



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

June 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

Nova Scotia's level of employment in the second quarter of 2016 was up by 2,300 jobs from the first quarter of this year. Almost all of the employment gains were in part-time jobs, as only 100 full-time jobs were added in the second quarter. The employment increase was driven by gains in the **Services-producing sector**. On a year-over-year basis, employment in the province was also up; however, the increase was somewhat smaller (+1,300). Despite the positive labour market outcomes we are seeing this year, employment in Nova Scotia still has a way to go to reach the peak level experienced in the second quarter of 2012 when 9,400 more workers were employed.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

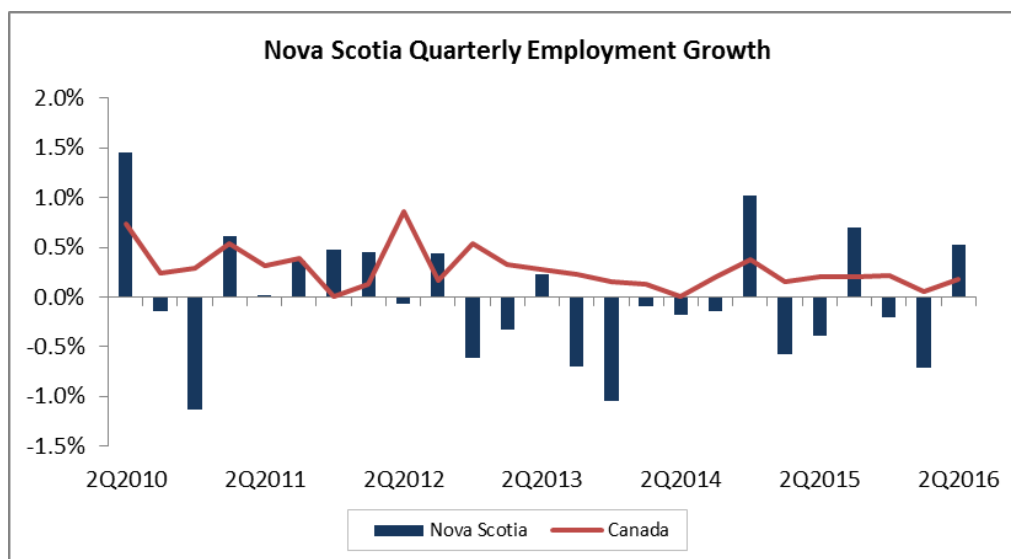
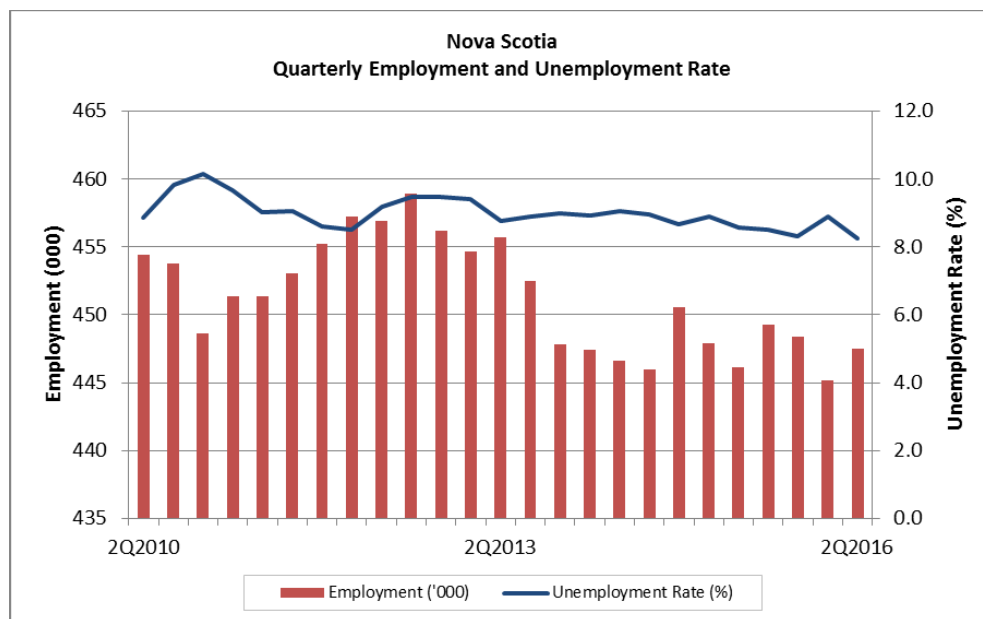
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	2nd Quarter 2016	1st Quarter 2016	2nd Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	788.1	787.4	784.8	0.7	0.1	3.4	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	487.7	488.8	487.9	-1.1	-0.2	-0.2	0.0
Employment ('000)	447.5	445.2	446.2	2.3	0.5	1.3	0.3
Full-Time ('000)	366.8	366.7	364.4	0.1	0.0	2.4	0.7
Part-Time ('000)	80.7	78.4	81.8	2.3	3.0	-1.1	-1.3
Unemployment ('000)	40.2	43.6	41.8	-3.4	-7.9	-1.6	-3.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	8.9	8.6	-0.6	-	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.9	62.1	62.2	-0.2	-	-0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.8	56.5	56.8	0.3	-	0.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The second-quarter employment increase occurred along with a decline in labour force participation. Consequently the number of unemployed persons decreased, which pushed the unemployment rate down to 8.3% from 8.9% in the first quarter; it was also down from the 2015 second-quarter unemployment rate of 8.6%.

Employment gains in the second quarter resulted from an increase in the number of private-sector employees (+2,500); the public sector saw a slight decline in employment. The number of self-employed persons remained unchanged from the first three months of 2016, but was down relative to second quarter 2015 results (-400).



The vast majority of job gains for the April-to-June period can be attributed to an increase in the number employed in the 55 and over years of age category. Overall they held 2,800 more positions compared to the previous three months. The number of those aged 25 to 54 years employed was down compared to both the first quarter of 2016 (-1,100) and to the second quarter of 2015 (-5,600). In contrast, employment among those aged 55 and over rose by 7,300 over the 2015 second quarter employment level.

The youth component of the workforce, those aged 15 to 24 years, recorded gains in employment during the second quarter of 2016; however, compared to 12 months earlier they experienced a slight drop in the number employed. Females in this age group recorded an increase in their unemployment rate over the 12 month peri-

od while males saw their unemployment rate decrease. The unemployment rate for male youth is still much higher (17.2%) than for females (12.7%) in the second quarter of 2016.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2016 (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.3	8.9	8.6	-0.6	-0.3
25 years and over	7.1	7.8	7.3	-0.8	-0.2
Men - 25 years and over	8.5	9.3	8.7	-0.8	-0.2
Women - 25 years and over	5.6	6.3	5.9	-0.7	-0.3
15 to 24 years	15.1	15.3	15.5	-0.2	-0.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.2	16.6	18.7	0.6	-1.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.7	13.7	12.5	-1.0	0.3

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

In the second quarter (Q2) of 2016, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.97 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 66,700 people. Employment among the Indigenous population stood at 33,200 representing a decline of -4,900 (-12.9%) from a year earlier. The declines were in both full-time (-4,000 or -12.9%) and part-time (-900 or -12.5%) positions.

In Q2 2016, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population increased significantly from Q2 2015 to 19.8%, a +6.4 percentage point (pp) increase, while that of the non-Indigenous population declined slightly to 9.3% (-0.8pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among the Indigenous population declined by a substantial margin to 62.0% (-5.2%) and a smaller decline was seen amongst the non-Indigenous population whose participation rate stood at 62.5% in Q2 2016 (-0.6pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population also declined significantly year-over-year to 49.7% (-8.5pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population remained unchanged at 56.7% (0.0pp) compared to a year earlier.

Atlantic Canada - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q2 2016	Q2 2015	number	%	Q2 2016	Q2 2015	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	66.7	65.4	1.3	2.0%	1,910.7	1,905.2	5.5	0.3%
Labour Force ('000)	41.4	44.0	-2.6	-5.9%	1,194.4	1,202.2	-7.8	-0.6%
Employment ('000)	33.2	38.1	-4.9	-12.9%	1,083.1	1,080.4	2.7	0.2%
Full-Time ('000)	26.9	30.9	-4.0	-12.9%	901.9	903.7	-1.8	-0.2%
Part-Time ('000)	6.3	7.2	-0.9	-12.5%	181.3	176.7	4.6	2.6%
Unemployment ('000)	8.2	5.9	2.3	39.0%	111.3	121.8	-10.5	-8.6%
Unemployment Rate (%)	19.8	13.4	6.4	-	9.3	10.1	-0.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.0	67.2	-5.2	-	62.5	63.1	-0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	49.7	58.2	-8.5	-	56.7	56.7	0.0	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

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

All of the job gains which occurred during the second quarter of 2016 were in the **Services-producing sector**. The employment level in the sector rose by 4,500 relative to the first quarter of 2016 and is up from the second quarter of 2015 by 3,100. **Wholesale and retail trade** (+2,600) and **Business, building and other support services** (+2,000) recorded the largest quarter-over-quarter jobs gains. Compared with employment levels a year earlier, both of these industry groups have experienced a decline, however.

Fewer jobs in **Manufacturing** (-1,200) led the overall decline in employment in the **Goods-producing sector** in the most recent quarter. Furthermore, this sector has been on a downward trend since 2008, with 74% of the job losses occurring in Manufacturing. **Agriculture** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** have also experienced lower employment levels since 2008.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	2nd Quarter 2016	1st Quarter 2016	2nd Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	447.5	445.2	446.2	2.3	0.5	1.3	0.3
Goods-producing sector	80.8	82.9	82.6	-2.1	-2.6	-1.8	-2.2
Agriculture	4.2	4.5	5.0	-0.2	-5.2	-0.8	-15.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.3	12.1	12.0	-0.9	-7.1	-0.8	-6.4
Utilities	3.3	3.1	3.8	0.1	4.3	-0.5	-14.0
Construction	32.8	32.8	33.6	-0.1	-0.2	-0.8	-2.5
Manufacturing	29.2	30.4	28.1	-1.2	-3.9	1.1	3.8
Services-producing sector	366.7	362.2	363.6	4.5	1.2	3.1	0.9
Trade	71.4	68.9	71.9	2.6	3.7	-0.5	-0.6
Transportation and warehousing	20.4	20.9	19.3	-0.5	-2.2	1.1	5.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	23.2	23.8	23.2	-0.6	-2.4	0.0	0.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.7	26.7	28.5	1.0	3.7	-0.8	-2.7
Business, building and other support services	19.0	17.0	20.5	2.0	11.7	-1.5	-7.2
Educational services	36.2	38.1	37.2	-1.9	-4.9	-0.9	-2.5
Health care and social assistance	74.9	73.9	71.2	1.0	1.3	3.7	5.1
Information, culture and recreation	16.4	16.0	17.5	0.4	2.5	-1.1	-6.3
Accommodation and food services	30.9	31.2	31.6	-0.3	-1.0	-0.7	-2.2
Other services	18.9	18.8	16.0	0.1	0.4	2.9	17.9
Public administration	27.6	26.7	26.6	0.8	3.1	0.9	3.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Two of the five economic regions in the province, the Annapolis Valley and Halifax, experienced modest employment growth on a year-over-year quarterly basis. On the other hand, the Southern region's employment level contracted by 2.9%, the number of jobs in Cape Breton fell by 4.0%, and employment in the North Shore region was 5.1% lower than in the second quarter of 2015.

Employment in **Cape Breton** is lower by 2,100 jobs relative to the second quarter of 2015. Despite fewer jobs, the region's unemployment rate decreased to 13.3% from 14.7% 12 months earlier because of a large labour force decline. The job losses during this period were all part-time positions. The overall employment decline is attributed to the **Goods-producing sector** (-3,700), with the largest employment decline occurring in the **Construction** industry group (-2,700). The **Services-producing sector** saw an employment increase led by the **Other services** sub-sector along with lesser job gains in **Health care and social assistance**, **Accommodation and food services** and **Public administration**.

In the **North Shore** region, employment in the second quarter of 2016 was lower by 3,600 jobs compared with the same quarter in 2015. Almost all of the jobs lost were full-time positions (92%). The region's labour force decreased in size, but by less than the employment decline, which pushed the unemployment rate upward to 9.8% from 8.4% during last year's second quarter. The job loss that occurred over the last year took place in the **Services-producing sector** (-3,900) and is attributed to the **Wholesale and retail trade** (-2,300), **Accommodation and food services** (-1,700) and **Business, building and other support services** (-1,400) industry groups. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** is up slightly from last year because of job gains in **Construction** and **Agriculture**. **Manufacturing** employment however, is down by 1,700.

The **Annapolis Valley** was the only region in the province other than Halifax to experience employment growth between the second quarters of 2015 and 2016. Employment in the region expanded by 2,100 jobs, however 91% of these positions were part time. At 9.5%, the unemployment rate in the Annapolis Valley in the second quarter of 2016 was up from 9.1% in the second quarter of 2015. Additional **Manufacturing** positions were not enough to offset job losses within the **Construction** and **Primary** industry groups so that overall second-quarter **Goods-producing sector** employment was lower in 2016 than in 2015. Substantial employment gains of 3,400 in **Wholesale and retail trade** were responsible for overall employment growth in the **Services-producing sector**.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

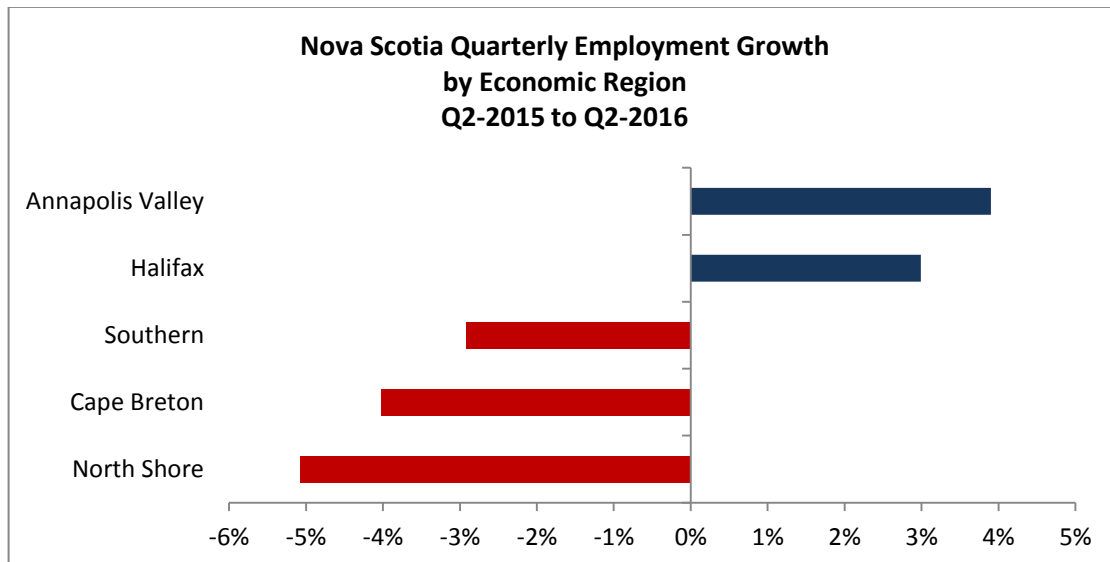
3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	2nd Quarter 2016 ('000)	2nd Quarter 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	2nd Quarter 2016 (%)	2nd Quarter 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	450.8	449.4	0.3	8.0	8.6	-0.6
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	50.2	52.3	-4.0	13.3	14.7	-1.4
North Shore	67.4	71.0	-5.1	9.8	8.4	1.4
Annapolis Valley	55.9	53.8	3.9	9.5	9.1	0.4
Southern	49.9	51.4	-2.9	9.7	9.5	0.2
Halifax	227.4	220.8	3.0	5.5	6.8	-1.3

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 was lower in the second quarter of 2016 compared to the same three-month period of 2015 (-1,500). Labour force participation was also down compared to 12 months earlier. The unemployment rate increased because of the employment decline, edging up to 9.7% from 9.5% in thesecond quarter of 2015. Overall job losses occurred in both the **Goods** and **Services** sectors. Employment was down just slightly in the **Goods-producing sector** from job losses in the **Construction** and **Primary** industry groups. Greater **Manufacturing** activity led to an additional 1,700 positions, which was not large enough to prevent an overall employment decline for the sector. Fewer positions in **Educational services** (-1,500 jobs) in addition to job losses in **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (-900) and **Business, building and other support services** (-800 jobs) were responsible for an overall employment decline in the **Services-producing sector**. The **Wholesale and retail trade** sub-sector, however, saw employment rise by 1,900 jobs.

Overall employment in the **Halifax** region in the second quarter of 2016 was up from the same period last year by 6,600 jobs. Over the past year, 4,300 full-time jobs have been created together with 2,200 part-time jobs. The job gains reduced the level of unemployment and lowered the region's unemployment rate to 5.5%, down from 6.8% in the second quarter of 2015. Overall job gains occurred in both the **Goods** and **Services-producing sectors**. The number of jobs supported by the **Goods-producing sector** was up by 4.6% (+1,300 jobs) from 12 months earlier, while the **Services-producing sector** expanded employment by 5,200 positions or 2.7%. Employment gains in **Business, building and other support services**, **Other services**, and **Health care and social assistance** were largely responsible for the positive employment result in the sector. Within the **Goods-producing sector**, the **Construction**, **Manufacturing** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas** industry groups all posted job gains relative to the second quarter of 2015.



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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