



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

April 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

Nova Scotia's employment level decreased slightly in April 2017, declining by 500 jobs month-over-month. There was a substantial decrease in the number of part-time jobs, but an increase in full-time employment helped reduce the overall employment decline. The labour force also shrank, leading to fewer jobseekers, which lowered both the level of unemployment and the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate reached 8.3% in April, down from 8.6% in March but up marginally from last April when it stood at 8.2%.

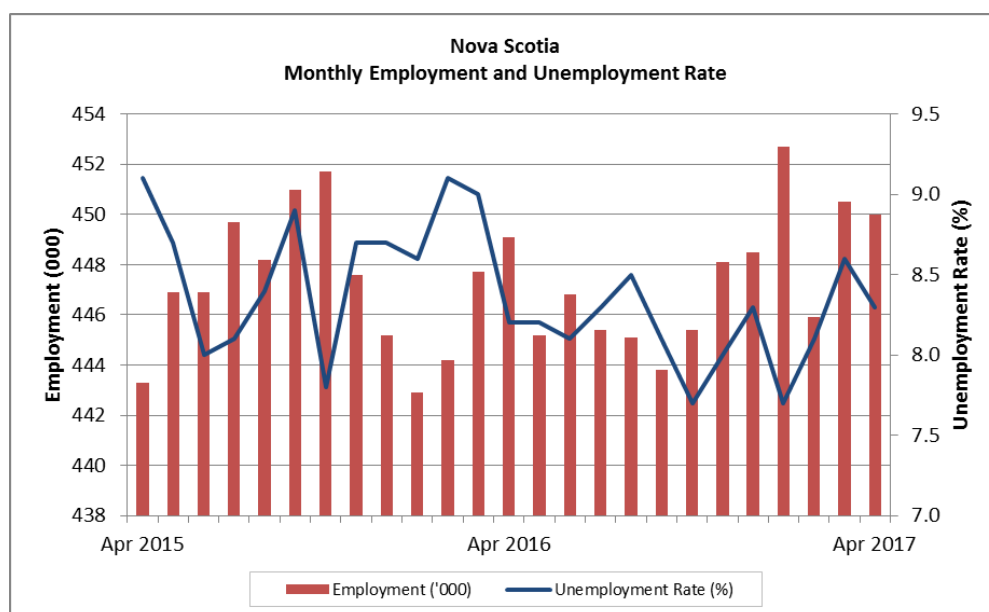
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	791.2	790.8	787.9	0.4	0.1	3.3	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	490.8	493.2	489.4	-2.4	-0.5	1.4	0.3
Employment ('000)	450.0	450.5	449.1	-0.5	-0.1	0.9	0.2
Full-Time ('000)	366.0	364.2	366.9	1.8	0.5	-0.9	-0.2
Part-Time ('000)	84.0	86.3	82.2	-2.3	-2.7	1.8	2.2
Unemployment ('000)	40.8	42.6	40.2	-1.8	-4.2	0.6	1.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	8.6	8.2	-0.3	-	0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.0	62.4	62.1	-0.4	-	-0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.9	57.0	57.0	-0.1	-	-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 shows that there were 900 more people working in April this year than in April 2016. The gain in employment arose due to 1,800 additional part-time positions, but was offset by a loss of 900 full-time jobs. The unemployment rate was up marginally from last April when it stood at 8.2%, because of more people looking for work resulting in an expanding labour force.



On a year-over-year basis, the number of youth (aged 15 to 24) in the labour force declined by 5.1% (-3,700), while those employed fell by 4.5% (-2,800). The youth unemployment rate was down slightly this April, because of fewer jobseekers in the labour force. Within this age group, males accounted for just over half of the jobs lost over the year, while also recording a drop in their unemployment rate.

The employment level for persons aged 25 to 54 years rose between April 2016 and April 2017, and the net job gain was solely in full-time positions. The unemployment rate for this age group remained unchanged from that of April 2016, at 7.1%.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.3	8.6	8.2	-0.3	0.1
25 years and over	7.5	7.4	7.2	0.1	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	9.6	9.4	8.7	0.2	0.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.3	5.2	5.7	0.1	-0.4
15 to 24 years	13.2	16.4	13.8	-3.2	-0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.8	21.0	16.9	-5.2	-1.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.6	11.5	10.5	-0.9	0.1

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

The number of employed older workers, aged 55 years and over, was greater in April 2017, up 1,800 (+1.8%) compared to the same month last year. The employment increase occurred largely in part-time work. The number of unemployed job seekers in this age group was higher in April this year because of a substantial labour force expansion, which pushed the unemployment rate up by a full percentage point to 8.6%. An aging population wanting to continue to participate in the labour market is contributing to both higher labour force and employment levels in this age group, as more people turn 55 years of age each year.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Goods-producing sector in Nova Scotia** saw its overall employment level rise by 1,700 jobs in April, month-over-month. The **Manufacturing** industry group accounted for most of the job gains, but **Construction** also contributed to the higher employment level in the sector. On a year-over-year basis, goods-sector employment was also up largely because of job growth in both the **Utilities** and the **Manufacturing** industry groups. The **Agriculture** subsector was also responsible for employment gains when compared to its employment level last year in April.

The month-over-month overall employment decline in April took place in the province's **Services-producing sector**. **Health care and social assistance** and **Educational services** together accounted for a loss of 3,000 jobs. Greater employment in **Information, culture and recreation**, **Accommodation and food services** and **Public administration** helped to reduce the overall employment decline in the sector.

Employment in the **Services-producing sector** is also lower than it was a year ago in April, and again both **Health care and social assistance** and **Educational services** contributed substantially to the decline. An increase of 4,400 jobs within the **Wholesale and retail trade** subsector lowered the overall year-over-year employment deficit in the **Services-producing sector** to just 300 jobs.

Nova Scotia Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	450.0	450.5	449.1	-0.5	-0.1	0.9	0.2
Goods-producing sector	81.9	80.2	80.8	1.7	2.1	1.1	1.4
Agriculture	4.9	4.8	4.3	0.1	2.1	0.6	14.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.1	11.7	11.7	-0.6	-5.1	-0.6	-5.1
Utilities	3.7	3.8	2.9	-0.1	-2.6	0.8	27.6
Construction	32.5	31.8	32.6	0.7	2.2	-0.1	-0.3
Manufacturing	29.8	28.1	29.2	1.7	6.0	0.6	2.1
Services-producing sector	368.1	370.3	368.4	-2.2	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1
Trade	76.6	76.8	72.2	-0.2	-0.3	4.4	6.1
Transportation and warehousing	18.8	19.2	20.2	-0.4	-2.1	-1.4	-6.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	22.2	22.4	23.3	-0.2	-0.9	-1.1	-4.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.4	28.8	27.7	-0.4	-1.4	0.7	2.5
Business, building and other support services	18.1	18.4	18.3	-0.3	-1.6	-0.2	-1.1
Educational services	34.2	35.3	37.0	-1.1	-3.1	-2.8	-7.6
Health care and social assistance	74.2	76.1	75.5	-1.9	-2.5	-1.3	-1.7
Information, culture and recreation	15.9	14.5	15.6	1.4	9.7	0.3	1.9
Accommodation and food services	31.4	30.5	32.4	0.9	3.0	-1.0	-3.1
Other services	18.9	19.4	18.8	-0.5	-2.6	0.1	0.5
Public administration	29.6	29.0	27.4	0.6	2.1	2.2	8.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased across most of the economic regions of the province, with the exception of Halifax, between April 2016 and April 2017. The North Shore saw the largest job gain over the last 12 months. Unemployment rates were down in three of the regions. Southern Nova Scotia was the only region to see its unemployment rate rise and the Halifax region saw no change from April of last year.

The **Cape Breton** economic region saw an expansion in its employment level in April, compared to the same month last year, with sizeable gains in full-time positions. Part-time job losses significantly lowered the overall employment gain for the region, however. Overall employment in the **Goods-producing sector** was higher be-

cause of job gains in **Construction**. Job losses within **Health care and social assistance** and **Other services (except public administration)** accounted for an overall employment decrease in the **Services-producing sector**.

Employment in the **North Shore** region in April 2017 made substantial gains (+1,800) compared to the same month last year, although two-thirds of the job gains were in part-time positions. The unemployment rate fell from 10.8% to 10.1% during the same period. The employment increase took place primarily in the **Goods-producing sector** due to jobs gains in **Agriculture** and **Manufacturing**. The **Services-producing sector** also experienced a positive employment outcome, although to a lesser extent. **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Professional, scientific and technical services** demonstrated the greatest employment increases in the **Services-producing sector** but significant job losses in **Educational services** substantially reduced the overall employment gain for the sector.

The **Annapolis Valley** region saw a marginal increase in its employment level between April 2016 and April 2017. Substantial gains in full-time employment were almost matched by part-time job losses. The unemployment rate declined from 9.9% to 9.4% due to the employment increase and a labour force decline. The overall employment level in the **Goods-producing sector** was up compared to last April, primarily because of more **Construction** jobs. The **Services-producing sector** showed a slight employment decline over the year. Substantial job gains were made in **Health care and social assistance** and **Professional, scientific and technical services** while most other industry groups saw employment declines. **Health care and social assistance** and **Transportation and warehousing** each saw rather large employment declines.

The **Southern** region saw its employment level rise in April, year-over-year, following gains in part-time positions. The unemployment rate rose from 10.5% to 10.7% over the year due to additional job seekers in the labour force. **Goods-sector** employment was at a lower level this April than in April 2016. The largest employment decline in the sector took place in **Manufacturing**, but **Construction** employment was also down. The **Services-producing sector** saw an overall employment gain as **Health care and social assistance**, **Business, building and other support services** and **Public administration** each added to their employment base over the last year.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2017 ('000)	Apr 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Apr 2017 (%)	Apr 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Nova Scotia	435.9	434.3	0.4	9.4	9.8	-0.4
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	45.7	45.4	0.7	15.8	18.2	-2.4
North Shore	66.8	65.0	2.8	10.1	10.8	-0.7
Annapolis Valley	54.9	54.8	0.2	9.4	9.9	-0.5
Southern	48.5	47.8	1.5	10.7	10.5	0.2
Halifax	219.9	221.3	-0.6	7.4	7.4	0.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Halifax was the only economic region in the province to experience an overall employment decline over the past 12 months, as employers cut back on full-time positions. The unemployment rate was unchanged from last April despite the lower employment level; this was because of a corresponding labour force decrease. Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** was down from April 2016 because of job losses in **Construction**, and **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas**. Halifax's **Services-producing sector** saw its employment base grow from a year ago in April. There were over 5,000 new jobs in **Wholesale and retail trade**, but 2,500 jobs lost in **Health care and social assistance** lowered the overall employment increase for the sector.

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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