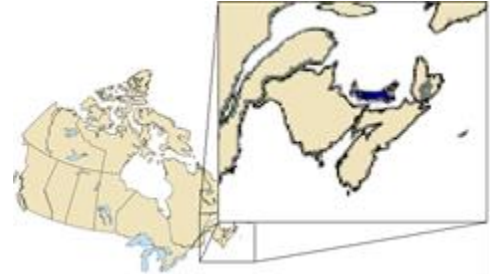




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island



February 2018

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

OVERVIEW

The labour market in Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) fared better in February, following a subdued performance in January. The working-age population on the Island continued to increase both on a monthly and a yearly basis, increasing modestly to 124,700 in February, and by 1.5% from twelve months before. In part, this reflects more immigrants settling on the Island. The monthly increase in the working age population, however, contributed to a slight dip in the participation rate as the labour force remained broadly unchanged at 83,800 in February. Despite stability over the month, the labour force was still up by 3.3% year-over-year.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data | Feb 2018 | Jan 2018 | Feb 2017 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 124.7 | 124.5 | 122.8 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 1.5 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 83.8 | 83.8 | 81.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.7 | 3.3 |
| Employment ('000) | 75.4 | 74.9 | 73.1 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 3.1 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 62.8 | 62.2 | 62.1 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 1.1 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 12.6 | 12.7 | 11.0 | -0.1 | -0.8 | 1.6 | 14.5 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 8.5 | 8.9 | 8.0 | -0.4 | -4.5 | 0.5 | 6.3 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 10.1 | 10.6 | 9.9 | -0.5 | - | 0.2 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 67.2 | 67.3 | 66.0 | -0.1 | - | 1.2 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 60.5 | 60.2 | 59.5 | 0.3 | - | 1.0 | - |

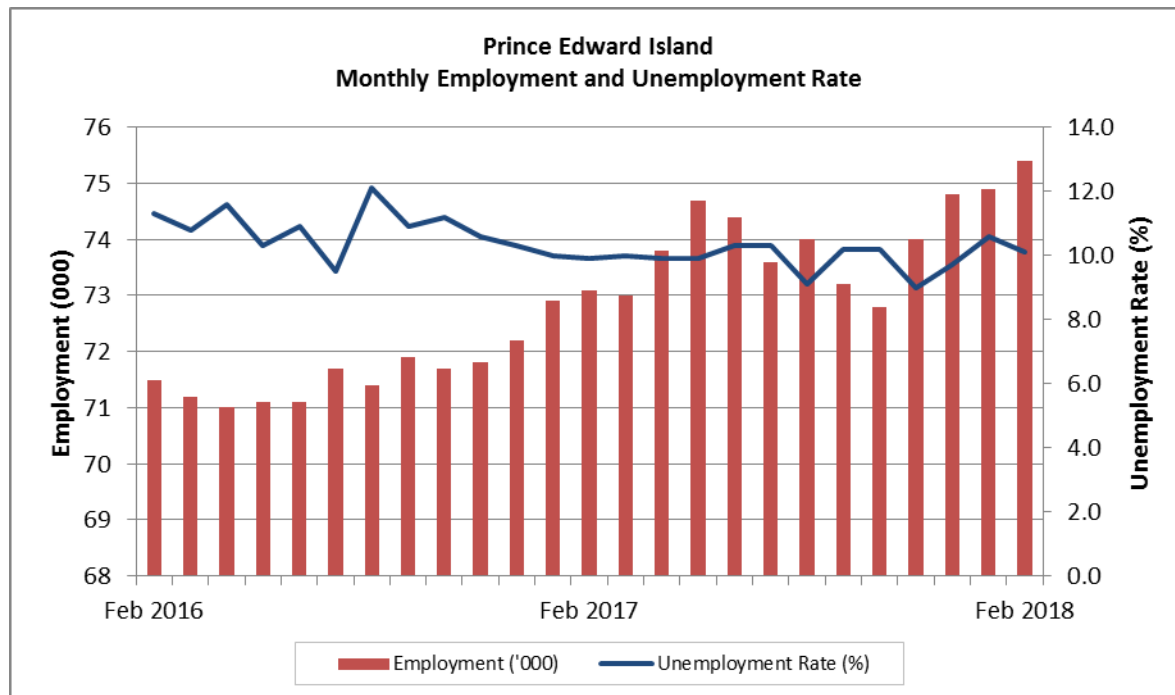
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment grew over the month, up by 0.7 of a percentage point to 75,400 in February, the highest it has been since February 2013. The gains were largely in full-time positions, with 500 more people finding such positions in February compared to January, and 2,300 people doing so over the year. By contrast, 100 part-time workers left their jobs between January and February, partly to capitalize on the abundance of full-time employment, but there were 1,600 additional part-time workers year-over-

year. The latest month's losses in part-time work, however, were too modest to have any negative effect on the overall monthly gain in employment.

Meanwhile, 400 unemployed Islanders found work between January and February as more full-time employment became readily available. As a result, the rate of unemployment on the Island dropped by half a percentage point to 10.1% in February, but this was still 0.2 percentage points higher than it was twelve months earlier.



Private-sector employment declined in February, shedding 100 jobs over the month, but employment remained higher than it was twelve months ago. Conversely, self-employment on the Island rose for the second month in a row in February, with 700 more Islanders working for themselves.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | Feb 2018 | Jan 2018 | Feb 2017 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| | % | % | % | (% points) | (% points) |
| Total | 10.1 | 10.6 | 9.9 | -0.5 | 0.2 |
| 25 years and over | 9.7 | 9.8 | 8.6 | -0.1 | 1.1 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 10.2 | 9.9 | 11.0 | 0.3 | -0.8 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 9.2 | 9.6 | 6.1 | -0.4 | 3.1 |
| 15 to 24 years | 12.5 | 15.6 | 16.5 | -3.1 | -4.0 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 15.3 | 18.3 | 21.9 | -3.0 | -6.6 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 10.0 | 12.9 | 11.1 | -2.9 | -1.1 |

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

Compared to January, the unemployment rate on the Island was less severe in February, as it declined largely across genders and age groups. The rate of unemployment among individuals aged 25 years and over declined modestly to 9.7% in February, having risen in January. However, more men in this age

group were looking for work in February than were women, with the unemployment rate among men up modestly to 10.2% over the month, while that of women declined by 0.4 of a percentage point from January to 9.2% in February.

Young people (aged 15 to 24) on the Island are more likely to be unemployed than those aged 25 years and above, with their unemployment rate at 2.8 percentage points above that of individuals aged 25 and over in the latest month. Nevertheless, the rate of unemployment among the youth considerably dropped to 12.5% in February, a decline of 3.1 percentage points from January and 4.0 percentage point from twelve months before. Partly, this may be a sign of persistent labour market detachment as only a few found employment in February. Even with the overall decline, the rate of unemployment was fairly different between young men and young women, with the rate at 15.3% among young men and 10.0% among young women. While the unemployment rate remained higher among young men, it has considerably declined both over the month and over the year. Their female counterpart, on the other hand, saw a monthly decline of 2.9 percentage points and a year-over-year decline of 1.1 percentage points.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

February was a particularly challenging month for the **Goods-producing industries** as employment declined by 300 compared to the preceding month. On an annual basis, however, employment remained stronger as 1,900 positions were gained across the Goods industries. **Construction** laid off 300 workers in February despite stronger intentions in the sector to hire¹. In **Agriculture**, 100 workers lost their jobs in February, compared to January, but 500 people found jobs in the sector over the year.

Despite weakening employment in the Goods-producing industries, there were more Islanders working in **Manufacturing** in February, up 4.6 percentage points from 6,500 employees in January and 11.5 percentage points from twelve months prior.

¹ <http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/pei-construction-association-launches-recruitment-campaign-184949/>

Prince Edward Island Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | Feb 2018 | Jan 2018 | Feb 2017 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 75.4 | 74.9 | 73.1 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 3.1 |
| Goods-producing sector | 18.9 | 19.2 | 17.0 | -0.3 | -1.6 | 1.9 | 11.2 |
| Agriculture | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.1 | -0.1 | -2.7 | 0.5 | 16.1 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.5 | -0.1 | -3.7 | 0.1 | 4.0 |
| Utilities | 0.2 | | 0.2 | 0.2 | - | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 5.8 | 6.1 | 5.1 | -0.3 | -4.9 | 0.7 | 13.7 |
| Manufacturing | 6.8 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 0.3 | 4.6 | 0.7 | 11.5 |
| Services-producing sector | 56.4 | 55.6 | 56.1 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Trade | 11.6 | 11.1 | 10.5 | 0.5 | 4.5 | 1.1 | 10.5 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.9 | -0.2 | -8.7 | -0.8 | -27.6 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 3.6 | 0.4 | 16.0 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 | -0.1 | -2.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Business, building and other support services | 1.8 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 20.0 | -0.3 | -14.3 |
| Educational services | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.4 | -0.1 | -1.9 | -0.1 | -1.9 |
| Health care and social assistance | 11.0 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 0.3 | 2.8 | 0.6 | 5.8 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 0.3 | 11.1 | 0.3 | 11.1 |
| Accommodation and food services | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.5 | -8.5 |
| Other services | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.3 | -0.1 | -3.0 | -0.1 | -3.0 |
| Public administration | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.0 | -0.1 | -1.4 | -0.2 | -2.9 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

In the **Services-producing industries**, a significant number of jobs were added in **Wholesale and retail trade**, with 500 more positions gained in February and 1,100 jobs over the year. The other increases in the Services industries came from **Finance, Insurance, real estate and leasing** (100) and 900 gains evenly split among **Business, Buildings and other support services**, **Health care and social assistance**, and **Information, culture and recreation**.

The gains in the Services industries, however, were largely matched by losses spread across **Transportation and warehousing** (-200), **Educational services** (-100), **Public Administration** (-100), **Professional, scientific and technical services** (-100), and **Other services** (-100). Despite this, the Services Industries still added a net of 800 positions in February compared to a month earlier, and 300 year-over-year.

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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