



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

July 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

Employment in Newfoundland and Labrador increased moderately in July with gains in full-time and part-time work. This ended a five month long employment decline since a peak in the number of workers in January. Employment has now returned to a level reported throughout much of 2017 and 2018. The number of unemployed job-seekers decreased by 500 in July and the unemployment rate went down by 0.5 percentage points (pp) to 12.8%.

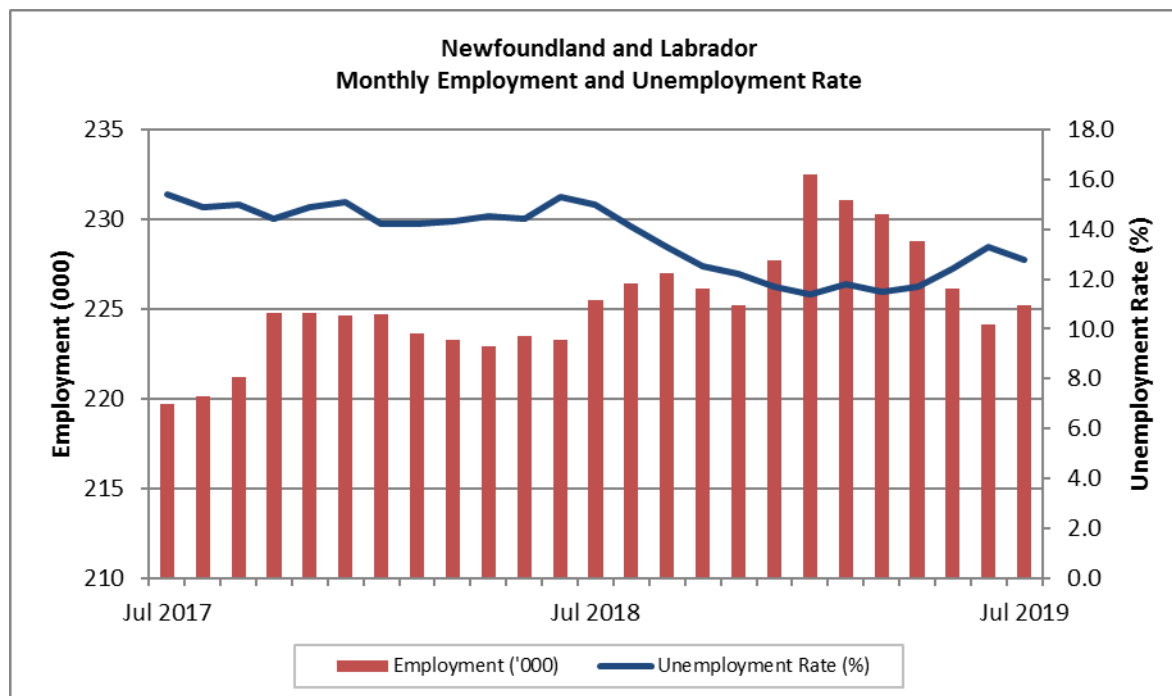
Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	440.1	440.4	443.5	-0.3	-0.1	-3.4	-0.8
Labour Force ('000)	258.3	258.4	265.2	-0.1	0.0	-6.9	-2.6
Employment ('000)	225.2	224.1	225.5	1.1	0.5	-0.3	-0.1
Full-Time ('000)	194.3	193.5	184.9	0.8	0.4	9.4	5.1
Part-Time ('000)	31.0	30.5	40.6	0.5	1.6	-9.6	-23.6
Unemployment ('000)	33.0	34.3	39.7	-1.3	-3.8	-6.7	-16.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.8	13.3	15.0	-0.5	-	-2.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	58.7	58.7	59.8	0.0	-	-1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.2	50.9	50.8	0.3	-	0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

While the overall employment level was little-changed compared to July 2018, there was a shift from part-time to full-time work during the past year. Since July 2018, 7,000 individuals have left the labour force, reflecting both net outmigration and the aging of the population. This caused both the participation rate and the unemployment rate to go down.



Compared with June, the employment increase was concentrated among males under the age of 55. Male youth (15 to 24 years of age) experienced the largest employment increase resulting in a substantial decline in the male youth unemployment rate. Employment among prime working-age males (25 to 54 years of age) went up as well, though to a smaller extent. Employment changes among females were relatively minor, though a small decline in the number of employed prime working age females represented the seventh consecutive monthly decrease for that group.

Compared with last July, employment among males rose by 2,900 while the number of employed females decreased by 3,200. Among males, employment growth was spread across broad age groups, though older workers (55 years and over) experienced the largest employment gains. Employment declined among females in all broad age groups, though the decrease was most severe for female youth. Higher employment levels caused the unemployment rates among females to rise, except for prime working-age females, as a large number left the labour force.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	12.8	13.3	15.0	-0.5	-2.2
25 years and over	11.9	12.0	14.7	-0.1	-2.8
Men - 25 years and over	14.1	14.2	16.9	-0.1	-2.8
Women - 25 years and over	9.5	9.6	12.3	-0.1	-2.8
15 to 24 years	18.8	21.8	17.0	-3.0	1.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.3	24.0	20.7	-7.7	-4.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	21.5	19.4	12.9	2.1	8.6

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

There was a sizeable increase in employment in the **goods-producing sector** this month, driven by **construction** and **manufacturing**. Employment in both of these sectors has been relatively stable for the past two years after experiencing large declines in 2015 and 2016. While the number of housing starts is at a historically low level, the construction industry will continue to be supported by major non-residential projects such as the construction and expansion of the Voisey's Bay mine and infrastructure associated with the West White Rose project.

Despite declining slightly this month, employment in the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry has been trending higher this year compared with the same period of 2018. There have been a number of positive events in this industry such as the opening of the Scully Mine and Wabush 3 pit as well as the extension of production at the Terra Nova oil field.

The **services-producing sector** shed 1,000 workers this month, and was down by an even greater amount compared to July 2018. **The public administration** and **health care and social assistance industries** posted modest declines this month, but have been trending higher throughout the first half of 2018 compared to the previous few years. The **accommodation and food services** and **business, building and other support services** industries have also sustained higher-than-usual employment levels throughout much of this year, though employment in the latter industry went down this month. Finally, the **wholesale and retail trade** industry experienced lower employment compared with June and since last July. Employment in this industry has reached the lowest level in a decade, continuing a multi-year downward trend. Retail sales during the first five months of 2019 were 2% lower than during the same period of 2018.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	225.2	224.1	225.5	1.1	0.5	-0.3	-0.1
Goods-producing sector	47.0	44.8	44.5	2.2	4.9	2.5	5.6
Agriculture	1.8	1.5	1.2	0.3	20.0	0.6	50.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.7	13.9	12.6	-0.2	-1.4	1.1	8.7
Utilities	2.7	2.7	2.9	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-6.9
Construction	19.9	18.8	19.4	1.1	5.9	0.5	2.6
Manufacturing	8.8	7.9	8.4	0.9	11.4	0.4	4.8
Services-producing sector	178.3	179.3	180.9	-1.0	-0.6	-2.6	-1.4
Trade	34.1	34.6	36.6	-0.5	-1.4	-2.5	-6.8
Transportation and warehousing	12.0	12.6	12.6	-0.6	-4.8	-0.6	-4.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	7.3	6.9	7.9	0.4	5.8	-0.6	-7.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	9.5	8.9	10.1	0.6	6.7	-0.6	-5.9
Business, building and other support services	7.4	8.0	5.7	-0.6	-7.5	1.7	29.8
Educational services	15.8	16.2	17.2	-0.4	-2.5	-1.4	-8.1
Health care and social assistance	38.6	39.6	40.1	-1.0	-2.5	-1.5	-3.7
Information, culture and recreation	7.7	7.6	7.7	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.0
Accommodation and food services	17.2	16.9	16.2	0.3	1.8	1.0	6.2
Other services	10.8	9.6	9.7	1.2	12.5	1.1	11.3
Public administration	17.8	18.6	17.1	-0.8	-4.3	0.7	4.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared with last July, employment in the **Avalon Peninsula** economic region was up by 1.6%, resulting in a reduction in the region's unemployment rate. Labour market conditions in every month of 2019 so far have been an improvement compared to one year prior. Industries which contributed the most to region's employment growth were: **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas; transportation and warehousing; educational services; and public administration.**

Developments in the **South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay** economic region were less positive. Since last July, the number of workers in this region was down by 2.2%. However, an even larger number of individuals left the labour force, causing the unemployment rate to fall. The **goods-producing sector** fared well, driven by strong employment growth in the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry.** However, this was offset by a large decline in employment in the **services-producing sector.** **Wholesale and retail trade** was the sole services-producing industry which experienced meaningful growth, adding several hundred jobs.

The **West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador** economic region also shed workers since last July, all part-time. This resulted in a lower unemployment rate. Employment declined in the **goods-producing sector** during this period due to sharp declines in the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry.** However, employment levels in the the sector's largest industry, **construction,** remained unchanged from last year. The **services-producing sector** experienced a modest increase in employment, as added employment gains in **accommodation and food services, other services, public administration, and business, building and other support services** outnumbered losses in **wholesale and retail trade.**

The **St. John's CMA** has experienced mostly positive changes in the labour market so far this year. A high level of employment reached in April has been sustained through the succeeding months. At the same time, full-time employment has increased for seven straight months, surpassing 100,000 for the first time since September 2016.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2019 ('000)	July 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2019 (%)	July 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	233.4	233.1	0.1	12.0	13.6	-1.6
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	137.0	134.8	1.6	9.6	11.0	-1.4
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	53.3	54.5	-2.2	16.1	16.8	-0.7
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	43.1	43.7	-1.4	14.1	16.9	-2.8

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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