



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

December 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 solid employment growth in the previous quarter, the number of people employed in the province contracted somewhat in the fourth quarter of 2015 from job losses in November and December. Nonetheless, 1,200 full-time jobs have been added since the third quarter, partially offsetting the loss of 2,000 part-time positions recorded. While the overall level of employment was higher in the fourth quarter of 2014, the number of full-time jobs this year is at its highest level since the fourth quarter of 2008.

Because the decrease in employment in the fourth quarter was less than the corresponding labour-force decline, there were fewer people unemployed. As such, the unemployment rate edged down to 8.3% from the third quarter's 8.5%. Both the level of employment and the labour force were lower than they were last year, by 2,400 and 4,100 respectively. The number of active job seekers is down by 1,700, while the unemployment rate is 0.4 percentage points below the rate during the fourth quarter of 2014. Throughout 2015, employment levels decreased in each quarter other than in the July-September quarterly period.

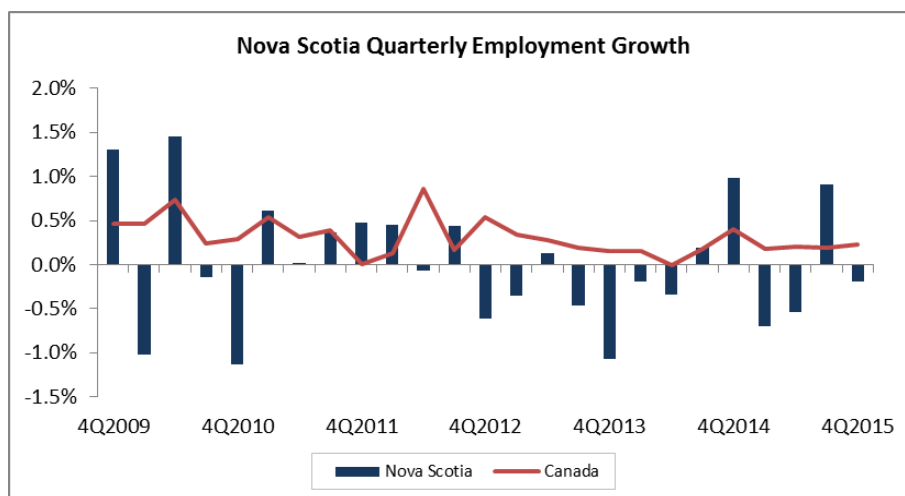
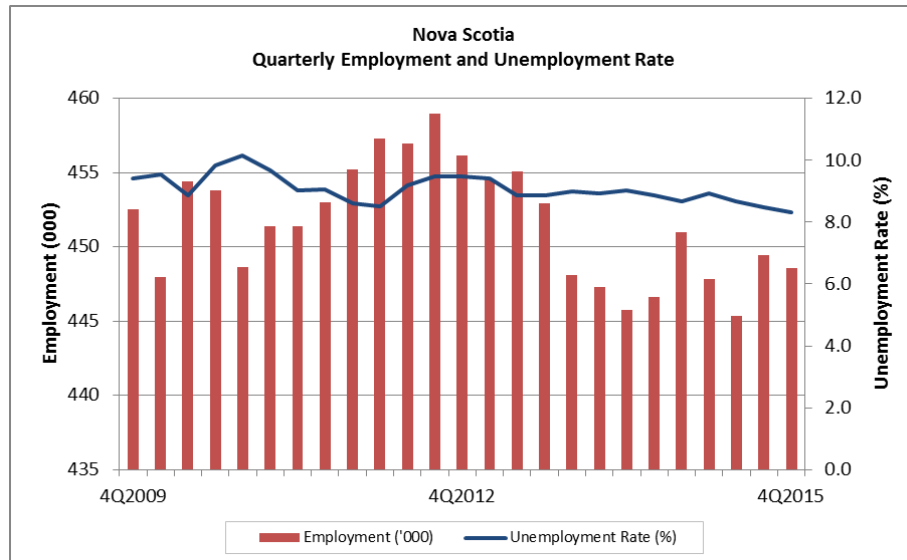
Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	786.8	786.1	783.9	0.7	0.1	2.9	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	489.6	491.0	493.7	-1.4	-0.3	-4.1	-0.8
Employment ('000)	448.6	449.4	451.0	-0.9	-0.2	-2.4	-0.5
Full-Time ('000)	371.3	370.2	369.0	1.2	0.3	2.3	0.6
Part-Time ('000)	77.2	79.2	81.9	-2.0	-2.5	-4.7	-5.7
Unemployment ('000)	41.0	41.6	42.7	-0.6	-1.4	-1.7	-4.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	8.5	8.7	-0.1	-	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.2	62.5	63.0	-0.3	-	-0.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.0	57.2	57.5	-0.2	-	-0.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment losses in the fourth quarter resulted from a decline in both the number of private-sector employees (-1,700 jobs) and a decrease in the number of self-employed (-2,200 workers). In contrast there were 3,100 additional public-sector positions compared to the previous quarter. The public sector now employs 5,500 additional people than it did 12 months ago, while the number of private-sector employees has contracted by 4,000 positions over the same period. The number of self-employed workers has also declined relative to fourth quarter 2014 results (-3,800 positions).



All the fourth-quarter job losses this year can be attributed to fewer employed in two broad age groups, those aged 15 to 24 years and those aged 25 to 54 years. In contrast, the 55 and over workforce experienced job growth in the fourth quarter of 2015 and also compared to the same period last year. While the number of jobs held by males in the fourth quarter was down, employment for those aged 55 and older rose by 300 jobs. Overall female employment expanded somewhat by 300 positions in the fourth quarter, with mixed results across age groups. Women aged 55 and over registered 2,800 additional jobs in the fourth quarter, but these gains were largely offset by substantial job reductions among those aged 54 and younger. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2014, however, employment levels among female are virtually unchanged while the number of jobs held by males has dropped by 2,500.

Men have seen their recorded unemployment rate decrease from 10.2% in the fourth quarter of 2014 to 9.5% in the fourth quarter of 2015. The drop in the unemployment rate among males was not a result of job gains but because of a decline in their labour force participation. Over the same period, the number of females actively seeking work rose which led a small increase in their overall unemployment rate, from 7.0% to 7.2%.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2015 (%)	2015 (%)	2014 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.3	8.5	8.7	-0.1	-0.3
25 years and over	7.1	7.3	7.4	-0.2	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	8.3	8.5	8.3	-0.2	0.0
Women - 25 years and over	5.8	5.9	6.5	-0.1	-0.7
15 to 24 years	15.9	15.5	15.6	0.4	0.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.4	17.5	20.7	-1.0	-4.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.4	13.6	10.2	1.8	5.2

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** rose by 1,300 positions relative to the third quarter of 2015. The **Manufacturing** sector added 2,200 jobs and another 300 jobs were added in **Primary** industries. Despite the increase this quarter, the **Goods-producing sector** has been experiencing declining employment levels since 2008. Employment in the sector is up slightly from the fourth quarter of 2014 but is down by over 2,600 from the same period in 2013, primarily due to a loss of **Construction** jobs. The current outlook for the manufacturing industry group is positive with healthy gains forecast for the next two years. Work on the Royal Canadian Navy shipbuilding contract commenced in September which should help support manufacturing growth in the near term. The stronger economy south of the border, and the weaker Canadian dollar, should also stimulate demand for Nova Scotia-manufactured goods.

Employment decreased in the **Services-producing sector** by 2,200 jobs between the third and fourth quarters of 2015. The **Professional, scientific and technical services** and the **Business, building and other support services** industry groups together lost 4,000 positions during this period. Conversely, **Other services** added 1,700 jobs to the provincial labour market while the **Public administration** industry group added 1,300 positions. Compared to fourth-quarter 2014 employment levels, the sector currently employs 3,100 fewer workers. Two industry groups account for the vast majority of the job losses compared to 12-months ago: **Information, culture and recreation** (-3,500 jobs) and **Accommodation and food services** (-2,600 jobs).

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	448.6	449.4	451.0	-0.9	-0.2	-2.4	-0.5
Goods-producing sector	85.0	83.7	84.2	1.3	1.6	0.7	0.9
Agriculture	5.7	5.4	4.6	0.3	5.5	1.1	23.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.3	12.3	13.2	-1.0	-8.4	-1.9	-14.6
Utilities	3.8	3.4	3.9	0.4	11.9	-0.2	-4.2
Construction	33.8	34.3	32.9	-0.5	-1.4	0.9	2.8
Manufacturing	30.4	28.3	29.5	2.2	7.7	0.9	3.0
Services-producing sector	363.6	365.8	366.7	-2.2	-0.6	-3.1	-0.9
Trade	71.1	72.0	74.4	-0.9	-1.3	-3.3	-4.4
Transportation and warehousing	20.8	20.8	22.3	0.0	-0.2	-1.5	-6.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	24.2	23.9	22.2	0.3	1.3	2.0	9.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	26.5	29.1	26.7	-2.6	-9.0	-0.3	-1.0
Business, building and other support services	18.8	20.2	19.3	-1.4	-7.1	-0.5	-2.4
Educational services	36.3	35.7	34.9	0.6	1.7	1.4	3.9
Health care and social assistance	73.2	73.7	69.9	-0.5	-0.7	3.3	4.7
Information, culture and recreation	16.5	17.2	20.0	-0.7	-4.1	-3.5	-17.5
Accommodation and food services	29.7	29.5	32.3	0.3	0.9	-2.6	-8.0
Other services	18.7	17.0	17.6	1.7	9.8	1.1	6.3
Public administration	28.0	26.7	27.1	1.3	5.0	0.9	3.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in two of Nova Scotia's economic regions, the North Shore and the Annapolis Valley, in the fourth quarter of 2015 while the Cape Breton, Southern, and Halifax regions each reported decreases. The North Shore and Halifax were the only regions to record a decrease in unemployment rates while labour force declines were registered in three of the province's economic regions: Cape Breton, Southern, and Halifax.

In the fourth quarter of 2015, employment in **Cape Breton** declined by 4,600 jobs relative to the same three-month period in 2014. Cape Breton's unemployment rate rose somewhat to 14.7%, up from 14.6% in the fourth quarter of 2014. The majority of the job losses during this 12-month period were in full-time positions (-3,000 jobs). Four of every 10 jobs lost over the last year were in the **Goods-producing sector**, with the largest employment declines occurring in the **Construction** industry group. Within the **Services-producing sector** employment losses were primarily concentrated in **Transportation and warehousing** and in **Business, building, and other support services**.

In the **North Shore**, employment in the fourth quarter of 2015 increased by 9,200 positions compared with the fourth quarter of last year. Almost all of the job gains were full-time positions (+8,800). In addition, the labour force increased by 8,000 people, which when taken together with the employment gains, decreased the number of unemployed by 1,200 and lowered the unemployment rate to 7.8% from 10.3% in the fourth quarter of 2014. The employment gains over the last 12 months occurred in both the **Goods-producing** and the **Services-producing sectors**. **Construction** related industries posted the largest job gains in the goods sector, while **Trade** and **Public administration** led job creation in the **Services-producing sector**.

The number of people employed in **Annapolis Valley** rose by 700 between the fourth quarters of 2014 and 2015. The overall net employment gains were part-time positions (+1,200 jobs) since the number employed full-time dropped by 500. Corresponding to the increase in employment levels, there was an increase in the number of people officially unemployed in the region as the labour force rose by a larger amount than employment. The unemployment rate was 7.2% in the fourth quarter of 2015, up from 6.8% during the same period in 2014. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** increased as a result of job gains in each industry group with the exception of **Utilities**. Within the **Services-producing sector**, the **Information, culture and recreation** industry recorded substantial job losses (-1,400) as did Other services (-1,000) compared to 2014's levels.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

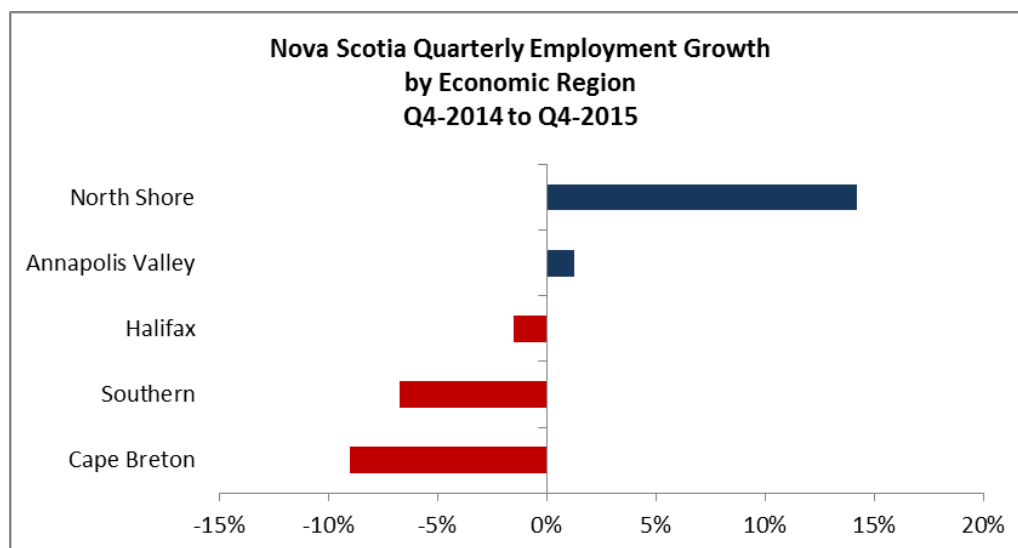
3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Yearly Variation	4th Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Yearly Variation
	('000)	('000)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)
Nova Scotia	448.6	450.4	-0.4	7.8	8.1	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	46.3	50.9	-9.0	14.7	14.6	0.1
North Shore	73.2	64.1	14.2	7.8	10.3	-2.5
Annapolis Valley	55.6	54.9	1.3	7.2	6.8	0.4
Southern	48.4	51.9	-6.7	10.5	9.3	1.2
Halifax	225.1	228.5	-1.5	5.8	5.9	-0.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment levels were substantially lower in the **Southern** region in the fourth quarter of 2015 by 3,500 jobs compared to the same three-month period in 2014. The labour force was also down from last year but by less than the employment decrease; this resulted in a rise in the number of unemployed persons and in the unemployment rate. In the **Southern** region the unemployment rate edged up to 10.5%, from 9.3% a year ago. The jobs lost over the last year were all full-time positions, while the number employed on a part-time basis rose. Employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** were virtually unchanged from 12 months ago. The **Services-producing sector** registered net employment declines with sizable job losses in **Health care and social assistance** (-2,700 positions) and **Public administration** (-1,300 workers) relative to the fourth quarter of 2014.

In the **Halifax** region, employment contracted by 3,400 jobs in the fourth quarter of this year as compared to the same period last year. By comparison, employment levels in the region have risen during the fourth quarter each year since 2010. All of the job losses this quarter were part-time; conversely the region added 2,700 full-time positions over the same period. Since the number of labour force participants dropped by more than the decline in employment levels, the level of unemployment fell by 500 which pushed the unemployment rate down somewhat from 5.9% a year ago to 5.8% in the current quarter. Halifax's **Services-producing sector** registered 2,500 net employment losses in the fourth quarter with substantial declines in the **Trade** industry group (-7,400 positions). In the fourth quarter, declining activity in **Manufacturing**-related industries accounted for net job losses within the **Goods-producing sector**.



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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