



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

April 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 April, employment declined for the third straight month. As a result, the province has lost most of the job gain it experienced in January. Most of April's job losses were part-time in nature. However, a few things should be noted. The labour force has also declined for the past three months. As with employment, most of January's gain in labour force size has been erased. In addition, while employment declined in April from the previous month, the number of jobs remained higher than in any month in 2017 or 2018. This was the main reason why the unemployment rate was nearly three percentage points lower than a year ago.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

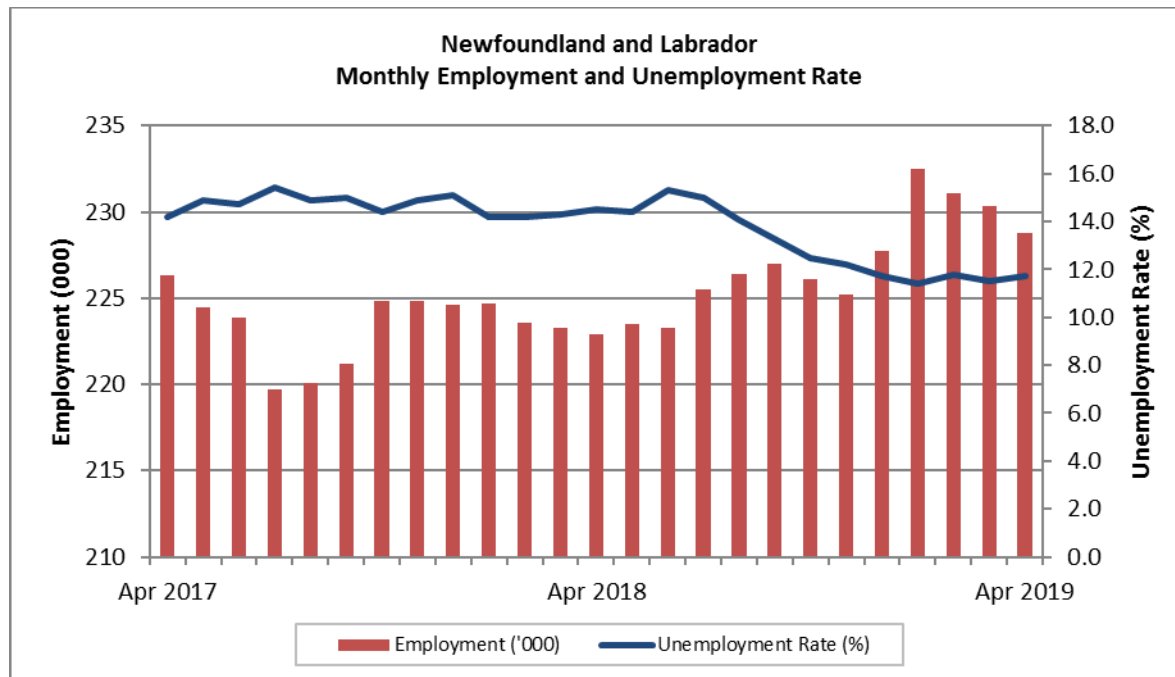
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Apr 2019	Mar 2019	Apr 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	441.2	441.6	444.2	-0.4	-0.1	-3.0	-0.7
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	259.2	260.4	260.8	-1.2	-0.5	-1.6	-0.6
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	228.8	230.3	222.9	-1.5	-0.7	5.9	2.6
Full-Time ('000)	194.2	194.4	190.0	-0.2	-0.1	4.2	2.2
Part-Time ('000)	34.6	35.9	32.9	-1.3	-3.6	1.7	5.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	30.4	30.0	37.9	0.4	1.3	-7.5	-19.8
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	11.7	11.5	14.5	0.2	-	-2.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	58.7	59.0	58.7	-0.3	-	0.0	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	51.9	52.2	50.2	-0.3	-	1.7	-

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. This kept the unemployment rate elevated through the first half of 2018. Since then, employment has generally increased while the labour force has experienced a slight downward trend. This has moved the unemployment rate downward to where it has been below 12% for the past five months. Available data since 1976 shows that unemployment rates below 12% have not been common in the province. While the

unemployment rate has moved lower, it remained the highest in Canada, with nearly 18,000 fewer jobs than the province's record high at the start of 2013. This loss has been in full-time employment.



Females ages 25 years and older had most of the monthly employment loss, mainly in full-time positions. This group also experienced a drop in labour force size, keeping the unemployment rate below eight percent. For males of the same age group, there was little change from the month before.

Compared to a year ago, labour market conditions have generally improved, with higher employment and a lower unemployment rate. Males aged 25 years and older accounted for the bulk of the employment gain over the past year, with 6,500 additional jobs and all of the increase being in full-time positions. The result was a notable lower unemployment rate for this group. The unemployment rate for females of this age group was also lower than a year ago, but this was mainly due to a drop in labour force size.

The aging of the province's labour force was also evident in the data. Compared to a year ago, the labour force for those under 55 years of age declined by 5,400. In contrast, the labour force for those 55 and older had increased by 3,800, and accounted for most of the year's employment gain.

**Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2019	Mar 2019	Apr 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	11.7	11.5	14.5	0.2	-2.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	10.7	10.7	14.1	0.0	-3.4
Men - 25 years and over	13.4	13.6	17.7	-0.2	-4.3
Women - 25 years and over	7.7	7.4	10.3	0.3	-2.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	18.9	17.8	17.3	1.1	1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	23.2	21.1	17.9	2.1	5.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.8	14.2	16.0	0.6	-1.2

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the goods-producing sector decreased slightly compared to the previous month, driven by a loss in **manufacturing**. **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 among the positive developments. **Manufacturing** declined to its lowest level in nearly a year. Recent losses have been in the manufacturing of durable goods. **Construction** employment has shown resilience, with the number of jobs remaining strong from a historical perspective. Despite the near completion of the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project, investment remains strong with ventures such as the Voisey's Bay underground mine expansion and the concrete gravity structure for the West White Rose oil project.

While the services-producing sector employment was higher than a year ago, employment has been decreasing since the start of 2019. Most of the recent drop has been in **wholesale and retail trade**. Employment in this industry has fallen to its lowest level in ten years. **Educational services** lost the job gain it experienced over the previous two months. **Health care and social assistance** had more jobs than twelve months prior, but employment has been declining over the past three months. While **accommodation and food services** lost jobs in April, employment in the industry was the second highest on record. **Public administration** increased through most of 2018, and has steadied since January. The result has been nearly two thousand more jobs than twelve months earlier. Over the past year, most of the job gain has been from the federal and local levels, while provincial government employment has been relatively unchanged.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Apr 2019	Mar 2019	Apr 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	228.8	230.3	222.9	-1.5	-0.7	5.9	2.6
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	47.6	48.0	45.6	-0.4	-0.8	2.0	4.4
Agriculture	1.7	1.9	1.8	-0.2	-10.5	-0.1	-5.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.5	14.1	11.5	0.4	2.8	3.0	26.1
Utilities	2.6	2.9	3.3	-0.3	-10.3	-0.7	-21.2
Construction	20.4	19.9	20.1	0.5	2.5	0.3	1.5
Manufacturing	8.3	9.2	8.9	-0.9	-9.8	-0.6	-6.7
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	181.2	182.4	177.3	-1.2	-0.7	3.9	2.2
Trade	34.7	34.4	36.6	0.3	0.9	-1.9	-5.2
Transportation and warehousing	12.5	12.2	11.1	0.3	2.5	1.4	12.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	7.5	7.6	7.4	-0.1	-1.3	0.1	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.3	10.7	9.4	-0.4	-3.7	0.9	9.6
Business, building and other support services	7.5	7.3	6.3	0.2	2.7	1.2	19.0
Educational services	15.5	16.4	15.8	-0.9	-5.5	-0.3	-1.9
Health care and social assistance	40.6	41.1	39.3	-0.5	-1.2	1.3	3.3
Information, culture and recreation	7.8	7.7	6.9	0.1	1.3	0.9	13.0
Accommodation and food services	17.4	17.8	16.6	-0.4	-2.2	0.8	4.8
Other services	9.1	8.9	11.6	0.2	2.2	-2.5	-21.6
Public administration	18.2	18.3	16.3	-0.1	-0.5	1.9	11.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The unemployment rate dropped compared to a year ago in each of the province's economic regions, but the reasons vary.

The **Avalon Peninsula** region had experienced strong employment gain for most of the past year, with the past three months showing the largest gains in six years. Nearly all of the increase has been in the St. John's Census Metropolitan Area CMA. This economic region was the only one that showed an increase in labour force size. There were strong employment gains in various industries, led by forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas, and transportation and warehousing.

In the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** region, the lower unemployment over a year ago was due to a sharp decline in labour force size. These losses have been deepening in the past four months. Employment has declined for the past two months. Prior to this, the region had employment gains since late 2017. Most of the job losses were in the services-producing sector, with declines in most service industries. In the goods-producing sector, a drop in construction offset gains elsewhere in the sector.

The **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region had the sharpest decline in the unemployment rate. This was the result of a smaller labour force combined with a mild employment increase. Employment gains in a number of industries combined to outweigh considerable losses in trade and educational services.

In April, 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 (+7,400) and employment (+8,000). Meanwhile, the rest of the province had 9,200 fewer people in the labour force, and an employment loss of 1,300 jobs.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2019 ('000)	Apr 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Apr 2019 (%)	Apr 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	220.9	214.2	3.1	13.1	16.3	-3.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	133.7	125.5	6.5	10.3	13.1	-2.8
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	47.5	49.6	-4.2	19.6	22.1	-2.5
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	39.7	39.1	1.5	13.9	18.2	-4.3

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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