



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

November 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

Following no change in employment levels in October, the labour market in Nova Scotia recorded a drop in the number of employed individuals in November. The decline in the number of part-time jobs more than offset the gains in full-time positions in November. Thus far this year, employment levels in the province have declined each month with the exception of May, July, and September. The drop in employment in November was driven by overall losses in the Services-producing sector. With more people actively looking for work, the unemployment rate rose somewhat compared to the rate recorded for October. The North Shore economic region was the only region within the province to record an increase in employment levels between November 2014 and 2015.

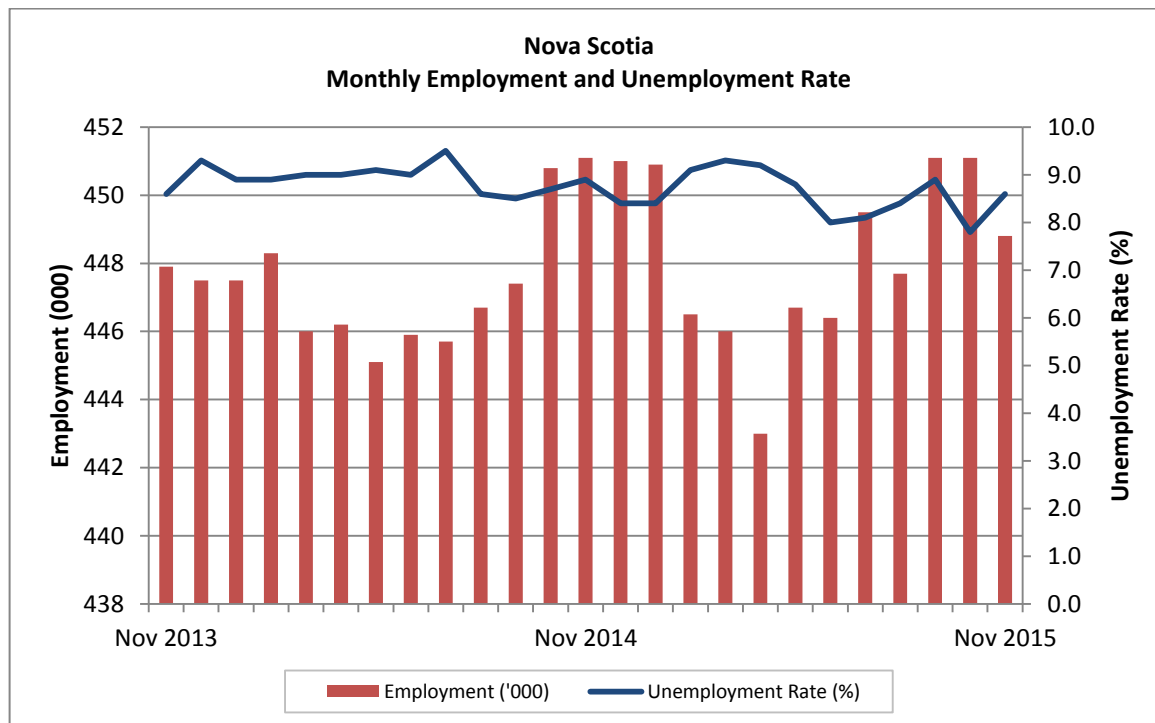
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	786.8	786.6	783.8	0.2	0.0	3.0	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	491.2	489.5	495.2	1.7	0.3	-4.0	-0.8
Employment ('000)	448.8	451.1	451.1	-2.3	-0.5	-2.3	-0.5
Full-Time ('000)	374.2	371.4	370.6	2.8	0.8	3.6	1.0
Part-Time ('000)	74.6	79.7	80.4	-5.1	-6.4	-5.8	-7.2
Unemployment ('000)	42.4	38.4	44.1	4.0	10.4	-1.7	-3.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	7.8	8.9	0.8	-	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.4	62.2	63.2	0.2	-	-0.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.0	57.3	57.6	-0.3	-	-0.6	-

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-November 2015) there was an increase in the average employment level by approximately 700 to 448,000 relative to the first 11-months of 2014. The average number of full-time jobs rose by 4,400; however, there were 3,700 fewer part-time workers over the same period. Compared to the first 11-months of last year, the average unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has declined by 0.3 percentage points to 8.6%.



Employment losses this month resulted from a decline in both the number of public-sector employees (-2,100 jobs) and a decrease in the number of self-employed (-2,200 workers). However, there were 2,100 additional private-sector positions in November compared to the previous month. The public sector now employs 5,200 additional people than it did 12 months ago, while the number of private-sector employees has contracted by 3,400 positions over the same period. The number of self-employed workers has declined by 4,000 relative to the same month last year.

With a drop in the number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) in the labour force combined with a rise in the number of youth with jobs, their unemployment rate for November (11.0%) was 1.2 percentage points lower than the rate recorded for the previous month. The net job gains in November were full-time positions. The unemployment rates for youth have declined each month this year compared with the corresponding rates recorded in 2014.

The employment situation for people aged 25 to 54 years in November was little changed to that observed in October. Gains in full-time employment were almost offset by declines in the number working part-time. Following a drop in the number participating in the labour force in October, 3,500 additional people in this age category entered the provincial labour market in November. With an increase in the number of active job seekers, the unemployment rate edged up by over one percentage point to reach 7.4% in November.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.6	7.8	8.9	0.8	-0.3
25 years and over	7.5	6.3	7.7	1.2	-0.2
Men - 25 years and over	8.9	7.3	8.9	1.6	0.0
Women - 25 years and over	6.0	5.2	6.5	0.8	-0.5
15 to 24 years	15.4	17.0	15.6	-1.6	-0.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.7	18.0	21.1	-2.3	-5.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.2	15.8	9.5	-0.6	5.7

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

The number of employed older-workers aged 55 years or over decreased by 3,100 in November compared to that observed in October. Nonetheless, employment for this age group has been generally up each month this year as compared to 2014 levels, largely a result of population aging. The majority of the job losses in November were part-time positions. Despite the decline in the number of older workers in the labour market, the unemployment rate rose from 6.2% last month to 7.8% in November.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** expanded for the second consecutive month in November with employment gains in each industry group with the exception of the **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry group. However, the number of people working in the sector contracted somewhat over the 12-month period as a result of the large yearly employment losses in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** jobs (-3,100 jobs). Employment gains in the **Manufacturing** and **Construction** industry groups have helped to partially offset decreases in employment within the sector.

The **Services-producing sector** recorded net job losses in November compared to October's levels and to November 12-months earlier. There were notable decreases in **Professional, scientific and technical services** (-1,700 jobs) and in **Public administration** (-800 jobs) compared to the corresponding numbers during the month of October. The number employed within the sector contracted on a year-over-year basis with a net loss of 1,700 jobs. Net employment losses can be attributed to sizable decreases in the numbers employed in the **Information, culture and recreation, Accommodation and food services**, and **Trade**. Over the same period however, the number working in two specific sectors: **Health care and social assistance** and **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing**, rose.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	448.8	451.1	451.1	-2.3	-0.5	-2.3	-0.5
Goods-producing sector	85.4	84.7	86.0	0.7	0.8	-0.6	-0.7
Agriculture	5.7	5.5	4.6	0.2	3.6	1.1	23.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.4	11.6	14.5	-0.2	-1.7	-3.1	-21.4
Utilities	3.8	3.7	4.1	0.1	2.7	-0.3	-7.3
Construction	34.1	33.9	32.6	0.2	0.6	1.5	4.6
Manufacturing	30.5	30.0	30.2	0.5	1.7	0.3	1.0
Services-producing sector	363.4	366.4	365.1	-3.0	-0.8	-1.7	-0.5
Trade	71.3	70.7	73.5	0.6	0.8	-2.2	-3.0
Transportation and warehousing	20.7	21.2	22.5	-0.5	-2.4	-1.8	-8.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	24.0	24.1	22.0	-0.1	-0.4	2.0	9.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	25.9	27.6	27.1	-1.7	-6.2	-1.2	-4.4
Business, building and other support services	19.2	19.3	18.7	-0.1	-0.5	0.5	2.7
Educational services	35.6	36.6	34.5	-1.0	-2.7	1.1	3.2
Health care and social assistance	73.8	73.7	69.9	0.1	0.1	3.9	5.6
Information, culture and recreation	16.6	16.7	20.1	-0.1	-0.6	-3.5	-17.4
Accommodation and food services	29.8	29.4	32.1	0.4	1.4	-2.3	-7.2
Other services	18.7	18.6	17.8	0.1	0.5	0.9	5.1
Public administration	27.8	28.6	26.9	-0.8	-2.8	0.9	3.3

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 North Shore economic region between November 2014 and November of 2015. Job losses occurred in every other economic region within the province over the same period.

There were 2,800 fewer employed in the **Cape Breton** region in November compared to 12-months earlier. The region has been recording employment losses for five consecutive months compared to the corresponding period in 2014. The job losses in November were fairly evenly shared between full-time and part-time positions. Overall employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** contracted with the loss of 1,500 positions. The weakest performing industry group within the sector was **Construction** which registered a loss of 1,400 jobs compared to November 2014. Employment in the region's **Services-producing sector** also dropped over the 12-

month period primarily as a result of fewer jobs within the **Transportation and warehousing** and **Business, building, and other support services** industry groups.

Since June, the labour market in the **North Shore** region has improved each month relative to the corresponding month in 2014. Employment in November rose by 9,700 positions; the quality of the jobs also appear to be improving as the vast majority of the increases were full-time jobs (+8,700). The unemployment rate (7.9%) declined by 1.4 percentage points compared to last November. As has been the case since the summer months, employment was higher in November compared to the same month last year in each industry group in the **Goods-producing sector** with the exception of **Utilities**, where 700 fewer people were employed. Within the **Services-producing sector**, the greatest number of job gains in November were in **Trade** (+3,400 positions) and **Public administration** (+1,400 positions).

The employment level in the **Annapolis Valley** continued on its downward trend in November, the region has recorded job losses each month since the start of the year relative to the same month in 2014. Between November 2014 and November 2015, employment in the region diminished by 1,400 jobs. All of the positions lost this month were full-time in nature. Although the number of part-time jobs increased, this was not sufficient to offset the decline in full-time positions. Gains in **Manufacturing** related industries led to net job growth within the **Goods-producing sector** while notable job losses in **Other services** and **Information, culture and recreation** were largely responsible for the net job losses within the **Service-producing sector**.

The **Southern** region saw its employment level decline for the third straight month in November. There were 2,400 fewer positions compared to November 2014. The majority of the employment losses were full-time positions. Despite the drop in the number of labour force participants, the unemployment rate in the region rose to 10.5%, up from 9.5% last year. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the net job losses within the region in November. Declines in the number employed in three specific industry groups, **Health care and social assistance** (-1,800 job), **Trade** (-1,300 jobs) and **Public administration** (-1,000) accounted for the majority of the positions lost.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2015 ('000)	Nov 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Nov 2015 (%)	Nov 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	453.8	452.4	0.3	7.7	8.0	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	48.1	50.9	-5.5	14.0	14.7	-0.7
North Shore	75.0	65.3	14.9	7.9	9.3	-1.4
Annapolis Valley	55.8	57.2	-2.4	6.7	6.4	0.3
Southern	48.8	51.2	-4.7	10.5	9.5	1.0
Halifax	226.2	227.9	-0.7	5.8	5.9	-0.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The **Halifax** region recorded a loss of 1,700 jobs between November 2014 and 2015. The decrease in the number working part-time (-4,000 jobs) more than offset the gains realized in full-time employment (+2,200 positions). Since the number of people in the labour force contracted by 2,200, the unemployment rate edged downward somewhat to 5.8%. The unemployment rate in the region has been below 6% each month since August. There were fewer employed in the **Manufacturing** industry group over the past year which brought employment levels

down in the **Goods-producing sector** (-1,900 jobs). Significant job losses occurred in the **Trade** industry group (-7,400 positions) over the 12-month period, specifically in the retail sector. In spite of these substantial job losses, overall employment levels in the **Services-producing sector** were little changed from 12-months ago.

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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