



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

November 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

Employment in Nova Scotia increased in November from the previous month due to a greater number of persons working in part-time positions. Fewer people were employed full-time however, which limited the overall employment gain. A substantial number of job seekers entered the labour force in November, in excess of the employment gain, which increased the number of unemployed and pushed the unemployment rate upward.

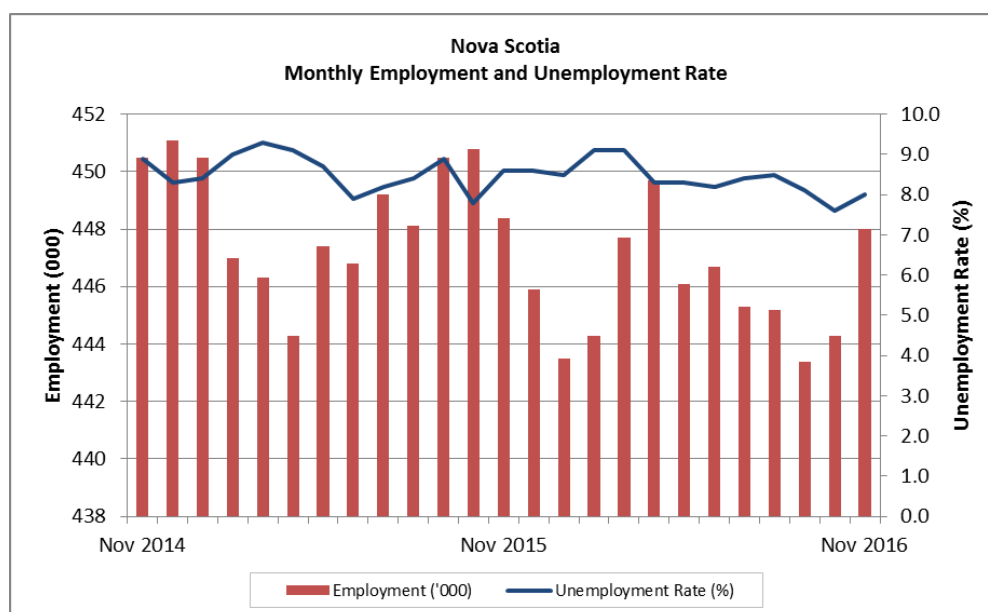
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2016	Oct 2016	Nov 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	789.8	789.7	786.8	0.1	0.0	3.0	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	487.0	481.1	490.8	5.9	1.2	-3.8	-0.8
Employment ('000)	448.0	444.3	448.4	3.7	0.8	-0.4	-0.1
Full-Time ('000)	360.6	360.8	373.9	-0.2	-0.1	-13.3	-3.6
Part-Time ('000)	87.4	83.6	74.6	3.8	4.5	12.8	17.2
Unemployment ('000)	39.0	36.8	42.4	2.2	6.0	-3.4	-8.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	7.6	8.6	0.4	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.7	60.9	62.4	0.8	-	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.7	56.3	57.0	0.4	-	-0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

A year-over-year comparison shows only a slight decline in employment for the province in November. However, over 13,000 full-time positions were either eliminated or reduced to part-time hours over this period. The unemployment rate has fallen 0.6 percentage points since last November. Over the year-long period, however, the unemployment rate rose as high as 9.1%, before dropping to its current estimate of 8.0%.



On a year-over-year basis, the number of youth (aged 15 to 24) in the labour force declined, as did the number employed. All of the jobs lost were full-time. The youth unemployment rate increased slightly, because of the lower employment level. Males accounted for 68% of the jobs lost in this age group and historically have had much higher unemployment rates than their female counterparts.

Persons aged 25 to 54 years also suffered job losses between November 2015 and November 2016, and all of which in full-time positions. A substantial labour force decrease during this period resulted in the unemployment rate falling rather sharply, going from 7.5% to 6.2%.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2016	Oct 2016	Nov 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.0	7.6	8.6	0.4	-0.6
25 years and over	6.8	6.6	7.5	0.2	-0.7
Men - 25 years and over	8.7	9.0	9.0	-0.3	-0.3
Women - 25 years and over	4.9	4.0	6.0	0.9	-1.1
15 to 24 years	15.5	14.3	15.3	1.2	0.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.5	16.5	15.2	1.0	2.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.3	12.0	15.5	1.3	-2.2

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

The number of employed older workers (aged 55 years and over) was larger in November compared to the same month last year. An increase in employment was observed in both full-time and part-time positions. The number of unemployed job seekers in this age group was also higher this November, which increased the unemployment rate by almost a full percentage point from a year ago. An aging population is likely contributing to both higher labour force and employment numbers in this age group, as more persons are turning 55 years of age each year.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

November's employment gain occurred in both the goods and services sectors. In the **Goods-producing sector**, employment expanded in **Construction, Agriculture and Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**, which overshadowed employment declines in **Manufacturing**. Compared to a year ago however, employment was down in the goods sector because of fewer jobs in **Manufacturing and Agriculture**. These two industries have been impacted by closures in food and beverage processing over the past year.

Overall **Services-sector** employment increased in November from the previous month due to increases in **Accommodation and food services, Public administration and Health care and social assistance**. On a year-over-year basis, employment in the sector was up from last November, with **Wholesale and Retail Sales** accounting for the largest increase, followed by **Other services**.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2016	Oct 2016	Nov 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	448.0	444.3	448.4	3.7	0.8	-0.4	-0.1
Goods-producing sector	82.8	81.2	85.4	1.6	2.0	-2.6	-3.0
Agriculture	4.9	4.7	5.7	0.2	4.3	-0.8	-14.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	12.4	12.2	11.3	0.2	1.6	1.1	9.7
Utilities	3.4	3.5	3.8	-0.1	-2.9	-0.4	-10.5
Construction	33.7	31.9	33.9	1.8	5.6	-0.2	-0.6
Manufacturing	28.4	28.9	30.6	-0.5	-1.7	-2.2	-7.2
Services-producing sector	365.2	363.2	363.1	2.0	0.6	2.1	0.6
Trade	74.1	74.1	71.3	0.0	0.0	2.8	3.9
Transportation and warehousing	19.7	19.5	20.6	0.2	1.0	-0.9	-4.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	23.3	23.0	24.0	0.3	1.3	-0.7	-2.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.1	27.6	25.9	-0.5	-1.8	1.2	4.6
Business, building and other support services	16.8	17.1	19.1	-0.3	-1.8	-2.3	-12.0
Educational services	36.3	36.0	35.9	0.3	0.8	0.4	1.1
Health care and social assistance	74.6	74.0	73.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.5
Information, culture and recreation	16.2	16.4	16.5	-0.2	-1.2	-0.3	-1.8
Accommodation and food services	28.3	27.1	29.8	1.2	4.4	-1.5	-5.0
Other services	20.1	20.2	18.6	-0.1	-0.5	1.5	8.1
Public administration	28.7	28.0	27.8	0.7	2.5	0.9	3.2

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 the province's economic regions (Halifax and Cape Breton) between November 2015 and November 2016. The North Shore, the Annapolis Valley and Southern Nova Scotia all experienced employment losses over the year. Despite the employment changes, all regions in the province have seen their unemployment rate fall since last November, largely due to labour force declines.

The **Cape Breton** economic region saw a slight expansion in its employment level in November, compared to the same month last year. The job gains took place solely among part-time positions. Overall employment in the **Goods-producing sector** was higher because of job gains in **Construction and Manufacturing**. Job losses within **Health care and social assistance, Educational services** and the **Accommodation and food services** industry group accounted for an overall employment decrease for the **Services-producing sector**.

Employment in the **North Shore** region in November 2016 was down by almost 5,000 compared to November of last year. Roughly two-thirds of the losses were in full-time positions. The unemployment rate managed to de-

crease during this period however, because of a large decline in the size of the labour force in the region. The employment decline took place in the **Services-producing sector**. The **Wholesale and retail trade** subsector experienced the greatest employment decline followed by **Transportation and warehousing**. **Accommodation and food services** as well as **Professional, scientific and technical services** also saw substantial job losses over the 12 month period.

The **Annapolis Valley** region saw its employment level decline between November 2015 and 2016, but the jobs lost were part-time. The unemployment rate dropped from 6.7% to 6.4% due to a labour force decline. The overall employment level in the **Goods-producing sector** was down compared to last November, because of fewer jobs in both **Construction** and **Agriculture**. The **Services-producing sector** added jobs over the year, with the largest gains noted in **Professional, scientific and technical services**, and **Information, culture and recreation**.

The **Southern** region saw its year-over-year employment level decline in November, following losses in part-time positions. The unemployment rate moved downward a half of a percentage point, coinciding with the job losses. The **Goods-producing sector** accounted for the overall employment decline in the region, with job losses occurring in every industry group in the sector. The largest employment decline took place in **Manufacturing**. Employment gains in **Health care and social assistance** and **Public administration** were responsible for an overall job gain within the **Services-producing sector**.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2016 ('000)	Nov 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Nov 2016 (%)	Nov 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	449.5	453.8	-0.9	7.1	7.7	-0.6
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	48.4	48.1	0.6	12.8	14.0	-1.2
North Shore	70.1	75.0	-6.5	7.3	7.9	-0.6
Annapolis Valley	55.4	55.8	-0.7	6.4	6.7	-0.3
Southern	47.9	48.8	-1.8	10.0	10.5	-0.5
Halifax	227.7	226.2	0.7	5.4	5.8	-0.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Job growth in the Halifax region has been minimal over the past 12 months, held back by losses in full-time positions. Both the level of unemployment and the unemployment rate were down slightly in response to the small job gain. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** benefited from greater **Construction** activity in addition to stronger hiring in the **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas** subsector. Overall, however, the **Goods** sector saw a small employment decline due to lower **Manufacturing** and **Agriculture** employment.

Halifax's **Services-producing sector** saw its employment base grow from a year ago in November. There were almost 6,000 new jobs in **Wholesale and retail trade**, while **Educational services** also saw healthy job gains. On the other hand, some industries recorded employment declines over the past year. **Public administration** accounted for the largest number of jobs lost but other industry groups including **Business, building and other support services**, and **Accommodation and food services** also experienced a decline in employment.

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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