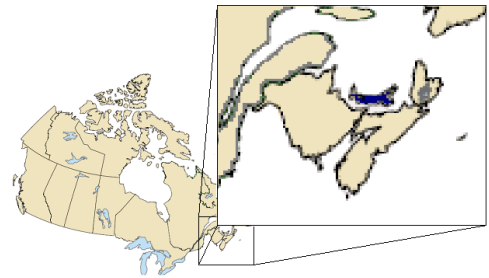




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island

January 2017



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

OVERVIEW

Labour market outcomes in Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) improved in January with more people working accompanied by a decrease in the number of active job seekers. The number of full-time positions rose for the third consecutive month while the unemployment rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points compared to December's rate. The number of people in the Island's labour force rose somewhat from the previous month. Although the labour force participation rate in January was lower than in past years, at 65.8% it continues to be the highest in Atlantic Canada.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

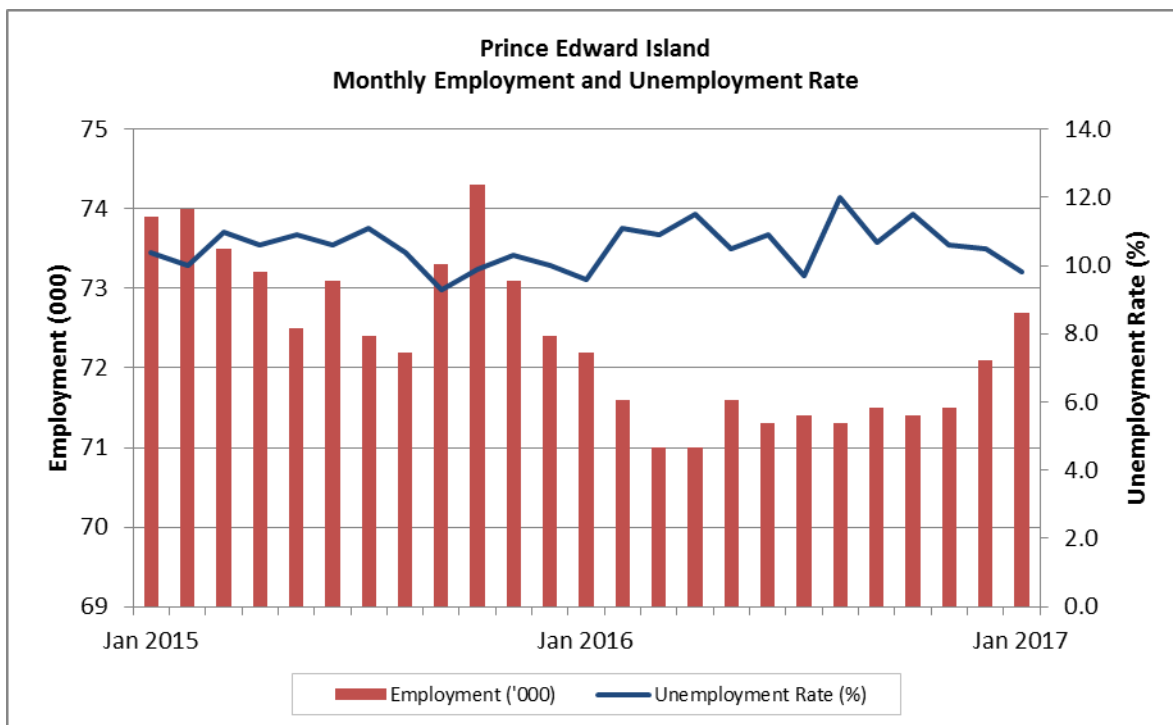
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Jan 2017	Dec 2016	Jan 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	122.6	122.4	121.2	0.2	0.2	1.4	1.2
Labour Force ('000)	80.7	80.6	79.9	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.0
Employment ('000)	72.7	72.1	72.2	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	61.5	59.0	60.5	2.5	4.2	1.0	1.7
Part-Time ('000)	11.3	13.1	11.7	-1.8	-13.7	-0.4	-3.4
Unemployment ('000)	7.9	8.5	7.7	-0.6	-7.1	0.2	2.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.8	10.5	9.6	-0.7	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.8	65.8	65.9	0.0	-	-0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.3	58.9	59.6	0.4	-	-0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

From an annual perspective, the story is somewhat mixed. There was a notable increase in the number of people participating in the labour force while overall employment rose compared to a year earlier. In addition, the number of unemployed workers was up slightly over the 12 month period. Despite the increase in the labour force population, the participation rate slipped from January 2016. The downward trend in average participation rates over the past three years may suggest a less than optimistic perspective about job prospects on the Island. The participation rate averaged 69.8% in 2013, dropping to 65.8% in 2016. The number of full-time positions was up 1,000 (+1.7%) relative to January 2016; whereas, there were 400 fewer part-time jobs. In terms of class of worker, the number of public sector employees was unchanged from 12 months earlier while the number of

private sector positions increased by 700 over the same period.¹ In January, there were 200 fewer self-employed compared to January 2016.



Employment gains in January were primarily concentrated within the older-worker age group (aged 55 and over). More people in this age category were employed on a full-time basis than during December and also compared to January of last year. Women in this age category had the largest increase in employment relative to the previous month. Compared to 12 months ago, although there was small decline in the number of positions held by men 55 years and over, employment levels were up by almost 10% for their female counterparts. No other demographic group in the province recorded employment gains over the same time period. Growth in employment combined with no change in the number of older-workers actively seeking employment over the 12 month period, led to a decrease in unemployment rates, from 12.8% to 12.2%, among older workers.

For the core working-age population (25-54 years), the number employed was virtually identical to the levels recorded during the previous month and in January 2016. Although employment growth for the core working-age population has been fairly stagnant over the past 10 years, on a year-over-year basis employment levels have fluctuated annually. At 7.9%, the unemployment rate for people in this age group is down somewhat from last year (8.1%) and is currently at its lowest monthly level since November 2014.

¹ There are two broad categories of workers: those who work for others (employees) and those who work for themselves (self-employed). The first group is subdivided into two classes: public sector employees and private sector employees.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Jan 2017	Dec 2016	Jan 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	9.8	10.5	9.6	-0.7	0.2
25 years and over	9.1	10.0	9.3	-0.9	-0.2
Men - 25 years and over	11.4	12.5	10.9	-1.1	0.5
Women - 25 years and over	6.7	7.3	7.6	-0.6	-0.9
15 to 24 years	13.6	13.7	11.2	-0.1	2.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.5	15.9	12.7	2.6	5.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.0	11.5	9.7	-1.5	0.3

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

In January, the number of youth aged 15 to 24 years of age in the labour force in P.E.I. was identical to the previous month and was also virtually unchanged relative to January 2016. However, there were 400 fewer youths employed in January compared to last year, full-time positions accounted for all of the job losses. The increase in the number of youth actively searching for work has led to a 2.4 percentage point rise in the youth unemployment rate compared to last year. Male youth registered the largest change in unemployment rates over the past 12 months.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Compared to the previous year, the increase in the province's employment base in January resulted from small gains within both the **Goods- and the Services-producing sectors**. Employment in the Goods sector was up by 300 jobs or 1.8% year-over-year. Job gains were recorded in the **Agriculture** and **Construction** industry groups. Since May 2016, employment levels in the **Construction** industry have been trending upwards following eight months of consecutive declines. While **Manufacturing** continues to be the largest employer within the **Goods-producing sector**, averaging 6,000 jobs compared to a year earlier, employment levels were unchanged.

Employment in the **Services-producing sector** totalled 55,800 in January which is approximately 0.4% higher than it was a year ago. As was the case throughout 2016, the **Information, culture, and recreation industry group** recorded the largest job gains (+700 positions) relative to January 2016. By comparison, the largest year-over-year job losses occurred in **Accommodation and food services** and **Professional, scientific and technical services**. Within both of these industry groups employment levels declined by approximately 11% relative to January 2016.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Jan 2017	Dec 2016	Jan 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	72.7	72.1	72.2	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7
Goods-producing sector	16.9	16.2	16.6	0.7	4.3	0.3	1.8
Agriculture	3.3	2.9	3.0	0.4	13.8	0.3	10.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.1	2.3	2.2	-0.2	-8.7	-0.1	-4.5
Utilities	0.2	0.3	0.4	-0.1	-33.3	-0.2	-50.0
Construction	5.0	4.8	4.7	0.2	4.2	0.3	6.4
Manufacturing	6.2	6.0	6.2	0.2	3.3	0.0	0.0
Services-producing sector	55.8	55.9	55.6	-0.1	-0.2	0.2	0.4
Trade	10.5	10.4	10.5	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.0
Transportation and warehousing	2.9	2.8	2.6	0.1	3.6	0.3	11.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.7	2.8	2.5	-0.1	-3.6	0.2	8.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.1	3.3	3.5	-0.2	-6.1	-0.4	-11.4
Business, building and other support services	2.2	2.3	2.4	-0.1	-4.3	-0.2	-8.3
Educational services	5.6	5.5	5.4	0.1	1.8	0.2	3.7
Health care and social assistance	10.3	10.1	10.2	0.2	2.0	0.1	1.0
Information, culture and recreation	2.7	2.9	2.0	-0.2	-6.9	0.7	35.0
Accommodation and food services	5.6	5.6	6.3	0.0	0.0	-0.7	-11.1
Other services	3.2	3.5	3.3	-0.3	-8.6	-0.1	-3.0
Public administration	6.8	6.7	6.8	0.1	1.5	0.0	0.0

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact Labour Market Analysis Directorate at:

NC-LMI-HMT-GD@hrsdcc.qc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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