



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

October 2015



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Nova Scotia, including the regions of Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton, Southern, Halifax and North Shore.

OVERVIEW

After posting strong gains in employment numbers in September (+3,400), employment levels in Nova Scotia were unchanged in October. Since April 2015, the pattern of movements in employment has fluctuated on a monthly basis. In October, gains in full-time jobs were offset by a drop in the number of part-time positions. With fewer people actively looking for work, the unemployment rate declined in October compared to September's rate; the unemployment rate is currently at its lowest level since November 2008. Within the province, the economic regions of North Shore and Halifax recorded an increase in employment compared to a year ago.

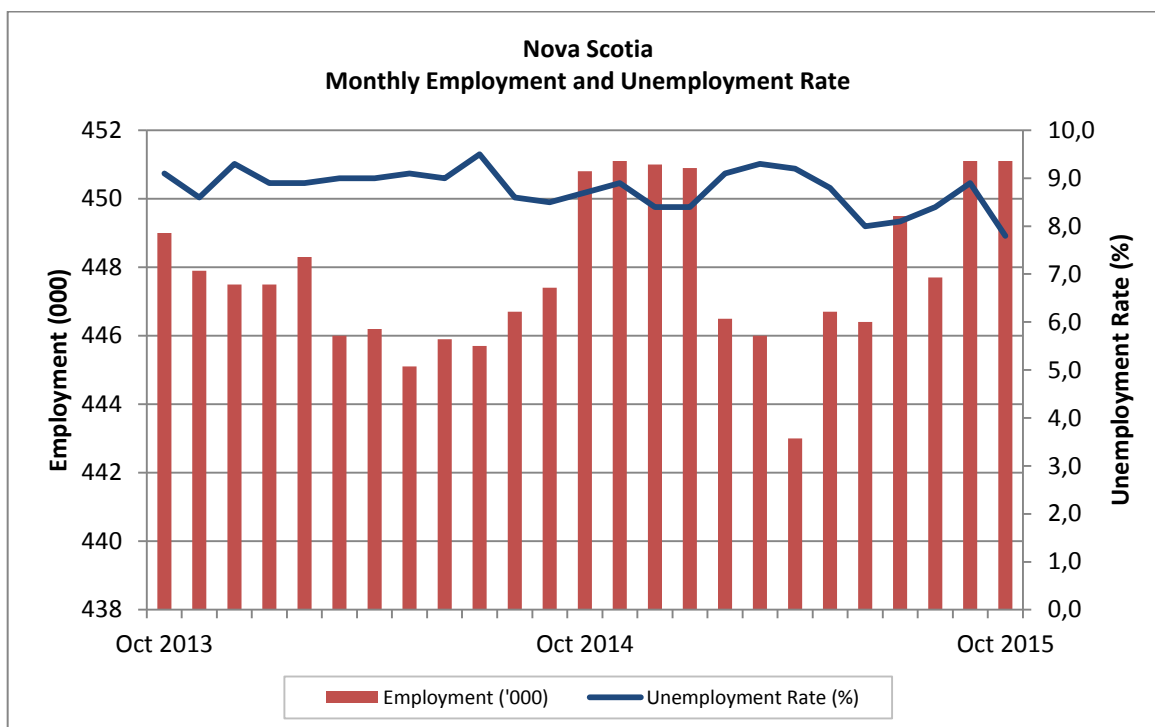
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	786.6	786.4	783.8	0.2	0.0	2.8	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	489.5	495.0	493.7	-5.5	-1.1	-4.2	-0.9
Employment ('000)	451.1	451.1	450.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
Full-Time ('000)	371.4	371.0	367.5	0.4	0.1	3.9	1.1
Part-Time ('000)	79.7	80.0	83.3	-0.3	-0.4	-3.6	-4.3
Unemployment ('000)	38.4	44.0	42.9	-5.6	-12.7	-4.5	-10.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	8.9	8.7	-1.1	-	-0.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.2	62.9	63.0	-0.7	-	-0.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.3	57.4	57.5	-0.1	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

On a year-to-date basis, (January-October 2015) there was an increase in the average employment level by approximately 900 to 447,900 relative to the first 10 months of 2014. The quality of jobs appear to have improved as average full-time employment was up 4,400 while there were 3,500 fewer part-time workers. Compared to the first 10 months of last year, the average unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has declined by 0.3 percentage points to 8.6%.



While the overall number of people employed in October was unchanged from the previous month, the composition of employment, in terms of class of workers, changed. The number of self-employed workers decreased, while the private and public sectors recorded increases in the number of employees in October relative to the month of September. The public sector now employs 7,700 additional people than it did 12 months ago, while employment levels within the private sector decreased by 4,000 positions over the same period. The number of self-employed individuals was down by 1,400 over the month and by 3,400 workers compared to October 2014.

The number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) in the labour force contracted by less than the decline in the number employed and their unemployment rate for October (17.0%) was 0.5 percentage points higher than the rate recorded for September. The vast majority of the positions lost were part-time in nature and were split fairly evenly between men and women.

In October, the employment situation for people aged 25 to 54 years deteriorated compared to that observed in September; thus far this year employment levels for people in this age group have declined in 7 out of 10 months. Their unemployment rate edged down somewhat in October to 6.3% from 6.7% in the previous month as the decline in the number of job seekers outpaced the decrease in the number employed.

Workers aged 55 years and over recorded an increase of 4,700 additional jobs over September's levels. Close to 75% of these gains were full-time positions. As a result of the strength of these job gains, the unemployment rate for older workers edged down by four percentage points to 6.2%, their lowest rate since September 2010.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2014	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.8	8.9	8.7	-1.1	-0.9
25 years and over	6.3	7.6	7.3	-1.3	-1.0
Men - 25 years and over	7.3	9.3	8.2	-2.0	-0.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.2	5.8	6.3	-0.6	-1.1
15 to 24 years	17.0	16.5	16.6	0.5	0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.0	19.4	20.8	-1.4	-2.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.8	13.8	12.3	2.0	3.5

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Following three consecutive months of job losses, employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** rose in October led by net employment gains in the **Construction** and **Manufacturing** industry groups. However, the number of people working in the sector declined somewhat over the 12-month period with job losses in each industry group other than the **Agriculture** and **Manufacturing** industry groups.

Manufacturing is expected to make significant gains over the next two years. The stronger growth in the U.S. and a weaker Canadian dollar should help make Nova Scotia-produced goods more price competitive. In addition, there are several contracts which should help the **Manufacturing** industry group: Work on the Royal Canadian Navy ships commenced in September; Michelin is expanding heavy-duty tire production at its plant in the Annapolis Valley; and Pratt & Whitney Canada is expanding its operations near the Halifax airport to build components for its new PurePower PW800 engines for business jets.

The **Services-producing sector** registered net job losses in October compared to September's levels, with notable decreases in **Health care and social assistance** (-1,800 jobs), **Professional, scientific and technical services** (-1,500 jobs) and **Trade** (-1,000 jobs). However compared to 12 months earlier, employment in the sector posted positive results with the addition of 700 jobs. Employment gains can be attributed to increases in the numbers employed in **Health care and social assistance**, **Educational services**, and **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing**. Over the same period, employment declines were concentrated in three specific industry groups: **Accommodation and food services**, **Trade**, and **Information, culture and recreation**.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	451.1	451.1	450.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
Goods-producing sector	84.7	82.3	85.1	2.4	2.9	-0.4	-0.5
Agriculture	5.5	5.5	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	17.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.6	11.9	12.5	-0.3	-2.5	-0.9	-7.2
Utilities	3.7	3.4	3.7	0.3	8.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	33.9	32.6	34.5	1.3	4.0	-0.6	-1.7
Manufacturing	30.0	29.0	29.6	1.0	3.4	0.4	1.4
Services-producing sector	366.4	368.8	365.7	-2.4	-0.7	0.7	0.2
Trade	70.7	71.8	75.1	-1.1	-1.5	-4.4	-5.9
Transportation and warehousing	21.2	21.2	21.9	0.0	0.0	-0.7	-3.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	24.1	23.2	21.6	0.9	3.9	2.5	11.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.6	29.1	26.9	-1.5	-5.2	0.7	2.6
Business, building and other support services	19.3	20.3	20.4	-1.0	-4.9	-1.1	-5.4
Educational services	36.6	36.0	34.4	0.6	1.7	2.2	6.4
Health care and social assistance	73.7	75.5	69.4	-1.8	-2.4	4.3	6.2
Information, culture and recreation	16.7	17.0	19.8	-0.3	-1.8	-3.1	-15.7
Accommodation and food services	29.4	29.0	32.2	0.4	1.4	-2.8	-8.7
Other services	18.6	17.9	17.1	0.7	3.9	1.5	8.8
Public administration	28.6	27.8	26.8	0.8	2.9	1.8	6.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

According to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey's three-month moving-average data, employment increased in the economic regions of North Shore and Halifax between October 2014 and October of 2015 while jobs were lost in the rest of the province's economic regions.

In October, employment levels in **Cape Breton** declined by 3,300 positions compared to 12 months earlier; full-time employment losses (-2,200) accounted for two-thirds of the drop in the number of jobs. Overall employment levels in the **Services-producing sector** contracted with the loss of 2,200 positions. The weakest performing industry groups within the sector were **Information, culture and recreation** (-1,200 jobs) followed by **Accommodation and food services** which registered a drop of 1,200 positions compared with October 2014. Employment in the region's **Goods-producing sector** dropped over the 12 month period primarily as a result of fewer jobs within the **Construction** industry group. Since August, the region has recorded employment losses in each month compared to the same period last year.

Since June, the labour market in the **North Shore** region has improved each month relative to the corresponding month in 2014. Employment in October rose by 9,100 positions; the vast majority of the increases were full-time

jobs (+8,900). At 64.1%, the region recorded the highest monthly participation rate since August 2012. Employment was higher in October compared to the same month last year in each industry group in the **Goods-producing sector** other than **Utilities**, where 500 fewer people were employed. Three industry groups within the **Services-producing sector** accounted for the greatest number of job gains: **Trade** (+2,700 positions), **Public administration** (+1,200 positions), and **Information, culture, and recreation** (+1,100 positions).

The **Annapolis Valley** has registered job losses every month since the start of the year relative to the same month in 2014. Between October 2014 and October 2015, employment levels in the region have contracted by 3,100 jobs. Almost all of the positions lost were full-time jobs. As the decline in the number employed was matched by a drop in the number of people in the labour force, the unemployment rate (7.1%) in October was unchanged from 12 months earlier. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the net employment losses in the region over the past 12 months with the **Other services** (-1,700 jobs), **Accommodation and food services** (-1,200 jobs), and **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** (-1,200 jobs) industry groups experiencing noteworthy declines.

In the **Southern** region, employment levels in October declined by 3,100 positions compared to the same month last year. Job losses occurred in both full- and part-time positions. Despite the drop in the number of labour force participants, the unemployment rate in the region rose to 11.2% from 10.7% in October 2014. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the net job losses within the region in October. Declines in the number employed in two specific industry groups, **Trade** (-1,800 jobs) and **Health care and social assistance** (-1,500 jobs) accounted for the majority of the positions lost.

The **Halifax** region added 2,700 full-time jobs between October 2014 and 2015. The increase in the number working full-time more than offset the losses realized in part-time employment (-1,100 jobs). The unemployment rate edged down to reach 5.7%, the lowest rate recorded thus far this year and since December 2012. Strong services-sector employment growth over the past 12 months more than offset jobs losses in the **Goods-producing sector**. Compared to October of last year, the **Services-producing sector** added 4,500 jobs. The largest job gains were recorded by the **Health care and social assistance** (+3,600 jobs), **Other services** (1,900 jobs) and the **Transportation and warehousing** (1,500 jobs) industry groups.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2015 ('000)	Oct 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Oct 2015 (%)	Oct 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	458.5	456.0	0.5	7.7	8.0	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	49.6	52.9	-6.2	13.6	13.0	0.6
North Shore	76.0	66.9	13.6	8.0	9.8	-1.8
Annapolis Valley	55.3	58.4	-5.3	7.1	7.1	0.0
Southern	49.4	51.0	-3.1	11.2	10.7	0.5
Halifax	228.2	226.6	0.7	5.7	5.8	-0.1

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 neces-

sarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate (LMAD), Service Canada, Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact please contact the Labour Market Analysis Directorate team at:

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

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