



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

November 2018



This Labour Market Bulletin is a report providing an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, including the regions of Avalon Peninsula, West Coast—Northern Peninsula—Labrador, Notre Dame—Central Bonavista Bay and South Coast—Burin Peninsula.

OVERVIEW

In November, the unemployment rate declined for the fifth-straight month, reaching its lowest point in over two years. The number of people in the labour force declined by nearly 10,000 since June, while employment increased slightly. Full-time employment has rebounded somewhat since July when it reached its lowest level since 2010.

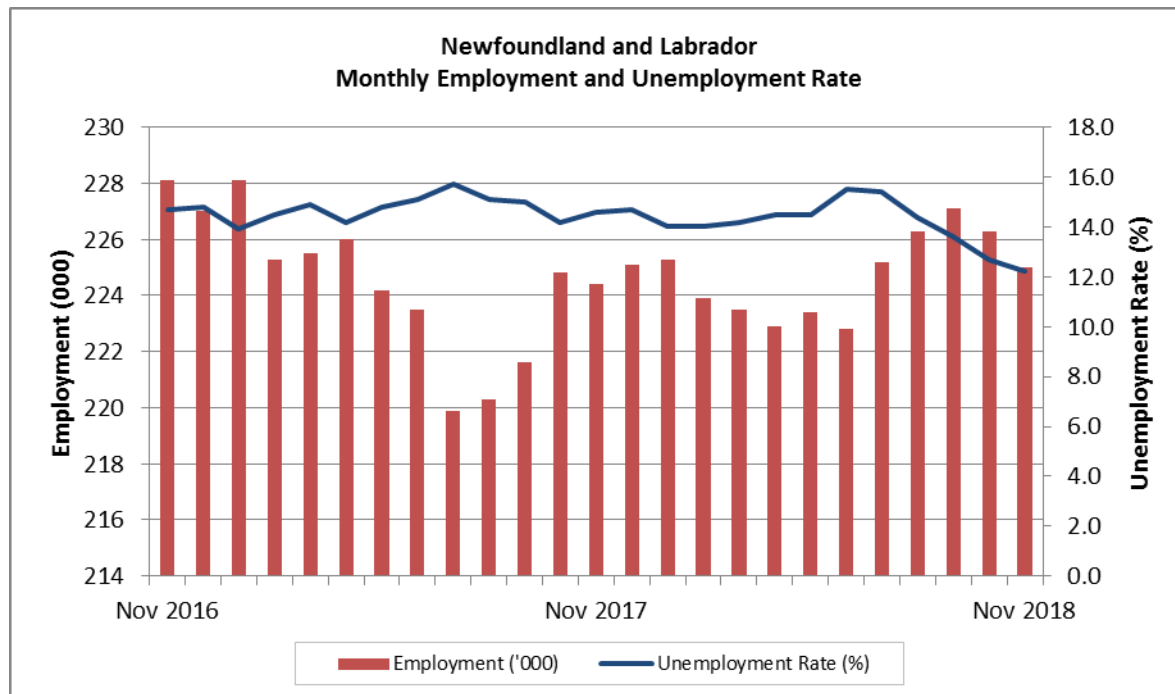
Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	442.4	442.7	445.1	-0.3	-0.1	-2.7	-0.6
Labour Force ('000)	256.4	259.2	262.9	-2.8	-1.1	-6.5	-2.5
Employment ('000)	225.0	226.3	224.4	-1.3	-0.6	0.6	0.3
Full-Time ('000)	187.3	189.3	189.6	-2.0	-1.1	-2.3	-1.2
Part-Time ('000)	37.7	37.0	34.8	0.7	1.9	2.9	8.3
Unemployment ('000)	31.4	32.9	38.5	-1.5	-4.6	-7.1	-18.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.2	12.7	14.6	-0.5	-	-2.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	58.0	58.5	59.1	-0.5	-	-1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.9	51.1	50.4	-0.2	-	0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

A sustained decline in employment from the spring of 2016 to the summer of 2017 had brought the unemployment rate to a seven-year high of 15.7% in July 2017. Starting in October of last year, however, the unemployment rate hovered around 14% as the decline in employment was matched by a similar reduction in the size of the labour force. Recently, this rate has fallen to nearly 12% for the first time in over two years, due to a sharp decline in labour force size and a small employment gain.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate reached 22%, the highest it has been in two years. Employment has declined sharply since August, reaching a record low. Youth participation in the labour force in the past two months has been the lowest since 2010.

Among males 25 years and older, the unemployment rate showed little change from the previous month. However, employment for this group has increased by nearly 5,200 jobs over the past year. The unemployment rate for this group has recently fallen below 14%. Prior to this, the rate had not been this low in over two years.

In November, the unemployment rate for women 25 years and older had a sharp drop for the second month in a row, falling to its lowest rate since 2014. While this group has recently experienced labour force declines, employment has increased.

The aging of the province's labour force was also evident in the data. Compared to a year ago, the youth labour force had declined by 4,000 while the core working age group (25 to 54 years) had 5,300 fewer people active in the labour market. In contrast, the labour force for those 55 and older had increased by 2,700.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	12.2	12.7	14.6	-0.5	-2.4
25 years and over	10.9	11.8	14.2	-0.9	-3.3
Men - 25 years and over	13.4	13.8	18.1	-0.4	-4.7
Women - 25 years and over	8.2	9.7	10.2	-1.5	-2.0
15 to 24 years	22.0	19.7	17.6	2.3	4.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	24.2	24.5	23.0	-0.3	1.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	19.4	13.5	11.4	5.9	8.0

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

There were fewer people employed in the **Goods-producing sector** compared to the previous month. While **Manufacturing** has rebounded since a near-record low in June, employment has remained lower than a year ago. **Construction** has been trending downward with reduced demand for labour for major projects in oil and gas and hydroelectricity. However, **Fishery, forestry, mining, quarrying and oil and gas** has experienced a rise in the number of jobs, led by mining and oil and gas. The Hebron Oil Project became operational in 2018, while mining has experienced increased activity with the start of the Voisey's Bay Mine Expansion, the opening of the Wabush 3 mine, and Tacora starting to hire for the restart of the Scully Pit at Wabush Mines.

Employment in the **Services-producing sector** has risen over the past year. While **Trade** (wholesale and retail) employment was lower than a year ago, levels have stabilized through 2018 after dropping sharply from a record high in early 2016. Employment in this industry is closely related to provincial economic conditions. Despite the monthly employment loss, **Professional, scientific and technical industries** has generally grown over the past year. Most of this growth can be attributed to **Computer system design services**. **Public administration** and **Health Care and social assistance** have produced notable gains over the past year. For **Public administration**, employment has been increasing at the federal and municipal levels. Despite a large budget deficit, the provincial government has not made drastic job cuts, relying instead on attrition and finding efficiencies in service delivery.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	225.0	226.3	224.4	-1.3	-0.6	0.6	0.3
Goods-producing sector	45.6	47.0	47.5	-1.4	-3.0	-1.9	-4.0
Agriculture	1.2	1.3	2.3	-0.1	-7.7	-1.1	-47.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.4	13.2	11.5	0.2	1.5	1.9	16.5
Utilities	3.1	2.9	3.4	0.2	6.9	-0.3	-8.8
Construction	18.8	20.3	20.2	-1.5	-7.4	-1.4	-6.9
Manufacturing	9.1	9.3	10.1	-0.2	-2.2	-1.0	-9.9
Services-producing sector	179.4	179.3	176.9	0.1	0.1	2.5	1.4
Trade	37.6	38.0	39.6	-0.4	-1.1	-2.0	-5.1
Transportation and warehousing	11.9	12.0	12.0	-0.1	-0.8	-0.1	-0.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	7.0	7.1	6.8	-0.1	-1.4	0.2	2.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.4	10.7	8.9	-0.3	-2.8	1.5	16.9
Business, building and other support services	6.2	6.5	7.0	-0.3	-4.6	-0.8	-11.4
Educational services	15.7	15.8	16.0	-0.1	-0.6	-0.3	-1.9
Health care and social assistance	41.2	39.3	38.6	1.9	4.8	2.6	6.7
Information, culture and recreation	7.4	7.3	6.0	0.1	1.4	1.4	23.3
Accommodation and food services	15.5	15.3	15.5	0.2	1.3	0.0	0.0
Other services	9.0	9.8	11.3	-0.8	-8.2	-2.3	-20.4
Public administration	17.5	17.6	15.3	-0.1	-0.6	2.2	14.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The **Avalon Peninsula** had a strong employment gain for the fourth-straight month and was the only economic region in the province with an increase in labour force size compared to a year ago. The unemployment rate declined as employment increased faster than the labour force. **Public administration, Information, culture and recreation**, and **Professional, scientific and technical services** led the increase in jobs.

The **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central-Bonavista Bay** region had the strongest drop in the unemployment rate versus twelve months earlier. However, this was due to a reduction in labour force size. Overall employment increased slightly, with part-time gains outweighing losses in full-time work. **Accommodation and food services** and **Health care and social assistance** had the strongest employment gains. **Construction** and **Trade** had the largest declines, with both industries showing losses for seven months in a row.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, there was a loss of 2,800 jobs compared to a year ago. Most of the decline was in full-time employment. This economic region was the only one in the province to show an increase in the unemployment rate. The employment loss was stronger than the decrease in labour force size. **Construction, Educational services, and Health Care and social assistance** were the only industries to have an employment gain. All of the other industries in the region either showed a loss or no change.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2018 ('000)	Nov 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Nov 2018 (%)	Nov 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	229.5	226.3	1.4	11.5	13.4	-1.9
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	134.9	129.5	4.2	8.7	11.1	-2.4
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	53.4	52.8	1.1	15.5	18.9	-3.4
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	41.2	44.0	-6.4	14.9	13.0	1.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293

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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