



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Nova Scotia

October 2017



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

Employment in Nova Scotia was up slightly in October 2017, compared to the previous month. All of the job gains were in full-time employment, while the number of part-time jobs went down from September. The labour force declined however, contributing to both a lower level of unemployment and unemployment rate. Public-sector employment was up slightly while the private sector saw an overall decline. The monthly job gains in the province for the most part, came from an increase in the number of self-employed workers (+1,900), although over the last year, the public sector has been the major source of job growth in the province.

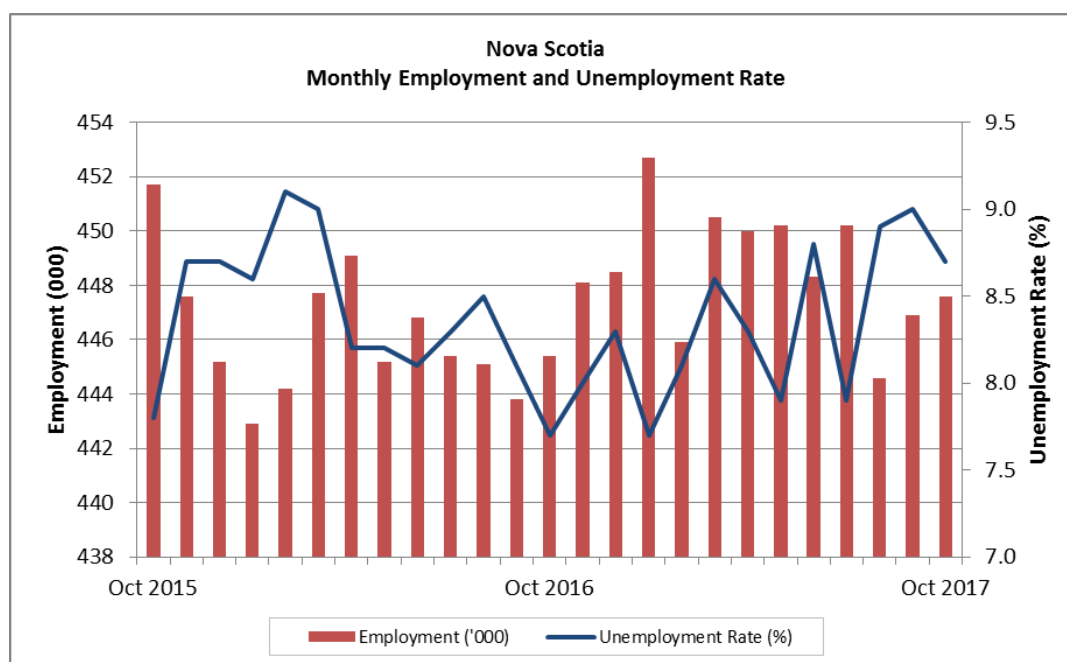
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	794.4	793.7	789.7	0.7	0.1	4.7	0.6
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	490.2	491.2	482.5	-1.0	-0.2	7.7	1.6
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	447.6	446.9	445.4	0.7	0.2	2.2	0.5
Full-Time ('000)	364.7	361.4	361.3	3.3	0.9	3.4	0.9
Part-Time ('000)	82.9	85.5	84.2	-2.6	-3.0	-1.3	-1.5
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	42.6	44.3	37.1	-1.7	-3.8	5.5	14.8
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.7	9.0	7.7	-0.3	-	1.0	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	61.7	61.9	61.1	-0.2	-	0.6	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	56.3	56.3	56.4	0.0	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

A year-over-year comparison reveals that there were 2,200 more people working in October this year than in October 2016. The employment gains were entirely due to 3,400 additional full-time positions, while there were fewer part-time jobs. The unemployment rate in the latest month was up by a full percentage point from that of October 2016, when it stood at 7.7%. This was primarily the result of an increase of almost 8,000 persons to the province's labour force.



On a year-over-year basis, the number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) in the labour force was up, as was the number employed. The youth unemployment rate however, increased by almost three percentage points to 17.3%, over the period. Although the overall employment increase within this age group over the last 12 months was not substantial (+800 jobs), it is noteworthy that the female workforce accounted for 89% of these job gains.

The employment level for persons aged 25 to 54 years fell by 1,100 between October 2016 and October 2017 due to reductions in part-time positions. On the positive side, there were 3,400 more people in this age group working on a full-time basis compared to a year ago. Overall, with fewer persons in this age group working, and more looking for work, the unemployment rate was higher than it was in October of 2016, up by half of a percentage point.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.7	9.0	7.7	-0.3	1.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.3	7.4	6.6	-0.1	0.7
Men - 25 years and over	9.3	9.8	9.0	-0.5	0.3
Women - 25 years and over	5.1	4.9	4.0	0.2	1.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	17.3	18.6	14.5	-1.3	2.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.3	22.0	16.8	-2.7	2.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.0	15.0	12.2	0.0	2.8

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

The number of employed older workers, aged 55 years and over, was greater in October 2017, up by 2,400 compared to the same month last year. The employment increase was primarily driven by a substantial rise in part-time work (+28.5%). Full-time employment among older workers decreased over the past year. The number of unemployed job seekers in this age group rose over the year, partly due to more persons in the labour force reaching 55 years of age. This resulted in a higher unemployment rate of 7.9%, up from 6.7% in October 2016. As

a general trend, the aging population is contributing to both higher labour force participation and employment levels in this age group, as more people are turning 55 years of age each year.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in Nova Scotia's **Goods-producing sector** decreased in October by 1,000 jobs, month-over-month. **Construction** accounted for the greater part of the job losses, but **Agriculture** also experienced a reduction in its employment level. **Manufacturing** employment was up in October, and has showed strong growth over the past year with the addition of 2,700 jobs. Despite the favourable outcome for the Manufacturing subsector, overall Goods-sector employment was down on a year-over-year basis. This was due to substantial job losses in both **Construction** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**.

The **Services-producing sector** added jobs in October because of positive employment results within several areas. **Educational services, Health care and social assistance, Accommodations and food services** and **Professional, scientific and technical services** all saw employment gains in October. However, one of the largest employing groups within the Service sector, **Wholesale and retail trade**, experienced a loss of 1,600 jobs.

A year-over-year assessment of the Service-sector labour market is also positive. Employment was up by 3,800 jobs this October compared to October of last year. An increase of 2,800 jobs within the **Accommodations and food services** subsector and an additional 1,900 **Educational services** jobs accounted for the sector's positive employment result over this 12-month period. **Health care and social assistance** employment fell by 3,000, the largest decline experienced by a single industry group.

Nova Scotia Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	447.6	446.9	445.4	0.7	0.2	2.2	0.5
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	79.6	80.6	81.2	-1.0	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0
Agriculture	4.6	5.0	4.7	-0.4	-8.0	-0.1	-2.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.8	9.6	12.3	0.2	2.1	-2.5	-20.3
Utilities	4.1	4.0	3.5	0.1	2.5	0.6	17.1
Construction	29.6	31.0	31.9	-1.4	-4.5	-2.3	-7.2
Manufacturing	31.5	31.0	28.8	0.5	1.6	2.7	9.4
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	368.0	366.2	364.2	1.8	0.5	3.8	1.0
Trade	75.0	76.6	74.5	-1.6	-2.1	0.5	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	19.9	19.8	19.6	0.1	0.5	0.3	1.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	23.5	22.8	23.0	0.7	3.1	0.5	2.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.4	26.7	27.6	0.7	2.6	-0.2	-0.7
Business, building and other support services	18.0	18.3	17.1	-0.3	-1.6	0.9	5.3
Educational services	37.9	37.0	36.0	0.9	2.4	1.9	5.3
Health care and social assistance	71.5	71.1	74.5	0.4	0.6	-3.0	-4.0
Information, culture and recreation	16.8	17.0	16.4	-0.2	-1.2	0.4	2.4
Accommodation and food services	30.0	29.1	27.2	0.9	3.1	2.8	10.3
Other services	18.2	18.4	20.3	-0.2	-1.1	-2.1	-10.3
Public administration	29.7	29.5	28.1	0.2	0.7	1.6	5.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in just two of the province's five economic regions between October 2016 and October 2017. The North Shore and the Annapolis Valley saw employment gains over the last 12 months, while Halifax, Southern Nova Scotia and the Cape Breton economic region sustained overall job losses. The Annapolis Valley has experienced strong job growth recently, beginning in 2016, which continued and accelerated in 2017. Unemployment rates were up in all regions with the exception of Southern Nova Scotia.

Employment in the **Cape Breton** economic region was down by 700 jobs in October, compared to the same month last year. A labour force increase, in addition to the job losses, added more job seekers and pushed the unemployment rate up to 14.5% from 13.1% a year ago. The **Goods-producing sector** saw its employment level rise, primarily because of additional **Manufacturing** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** jobs. Job losses within **Wholesale and retail trade, Other services (except public administration), Accommodation and food services, and Information, culture and recreation** all contributed to an overall employment decline in the **Services-producing sector** in Cape Breton.

Employment in the **North Shore** region in October 2017 was up on a year-over-year basis by 700 jobs, all part-time positions. The unemployment rate rose from 7.5% in October of last year to 8.3%. The **Goods-producing sector** posted losses of 1,400 jobs in October on a year-over-year basis. Both **Construction** and the **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry groups accounted for the sector's employment decline. The **Services-producing sector** saw its employment level rise over the last 12 months. **Wholesale and retail trade, Accommodation and food services** and **Business, building and other support services** accounted for the greatest additions to the sector's employment level.

The **Annapolis Valley** region saw an increase in its employment level between October 2016 and October 2017 of 5,100 jobs. The majority of the job gains were full-time, with only 200 additional part-time positions. The unemployment rate rose, however, to 7.1% from 6.2% in October of 2016, due to a substantial labour force increase. The overall employment level in the **Goods-producing sector** rose from last year. Both **Construction** and **Agriculture** accounted for the positive employment outcome in October, year-over-year. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for 63% of job gains in the region. Job gains in **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Public administration** contributed considerably to the employment increase over the last 12 months.

The **Southern** region saw a drop in its year-over-year employment level in October, and all of the job losses were full-time positions. The unemployment rate was down from 11.3% a year ago to 9.2% this October because of a large labour force decline resulting in fewer job seekers. **Goods-sector** employment was just marginally lower this October than it was in the same month last year. **Construction** accounted for the sector's employment decrease which was almost offset by job growth in the Manufacturing subsector. The **Services-producing sector** also saw a lower employment level this October. **Health care and social assistance, Public administration, and Other services** accounted for the largest employment losses in the sector. **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Educational services** experienced job gains, but the increases were not large enough to offset losses experienced in other industries in the sector.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2017 ('000)	Oct 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Oct 2017 (%)	Oct 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	453.8	452.7	0.2	8.3	7.4	0.9
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Cape Breton	49.1	49.8	-1.4	14.5	13.1	1.4
North Shore	70.7	70.0	1.0	8.3	7.5	0.8
Annapolis Valley	61.6	56.5	9.0	7.1	6.2	0.9
Southern	47.3	47.9	-1.3	9.2	11.3	-2.1
Halifax	225.0	228.5	-1.5	6.9	5.6	1.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment in the **Halifax** economic region in October 2017 was down 3,500 jobs from October 2016. There were 3,600 fewer full-time jobs in the region. The unemployment rate rose by over a full percentage point because of the lower employment level. Employment was down in the **Goods-producing sector** from October of last year, due to lower employment in **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas** and **Construction**. Employment in Halifax's **Services-producing sector** was also down this October, primarily due to job losses in **Wholesale and retail trade, Transportation and warehousing, Professional, scientific and technical services, and Health care and social assistance**. **Public administration** and **Accommodation and food services** together added 2,900 jobs to the service sector, but were not sufficient to counter the losses in other areas.

**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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