



Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island



September 2016

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

OVERVIEW

The labour market in Prince Edward Island continues to show signs of weakness. Labour market conditions on the Island were little changed in the third quarter of 2016 compared to the previous two quarters. The labour force contracted slightly from the previous three months and is now at its lowest quarterly level since the first quarter of 2011. The level of employment edged down, on a quarter-over-quarter basis, as the gains in part-time jobs were insufficient to offset the decline in full-time positions. The unemployment rate averaged 10.8% in the third quarter, down by 0.2 of a percentage point from the previous quarter. The participation rate also decreased during the July-to-September period and reached its lowest quarterly-level since 1998.

Prince Edward Island Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2016	2nd Quarter 2016	3rd Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	122.1	121.7	121.0	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	80.0	80.2	81.0	-0.2	-0.2	-1.0	-1.3
Employment ('000)	71.3	71.4	72.7	-0.1	-0.1	-1.3	-1.8
Full-Time ('000)	58.7	59.9	60.5	-1.2	-1.9	-1.8	-3.0
Part-Time ('000)	12.6	11.6	12.2	1.0	8.9	0.4	3.6
Unemployment ('000)	8.7	8.8	8.4	-0.1	-1.1	0.3	3.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.8	11.0	10.3	-0.1	-	0.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.5	65.9	67.0	-0.4	-	-1.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	58.4	58.7	60.1	-0.3	-	-1.7	-

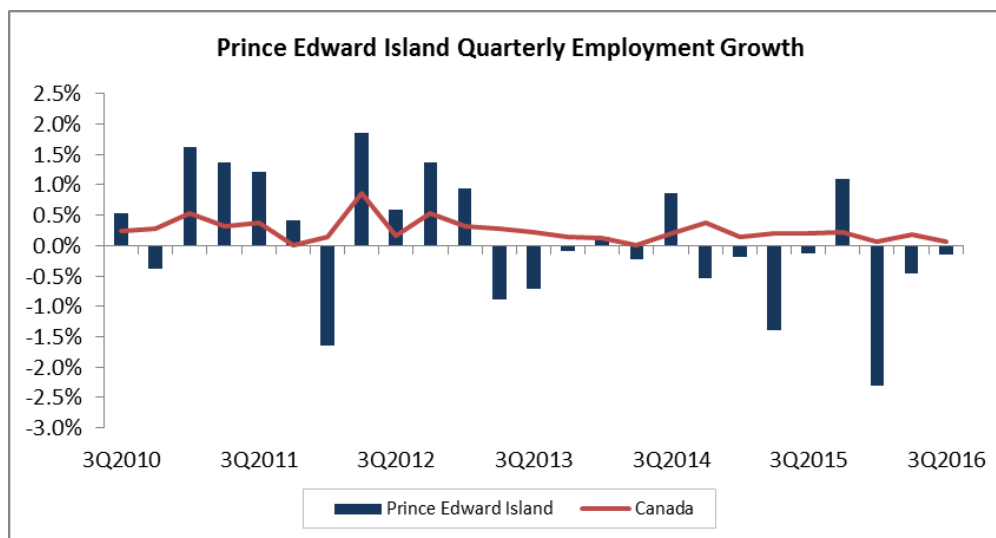
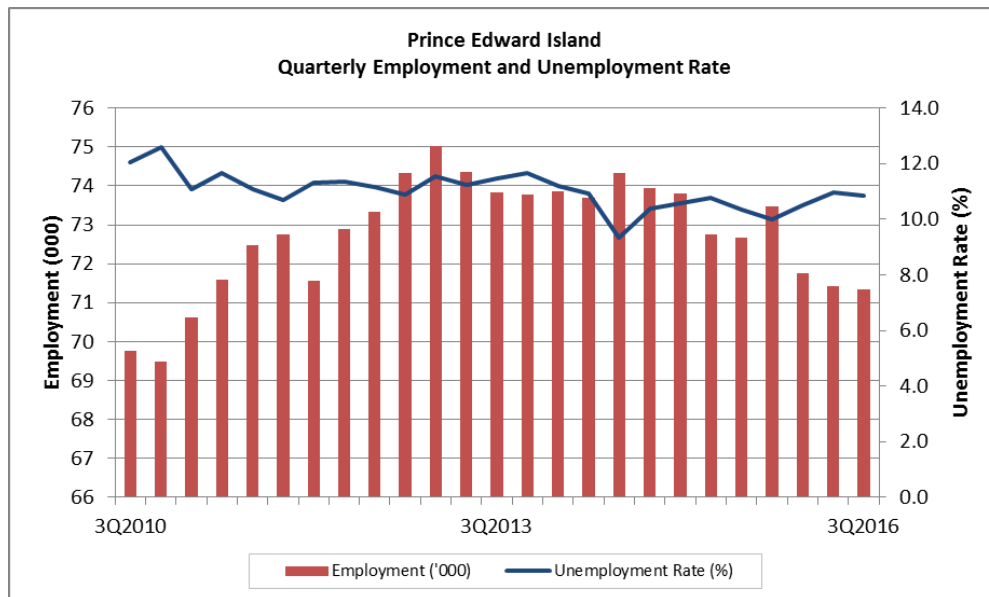
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Labour market conditions in the third quarter were less positive compared to the same three-month period a year ago. There were 1,000 less people participating in the labour force and 1,300 fewer employed relative to the third quarter of 2015. The reduction in employment resulted solely from a decline in the number of full-time positions, the number of people working part time rose compared to a year ago.

Employment losses in the third quarter resulted from a decrease in the number of public-sector employees (-400 positions) compared to the previous three months. In addition, there were 2,000 fewer public-sector em-

ployees compared to a year earlier; whereas, the private-sector added positions over the same period. The number of self-employed rose slightly during the third quarter of 2016 and is also up relative to 12 months ago (+300 positions).



The bulk of the job losses were concentrated in the core working-age group (25-54 years). Third-quarter data suggests that women in this age category fared better than their male counterparts as the majority of the positions lost were held by men. Youth (15-24 years of age) employment levels also contracted compared to a year ago, but by a smaller amount relative to their core working-age counterparts. As was the case with the core working-age group, men accounted for the majority of the jobs lost by youth. By comparison, the number of workers aged 55 years and over employed rose over the same time period.

On average, there were 8,700 persons unemployed in the third quarter of 2016, an increase of 300 compared to the same period a year ago. With more people actively looking for work, the unemployment rate in the province went up by 0.5 percentage points compared to a year ago to average 10.8% for the 2016 July-to-September pe-

riod. Regardless of age, males recorded higher unemployment rates than females. Youth males registered the highest unemployment rate in the third quarter, at 19.8%, while core working-age females had the lowest unemployment rate (7.8%).

Prince Edward Island Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2016 (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	10.8	11.0	10.3	-0.1	0.5
25 years and over	9.8	10.0	9.6	-0.2	0.2
Men - 25 years and over	11.2	11.7	9.3	-0.4	2.0
Women - 25 years and over	8.4	8.2	10.1	0.2	-1.7
15 to 24 years	16.4	16.4	13.9	0.0	2.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.8	19.7	17.3	0.1	2.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.7	12.3	10.6	0.4	2.1

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

In the third quarter of 2016, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.98 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 66,800 people. Employment among the Indigenous population stood at 36,800 representing a decline of -1,000 (-2.6%) from a year earlier. The declines were in both full-time (-300 or -1.0%) and part-time (-700 or -10.4%) positions.

Atlantic Canada - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	number	%	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	66.8	65.9	0.9	1.4%	1,912.8	1,905.5	7.3	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	43.9	43.3	0.6	1.4%	1,209.1	1,217.4	-8.3	-0.7%
Employment ('000)	36.8	37.8	-1.0	-2.6%	1,104.3	1,108.5	-4.2	-0.4%
Full-Time ('000)	30.8	31.1	-0.3	-1.0%	934.5	950.2	-15.7	-1.7%
Part-Time ('000)	6.0	6.7	-0.7	-10.4%	169.8	158.3	11.5	7.3%
Unemployment ('000)	7.1	5.5	1.6	29.1%	104.8	109.0	-4.2	-3.9%
Unemployment Rate (%)	16.2	12.7	3.5	-	8.7	9.0	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.7	65.7	0.0	-	63.2	63.9	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.1	57.4	-2.3	-	57.7	58.2	-0.5	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table.

In the third quarter of 2016, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population increased significantly from the 2015 third quarter to 16.2%, representing a +3.5 percentage point increase, while that of the non-Indigenous population declined slightly to 8.7% (-0.3pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among the Indigenous population, at 65.7%, did not experience variation and a smaller decline was seen amongst the non-Indigenous population whose participation rate fell from 63.9% to 63.2%. The employment rate of the Indigenous population also declined year-over-year to 55.1% (-2.3pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population fell slightly from 58.2% to 57.7% (-0.5pp) compared to a year earlier.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment levels in the **Goods-producing sector** averaged 16,600 in the third quarter of 2016, which is about 2.0% below what it was 12 months ago. **Service-sector** employment was also lower, the percentage decline in the number of jobs was similar to that in the goods sector (-1.9%). The largest year-over-year declines in employment levels occurred in **Construction** and **Public administration**, followed by **Educational services** and **Other services**. Employment gains in both the **Professional, scientific and technical services** and **Information, culture and recreation** industries partially offset the overall decline in service-sector employment.

Prince Edward Island Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2016	2nd Quarter 2016	3rd Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	71.3	71.4	72.7	-0.1	-0.1	-1.3	-1.8
Goods-producing sector	16.6	16.5	17.0	0.1	0.8	-0.3	-2.0
Agriculture	3.3	2.9	3.2	0.3	11.4	0.1	3.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.4	2.7	2.4	-0.3	-11.0	0.0	1.4
Utilities	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	11.1	-0.1	-16.7
Construction	4.8	4.5	5.3	0.3	6.7	-0.5	-10.0
Manufacturing	5.9	6.0	5.6	-0.2	-2.8	0.2	4.1
Services-producing sector	54.7	55.0	55.7	-0.3	-0.5	-1.0	-1.9
Trade	10.3	10.1	10.9	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-6.1
Transportation and warehousing	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	1.4	0.1	4.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.6	2.7	2.5	-0.1	-3.7	0.1	5.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.8	3.9	3.1	-0.1	-1.7	0.7	21.3
Business, building and other support services	2.3	2.3	2.5	0.0	1.5	-0.2	-8.0
Educational services	4.8	4.9	5.2	-0.1	-1.4	-0.4	-8.3
Health care and social assistance	10.3	10.2	10.0	0.1	1.3	0.3	3.3
Information, culture and recreation	2.7	2.5	2.2	0.2	8.1	0.5	21.2
Accommodation and food services	5.8	6.3	6.3	-0.5	-8.0	-0.5	-8.0
Other services	3.0	3.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-8.1
Public administration	6.7	6.9	7.3	-0.2	-3.4	-0.7	-9.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Within the Goods-producing sector, the only industry group to experience job gains was **Manufacturing**. The weaker Canadian dollar relative to the U.S dollar combined with a stronger economy south of the border has likely boosted the number of Manufacturing jobs over the past few quarters. Employment levels in this industry group are gradually returning to their 2008-2009 pre-recessionary levels.

The third quarter of 2016 includes peak tourism months in Prince Edward Island (July and August). While the number employed in Accommodation and food services is down compared to last year, looking back over past third-quarter results the average number of people working in the industry this year is above historical levels. The Island's busy tourist season may also account for the jobs gains in **Information, culture and recreation**. Early

indicators show the number of room nights sold and tourism-related traffic on the Confederation Bridge was up during the peak tourist months.¹

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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¹ The Guardian, “Tourism numbers in P.E.I. up across board in July,” August 2015
(<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/News/Local/2016-08-12/article-4614067/Tourism-numbers-in-P.E.I.-up-across-board-in-July/1>)