



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

December 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

The unemployment rate had a notable decrease in the fourth quarter of 2018 from the previous quarter. This was due to a large drop in the size of the labour force. Meanwhile, employment remained steady. Compared to the same quarter a year ago, the unemployment rate was down by more than two percentage points. While employment increased slightly, the declining unemployment rate was mainly due to a shrinking labour force.

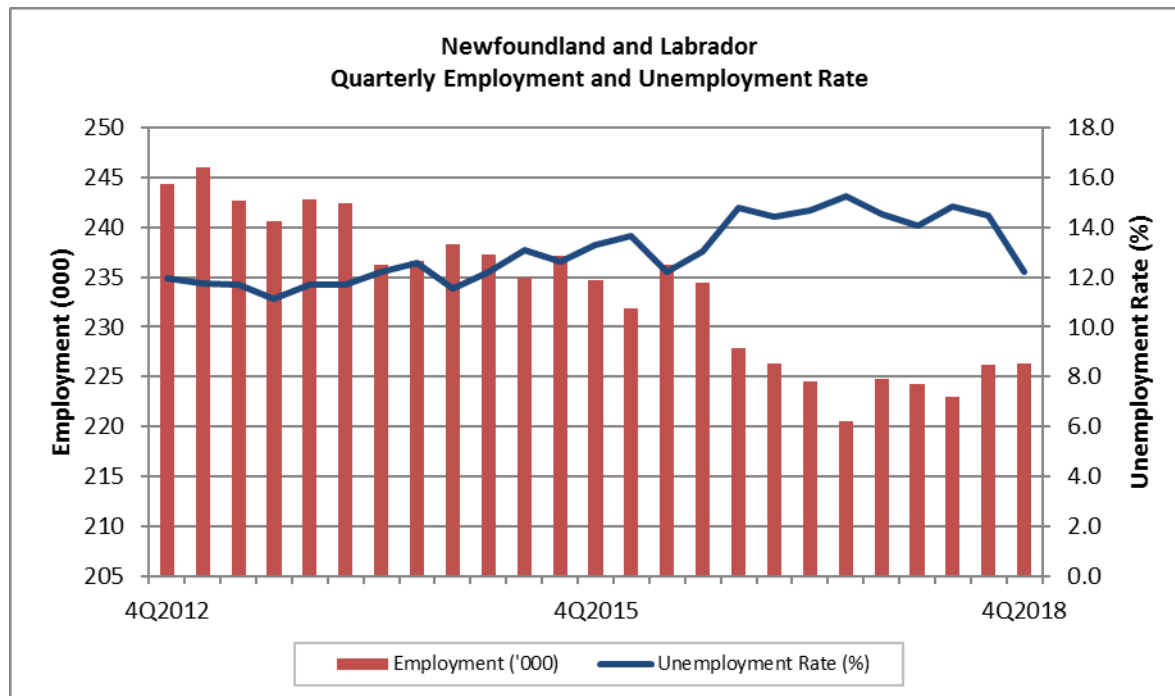
Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2018	3rd Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2017	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	442.4	443.2	445.2	-0.8	-0.2	-2.8	-0.6
Labour Force ('000)	257.8	264.4	263.0	-6.6	-2.5	-5.2	-2.0
Employment ('000)	226.3	226.2	224.8	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	188.8	186.1	190.9	2.7	1.5	-2.1	-1.1
Part-Time ('000)	37.6	40.1	33.8	-2.5	-6.2	3.8	11.2
Unemployment ('000)	31.5	38.2	38.2	-6.7	-17.5	-6.7	-17.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.2	14.5	14.5	-2.3	-	-2.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	58.3	59.7	59.1	-1.4	-	-0.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.2	51.1	50.5	0.1	-	0.7	-

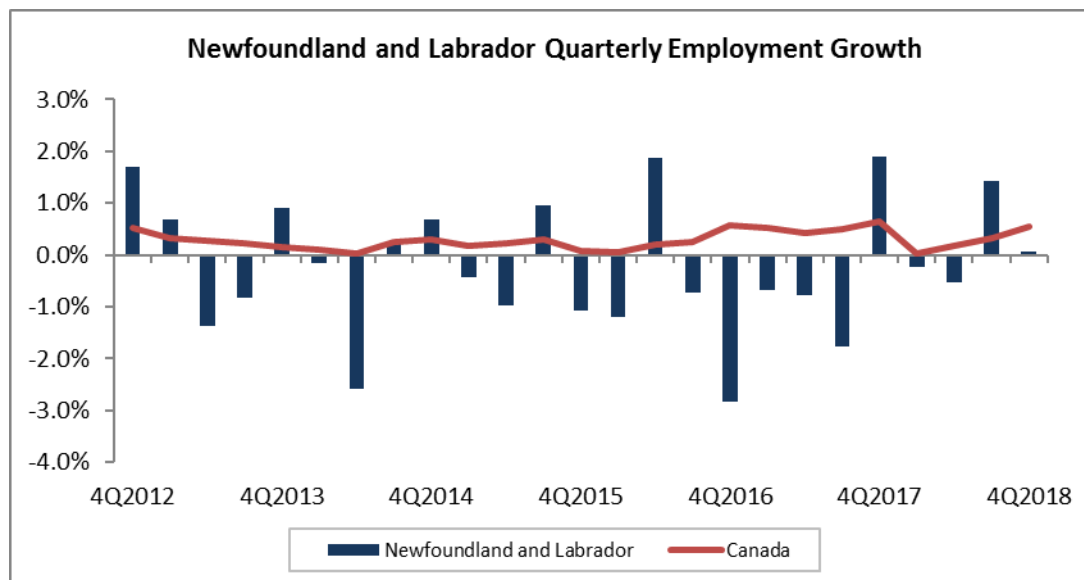
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Historically, a sustained decline in employment since 2013 had brought the quarterly unemployment rate to a seven-year high of 15.3% in the third quarter of 2017. However, since last fall, a small rebound in employment has lowered the unemployment rate slightly, though it has generally remained elevated compared to its 2013 and 2014 lows of below 12%. Compared to the record high in 2013, employment has declined by approximately 20,000 jobs. This loss has been in full-time employment, as part-time work has increased by nearly 2,000 jobs.



Canada has generally experienced consistent, small employment gains over the past six years, whereas employment levels in Newfoundland and Labrador have been more volatile. While employment in the province increased twice in recent quarters, the pace of employment growth in the province has generally lagged behind the rest of the country since Q2, 2013. Compared to six year ago, Canada’s employment levels have risen by nearly seven percent, while Newfoundland and Labrador’s employment has dropped by more than seven percent.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate increased in the fourth quarter, up nearly three percentage points, compared to the previous quarter. Employment declined faster than the size of the labour force. It is also notable that the labour force and employment reached new lows in the most recent quarter. Both measures have declined by roughly 25% since the last quarter of 2012.

Among males 25 years and older, the unemployment rate declined, reaching the lowest quarterly rate for this group in four years. Employment increased, mainly in part-time positions, while there were fewer people in the labour force from the previous quarter. This was the fourth-straight quarterly employment gain for this group, adding more than 7,000 jobs over that time to reach its highest level since Q3 2016.

The unemployment rate for females 25 years and over declined sharply in the fourth quarter to one of the lowest rates on record for this group. Over the past two years, the unemployment rate was generally between 10% and 11%. The fall in the unemployment rate was due to an increase of 2,000 jobs while the size of the labour force declined by nearly the same amount. The unemployment rate has been notably lower for females than for males for a number of years.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly	Yearly
	2018 (%)	2018 (%)	2017 (%)	Variation (% points)	Variation (% points)
Total	12.2	14.5	14.5	-2.3	-2.3
25 years and over	11.1	14.0	14.1	-2.9	-3.0
Men - 25 years and over	13.4	16.0	17.8	-2.6	-4.4
Women - 25 years and over	8.6	11.8	10.2	-3.2	-1.6
15 to 24 years	21.0	18.0	17.5	2.9	3.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	24.5	22.3	21.4	2.2	3.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	16.4	13.1	13.2	3.3	3.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2018, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was around 2 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.5% of that, or 70,700 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic Provinces was 41,200, representing an increase of 6,000 (+17.0%) from a year earlier (Q4 2017). The increase was mostly driven by full-time positions (+4,200 or +14.6%). Part-time positions also saw a moderate increase (+1,900 or +29.7%).

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q4 2018	Q4 2017	number	%	Q4 2018	Q4 2017	number	%
	Population 15+ ('000)	70.7	68.8	1.9	2.8%	1,928.3	1,921.1	7.2
Labour Force ('000)	47.0	42.0	5.0	11.9%	1,163.7	1,172.7	-9.0	-0.8%
Employment ('000)	41.2	35.2	6.0	17.0%	1,074.0	1,068.1	5.9	0.6%
Full-Time ('000)	32.9	28.7	4.2	14.6%	894.7	889.4	5.3	0.6%
Part-Time ('000)	8.3	6.4	1.9	29.7%	179.2	178.7	0.5	0.3%
Unemployment ('000)	5.8	6.8	-1.0	-14.7%	89.8	104.6	-14.8	-14.1%
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.3	16.2	-3.9	-	7.7	8.9	-1.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.4	61.0	5.4	-	60.3	61.0	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	58.2	51.1	7.1	-	55.7	55.6	0.1	-

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.

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 12.3% in Q4 2018, representing a decrease of -3.9 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was 7.7% (-1.2pp). Between Q4 2017 and Q4 2018, the participation rate of Indigenous people increased to 66.4% (+5.4pp) while among non-Indigenous population, it was 60.3% (-0.7pp). The employment rate of Indigenous people increased year-over-year to 58.2% (+7.1pp); for the non-Indigenous population, it increased to 55.7% (+0.1pp).

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Goods-producing sector** had a quarterly employment gain, but employment in the sector has been declining over the past four years. The strongest quarterly employment gain was in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas**, which has also increased over the past year. The rise in the number of jobs in this industry has been from Mining and Oil and Gas. While **Manufacturing** had a quarterly increase, employment in this industry remains low from a historic viewpoint. Employment in food manufacturing continues to be relatively subdued, given some of the negative pressures impacting the industry, including quota cuts for crab and shrimp. **Construction** was virtually unchanged from the previous quarter, but employment in this industry has been trending lower as major construction project activity declines from peak levels.

The **Services-producing sector** lost jobs in the fourth quarter, but employment remained higher than a year ago. **Educational services** experienced most of the sector's quarterly loss. For the annual change, gains in **Health care and social assistance, Public administration, and Professional, scientific and technical services** outweighed an annual decrease in **Wholesale and retail trade**. Employment in **Wholesale and retail trade** has levelled off over the past three quarters after three quarters of strong declines. A slowing economy has resulted in the loss of 6,200 jobs in the industry since the third quarter of 2016.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2018	3rd Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2017	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	226.3	226.2	224.8	0.1	0.1	1.6	0.7
Goods-producing sector	46.8	45.1	48.2	1.7	3.7	-1.5	-3.0
Agriculture	1.1	1.4	2.5	-0.2	-17.1	-1.4	-54.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.8	12.7	11.7	1.1	8.9	2.1	17.6
Utilities	3.0	2.9	3.4	0.1	3.4	-0.4	-10.8
Construction	19.6	19.6	20.6	-0.1	-0.3	-1.0	-5.0
Manufacturing	9.2	8.4	10.0	0.8	9.5	-0.8	-7.7
Services-producing sector	179.6	181.1	176.5	-1.6	-0.9	3.0	1.7
Trade	37.6	37.1	39.4	0.5	1.4	-1.8	-4.6
Transportation and warehousing	12.0	12.3	11.8	-0.3	-2.4	0.2	1.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.9	7.8	6.7	-0.9	-11.9	0.2	3.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.4	10.4	8.7	0.0	0.3	1.7	19.5
Business, building and other support services	6.5	6.1	6.8	0.3	5.4	-0.3	-4.4
Educational services	15.7	16.8	16.0	-1.2	-6.9	-0.3	-1.9
Health care and social assistance	40.7	39.8	38.4	0.9	2.3	2.3	6.1
Information, culture and recreation	7.4	7.7	6.4	-0.3	-3.9	1.0	15.5
Accommodation and food services	15.6	15.9	15.4	-0.3	-1.9	0.2	1.3
Other services	9.2	9.6	11.4	-0.4	-4.2	-2.2	-19.5
Public administration	17.5	17.5	15.4	0.1	0.4	2.1	13.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The unemployment rate on the **Avalon Peninsula** has been declining since the fourth quarter of 2017, mainly due to employment growth. This was the second quarter in a row with an employment increase in this economic region after nearly two years of decline. Job gains in the fourth quarter were concentrated in services-producing industries. **Transportation and warehousing, Public administration, and Information, culture and recreation** had the strongest increases. In the **Goods-producing sector**, a strong gain in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** was mostly offset by losses in the rest of the sector.

The **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** region's unemployment rate in the fourth quarter declined by nearly five percentage points compared to a year earlier. Employment increased by 1,000 jobs, resulting in the fifth quarterly increase in a row after a lengthy period of decline. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** rose slightly. Losses in **Wholesale and retail trade** employment have deepened in recent quarters. On the other hand, gains have been rising in **Health care and social assistance, and Professional, scientific, and technical services**. Employment increased in the **Goods-producing sector** as gains in **Manufacturing, and Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** outweighed a loss in **Construction**.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, the unemployment rate was higher than a year ago, as employment declined slightly faster than the size of the labour force. Employment losses were full-time in nature. Job losses were mainly in the **Goods-producing sector**, in which all industries except **Construction** declined. The **Services-producing sector** weakened slightly, with small losses in a variety of industries outweighing a gain in **Health care and social assistance**.

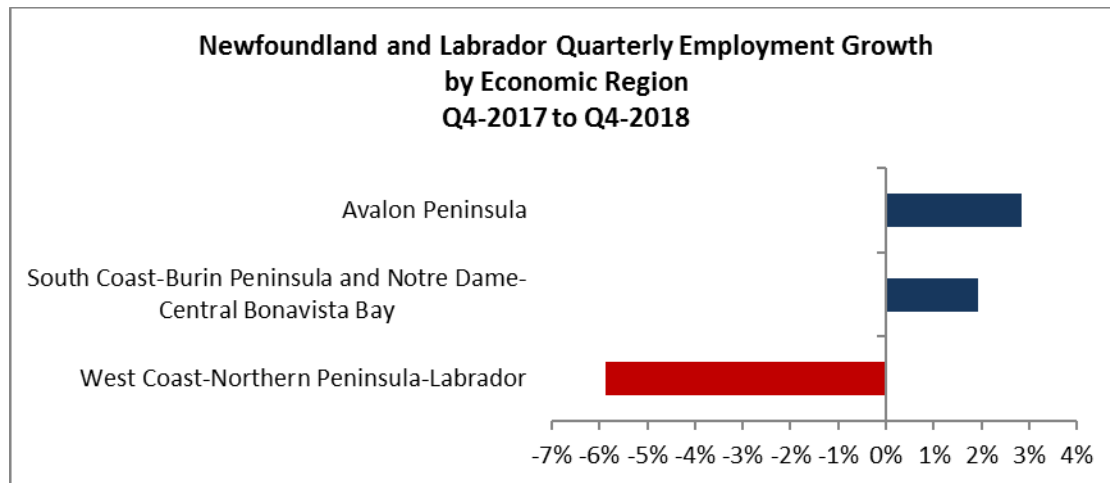
Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2018 ('000)	4th Quarter 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	4th Quarter 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	226.6	224.5	0.9	11.6	14.2	-2.6
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	134.0	130.3	2.8	8.5	11.4	-2.9
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	52.6	51.6	1.9	15.9	20.6	-4.7
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	40.0	42.5	-5.9	15.3	14.3	1.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The **Avalon Peninsula** had the strongest employment growth rate for the second quarter in a row, while the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region has not recorded a job gain for three straight quarters.



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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