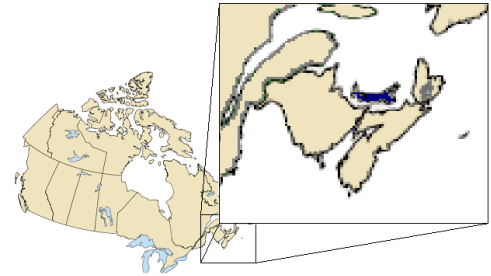




# Labour Market Bulletin

## Prince Edward Island



February 2016

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

### OVERVIEW

The Prince Edward Island labour force increased slightly in February (+600), following three consecutive months of decline. Employment declined for the fourth consecutive month in February, largely due to an 8.5% drop in the number of part-time jobs compared to the previous month. Although there were fewer jobs available in February, more people participated in the labour market than in the previous month, which pushed unemployment levels higher. This resulted in a 1.5 percentage point increase in the Island's unemployment rate, to 11%. Compared to the previous month, the participation rate increased slightly to 66.6%.

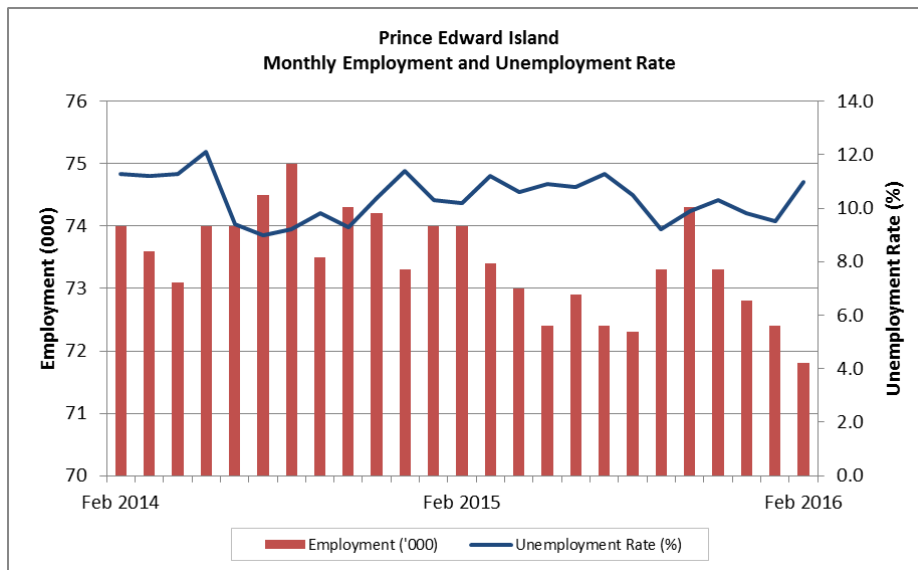
Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15+ ('000)</b>	121.2	121.2	120.7	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	80.7	80.1	82.4	0.6	0.7	-1.7	-2.1
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	71.8	72.4	74.0	-0.6	-0.8	-2.2	-3.0
Full-Time ('000)	61.0	60.6	61.5	0.4	0.7	-0.5	-0.8
Part-Time ('000)	10.8	11.8	12.6	-1.0	-8.5	-1.8	-14.3
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	8.9	7.6	8.4	1.3	17.1	0.5	6.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	11.0	9.5	10.2	1.5	-	0.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	66.6	66.1	68.3	0.5	-	-1.7	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	59.2	59.7	61.3	-0.5	-	-2.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

From an annual perspective, labour market conditions remain soft in Prince Edward Island. The labour force totalled 80,700 in February 2016, which is 2.1% less than what it was in February 2015, and the level of employment in the most recent month was 2,200 jobs less than a year ago. Older workers (55 years of age and over) accounted for the vast majority of the year-over-year decrease in employment, particularly older males. There were 1,800 fewer part-time positions in February 2016 compared to a year ago and the number of full-time workers declined by 500 during this period.



There were 8,900 unemployed persons in February which was 500 more compared to a year ago. Women accounted for the majority of the increase. Older workers experienced the greatest increase in their unemployment rate, which was 13.5% in February (+1.5 percentage points year-over-year and the highest since May 2014). On the other hand, the unemployment rate for the younger workers (aged 15-24 years) was lower on a year-over-year basis in February, at 14.8% (-1.1 percentage points). The unemployment rate for males of this age cohort was 17.9%, or 2.4 percentage points lower compared to the same month in 2015.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	11.0	9.5	10.2	1.5	0.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	10.3	9.3	9.2	1.0	1.1
Men - 25 years and over	11.5	10.9	10.3	0.6	1.2
Women - 25 years and over	8.8	7.6	7.9	1.2	0.9
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.8	11.1	15.9	3.7	-1.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.9	14.1	20.3	3.8	-2.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.1	8.1	10.3	5.0	2.8

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

The PEI participation rate averaged 66.6% in February 2016. It exceeded the national average by 0.7 of a percentage point, and was the highest among provinces East of Manitoba. The participation rate for the younger age category (15-24 years) in Prince Edward Island averaged 71.1% in February, which was the highest in the country for this age group.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The year-over-year decline in the province's employment base was concentrated entirely in the **Services-producing sector**. Employment in this sector totalled 54,500 in February which is 4.2% lower than it was a year ago, due in large part to lower employment in **Trade** (-900) and **Public Administration** (-800).

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	71.8	72.4	74.0	-0.6	-0.8	-2.2	-3.0
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	17.4	16.5	17.1	0.9	5.5	0.3	1.8
Agriculture	3.3	3.0	2.9	0.3	10.0	0.4	13.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.1	2.2	2.4	-0.1	-4.5	-0.3	-12.5
Utilities	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	25.0	0.2	66.7
Construction	4.9	4.8	5.4	0.1	2.1	-0.5	-9.3
Manufacturing	6.6	6.2	6.1	0.4	6.5	0.5	8.2
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	54.5	55.9	56.9	-1.4	-2.5	-2.4	-4.2
Trade	10.5	10.6	11.4	-0.1	-0.9	-0.9	-7.9
Transportation and warehousing	2.6	2.7	2.8	-0.1	-3.7	-0.2	-7.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.6	2.5	2.4	0.1	4.0	0.2	8.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.5	3.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	20.7
Business, building and other support services	2.2	2.5	2.5	-0.3	-12.0	-0.3	-12.0
Educational services	5.6	5.4	5.2	0.2	3.7	0.4	7.7
Health care and social assistance	9.8	10.2	9.8	-0.4	-3.9	0.0	0.0
Information, culture and recreation	2.3	2.0	2.9	0.3	15.0	-0.6	-20.7
Accommodation and food services	5.4	6.3	5.7	-0.9	-14.3	-0.3	-5.3
Other services	3.2	3.4	3.8	-0.2	-5.9	-0.6	-15.8
Public administration	6.7	6.8	7.5	-0.1	-1.5	-0.8	-10.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

There were 17,400 workers employed in the **Goods-producing sector** in February 2016, which is up slightly (+300) compared to February 2015. Year-over-year employment in the **Construction** industry declined (-500) however this was offset by gains in **Manufacturing** (+500) and **Agriculture** (+400). The **Manufacturing** industry in Prince Edward Island has benefitted from the depreciation of the Canadian dollar which makes domestic exports cheaper and more competitive in international markets. This is especially true for the province's processed food market, which was a key export driver throughout 2015.

**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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