



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

August 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

Labour Force Survey results for August 2016 show that the number of jobs in Nova Scotia dropped slightly from July. All of the jobs lost during the month were in part-time positions, while full-time positions managed to grow and help reduce the impact. More job seekers entered the labour force in August which edged the unemployment rate upward one percentage point.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Aug 2016	July 2016	Aug 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	789.3	788.9	786.1	0.4	0.1	3.2	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	486.6	486.1	489.1	0.5	0.1	-2.5	-0.5
Employment ('000)	445.2	445.3	448.1	-0.1	0.0	-2.9	-0.6
Full-Time ('000)	365.0	361.1	370.8	3.9	1.1	-5.8	-1.6
Part-Time ('000)	80.2	84.2	77.3	-4.0	-4.8	2.9	3.8
Unemployment ('000)	41.4	40.8	41.1	0.6	1.5	0.3	0.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.5	8.4	8.4	0.1	-	0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.6	61.6	62.2	0.0	-	-0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.4	56.4	57.0	0.0	-	-0.6	-

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 large decline in employment this month. There were 2,900 more people working in Nova Scotia a year ago with an even larger number working full-time. The unemployment rate was only slightly lower last August at 8.4% although it has fluctuated since then, rising to 9.1% in early 2016 and then falling off to 8.2% in June.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The employment decline in August occurred in the **Services-producing** sector, and was distributed among several of its industry groups with the largest decrease taking place in **Business, building and other support services**. The **Goods-producing sector** saw a slight month-over-month employment increase. Compared to a year ago however, employment was down significantly in the goods sector because of fewer jobs in all industry groups except **Manufacturing**. Despite a positive employment outcome over the past year, Manufacturing has been largely responsible for declining goods-sector employment which is the lowest this year for any month of August going back to at least 1990.

Service-sector employment was up from August 2015 due to increases within **Health care and social assistance**, **Educational services** and **Other services**. **Trade** employment this August however, was down from last year and is the lowest August employment level since the year 2000.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Aug 2016	July 2016	Aug 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	445.2	445.3	448.1	-0.1	0.0	-2.9	-0.6
Goods-producing sector	79.0	78.7	83.9	0.3	0.4	-4.9	-5.8
Agriculture	4.6	5.2	5.5	-0.6	-11.5	-0.9	-16.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.0	10.3	13.1	-0.3	-2.9	-3.1	-23.7
Utilities	3.3	3.6	3.3	-0.3	-8.3	0.0	0.0
Construction	32.8	31.5	34.3	1.3	4.1	-1.5	-4.4
Manufacturing	28.3	28.1	27.7	0.2	0.7	0.6	2.2
Services-producing sector	366.2	366.6	364.2	-0.4	-0.1	2.0	0.5
Trade	70.7	71.3	72.1	-0.6	-0.8	-1.4	-1.9
Transportation and warehousing	21.0	20.4	21.1	0.6	2.9	-0.1	-0.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	24.2	24.1	24.0	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.9	28.2	29.0	-0.3	-1.1	-1.1	-3.8
Business, building and other support services	16.7	18.9	20.1	-2.2	-11.6	-3.4	-16.9
Educational services	36.6	37.5	34.8	-0.9	-2.4	1.8	5.2
Health care and social assistance	76.2	74.8	73.6	1.4	1.9	2.6	3.5
Information, culture and recreation	16.1	16.8	17.1	-0.7	-4.2	-1.0	-5.8
Accommodation and food services	29.6	29.6	29.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.1
Other services	19.8	18.1	17.2	1.7	9.4	2.6	15.1
Public administration	27.3	26.9	26.3	0.4	1.5	1.0	3.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in both the Halifax and Annapolis Valley economic regions between August 2015 and August of 2016. Overall employment declines occurred in the three remaining economic regions in the province over this same period. Both the North Shore and Southern Nova Scotia saw an increase in their level of unemployment and unemployment rate.

Fewer people were employed in the **Cape Breton** economic region in August, compared to the same month last year. The job losses took place solely among full-time positions. Overall employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** in the region contracted by almost 4,000 jobs, half of which are attributed to the **Construction** industry. Healthy job gains within **Information, culture and recreation**, **Accommodation and food services**, **Pub-**

lic administration and the **Other services** industry group accounted for an overall employment increase for the **Services-producing sector**.

Employment in the **North Shore** region in August 2016 was down by over 5,000 positions compared to August of last year. More than 6,000 full-time jobs were lost but gains in part-time work reduced the overall employment decline. The unemployment rate rose from 7.4% to 8.7% over this period. Both the **Goods-producing** and **Services-producing sectors** experienced employment declines over the last 12 months. The **Accommodation and food services** industry group accounted for the greatest number of services-sector job losses, but **Wholesale and retail trade** as well as **Business, building and other support services** also saw substantial employment declines. A loss of 1,800 **Manufacturing** jobs contributed to the employment decline in the region's **Goods-producing sector**.

The **Annapolis Valley** region saw an employment increase between August 2015 and August 2016 of 1,300, but all of the new jobs were part-time. The unemployment rate dropped from 7.6% to 7.4% over the one-year period, due to the job growth. The overall employment level in the **Goods-producing sector** was down compared to last August, mostly because of fewer jobs in **Agriculture**. The recent closing of the Hillaton frozen food processing plant owned by Oxford Frozen Foods and the Kings Produce Processing Plant in Middleton in 2015 has had a significant impact on both the **Manufacturing** and **Agriculture** industries in the region. Furthermore, the Sarsfield Foods Ltd. frozen pie factory in Kentville recently announced that they will also close, in the fall of 2016, putting a further 90 people out of work. Substantial employment gains in **Accommodation and food services** and in **Wholesale and retail trade** were responsible for a net job gain of 2,000 within the **Services-producing sector**.

The **Southern** region saw its year-over-year employment level decline in August. There were 2,200 fewer jobs in the region compared to August 2015, and two thirds of the losses were in part-time positions. The unemployment rate rose to 13.3% from 10.7% coinciding with the job losses. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** decreased just slightly although the **Educational services** industry group saw substantial job losses. The employment decline in the sector was lessened by significant job gains in **Health care and social assistance**. The **Manufacturing** industry group showed some healthy job gains while the number of jobs in **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas** and **Construction** dwindled. Combined, these changes led to fewer people working the **Goods-producing sector** over the year.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Aug 2016 ('000)	Aug 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Aug 2016 (%)	Aug 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	458.5	461.8	-0.7	7.9	7.8	0.1
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	51.2	52.2	-1.9	12.8	13.7	-0.9
North Shore	70.2	75.4	-6.9	8.7	7.4	1.3
Annapolis Valley	57.5	56.2	2.3	7.4	7.6	-0.2
Southern	48.0	50.2	-4.4	13.3	10.7	2.6
Halifax	231.5	227.8	1.6	5.4	5.8	-0.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Both full-time and part-time employment gains in the **Halifax** economic region brought the overall August employment level up compared to August 2015 and edged the unemployment rate down to 5.4% from 5.8%. Over the last 12 months, the majority of job gains occurred in the **Goods-producing sector** (65%) because of greater hiring in **Construction** and **Manufacturing**. Additional employment in **Educational services** and **Transportation and warehousing** accounted for much of the **Services-producing sector's** employment gains. Although employment was up slightly in August this year, Halifax's **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group has been experienc-

ing declining employment since January 2015. **Trade** is now no longer the largest employing industry group in the region, handing over that claim to **Health care and social assistance**.

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