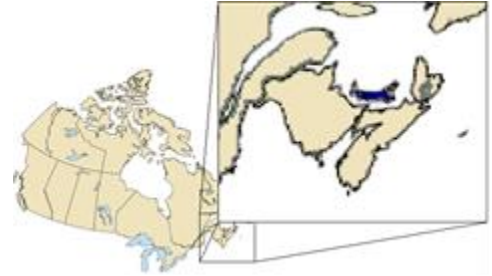




# Labour Market Bulletin

## Prince Edward Island



December 2017

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

### OVERVIEW

Developments in Prince Edward Island's labour market in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2017 were small but positive, as most indicators experienced modest improvements over the previous quarter. A year-long run of strong employment growth ended in Q3 with the loss of several hundred jobs, though the level of employment partially rebounded this quarter. Overall, the Island's labour market is in a relatively stronger position compared to one year ago.

On a quarterly basis, the Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) labour market posted mostly minor changes. The level of employment reached 73,800 individuals, an increase of 300 over Q3, though there was a pronounced shift in the composition of employment. The number of full-time workers increased by 1,100, while part-time employment correspondingly declined. The number of labour force entrants exceeded employment growth, leaving 100 more job-seekers unemployed compared to the previous quarter. As a result, the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 of a percentage point (pp) to 9.6%. It is worth noting that a rate below 10% is historically low for the Island. The number of labour force entrants also exceeded working-age population growth, resulting in a slight increase in the participation rate.

Prince Edward Island Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

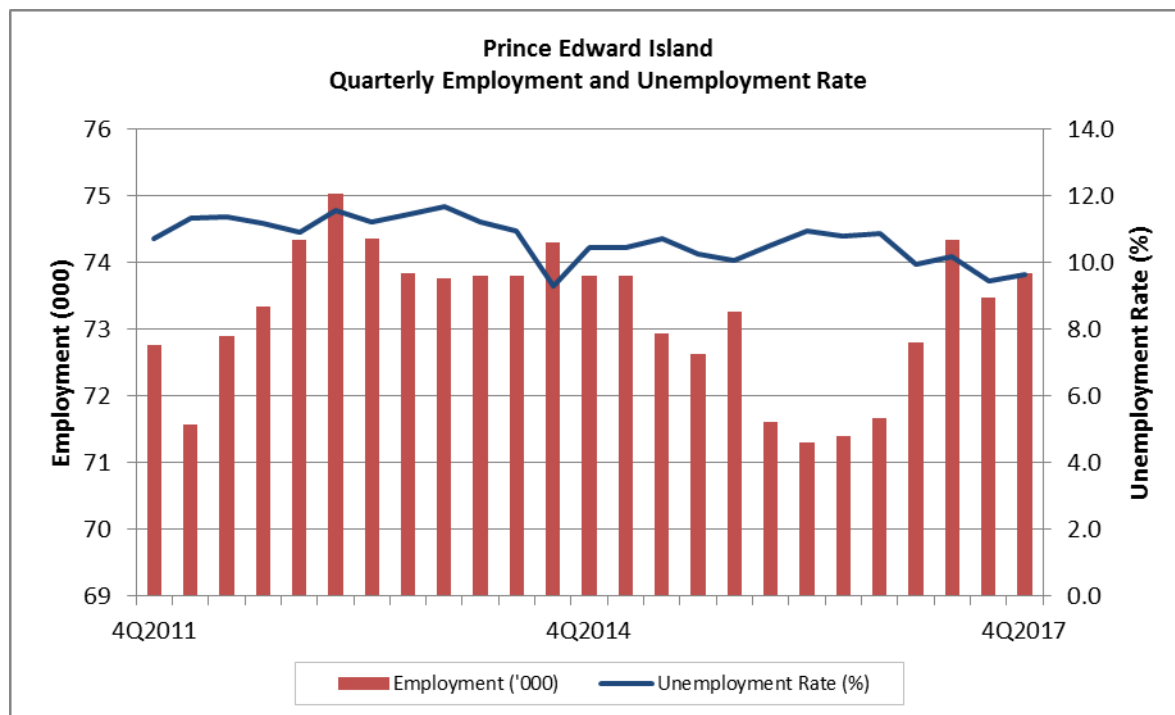
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2017	3rd Quarter 2017	4th Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	124.4	124.1	122.3	0.3	0.2	2.1	1.7
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	81.6	81.2	80.4	0.4	0.5	1.2	1.5
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	73.8	73.5	71.7	0.3	0.4	2.1	2.9
Full-Time ('000)	61.7	60.6	58.5	1.1	1.8	3.2	5.5
Part-Time ('000)	12.2	12.8	13.2	-0.6	-4.7	-1.0	-7.6
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	7.8	7.7	8.8	0.1	1.3	-1.0	-11.4
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	9.6	9.4	10.9	0.2	-	-1.3	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	65.6	65.4	65.7	0.2	-	-0.1	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	59.4	59.2	58.6	0.2	-	0.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

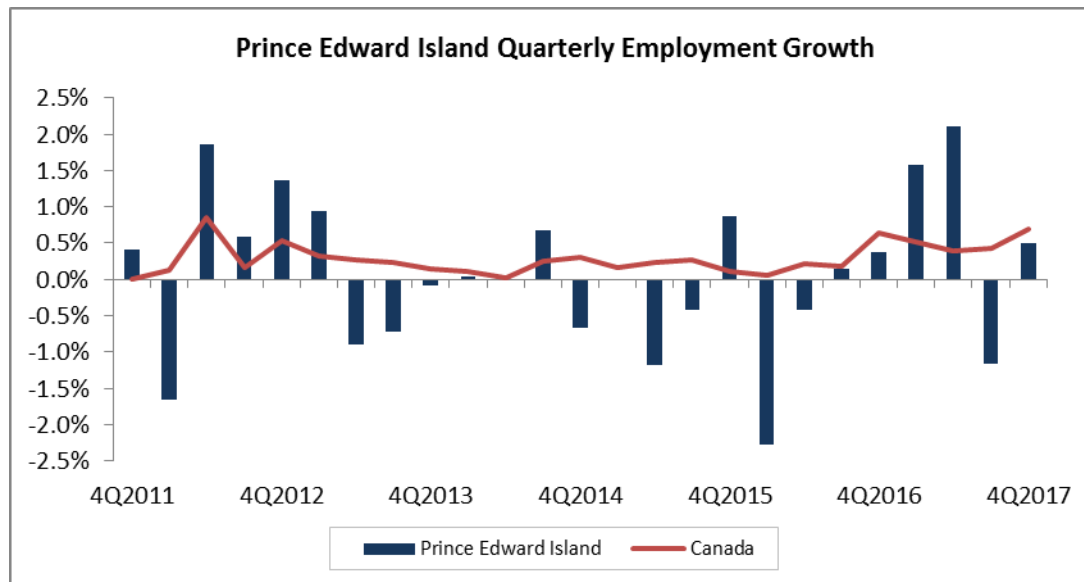
Year-over-year, most indicators improved significantly, largely due to the strong gains made in the first half of 2017. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2016, 2,100 more individuals were employed and the unemployment rate was lower in Q4 of 2017. There was a negligible change in the participation rate.

Over the past year, the number of workers with full-time hours increased while that of part-time workers declined. This shift toward more full-time work was experienced by both sexes, though the change was more pronounced among males. About 2,200 more males worked full-time in Q4 2017 relative to a year ago, while 700 fewer held part-time positions, yielding a net employment increase of 1,500. Likewise, there were 1,000 more females employed full-time and 400 fewer part-time, resulting in a net employment gain of 600 in Q4.



Private-sector employment and self-employment led job growth over the past year. The private sector added 1,000 employees (+2.4%) to reach 43,400 and now accounts for nearly 60% of all employment on the Island, which is one of the lowest shares of all provinces. The number of self-employed workers increased (+700), and accounts for just 10,800 workers. Public sector employment was responsible for the remaining increase in employment (+400).

Labour market characteristics differ significantly by sex. In Q4 there was a smaller share of the female population in the labour force, resulting in lower participation and employment rates compared to the male population. However, the unemployment rate for females was 8.8% compared to 10.4% for males. Furthermore, more females joined the labour force over the past year than males and a larger proportion of females worked part-time. Approximately three-quarters of employed females hold full-time positions, which compares to about 90% for males.



Labour market conditions differed by age group as well. Youths, aged 15 to 24 years of age, experienced mostly negative changes over the past year. While a large decline in the unemployment rate appears as a positive change, dropping 2.5 percentage points year-over-year, it was the result of more youths leaving the labour force. Despite the population of this age group holding steady at 17,700, the labour force decreased by 8.1% and employment fell by 5.7%. As a consequence, the participation rate for this age group fell from to 63.7%. Males accounted for most of the decline in labour force conditions, while changes among female youths were much smaller.

**Prince Edward Island Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
	2017 (%)	2017 (%)	2016 (%)		
<b>Total</b>	9.6	9.4	10.9	0.2	-1.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	9.1	9.4	10.2	-0.3	-1.1
Men - 25 years and over	10.0	10.7	12.6	-0.7	-2.7
Women - 25 years and over	8.5	7.9	7.9	0.6	0.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.0	10.3	14.5	1.7	-2.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.3	11.2	16.7	2.0	-3.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.5	9.3	12.3	2.2	-0.7

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

Labour market conditions were more positive among prime working-age individuals (25 to 54 years of age) and older workers (55 years and older) in Q4 2017. Prime working-age adults experienced a 2.0% increase in employment with a shift toward more full-time employment, partially offset by a reduction in part-time employment. Prime working-age males accounted for nearly all gains in this age group, as full-time employment rose (+1,700) while there were 400 fewer part-time positions. Conversely, females saw a slight increase in employment, but this was negated by a loss of 700 part-time workers. Despite the imbalance between sexes, the unemployment rate for prime working-age females was 7.6%, 1pp lower than for males. This gap has narrowed significantly from one year ago, when the unemployment rates were 7.0% and 10.5%, respectively.

Older workers experienced the most pronounced improvement in labour market indicators over the past year. Employment grew by 11.4%, now accounting for more than one-quarter of employment in P.E.I. Slightly more than one-in-five older workers work part time, compared to approximately one-in-ten for prime working-age individuals. Despite the increase in employment, a large proportion of the labour force participants in this age group remain jobless. The unemployment rate for this group was 11.8% in Q4 2017, several percentage points higher than for prime working-age individuals. Job gains over the past year were spread evenly between both sexes.

In the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2017, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was around 2 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.5% of that, or 68,800 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces was 35,200, representing an increase of 1,600 (+4.8%) from a year earlier (Q4 2016). The increase was primarily driven by full-time positions (+2,100 or +7.9%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 16.2% in Q4 2017, representing an increase of 1.5 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate decreased of -0.3 percentage points compared to this time last year at 8.9%. Between Q4 2016 and Q4 2017, the participation rate of Indigenous people increased to 61% (+2.1pp) while among non-Indigenous population, it was relatively unchanged at 61% (-0.4pp). The employment rate of Indigenous people increased year-over-year to 51.1% (+0.9pp); for the non-Indigenous population, it was 55.6% (-0.1pp).

#### Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q4 2017	Q4 2016	number	%	Q4 2017	Q4 2016	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	68.8	66.9	1.9	2.8%	1,921.1	1,914.1	7.0	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	42.0	39.4	2.6	6.6%	1,172.7	1,175.4	-2.7	-0.2%
Employment ('000)	35.2	33.6	1.6	4.8%	1,068.1	1,066.9	1.2	0.1%
Full-Time ('000)	28.7	26.6	2.1	7.9%	889.4	873.9	15.5	1.8%
Part-Time ('000)	6.4	6.9	-0.5	-7.2%	178.7	193.0	-14.3	-7.4%
Unemployment ('000)	6.8	5.8	1.0	17.2%	104.6	108.6	-4.0	-3.7%
Unemployment Rate (%)	16.2	14.7	1.5	-	8.9	9.2	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.0	58.9	2.1	-	61.0	61.4	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.1	50.2	0.9	-	55.6	55.7	-0.1	-

**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.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Goods-producing sector** led employment growth, with 900 more workers than during the previous quarter and 2,100 more than one year ago. This sector represents nearly 25% of the Island's employment, the highest share in nearly six years. **Construction** led the increase with an additional 800 workers (+16.3%), reflecting a persistently high level of activity in the industry throughout the past year. There were 66% more housing starts from January to November in 2017 compared to the same period in 2016. The Construction Association of P.E.I.

predicts that a further 400 workers will be needed to meet demand. The number of individuals employed in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** increased by 600 (+28.6%) amid a handful of positive media reports concerning investment in aquaculture and shellfish establishments. The **Manufacturing** sector added 400 workers following several announcements of new openings and expansions during the second and third quarters. Finally, employment growth of 300 individuals in **Agriculture** gave the Goods-producing sector the distinction of having no industries which lost workers during the past year.

The **Services-producing sector** stalled in comparison with the Goods-producing sector, with the loss of 600 workers from the previous quarter. The largest Services-producing industry, **Wholesale and retail trade**, added 800 workers over the past year following the opening of several large franchise retail outlets. Employment increased by 700 in **Health care and social assistance**, which has been very active recently in trying to maintain staffing levels of nurses and other medical professionals. **Transportation and warehousing** as well as **Professional, scientific and technical services** added 200 jobs each, while **Public Administration** posted no change. The remaining industries in this sector experienced declines in employment.

Prince Edward Island Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2017	2017	2016	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	73.8	73.5	71.7	0.4	0.5	2.2	3.0
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	18.3	17.4	16.2	0.9	5.4	2.1	12.7
Agriculture	3.3	3.2	3.0	0.1	4.2	0.3	11.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.7	2.2	2.1	0.4	19.4	0.6	29.0
Utilities			0.3	0.0		-0.3	
Construction	5.7	5.3	4.9	0.4	8.2	0.8	17.1
Manufacturing	6.5	6.6	6.1	-0.1	-1.0	0.5	7.7
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	55.5	56.1	55.5	-0.6	-1.1	0.0	0.1
Trade	11.2	11.3	10.4	-0.1	-0.6	0.8	7.3
Transportation and warehousing	2.7	2.9	2.5	-0.2	-7.0	0.1	5.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.6	2.8	2.8	-0.1	-4.8	-0.2	-6.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.6	3.6	3.4	0.0	0.9	0.2	5.9
Business, building and other support services	1.7	2.0	2.3	-0.3	-15.3	-0.7	-28.6
Educational services	5.3	5.2	5.4	0.1	2.6	-0.1	-1.8
Health care and social assistance	10.7	10.5	10.0	0.2	2.2	0.7	7.4
Information, culture and recreation	2.6	2.7	2.9	-0.1	-4.9	-0.3	-11.5
Accommodation and food services	5.2	5.3	5.6	-0.2	-3.1	-0.4	-7.7
Other services	3.2	3.3	3.3	-0.1	-4.0	-0.1	-4.0
Public administration	6.7	6.7	6.7	0.1	1.0	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.

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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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