



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

February 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 a January employment decline, the Nova Scotia labour market experienced an employment increase in February. A decrease in the number of full-time jobs was more than offset by gains in part-time positions. The month-over-month employment increase in February was driven by overall gains in the **Goods-producing sector**. A substantial labour force expansion added to the number of people actively looking for work in February and pushed the unemployment rate upwards to 9.1% from 8.5% in January.

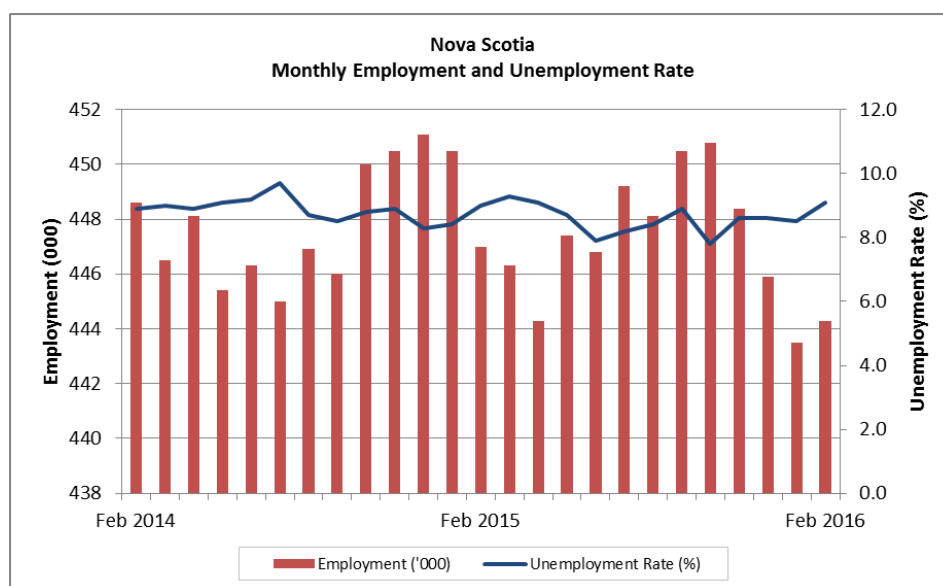
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	787.4	787.1	784.2	0.3	0.0	3.2	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	488.8	484.8	491.4	4.0	0.8	-2.6	-0.5
Employment ('000)	444.3	443.5	447.0	0.8	0.2	-2.7	-0.6
Full-Time ('000)	364.8	365.5	367.1	-0.7	-0.2	-2.3	-0.6
Part-Time ('000)	79.4	78.0	79.9	1.4	1.8	-0.5	-0.6
Unemployment ('000)	44.5	41.4	44.4	3.1	7.5	0.1	0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.1	8.5	9.0	0.6	-	0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.1	61.6	62.7	0.5	-	-0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.4	56.3	57.0	0.1	-	-0.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Despite an encouraging February employment outcome relative to the previous month, a year-over-year comparison raises some concern. Employment is down this February when compared to February 2015 and most (85%) of the decline has been in full-time jobs. Looking back further still, employment for the month of February hasn't been this low since 2006. The labour force is also lower than it was in February last year and is down by over 12,000 from its highest February level reached in 2013.



The number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) in the labour force declined in February on a year-over-year basis, as did the number of employed youth. The labour force fell to a greater extent than the employment decline which lowered the level of unemployment in this age group and nudged the February 2016 youth unemployment rate down to 14% from 14.5% in February of 2015. The net job losses over the 12 month period occurred almost entirely (91%) in part-time positions.

Persons aged 25 to 54 years endured the greatest number of job losses between February 2015 and February 2016 (-7,200). All net jobs lost in this age group were full-time. A labour force decline was not large enough to prevent the unemployment rate from rising to 8.3% from 7.9% in February 2015.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	9.1	8.5	9.0	0.6	0.1
25 years and over	8.3	7.4	8.0	0.9	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	10.0	8.7	9.6	1.3	0.4
Women - 25 years and over	6.5	6.1	6.4	0.4	0.1
15 to 24 years	14.0	15.0	14.5	-1.0	-0.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.1	17.5	18.8	-1.4	-2.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.6	12.1	9.7	-0.5	1.9

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

The number of employed older workers aged 55 years or over, increased by 6,600 this February compared to February of 2015. Fewer in this age group were working part time in February, but a substantial rise in full-time employment more than compensated for the part-time job losses. The labour force increased this February but not by enough to prevent a slight unemployment rate decline to 8.3%, from 8.4% in February 2015.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** increased on a month-over-month basis in February due to job gains in **Agriculture** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**. The **Manufacturing** industry group however, sustained an employment decline of 900 jobs. The number of people working in the **Goods-producing sector** has also expanded over the past 12-months as a result of employment gains in the **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**, and **Manufacturing** industry groups.

The **Services-producing sector** recorded a slight overall employment decline in February 2016 compared to the January employment level. **Public administration** employment was down by 1,600 in February, and **Professional, scientific and technical services** employment decreased by 800. Relative to February 2015, the **Services-producing sector** has lost 6,700 jobs; 4,900 in **Business, building and other support services**, 3,600 in **Wholesale and retail trade** and 3,100 in **Information, culture and recreation**. Over the same 12-month period, the **Educational services** and **Health care and social assistance** industry groups showed some job gains. **Wholesale and retail trade** continued a three-year decline from its February 2013 employment level.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	444.3	443.5	447.0	0.8	0.2	-2.7	-0.6
Goods-producing sector	83.1	82.2	79.2	0.9	1.1	3.9	4.9
Agriculture	5.4	3.8	5.2	1.6	42.1	0.2	3.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	12.3	11.8	10.6	0.5	4.2	1.7	16.0
Utilities	3.1	3.3	3.6	-0.2	-6.1	-0.5	-13.9
Construction	32.3	32.5	32.0	-0.2	-0.6	0.3	0.9
Manufacturing	30.0	30.9	27.8	-0.9	-2.9	2.2	7.9
Services-producing sector	361.1	361.3	367.8	-0.2	-0.1	-6.7	-1.8
Trade	69.0	68.8	72.6	0.2	0.3	-3.6	-5.0
Transportation and warehousing	20.6	20.6	20.7	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	24.2	24.0	22.6	0.2	0.8	1.6	7.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	26.1	26.9	27.8	-0.8	-3.0	-1.7	-6.1
Business, building and other support services	16.9	16.5	21.8	0.4	2.4	-4.9	-22.5
Educational services	38.0	37.8	36.2	0.2	0.5	1.8	5.0
Health care and social assistance	74.4	73.1	71.0	1.3	1.8	3.4	4.8
Information, culture and recreation	16.1	15.5	19.2	0.6	3.9	-3.1	-16.1
Accommodation and food services	30.7	31.1	32.7	-0.4	-1.3	-2.0	-6.1
Other services	18.9	19.1	16.5	-0.2	-1.0	2.4	14.5
Public administration	26.1	27.7	26.8	-1.6	-5.8	-0.7	-2.6

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 both the North Shore and the Annapolis Valley economic regions between February 2015 and February of 2016. Overall employment declines occurred in every other economic region in the province over this same period.

There were 6,600 fewer workers employed in the **Cape Breton** economic region in February 2016 compared to 12-months earlier. February's year-over-year job losses took place mostly among full-time positions (59%). Within the **Services-producing sector, Wholesale and retail trade, Business, building, and other support services** and **Transportation and Warehousing** accounted for the largest share of the job losses, but **Accommodation and food services** also underwent significant employment reductions. Overall employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** contracted as well with a loss of 2,600 positions. The weakest performing industry group within the sector was **Construction** which registered a loss of 2,100 jobs compared to February 2015.

Employment in the **North Shore** region was up in February 2016 by 5,100 positions from February 2015, and all of the new jobs were full-time. The unemployment rate was lower by over three percentage points to 9.4% from 12.6% last February. The employment gains took place in both the **Goods-producing sector** and the **Services-producing sector**. **Health care and social assistance** and **Other services** accounted for the greatest services-sector job gains, while **Construction** and **Manufacturing** led job growth in the **Goods-producing sector**.

The **Annapolis Valley** region also experienced an employment increase between February 2015 and February 2016, expanding by 1,500 jobs, although all of these positions were part-time. The unemployment rate was lower at 8.4%, down from 8.8% a year ago because of the higher employment level. Additional **Manufacturing** jobs boosted employment growth within the **Goods-producing sector** while substantial employment gains in **Wholesale and retail trade** were responsible for a net job gain within the **Services-producing sector**. The **Goods-producing sector** accounted for 60% of the overall employment increase between February 2015 and February 2016.

The **Southern** region saw its year-over-year employment level decline in February 2016. There were 1,900 fewer positions compared to February 2015, with a loss of 3,900 full-time jobs accounting for the employment decline, net of part-time gains. The unemployment rate climbed to 11.2% from 10.6% in February 2015. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the region's overall job losses. Several industry groups in the sector experienced employment declines, but the **Health care and social assistance** industry group accounted for 71% of the jobs lost. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** showed some growth because of job gains in the **Manufacturing and Agriculture** industry groups.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2016 ('000)	Feb 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Feb 2016 (%)	Feb 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	433.7	439.0	-1.2	9.3	9.1	0.2
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	43.4	50.0	-13.2	18.9	14.7	4.2
North Shore	67.7	62.6	8.1	9.4	12.6	-3.2
Annapolis Valley	53.4	51.9	2.9	8.4	8.8	-0.4
Southern	47.8	49.7	-3.8	11.2	10.6	0.6
Halifax	221.4	224.8	-1.5	7.0	6.4	0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The **Halifax** economic region displayed an employment decline of 3,400 jobs in February 2016 compared to February 2015. A decrease in part-time employment (-4,600 jobs) over the last 12 months more than offset the gains in full-time employment (+1,300 positions). The labour force also contracted, but by less than the employment decline, which added to the number of unemployed and pushed the February 2016 unemployment rate up to 7.0% from 6.4% in February last year. Over the last 12 months, most of the job losses occurred in the **Services-producing sector** (85%). The **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group saw its employment level decline substantially by 5,400 workers and **Information, culture and recreation** employment was lower by 3,300. Employment rose by 5,600 however, in the **Educational services, Health care and social assistance** and **Public administration** industry groups. A decline in employment in **Manufacturing** brought the **Goods-producing sector** employment level down by 1,100.

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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