



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

April 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

The labour market in Nova Scotia is showing signs of improvement. For the third consecutive month employment levels in the province have increased. Gains in the number of part-time positions more than offset the loss of full-time jobs in April. With fewer people participating in the labour force, combined with job growth, the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate declined from the previous month by 4,500 and 0.8 percentage points, respectively. There was a notable rise in the number employed in **Wholesale and retail trade** as well as in **Health care and social assistance** compared to March. Within the province, Cape Breton was the only economic region to experience a decrease in employment compared to a year ago.

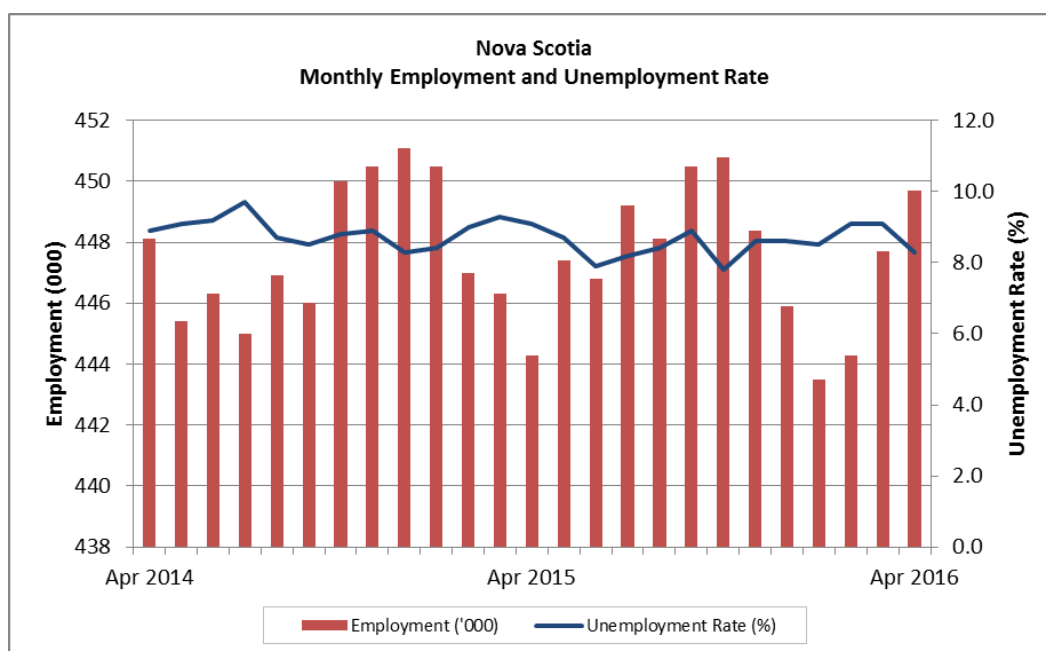
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	787.9	787.8	784.4	0.1	0.0	3.5	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	490.2	492.7	488.6	-2.5	-0.5	1.6	0.3
Employment ('000)	449.7	447.7	444.3	2.0	0.4	5.4	1.2
Full-Time ('000)	367.6	369.8	362.8	-2.2	-0.6	4.8	1.3
Part-Time ('000)	82.2	77.8	81.4	4.4	5.7	0.8	1.0
Unemployment ('000)	40.5	45.0	44.4	-4.5	-10.0	-3.9	-8.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	9.1	9.1	-0.8	-	-0.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.2	62.5	62.3	-0.3	-	-0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.1	56.8	56.6	0.3	-	0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Provincially, employment levels are also up compared to April 2015. An additional 5,400 positions were created during the month, the vast majority of which were full-time in nature. At 449,700, the employment level is at its highest for the month of April in three years.



Compared to March, the jobs gained in April were primarily in the private sector (+1,800), while the number of public-sector employees rose slightly (+400). Overall employment growth was somewhat curtailed by a decline in the number of self-employed workers. By comparison, the number of self-employed workers has risen by 2,600 relative to April last year. In addition, the public sector currently employs 3,100 additional people than it did 12 months ago; whereas, the number of private-sector employees contracted by 200 positions over the same period.

The number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) in the labour force increased in April on a month-over-month basis, as did the number employed. Employment levels increased by 2,900, while the number of youth participating in the labour force rose by 1,100. The youth unemployment rate in April was 13.8%, a decrease of 3 percentage points from the previous month and a 1.3 percentage-point drop from April 2015.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.3	9.1	9.1	-0.8	-0.8
25 years and over	7.3	7.8	7.8	-0.5	-0.5
Men - 25 years and over	8.8	9.2	9.3	-0.4	-0.5
Women - 25 years and over	5.8	6.4	6.3	-0.6	-0.5
15 to 24 years	13.8	16.8	16.1	-3.0	-2.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.8	16.2	20.4	0.6	-3.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.7	17.4	11.6	-6.7	-0.9

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

Persons aged 25 to 54 years recorded a slight drop in employment numbers between March and April 2016 (-600). All net jobs lost in this age group were full-time positions. The decrease in the number participating in the labour force outpaced the drop in employment which lowered the number of unemployed workers and nudged the April 2016 unemployment rate down to 7.2% from 7.7% in the previous month. Compared to April 2015, overall employment levels in this age group contracted by 4,700 as a result of fewer full-time positions.

There was little change in employment for older workers, aged 55 years or over, in April, as increases in full-time positions were offset by declines in part-time employment. However, compared to a year earlier there was a sizeable increase in the number employed. While fewer in this age group were working part time in April (-400), the substantial rise in full-time employment (+9,700) more than compensated for the part-time job losses. The labour force also increased on a year-over-year basis but by less than employment thus lowering the unemployment rate to 7.5% from 8.3% in April 2015.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** decreased on a month-over-month basis in April due to job losses in the **Manufacturing** and **Construction** industry groups. However, the number of people working in the **Goods-producing sector** has expanded somewhat over the past 12 months as a result of employment gains in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** and **Manufacturing** industry groups. The **Manufacturing** group is expected to receive a boost this year from a stronger U.S. economy and a lower Canadian dollar.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	449.7	447.7	444.3	2.0	0.4	5.4	1.2
Goods-producing sector	80.8	83.5	79.9	-2.7	-3.2	0.9	1.1
Agriculture	4.4	4.2	5.3	0.2	4.8	-0.9	-17.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.8	12.3	10.8	-0.5	-4.1	1.0	9.3
Utilities	3.0	3.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	-25.0
Construction	32.2	33.7	31.7	-1.5	-4.5	0.5	1.6
Manufacturing	29.3	30.3	28.1	-1.0	-3.3	1.2	4.3
Services-producing sector	368.9	364.1	364.4	4.8	1.3	4.5	1.2
Trade	71.7	68.8	72.6	2.9	4.2	-0.9	-1.2
Transportation and warehousing	20.3	21.4	19.8	-1.1	-5.1	0.5	2.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	23.3	23.2	22.6	0.1	0.4	0.7	3.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.7	27.2	26.6	0.5	1.8	1.1	4.1
Business, building and other support services	18.6	17.7	22.0	0.9	5.1	-3.4	-15.5
Educational services	37.4	38.5	36.3	-1.1	-2.9	1.1	3.0
Health care and social assistance	75.6	74.2	71.3	1.4	1.9	4.3	6.0
Information, culture and recreation	15.6	16.4	18.4	-0.8	-4.9	-2.8	-15.2
Accommodation and food services	32.7	31.8	31.9	0.9	2.8	0.8	2.5
Other services	18.7	18.5	16.2	0.2	1.1	2.5	15.4
Public administration	27.4	26.4	26.7	1.0	3.8	0.7	2.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The **Services-producing sector** recorded a net employment gain of 4,800 in April 2016 compared to March. Notable advances were realized in **Wholesale and retail trade**, **Health care and social assistance**, and **Public administration**. Within the sector, however, employment losses occurred in three industry groups compared to the previous month: **Transportation and warehousing**, **Educational services**, and **Information, culture and**

recreation. Relative to April 2015, the **Services-producing sector** has added 4,500 jobs; 4,300 in **Health care and social assistance**, 2,500 in **Other services** and 1,100 positions in **Educational services**. Over the same period, the number working in two specific sectors: **Business, building and other support service** and **Information, culture and recreation**, recorded substantial employment declines however. In April, the **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group continued its five-year downward trend from April 2011 employment levels.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

According to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey's three-month moving-average data, employment increased in two economic regions: Annapolis Valley and Halifax between April 2015 and April of 2016, while it was virtually unchanged in the North Shore and Southern regions. Only Cape Breton observed a decrease in the number of employed workers.

Employment in **Cape Breton** was down by 5,300 jobs from April 2015. The year-over-year job losses occurred mainly within part-time positions. The employment losses were shared equally between the **Goods-producing** and the **Services-producing sectors**. Overall employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** contracted with a loss of 2,600 positions. The weakest performing industry group within the sector was **Construction** which recorded a loss of 2,000 jobs compared to April last year. Employment contracted by 2,700 in the **Services-producing sector** over the 12 month period. Within the sector, **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Business, building, and other support services** recorded the largest share of the job losses. The region's unemployment rate rose to 18.2% in April from 16.6% in April 2015.

The **North Shore** region saw no notable changes in overall employment from last April's level. The **Goods-producing sector** added 2,400 positions relative to April 2015 resulting from significant employment gains in **Construction** (2,200 jobs). However, net employment losses within the **Services-producing sector** (-2,300 jobs) curtailed overall employment growth in the region in April. **Wholesale and retail trade** and the **Business, building and other support services** accounted for the largest services-sector job losses. The unemployment rate dropped by almost one percentage point as the number of active job seekers declined relative to April 2015.

The **Annapolis Valley** region registered an increase in employment between April 2015 and April 2016, expanding by 3,400 jobs, although the majority of these positions were part-time. Since employment growth outpaced increases in the number of labour force participants, there were fewer unemployed which lowered the unemployment rate to 9.9% from 11.6% in April of last year. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** declined in each industry group with the exception of **Manufacturing**, which added jobs, and left overall employment levels in the sector unchanged. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the net employment gains in the region over the last 12 months with the **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group recording the most significant increase (+3,800 jobs).

Employment levels in the **Southern** region changed little in April 2016 compared to last year. There was a gain of 1,300 part-time jobs which just offset a loss in full-time positions (-1,100). The decline in the size of the region's labour force was greater than the employment gain. As a result, the unemployment rate dropped from 12.8% in April of last year to 10.5% this year. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** rose from notable gains in **Manufacturing** (+1,600); whereas, the **Services-producing sector** registered net job losses in April. While several industry groups in the sector experienced employment declines, the **Health care and social assistance** (-1,200) and **Educational services** (-900) industry groups accounted for 50% of the jobs lost.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2016 ('000)	Apr 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Apr 2016 (%)	Apr 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	434.3	433.3	0.2	9.8	10.1	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	45.4	50.7	-10.5	18.2	16.6	1.6
North Shore	65.0	64.9	0.2	10.8	11.7	-0.9
Annapolis Valley	54.8	51.4	6.6	9.9	11.6	-1.7
Southern	47.8	47.6	0.4	10.5	12.8	-2.3
Halifax	221.3	218.7	1.2	7.4	6.9	0.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The **Halifax** region experienced an increase in employment levels in April 2016 compared to April 2015. The addition of 5,100 full-time positions over the last 12 months more than offset the loss of part-time jobs (-2,500 positions). The labour force also expanded, but by more than the rise in employment. This added to the number of unemployed and pushed the April 2016 unemployment rate up to 7.4% from 6.9% in April last year. Combined employment rose by 6,300, in the **Educational services, Other services** and **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** industry groups. However, the **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group saw its employment level decline substantially by 3,500 workers and employment in **Information, culture and recreation** employment was lower by 3,100. An increase in employment in **Construction** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas** brought overall employment in the **Goods-producing sector** up by 1,000 positions.

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

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2016, all rights reserved