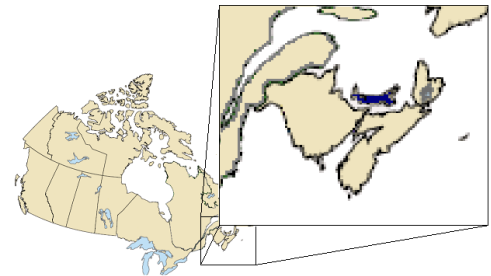




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island

April 2017



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

OVERVIEW

April's labour market outcomes in Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) were somewhat mixed with increases in both employment levels and the number of active job seekers. Employment rebounded in April with job gains more than offsetting the previous month's losses. British Columbia and P.E.I. were the only provinces to record job gains in April. Employment increases in P.E.I. were recorded for both full- and part-time workers; the number of full-time jobs is now at its highest level since November 2014. Since the labour force grew at a faster pace than employment, the number of unemployed workers and the unemployment rate edged upwards compared to March by 200 and 0.2 percentage points, respectively.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

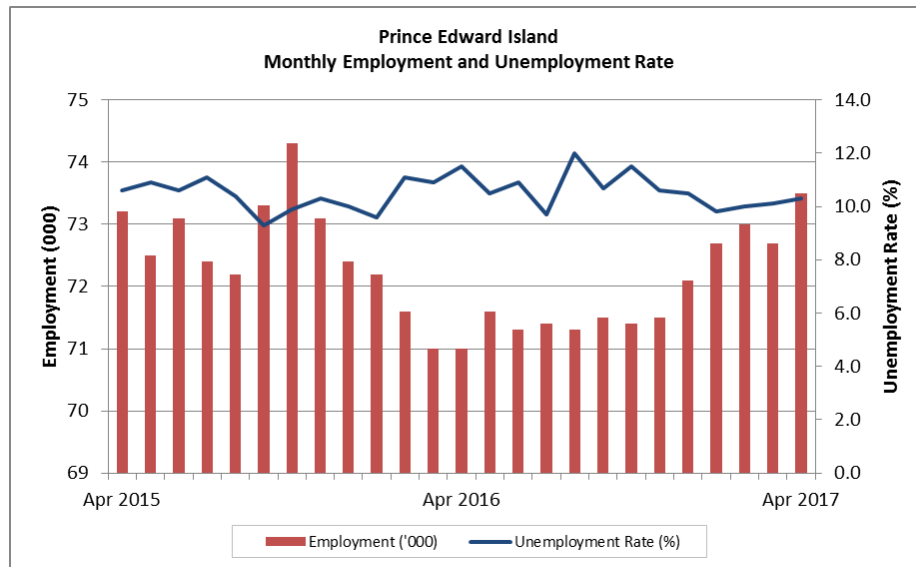
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	123.3	123.0	121.5	0.3	0.2	1.8	1.5
Labour Force ('000)	81.9	80.9	80.2	1.0	1.2	1.7	2.1
Employment ('000)	73.5	72.7	71.0	0.8	1.1	2.5	3.5
Full-Time ('000)	62.3	62.0	59.5	0.3	0.5	2.8	4.7
Part-Time ('000)	11.2	10.7	11.5	0.5	4.7	-0.3	-2.6
Unemployment ('000)	8.4	8.2	9.2	0.2	2.4	-0.8	-8.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.3	10.1	11.5	0.2	-	-1.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.4	65.8	66.0	0.6	-	0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.6	59.1	58.4	0.5	-	1.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

From an annual perspective, there was an increase in the number of people participating in the labour force which was also accompanied by 2,500 additional jobs. Over the same period, the number of active job seekers dropped by 800 while the unemployment rate declined by 1.2 percentage points. The Island's economy recorded an increase of 2,800 additional full-time workers; whereas, there were 300 fewer part-time positions. In terms of class of worker, the number of private-sector employees rose by 1,600 while employment in the public sector increased by 800 relative to 12 months ago. On a year-to-date basis (January-April), overall employment is up by approximately 1,500 jobs as compared to the first four months of 2016. Perhaps 2017 may see a rever-

sal of the three consecutive years of job losses. Anticipated stronger growth in trade, manufacturing, and tourism in 2017 should provide additional employment opportunities in 2017.



On a month-over-month basis the number of youth (aged 15-24 years) employed rose to 10,900, an increase of 400 positions. The majority of the gains were attributable to increases in full-time positions, particularly for females. Youth employment levels rose by approximately 8% or 900 jobs compared to 12 months ago. However, all of the gains resulted from additional part-time positions (+1,000) which more than offset the decline in full-time jobs. Employment levels for the core working-age population (25-54 years of age) changed little compared to the previous month. The number of full-time jobs was unchanged; whereas, there was a modest increase (+300) in part-time positions. Relative to April 2016, results for the core working-age group were somewhat more positive as increases in full-time jobs (+1,500) outpaced the decline in the number of part-time workers (-800). There was little change in the employment levels of older workers (aged 55 years or older) compared to March; whereas, there was a notable rise in the number of employed older workers compared to April 2016. The bump in employment levels (+1,100) was largely attributable to job gains observed for men in this age category (+1,000).

At 16.2%, the youth unemployment rate edged compared to the rate recorded for March and is significantly lower than the rate observed for youth in April 2016 (18.7%). For the core working-age population, the unemployment rate edged up somewhat compared to the month prior, from 9.1% to 9.3%, and from the 9.0% observed 12 months earlier. The unemployment rate for women in this age category declined over the year (from 7.8% to 6.5%). By comparison, their male counterparts recorded an increase in unemployment rates over the same period (from 10.2% to 12%). At 8.8%, the unemployment rate for older workers rose by just under 1 percentage point between March and April. In contrast, the rate declined dramatically from that recorded for April 2016 (13.6%).

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	10.3	10.1	11.5	0.2	-1.2
25 years and over	9.1	8.8	10.3	0.3	-1.2
Men - 25 years and over	12.1	10.8	11.8	1.3	0.3
Women - 25 years and over	6.0	6.7	8.4	-0.7	-2.4
15 to 24 years	16.2	17.3	18.7	-1.1	-2.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.2	20.9	23.8	-2.7	-5.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.1	13.1	13.3	1.0	0.8

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 April with job gains in both the **Goods-producing** and **Services-producing sectors**.

Following four consecutive years of job losses during the month of April, employment in the **Goods-producing sector** expanded with its employment base rising to 16,800. This represents an increase of 900 jobs (+5.7%) from the level observed a year ago. Gains in April were recorded in both the **Construction** (+800) and **Manufacturing** (+500) industry groups. A competitive Canadian dollar and a strong U.S. economy continue to drive demand for P.E.I. products and bode well for **Manufacturing**. Employment levels in **Manufacturing** are now at their highest level for the month of April since 2007. Employment gains in the **Goods-producing sector** were partially offset as losses were observed in each of the remaining industry groups.

Employment in the **Services-producing sector** totalled 56,700 in April which reflects gains of 1,600 jobs (+2.9%) above the level observed in April 2016. The largest job gains were recorded in the **Health care and social assistance** and **Information, culture and recreation** industry groups, each of which added 900 positions to their employment levels. The Provincial Government is forecasting a budget surplus for 2017-18, following a few years of fiscal constraint, spending on education and health care and social services, as well as public administration, will rise and potentially lead to employment gains in these industry groups.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	73.5	72.7	71.0	0.8	1.1	2.5	3.5
Goods-producing sector	16.8	16.9	15.9	-0.1	-0.6	0.9	5.7
Agriculture	2.8	2.6	3.0	0.2	7.7	-0.2	-6.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.3	2.5	2.6	-0.2	-8.0	-0.3	-11.5
Utilities	0.2	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-33.3	-0.1	-33.3
Construction	5.1	5.2	4.3	-0.1	-1.9	0.8	18.6
Manufacturing	6.3	6.3	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.5	8.6
Services-producing sector	56.7	55.8	55.1	0.9	1.6	1.6	2.9
Trade	10.7	10.4	10.2	0.3	2.9	0.5	4.9
Transportation and warehousing	2.5	2.8	2.4	-0.3	-10.7	0.1	4.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.6	2.4	2.8	0.2	8.3	-0.2	-7.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.3	3.5	4.0	-0.2	-5.7	-0.7	-17.5
Business, building and other support services	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Educational services	5.2	5.3	5.1	-0.1	-1.9	0.1	2.0
Health care and social assistance	10.8	10.5	9.9	0.3	2.9	0.9	9.1
Information, culture and recreation	3.3	2.8	2.4	0.5	17.9	0.9	37.5
Accommodation and food services	6.1	5.9	6.2	0.2	3.4	-0.1	-1.6
Other services	3.2	3.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	6.7
Public administration	7.1	6.9	6.9	0.2	2.9	0.2	2.9

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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