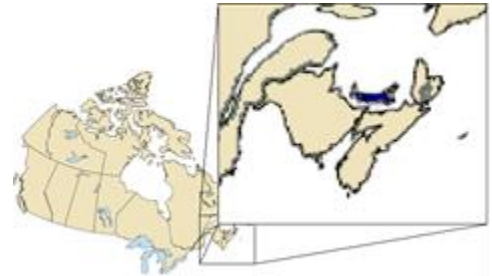




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island



September 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 labour market stalled in the third quarter (Q3 2017) following several consecutive quarters of growth. Employment totalled 73,500, representing a decline of 800 persons from Q2 2017—the net result of 2,000 fewer full-time positions and 1,1 00 additional part-time jobs. With fewer working-aged persons participating in the labour force, the Island’s unemployment rate decreased to 9.4% in the most recent quarter. At 65.4%, the participation rate was 1.5 percentage points (pp) lower compared to the previous quarter, and was also slightly below the national rate, but highest in the Atlantic Region.

Prince Edward Island Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2017	2nd Quarter 2017	3rd Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	124.1	123.6	122.1	0.5	0.4	2.0	1.6
Labour Force ('000)	81.2	82.7	80.1	-1.5	-1.8	1.1	1.4
Employment ('000)	73.5	74.3	71.4	-0.8	-1.1	2.1	2.9
Full-Time ('000)	60.6	62.6	58.6	-2.0	-3.2	2.0	3.4
Part-Time ('000)	12.8	11.7	12.8	1.1	9.4	0.0	0.0
Unemployment ('000)	7.7	8.4	8.7	-0.7	-8.3	-1.0	-11.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.4	10.2	10.8	-0.8	-	-1.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.4	66.9	65.6	-1.5	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.2	60.1	58.5	-0.9	-	0.7	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

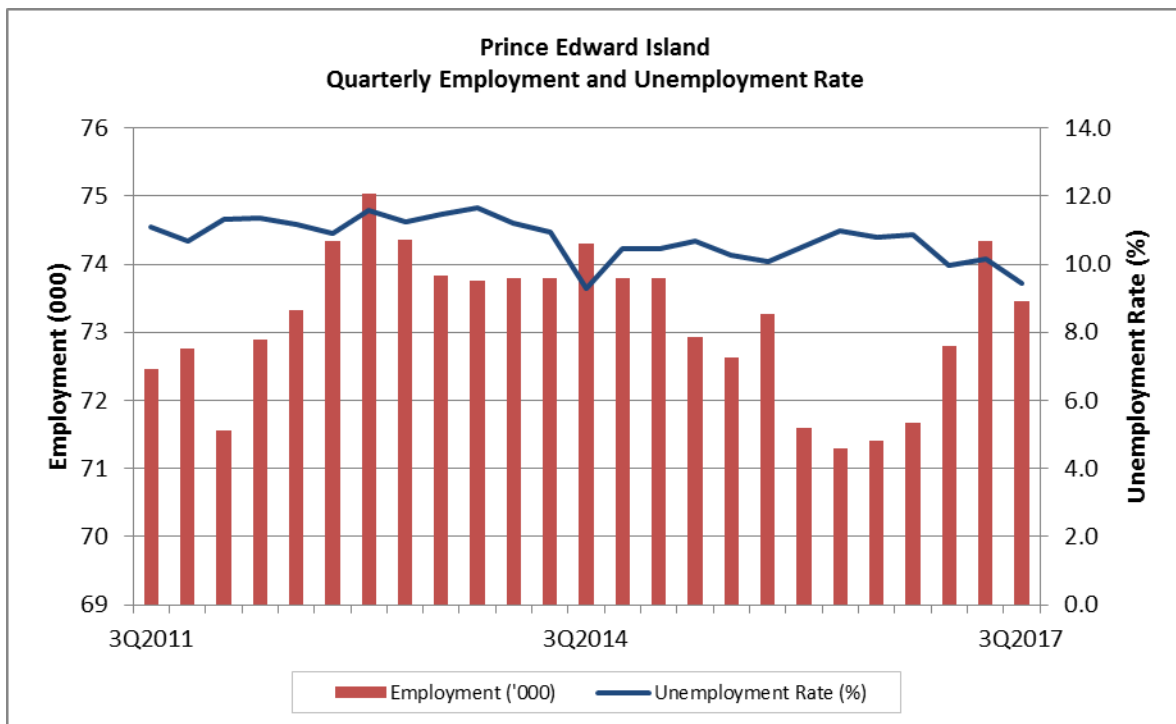
On a year-over-year basis, the Island’s labour market in Q3 2017 strengthened. Overall employment was up by 2,100 persons (+2.9%) and the unemployment rate was 1.4pp lower. The labour force in the province was also higher (+1.4%) but this gain fell short of working-age population growth, resulting in a slight reduction in the participation rate.

All of the 2,100 positions added over the past year were full-time, while the level of part-time employment remained unchanged. While both sexes experienced positive employment growth, males accounted for the majority of the gain. Full-time and part-time employment among males was up by 1,200 and 400 respectively for a total of 1,600. For females, there were 800 more employed full time however a year-over-year reduction in

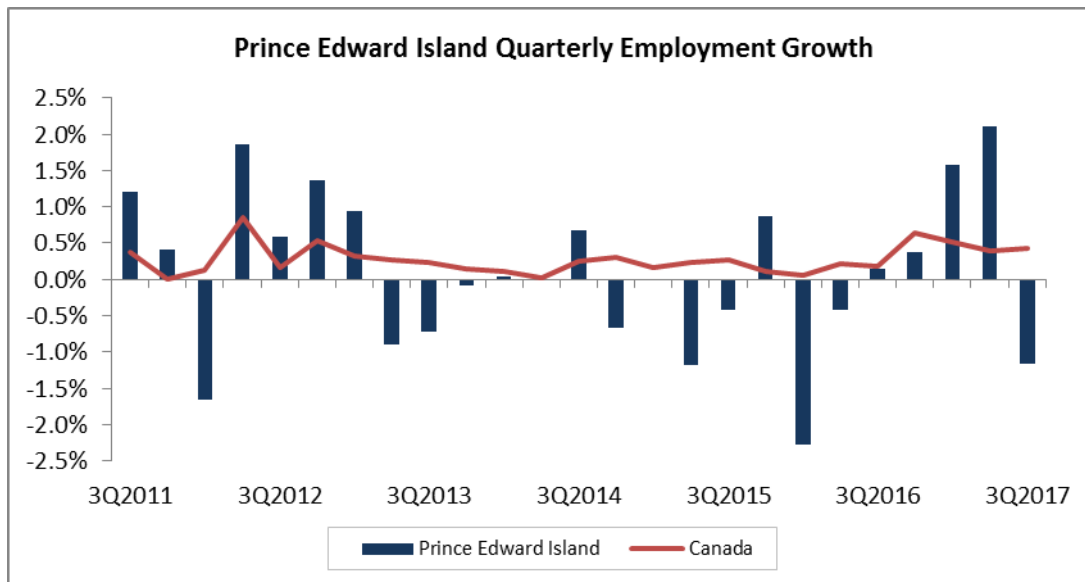
part-time employment (-400) partially offset for a net increase of 400 jobs. Presently, females account for 49% of employment on the Island, though they comprise 51.4% of the working-age population.

Between Q3 2016 and Q3 2017, employment in the public and private sectors expanded at approximately the same pace. Public sector employment increased by 3.8% to 19,300, while private sector employment went up by 4.0% to 44,000. Conversely, self-employment declined to 10,200 (-2.9%).

Employment levels year-over-year were higher for prime working-age individuals (25-54 years of age) and older workers (55 years and older). Youth (15-24 years of age) saw little overall change in employment. The prime-age working group experienced the largest employment increase in both absolute and percentage terms, having increased by 1,400 employed persons (+3.2%) to 44,900. Full-time employment of prime working-age males increased by 1,300 positions, accounting for the majority of year-over-year job growth for this age group. For prime working-age females, employment was nearly unchanged, however the composition of work shifted with 400 women fewer employed part-time and 400 more full-time. The number of positions held by older workers increased by 600 (+2.8%) to 18,100 year-over-year. The employment composition of young adults differs somewhat by sex: approximately two-thirds of male youths work full time compared to half of that for female youths.



The Island’s youth unemployment rate declined significantly year-over-year, from 16.2% to 10.3%. However, as employment growth in this age group was nearly static, the change was almost entirely the result of 800 fewer youths in the labour force. Both employment and labour force levels of the prime working-age group each increased by 1,400, leaving the number of unemployed individuals unchanged at 4,300. This comprises a smaller share of the labour force than a year ago, resulting in a lower unemployment rate of 8.7% from 9.0%. A similar trend was observed for older workers, whose labour force and employment levels rose by the same amount (+500) yielding a lower unemployment rate, at 11% (from 11.8%). Across all three age groups, the female unemployment rate was consistently lower than that of males, by two and three percentage points.



The participation rate in PEI varies significantly by age group. For youths, the participation rate declined by 3.8pp to 65.5% over the past year, while the prime working-age participation rate increased to 86.9%. For the older worker cohort, labour force participation was nearly unchanged year-over-year (at 40.9%). As older workers account for a growing share of PEI's population base, it is expected that this will put downward pressure on the Island's overall participation rate.

Prince Edward Island Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
	2017 (%)	2017 (%)	2016 (%)		
Total	9.4	10.2	10.8	-0.7	-1.4
25 years and over	9.4	9.4	9.8	-0.1	-0.5
Men - 25 years and over	10.7	11.2	11.2	-0.5	-0.5
Women - 25 years and over	7.9	7.5	8.4	0.4	-0.5
15 to 24 years	10.3	13.7	16.2	-3.4	-5.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.2	17.7	19.4	-6.5	-8.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.3	10.0	13.3	-0.7	-4.0

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

In the third quarter (Q3) of 2017, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was around 2 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 68,400 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces was 38,500, representing an increase of 1,700 (+4.6%) from a year earlier (Q3 2016). The increase was primarily driven by full-time positions (+1,500 or +4.9%). Part-time positions also saw an increase over the same time period (+100 or +1.7%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 13.6% in Q3 2017, representing a decrease of -2.6 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate remained the same as this time last year at 8.7%. Between Q3 2016 and Q3 2017, the participation rate of Indigenous people stood at 65.1% (-0.6pp) while among non-Indigenous population, it was 62.2% (-1.0pp). The employment rate of Indigenous people increased year-over-year to 56.2% (+1.1pp); for the non-Indigenous population, it was 56.8% (-0.9pp).

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People								
3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q3 2017	Q3 2016	number	%	Q3 2017	Q3 2016	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	68.4	66.8	1.6	2.4%	1,919.5	1,912.8	6.7	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	44.5	43.9	0.6	1.4%	1,194.4	1,209.1	-14.7	-1.2%
Employment ('000)	38.5	36.8	1.7	4.6%	1,090.2	1,104.3	-14.1	-1.3%
Full-Time ('000)	32.3	30.8	1.5	4.9%	928.9	934.5	-5.6	-0.6%
Part-Time ('000)	6.1	6.0	0.1	1.7%	161.3	169.8	-8.5	-5.0%
Unemployment ('000)	6.1	7.1	-1.0	-14.1%	104.2	104.8	-0.6	-0.6%
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.6	16.2	-2.6	-	8.7	8.7	0.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.1	65.7	-0.6	-	62.2	63.2	-1.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.2	55.1	1.1	-	56.8	57.7	-0.9	-

*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

In Q3 2017, the **Goods-producing sector** employed 17,400 individuals, 100 fewer than the previous quarter but 800 more than one year ago. Job growth in this sector was driven entirely by **Construction** and **Manufacturing**, which have added 500 and 800 persons respectively since Q3 2016. The **Construction** sector has been very active this year— of all provinces, the Island reported the highest growth in residential construction and second-highest growth in non-residential construction during the first half of 2017. With respect to **Manufacturing**, a couple of new establishments are expected to open, and several existing establishments in a variety of sub-sectors have announced expansion plans. These include a number of food and alcohol manufacturing businesses, MacDougall Steel Erectors, the PEI Bag Co., and two Charlottetown-based bioscience companies. The **Agriculture** sector as well as **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** experienced declines of 100 jobs each, moderating the growth of the Goods-producing sector as a whole.

The **Services-producing sector** employed 800 fewer people than the previous quarter, but 1,300 more compared to the third quarter of 2016, representing a 2.4% year-over-year increase. **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Transportation and warehousing** were the primary drivers of job growth, adding 1,100 and 500 positions respectively. Retail trade on the Island has seen a large amount of activity during the past year, with the fastest retail sales growth in the country throughout Q1 and Q2 2017, as well as a number of large franchises opening their doors. **Educational services** added 300 jobs year-over-year amid Island-wide hiring of teachers. Three industries experienced increases of 200 jobs each: **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing, Health care and social assistance** and **Other services**. The number of employed persons declined in **Professional, scientific and technical services** (-200), **Business, building and other support services** (-300), and **Accommodation and food services** (-400), despite the record-setting tourism season this year.

Prince Edward Island Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2017	2nd Quarter 2017	3rd Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	73.5	74.3	71.4	-0.9	-1.2	2.1	2.9
Goods-producing sector	17.4	17.5	16.6	-0.1	-0.6	0.8	4.8
Agriculture	3.2	3.0	3.3	0.2	6.7	-0.1	-4.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.2	2.6	2.3	-0.4	-14.1	-0.1	-4.3
Utilities		0.2	0.3	-0.2	-100.0	-0.3	-100.0
Construction	5.3	5.1	4.8	0.1	2.6	0.5	9.7
Manufacturing	6.6	6.6	5.8	0.0	0.5	0.8	13.1
Services-producing sector	56.1	56.9	54.8	-0.7	-1.3	1.3	2.4
Trade	11.3	11.3	10.2	0.0	-0.3	1.1	10.5
Transportation and warehousing	2.9	2.7	2.4	0.2	6.2	0.5	19.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.8	2.5	2.6	0.2	9.2	0.2	6.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	3.6	3.4	3.8	0.2	4.9	-0.2	-6.1
Business, building and other support services	2.0	2.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-15.7
Educational services	5.2	5.1	4.9	0.1	2.0	0.3	6.8
Health care and social assistance	10.5	10.6	10.3	-0.1	-0.9	0.2	1.6
Information, culture and recreation	2.7	2.9	2.7	-0.2	-8.0	0.0	0.0
Accommodation and food services	5.3	6.0	5.7	-0.7	-11.1	-0.4	-7.0
Other services	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.1	2.0	0.3	8.7
Public administration	6.7	7.2	6.7	-0.5	-7.0	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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http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

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

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