



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

October 2019



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 October, the unemployment rate decreased slightly from the month before. Employment grew faster than the size of the labour force. The increase was mainly in part-time employment. The unemployment rate was also lower than a year ago. This was mainly due to fewer people being active in the labour market.

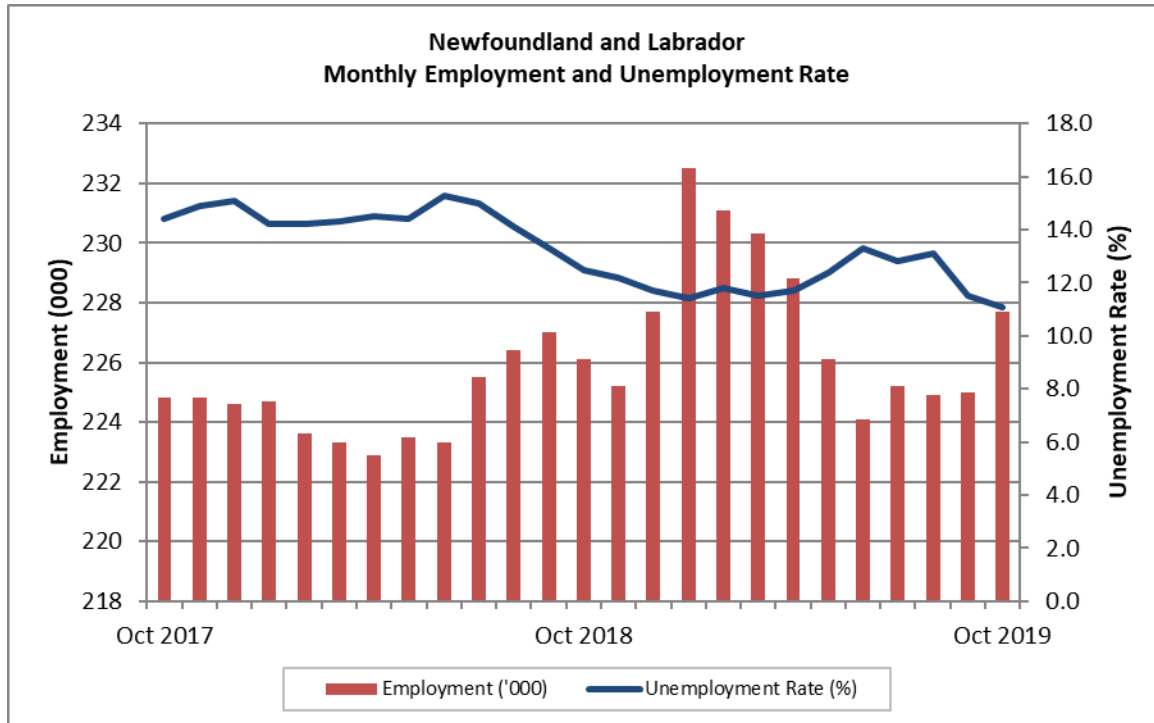
Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	439.9	439.9	442.7	0.0	0.0	-2.8	-0.6
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	256.0	254.1	258.5	1.9	0.7	-2.5	-1.0
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	227.7	225.0	226.1	2.7	1.2	1.6	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	192.0	192.3	189.0	-0.3	-0.2	3.0	1.6
Part-Time ('000)	35.7	32.6	37.1	3.1	9.5	-1.4	-3.8
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	28.4	29.1	32.3	-0.7	-2.4	-3.9	-12.1
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	11.1	11.5	12.5	-0.4	-	-1.4	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	58.2	57.8	58.4	0.4	-	-0.2	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	51.8	51.1	51.1	0.7	-	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 unemployment rate to a seven-year high of 15.4% in July 2017. Relatively steady labour market conditions kept the unemployment rate elevated through the first half of 2018, until falling in the second half of the year due to employment growth. In 2019, employment moved lower through August, causing a rising unemployment rate. However, employment gains and a shrinking labour force since then have resulted in the lowest unemployment rate in nearly five years. Still, the province's unemployment rate remains the highest in Canada, with nearly 19,000 fewer jobs than the province's record high at the start of 2013. Practically all of this loss has been in full-time employment.



The youth (ages 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate in October was nearly four percentage points lower than a year ago, with employment growing faster than the labour force.

For those aged 25 years and older, males have experienced most of the employment growth in recent months, while the size of the labour force has declined by 5,000 since January. Most of the employment growth was full-time in nature. For females of the same age group, the unemployment rate has been generally steadier than for males. Most months over the past year have shown a slight drop in employment and labour force size, with full-time employment absorbing most of the job loss.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	11.1	11.5	12.5	-0.4	-1.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	10.4	10.8	11.6	-0.4	-1.2
Men - 25 years and over	10.9	12.5	13.6	-1.6	-2.7
Women - 25 years and over	9.7	9.0	9.4	0.7	0.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.4	16.5	20.1	-0.1	-3.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.0	14.8	24.7	3.2	-6.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.9	18.2	14.4	-4.3	-0.5

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** was virtually the same as the previous month, but lower than a year ago. A decline in **construction** was offset by a gain in **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, 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 among the positive developments. In **construction**, employment has declined from historically strong levels in recent years. Despite low housing starts and the near completion of the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project, investment remains relatively strong with ventures such as the Voisey's Bay underground mine expansion and the concrete gravity structure for the West White Rose oil project.

Employment in the **services-producing sector** has risen in the past two months, following losses through most of 2019. **Wholesale and retail trade** increased for the second month in a row, but employment in the industry remains considerably lower than a year ago. Following strong employment levels for the past year, **transportation and warehousing** had an unusually large loss in October. **Accommodation and food services** regained the loss it experienced in the previous month, resulting in the fifth-highest employment on record for the industry. **Public administration** added jobs for the third consecutive month. Employment has generally climbed over the past two years. Most of the job gain has come from the federal and local levels.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	227.7	225.0	226.1	2.7	1.2	1.6	0.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	45.7	45.8	47.0	-0.1	-0.2	-1.3	-2.8
Agriculture	0.7	0.9	1.3	-0.2	-22.2	-0.6	-46.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.9	13.8	13.4	1.1	8.0	1.5	11.2
Utilities	2.7	2.9	3.0	-0.2	-6.9	-0.3	-10.0
Construction	17.9	18.7	20.0	-0.8	-4.3	-2.1	-10.5
Manufacturing	9.5	9.6	9.3	-0.1	-1.0	0.2	2.2
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	181.9	179.2	179.1	2.7	1.5	2.8	1.6
Trade	35.3	34.6	37.9	0.7	2.0	-2.6	-6.9
Transportation and warehousing	10.8	11.9	12.0	-1.1	-9.2	-1.2	-10.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.5	6.5	7.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-7.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	9.4	9.2	10.6	0.2	2.2	-1.2	-11.3
Business, building and other support services	8.1	8.1	6.5	0.0	0.0	1.6	24.6
Educational services	16.9	17.4	15.7	-0.5	-2.9	1.2	7.6
Health care and social assistance	39.2	38.0	39.5	1.2	3.2	-0.3	-0.8
Information, culture and recreation	8.0	7.5	7.4	0.5	6.7	0.6	8.1
Accommodation and food services	17.0	16.0	15.3	1.0	6.3	1.7	11.1
Other services	11.5	11.2	9.6	0.3	2.7	1.9	19.8
Public administration	19.3	18.8	17.6	0.5	2.7	1.7	9.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate dropped in two of the three economic regions.

The **Avalon Peninsula** region had experienced employment gains throughout the past year. Nearly all of the increase has been in the St. John's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Full-time employment has shown particular strength in 2019. There were employment gains in various industries, led by educational services, and public administration. However, construction, wholesale and retail trade, and professional, scientific and technical services have produced losses for extended periods.

In the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central-Bonavista Bay** region, the unemployment rate dropped because the labour force declined faster than employment. The size of the labour force has shrunk in

each month since June of 2018. In addition, employment has declined through most of 2019, mainly in part time jobs. Employment losses have been common in many services-producing industries throughout 2019.

The unemployment rate in the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region was unchanged from a year ago. Employment and the labour force both dropped at the same rate. October was the fourth straight month with an employment loss. Most of the reduction has been in services-producing industries such as educational services, and wholesale and retail trade.

October's unemployment rate in the **St. John's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)** was almost seven percentage points lower than in the rest of the province. Over the past year, the St. John's CMA added 1,600 people to the labour force and employment rose by 3,300. Meanwhile, the rest of the province had 7,300 fewer people in the labour force over this time, and an employment loss of 5,000 jobs.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2019 ( '000 )	Oct 2018 ( '000 )	Yearly Variation (%)	Oct 2019 (%)	Oct 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	231.5	233.2	-0.7	10.6	11.9	-1.3
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	138.1	134.7	2.5	8.2	10.0	-1.8
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	50.7	54.1	-6.3	14.6	15.3	-0.7
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	42.7	44.4	-3.8	12.9	12.9	0.0

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.

**Prepared by:** Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at:

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