Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

February 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 February, the unemployment rate increased for the first time since June of last year. Employment declined at a faster rate than the size of the labour force. Most job losses in February were part-time in nature. While there were fewer jobs than in January, employment was 7,500 higher than a year ago, mainly in full-time positions.

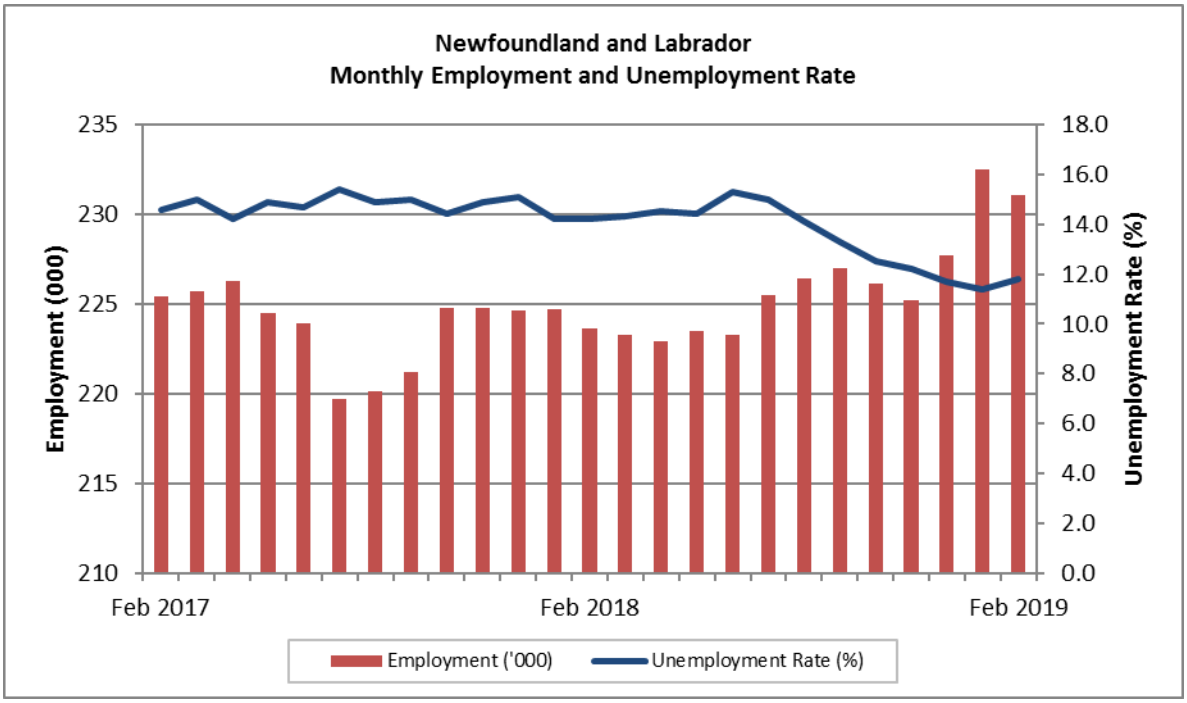
Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2019	Jan 2019	Feb 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	441.7	441.9	444.7	-0.2	0.0	-3.0	-0.7
Labour Force ('000)	261.9	262.4	260.6	-0.5	-0.2	1.3	0.5
Employment ('000)	231.1	232.5	223.6	-1.4	-0.6	7.5	3.4
Full-Time ('000)	196.4	196.5	189.8	-0.1	-0.1	6.6	3.5
Part-Time ('000)	34.7	36.0	33.8	-1.3	-3.6	0.9	2.7
Unemployment ('000)	30.8	30.0	37.0	0.8	2.7	-6.2	-16.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	11.8	11.4	14.2	0.4	-	-2.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.3	59.4	58.6	-0.1	-	0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	52.3	52.6	50.3	-0.3	-	2.0	-

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. However, since then, both employment and the labour force have grown slightly. This kept the unemployment rate elevated through the first half of 2018. Since then, employment has grown faster than the labour force to move the unemployment rate downward. Despite this recent increase in jobs, employment in February was down by 15,400 compared to the record high six years ago. This loss has been in full-time employment.



Youth (aged 15 to 24 years) had the largest employment loss in February among various age and gender groups. However, more youth were active in the labour market. The result was a large increase in the youth unemployment rate from the month before. Compared to a year ago, labour force and employment levels for youth have both declined.

Employment for males 25 years and older has increased by 7,500 jobs from a year ago, with most of the growth being in full-time positions. In addition, the unemployment rate for this group has been below 14% since September. Prior to this, the rate had not been this low in over two years.

In February, the unemployment rate for women 25 years and older increased for the first time since July of last year. This slight rise was mainly due to a drop in full-time employment. Despite the monthly increase in the unemployment rate, the rate was notably lower than a year earlier, mainly due to employment gains.

The aging of the province's labour force was also evident in the data. Compared to a year ago, the youth labour force and the core working age group (25 to 54 years) combined to decline by 3,000. In contrast, the labour force for those 55 and older had increased by 4,200.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2019	Jan 2019	Feb 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	11.8	11.4	14.2	0.4	-2.4
25 years and over	10.6	10.9	13.8	-0.3	-3.2
Men - 25 years and over	12.8	13.6	17.0	-0.8	-4.2
Women - 25 years and over	8.1	7.8	10.5	0.3	-2.4
15 to 24 years	20.4	15.8	16.8	4.6	3.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	23.4	19.3	17.1	4.1	6.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	17.1	11.6	16.4	5.5	0.7

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** increased slightly compared to the previous month, as an increase in **Manufacturing** outweighed losses in the rest of the sector. **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** has been increasing over the past year, 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 hiring for the restart of the Scully Pit at Wabush Mines. Prior to February, Manufacturing had been trending downward, driven by challenges in fish processing. While the industry produced a gain in February, employment levels remain low from a historical perspective. **Construction** employment was steady in February but employment was down 11% compared to a year earlier. A decline in major project construction activity has been a main factor.

Employment in the **Services-producing sector** has generally risen over the past year, but a loss occurred in February. The decline was mainly due to fewer jobs in **Wholesale and retail trade**, reaching its lowest level since 2009. Compared to a year ago, most industries in this sector have increased. The only other service-producing industry to show fewer jobs than a year ago was **Other services**, which includes repair and maintenance. **Public administration** and **Health care and social assistance** have produced the largest increases in the sector during this time. For **Public administration**, most of the growth has been at the federal and municipal levels. **Professional, scientific and technical services** has generally grown over the past year, led by **Computer system design services**.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2019	Jan 2019	Feb 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	231.1	232.5	223.6	-1.4	-0.6	7.5	3.4
Goods-producing sector	49.0	48.7	47.3	0.3	0.6	1.7	3.6
Agriculture	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-8.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.9	15.6	11.1	-0.7	-4.5	3.8	34.2
Utilities	2.5	2.8	3.2	-0.3	-10.7	-0.7	-21.9
Construction	20.3	20.4	22.8	-0.1	-0.5	-2.5	-11.0
Manufacturing	10.1	8.8	8.9	1.3	14.8	1.2	13.5
Services-producing sector	182.1	183.8	176.3	-1.7	-0.9	5.8	3.3
Trade	35.2	36.5	37.7	-1.3	-3.6	-2.5	-6.6
Transportation and warehousing	12.5	12.6	12.1	-0.1	-0.8	0.4	3.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	7.9	8.0	6.9	-0.1	-1.3	1.0	14.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.2	10.2	8.9	0.0	0.0	1.3	14.6
Business, building and other support services	7.3	7.4	6.6	-0.1	-1.4	0.7	10.6
Educational services	15.9	15.6	15.6	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.9
Health care and social assistance	41.4	41.9	39.1	-0.5	-1.2	2.3	5.9
Information, culture and recreation	7.9	8.0	6.4	-0.1	-1.3	1.5	23.4
Accommodation and food services	16.7	16.8	15.5	-0.1	-0.6	1.2	7.7
Other services	8.6	8.1	12.0	0.5	6.2	-3.4	-28.3
Public administration	18.5	18.6	15.6	-0.1	-0.5	2.9	18.6

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 notable employment gain for the seventh consecutive month. It was the strongest job growth in the past six years. This economic region was the only one in the province with an increase in labour force and employment size from a year ago. **Public administration**, and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** 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, as employment was the same as a year earlier. This economic region has reported the highest unemployment rate in the province for nearly every month of the past three years. Among industries, **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** had the strongest gain, while **Trade** had the largest decline for the fifth consecutive month.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, there was an employment decline for the fifth month in a row. Full-time positions have dropped. This economic region had the smallest decline in the unemployment rate. For the third consecutive month, **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** had the largest employment loss among the industries.

In February, the unemployment rate in the **St. John's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)** was over ten percentage points lower than in the rest of the province. Over the past year, the St. John's CMA experienced notable gains in the size of the labour force (+5,400) and employment (+6,600). Excluding this area, the rest of the province had 7,700 fewer in the labour force from a year ago, while employment was stable.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2019 ('000)	Feb 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Feb 2019 (%)	Feb 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	221.9	215.3	3.1	12.8	16.1	-3.3
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	132.3	125.2	5.7	9.9	13.2	-3.3
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	49.9	49.9	0.0	17.8	22.6	-4.8
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	39.7	40.2	-1.2	15.2	15.9	-0.7

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:*
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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