



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Nova Scotia

June 2019



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Nova Scotia, including the regions of Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton, Southern, Halifax and North Shore.

### OVERVIEW

In the second quarter (Q2) of 2019, employment in Nova Scotia grew marginally by 0.3%, or 1,200 positions. There were more part-time positions this quarter, and slightly fewer full-time positions. Employment in Nova Scotia has risen in all quarters of 2018 and through the first two quarters of 2019.

Nova Scotia's unemployment has generally been trending lower over the past two years. However, in Q2 2019, Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose somewhat to 6.7% as slightly more people joined the labour force in search of work. In the previous quarter, Nova Scotia experienced its lowest unemployment rate on record for any quarter in the province, at 6.5%. Canada's unemployment rate, meanwhile, continued to trend to new record lows, reaching 5.5% in Q2 2019.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

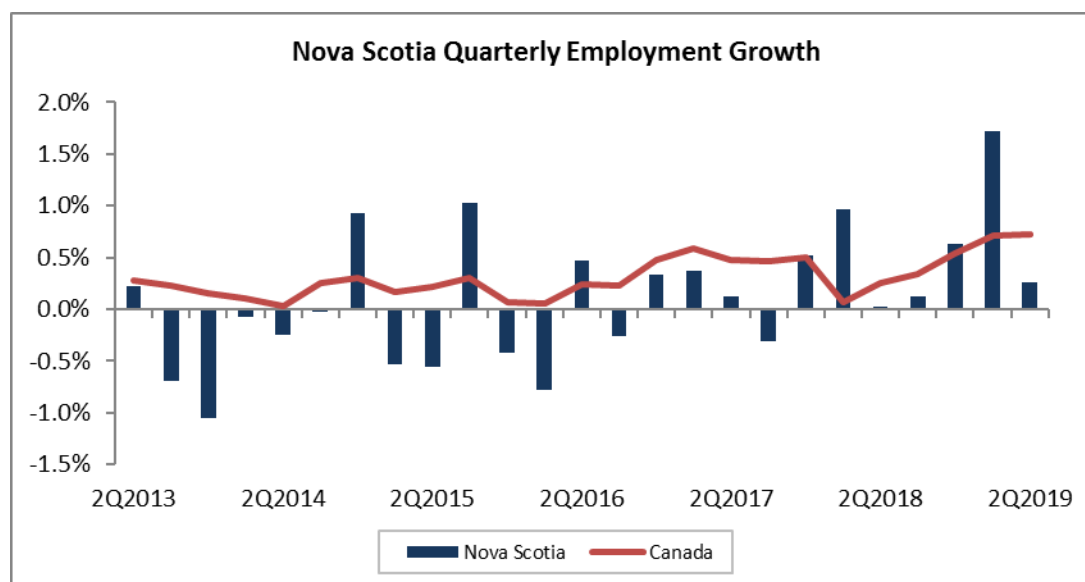
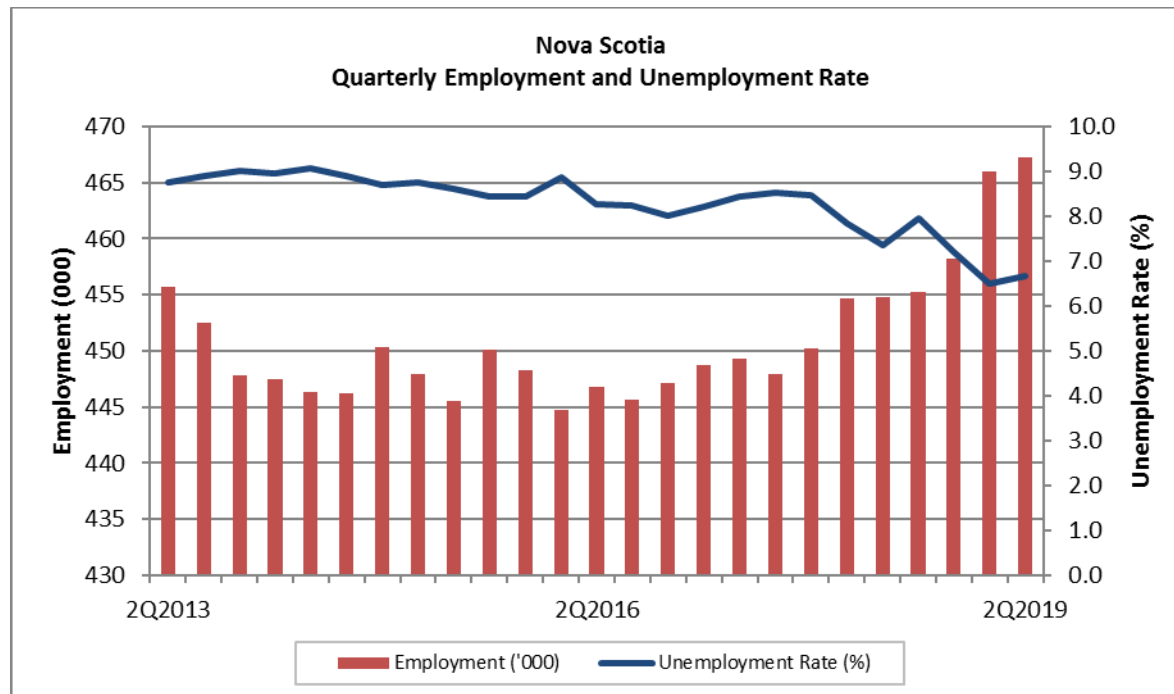
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	2nd Quarter 2019	1st Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	805.2	803.4	797.5	1.8	0.2	7.7	1.0
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	500.6	498.3	490.9	2.3	0.5	9.7	2.0
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	467.2	466.0	454.7	1.2	0.3	12.5	2.7
Full-Time ('000)	379.1	381.1	374.5	-2.0	-0.5	4.6	1.2
Part-Time ('000)	88.1	85.0	80.3	3.1	3.6	7.8	9.7
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	33.4	32.3	36.2	1.1	3.4	-2.8	-7.7
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	6.7	6.5	7.4	0.2	-	-0.7	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	62.2	62.0	61.6	0.2	-	0.6	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	58.0	58.0	57.0	0.0	-	1.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared with the second quarter (Q2) of 2018, there has been a clear improvement in labour market conditions in the province. Employment is higher by 2.7%, or 12,500 positions. Close to two-thirds of the employment gains over this period were in part-time jobs. At the same time, Nova Scotia's working-age population expanded by 1.0%, or 7,700 individuals, and 9,700 more persons joined the labour force over this

period in search of work. As a result of more people finding work, the unemployment rate declined by more than a percentage point from 7.4% in Q2 2018 to 6.7% in Q2 2019.



Youth (aged 15-24 years) have benefitted the most from employment gains. Youth employment levels grew by 10.4% compared to Q2 2018, all of these gains were in part-time jobs. As a result of more employment opportunities for youth, the youth unemployment rate declined from 16.1% in Q2 2018 to 11.6% in Q2 2019. This was only slightly higher than the overall youth unemployment rate in Canada at 10.3%.

Employment gains were also experienced by prime-age (aged 25-54 years) and older workers (aged 55 years and over). Employment for prime-age workers rose by 1.6% with most of the employment gains in full-time jobs.

Higher employment levels for prime-age workers resulted in a drop in their unemployment rate to 5.2%, down from a rate of 5.8% a year earlier.

Employment for older workers rose by 1.7% with slightly more gains in part-time jobs than in full-time work. Though, over the same period, there was a large increase in the population of older workers, as well as an increase in the number of older workers joining the labour force in search of work. This resulted in a notable rise in the unemployment rate for older workers from 6.4% in Q2 2018 to 7.4% in Q2 2019.

**Nova Scotia Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Quarterly	Yearly
	2019 (%)	2019 (%)	2018 (%)	Variation (% points)	Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.7	6.5	7.4	0.2	-0.7
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.8	5.3	5.9	0.5	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	7.2	6.4	7.7	0.8	-0.4
Women - 25 years and over	4.3	4.1	4.0	0.2	0.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	11.6	13.4	16.1	-1.8	-4.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.3	14.3	19.1	-1.0	-5.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.8	12.4	13.1	-2.6	-3.3

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

Compared with Q2 2018, employment rose in both the public and private sectors in Nova Scotia. The private sector, which represents nearly two thirds of employment, gained 11,600 positions while the public sector, representing just a quarter of employment, added 5,000 positions. Self-employment declined by 4,000 jobs, representing 12.8% of employment in Nova Scotia in Q2 2019.

**Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People**

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q2 2019	Q2 2018	number	%	Q2 2019	Q2 2018	number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	71.7	69.6	2.1	3.0%	1,933.0	1,924.5	8.5	0.4%
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	43.5	47.1	-3.6	-7.6%	1,201.0	1,187.7	13.3	1.1%
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	37.5	40.6	-3.1	-7.6%	1,103.6	1,081.7	21.9	2.0%
<b>Full-Time ('000)</b>	30.1	34.2	-4.1	-12.0%	924.3	910.6	13.7	1.5%
<b>Part-Time ('000)</b>	7.3	6.4	0.9	14.1%	179.2	171.1	8.1	4.7%
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	6.0	6.5	-0.5	-7.7%	97.4	106.0	-8.6	-8.1%
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	13.8	13.7	0.1	-	8.1	8.9	-0.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	60.7	67.6	-6.9	-	62.1	61.7	0.4	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	52.3	58.3	-6.0	-	57.1	56.2	0.9	-

**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.

In the second quarter (Q2) of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was approximately 2 million. The Indigenous population living off reserve accounted for 3.6% of that, or 71,700 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces reached 37,500, representing a decrease of 3,100 (-7.6%)

from a year earlier (Q2 2018). The decrease was in full-time positions (-4,100 or -12.0%) that was partially offset by an increase in part-time positions (+900 or +14.1%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 13.8% in Q2 2019, up 0.1 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate decreased to 8.1% (-0.8pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among Indigenous people decreased significantly to 60.7% (-6.9pp), while the participation rate for the non-Indigenous population increased marginally to 62.1% (+0.4pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population decreased year-over-year to 52.3% (-6.0pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population reached 57.1% (+0.9%), compared to a year earlier.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Compared to Q2 2018, employment was higher in both the **goods-producing** and **services-producing** sectors in Nova Scotia. Among **goods-producing** industries, the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry recorded the largest employment gains with 2,700 positions added from the previous year. This represented the strongest annual growth among industries at 30.1%. There are a number of factors impacting this industry. Employment in this industry has been on an upward trend since the summer of 2018 owing partly to higher exports of forest and fish and seafood products through 2018. Other positive changes for this industry group include the decision this past summer to end tariffs on Port Hawkesbury paper mill products. The Touquoy gold mine in Moose River is in its second year of operation and the Donkin coal mine, which opened last year, is currently operating with a full complement of staff.

The **construction** industry has added 1,200 jobs since Q2 2018. Indicators of construction activity have remained strong in Nova Scotia through 2019. A number of construction projects are underway owing to higher provincial capital spending related to hospital, school, highway, road and bridge construction. This includes the recently announced Burnside Expressway in the Halifax region.

The **agriculture** industry has added 800 jobs since Q2 2018. Five new Nova Scotia producers have obtained cannabis cultivation licenses since October, in addition to three already established prior to legalization.

Employment in the **manufacturing** industry declined by 700 from Q2 2018. Work continues on the Irving Shipbuilding Project. In Q4 2018, it was announced that a sixth Artic and Offshore Patrol Ship would be constructed as part of the shipbuilding project, and in Q1 2019, it was announced that Irving Shipbuilding would also build two of Canada's new Canadian Coast guard ships reducing some uncertainty about a possible gap in production. About 1,900 people are working at the shipyard with plans to grow the workforce to 2,800 by late 2020. Michelin, a local tire manufacturer, announced it would be expanding the Granton plant in Pictou county to accommodate a new line of tires for the Fall of 2019. Including other investments the project is expected to result in 150 new jobs at the site.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	2nd Quarter 2019	1st Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	467.2	466.0	454.7	1.2	0.3	12.5	2.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	86.1	87.0	82.3	-0.9	-1.0	3.8	4.6
Agriculture	6.2	6.1	5.4	0.1	1.6	0.8	14.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.7	11.1	9.0	0.6	5.4	2.7	30.1
Utilities	3.7	3.8	4.0	0.0	-0.9	-0.3	-6.7
Construction	33.6	33.3	32.4	0.3	0.9	1.2	3.7
Manufacturing	30.9	32.8	31.6	-1.9	-5.8	-0.7	-2.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	381.1	379.0	372.4	2.1	0.5	8.7	2.3
Trade	82.4	82.2	79.9	0.2	0.2	2.5	3.1
Transportation and warehousing	19.8	20.3	20.0	-0.5	-2.3	-0.1	-0.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	21.0	20.9	21.8	0.1	0.5	-0.8	-3.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.2	27.9	27.4	0.4	1.3	0.9	3.2
Business, building and other support services	17.3	17.2	17.3	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0
Educational services	38.6	38.5	37.4	0.1	0.3	1.2	3.2
Health care and social assistance	73.2	71.0	68.3	2.2	3.1	4.8	7.1
Information, culture and recreation	19.7	19.2	17.6	0.5	2.4	2.1	11.9
Accommodation and food services	34.4	35.3	35.1	-1.0	-2.7	-0.7	-2.0
Other services	17.3	17.4	19.1	-0.1	-0.4	-1.8	-9.2
Public administration	29.1	29.1	28.7	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Among the **services-producing** industries, the **health care and social assistance** industry has added the largest number of jobs (4,800) from Q2 2018. This is a large industry, employing around 1 in 7 Nova Scotians. Employment in the sector has continued to trend higher since September 2018. Aging demographics have boosted demand for health services while the supply of some health care professionals has been more limited.

Employment in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry has also been trending higher with 2,500 more workers added from last year. Estimates of retail sales in Nova Scotia suggest consumer demand remained at high levels through 2018 following strong gains in 2017. Sales have continued to grow through the first few months of 2019.

The **information, culture and recreation** industry has added 2,100 from Q2 2018, representing one of the strongest rates of growth among services-producing industries, at 11.9%. Among other services-producing industries, the largest employment decline occurred in the **other services (except public administration)** industry.

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared with Q2 2018, four out of five economic regions in Nova Scotia experienced employment gains. Only the **Southern** economic region experienced an employment decline.

Labour market conditions in the **Cape Breton** economic region improved from a year earlier. Although the working age population fell marginally, there were advances in both the labour force and employment, with gains in full-time and part-time jobs. A similar number of people who joined the labour force over this period were able to find work which resulted in a stable unemployment rate of 13.5%. The largest employment gains were in the **educational services** and **construction** industries. There are a number of upcoming construction projects in the region including those related to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) Health Care Redevelopment Plan which involves expansion, renovations and construction of health care facilities in the CBRM.

In the **North Shore** economic region, employment rose substantially compared with Q2 2018, with 2,500 positions added, but all of the gains were in part-time work. Higher employment levels in the region contributed to a sizeable decline in the unemployment rate from 9.0% in Q2 2018 to 6.9% in Q2 2019. The largest employment gains in this region were in the **wholesale and retail trade industry** which added 3,300 positions from a year earlier.

Employment in the **Annapolis Valley** economic region rose modestly from a year earlier with the addition of 800 positions, all in full-time work. The working-age population and labour force were little changed over the same period and as a result of employment gains, the unemployment rate fell markedly from 6.8% to 5.5%. Employment gains in the region were strongest among several **services-producing** industries including: **health care and social assistance**; **information, culture and recreation**; and **accommodation and food services**. The largest employment losses in the region occurred in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry.

The **Southern** economic region experienced an employment decline of 4,000 positions, in both full-time and part-time positions. As a result of the decline in employment the region's unemployment rate increased from 5.6% to 7.3% in Q2 2019. The largest employment losses occurred among services-producing sectors including: **wholesale and retail trade, professional, scientific and technical services, and accommodation and food services industries**. There were also notable employment gains in the **health care and social assistance** industry. Delays in the start of the season for the Yarmouth ferry could negatively impact tourism in this region through the summer months. Tourism statistics through the first four months of 2019 suggest the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores have experienced the largest decrease in room night solds compared with the same months in 2018.

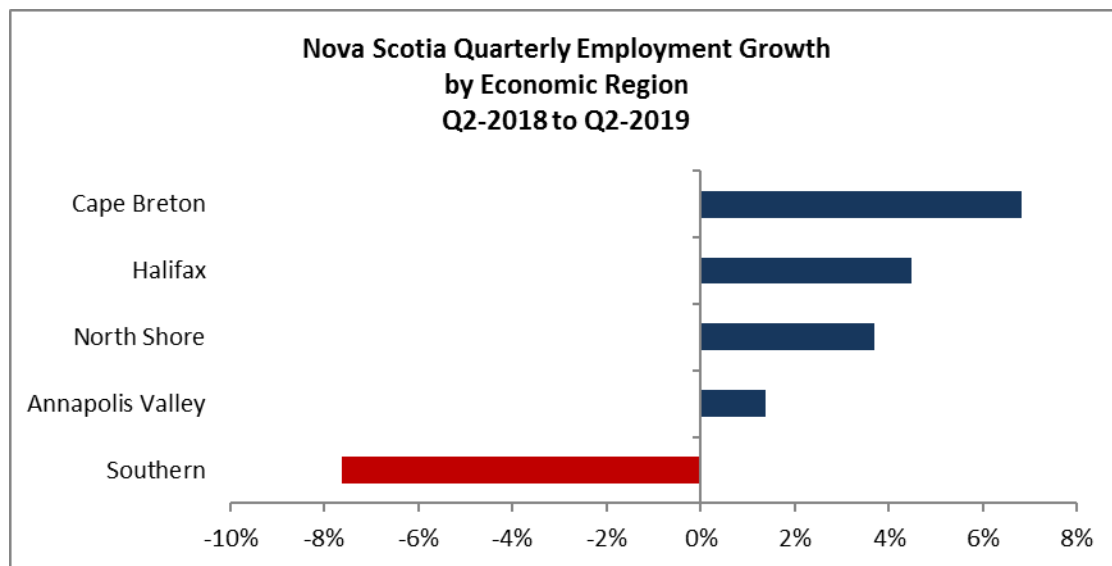
Labour market conditions in the **Halifax** region have improved significantly over the past year. The **Halifax economic** region was the only economic region of Nova Scotia to see large population increases over the past year, adding 7,700 persons. At the same time, 9,000 more persons joined the labour force in search of work. Compared with Q2 2018, 10,500 more persons found work, although a majority of these positions were part-time in nature. As a result of higher employment levels in the region, the region's unemployment rate declined from 5.9% in Q2 2018 to 5.1% in Q2 2019. This was the lowest unemployment rate among economic regions of Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	2nd Quarter 2019 ('000)	2nd Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	2nd Quarter 2019 (%)	2nd Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	471.6	458.6	2.8	6.6	7.3	-0.7
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Cape Breton	50.1	46.9	6.8	13.5	13.5	0.0
North Shore	70.4	67.9	3.7	6.9	9.0	-2.1
Annapolis Valley	58.4	57.6	1.4	5.5	6.8	-1.3
Southern	48.4	52.4	-7.6	7.3	5.6	1.7
Halifax	244.3	233.8	4.5	5.1	5.9	-0.8

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

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