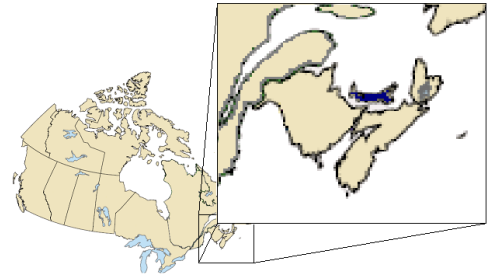




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island

April 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 April (+400), and this helped to recover some of the losses experienced in the previous month (-800). There was no change in the level of employment in April which follows five consecutive months of decline. A small gain in full-time employment was offset by a reduction in the number of part-time jobs. With more people in the labour force than available jobs, the unemployment rate edged up to 11.5%. The participation rate increased slightly to 66.1% following a more than thirty year low of 65.9% recorded in March 2016.

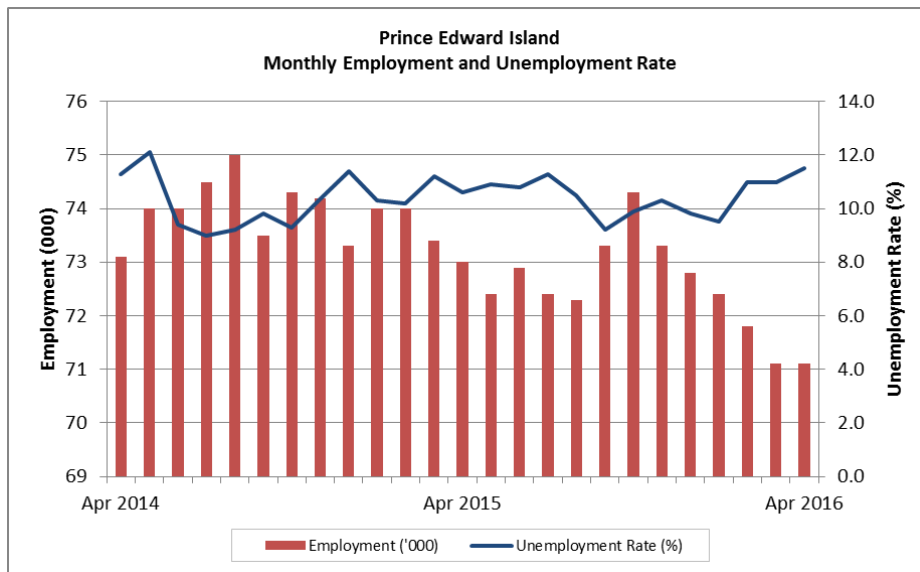
Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	121.5	121.3	120.8	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	80.3	79.9	81.8	0.4	0.5	-1.5	-1.8
Employment ('000)	71.1	71.1	73.0	0.0	0.0	-1.9	-2.6
Full-Time ('000)	59.7	59.5	60.3	0.2	0.3	-0.6	-1.0
Part-Time ('000)	11.5	11.6	12.7	-0.1	-0.9	-1.2	-9.4
Unemployment ('000)	9.2	8.8	8.7	0.4	4.5	0.5	5.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	11.5	11.0	10.6	0.5	-	0.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.1	65.9	67.7	0.2	-	-1.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	58.5	58.6	60.4	-0.1	-	-1.9	-

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 still remain soft in the province. Although the labour force increased slightly from the previous month, it remained considerably lower compared to a year ago (down by 1,500 people). At 80,300, the Island labour force has been on a downward trend since its peak in March 2013 (at 85,300), having declined by a slow and steady pace of -0.2% per month, on average. This trend is representative of reduced labour market participation by both youths (persons 15-24 years of age) and older workers (persons 55 years and over).



Employment totaled 71,100 in April, down by 1,900 compared to a year ago. The majority of this decline (63%) was attributed to males, particularly those in the older worker cohort. There were also 1,600 fewer core-aged workers (aged 25-54 years) employed year-over-year. Women accounted for most of this decrease (1,200), however the overall decline in female employment (-700) was limited by gains in the number of older workers (+500).

There were 1,200 fewer part-time positions in April 2016 compared to a year ago, attributed entirely to males, particularly youths. Full-time employment was unchanged year-over-year.

There were 9,200 unemployed persons in April which was 500 more compared to a year ago. Women accounted for the majority of the job losses which were spread evenly between youths and those in the core-aged group. The unemployment rate for Female youths was 13.1% in April which is considerably lower compared to their male counterparts (22.6%).

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	11.5	11.0	10.6	0.5	0.9
25 years and over	10.3	9.5	9.7	0.8	0.6
Men - 25 years and over	11.8	10.7	11.2	1.1	0.6
Women - 25 years and over	8.7	8.2	8.0	0.5	0.7
15 to 24 years	17.9	18.9	16.9	-1.0	1.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	22.6	20.3	23.4	2.3	-0.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.1	18.8	10.2	-5.7	2.9

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

The PEI participation rate averaged 66.1% in April 2016 and this exceeded the national average by 0.3 of a percentage point. From an annual perspective, the participation rate in Prince Edward Island has exceeded the national average every year since the mid-1990’s, with its largest gap occurring in 2013 (3.2 percentage points). Since then, the gap has been narrowing, and on a monthly basis, it closed in March 2016 when both the PEI and national participation rates were the same (65.9%). A closer review by age group and gender shows that at 70.9%, youth females in PEI had the highest participation rate in the country in April.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The year-over-year decline in the province's employment base was largely concentrated in the **Goods-producing sector**. Employment in this sector totalled 16,000 in April which is 7.5% lower than it was a year ago, due in large part to lower employment in **Construction** (-900) and to a lesser extent, **Manufacturing** (-200).

Current indications suggest that construction activity in early 2016 is considerably weaker compared to a year ago. The value of residential and non-residential building permits in the first two months is down by 69% and 7.2% respectively in the province. Furthermore, the number of urban and rural housing starts in the first quarter of 2016 is down by 26.4% compared to the same quarter in 2015.

Although employment was lower year-over-year, the province's manufacturing industry has rebounded since the 2009 recession, with shipments having reached an all-time high of \$1.62 billion in 2015. 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 processed food market, which is a key export driver for the province.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	71.1	71.1	73.0	0.0	0.0	-1.9	-2.6
Goods-producing sector	16.0	16.8	17.3	-0.8	-4.8	-1.3	-7.5
Agriculture	3.0	3.4	3.1	-0.4	-11.8	-0.1	-3.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.6	2.3	2.7	0.3	13.0	-0.1	-3.7
Utilities	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.1	-25.0	-0.1	-25.0
Construction	4.3	4.5	5.2	-0.2	-4.4	-0.9	-17.3
Manufacturing	5.8	6.3	6.0	-0.5	-7.9	-0.2	-3.3
Services-producing sector	55.2	54.3	55.8	0.9	1.7	-0.6	-1.1
Trade	10.3	10.3	11.1	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-7.2
Transportation and warehousing	2.5	2.6	2.9	-0.1	-3.8	-0.4	-13.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.8	2.7	2.5	0.1	3.7	0.3	12.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	4.0	3.6	3.0	0.4	11.1	1.0	33.3
Business, building and other support services	2.1	2.1	2.3	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-8.7
Educational services	5.2	5.5	5.3	-0.3	-5.5	-0.1	-1.9
Health care and social assistance	9.8	9.8	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	3.2
Information, culture and recreation	2.3	2.3	2.5	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-8.0
Accommodation and food services	6.3	5.8	5.1	0.5	8.6	1.2	23.5
Other services	3.0	2.8	4.1	0.2	7.1	-1.1	-26.8
Public administration	7.0	6.9	7.5	0.1	1.4	-0.5	-6.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment in the Services-producing sector was down slightly on a year-over-year basis, by 1.1%. There were 55,200 workers employed in this sector in April 2016, which is 600 fewer compared to a year ago. The majority of job losses occurred in **Trade** (-800) and **Public administration** (-500). Employment gains in **Professional, scientific and technical services** (+1,000) helped to offset these declines.

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

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