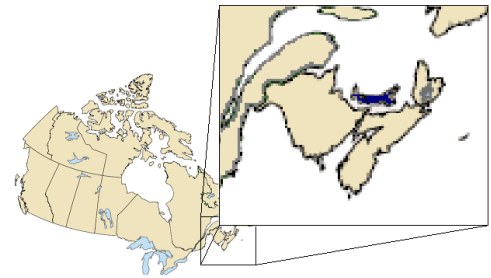




# Labour Market Bulletin

## Prince Edward Island



October 2016

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

### OVERVIEW

While the number of people participating in the labour market in Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) rose in October, overall conditions remain soft. The drop in employment combined with more people actively seeking work pushed the unemployment rate up by almost one percentage point compared to September's rate. At 11.7%, P.E.I. recorded, after Newfoundland and Labrador, the second highest provincial unemployment rate in the country in October. The number of people working full-time declined for the fifth consecutive month; conversely the number of part-time jobs rose over the same period. Full-time employment levels are now at their lowest since December 2010.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

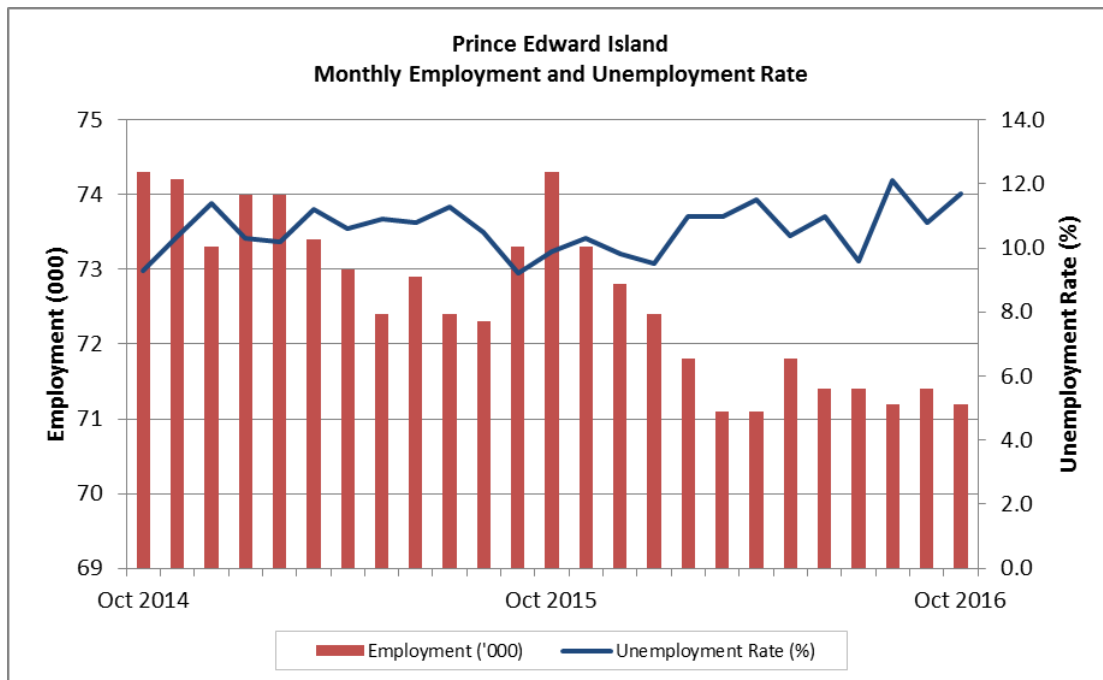
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2016	Sept 2016	Oct 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	122.2	122.2	121.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	80.6	80.0	82.5	0.6	0.7	-1.9	-2.3
Employment ('000)	71.2	71.4	74.3	-0.2	-0.3	-3.1	-4.2
Full-Time ('000)	57.6	58.4	61.9	-0.8	-1.4	-4.3	-6.9
Part-Time ('000)	13.7	13.0	12.3	0.7	5.4	1.4	11.4
Unemployment ('000)	9.4	8.6	8.2	0.8	9.3	1.2	14.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	11.7	10.8	9.9	0.9	-	1.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.0	65.5	68.1	0.5	-	-2.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	58.3	58.4	61.4	-0.1	-	-3.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

From an annual perspective, there was a sizable decrease in both the number of people participating in the labour force and in the number employed in October compared to a year earlier. Employment losses resulted primarily from a decrease in the number of public-sector employees (-2,400 positions) as compared to October 2015. Employment levels within the private-sector also diminished over the same period but by a much smaller amount (-900). There was little change in the number of self-employed workers relative to 12 months ago.

It looks like P.E.I. may be set for its third consecutive year of negative employment growth. On a year-to-date basis (January-October), there was a decrease of 1,720 (-2.3%) in the average employment level relative to the same nine-month period last year. On average, full-time employment was down 1,370 while there were 350 fewer part-time jobs.



All of the job losses in October were concentrated within the older worker age group (aged 55 and over). Women in this age category had the largest decrease in employment relative to the previous month and to October 2015. As for their male counterparts, there was a slight decrease in the number employed compared to the previous month, while their numbers were unchanged from last year. Older workers tend to be the fastest growing segment of the labour force, primarily as a result of population aging. More older-workers were actively seeking employment in October compared to a year ago, and this pushed their unemployment rate up by just over three percentage points to 13.5%.

In October, employment levels for the core working-age group (25-54 years) was virtually unchanged compared to the previous month (+200), but declined by 1,500 over the last 12 months. Full-time employment decreased whereas the number of part-time jobs was up over this period. Within this age category, the vast majority of the job losses were held by men. Regardless of gender, unemployment rates were higher compared to October 2015. However, the increase was larger for men compared to their female counterparts (1.2 percentage points versus 0.4 percentage points).

Among youth aged 15 to 24 years of age employment increased this month, but all of the gains were in part-time work. In contrast, employment levels were lower compared to last year; losses in full-time positions (-2,000) were partially offset by gains in part-time work (+1,000). Employment for men in this age group was unchanged over the 12 month period. Even though fewer youth participated in the labour market in October compared to

last year, their unemployment rate rose as more youth actively searched for work. Women recorded a significant increase in their unemployment rates; whereas, the rate for men declined.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2016	Sept 2016	Oct 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	11.7	10.8	9.9	0.9	1.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	10.6	9.7	9.0	0.9	1.6
Men - 25 years and over	12.3	12.6	9.6	-0.3	2.7
Women - 25 years and over	8.8	6.7	8.3	2.1	0.5
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.5	16.3	14.8	0.2	1.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.7	17.7	22.9	-1.0	-6.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	16.4	14.8	4.6	1.6	11.8

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Compared to last year, the decline in the province's employment base was larger in terms of the actual number of positions lost in the **Services-producing sector** than in the **Goods-producing sector**. Employment in the **Services sector** totalled 55,000 in October which is 3.3% lower than it was a year ago. The largest year-over-year job losses occurred in **Accommodation and food services**. Despite the drop in employment levels, the number of workers in this industry group remains above historical averages for the month of October. Sizable job losses were also recorded in both the **Public Administration** and **Health care and social assistance** industry groups compared to October 2015.

The **Good-producing sector** accounts for approximately 22% of total employment on the Island. Employment in this sector was down by 1,200 jobs or 6.9% year-over-year. Job losses occurred in each industry group with the exception of Agriculture. The **Construction** industry accounted for the largest decline in employment levels. Although the level of employment in the industry is down from a year ago, the number of people employed has rebounded from its historical low (4,300 jobs) in April 2016 and may continue to gain strength in the medium term. The value of construction permits in P.E.I. was up by nearly 20% during the first eight months of the year and the number of housing starts in the province was up by 31% during the January-to-September 2016 period.

A stronger U.S. dollar and robust demand from major trading partners such as the U.S. and South Korea for agricultural food products has helped increase the value of overall Manufacturing shipments from the province. However, the number of workers in the industry was unchanged from September and was down by 6.5% relative to October 2015.

## Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2016	Sept 2016	Oct 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	71.2	71.4	74.3	-0.2	-0.3	-3.1	-4.2
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	16.2	16.7	17.4	-0.5	-3.0	-1.2	-6.9
Agriculture	3.3	3.5	3.1	-0.2	-5.7	0.2	6.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.0	2.3	2.4	-0.3	-13.0	-0.4	-16.7
Utilities	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.1	-25.0	-0.1	-25.0
Construction	4.8	4.8	5.3	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-9.4
Manufacturing	5.8	5.8	6.2	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-6.5
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	55.0	54.7	56.9	0.3	0.5	-1.9	-3.3
Trade	10.3	10.1	11.0	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-6.4
Transportation and warehousing	2.3	2.4	2.4	-0.1	-4.2	-0.1	-4.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.7	2.7	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	12.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.6	3.5	3.1	0.1	2.9	0.5	16.1
Business, building and other support services	2.5	2.4	2.6	0.1	4.2	-0.1	-3.8
Educational services	5.4	5.1	5.6	0.3	5.9	-0.2	-3.6
Health care and social assistance	9.7	10.0	10.2	-0.3	-3.0	-0.5	-4.9
Information, culture and recreation	2.9	2.8	2.2	0.1	3.6	0.7	31.8
Accommodation and food services	5.7	5.8	6.7	-0.1	-1.7	-1.0	-14.9
Other services	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public administration	6.8	6.6	7.5	0.2	3.0	-0.7	-9.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

**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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