



# Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

June 2017



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 second quarter of 2017 saw a slight decline on a quarter-over-quarter basis. The employment losses were limited to part-time positions, as the number of full-time positions rose from the previous quarter. The labour force increased as more job seekers entered the labour market. This pushed the unemployment rate up slightly to 8.3%, from 8.1% in the first quarter this year. The private sector accounted for all job losses while employment was up in the public sector. The level of self employment in the province was down from the previous quarter.

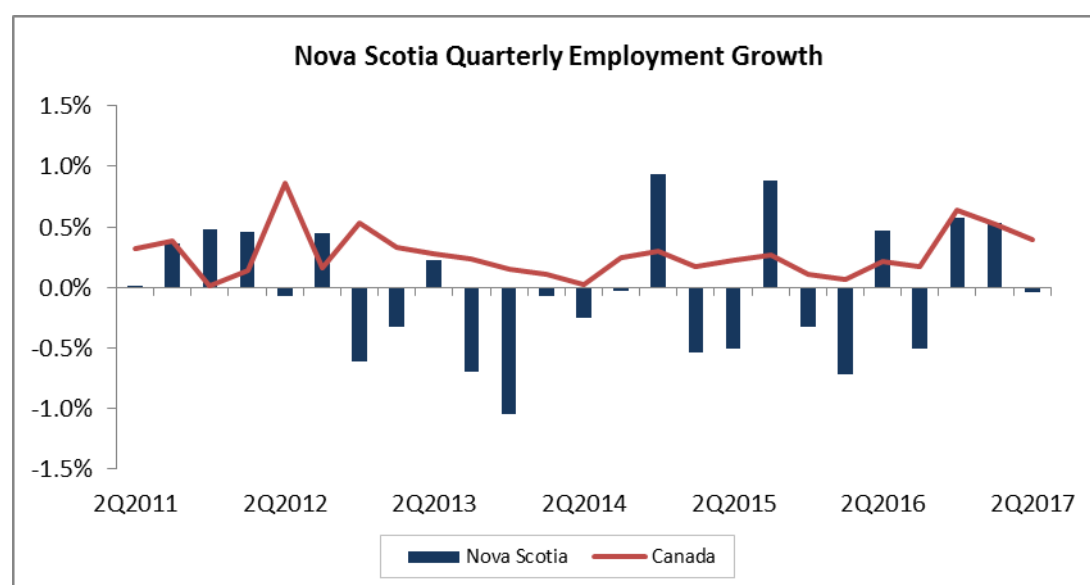
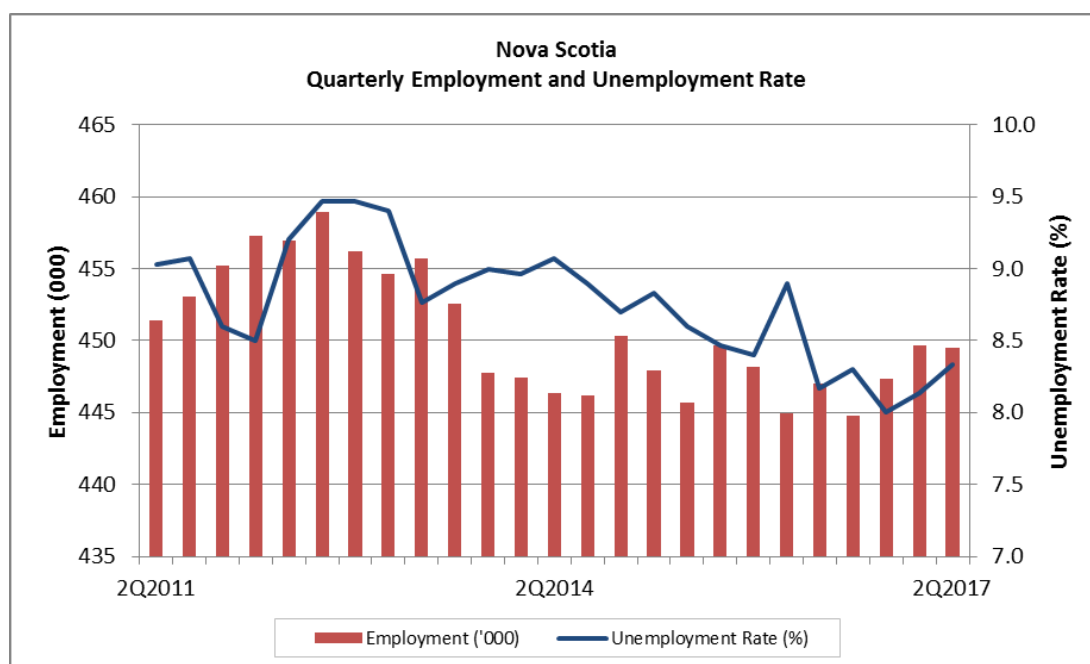
Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	2nd Quarter 2017	1st Quarter 2017	2nd Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	791.6	790.5	788.1	1.1	0.1	3.5	0.4
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	490.4	489.6	486.9	0.8	0.2	3.5	0.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	449.5	449.7	447.0	-0.2	0.0	2.5	0.6
Full-Time ('000)	365.9	363.3	366.1	2.6	0.7	-0.2	-0.1
Part-Time ('000)	83.7	86.4	80.9	-2.7	-3.1	2.8	3.5
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	40.9	39.9	39.9	1.0	2.5	1.0	2.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.3	8.1	8.2	0.2	-	0.1	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	61.9	62.0	61.8	-0.1	-	0.1	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	56.8	56.9	56.7	-0.1	-	0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Labour market conditions showed some improvements when compared with the same three-month period in 2016.. Second-quarter employment in 2017 was up from last year. Employment in part-time positions was up 3.5% while full-time employment was down slightly by 0.1%. An increase in the size of the labour force over the last year pushed the unemployment rate upwards, but the employment gains this year kept the increase in the unemployment rate to just one-tenth of a percentage point.



The largest employment decrease in the second quarter of 2017 occurred among those of prime working-age (25-54 years), and mostly males (81% of jobs lost). Women experienced employment gains this quarter, although the gains were slight. The youth component of the labour market, those aged 15-24 years, registered the highest increase in employment (2.1%), particularly among males (2.5%).

Compared to a year earlier, employment was higher in the second quarter this year. Employment levels for youth (15 to 24 years) were 3.4% lower than in the second quarter of 2016. Nearly two-thirds of the job gains over the past year have been by those aged 55 years and over and mostly among females. As a general trend, the aging population has been contributing to both higher labour force and employment levels in this age group, as more people are turning 55 years of age each year.

## Nova Scotia Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	2nd Quarter 2017 (%)	1st Quarter 2017 (%)	2nd Quarter 2016 (%)	Quarterly (% points)	Yearly (% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.3	8.1	8.2	0.2	0.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.1	7.0	7.0	0.1	0.0
Men - 25 years and over	8.9	9.0	8.5	-0.1	0.4
Women - 25 years and over	5.2	4.8	5.5	0.4	-0.4
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.0	15.5	14.9	0.5	1.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.4	18.7	17.1	-0.3	1.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.4	12.1	12.4	1.3	1.0

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

In the second quarter (Q2) of 2017, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was around 2 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 67,900 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces was 37,600, representing an increase of 4,400 (+13.3%) from a year earlier (Q2 2016). The increase was primarily driven by full-time positions (+4,000 or +14.9%). Part-time positions also saw an increase over the same time period (+500 or +7.9%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 12.0% in Q2 2017, representing a decrease of -7.8 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was 9.6% (+0.3pp). Between Q2 2016 and Q2 2017, the participation rate of Indigenous people stood at 63.0% (+1.0pp) while among non-Indigenous population, it was 62.0% (-0.5pp). The employment rate of Indigenous people increased year-over-year to 55.5% (+5.8pp); for the non-Indigenous population, it was 56.7% (-0.7pp).

## Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q2 2017	Q2 2016	number	%	Q2 2017	Q2 2016	number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	67.9	66.7	1.2	1.8%	1,917.5	1,910.7	6.8	0.4%
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	42.8	41.4	1.4	3.4%	1,188.2	1,194.4	-6.2	-0.5%
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	37.6	33.2	4.4	13.3%	1,074.1	1,083.1	-9.0	-0.8%
<b>Full-Time ('000)</b>	30.9	26.9	4.0	14.9%	901.8	901.9	-0.1	0.0%
<b>Part-Time ('000)</b>	6.8	6.3	0.5	7.9%	172.3	181.3	-9.0	-5.0%
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	5.1	8.2	-3.1	-37.8%	114.1	111.3	2.8	2.5%
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	12.0	19.8	-7.8	-	9.6	9.3	0.3	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	63.0	62.0	1.0	-	62.0	62.5	-0.5	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	55.5	49.7	5.8	-	56.0	56.7	-0.7	-

**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 employment losses in the second quarter of 2017 were concentrated primarily in the **Services-producing sector**. **Health care and social assistance** led the overall employment decrease with a loss of over 3,000 jobs. Employment gains were seen in the **Business, building and other support services** and the **Wholesale and retail**

**trade** subsectors. Compared with the same quarter last year, employment in the **Services-producing sector** was up, largely because of job gains in **Wholesale and retail trade**. **Professional, scientific and technical services**, which has been the fastest growing industry group in the province over the last decade, also added jobs over the past year.

An employment increase in the **Goods-producing sector** in the second quarter of 2017 was primarily due to a substantial number of jobs filled in the province's **Manufacturing** industry. **Construction** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** employment levels were down however, from the first quarter of the year, which softened the overall positive outcome for the Goods-producing sector.

Compared to the second quarter of 2016, employment in the **Goods-producing sector** also was up, once again mostly due to additional **Manufacturing** jobs. Although the newly acquired jobs in the subsector this year are encouraging, **Manufacturing** employment is still 7,000 jobs short of the level seen in 2008. The province's Goods sector as a whole, has experienced lower employment levels since 2008, while Service-sector employment has risen considerably over the same time period.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	2nd Quarter 2017	1st Quarter 2017	2nd Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	449.5	449.7	447.0	-0.2	0.0	2.5	0.6
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	81.4	81.0	80.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9
Agriculture	4.8	4.7	4.2	0.1	1.4	0.5	12.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.8	11.9	11.2	-2.1	-17.7	-1.4	-12.8
Utilities	3.9	3.9	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	20.8
Construction	31.5	33.1	32.9	-1.6	-4.8	-1.5	-4.5
Manufacturing	31.6	27.5	29.1	4.1	15.0	2.5	8.7
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	368.0	368.7	366.4	-0.6	-0.2	1.7	0.5
Trade	76.7	75.8	71.8	0.9	1.2	4.9	6.9
Transportation and warehousing	19.3	19.4	20.3	-0.1	-0.7	-1.0	-5.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	22.6	22.5	23.2	0.2	0.7	-0.6	-2.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.3	29.3	27.7	-1.0	-3.3	0.6	2.2
Business, building and other support services	18.5	17.6	18.8	0.9	5.1	-0.3	-1.6
Educational services	35.0	34.4	36.0	0.6	1.8	-1.0	-2.8
Health care and social assistance	72.6	75.9	74.9	-3.3	-4.4	-2.3	-3.1
Information, culture and recreation	15.6	15.1	16.4	0.5	3.3	-0.8	-4.9
Accommodation and food services	30.6	30.5	30.6	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
Other services	18.9	19.2	19.0	-0.3	-1.6	-0.1	-0.5
Public administration	29.9	29.1	27.6	0.8	2.9	2.3	8.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Of the five economic regions in Nova Scotia, the Annapolis Valley and the North Shore region experienced increases in employment during the second quarter of 2017 on a year-over-year basis. Both regions also saw increases in their labour force, as did the Halifax region. Halifax was the only economic region in the province to see its level of unemployment and its unemployment rate rise, though it still has the lowest rate in the province.

Employment in **Cape Breton** decreased in the second quarter of 2017 compared to the same period last year and the region's unemployment rate was lower at 13%, down from 13.3% in the second quarter of last year. The lower unemployment rate was a result of fewer labour force participants, despite the job losses. The jobs lost were mostly in part-time positions within the **Services-producing sector**. The largest employment declines in the **Services-producing sector** were in the **Other services (except public administration)**, **Accommodation and food**

**services** and the **Health care and social assistance** industry groups. Employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** registered a higher second-quarter result this year because of job gains in **Manufacturing**.

In the **North Shore** region, employment in the second quarter of 2017 was higher than it was in the same quarter of 2016. Almost all of the job gains were in full-time positions. The region's labour force increased, but not by enough to prevent the unemployment rate from falling to 9.1%, down from last year's second-quarter rate of 9.8%. The job gains that occurred over the last year took place mostly in the **Goods-producing sector** and were attributed to the **Manufacturing** and **Agriculture** industry groups. Employment also increased in the **Services-producing sector** over the last 12 months, although by a lesser amount. **Wholesale and retail trade**, **Professional, scientific and technical services**, and **Accommodation and food services** each contributed gains to the region's overall employment upturn, but employment levels were down in both **Health care and social assistance** and **Educational services**.

Employment in the **Annapolis Valley** rose between the second quarters of 2016 and 2017, and all of the job gains were in full-time positions. The increase in employment contributed to a lower unemployment rate, which plunged from 9.5% in the second quarter of 2016 to 7.1% in the latest quarter. Both the **Goods-producing sector** and the **Services-producing sector** registered employment increases. Additional **Construction** jobs accounted for the higher employment level in the **Goods-producing sector**. Employment gains in **Health care and social assistance** and in **Professional, scientific and technical services** led to a higher employment level 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 2017 ('000)	2nd Quarter 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	2nd Quarter 2017 (%)	2nd Quarter 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	453.1	450.8	0.5	8.2	8.0	0.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Cape Breton	48.2	50.2	-4.0	13.0	13.3	-0.3
North Shore	69.8	67.4	3.6	9.1	9.8	-0.7
Annapolis Valley	60.7	55.9	8.6	7.1	9.5	-2.4
Southern	49.6	49.9	-0.6	9.7	9.7	0.0
Halifax	224.8	227.4	-1.1	6.9	5.5	1.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

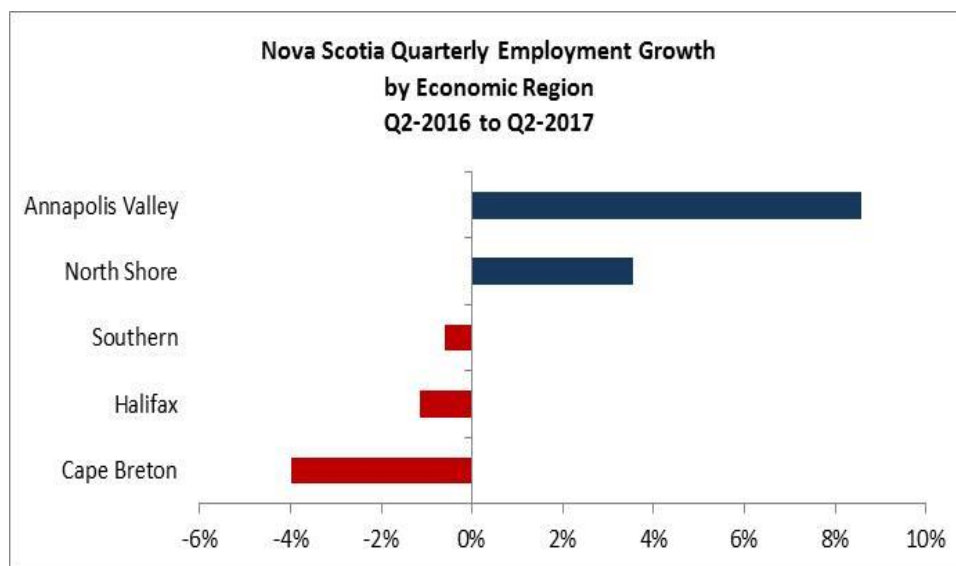
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

A decline in full-time jobs contributed to fewer people employed in the **Southern** region of Nova Scotia in the second quarter of 2017 compared to the same quarter last year. Labour force participation was down slightly over this period but the unemployment rate was unchanged from a year ago, remaining at 9.7%. Employment declined in the **Goods-producing sector** mostly from job losses in **Construction** and to a lesser extent in **Manufacturing**. Employment increases in **Educational services** and **Wholesale and retail trade** accounted for an overall employment gain in the **Services-producing sector**.

Employment in the **Halifax** region in the second quarter of 2017 was down compared to the same three-month period of 2016. The number of full-time jobs has diminished sharply over the past year but an increase in part-time employment softened the overall impact on the region's labour market. The labour force has continued to rise and add to the level of unemployment. The unemployment rate in Halifax stood at 6.9% in the second quarter of this year, up from 5.5% in the second quarter of 2016.

Employment declined in the **Goods-producing sector** in Halifax, mostly due to fewer jobs in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** but also to a lesser degree in **Construction**. The **Services-producing sector** also experienced an employment contraction resulting from job losses within **Professional, scientific and technical services**, and **Business, building and other support services**. On a positive note, **Wholesale and retail trade** in

the Halifax area saw a healthy second-quarter employment gain in 2017 when compared to the same quarter of last year.



**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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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