



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Nova Scotia

July 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 rose by 1,900 jobs in July, compared to the previous month. The number of full-time jobs were down from June, so all of the job gains were in part-time employment. The labour force, however, declined substantially which lowered both the level of unemployment and the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate fell from 8.8% in June to 7.9% in July. The private sector accounted for all job gains while employment was down in the public sector. The level of self employment in the province was up from the previous month.

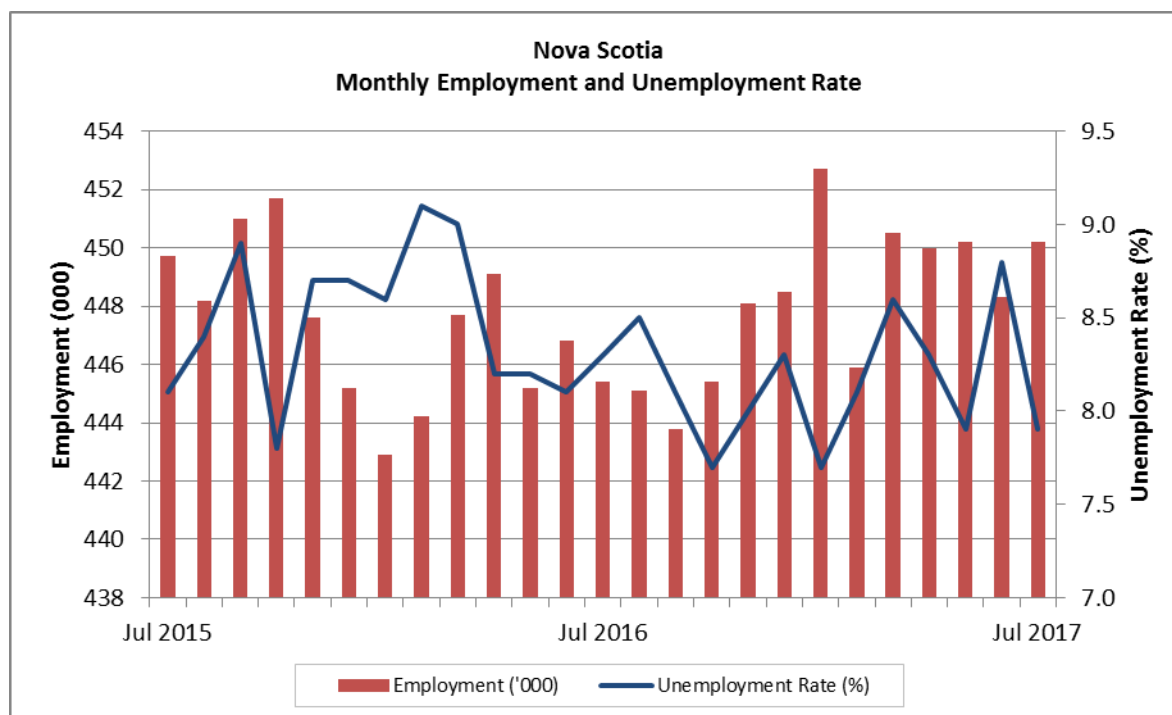
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2017	June 2017	July 2016	Monthly		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	792.4	792.0	788.9	0.4	0.1	3.5	0.4
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	488.7	491.8	485.7	-3.1	-0.6	3.0	0.6
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	450.2	448.3	445.4	1.9	0.4	4.8	1.1
Full-Time ('000)	364.5	365.4	360.5	-0.9	-0.2	4.0	1.1
Part-Time ('000)	85.7	83.0	84.8	2.7	3.3	0.9	1.1
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	38.6	43.5	40.3	-4.9	-11.3	-1.7	-4.2
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	7.9	8.8	8.3	-0.9	-	-0.4	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	61.7	62.1	61.6	-0.4	-	0.1	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	56.8	56.6	56.5	0.2	-	0.3	-

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 almost 5,000 more people working in July this year than in July 2016. There were 4,000 additional full-time positions, while the number of part-time jobs increased by about 900. The unemployment rate in the latest month was down from that of July 2016, when it stood at 8.3%.



On a year-over-year basis, the number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) in the labour force was down slightly, as was the number employed. The youth unemployment rate, however, increased over the period, rising from 14.8% to 15.9%. Employment within this age group declined by 1,000 jobs over the last 12 months and females accounted for all of the job losses (-1,100).

The employment level for persons aged 25 to 54 years rose by 2,000 between July 2016 and July 2017, led by growth in full-time positions (+4,400). With more people in this age group working, and fewer looking for work, the unemployment rate was lower at 6.8% than it was in July of 2016 (7.2%).

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2017	June 2017	July 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.9	8.8	8.3	-0.9	-0.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.6	7.1	7.2	-0.5	-0.6
Men - 25 years and over	8.9	9.0	9.0	-0.1	-0.1
Women - 25 years and over	4.2	5.2	5.5	-1.0	-1.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	15.9	18.8	14.8	-2.9	1.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.9	20.1	18.8	-0.2	1.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.8	17.4	10.7	-5.6	1.1

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

The number of employed older workers, aged 55 years and over, was greater in July 2017, up by 3,800 compared to the same month last year. The employment increase was primarily driven by a rise in part-time work, although full-time employment also increased. The number of unemployed job seekers in this age group was lower in July this year because of the job gains, which also resulted in a lower unemployment rate of 6.0%, down from 7.3% in July 2016. As a general trend, the aging population is contributing to both higher labour force 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** increased in July by 1,600 jobs, month-over-month. **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** added the most jobs to the sector while **Construction** also contributed with a slight employment gain. **Manufacturing** and **Agriculture**, on the other hand, saw declining employment levels, which lowered the overall job gains in the sector. Compared to the previous year, goods-sector employment was up by 3,700 because of substantial job growth in **Manufacturing**.

Additional jobs in **Educational services, Health care and social assistance** and **Wholesale and retail trade** helped to generate a small but favourable employment outcome for the province's **Services-producing sector**, month-over-month. **Accommodations and food services** and **Public Administration** both experienced job losses during the latest month.

While the month-over-month employment growth in the **Services-producing sector** was slight, a year-over-year assessment is a little more encouraging. Service-sector employment was up by 1,100 jobs this July compared to July of last year. An increase of 6,300 jobs within the **Wholesale and retail trade** subsector and an additional 2,100 **Public administration** jobs accounted for the sector's positive employment result over this 12-month period. **Health care and social assistance** employment decreased by 3,100, representing the largest year-over-year job losses recorded by a single industry group in the sector.

Nova Scotia Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2017	June 2017	July 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	450.2	448.3	445.4	1.9	0.4	4.8	1.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	82.3	80.7	78.6	1.6	2.0	3.7	4.7
Agriculture	4.4	5.1	5.2	-0.7	-13.7	-0.8	-15.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.4	8.6	10.4	2.8	32.6	1.0	9.6
Utilities	3.8	3.9	3.5	-0.1	-2.6	0.3	8.6
Construction	30.7	30.4	31.4	0.3	1.0	-0.7	-2.2
Manufacturing	31.9	32.8	28.2	-0.9	-2.7	3.7	13.1
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	367.9	367.6	366.8	0.3	0.1	1.1	0.3
Trade	77.9	76.4	71.6	1.5	2.0	6.3	8.8
Transportation and warehousing	19.4	19.9	20.3	-0.5	-2.5	-0.9	-4.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	22.8	23.4	24.1	-0.6	-2.6	-1.3	-5.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.5	28.9	28.2	-0.4	-1.4	0.3	1.1
Business, building and other support services	18.5	18.6	18.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5
Educational services	36.8	35.6	37.5	1.2	3.4	-0.7	-1.9
Health care and social assistance	71.8	70.9	74.9	0.9	1.3	-3.1	-4.1
Information, culture and recreation	15.7	15.2	16.8	0.5	3.3	-1.1	-6.5
Accommodation and food services	28.4	29.8	29.4	-1.4	-4.7	-1.0	-3.4
Other services	18.7	18.6	18.4	0.1	0.5	0.3	1.6
Public administration	29.2	30.2	27.1	-1.0	-3.3	2.1	7.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

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## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in three of the province's five economic regions between July 2016 and July 2017. The North Shore, the Annapolis Valley and Southern Nova Scotia saw employment gains over the last 12 months, while Halifax and the Cape Breton economic region sustained overall job losses. Unemployment rates were down in all regions with the exception of Halifax.

Employment in the **Cape Breton** economic region was down by 3,000 jobs in July, compared to the same month last year. Despite the lower level of employment, the unemployment rate was down from that of July 2016 due to a substantial labour force decline. The **Goods-producing sector** saw its employment level increase, primarily because of additional **Manufacturing** jobs. Job losses within **Other services (except public administration)**, **Accommodation and food services**, **Health care and social assistance** and **Wholesale and retail trade** all contributed to an overall employment decline in the **Services-producing sector**.

Employment in the **North Shore** region in May 2017 was up on a year-over-year basis by 1,400 jobs, all in full-time positions. The unemployment rate was down from 9.2% in July of last year to 8.6%. The **Goods-producing sector** accounted for 43% of the region's employment gains because of new **Manufacturing** jobs as well as higher **Agriculture** employment. There were 900 job losses in **Construction**, which reduced the overall employment gains for the goods sector, however. The **Services-producing sector** also saw its employment level rise over the last 12 months. **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Accommodation and food services** accounted for the greatest addition to the sector's employment level.

The **Annapolis Valley** region saw an increase in its employment level between July 2016 and July 2017 of 6,300 jobs. All of the job gains were in full-time employment. The unemployment rate dropped to 6.2% from 8.2% in July of 2016, due to the higher employment level. The overall employment level in the **Goods-producing sector** rose from last May. Both **Construction** and **Agriculture** accounted for the positive employment outcome in July, year-over-year. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for 95% of job gains in the region. Job gains in **Health care and social assistance** and **Professional, scientific and technical services** contributed considerably to the employment increase over the last 12 months.

The **Southern** region saw its year-over-year employment level rise in July, although all of the additional jobs were part-time positions. The unemployment rate was down from 11.2% a year ago to 8.9% this July because of the higher employment level and fewer job seekers. **Goods-sector** employment was lower this July than it was in July 2016. The employment decreases took place in **Construction** and **Agriculture**. The **Services-producing sector** accounted for the overall employment increase in the region. **Wholesale and retail trade**, **Educational services**, and **Business, building and other support services** recorded the greatest employment gains in the sector.

Employment in the **Halifax** economic region in May 2017 was down by 2,400 from that of July 2016. There were 6,000 fewer full-time jobs in the region, this July. The unemployment rate rose by over a full percentage point because of the lower employment level and from additional job seekers in the labour force. Employment was down in the **Goods-producing sector** from July of last year, due to lower employment in **Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas** and **Construction**. Halifax's **Services-producing sector** employment was also down in July 2017. **Wholesale and retail trade** added 4,200 jobs which weren't enough to counter job losses in the **Professional, scientific and technical services**, and **Business, building and other support services** industry groups.

**Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2017 ('000)	July 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2017 (%)	July 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	460.2	457.0	0.7	7.8	7.7	0.1
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Cape Breton	48.6	51.6	-5.8	12.3	12.4	-0.1
North Shore	70.8	69.4	2.0	8.6	9.2	-0.6
Annapolis Valley	63.4	57.1	11.0	6.2	8.2	-2.0
Southern	50.1	49.3	1.6	8.9	11.2	-2.3
Halifax	227.2	229.6	-1.0	6.6	5.2	1.4

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

**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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