



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

July 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 July 2019, the number of person employed in Nova Scotia declined by 6,200. Employment grew for eight consecutive months since last July but employment levels have been essentially stalled since March 2019. Compared to the previous month there were declines in both full-time and part-time work. As a result, Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose to 7.4% from 6.6% in June.

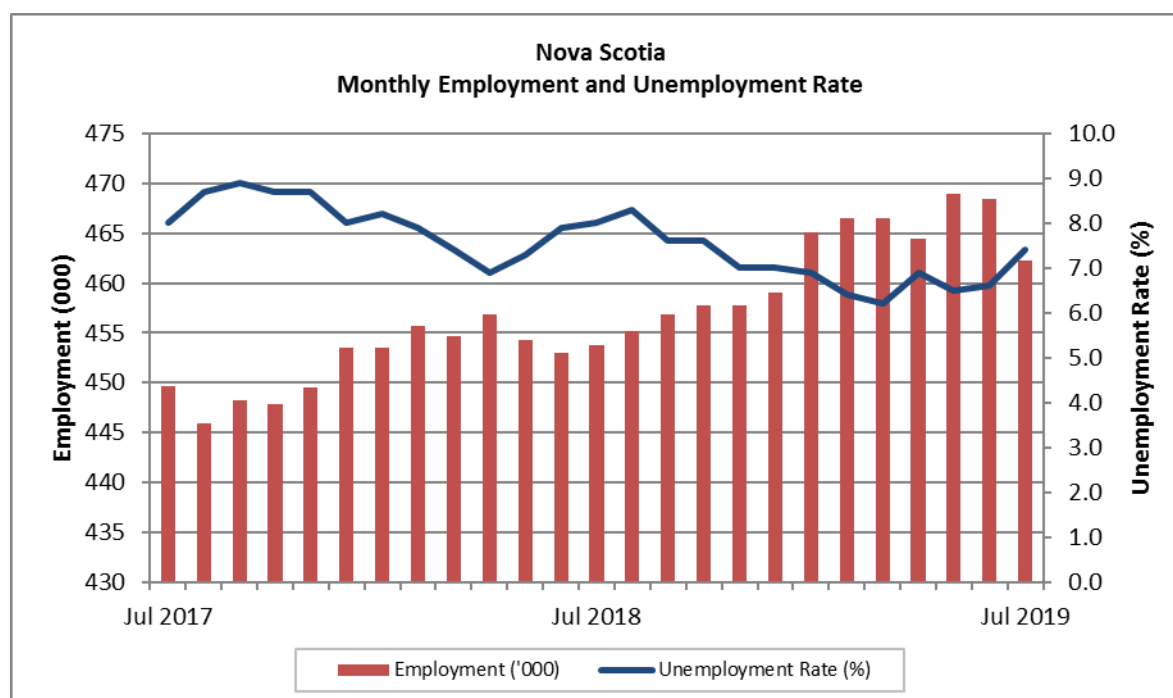
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	807.4	806.1	798.7	1.3	0.2	8.7	1.1
Labour Force ('000)	498.9	501.3	493.2	-2.4	-0.5	5.7	1.2
Employment ('000)	462.2	468.4	453.8	-6.2	-1.3	8.4	1.9
Full-Time ('000)	377.5	378.7	372.0	-1.2	-0.3	5.5	1.5
Part-Time ('000)	84.7	89.7	81.8	-5.0	-5.6	2.9	3.5
Unemployment ('000)	36.7	32.9	39.3	3.8	11.6	-2.6	-6.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4	6.6	8.0	0.8	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.8	62.2	61.8	-0.4	-	0.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.2	58.1	56.8	-0.9	-	0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared with July 2018, 8,400 more Nova Scotians have found work with increases in both full-time and part-time jobs. The working-age population and the labour force also grew over this period. As a result of higher employment levels, Nova Scotia's unemployment rate has improved from a rate of 8.0% in July 2018.



While employment levels were higher among the broad age groups over the past year, employment levels advanced the most among prime-aged workers (aged 25 to 54 years). Unemployment rates declined among prime-aged (25 to 54 years) and older workers (54 years and over) but rose for youth (15 to 24 years), as more youth joined the labour force in search of work.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.4	6.6	8.0	0.8	-0.6
25 years and over	6.1	6.0	6.8	0.1	-0.7
Men - 25 years and over	7.2	7.7	8.6	-0.5	-1.4
Women - 25 years and over	4.8	4.2	4.8	0.6	0.0
15 to 24 years	15.0	9.8	14.9	5.2	0.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.8	12.8	17.2	2.0	-2.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.2	6.8	12.5	8.4	2.7

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Compared with July 2018, employment levels increased at a similar pace in both the **services** and **goods-producing** sectors in Nova Scotia. Among **goods-producing** industries, the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry group had the largest employment gains since July 2018, rising by 2,600. Employment in this industry has been on an upward trend over the past year. Exports of fish and seafood products have been higher in Nova Scotia through the first half of 2019. There has also been positive momentum in mining with the recent opening of the Touquoy gold mine in Moose River and the Donkin coal mine in Cape Breton. In the summer of 2018, a decision to end tariffs on Port Hawkesbury paper mill products positively impacted the forestry industry. At the

same time, while production at two of Nova Scotia's only offshore natural gas developments ended in 2018 some jobs are expected to arise as the facilities are dismantled.

Nova Scotia 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	462.2	468.4	453.8	-6.2	-1.3	8.4	1.9
Goods-producing sector	83.6	83.9	82.1	-0.3	-0.4	1.5	1.8
Agriculture	5.7	6.0	5.2	-0.3	-5.0	0.5	9.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.6	11.6	8.0	-1.0	-8.6	2.6	32.5
Utilities	3.8	3.6	3.9	0.2	5.6	-0.1	-2.6
Construction	33.3	32.9	32.7	0.4	1.2	0.6	1.8
Manufacturing	30.2	29.8	32.4	0.4	1.3	-2.2	-6.8
Services-producing sector	378.6	384.6	371.7	-6.0	-1.6	6.9	1.9
Trade	80.1	81.7	80.7	-1.6	-2.0	-0.6	-0.7
Transportation and warehousing	19.6	19.8	18.6	-0.2	-1.0	1.0	5.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	20.9	21.0	21.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.7	-3.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.2	28.1	29.7	0.1	0.4	-1.5	-5.1
Business, building and other support services	16.3	18.1	17.7	-1.8	-9.9	-1.4	-7.9
Educational services	35.8	38.2	36.3	-2.4	-6.3	-0.5	-1.4
Health care and social assistance	74.9	74.6	67.1	0.3	0.4	7.8	11.6
Information, culture and recreation	19.3	21.0	18.8	-1.7	-8.1	0.5	2.7
Accommodation and food services	36.0	35.6	32.5	0.4	1.1	3.5	10.8
Other services	18.2	17.5	19.3	0.7	4.0	-1.1	-5.7
Public administration	29.3	28.9	29.4	0.4	1.4	-0.1	-0.3

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 (7,800) since last July. Employment has continued to trend higher over this period as demand for health services grows due to the aging demographics. Employment in the **accommodation and food services** industry has also been trending higher with 3,500 more workers added from last year. Tourism visits in Nova Scotia were positive through 2017 and 2018 but are down slightly in the first few months of 2019 compared to the same period last year.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

From a regional perspective, labour markets strengthened in four of Nova Scotia's economic regions. Employment levels in the Southern region have declined from last July, mostly in part-time work.

In the **Cape Breton** economic region 2,500 more people have found work since July 2018. Over the same period, a similar number of people joined the labour force in search of work resulting in a small decline in the unemployment rate. Employment levels have been on an upward trend in this region since the start of the year. Among industry groups, employment increased the most in **educational services** and **construction**. 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 facilities in the CBRM.

Employment in the **North Shore** economic region increased by 2,700 since last July as a result of an increase in part-time jobs. The region's unemployment rate declined noticeably from 9.0% last July to 6.3% in July 2019. Among industry groups, employment rose the most in this region in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry.

In the **Annapolis Valley** economic region, employment rose by 500 since July 2018 as a result of higher full-time work. Over the same period, more people joined the labour force in search of work resulting in a slight rise in the unemployment rate. A large decline in employment in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry was offset by gains across a number of other industries including **health care and social assistance** and **accommodation and food services**.

Employment levels in the **Southern** economic region were lower than they were in July of last year as a result of declines in both part-time and full-time work. With fewer persons employed, the unemployment rate rose two percentage points to 7.5% in July 2019. Among industries, the largest employment decline was in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry group.

The **Halifax** economic region experienced the largest increase in employment since last July, adding 12,000 jobs, as a result of gains in both full-time and part-time work. The majority of the increase in the province's working-age population and labour force occurred in the Halifax economic region. Employment has been steadily rising in the region over the past couple of years but the pace of employment growth has picked up in the past few months. Employment reached its highest level on record in July 2019 at 247,600. As a result of higher employment levels, the region's unemployment rate fell to 5.0% in July 2019, down from a rate of 6.2% last July. Job gains were strongest in the **wholesale and retail trade** and **professional, scientific and technical** industries.

Nova Scotia 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)
Nova Scotia	477.1	464.5	2.7	6.4	7.2	-0.8
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	50.7	48.2	5.2	12.1	12.7	-0.6
North Shore	71.6	68.9	3.9	6.3	9.0	-2.7
Annapolis Valley	58.8	58.3	0.9	5.9	5.7	0.2
Southern	48.4	53.5	-9.5	7.5	5.5	2.0
Halifax	247.6	235.6	5.1	5.0	6.2	-1.2

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 information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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