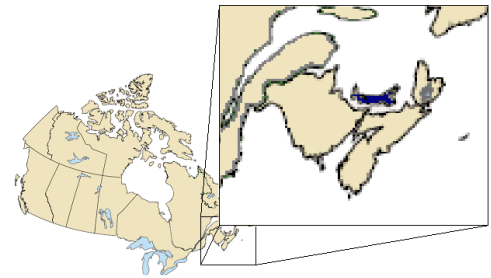




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island



February 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.) were mixed in February. On a month-over-month basis, an increase in the number of active job seekers was met by both an increase in the number employed and an increase in the number unemployed. The net impact was a small increase in the unemployment rate. The number of full-time positions rose for the fourth consecutive month, though the increase in February was offset to some degree by a decline in part-time employment. At 66.0%, in February, P.E.I. continues to hold the highest labour force participation rate in Atlantic Canada.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2017	Jan 2017	Feb 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	122.8	122.6	121.2	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	81.1	80.7	80.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7
Employment ('000)	73.0	72.7	71.6	0.3	0.4	1.4	2.0
Full-Time ('000)	62.2	61.5	60.9	0.7	1.1	1.3	2.1
Part-Time ('000)	10.8	11.3	10.8	-0.5	-4.4	0.0	0.0
Unemployment ('000)	8.1	7.9	8.9	0.2	2.5	-0.8	-9.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.0	9.8	11.1	0.2	-	-1.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.0	65.8	66.4	0.2	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.4	59.3	59.1	0.1	-	0.3	-

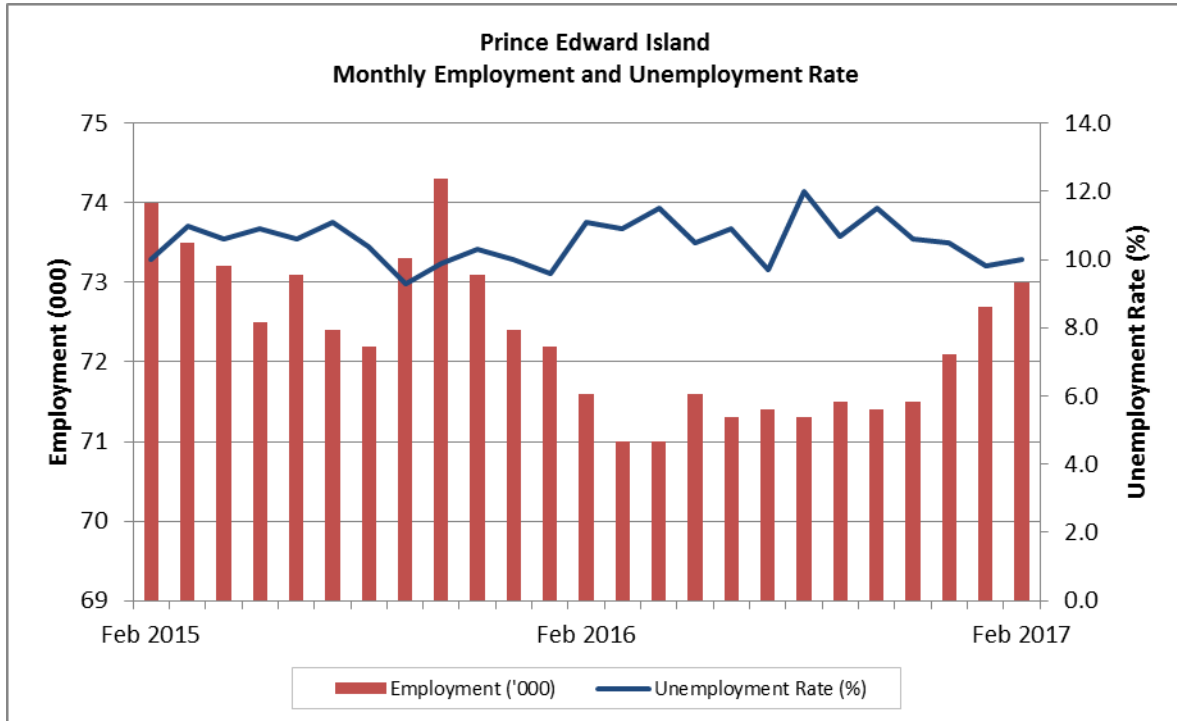
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

On a year-over-year basis, outcomes were more generally positive. The number of people participating in the labour force increased compared to February of 2016. This was met by both an increase in employment and a decrease in the number of those unemployed, with the net result being a substantial drop in the unemployment rate. Job growth was concentrated in full-time employment, while part-time employment held constant.

The participation rate declined, as the population grew by more than the number entering the labour force. The fact that such an insignificant proportion of the 1,600 addition to the population base has translated into labour force participation is perhaps a reflexion of the age composition of this addition. The majority of this gain is at-

tributable to an increase in the population of those aged 55 years and over (+1,300). In February, the participation rate of this age group (37.7%) is much lower than the average across the total population (66.0%).



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002

On a month-over-month basis, the number of youth in the labour force increased (+100) for the third consecutive month. The number of those aged 25-54 years (+600) also increased, while the oldest group aged 55 years and over (-300) lost ground. Compared to February 2016, only the core working aged 25-54 years group posted any gains (+700) and this bump was fully attributable to gains for women (+900) with losses for their male counterparts (-200) dampening the net gain.

Month-over-month employment gains in February were concentrated in the core working-age group (25-54 years), which added 400 jobs. All gains took place in full-time employment (+1,000), while this group lost ground in terms of part-time jobs (-600). No other age group in the province recorded employment gains over the same time period. Compared to February 2016, job growth was observed in both the 25-54 years (+1,000) and 55 years and over (+500) age groups. The group aged 15-24 years shed jobs (-100) for the sixth consecutive month, reflecting deteriorating employment prospects for youth.

At 15.9%, the youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate remains elevated compared to the overall average (10.0%) observed in February. This is an increase of 0.9 percentage points over the rate (15.0%) observed 12 months prior. The two older age groups displayed improvement due to employment increases. The unemployment rate for the core working aged population (25-54 years) declined from 8.9 to 8.2%, while the unemployment rate for those 55 years and over fell dramatically from 13.4% to 10.3%. The unemployment rate for this age group has only been lower on one occasion since January 2016.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2017	Jan 2017	Feb 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	10.0	9.8	11.1	0.2	-1.1
25 years and over	8.9	9.1	10.2	-0.2	-1.3
Men - 25 years and over	11.3	11.4	11.5	-0.1	-0.2
Women - 25 years and over	6.3	6.7	8.8	-0.4	-2.5
15 to 24 years	15.9	13.6	15.0	2.3	0.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.5	18.5	18.2	3.0	3.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.7	10.0	13.1	-0.3	-3.4

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Compared to the previous year, the province's employment base grew in February, as a small loss within the **Goods-producing sector** (-300) was not enough to offset a significant gain in the **Services-producing sector** (+1,700).

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** totalled 17,000 in February. This represents a decline of 300 jobs (-1.7%) from the level observed a year ago. This is noteworthy because losses have been observed in seven of the past ten years, with the sector have shed about 12% of its employment base over this period. Losses in February were observed in **Manufacturing** (-500), **Utilities** (-200) and **Agriculture** (-200). Small increases in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** and **Construction** mitigated the negative impact to some degree. **Construction** employment has been supported the presence of projects like the \$120 million PEI-New Brunswick Interconnection Upgrade¹, which began midway through 2016.

Employment in the **Services-producing sector** totalled 56,000 in January and this represents a gain of 1,700 (+3.1%) over the level observed a year ago. The largest job gains were observed in **Health care and social assistance** (+600), **Transportation and warehousing** (+400) and **Accommodation and food services** (+400). Losses occurred in **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (-100), **Business, building and other support services** (-100) and **Educational services** (-100).

¹ Electricity Industry Canada: <http://electricalindustry.ca/latest-news/2344-pe-i-begins-substantial-interconnection-upgrade-project>

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2017	Jan 2017	Feb 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	73.0	72.7	71.6	0.3	0.4	1.4	2.0
Goods-producing sector	17.0	16.9	17.3	0.1	0.6	-0.3	-1.7
Agriculture	3.1	3.3	3.3	-0.2	-6.1	-0.2	-6.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.5	2.1	2.2	0.4	19.0	0.3	13.6
Utilities	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-50.0
Construction	5.1	5.0	4.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	6.3
Manufacturing	6.1	6.2	6.6	-0.1	-1.6	-0.5	-7.6
Services-producing sector	56.0	55.8	54.3	0.2	0.4	1.7	3.1
Trade	10.4	10.5	10.5	-0.1	-1.0	-0.1	-1.0
Transportation and warehousing	2.9	2.9	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.4	16.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.5	2.7	2.6	-0.2	-7.4	-0.1	-3.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.5	3.1	3.5	0.4	12.9	0.0	0.0
Business, building and other support services	2.1	2.2	2.2	-0.1	-4.5	-0.1	-4.5
Educational services	5.4	5.6	5.5	-0.2	-3.6	-0.1	-1.8
Health care and social assistance	10.4	10.3	9.8	0.1	1.0	0.6	6.1
Information, culture and recreation	2.7	2.7	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	12.5
Accommodation and food services	5.8	5.6	5.4	0.2	3.6	0.4	7.4
Other services	3.3	3.2	3.1	0.1	3.1	0.2	6.5
Public administration	7.0	6.8	6.7	0.2	2.9	0.3	4.5

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

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