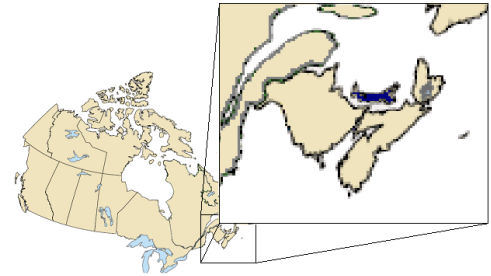




# Labour Market Bulletin

## Prince Edward Island



November 2015

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

### OVERVIEW

Labour market conditions remained soft in Prince Edward Island. Following two consecutive months of growth, the Island's labour force fell by 700 in November. There were 900 fewer people employed compared to October and 300 more unemployed. The number of full-time positions declined in November (-700) as did part-time employment (-200). At 10.4%, the unemployment rate was half of a percentage point higher than it was in October.

With fewer people in the labour market in November, the participation rate declined to 67.6%, which is low for the province compared to recent years (the participation rate in PEI averaged 69.8% in 2013 and 68.5% in 2014). The declining trend in PEI's participation rate suggests a less than optimistic view about job prospects in the province.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	121.1	121.1	120.7	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3
Labour Force ('000)	81.9	82.6	82.9	-0.7	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2
Employment ('000)	73.5	74.4	74.3	-0.9	-1.2	-0.8	-1.1
Full-Time ('000)	61.3	62.0	63.0	-0.7	-1.1	-1.7	-2.7
Part-Time ('000)	12.2	12.4	11.3	-0.2	-1.6	0.9	8.0
Unemployment ('000)	8.5	8.2	8.6	0.3	3.7	-0.1	-1.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.4	9.9	10.4	0.5	-	0.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.6	68.2	68.7	-0.6	-	-1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.7	61.4	61.6	-0.7	-	-0.9	-

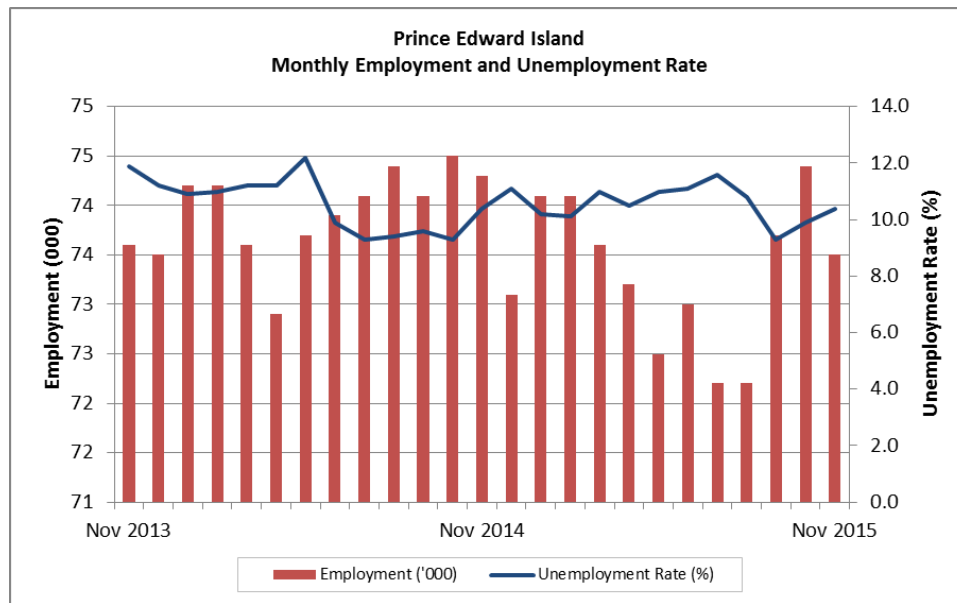
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Labour market conditions in PEI were softer on an annual basis as well. The labour force totalled 81,900 in November 2015 which was 1.2% lower than it was the same month a year ago. Similarly, the level of employment was lower on an annual basis as well, by 1.1%. Males between the ages of 25 to 54 years (core-aged workers) accounted for the entire year-over-year decrease in employment. There were 1,700 fewer full-time positions in November 2015 compared to a year ago, and again, the losses were concentrated largely in the male core-

working age group. Partially offsetting these losses were year-over-year increases in the number of females working full-time, particularly those between 15-24 years.

Part-time employment totaled 12,200 in November which is 900 more compared to a year ago. Men accounted for the entire gain, particularly males in the core-working age category. There were fewer women employed on a part-time basis year-over-year (-500).



There were 8,500 unemployed persons in November 2015 which was slightly lower than it was a year ago (-1.2%) and men accounted for the majority of the unemployed (62%). Although the overall unemployment rate was unchanged from a year ago, there were however some notable swings in the underlying unemployment rates for men and women at varying age groups. For men, the unemployment rate for the core-working age workers averaged 10.1% in November 2015, which is 2.2 percentage points higher compared to a year ago.

For women, the unemployment rate for the younger group (15-24 years of age) was 4.8% in November and compares to 11.9% just a year ago, a 7.1 percentage point reduction. The unemployment rate for this female age group fell to an all-time low in October 2015, at 4.6%.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	10.4	9.9	10.4	0.5	0.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	9.3	9.1	9.1	0.2	0.2
Men - 25 years and over	10.0	9.9	9.5	0.1	0.5
Women - 25 years and over	8.6	8.3	9.0	0.3	-0.4
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	15.8	14.1	17.5	1.7	-1.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	25.4	22.9	22.4	2.5	3.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	4.8	4.6	11.9	0.2	-7.1

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

Although the PEI participation rate in November was 1.1 percentage points lower than it was a year ago, it was highest among provinces East of Manitoba. It also exceeded the national average (65.8%) by 1.8 percentage

points. The participation rate in PEI has traditionally exceeded the national average however the gap has been narrowed in recent years.

The participation rate for females in the younger age category (15-24 years) averaged 71.3% in November, which was the highest in the country for this age group.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The year-over-year decline in PEI employment was concentrated in the **Goods-producing sector**. Employment in this sector totalled 17,500 in November which is 6.4% lower than it was a year ago, due almost entirely to the decline in **Construction** employment. The **Construction** industry is shown to have experienced a 20.3% reduction in its employment base year-over-year. However, it should be pointed out that there was an unexplained spike in **Construction** employment in November 2014 before retreating in subsequent months.

Current indications suggest that non-residential construction activity remains weak in the province. The value of non-residential building permits in the first three quarters of 2015 was down by 13% compared to the same period last year. This was largely affected by a 30% reduction in the value of commercial building permits, year-to-date. On the bright side, current indications also suggest that residential construction activity in the province has been strengthening in 2015 following meager production levels in the previous two years. The number of housing starts in the first three quarters of 2015 is up by 14% compared to the same period a year ago. However, the current level of housing construction continues to remain well below historical levels.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	73.5	74.4	74.3	-0.9	-1.2	-0.8	-1.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	17.5	17.5	18.7	0.0	0.0	-1.2	-6.4
Agriculture	3.5	3.1	3.5	0.4	12.9	0.0	0.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.3	2.4	2.4	-0.1	-4.2	-0.1	-4.2
Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	33.3
Construction	5.1	5.4	6.4	-0.3	-5.6	-1.3	-20.3
Manufacturing	6.2	6.2	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.6
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	55.9	56.9	55.6	-1.0	-1.8	0.3	0.5
Trade	11.1	11.0	10.8	0.1	0.9	0.3	2.8
Transportation and warehousing	2.1	2.4	3.1	-0.3	-12.5	-1.0	-32.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.5	2.4	2.3	0.1	4.2	0.2	8.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.3	3.1	2.9	0.2	6.5	0.4	13.8
Business, building and other support services	2.7	2.5	2.4	0.2	8.0	0.3	12.5
Educational services	5.4	5.6	5.5	-0.2	-3.6	-0.1	-1.8
Health care and social assistance	10.1	10.3	9.7	-0.2	-1.9	0.4	4.1
Information, culture and recreation	2.3	2.2	2.4	0.1	4.5	-0.1	-4.2
Accommodation and food services	6.2	6.7	5.9	-0.5	-7.5	0.3	5.1
Other services	3.1	3.1	3.6	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-13.9
Public administration	7.1	7.5	7.1	-0.4	-5.3	0.0	0.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

There were 55,900 workers employed in the **Services-producing sector** in November 2015, which is up marginally year-over-year. Employment levels were higher for **Professional, scientific and technical services** (+400), **Trade** (+300) and **Accommodation and food services** (+300). However, employment was lower for **Other Services** (-500) which 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@hrsdcc.qc.ca](mailto:NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdcc.qc.ca)

**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.qc.ca](http://www.statcan.qc.ca)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2015, all rights reserved