



# Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

August 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

The labour market in Nova Scotia recorded a drop in the number of employed individuals in August compared to the previous month. All of the positions lost were part-time jobs. Thus far this year, employment levels in the province have declined each month with the exception of May and July. The decrease in employment in August was driven largely by losses in the Goods-producing sector. With more people actively looking for work, the unemployment rate rose somewhat compared to July's rate. Within the province, the economic regions of the North Shore and Halifax recorded an increase in employment compared to a year ago.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

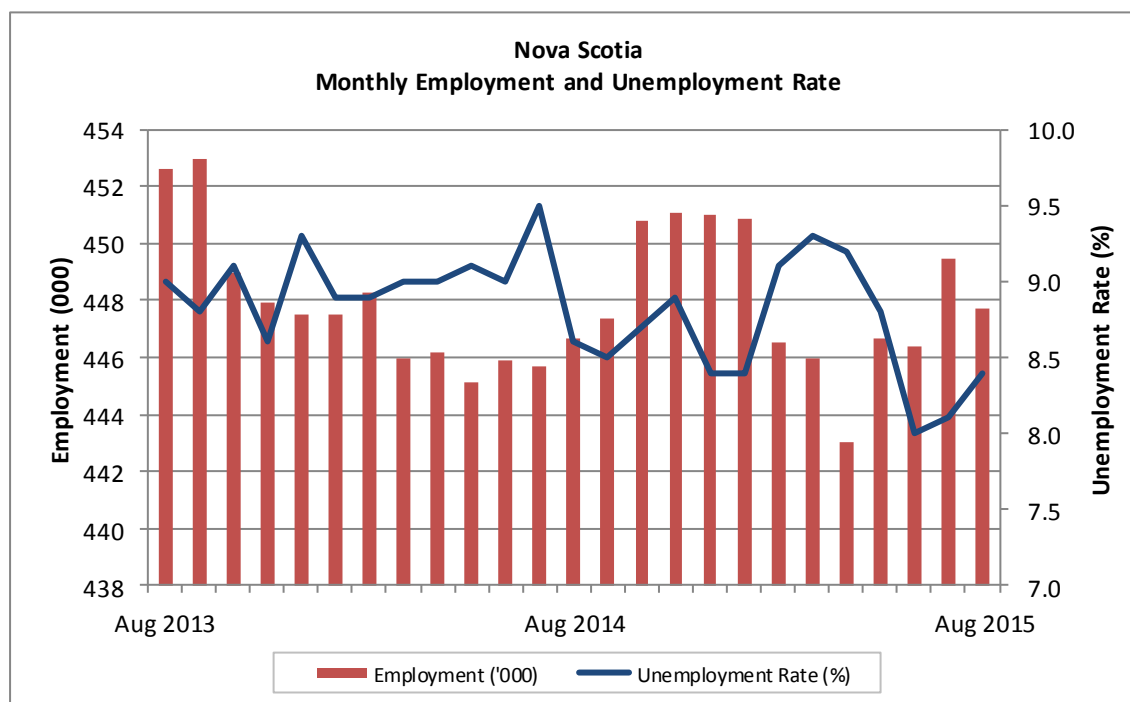
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	786.1	785.8	783.1	0.3	0.0	3.0	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	488.6	489.3	488.7	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Employment ('000)	447.7	449.5	446.7	-1.8	-0.4	1.0	0.2
Full-Time ('000)	370.1	369.4	364.5	0.7	0.2	5.6	1.5
Part-Time ('000)	77.6	80.1	82.2	-2.5	-3.1	-4.6	-5.6
Unemployment ('000)	40.9	39.8	42.1	1.1	2.8	-1.2	-2.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.4	8.1	8.6	0.3	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.2	62.3	62.4	-0.1	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.0	57.2	57.0	-0.2	-	0.0	-

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 – August 2015) there was a slight increase in the average employment level by approximately 700 to 447,100 relative to the first eight months of 2014. The quality of jobs appear to have im-

proved as average full-time employment was up 4,500 while there were 3,900 fewer part-time workers. Nova Scotia was the only Atlantic province to experience job growth on a year-to-date basis.



Employment losses this month resulted from a decline in the number of private-sector employees (-5,500 jobs); whereas, there were 2,200 additional public-sector positions compared to July. The public sector now employs 1,700 additional people than it did 12 months ago, while employment levels within the private-sector rose by 500 positions over the same period. The number of self-employed individuals was up over the month by 1,600, but down over the year (-1,200 positions).

Since the number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) in the labour force contracted by more than the decline in the number of unemployed, their unemployment rate for August (14.2%) was 1.7 percentage points lower than the rate recorded for July. Compared to 12 months ago, while youth employment was up by 2,500 jobs the majority of the gains were part-time in nature.

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects data on youth aged 15 to 24 who attended school full time in March and who intend to return to school full time in the fall. Students in the labour market this summer fared better compared to the summer of 2014. Over the summer months, on average 2,780 additional students were employed compared to last year. The job gains were shared equally between full- and part-time positions. The student unemployment rate was considerably lower this summer (15.6%) than the rate observed during the same months 12 months ago (19.0%). In comparison, for non-students aged 15 to 24, the addition of 1,100 full-time jobs in the summer of 2015 was more than offset by the decline in the number working on a part-time basis (-2,300). As fewer non-students participated in the labour market over the summer months, their unemployment rate was substantially lower (12.2%) compared to the summer of 2014 (15.6%).

The employment situation for people aged 25 to 54 in August was similar to that observed in July; thus far this year employment levels for people in this age group have declined each month other than during May and July. Their unemployment rate edged up somewhat in August to 6.8% from 6.7% in the previous month.

## Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.4	8.1	8.6	0.3	-0.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.4	6.8	7.0	0.6	0.4
Men - 25 years and over	8.4	7.8	7.5	0.6	0.9
Women - 25 years and over	6.2	5.7	6.5	0.5	-0.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.2	15.9	17.9	-1.7	-3.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.7	17.3	23.0	-1.6	-7.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.7	14.4	13.0	-1.7	-0.3

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

The number of employed older workers, those aged 55 and over, decreased by 1,400 in August compared to both the previous month and to August of last year. The majority of the job losses were full-time positions. As additional older workers entered the labour market, their unemployment rate rose from 7.3% to 8.9% over the 12 month period.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** retracted for the second consecutive month in August with net employment losses in the **Construction** and **Manufacturing** industry groups. However, the number of people working in the sector expanded somewhat over the 12 month period in spite of the large yearly employment losses in **Manufacturing** jobs (-2,300 jobs). Employment in the **Manufacturing** industry group has experienced three successive years of deterioration. Given the recent declines in the value of the Canadian dollar, the adverse effects of the previously higher Canadian dollar on industries that manufacture commodities or harvest resources for export are expected to be reversed. A stronger economy south of the border, and new free trade agreements with Europe and some Asian markets, should allow exporting industries to expand production and employment in the near future.

The **Services-producing sector** also registered net job losses in August compared to July's levels, with notable decreases in **Accommodation and food services** (-1,800 jobs) and in **Educational services** (-1,600 jobs). Compared to 12 months earlier, employment in the sector posted positive results with the addition of 800 jobs. Employment gains can be attributed to increases in the numbers employed in **Health care and social assistance**, **Professional, scientific and technical services**, and **Business, building and other support services**. Over the same period, employment declines were concentrated in three specific industry groups: **Accommodation and food services**, **Trade**, and **Public administration**.

## Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	447.7	449.5	446.7	-1.8	-0.4	1.0	0.2
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	83.8	84.9	83.5	-1.1	-1.3	0.3	0.4
Agriculture	5.4	5.4	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.0	12.0	10.9	1.0	8.3	2.1	19.3
Utilities	3.3	3.4	3.6	-0.1	-2.9	-0.3	-8.3
Construction	34.4	35.9	33.9	-1.5	-4.2	0.5	1.5
Manufacturing	27.6	28.2	29.9	-0.6	-2.1	-2.3	-7.7
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	364.0	364.6	363.2	-0.6	-0.2	0.8	0.2
Trade	72.3	71.8	74.2	0.5	0.7	-1.9	-2.6
Transportation and warehousing	21.2	20.1	21.0	1.1	5.5	0.2	1.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	24.0	24.6	22.0	-0.6	-2.4	2.0	9.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	29.0	29.2	27.3	-0.2	-0.7	1.7	6.2
Business, building and others support services	20.2	20.2	18.8	0.0	0.0	1.4	7.4
Educational services	34.7	36.3	35.0	-1.6	-4.4	-0.3	-0.9
Health care and social assistance	73.6	72.0	69.9	1.6	2.2	3.7	5.3
Information, culture and recreation	17.4	17.1	18.6	0.3	1.8	-1.2	-6.5
Accommodation and food services	28.8	30.6	31.2	-1.8	-5.9	-2.4	-7.7
Other services	16.6	16.5	17.5	0.1	0.6	-0.9	-5.1
Public administration	26.1	26.1	27.6	0.0	0.0	-1.5	-5.4

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 decreased in the economic regions of Cape Breton and Annapolis Valley between July 2014 and July of 2015 while jobs were added in the rest of the province's economic regions.

In August, employment levels in **Cape Breton** declined by 3,000 positions compared to 12 months earlier; full-time employment losses (-2,800) dominated the drop in the number of jobs. Overall employment levels in the **Services-producing sector** contracted with the loss of 3,900 positions. The weakest performing industry groups within the sector were **Accommodation and food services** (-1,600 jobs) followed by Public administration which recorded a drop of 1,400 positions compared with August 2014. Employment in the region's **Goods-producing sector** rose over the 12 month period as all industries, with the exception of **Manufacturing** and **Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas**, posted job gains. With the exception of August, the region has recorded employment increases each month compared to the same period last year.

The labour market in the **North Shore** region continues to strengthen, employment in August increased for the sixth straight month. In addition, relative to July 2014 the number employed rose by 4,300 positions as the gains in full-time employment (+7,000) more than offset the loss of part-time jobs (-2,700). Despite the increase in the

number of labour force participants, the unemployment rate declined by 3 percentage points compared to last August. At 7.4%, the region recorded the lowest monthly unemployment rate since August 2005. As was the case in the month of July, employment was higher in each industry group in the **Goods-producing sector** other than **Agriculture**, where 100 fewer people were employed. Employment increased in the **Services-producing sector** primarily from small job gains in most industry groups.

Employment levels in the **Annapolis Valley** continued on their downward trend in August, the region has recorded job losses each month since the start of the year relative to the same month in 2014. Between August 2014 and August 2015, employment in the region diminished by 3,300 jobs. The majority of the positions lost were full-time jobs. With fewer people looking for work, the unemployment rate (7.6%) decreased to its lowest level for the month of August since 2005 (7.3%). The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the employment losses in the region over the last 12 months with the **Accommodation and food services, Public administration, and Other services** industry groups experiencing the most significant decline. Combined, they accounted for over 70% of the positions lost within the sector.

In **Southern Nova Scotia**, employment levels were somewhat similar in August compared to the same month last year. While the number working full-time declined, gains in part-time employment levels more than offset the loss of full-time positions. Modest employment gains accompanied by a drop in the number of labour force participants led to a decrease in the unemployment rate in the region to 10.7% from 12.8% in August 2014.

The **Halifax** region gained 3,900 additional jobs between August 2014 and 2015. The increase in the number working full-time more than made up for the losses realized in part-time employment. Although the number of people in the labour force rose by 2,800, the unemployment rate edged down to reach 5.8%, the lowest rate recorded for the year thus far. There were fewer employed in the **Construction** and **Manufacturing** industry groups over the past year which brought employment levels down in the **Goods-producing sector** (-2,400 jobs). Strong services-sector employment growth over the past 12 months more than offset jobs losses in the **Goods-producing sector**. Compared to August of last year, the **Services-producing sector** added 6,300 jobs. The largest job gains were recorded by the **Health care and social assistance** and the **Accommodation and food services** industry groups.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Aug 2015 ('000)	Aug 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Aug 2015 (%)	Aug 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	461.8	459.6	0.5	7.8	8.8	-1.0
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Cape Breton	52.2	55.2	-5.4	13.7	12.9	0.8
North Shore	75.4	71.1	6.0	7.4	10.4	-3.0
Annapolis Valley	56.2	59.5	-5.5	7.6	8.3	-0.7
Southern	50.2	50.0	0.4	10.7	12.8	-2.1
Halifax	227.8	223.9	1.7	5.8	6.3	-0.5

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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