



# Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

January 2016



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 an employment increase in December 2015, the Nova Scotia labour market experienced a decrease in the number of employed individuals in January. The decline in the number of full-time jobs more than offset the gains in part-time positions. The month-over-month drop in employment in January was driven by overall losses in the **Goods-producing sector**. With fewer people actively looking for work, the unemployment rate fell slightly compared to December's rate. The North Shore and the Annapolis Valley were the only economic regions within the province to record an increase in employment between January 2015 and January 2016.

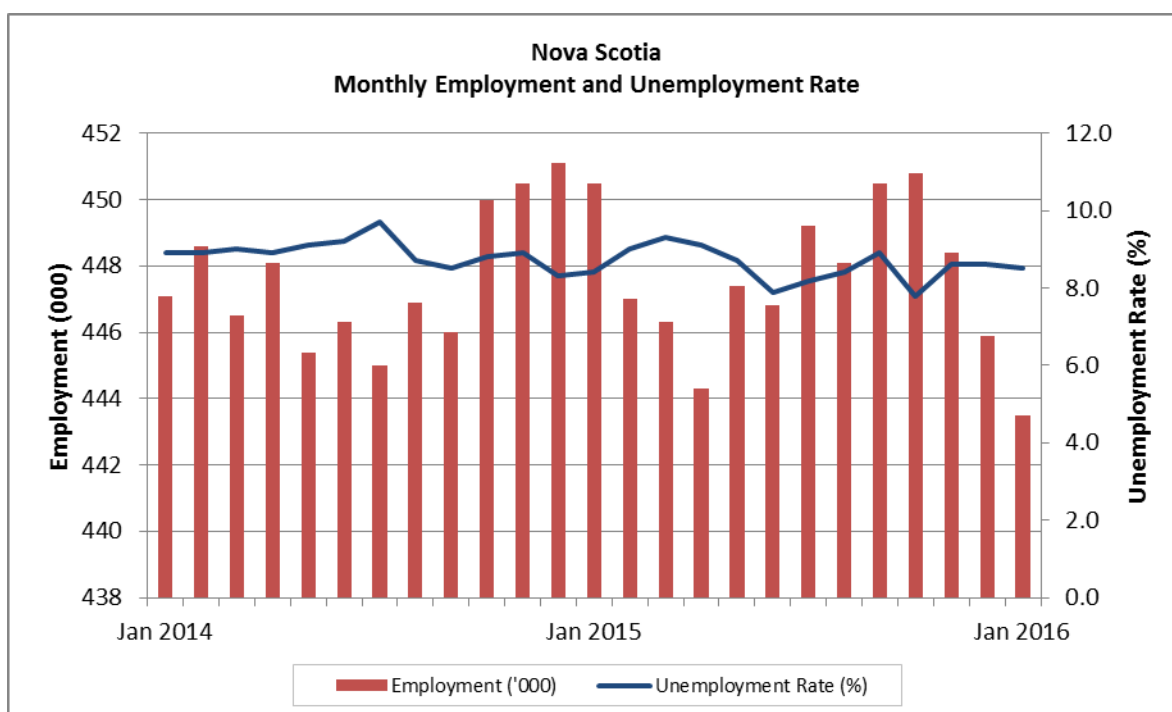
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted<br>Monthly Data | Jan 2016 | Dec 2015 | Jan 2015 | Monthly Variation |      | Yearly Variation |      |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
|                                     |          |          |          | Number            | %    | Number           | %    |
| Population 15 + ('000)              | 787.1    | 787.0    | 784.1    | 0.1               | 0.0  | 3.0              | 0.4  |
| Labour Force ('000)                 | 484.8    | 488.1    | 491.6    | -3.3              | -0.7 | -6.8             | -1.4 |
| Employment ('000)                   | 443.5    | 445.9    | 450.5    | -2.4              | -0.5 | -7.0             | -1.6 |
| Full-Time ('000)                    | 365.5    | 368.4    | 368.8    | -2.9              | -0.8 | -3.3             | -0.9 |
| Part-Time ('000)                    | 78.0     | 77.5     | 81.7     | 0.5               | 0.6  | -3.7             | -4.5 |
| Unemployment ('000)                 | 41.4     | 42.2     | 41.1     | -0.8              | -1.9 | 0.3              | 0.7  |
| Unemployment Rate (%)               | 8.5      | 8.6      | 8.4      | -0.1              | -    | 0.1              | -    |
| Participation Rate (%)              | 61.6     | 62.0     | 62.7     | -0.4              | -    | -1.1             | -    |
| Employment Rate (%)                 | 56.3     | 56.7     | 57.5     | -0.4              | -    | -1.2             | -    |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The employment level in January 2016 fell by approximately 7,000 to 443,500 relative to January 2015. The number of full-time jobs fell by 3,300; while 3,700 fewer part-time workers were employed. The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia rose slightly in January to 8.5% from last January's 8.4%.



The number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) in the labour force declined in January on a year-over-year basis, as did the number of youth with jobs. Employment fell to a greater extent than the labour force decline which increased the level of unemployment in this age group and pushed up the January 2016 youth unemployment rate to 15% from 13.7% in January of 2015. The net job losses over the 12 month period occurred solely in part-time positions.

Persons aged 25 to 54 years endured the greatest number of job losses between January 2015 and January 2016 (-5,900). Fifty-six percent of the jobs lost in this age group were part-time. A labour force decline was not large enough to prevent the unemployment rate from rising to 7.7% from 7.0% in January 2015.

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

| Seasonally Adjusted Data  | Jan 2016 | Dec 2015 | Jan 2015 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
|                           | %        | %        | %        | (% points)        | (% points)       |
| <b>Total</b>              | 8.5      | 8.6      | 8.4      | -0.1              | 0.1              |
| <b>25 years and over</b>  | 7.4      | 7.5      | 7.4      | -0.1              | 0.0              |
| Men - 25 years and over   | 8.7      | 8.7      | 8.1      | 0.0               | 0.6              |
| Women - 25 years and over | 6.1      | 6.3      | 6.6      | -0.2              | -0.5             |
| <b>15 to 24 years</b>     | 15.0     | 15.4     | 13.7     | -0.4              | 1.3              |
| Men - 15 to 24 years      | 17.5     | 15.6     | 19.7     | 1.9               | -2.2             |
| Women - 15 to 24 years    | 12.1     | 15.2     | 7.1      | -3.1              | 5.0              |

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

The number of employed older workers aged 55 years or over increased by 2,100 this January compared to January of 2015. Fewer in this age group were working full time in January, but a rise in part-time employment more than compensated for the full-time job losses in the overall employment count. Furthermore, the number of unemployed older workers declined this January resulting in an unemployment rate of 6.6%, down from 8.7% in January 2015.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** decreased in January due to employment losses in **Agriculture** (-2,200), and **Construction** (-1,000). **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** and **Manufacturing** were the only industry groups in the sector to expand employment levels in January. The number of people working in the **Goods-producing sector** contracted somewhat over the past 12-month period as a result of employment losses in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas, Agriculture** and **Construction**. Employment gains in **Manufacturing** have helped to partially offset decreases in employment within the sector.

The **Services-producing sector** recorded a slight overall employment gain in January compared to December's employment level. Despite this job gain, **Trade** employment was down by 2,400 in January and **Business, building and other support services** employment decreased by 1,400. Relative to January 2015, the **Services-producing sector** experienced greater job losses compared to the **Goods-producing sector**. **Services-producing sector** employment declined by 6,200; 4,600 in **Trade**, 3,800 in **Business, building and other support services** and 3,500 in **Information, culture and recreation**. Over the same 12-month period, the **Education, Health care**, and **Public administration** industry groups showed some job gains. **Trade** employment continued its two-year decline from the January 2013 level.

## Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted<br>Data ('000)                | Jan 2016 | Dec 2015 | Jan 2015 | Monthly Variation |       | Yearly Variation |       |
|---|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
|   |          |          |          | Number            | %     | Number           | %     |
| <b>Total employed, all industries</b>             | 443.5    | 445.9    | 450.5    | -2.4              | -0.5  | -7.0             | -1.6  |
| <b>Goods-producing sector</b>                     | 82.2     | 84.8     | 83.0     | -2.6              | -3.1  | -0.8             | -1.0  |
| Agriculture                                       | 3.8      | 6.0      | 5.0      | -2.2              | -36.7 | -1.2             | -24.0 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 11.8     | 10.8     | 12.4     | 1.0               | 9.3   | -0.6             | -4.8  |
| Utilities   | 3.3      | 3.8      | 3.6      | -0.5              | -13.2 | -0.3             | -8.3  |
| Construction                                      | 32.5     | 33.5     | 34.0     | -1.0              | -3.0  | -1.5             | -4.4  |
| Manufacturing                                     | 30.9     | 30.8     | 28.0     | 0.1               | 0.3   | 2.9              | 10.4  |
| <b>Services-producing sector</b>                  | 361.3    | 361.0    | 367.5    | 0.3               | 0.1   | -6.2             | -1.7  |
| Trade   | 68.8     | 71.2     | 73.4     | -2.4              | -3.4  | -4.6             | -6.3  |
| Transportation and warehousing                    | 20.6     | 20.5     | 21.5     | 0.1               | 0.5   | -0.9             | -4.2  |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing       | 24.0     | 24.6     | 22.3     | -0.6              | -2.4  | 1.7              | 7.6   |
| Professional, scientific and technical services   | 26.9     | 25.9     | 27.3     | 1.0               | 3.9   | -0.4             | -1.5  |
| Business, building and other support services     | 16.5     | 17.9     | 20.3     | -1.4              | -7.8  | -3.8             | -18.7 |
| Educational services                              | 37.8     | 36.6     | 36.2     | 1.2               | 3.3   | 1.6              | 4.4   |
| Health care and social assistance                 | 73.1     | 72.1     | 71.1     | 1.0               | 1.4   | 2.0              | 2.8   |
| Information, culture and recreation               | 15.5     | 16.1     | 19.0     | -0.6              | -3.7  | -3.5             | -18.4 |
| Accommodation and food services                   | 31.1     | 30.0     | 32.8     | 1.1               | 3.7   | -1.7             | -5.2  |
| Other services                                    | 19.1     | 18.7     | 16.7     | 0.4               | 2.1   | 2.4              | 14.4  |
| Public administration                             | 27.7     | 27.6     | 26.9     | 0.1               | 0.4   | 0.8              | 3.0   |

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 and the Annapolis Valley economic region between January 2015 and January of 2016. Job losses occurred in every other economic region within the province over this same period.

There were 6,200 fewer workers employed in the **Cape Breton** region in January compared to 12-months earlier. Employment in the region has decreased in each of the last six consecutive months. January's year-over-year job losses took place mostly among full-time positions (61%) and within the **Services-producing sector**. **Trade and Information, culture and recreation** accounted for the largest share of the job losses, but **Accommodation and**

**food services** and **Business, building, and other support services** also underwent significant employment reductions. Overall employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** expanded with a gain of 900 positions. The weakest performing industry group within the sector was **Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas** which registered a loss of 1,800 jobs compared to January 2015. **Manufacturing** and **Construction**, however, has added 2,600 jobs to the sector over the last year.

Employment in the **North Shore** region fell in January by 2,900 positions, and the vast majority (80%) of the jobs lost were full-time. The unemployment rate rose to 8.7% from 7.8% in December. Despite consecutive monthly employment declines since October, the January job market is still in better shape than it was a year ago. Employment has risen by 7,400 jobs since January 2015 and there were 7,600 more full-time jobs in the region this month. The unemployment rate last January was three percentage points higher at 11.7%. The employment gains over the last 12 months took place in both the **Goods-producing sector** and the **Services-producing sector**. The services sector accounted for 62% of all job gains, most notably in **Trade** (+1,800). **Construction** and **Manufacturing** led job growth in the **Goods-producing sector**.

Employment in the **Annapolis Valley** region declined for the second month in a row in January. Between January 2015 and January 2016 however, the region's employment level has expanded by 1,200 jobs, although all of these were part-time positions. Additional **Manufacturing** jobs boosted employment growth within the **Goods-producing sector** while substantial employment gains in **Trade** were responsible for a marginal net job gain within the **Service-producing sector**. The **Goods-producing sector** accounted for 92% of the overall employment increases between January 2015 and January 2016.

The **Southern** region saw its employment level decline for the sixth straight month in January. There were 3,100 fewer positions compared to January 2015, with a loss of 4,700 full-time positions accounting for the employment decline, net of part-time gains. The overall employment decline added 2,200 persons to the ranks of the unemployed and the unemployment rate climbed to 11.5% from 10.1% in January 2015. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the region's entire net job losses in the last 12 months. Several industry groups in the sector experienced employment declines, but the **Health care and social assistance** industry group accounted for 81% of the positions lost. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** remained unchanged from last January's employment level with job losses in **Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas** equally balanced by employment gains in the **Manufacturing, Agriculture** and **Construction** industry groups.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| 3-Month Moving Averages<br>Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment         |                    |                            | Unemployment Rate |                 |                                   |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
|   | Jan 2016<br>('000) | Jan 2015<br>('000) | Yearly<br>Variation<br>(%) | Jan 2016<br>(%)   | Jan 2015<br>(%) | Yearly<br>Variation<br>(% points) |
| <b>Nova Scotia</b>                                    | 439.2              | 443.9              | -1.1                       | 8.7               | 8.6             | 0.1                               |
| <b>Economic Regions</b>                               |                    |                    |                            |                   |                 |                                   |
| Cape Breton   | 43.6               | 49.8               | -12.4                      | 17.3              | 15.2            | 2.1                               |
| North Shore   | 70.3               | 62.9               | 11.8                       | 8.7               | 11.7            | -3.0                              |
| Annapolis Valley                                      | 54.2               | 53.0               | 2.3                        | 7.7               | 7.3             | 0.4                               |
| Southern  | 47.8               | 50.9               | -6.1                       | 11.5              | 10.1            | 1.4                               |
| Halifax   | 223.3              | 227.2              | -1.7                       | 6.5               | 6.1             | 0.4                               |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

January became the fourth consecutive month of employment decline in the **Halifax** region with a loss of 1,800 jobs. The region has lost 3,900 jobs over the last year between January 2015 and January 2016. A decrease in

part-time employment (-5,800 jobs) over the last 12 months more than offset the gains realized in full-time employment (+1,900 positions). The labour force also contracted, but by less than the employment decline, which added to the number of unemployed and pushed the January 2016 unemployment rate up to 6.5% from 6.1% in January of last year. Over the last 12 months, most jobs losses occurred in the **Services-producing sector** (85%). The **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group saw its employment level decline substantially by 6,300 workers and **Information, culture and recreation** employment has fallen by 3,600. Employment rose by 6,600 however, in the **Education, Health care** and **Public administration** industry groups. A decline in **Manufacturing** employment brought the **Goods-producing sector** employment level down by 600.

***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.*

**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](mailto:NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

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