



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

September 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

Employment in Nova Scotia in the third quarter of 2016 declined on a quarter-over-quarter basis and all of the jobs that were lost were full time. There was some growth in the number of part-time jobs which helped to reduce the overall employment decrease. The province's labour force also saw a decline which reduced the number of job seekers and kept the unemployment rate unchanged from the second quarter, at 8.3%. The employment losses in the third quarter primarily resulted from lower private-sector employment, as a negligible number of reductions were seen in public sector jobs and among the self employed.

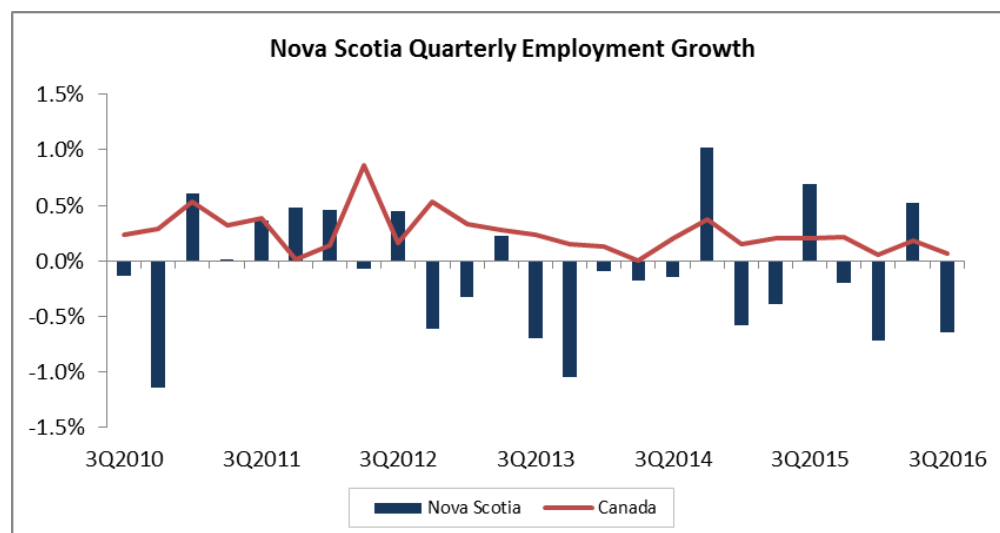
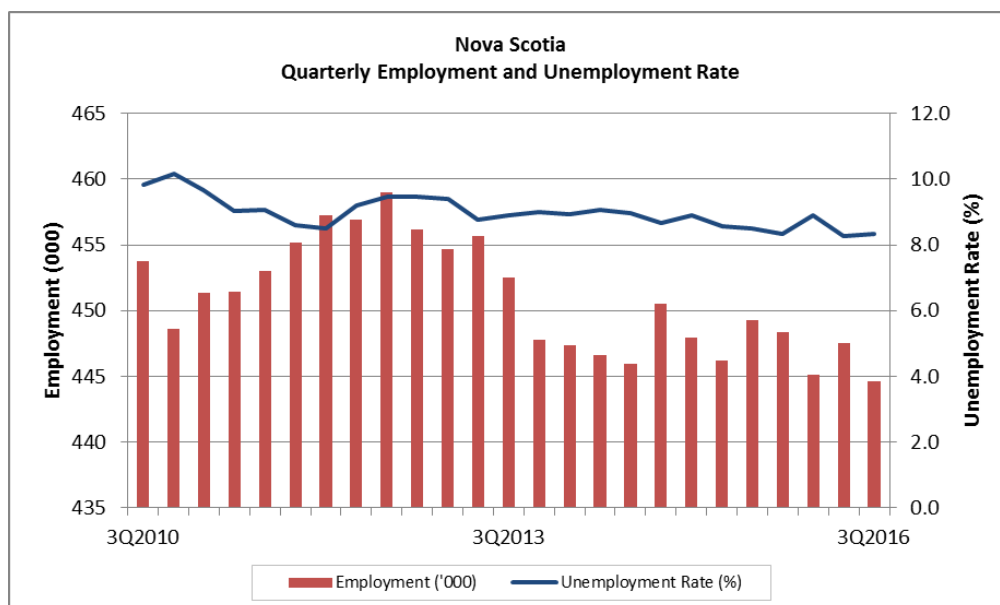
Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2016	2nd Quarter 2016	3rd Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	789.2	788.1	786.1	1.1	0.1	3.1	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	485.1	487.7	490.9	-2.6	-0.5	-5.8	-1.2
Employment ('000)	444.6	447.5	449.3	-2.9	-0.6	-4.6	-1.0
Full-Time ('000)	363.1	366.8	370.5	-3.7	-1.0	-7.3	-2.0
Part-Time ('000)	81.5	80.7	78.8	0.8	0.9	2.7	3.4
Unemployment ('000)	40.4	40.2	41.6	0.2	0.6	-1.2	-2.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	8.3	8.5	0.1	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.4	61.9	62.4	-0.4	-	-1.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.3	56.8	57.2	-0.5	-	-0.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

When compared to the third quarter of 2015, labour market results are also somewhat dismal. Third quarter employment in 2016 was down substantially from last year as was the number of labour force participants. The large labour force decline over the last year has meant fewer job seekers in this province and a lower unemployment rate despite 4,600 fewer people employed.



Most of the job losses in the third quarter of this year took place among the younger generation, particularly among males. Those aged 15-24 sustained 77% of the total loss with 86% of the youth employment decline attributed to males. The remaining employment decline occurred among those of prime working age (25-54 years of age), and once again with males accounting for the majority of job losses. Persons aged 55 and over saw employment gains in the third quarter.

Compared with third quarter results in 2015, overall employment is lower this year and those aged 25-54 endured the majority of job losses (69%) with the remaining 31% accounted for by the youth component (aged 15-24 years) of the labour force. The employment declines over the past year were also mostly attributable to the male workforce below the age of 55.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2016 (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.3	8.3	8.5	0.1	-0.2
25 years and over	7.4	7.1	7.3	0.3	0.1
Men - 25 years and over	9.4	8.5	8.6	0.9	0.8
Women - 25 years and over	5.2	5.6	5.9	-0.4	-0.7
15 to 24 years	14.2	15.1	15.4	-0.8	-1.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.0	17.2	16.8	1.8	2.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.4	12.7	13.8	-3.3	-4.4

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

In the third quarter (Q3) of 2016, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.98 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 66,800 people. Employment among the Indigenous population stood at 36,800 representing a decline of -1,000 (-2.6%) from a year earlier. The declines were in both full-time (-300 or -1.0%) and part-time (-700 or -10.4%) positions.

In Q3 2016, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population increased significantly from Q3 2015 to 16.2%, representing a +3.5 percentage point (pp) increase, while that of the non-Indigenous population declined slightly to 8.7% (-0.3pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among the Indigenous population, at 65.7%, did not experience variation and a smaller decline was seen amongst the non-Indigenous population whose participation rate fell from 63.9% to 63.2% in Q3 2016 (-0.7pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population also declined year-over-year to 55.1% (-2.3pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population fell slightly from 58.2% to 57.7% (-0.5pp) 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)	
	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	number	%	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	66.8	65.9	0.9	1.4%	1,912.8	1,905.5	7.3	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	43.9	43.3	0.6	1.4%	1,209.1	1,217.4	-8.3	-0.7%
Employment ('000)	36.8	37.8	-1.0	-2.6%	1,104.3	1,108.5	-4.2	-0.4%
Full-Time ('000)	30.8	31.1	-0.3	-1.0%	934.5	950.2	-15.7	-1.7%
Part-Time ('000)	6.0	6.7	-0.7	-10.4%	169.8	158.3	11.5	7.3%
Unemployment ('000)	7.1	5.5	1.6	29.1%	104.8	109.0	-4.2	-3.9%
Unemployment Rate (%)	16.2	12.7	3.5	-	8.7	9.0	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.7	65.7	0.0	-	63.2	63.9	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.1	57.4	-2.3	-	57.7	58.2	-0.5	-

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

The third-quarter employment decline in 2016 was felt in both the **Services** and **Goods-producing sectors**. The **Goods-producing sector** saw job losses in **Manufacturing, Construction and Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**. Relative to the third quarter of 2015, employment fell in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** and **Construction**. Goods sector employment has been on a downward trend since 2008, with most of the job losses occurring in **Manufacturing**. **Agriculture and Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** have also experienced lower employment levels since 2008.

Fewer jobs in **Accommodation and food services** led the overall employment decline in the **Services-producing sector** in the third quarter of this year and **Business, building and other support services** also saw substantial job losses. Compared with the same quarter last year, employment is down just slightly because of the losses within the two industry groups just stated.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2016	2nd Quarter 2016	3rd Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	444.6	447.5	449.3	-2.9	-0.6	-4.6	-1.0
Goods-producing sector	79.6	80.8	83.9	-1.2	-1.5	-4.4	-5.2
Agriculture	4.8	4.2	5.5	0.6	14.2	-0.7	-12.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.5	11.3	12.4	-0.7	-6.5	-1.8	-14.8
Utilities	3.4	3.3	3.4	0.2	5.1	0.1	2.0
Construction	32.3	32.8	34.3	-0.4	-1.3	-2.0	-5.7
Manufacturing	28.4	29.2	28.4	-0.8	-2.6	0.0	0.0
Services-producing sector	365.1	366.7	365.4	-1.6	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1
Trade	72.1	71.4	71.7	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	20.3	20.4	20.8	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4	-2.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	24.1	23.2	23.9	0.8	3.6	0.1	0.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.8	27.7	29.1	0.0	0.1	-1.3	-4.6
Business, building and other support services	17.3	19.0	20.1	-1.7	-9.1	-2.8	-13.9
Educational services	36.3	36.2	35.6	0.1	0.2	0.7	2.0
Health care and social assistance	75.9	74.9	73.7	1.0	1.3	2.1	2.9
Information, culture and recreation	16.4	16.4	17.0	0.0	0.0	-0.6	-3.3
Accommodation and food services	28.3	30.9	29.4	-2.6	-8.4	-1.1	-3.6
Other services	19.2	18.9	17.3	0.3	1.4	1.8	10.6
Public administration	27.4	27.6	26.8	-0.2	-0.6	0.6	2.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Three of the five economic regions in the province experienced modest employment growth on a year-over-year quarterly basis: Cape Breton, the Annapolis Valley and Halifax. These areas also saw their unemployment rates fall. Both the Southern and the North Shore regions of Nova Scotia however, saw their overall employment level contract over the last year, accompanied with higher unemployment rates.

Employment in **Cape Breton** was slightly higher in the third quarter of 2016 compared to the same period last year and the region's unemployment rate was lower at 12.9%, down from 14.2% twelve months earlier. This was partially due to a labour force decline but also because of the job gains. The job increases during this period were all part time. The overall employment upturn is attributed to the **Services-producing sector** with the largest employment gains occurring in **Information, culture and recreation** and in **Other services (excluding public administration)**. The **Goods-producing sector** saw a lower third-quarter employment level this year because of job losses in **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas, Utilities, Manufacturing and Construction**.

In the **North Shore** region, employment in the third quarter of 2016 was lower by over 5,000 jobs compared with the same quarter in 2015. Almost all of the jobs lost were full-time. The region's labour force also decreased, but not by enough to prevent the unemployment rate from climbing to 8.6% from last year's third quarter 8.3% rate. The job loss that occurred over the last year took place mostly in the **Services-producing sector** and is attributed to the **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Accommodation and food services** industry groups. **Business, building and other support services** also saw an employment decline over the last 12 months. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** is also down from last year because of job losses in **Construction** and **Manufacturing**.

The **Annapolis Valley** experienced employment growth between the third quarters of 2015 and 2016, however all of these positions were part time. At 6.8%, the unemployment rate was down slightly from 7.0% in the third quarter of 2015. Furthermore, job gains in **Manufacturing** was not enough to offset the job losses within the **Construction** and the **Primary** industry groups, so that overall **Goods-producing sector** employment was lower in the third-quarter of 2016 than in 2015. Substantial employment gains in **Accommodation and food services** were responsible for overall employment growth in the **Services-producing sector**.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

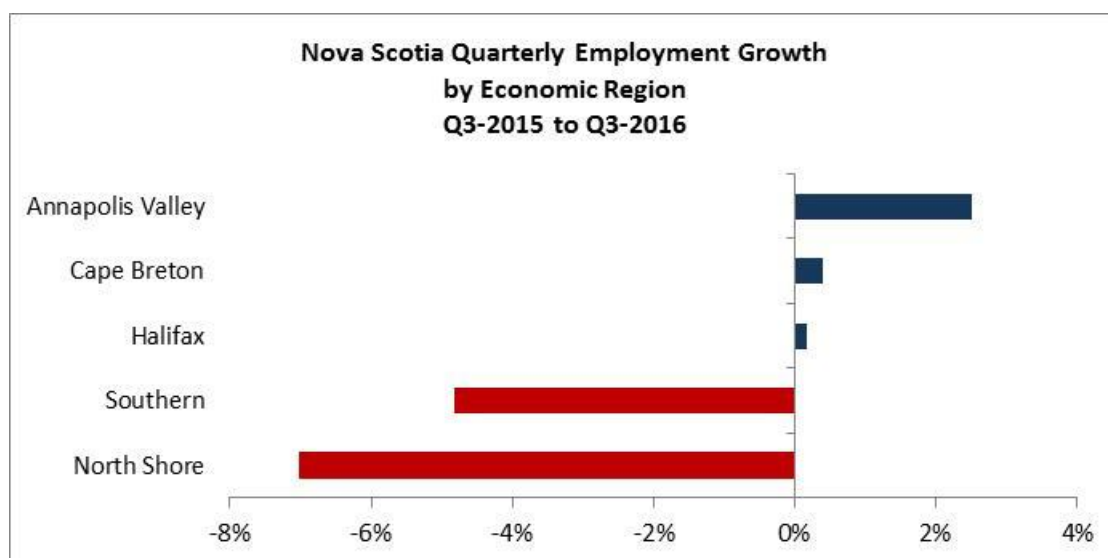
3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Yearly	3rd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Yearly
	2016 ('000)	2015 ('000)	Variation (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	455.3	460.9	-1.2	7.9	8.0	-0.1
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	50.7	50.5	0.4	12.9	14.1	-1.2
North Shore	70.3	75.6	-7.0	8.6	8.3	0.3
Annapolis Valley	57.2	55.8	2.5	6.8	7.0	-0.2
Southern	47.3	49.7	-4.8	13.0	11.7	1.3
Halifax	229.7	229.3	0.2	5.6	5.8	-0.2

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 third quarter of 2016 compared to the same three-month period of 2015. Labour force participation was also down over the period. The unemployment rate increased because of the employment decline, edging up to 13% from 11.7% in last year's third quarter. A good portion (61%) of the job losses were in full-time positions. Overall job losses occurred in both the **Goods** and **Services** sectors. Employment was down in the **Goods-producing sector** from declines in **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas** employment and from job losses in the **Construction** industry group. Fewer positions in **Educational services** were responsible for an overall employment decline in the **Services-producing sector**.

Overall employment in the **Halifax** region in the third quarter of 2016 was up slightly from the same period last year. The number of full-time jobs has diminished over the past year and an increase in part-time employment accounted for the overall employment gain. The job gains accompanied by a labour force reduction lowered the level of unemployment and lessened the region's unemployment rate to 5.6%, down from 5.8% in the third quarter of 2015. Employment was higher this year in the **Goods-producing sector**, mostly due to additional jobs in **Construction**. The **Services-producing sector** experienced an employment contraction resulting from job losses within **Accommodation and food services**, **Public administration** and **Information, culture and recreation**. Within the services sector, **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Educational Services** posted job gains when compared to the third 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.

Prepared by: the Labour Market Analysis Directorate (LMAD), Service Canada, Nova Scotia

For further information, please contact the Labour Market Analysis Directorate 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

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