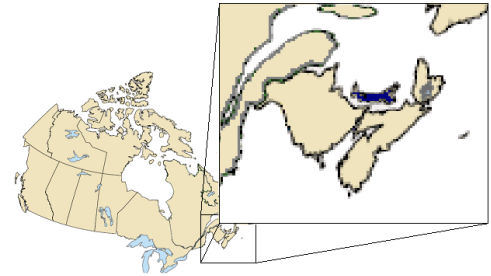




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island



October 2015

This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Prince Edward Island.

OVERVIEW

Labour market conditions in Prince Edward Island improved in October 2015. Employment increased by 700 and the size of the labour force went up by 1,300 compared to September. A slight decline in the number of full-time jobs was more than offset by a 7% increase in part-time jobs. There were more people participating in the labour market in October than there were available jobs and this pushed the unemployment rate up by just over half of a percentage point to 9.9% in October. The participation rate rose in October which suggests that people were more optimistic about finding employment than they have been in recent months, particularly in August when the participation rate was at a five-year low.

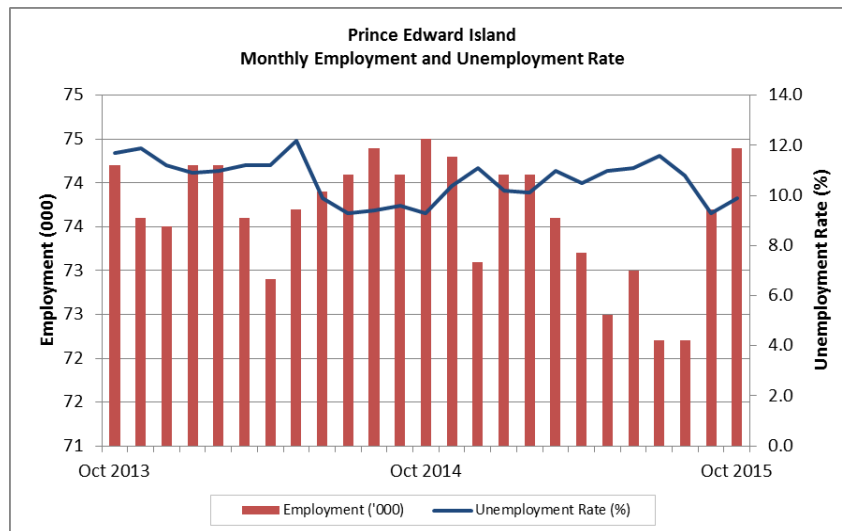
Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	121.1	121.0	120.6	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	82.6	81.3	82.1	1.3	1.6	0.5	0.6
Employment ('000)	74.4	73.7	74.5	0.7	0.9	-0.1	-0.1
Full-Time ('000)	62.0	62.2	63.5	-0.2	-0.3	-1.5	-2.4
Part-Time ('000)	12.4	11.6	10.9	0.8	6.9	1.5	13.8
Unemployment ('000)	8.2	7.6	7.6	0.6	7.9	0.6	7.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.9	9.3	9.3	0.6	-	0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	68.2	67.2	68.1	1.0	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.4	60.9	61.8	0.5	-	-0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

There was little change in labour market conditions in PEI on an annual basis. At 74,400, employment was close to what it was in October 2014. There were 800 fewer men employed in October but there were 700 more women working, for a marginal net decrease in the level of employment. A decline in full-time employment was offset by a similar increase in the number of part-time jobs. Men accounted for all of the full-time job losses year-over-year, particularly those in the core working-age group (25-54 years).



There were 8,200 unemployed persons in October 2015 which is 600 more compared to a year ago. This represents a net gain of 1,400 more men and 800 fewer women unemployed. For males, the gain was evenly distributed between younger workers (aged 15-24 years) and core-aged workers. The unemployment rate for younger worker males increased considerably year-over-year, by over 8 percentage points to 22.9% in October 2015. Although this is not an uncommon unemployment rate for this age group, it was however a considerable increase from the lower rates experienced in the preceding three months when it averaged 17.7%.

The unemployment rate for women averaged 7.7% in October 2015, which is a ten year low for this group. It was even lower for females in the 15-24 age category, which at 4.6%, was an all-time low in PEI. Youth females accounted for nearly all of the year-over-year employment gains among women in October 2015.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2014	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	9.9	9.3	9.3	0.6	0.6
25 years and over	9.1	8.8	8.3	0.3	0.8
Men - 25 years and over	9.9	8.6	7.9	1.3	2.0
Women - 25 years and over	8.3	9.3	9.1	-1.0	-0.8
15 to 24 years	14.1	12.2	14.4	1.9	-0.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	22.9	15.7	14.1	7.2	8.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	4.6	8.2	13.1	-3.6	-8.5

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

The participation rate in October averaged 68.2% which is on par with what it was a year ago. Nationally, the participation rate averaged 66%. The participation rate for youth females averaged 73.9% in October, which was the highest in the country for this age group.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** declined year-over-year, but was offset by the same increase in **Services-producing sector** employment. Employment in the Goods-producing sector totalled 17,500, which was 1,100 lower than it was a year ago. Employment was lower for the **Construction** (-800) and **Agriculture** (-700) industries in October 2015. Current indications suggest that on a year-to-date basis, the construction industry

has not experienced the same level of activity as it did in 2014. The value of non-residential building permits in the first seven months of 2015 was down by 20% compared to the same period last year, and the number of housing starts in the province (rural and urban) is 15% below what it was in the first half of 2015.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	74.4	73.7	74.5	0.7	0.9	-0.1	-0.1
Goods-producing sector	17.5	17.1	18.6	0.4	2.3	-1.1	-5.9
Agriculture	3.1	3.2	3.8	-0.1	-3.1	-0.7	-18.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.4	2.5	2.4	-0.1	-4.0	0.0	0.0
Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	33.3
Construction	5.4	5.4	6.2	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-12.9
Manufacturing	6.2	5.5	6.0	0.7	12.7	0.2	3.3
Services-producing sector	56.9	56.6	55.8	0.3	0.5	1.1	2.0
Trade	11.0	11.2	10.8	-0.2	-1.8	0.2	1.9
Transportation and warehousing	2.4	2.4	3.1	0.0	0.0	-0.7	-22.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.4	2.5	2.2	-0.1	-4.0	0.2	9.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business, building and other support services	2.5	2.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	13.6
Educational services	5.6	5.4	5.5	0.2	3.7	0.1	1.8
Health care and social assistance	10.3	10.2	9.9	0.1	1.0	0.4	4.0
Information, culture and recreation	2.2	2.2	2.6	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-15.4
Accommodation and food services	6.7	6.8	5.7	-0.1	-1.5	1.0	17.5
Other services	3.1	3.1	3.7	0.0	0.0	-0.6	-16.2
Public administration	7.5	7.4	7.1	0.1	1.4	0.4	5.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

There were 56,900 workers employed in the **Services-producing sector** in October 2015, which was 2% higher compared to the same month in 2014. Most of the employment gains in October 2015 can be attributed in large part to increases in **Accommodation and Food Services** (+1,000). Employment was also higher for government services industries including **Health Care and Social Assistance** (+400), **Educational Services** (+100) and **Public Administration** (+400). However, lower employment levels for **Transportation and Warehousing** (-700) and **Other Services** (-600) limited the overall gains in 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.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact Labour Market Analysis Directorate at:

NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsc-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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