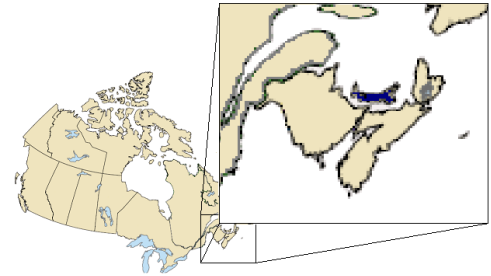




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island

January 2016



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

OVERVIEW

Labour market conditions continue to be soft in Prince Edward Island. The labour force contracted for the third consecutive month in January 2016 and the number employed in the province declined by 400 workers. There were fewer full-time and part-time positions month-over-month. There were fewer people unemployed in the province as well, suggesting more people left the labour force altogether. This put downward pressure on the unemployment rate, which fell to 9.5% in January. The participation rate slipped to 66.1% which was the lowest it has been since June 2000. The declining trend in PEI's participation rate suggests a less than optimistic view about job prospects in the province.

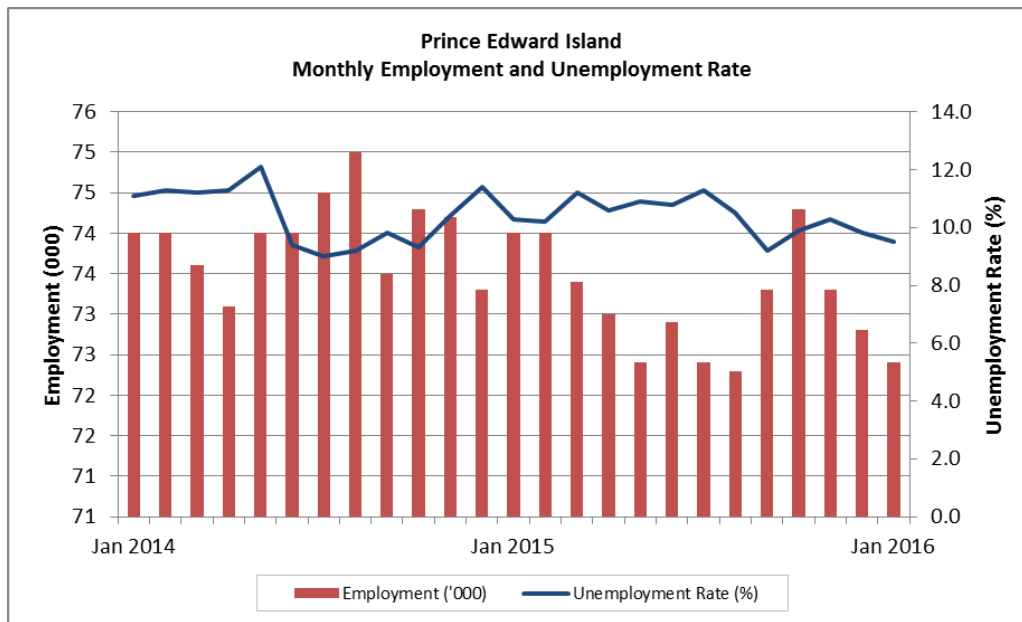
Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Jan 2016	Dec 2015	Jan 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	121.2	121.2	120.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3
Labour Force ('000)	80.1	80.6	82.5	-0.5	-0.6	-2.4	-2.9
Employment ('000)	72.4	72.8	74.0	-0.4	-0.5	-1.6	-2.2
Full-Time ('000)	60.6	60.7	62.1	-0.1	-0.2	-1.5	-2.4
Part-Time ('000)	11.8	12.1	11.9	-0.3	-2.5	-0.1	-0.8
Unemployment ('000)	7.6	7.9	8.5	-0.3	-3.8	-0.9	-10.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.5	9.8	10.3	-0.3	-	-0.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.1	66.5	68.3	-0.4	-	-2.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.7	60.1	61.3	-0.4	-	-1.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Labour market conditions on an annual basis are similar to the monthly picture. The labour force totalled 80,100 in January 2016, which is nearly 3% less than what it was in January 2015. Both employment and unemployment levels were lower as well year-over-year, by 2.2% and 10.6% respectively. Older males (55 years of age and over) accounted for the majority of the year-over-year decrease in employment. There were 1,500 fewer full-time positions in January 2016 compared to a year ago and part-time employment declined slightly by 100 year-over-year.



There were 7,600 unemployed persons in January which was 900 fewer compared to a year ago. Women accounted for most of the decline. The unemployment rate averaged 9.5% in January which was 0.8 of a percentage point lower compared to the same month in 2015. There were some notable swings in the underlying unemployment rates for men and women at varying age groups. The unemployment rate for youth males (15-24 years) averaged 14.1% in January which is nearly 4 percentage points lower than it was a year ago. In comparison, the unemployment rate for younger females was 8.1% which was 6.7 percentage points lower than a year ago. For women in the core-age cohort (25-54 years), the unemployment rate was 6.5% or 1.4 percent below what it was in January 2015.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Jan 2016	Dec 2015	Jan 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	9.5	9.8	10.3	-0.3	-0.8
25 years and over	9.3	9.0	9.4	0.3	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	10.9	9.5	9.7	1.4	1.2
Women - 25 years and over	7.6	8.5	8.7	-0.9	-1.1
15 to 24 years	11.1	14.1	16.3	-3.0	-5.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.1	22.1	17.7	-8.0	-3.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.1	5.0	14.8	3.1	-6.7

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

The PEI participation rate averaged 66.1% in January 2016 and exceeded the national average by 0.2 of a percentage point. It represented the highest participation rate among provinces East of Manitoba. The participation rate in PEI has traditionally exceeded the national average however the gap has been narrowed in recent years.

The participation rate for the younger age category (15-24 years) in Prince Edward Island averaged 70% in January, which was the highest in the country for this age group.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The year-over-year decline in PEI employment was largely concentrated in the **Goods-producing sector**. Employment in this sector totalled 16,500 in January which is 6.3% lower than it was a year a year ago, and this was due in large part to a decline in **Construction** employment. The **Construction** industry is shown to have experienced a near 13% contraction in its employment base year-over-year. Employment levels were also lower in the primary industries (**Agriculture** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**).

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Jan 2016	Dec 2015	Jan 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	72.4	72.8	74.0	-0.4	-0.5	-1.6	-2.2
Goods-producing sector	16.5	16.8	17.6	-0.3	-1.8	-1.1	-6.3
Agriculture	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-6.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.2	2.4	2.4	-0.2	-8.3	-0.2	-8.3
Utilities	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	33.3	0.1	33.3
Construction	4.8	4.9	5.5	-0.1	-2.0	-0.7	-12.7
Manufacturing	6.2	6.1	6.2	0.1	1.6	0.0	0.0
Services-producing sector	55.9	56.0	56.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.9
Trade	10.6	10.8	11.0	-0.2	-1.9	-0.4	-3.6
Transportation and warehousing	2.7	2.4	2.9	0.3	12.5	-0.2	-6.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.5	2.7	2.3	-0.2	-7.4	0.2	8.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.5	3.3	3.0	0.2	6.1	0.5	16.7
Business, building and other support services	2.5	2.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-13.8
Educational services	5.4	5.5	5.3	-0.1	-1.8	0.1	1.9
Health care and social assistance	10.2	9.6	10.0	0.6	6.3	0.2	2.0
Information, culture and recreation	2.0	2.2	2.5	-0.2	-9.1	-0.5	-20.0
Accommodation and food services	6.3	6.7	5.6	-0.4	-6.0	0.7	12.5
Other services	3.4	3.4	3.5	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-2.9
Public administration	6.8	6.9	7.4	-0.1	-1.4	-0.6	-8.1

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 January 2016, which is down marginally year-over-year. Employment levels were higher for **Accommodation and food services** (+700) and **Professional, scientific and technical services** (+500), while losses in **Public Administration** (-600) and **Information, culture and recreation** (500) more than offset the job gains in this 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.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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