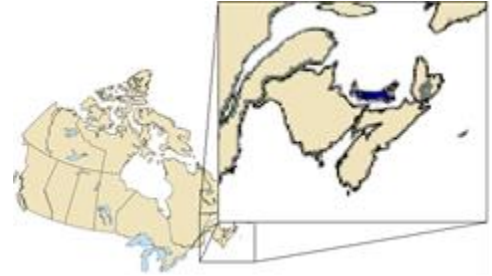




# Labour Market Bulletin

## Prince Edward Island

May 2017



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

### OVERVIEW

The Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) labour market continued on its positive track in May, with conditions having generally improved over those of the prior month. The province has had relatively strong employment growth since the autumn of 2016, and capped this trend by posting the largest month-over-month percentage increase (+2.0%) among provinces in May. Additions to the labour force trailed employment growth somewhat, with the net effect being a decrease in the unemployment rate, which continues to trend below the historical average. Both full-time and part-time employment improved, with the latter gaining the most ground. At 67.3%, P.E.I.'s participation rate remains significantly higher than that posted by each of the other Atlantic Canada provinces.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2017	Apr 2017	May 2016	Monthly		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	123.7	123.3	121.7	0.4	0.3	2.0	1.6
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	83.3	81.9	80.0	1.4	1.7	3.3	4.1
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	75.0	73.5	71.6	1.5	2.0	3.4	4.7
Full-Time ('000)	62.8	62.3	60.0	0.5	0.8	2.8	4.7
Part-Time ('000)	12.2	11.2	11.6	1.0	8.9	0.6	5.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	8.3	8.4	8.4	-0.1	-1.2	-0.1	-1.2
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	10.0	10.3	10.5	-0.3	-	-0.5	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	67.3	66.4	65.7	0.9	-	1.6	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	60.6	59.6	58.8	1.0	-	1.8	-

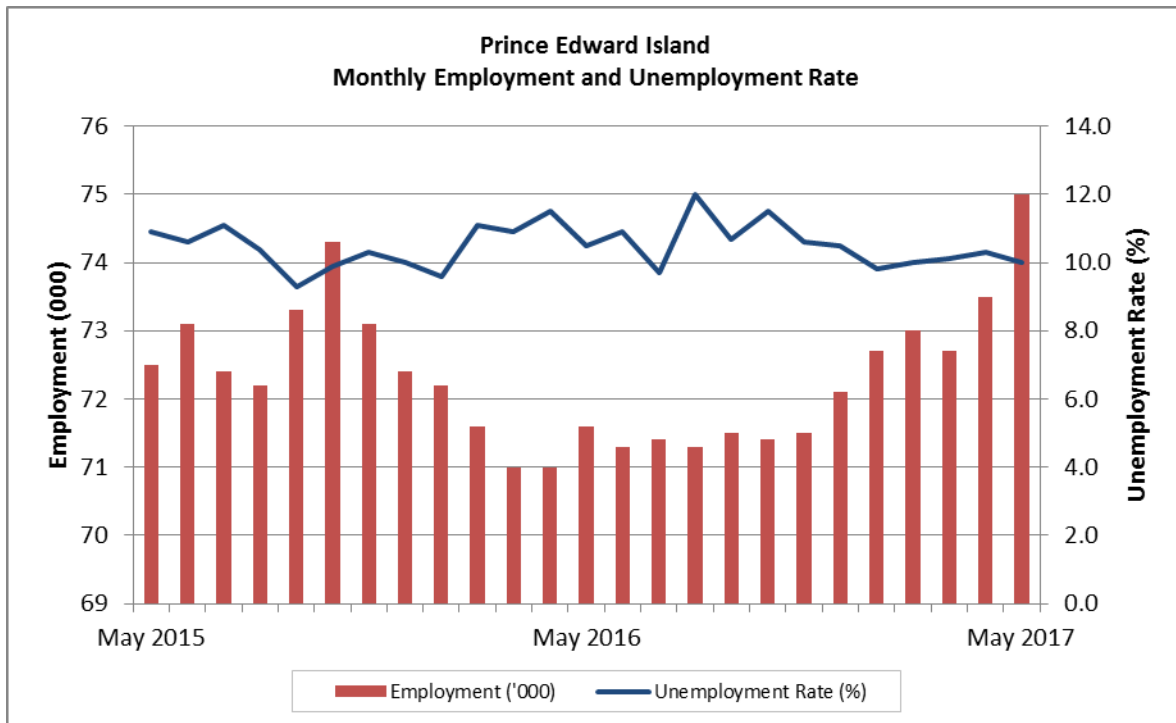
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

From a year-over-year perspective, the number of people participating in the labour force increased significantly over May, 2016 – the sixth such increase in as many months. This was met by both an increase in employment and a decrease in the number of those unemployed, with the net result being a drop in the unemployment rate. The bulk of the new jobs were concentrated in full-time work, while part-time employment showed more modest improvement. In terms of class of worker, the number of private sector and public sector employees rose by 1,900 and 400, respectively, relative to 12 months ago. The number of self-employed also showed

improvement (+1,100). On a year-to-date basis, (January-May), overall employment is up by 1,900 jobs as compared to the first four months of 2016.

The participation rate increased over May, 2016, as the number of people entering the labour force was greater than the addition to the working-age population base. Growth was driven by gains in the number of those aged 55 years and over (+1,400) and for those aged 25 to 54 years (+800), while the number of those aged 15 to 24 years declined. The latter event contributed to a significant jump in the participation rate for this age group, in particular. The population of males (+1,000) and females (+900) grew at a similar pace.



On a month-over-month basis, growth in the number of youth (aged 15-24 years) in the labour force levelled off after five straight months of growth. The number of those in the core working-age group (aged 25-54 years) increased by 800 people, while the number of older workers (aged 55 years and over) in the labour force grew by 600. Compared to May 2016, labour force growth was led by the core working age group (+2,200), though gains were also observed among youth (+700) and older workers (+400).

Compared to the previous month, there were an estimated 1,500 more people working in P.E.I. in May, with the most significant gains observed in the core working-age group, which added 900 jobs. Employment levels were up in both full-time (+500) and part-time (+1,000) work. Overall, males accounted for the vast majority of growth, adding 1,400 jobs, compared to an additional 100 among the females. Compared to May, 2016, there were 3,400 more people working in May of 2017. There have recently been signs of improving youth employment prospects. After posting zero-to-negative year-over-year growth for nine consecutive months, gains have been observed in each of the past three. Improvements have been felt fairly evenly across gender.

Given a reduction in the number of youth who are unemployed, the unemployment rate for this cohort has improved markedly on a month-over-month basis, dropping from 16.2% to 12.3% in May. This is the lowest rate on record since January, 2016. The unemployment rate for the core working-age population also showed improvement, declining from 9.3% to 8.9%, while a higher proportion of those aged 55 and older were unemployed.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2017	Apr 2017	May 2016	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	10.0	10.3	10.5	-0.3	-0.5
<b>25 years and over</b>	9.5	9.1	9.6	0.4	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	10.7	12.1	11.5	-1.4	-0.8
Women - 25 years and over	8.0	6.0	7.6	2.0	0.4
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.3	16.2	15.4	-3.9	-3.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.7	18.2	18.2	-1.5	-1.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.4	14.1	10.5	-4.7	-1.1

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 May, with sizeable gains observed in both the **Goods-producing sector** (+1,200) and in the **Services-producing sector** (+2,200).

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** totalled 17,900 in May, the highest level observed since late 2014. This represents an increase of 1,200 jobs from the level observed a year ago. With 1,000 jobs added in 2017 to-date, this suggests a possible reversal of fortunes for a sector in which losses have been observed in seven of the past ten years. Indeed, about 12% of the goods-producing employment base has been shed over this period. Only **Utilities** (-100) shed jobs compared to May, 2016, and this was offset by gains in **Construction** (+600), **Manufacturing** (+500) and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (+200). **Construction** employment has been supported by the presence of projects like the \$120 million PEI-New Brunswick Interconnection Upgrade<sup>1</sup>, which began midway through 2016.

Employment in the **Services-producing sector** totalled 57,100 in May and this represents a gain of 2,200 jobs over the level observed a year ago. The largest job gains were observed in **Wholesale and retail trade** (+1,400), **Health care and social assistance** (+400) and **Information, culture and recreation** (+400). The steepest drops were observed in **Business, building and other support services** (-500), **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (-200) and **Accommodation and food services** (-200).

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

**Prince Edward Island Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry**

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2017	Apr 2017	May 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	75.0	73.5	71.6	1.5	2.0	3.4	4.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	17.9	16.8	16.7	1.1	6.5	1.2	7.2
Agriculture	2.9	2.8	2.9	0.1	3.6	0.0	0.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.9	2.3	2.7	0.6	26.1	0.2	7.4
Utilities	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-33.3
Construction	5.2	5.1	4.6	0.1	2.0	0.6	13.0
Manufacturing	6.7	6.3	6.2	0.4	6.3	0.5	8.1
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	57.1	56.7	54.9	0.4	0.7	2.2	4.0
Trade	11.5	10.7	10.1	0.8	7.5	1.4	13.9
Transportation and warehousing	2.7	2.5	2.4	0.2	8.0	0.3	12.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.5	2.6	2.7	-0.1	-3.8	-0.2	-7.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.5	3.3	3.6	0.2	6.1	-0.1	-2.8
Business, building and other support services	1.9	2.1	2.4	-0.2	-9.5	-0.5	-20.8
Educational services	5.1	5.2	4.9	-0.1	-1.9	0.2	4.1
Health care and social assistance	10.5	10.8	10.1	-0.3	-2.8	0.4	4.0
Information, culture and recreation	2.9	3.3	2.5	-0.4	-12.1	0.4	16.0
Accommodation and food services	6.1	6.1	6.3	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-3.2
Other services	3.3	3.2	3.0	0.1	3.1	0.3	10.0
Public administration	7.1	7.1	6.9	0.0	0.0	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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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