



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

September 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

The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2019 was unchanged over the previous quarter, as both employment and the size of the labour force decreased slightly. Compared to the same quarter a year ago, the unemployment rate was nearly two percentage points lower, mainly due to fewer people active in the labour market. While overall employment was lower than a year ago, full-time employment has notably increased.

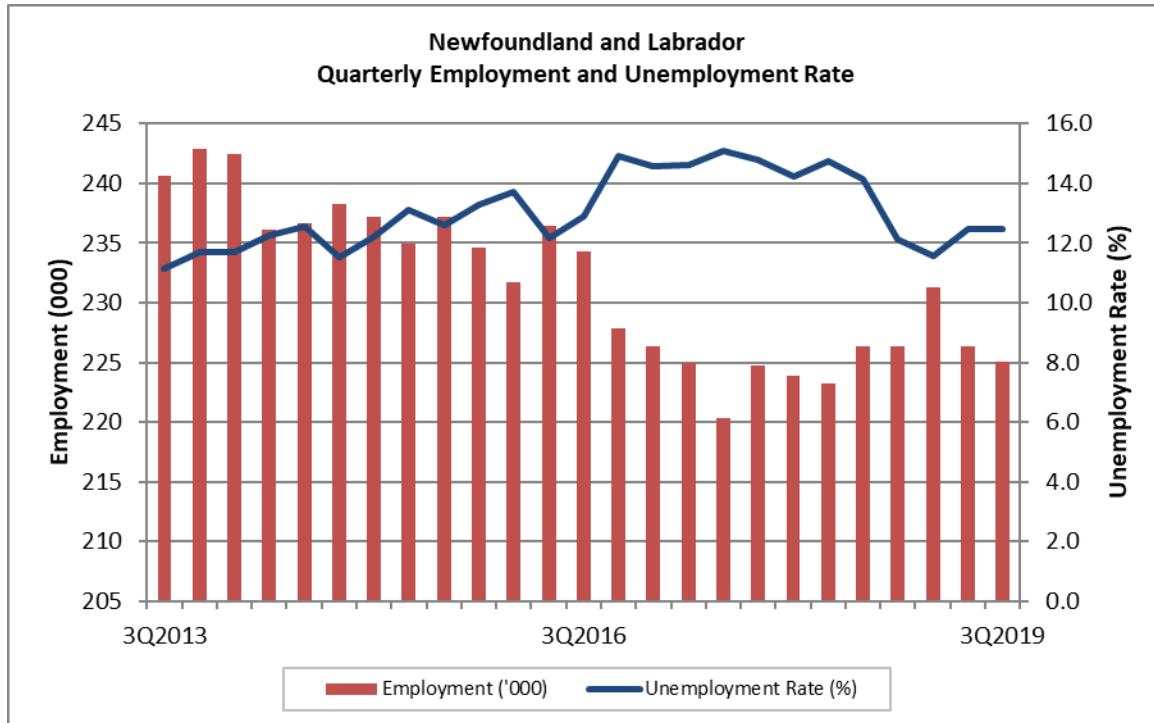
Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	440.0	440.8	443.2	-0.8	-0.2	-3.2	-0.7
Labour Force ('000)	257.1	258.6	263.5	-1.5	-0.6	-6.4	-2.4
Employment ('000)	225.0	226.3	226.3	-1.3	-0.6	-1.3	-0.6
Full-Time ('000)	192.3	194.1	186.2	-1.8	-0.9	6.1	3.3
Part-Time ('000)	32.7	32.2	40.1	0.5	1.6	-7.4	-18.5
Unemployment ('000)	32.0	32.3	37.2	-0.3	-0.9	-5.2	-14.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.5	12.5	14.1	0.0	-	-1.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	58.4	58.7	59.5	-0.3	-	-1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.1	51.4	51.1	-0.3	-	0.0	-

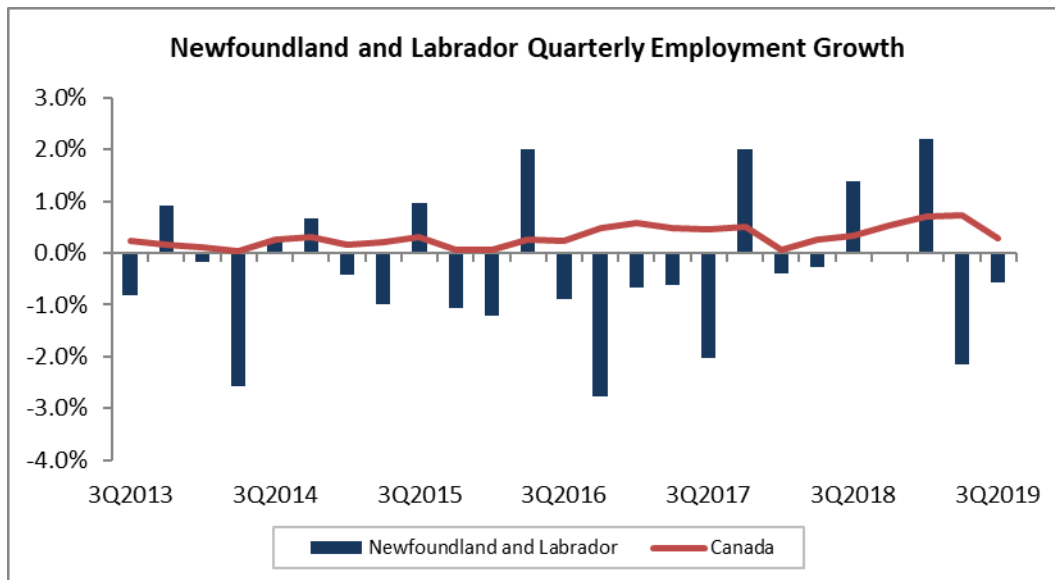
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Historically, a sustained decline in employment since 2013 had brought the quarterly unemployment rate to a seven-year high of 15.1% in the third quarter of 2017. This rate remained above 14% over the next four quarters due to slow employment and labour force growth. However, since last fall, the unemployment rate dropped, mainly due to full-time employment gains. Employment has weakened by nearly 22,000 since its high, mainly in full-time work. However, the labour force also experienced a virtually identical loss. Because there were considerably fewer people in the workforce, the most recent unemployment rate was only slightly higher than in 2013.



Canada has generally experienced consistent, small employment gains over the past six years, whereas employment levels in Newfoundland and Labrador have been more volatile. The pace of employment growth in the province has generally lagged behind the rest of the country since the second half of 2013. Compared to six years ago, Canada’s employment levels have risen by nearly eight percent, while Newfoundland and Labrador’s employment has dropped by 6.5%, the largest decline in the country over this time.



While the youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate remained near 20% in the third quarter, full-time employment has risen over the past year, slightly offsetting a loss in part-time work. In addition, the size of the labour force has climbed steadily since the end of 2018, resulting in increased participation in the labour market.

While the unemployment rate for males 25 years and older showed little change from the previous quarter, full-time employment gains moved the unemployment rate down by more than two percentage points from a year ago. Over the past two years, employment for this group has increased by nearly 8,000 jobs, mainly in full-time positions.

For females 25 years and over, employment dropped faster than the labour force, raising the unemployment rate from the previous quarter. Despite this increase, the unemployment rate was approximately two percentage points lower than a year ago. This drop in the unemployment rate was similar to the change for males of the same age, but the causes of these declines were quite different. For females of this age group, the size of the labour force dropped by more than 5,000 people, or virtually three times larger than for males. In addition, employment fell by 2,600 for females, while employment increased for males.

It is also worth noting that those aged 25 to 54 years had considerable losses from a year ago. The labour force was reduced by 7,300 people, while employment fell by 3,000 for this core working age group, mainly in part-time work. Females had most of the losses.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly	Yearly
	2019 (%)	2019 (%)	2018 (%)	Variation (% points)	Variation (% points)
Total	12.5	12.5	14.1	0.0	-1.7
25 years and over	11.5	11.4	13.6	0.1	-2.1
Men - 25 years and over	13.1	13.8	15.4	-0.7	-2.3
Women - 25 years and over	9.6	8.8	11.5	0.8	-1.9
15 to 24 years	19.4	19.7	18.2	-0.3	1.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.6	22.6	22.4	-5.0	-4.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	21.4	17.1	13.5	4.3	7.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In the third quarter (Q3) of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was approximately 2 million. The Indigenous population living off reserve accounted for about 3.6% of that, or 72,300 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic Provinces reached 41,400, a decrease of 400 (-1.0%) from a year earlier (Q3 2018). The decrease was in part-time positions, while the number of full-time positions was unchanged.

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 12.0% in Q3 2019, down 1.8 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate decreased to 8.0% (-0.4pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among Indigenous people decreased significantly to 65.2% (-3.8pp), while the participation rate for the non-Indigenous population remained unchanged at 62.6% (+0.1pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population decreased year-over-year to 57.3% (-2.2pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population reached 57.6% (+0.3%).

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q3 2019	Q3 2018	number	%	Q3 2019	Q3 2018	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	72.3	70.3	2.0	2.8%	1,938.0	1,926.4	11.6	0.6%
Labour Force ('000)	47.1	48.5	-1.4	-2.9%	1,214.0	1,204.6	9.4	0.8%
Employment ('000)	41.4	41.8	-0.4	-1.0%	1,116.5	1,103.9	12.6	1.1%
Full-Time ('000)	35.1	35.1	0.0	0.0%	948.8	940.1	8.7	0.9%
Part-Time ('000)	6.4	6.7	-0.3	-4.5%	167.7	163.8	3.9	2.4%
Unemployment ('000)	5.7	6.7	-1.0	-14.9%	97.6	100.7	-3.1	-3.1%
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.0	13.8	-1.8	-	8.0	8.4	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.2	69.0	-3.8	-	62.6	62.5	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.3	59.5	-2.2	-	57.6	57.3	0.3	-

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.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

A quarterly loss in the **services-producing sector** outweighed a gain in the **goods-producing sector**. In the **services-producing sector**, **retail and wholesale trade** dropped for the seventh time in the past nine quarters. Since reaching a record high three years ago, there were 9,800 fewer jobs in the industry for the most recent quarter. For the second consecutive quarter, **health care and social services** had the sector's largest drop. On a positive note, the past three quarters for **accommodation and food services** have been the strongest on record.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2019	2019	2018	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	225.0	226.3	226.3	-1.3	-0.6	-1.3	-0.6
Goods-producing sector	46.6	45.9	45.3	0.7	1.5	1.2	2.7
Agriculture	1.3	1.6	1.4	-0.3	-19.1	-0.2	-11.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.9	14.3	12.9	-0.3	-2.3	1.1	8.3
Utilities	2.8	2.7	3.0	0.1	5.0	-0.2	-5.6
Construction	19.5	19.3	19.6	0.2	1.0	-0.1	-0.7
Manufacturing	9.1	8.1	8.5	1.0	12.4	0.6	6.7
Services-producing sector	178.5	180.5	180.9	-2.0	-1.1	-2.4	-1.3
Trade	34.1	34.6	37.1	-0.5	-1.4	-3.0	-8.2
Transportation and warehousing	12.0	12.6	12.3	-0.6	-4.8	-0.3	-2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.8	7.3	7.7	-0.5	-6.8	-0.9	-11.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	9.4	9.7	10.4	-0.4	-3.8	-1.0	-9.9
Business, building and other support services	7.6	7.7	6.2	-0.1	-1.3	1.4	22.7
Educational services	16.4	15.7	16.7	0.7	4.4	-0.3	-1.8
Health care and social assistance	38.3	40.2	39.9	-1.9	-4.7	-1.5	-3.8
Information, culture and recreation	7.7	7.5	7.8	0.2	2.7	0.0	-0.4
Accommodation and food services	16.7	17.3	15.9	-0.6	-3.5	0.8	5.0
Other services	11.1	9.2	9.4	1.8	19.9	1.6	17.3
Public administration	18.3	18.6	17.5	-0.2	-1.3	0.8	4.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In the **goods-producing sector**, **manufacturing** recovered most of its loss from the previous quarter, when it reached a record low. While **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** experienced a slight decline from the previous quarter, employment in the industry has increased considerably from a year ago. The employment growth over the past year has been mainly from mining, oil and gas, and support activities for these two industries. **Construction** employment in this industry has been trending downward over the past number of years due to a drop in major construction project activity. Construction related to the West White Rose Oil Project and Vale's underground mine expansion have prevented an otherwise steeper loss in the industry.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

While all economic regions experienced declines in their unemployment rates, the **Avalon Peninsula** was the only one to have an employment gain. In other economic regions, a reduction in labour force size was the main factor in producing lower unemployment rates.

Employment growth has resulted in lower unemployment rates in each of the past four quarters on the **Avalon Peninsula**. Most of the employment increase has been in full-time positions. Services-producing industries experienced the bulk of the job gain. In the goods-producing sector, there has been continued growth in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas.

The **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** region had a drop in the unemployment rate for the seventh consecutive quarter. However, this has been mainly the result of a declining labour force. Employment has decreased in each of the past three quarters. Services-producing sector employment has been dropping since the start of the year. On a positive note, employment in the goods-producing sector rose for the fourth quarter in a row, driven by rising employment in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas, as well as construction's strongest gain in over three years.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, the unemployment rate was lower than a year earlier as the size of the labour force decreased slightly faster than employment, though both losses were deep. The size of the labour force has been declining since the start of 2018. The services-producing sector experienced most of the employment loss in the most recent quarter, mainly in trade and educational services. Employment in the goods-producing sector has lowered in each of the past four quarters. This has been mainly due to fewer jobs in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas.

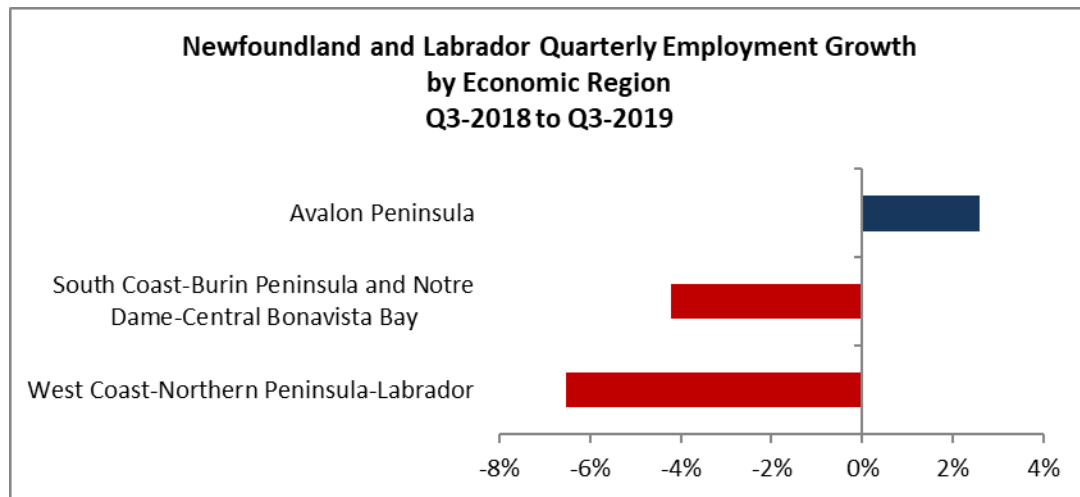
Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2019 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2019 (%)	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Newfoundland and Labrador	233.8	235.5	-0.7	11.2	12.7	-1.5
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	138.4	134.9	2.6	9.1	11.2	-2.1
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	52.4	54.7	-4.2	14.8	15.5	-0.7
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	43.0	46.0	-6.5	13.3	13.9	-0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

While employment increased on the **Avalon Peninsula**, the **South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay** region had its third consecutive quarterly employment loss, while the **West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador region** had its strongest decrease in over two years.



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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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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