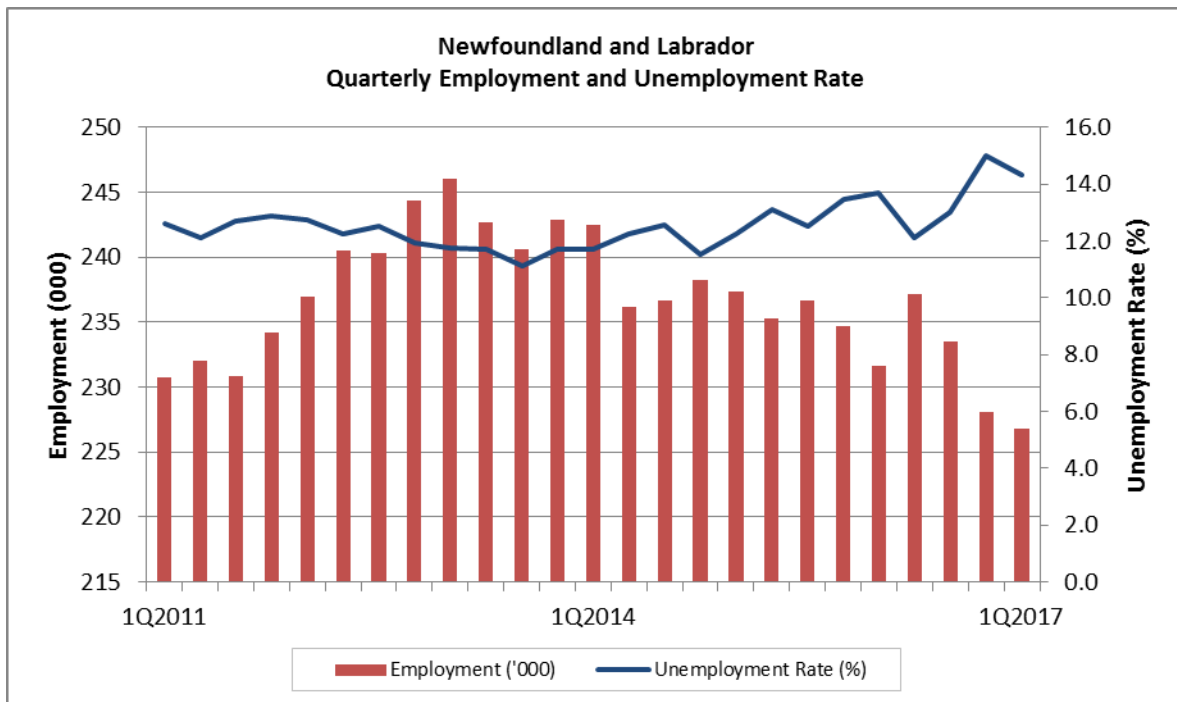
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2017	4th Quarter 2016	1st Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	445.4	444.9	443.5	0.5	0.1	1.9	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	264.5	268.2	268.5	-3.7	-1.4	-3.9	-1.5
Employment ('000)	226.8	228.0	231.6	-1.3	-0.6	-4.9	-2.1
Full-Time ('000)	190.8	190.2	194.8	0.6	0.3	-4.0	-2.0
Part-Time ('000)	36.0	37.8	36.9	-1.8	-4.8	-0.9	-2.4
Unemployment ('000)	37.8	40.3	36.8	-2.5	-6.2	1.0	2.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	14.3	15.0	13.7	-0.7	-	0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.4	60.3	60.5	-0.9	-	-1.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.9	51.3	52.2	-0.4	-	-1.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

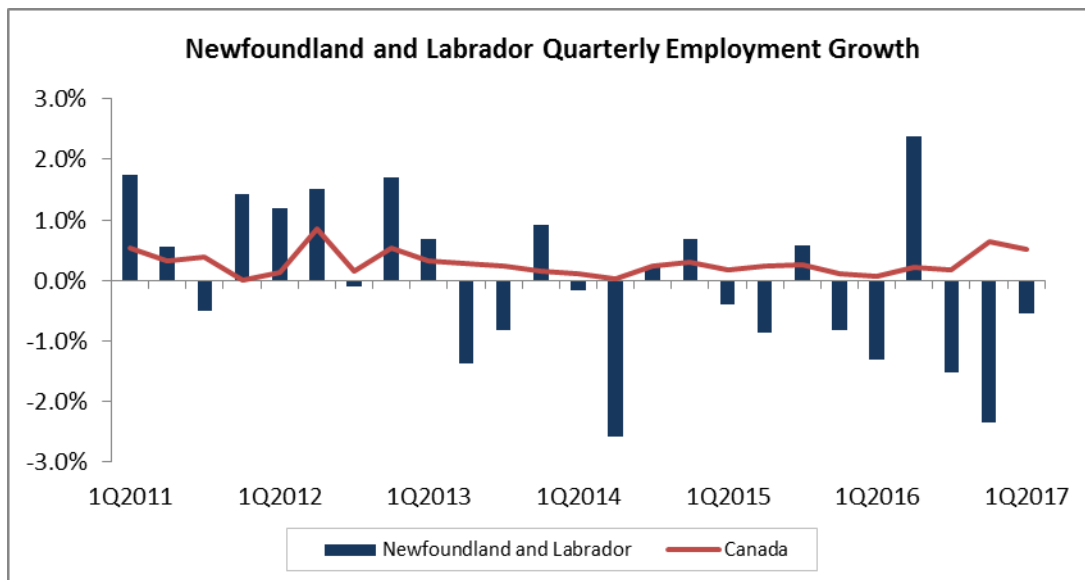
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

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, Other services, Manufacturing**, as well as **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**. Employment in the most recent quarter has not been this low since the fourth quarter of 2010.

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. The labour force has declined by 6,300 while employment went down notably faster, with 13,900 fewer jobs. The unemployment rate has increased faster in the most recent three quarters due to sharp employment losses.



Since Q2 2013 the pace of employment growth in the province has generally lagged behind the rest of the country. The notable exception to this trend was in Q2 2016, when provincial employment had its strongest quarterly growth since Q3 2010. While the most recent quarter produced employment losses, it was relatively small compared to a 2.4% decline in the previous quarter. Eleven of the past sixteen quarters had employment declines. In addition, Newfoundland and Labrador ranked ninth or worse among all provinces in employment growth for the past three quarters.



The unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older decreased since the last quarter of 2016. The size of the labour force declined faster than employment. Job losses were part-time in nature. Employment levels have been on a generally downward trend since the first quarter of 2014, with 14,700 fewer jobs over this time for this age group.

For males 25 years and older, the unemployment rate increased slightly to 17.2% since the last quarter of 2016. Employment and the size of the labour force both declined by 2,400. The unemployment increased since the drop in employment was at a faster rate than for the labour force. Job losses were in full-time employment. Compared to the same period in 2016, quarterly employment declined by 3,900 jobs. The decline for full-time employment was even steeper, down by 5,700. The declining employment from a year ago relates to industries such as **Manufacturing**, and **Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas**, where job losses for males have been notably steeper than for females.

For females 25 years and older, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points since the previous quarter. Employment increased while the size of the labour force showed a small gain. Job losses were in full-time positions, as part-time employment decreased. Employment for this group was up from the first quarter of 2016, while the size of the labour force increased to a lesser extent. This resulted in a decline in the unemployment rate compared a year ago. There were gains in full-time employment while part-time work decreased. Over the past two years, there was relatively little change in employment for females. This was notably different than the sharp decline experienced by males of this age group.

For youth (aged 15 to 24 years), the unemployment rate was 8.5%, down 3.4 percentage points to 18.5% from the previous quarter. While employment levels were virtually unchanged from the previous quarter, the labour force declined by 1,700 people. While the unemployment rate had a notable decline, it remained higher than a year ago, when it was 15.8%. Employment went down by 2,800 jobs over that time, split evenly between full-time and part-time work.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2017 (%)	2016 (%)	2016 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	14.3	15.0	13.7	-0.7	0.6
<b>25 years and over</b>	13.6	13.9	13.4	-0.3	0.2
Men - 25 years and over	17.2	17.0	16.0	0.3	1.2
Women - 25 years and over	9.7	10.5	10.4	-0.8	-0.7
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	18.5	21.9	15.8	-3.4	2.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.8	27.2	20.2	-5.4	1.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.2	16.4	11.2	-1.2	4.0

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

## Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q1 2017	Q1 2016	number	%	Q1 2017	Q1 2016	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	67.3	66.5	0.8	1.2%	1,915.2	1,908.3	6.9	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	38.1	41.6	-3.5	-8.4%	1,153.8	1,152.8	1.0	0.1%
Employment ('000)	32.8	31.7	1.1	3.5%	1,024.9	1,020.1	4.8	0.5%
Full-Time ('000)	26.8	25.4	1.4	5.5%	838.4	837.5	0.9	0.1%
Part-Time ('000)	6.0	6.3	-0.3	-4.8%	186.5	182.6	3.9	2.1%
Unemployment ('000)	5.3	9.9	-4.6	-46.5%	128.9	132.7	-3.8	-2.9%
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.8	23.9	-10.1	-	11.2	11.5	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	56.5	62.5	-6.0	-	60.2	60.4	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	48.7	47.6	1.1	-	53.5	53.5	0.0	-

**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 of 2017, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.98 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 67,300 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces stood at 32,800, representing an increase of 1,100 (+3.5%) from a year earlier. The increase was all in full-time positions (+1,400 or +5.5%), partially offset by a decline in part-time positions (-300 or -4.8%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 13.8% in the first quarter of 2017, representing a decrease of -10.1 percentage points from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was 11.2% (-0.3 percentage points). Year-over-year, the participation rate among Indigenous people declined to 56.5% (-6.0 percentage points); whereas, the participation rate for the non-Indigenous population stood at 60.2% (-0.2 percentage points). The employment rate of the Indigenous population increased year-over-year to 48.7% (+1.1 percentage points), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population remained unchanged at 53.5%, compared to a year earlier.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In the first quarter of 2017, the **Goods-producing sector** lost 1,600 jobs compared to previous quarter. Most of the sector's job losses were in **Construction** as well as **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**. For the second straight quarter, **Manufacturing** employment reached a new low, based on data going back to 1976. Similarly, **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** has not been this low since Q4 1978. **Mining and oil and gas extraction** have been mainly responsible for this industry's recent decline.

The **Services-producing sector** experienced small gains of 400 jobs since the fourth quarter of 2016, with results mixed throughout the sector. Quarterly employment in this sector has been slowly declining since reaching a peak in the last quarter of 2012. **Transportation and warehousing** had the strongest job gains in this sector. This industry has added 2,100 jobs since Q4 2015 when it reached a record quarterly low. **Health care and social assistance** also had increases in employment. The industry has added 3,300 jobs since Q2 2015. After reaching a record quarterly high in Q3 2016 **Accommodation and food services** recorded the largest job losses of the quar-

ter among the industries in this sector. The industry has lost 2,700 jobs since reaching a quarterly high in Q3 2016. Employment levels in **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** have declined for five consecutive quarters, to reach its lowest level since the first quarter of 2011.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2017	4th Quarter 2016	1st Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	226.8	228.0	231.6	-1.3	-0.6	-4.9	-2.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	47.2	48.8	50.8	-1.6	-3.3	-3.6	-7.1
Agriculture	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.1	6.2	0.5	41.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	12.6	13.3	15.0	-0.7	-5.0	-2.3	-15.6
Utilities	2.8	2.9	2.6	-0.1	-3.4	0.3	10.4
Construction	21.3	22.0	21.3	-0.7	-3.0	0.0	-0.2
Manufacturing	8.7	9.0	10.7	-0.3	-3.7	-2.0	-18.8
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	179.6	179.2	180.9	0.4	0.2	-1.3	-0.7
Trade	41.3	41.0	43.7	0.3	0.7	-2.5	-5.6
Transportation and warehousing	10.7	9.8	9.2	0.9	9.5	1.5	16.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.8	7.4	8.5	-0.6	-8.6	-1.7	-20.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.5	10.6	10.6	-0.1	-0.6	-0.1	-0.9
Business, building and other support services	6.3	6.5	7.3	-0.2	-3.1	-1.0	-14.1
Educational services	14.3	14.7	14.0	-0.3	-2.3	0.4	2.6
Health care and social assistance	40.1	39.5	38.4	0.6	1.5	1.7	4.3
Information, culture and recreation	7.8	7.2	6.9	0.6	7.8	0.9	13.0
Accommodation and food services	14.1	15.4	15.2	-1.3	-8.2	-1.1	-7.2
Other services	12.2	11.6	12.7	0.5	4.6	-0.5	-3.9
Public administration	15.5	15.5	14.3	0.0	-0.2	1.2	8.4

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 0.9 percentage points from a year ago to 11.9%. Twelve of the past thirteen quarters have shown an increase in the unemployment rate. The size of the labour force increased while employment was relatively unchanged. Gains in full-time employment were offset by losses in part-time work. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** increased from a year ago. The strongest gains were in **Public administration, Health care and social assistance, and Information, culture, and recreation**. **Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing** had the sector's largest decline for the second consecutive quarter. The **Goods-producing sector** lost 2,000 jobs compared to the same period a year ago, mainly in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**. Employment in this industry has declined for four straight quarters, with losses deepening over this time.

The **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** region's unemployment rate was 25.5% in the first quarter of 2017, up from 24.5% twelve months earlier. Employment decreased by 1,500 jobs over the same period last year. The size of the labour force also showed a decline, but at a slightly slower rate than employment. Full-time employment decreased while there were small gains in part-time work. This was the fifth straight quarter with employment and labour force declines. Employment losses were evenly split between the **Services-producing sector** and **Goods-producing sector**. Results were mixed in the **Services-producing sector**. The strongest losses were in **Trade, Accommodation and food services, and Health care and social assistance**. However, **Educational services** recorded the strongest gains among industries in this economic region. The **Goods-producing sector** lost 700 jobs, led by declines in **Manufacturing** employment.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, the unemployment rate increased to 22.5% in the first quarter of 2017, up 2.2 percentage points from a year earlier. Employment declined by 8.0% from a year ago, the strongest drop among the province's three economic regions. The 3,300 job losses over this time were slightly

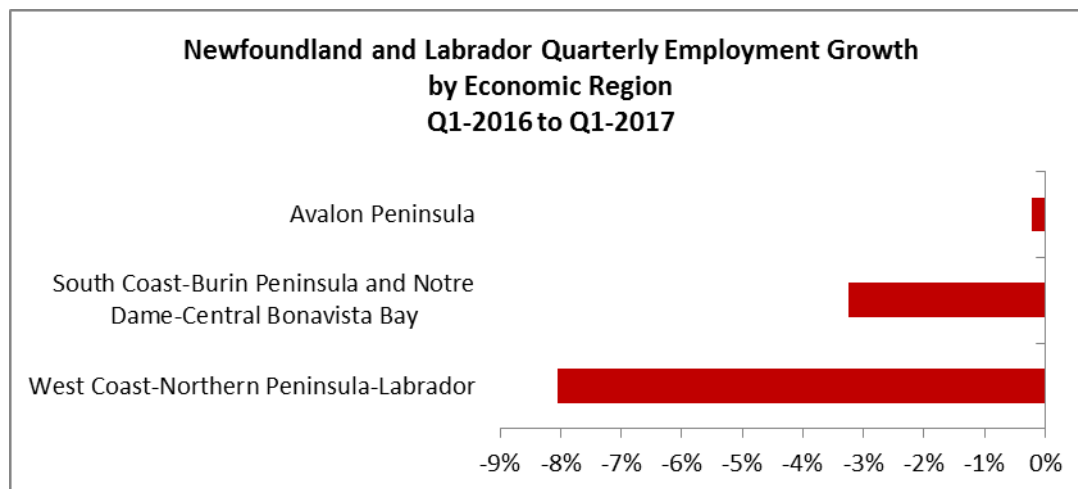
more than the 2,800 people who exited the labour force. The job losses were mainly in full-time employment. Employment losses were mainly in the **Services-producing sector**, led by declines in **Trade** and **Educational services**. However, **Transportation and warehousing** experienced the strongest job gains among the industries for the second straight quarter. The **Goods-producing sector** lost 900 jobs, mainly through losses 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 2017 ( '000)	1st Quarter 2016 ( '000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2017 (%)	1st Quarter 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	214.4	219.5	-2.3	17.0	16.0	1.0
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	132.0	132.3	-0.2	11.9	11.0	0.9
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	44.7	46.2	-3.2	25.5	24.5	1.0
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	37.7	41.0	-8.0	22.5	20.3	2.2

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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