



# Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

May 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 three consecutive months of increases, the employment level in Nova Scotia shrank in May. Most (86%) of the jobs lost were part-time but the number of full-time positions decreased as well. The month-over-month employment decline in May was driven by overall losses in the **Services-producing sector**. The unemployment rate in May was unchanged from April at 8.3% despite the overall employment decrease, because of a labour force contraction, which resulted in fewer people looking for work.

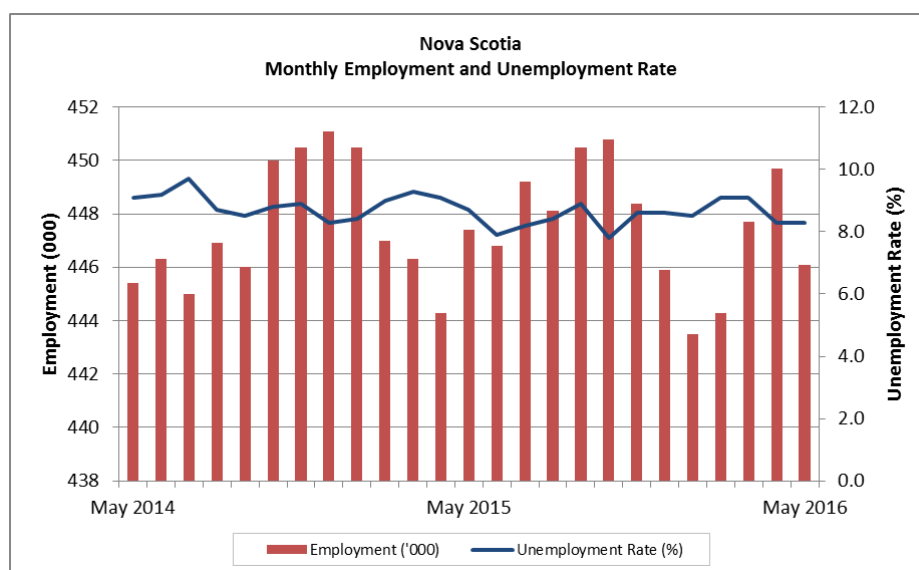
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	788.1	787.9	784.7	0.2	0.0	3.4	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	486.4	490.2	489.8	-3.8	-0.8	-3.4	-0.7
Employment ('000)	446.1	449.7	447.4	-3.6	-0.8	-1.3	-0.3
Full-Time ('000)	367.0	367.6	365.0	-0.6	-0.2	2.0	0.5
Part-Time ('000)	79.1	82.2	82.5	-3.1	-3.8	-3.4	-4.1
Unemployment ('000)	40.3	40.5	42.4	-0.2	-0.5	-2.1	-5.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	8.3	8.7	0.0	-	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.7	62.2	62.4	-0.5	-	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.6	57.1	57.0	-0.5	-	-0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

A year-over-year comparison shows a similar pattern of decline. Employment is down this May when compared to May 2015, although the number of full-time jobs has risen by 2,000 over the last 12 months. The level of unemployment fell in this time frame as did the unemployment rate, due to a large labour force decline which lowered the number of people looking for work.



The number of youth in the labour force was down by 3,300 or 4.4% and the number of employed youth fell by 2,800 or 4.5% in May on a year-over-year basis. The May 2016 youth unemployment rate still exceeds that of May 2015. The job losses over the 12-month period occurred almost entirely (89%) in full-time positions.

Persons aged 25 to 54 years endured the greatest number of job losses between May 2015 and May 2016 (-6,100) of which 95% were full-time. A substantial labour force decline accompanied the employment decline that was large enough to lower the unemployment rate to 6.9% from 7.3% in May 2015.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.3	8.3	8.7	0.0	-0.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.9	7.3	7.3	-0.4	-0.4
Men - 25 years and over	8.1	8.8	8.7	-0.7	-0.6
Women - 25 years and over	5.8	5.8	5.9	0.0	-0.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.3	13.8	16.1	2.5	0.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.8	16.8	18.7	1.0	-0.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.4	10.7	13.6	3.7	0.8

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

The number of employed older workers aged 55 years or over, increased by 7,600 this May compared to May of 2015. Fewer persons in this age group were working part time in May this year, but a substantial rise in full-time employment (+10,200) more than compensated for the part-time job losses. A labour force increase equal to the employment increase kept the unemployment rate for this age group at 7.7%, unchanged from May 2015.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

**Services-sector** employment was lower in May than it was in April by 4,900 jobs (-1.3%) while **Goods-sector employment** rose by 1,300 (+1.6%). Compared to May of 2015 however, employment was down in both sectors. The Services sector lost 1,000 jobs over the 12-month period and Goods-sector employment was lower by 300 jobs.

The largest April-to-May 2016 employment declines in the Services-sector took place in **Educational services** (-2,700 or 7.2%), **Accommodation and food services** (-2,500 or 7.6%) and **Wholesale and retail trade** (-1,900 or 2.6%). These three industry groups also largely accounted for the year-over-year employment declines. **Wholesale and retail trade** continued a five-year decline from its May 2011 employment level which was higher by 8,300 jobs.

**Construction** added 1,400 jobs in May (+4.3%) relative to the previous month which accounted for the **Goods-sector** employment outcome in May of this year. **Primary sector** employment was down slightly and **Manufacturing** employment was unchanged from April but up by 1,400 from May of last year. Month-over-month employment gains in May were realized by **Information, culture and recreation** (+1,100), **Professional, scientific and technical services** (+500) and **Business, building and other support services** (+500).

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	446.1	449.7	447.4	-3.6	-0.8	-1.3	-0.3
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	82.1	80.8	82.4	1.3	1.6	-0.3	-0.4
Agriculture	4.2	4.4	4.6	-0.2	-4.5	-0.4	-8.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.6	11.8	12.6	-0.2	-1.7	-1.0	-7.9
Utilities	3.3	3.0	3.7	0.3	10.0	-0.4	-10.8
Construction	33.6	32.2	33.6	1.4	4.3	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	29.3	29.3	27.9	0.0	0.0	1.4	5.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	364.0	368.9	365.0	-4.9	-1.3	-1.0	-0.3
Trade	69.8	71.7	72.1	-1.9	-2.6	-2.3	-3.2
Transportation and warehousing	20.7	20.3	19.3	0.4	2.0	1.4	7.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	23.1	23.3	22.9	-0.2	-0.9	0.2	0.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.2	27.7	29.2	0.5	1.8	-1.0	-3.4
Business, building and other support services	19.1	18.6	19.6	0.5	2.7	-0.5	-2.6
Educational services	34.7	37.4	37.5	-2.7	-7.2	-2.8	-7.5
Health care and social assistance	74.8	75.6	72.2	-0.8	-1.1	2.6	3.6
Information, culture and recreation	16.7	15.6	17.4	1.1	7.1	-0.7	-4.0
Accommodation and food services	30.2	32.7	32.1	-2.5	-7.6	-1.9	-5.9
Other services	19.0	18.7	16.4	0.3	1.6	2.6	15.9
Public administration	27.7	27.4	26.3	0.3	1.1	1.4	5.3

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 Halifax and the Annapolis Valley economic regions between May 2015 and May of 2016. Overall employment declines occurred in the three remaining economic regions in the province over this same 12-month period. The North shore was the only economic region to see an increase in its level of unemployment and the unemployment rate.

There were 3,400 fewer people employed in the **Cape Breton** economic region in May 2016 compared to May of 2015. Year-over-year job losses took place mostly among part-time positions (74%). Overall employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** contracted with a loss of 2,800 positions. The weakest performing industry group within the sector was **Construction** which registered a loss of 2,100 jobs compared to May 2015. 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.

Employment in the **North Shore** region was down in May 2016 by 2,300 positions from May of 2015, of which 65% were full-time. The unemployment rate rose to 11% from 10.4% last May. The **Goods-producing sector** saw an overall increase in employment but the **Services-producing sector** experienced employment declines. The **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group accounted for the greatest number of services-sector job losses, but **Business, Building and Other Support Services** as well as **Accommodation and food services** also saw substantial employment declines. An increase in **Construction** activity was the driving force behind the positive employment outcome for the Goods-producing sector in the North Shore while a substantial number of jobs were lost in the **Manufacturing** industry group.

The **Annapolis Valley** region experienced an employment increase between May 2015 and May 2016 of 3,400 jobs, and 64% of these positions were part-time. The unemployment rate lowered from 10.7% to 9.7% over the one-year period, largely due to higher employment levels. There was no change in the overall employment level in the **Goods-producing sector** from last May, but additional **Manufacturing** jobs offset job losses within **Construction**, and the **Primary industries**. Substantial employment gains in **Wholesale and retail trade** were responsible for a net job gain of 3,400 within the **Services-producing sector**. **Health Care and Social Assistance** and **Accommodation and food services** also posted considerable employment gains over the last 12 months.

The **Southern** region saw its year-over-year employment level decline in May 2016. There were 900 fewer positions compared to May 2015, with job losses closely divided between full-and part-time positions. The unemployment rate fell to 9.9% from 11.4% in May 2015. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the region's overall job losses. Several industry groups in the sector experienced employment declines, but the most notable industry groups with lower employment numbers include **Educational services**, **Business, Building and Other Support Services** and **Health care and social assistance**. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** showed some growth from job gains in the **Manufacturing** and **Construction** industry groups.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2016 ('000)	May 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2016 (%)	May 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	441.8	439.7	0.5	9.0	9.7	-0.7
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Cape Breton	48.0	51.4	-6.6	15.5	16.3	-0.8
North Shore	65.5	67.8	-3.4	11.0	10.4	0.6
Annapolis Valley	55.5	52.1	6.5	9.7	10.7	-1.0
Southern	48.9	49.8	-1.8	9.9	11.4	-1.5
Halifax	223.9	218.6	2.4	6.5	7.1	-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 increase of 5,300 jobs in May 2016 compared to May 2015. An increase in full-time employment (6,000 jobs) over the last 12 months more than offset the losses in part-time employment (-700 positions). The labour force also expanded, but by less than the employment decline, which lowered the number of unemployed and pushed the May 2016 unemployment rate down to 6.5% from 7.1% in May last year. Over the last 12 months, most of the job gains occurred in the **Services-producing sector** (77%). The **Health care and social assistance** industry group saw its employment level rise substantially by 2,400 workers and the **Other services (excluding public administration)** group of industries also saw employment gains. Of concern however, is the declining employment trend in Halifax's **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group, now no longer the largest employing industry in the region. Employment gains in **Manufacturing** and **Construction** largely accounted for the positive employment result in the **Goods-producing sector** over the past year.

**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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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