



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

March 2016



The Quarterly Edition of the Labour Market Bulletin is a look back over the past three months, providing an analysis of quarterly 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 continues to show signs of weakness. Despite successive employment increases in February and March, the overall number of people employed in the province declined by 3,200 jobs in the first quarter of 2016 as compared to fourth quarter 2015 levels. All of the jobs lost were full-time positions; whereas, the number of part-time jobs rose somewhat. The employment drop was largely driven by losses in the **Goods-producing sector**. First quarter data suggests that women in Nova Scotia fared slightly better than their male counterparts in the job market as the majority of the jobs lost in this three-month period were positions held by men. On a year-over-year basis employment in the province is also down; however, the decline is somewhat smaller (-2,800). Employment for the first quarter is at its lowest level since 2006.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	787.4	786.8	784.2	0.6	0.1	3.2	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	488.8	489.2	491.7	-0.5	-0.1	-2.9	-0.6
Employment ('000)	445.2	448.4	447.9	-3.2	-0.7	-2.8	-0.6
Full-Time ('000)	366.7	371.2	366.0	-4.5	-1.2	0.7	0.2
Part-Time ('000)	78.4	77.2	81.9	1.2	1.6	-3.5	-4.3
Unemployment ('000)	43.6	40.9	43.7	2.8	6.8	-0.1	-0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.9	8.3	8.9	0.6	-	0.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.1	62.2	62.7	-0.1	-	-0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.5	57.0	57.1	-0.5	-	-0.6	-

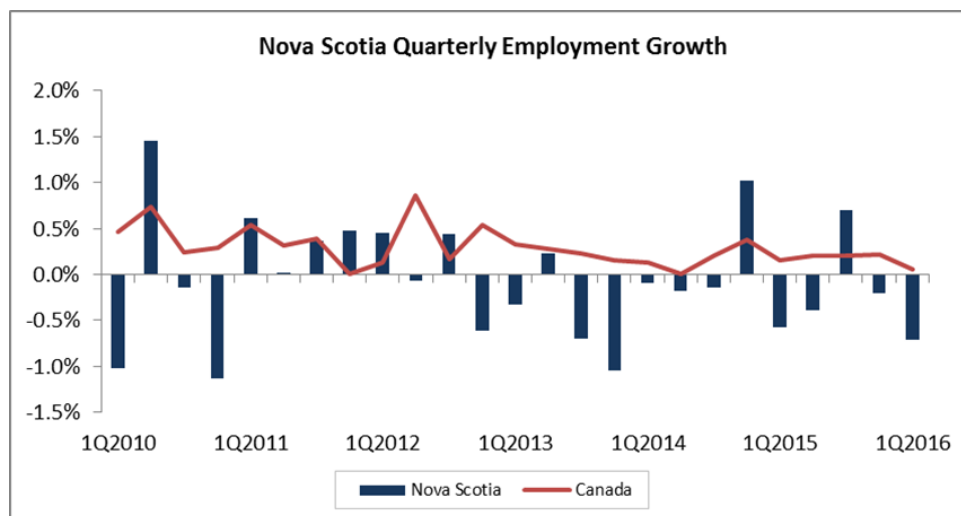
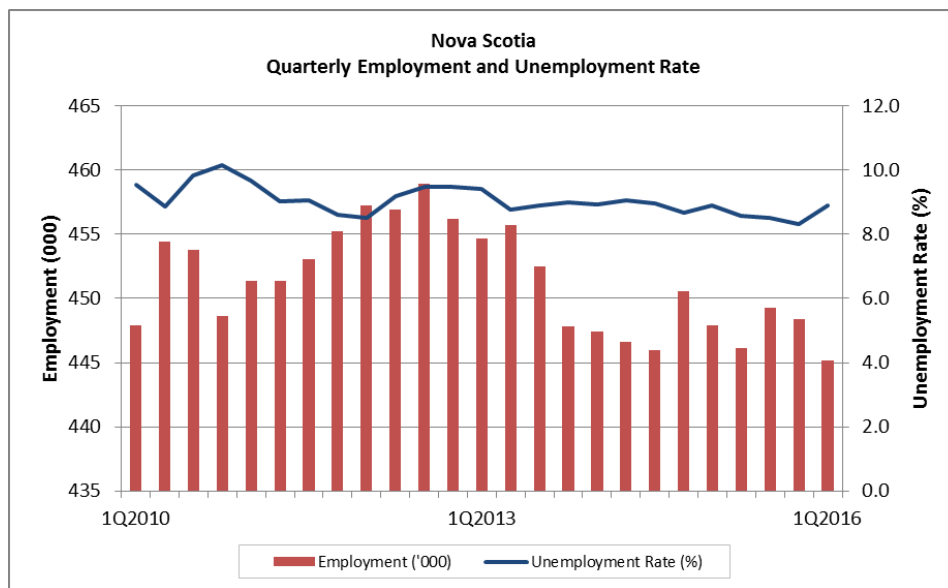
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The decrease in employment in the first quarter was substantially larger than the decline in the number of people participating in the labour force. Consequently the number of unemployed rose, which pushed the unem-

ployment rate upwards to 8.9% from 8.3% in the previous quarter, but was unchanged relative to the first quarter 12 months ago.

Employment losses in the first quarter resulted from an equal decline in the number of private-sector and public-sector employees (-1,700 positions in each sector). In contrast, there were 2,000 additional public-sector positions compared to a year earlier; whereas, the number of private-sector employees has contracted by 3,900 positions over the same period. The number of self-employed rose slightly during the first three months of 2016, but there were fewer self-employed workers relative to first quarter 2015 results (-900 positions).



The vast majority of job losses for the January-to-March period can be attributed to a drop in the number employed in the 25 to 54 years of age category. Overall they held 3,900 fewer positions compared to the previous three months, as the loss of full-time jobs overshadowed the increase in the number working part time. The number of those aged 25 to 54 years employed is also down compared to the same three-month period in 2015. The number participating in the labour force declined compared to both the previous quarter and to the first

quarter of 2015 by 1,800 and 5,700, respectively. At 7.9%, the unemployment rate recorded for this age category is at its highest level since 2011.

While the number of employed older workers aged 55 years or over was relatively unchanged from the previous quarter, there were 6,300 additional older workers employed in the first quarter of 2016 compared to 12 months earlier. As more older-workers entered the labour market during the January-to-March time period, the unemployment rate edged upwards to 7.6% from 6.9% in the previous quarter. Nonetheless, it is 1.2 percentage points below 2015 first quarter levels.

The youth component of the labour force, aged 15 to 24 years, recorded gains in employment during the first three months of 2016; however, compared to 12 months earlier they have experienced a 5% or 3,300 drop in the number employed. All of these positions lost were full-time jobs. Females in this age group recorded a substantial increase in unemployment rates, approximately five percentage points, over the 12 month period as the decline in the number in the labour force was significantly smaller than the decrease in the number of employed.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	2015 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.9	8.3	8.9	0.6	0.0
25 years and over	7.8	7.1	7.9	0.7	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	9.3	8.3	9.3	1.0	0.0
Women - 25 years and over	6.3	5.8	6.5	0.5	-0.2
15 to 24 years	15.3	15.8	14.1	-0.5	1.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.6	16.0	18.8	0.6	-2.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.7	15.6	8.8	-1.9	4.9

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

In the first quarter of 2016, the total population aged 15 and over in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.97 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4%, or 66,500, of this population. Employment among the Indigenous population stood at 31,700 representing a decline of -4,100 (-11.5%) from a year earlier. Full-time positions accounted for all of the jobs lost (-4,100), the decline was partially offset by an increase in part-time positions (+100 jobs).

In the first quarter of 2016, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population increased significantly to 23.9% from 15.8% a year earlier. By comparison, the unemployment rate for the non-Indigenous population was unchanged at 11.5%. The participation rates among both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations declined slightly year-over-year to 62.5% and 60.4%, respectively. Over the same period, the employment rate of both the Indigenous population and non-Indigenous population decreased to 47.6% and 53.5%, respectively.

Atlantic Canada - Labour market indicators for Indigenous people

Not Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter 2016		1st Quarter 2015	Yearly Variation	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	66.5	1,908.3	65.0	1.5	2.3%
Labour Force ('000)	41.6	1,152.8	42.5	-0.9	-2.1%
Employment ('000)	31.7	1,020.1	35.8	-4.1	-11.5%
Full-Time ('000)	25.4	837.5	29.5	-4.1	-13.9%
Part-Time ('000)	6.3	182.6	6.2	0.1	1.6%
Unemployment ('000)	9.9	132.7	6.7	3.2	47.8%
Unemployment Rate (%)	23.9	11.5	15.8	8.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.5	60.4	65.3	-2.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	47.6	53.5	55.0	-7.4	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve. Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages. Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – ESDC custom table.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Close to two-thirds of the job losses which occurred during the first quarter of 2016 were in the **Goods-producing sector**. Employment levels in the sector contracted by 2,100 positions relative to the fourth quarter of 2015. Fewer jobs in **Agriculture** (-1,300) along with the 1,000 reduction in people employed in **Construction** led the overall net decline in employment. The **Goods-producing sector** has largely been on a downward trend since 2008. However, compared to first quarter 2015 levels, the Sector added 2,200 jobs thus far this year. These jobs gains were concentrated in the **Manufacturing** industry group which most likely resulted from a weakened Canadian dollar relative to the U.S dollar combined with a stronger economy south of the border.

Employment in the **Services-producing sector** decreased during the first three months of 2016 compared to both the previous quarter and first quarter 2015 levels. The sector lost 1,200 positions relative the 2015 October-to-December period and 5,000 positions compared to the first quarter of 2015. **Business, building and other support services** and **Wholesale and retail trade** recorded the largest number of jobs losses during both time periods. Combined, they accounted for 65% of the positions lost compared to the previous quarter and to 60% the drop in employment in the Sector compared a year earlier. There are now 11,200 less people employed in **Business, building and other support services** and 9,300 fewer employed in **Wholesale and retail trade** compared to the first-quarter peak highs in 2006.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	445.2	448.4	447.9	-3.2	-0.7	-2.8	-0.6
Goods-producing sector	82.9	85.0	80.8	-2.1	-2.4	2.2	2.7
Agriculture	4.5	5.8	5.1	-1.3	-22.5	-0.6	-11.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	12.1	11.2	11.5	0.9	8.0	0.6	5.2
Utilities	3.1	3.8	3.7	-0.6	-16.8	-0.6	-15.3
Construction	32.8	33.8	32.7	-0.9	-2.8	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	30.4	30.5	27.7	-0.1	-0.3	2.7	9.7
Services-producing sector	362.2	363.4	367.2	-1.2	-0.3	-5.0	-1.4
Trade	68.9	71.1	73.0	-2.2	-3.1	-4.1	-5.6
Transportation and warehousing	20.9	20.7	20.8	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	23.8	24.2	22.3	-0.4	-1.8	1.5	6.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	26.7	26.5	27.2	0.3	1.0	-0.4	-1.6
Business, building and other support services	17.0	18.7	21.4	-1.7	-9.1	-4.4	-20.4
Educational services	38.1	36.3	36.2	1.8	4.9	1.9	5.2
Health care and social assistance	73.9	73.0	71.2	0.9	1.2	2.7	3.8
Information, culture and recreation	16.0	16.4	19.0	-0.4	-2.4	-3.0	-15.9
Accommodation and food services	31.2	29.8	32.8	1.4	4.8	-1.6	-4.8
Other services	18.8	18.6	16.5	0.2	1.3	2.3	13.9
Public administration	26.7	28.0	27.0	-1.3	-4.5	-0.2	-0.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in the two regions of Northern Nova Scotia and the Annapolis Valley during the first quarter of 2016 when compared with the same quarter in 2015. The Halifax and Southern regions recorded slight decreases in employment levels, while employment in Cape Breton contracted by 12.4%.

In the first quarter of 2016, employment in **Cape Breton** declined by 6,200 jobs relative to the same three-month period in 2015. The region's unemployment rate rose to 19.4% in the first quarter of 2016 from 16.2% 12 months earlier. The job losses during this period were shared equally between full- and part-time positions. The **Services-producing sector** recorded the largest net job losses; the biggest employment declines occurred in the **Transportation and warehousing** and **Business, building and other support services** industry groups. The **Goods-producing sector** also saw employment declines led by sizable losses in **Construction**.

In the **North Shore**, employment in the first quarter of 2016 expanded by 2,400 jobs compared with the same quarter in 2015. Almost all of the job gains were full-time positions (+1,900). The region's labour force rose by less than the increase in employment which pushed the unemployment rate downward to 10.2% from 12.8% in the previous quarter and in the first quarter of 2015. The net jobs gained over the last year were solely in the **Goods-producing sector** and primarily in **Manufacturing** and **Construction**. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** is down somewhat from last year with fewer employed in the **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Business, building and other support services** industry groups.

The **Annapolis Valley** was the only other region in the province to record employment growth between the first quarters of 2015 and 2016. Employment in the region expanded by 2,800 jobs, however all of these positions were part time. Additional **Manufacturing** positions more than offset job losses within the **Goods-producing sector**. Substantial employment gains of 3,400 in **Wholesale and retail trade** were responsible for the overall employment growth in the **Services-producing sector**. At 8.8%, the unemployment rate in the Annapolis Valley in the first quarter of 2016 was down from 10.6% in the first quarter of 2015.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

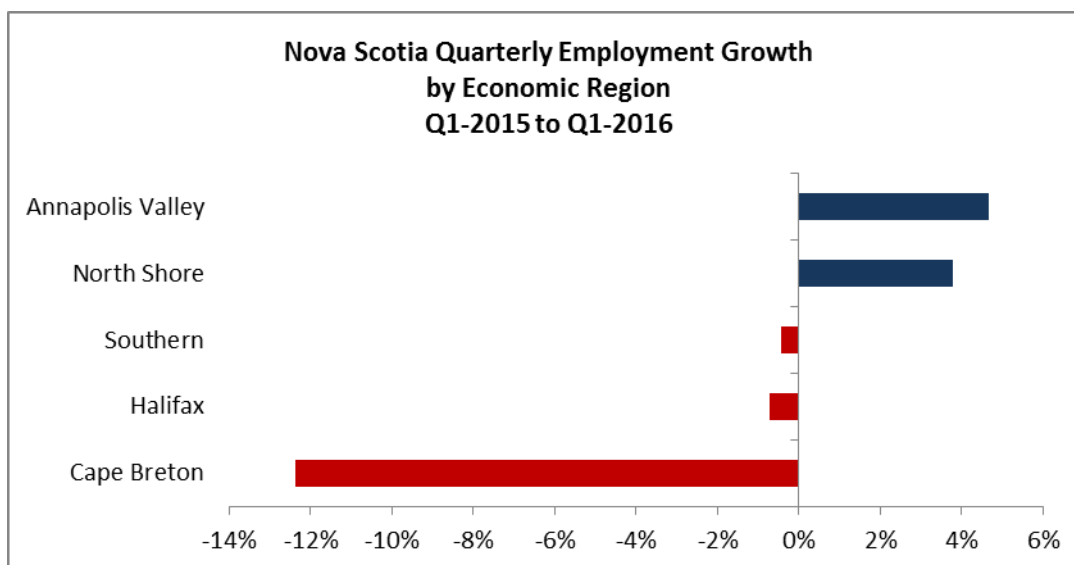
3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2016 (‘000)	1st Quarter 2015 (‘000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2016 (%)	1st Quarter 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	430.6	433.7	-0.7	10.0	9.8	0.2
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	43.9	50.1	-12.4	19.4	16.2	3.2
North Shore	65.8	63.4	3.8	10.2	12.8	-2.6
Annapolis Valley	53.9	51.5	4.7	8.8	10.6	-1.8
Southern	47.3	47.5	-0.4	11.3	12.2	-0.9
Halifax	219.7	221.3	-0.7	7.7	6.6	1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The number of people employed in the **Southern** region declined somewhat in the first quarter of 2016, by just 200 jobs, compared to the same three-month period of 2015. The number participating in the labour force is also down compared to 12 months ago. Since the drop in employment was less than the reduction in the labour force, the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate decreased, edging down to 11.3% or by approximately one-percentage point. Employment expanded in the **Goods-producing sector** which partially off-set job losses in the **Services-producing sector**. The **Manufacturing** industry group recorded an additional 1,800 positions, but the increase was not large enough to mitigate fewer positions in **Educational services** (-1,200 jobs) and **Health care and social assistance** (-1,600 jobs).

Overall employment in the first quarter of 2016 is down from the same period last year in the **Halifax** region by 1,600 jobs. Over the past year 3,600 full-time jobs have been created while the number of part-time jobs has declined by 5,100. Net job losses combined with an increase in the numbers in the labour force added another 2,600 to the level of unemployment. Consequently, the region's unemployment rate reached 7.7%, a level not seen since the first quarter of 2003. The number of overall jobs supported by the **Goods-producing sector** changed little from 12 months earlier, while the number employed in the **Services-producing sector** contracted by 1,300 positions. Substantial employment losses during the first quarter of 2016 in **Wholesale and retail trade** (-5,200 jobs) and in **Information, culture, and recreation** (-3,400 jobs) muted the increases in the numbers employed in the **Health care and social assistance** (+3,300), **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (+2,200), and **Other services** (+1,200) industry groups.



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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