



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

August 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

The number of person employed in Nova Scotia rose by 1,500 in August 2019, and follows two months of employment decline in the province. Employment levels have been essentially stalled since March 2019. All of the job gains in August were for part-time work. Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose to 7.9% from the previous month as more people joined the labour force in August in search of work.

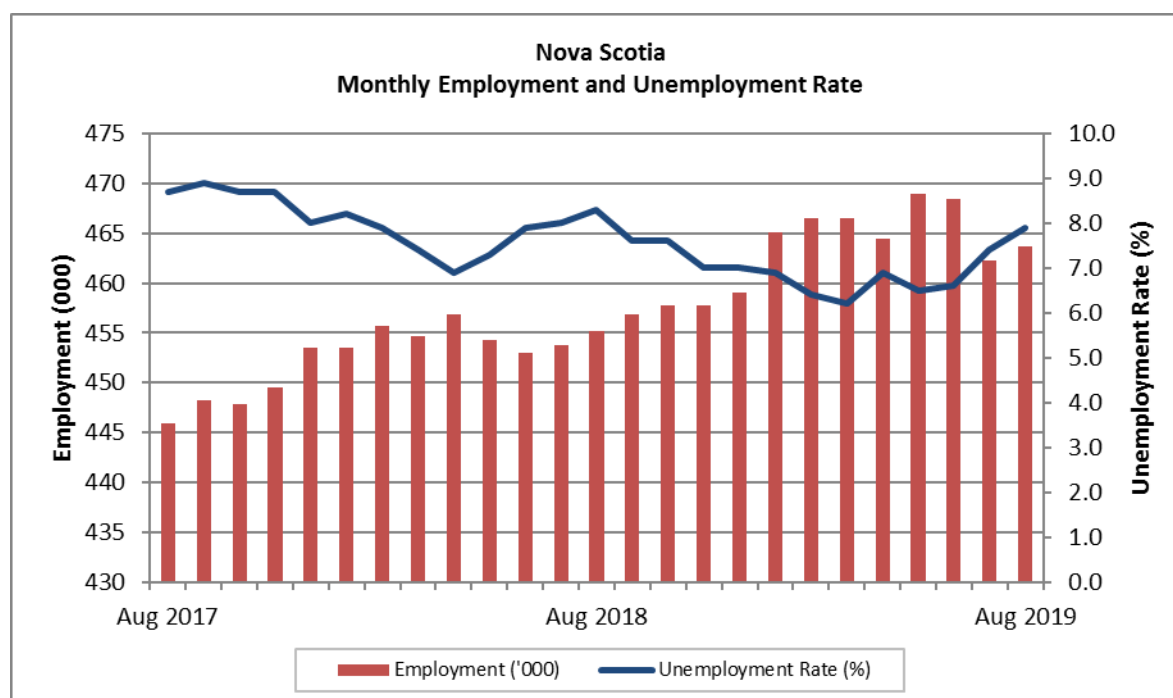
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data | Aug 2019 | July 2019 | Aug 2018 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 808.6 | 807.4 | 799.7 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 8.9 | 1.1 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 503.5 | 498.9 | 496.2 | 4.6 | 0.9 | 7.3 | 1.5 |
| Employment ('000) | 463.7 | 462.2 | 455.2 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 8.5 | 1.9 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 377.1 | 377.5 | 377.4 | -0.4 | -0.1 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 86.7 | 84.7 | 77.8 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 8.9 | 11.4 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 39.8 | 36.7 | 41.0 | 3.1 | 8.4 | -1.2 | -2.9 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 7.9 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 0.5 | - | -0.4 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 62.3 | 61.8 | 62.0 | 0.5 | - | 0.3 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 57.3 | 57.2 | 56.9 | 0.1 | - | 0.4 | - |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared with August 2018, developments in the labour market appear more positive with 8,500 more Nova Scotians working. The working-age population and the labour force also grew by a comparable amount over this period. As a result, Nova Scotia's unemployment rate improved modestly from a rate of 8.3% in August 2018.



Employment levels were higher among both females and males, and across broad age groups over the past year, with more than half of the job gains attributed to prime-aged workers (aged 25 to 54 years). Unemployment rates were also lower across broad age groups compared to last year, with the exception being prime-aged workers. In August 2019, the unemployment rate for prime-age workers was 6.5%, unchanged from August 2018, as more workers entered the labour force in search of work. Over the same period, while the overall male unemployment rate fell as a result of higher employment levels among males, the female unemployment rate rose slightly as more females entered the workforce in search of work.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | Aug 2019 | July 2019 | Aug 2018 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| | % | % | % | (% points) | (% points) |
| Total | 7.9 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 0.5 | -0.4 |
| 25 years and over | 6.6 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 0.5 | -0.2 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 7.7 | 7.2 | 8.5 | 0.5 | -0.8 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 5.3 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| 15 to 24 years | 15.7 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 0.7 | -0.6 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 16.0 | 14.8 | 18.0 | 1.2 | -2.0 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 15.4 | 15.2 | 14.4 | 0.2 | 1.0 |

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Compared to August 2018, employment levels have increased at a faster pace in the **goods-producing** sector in Nova Scotia. Among **goods-producing** industries, the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry group had the largest year-over-year employment gains, rising by 3,400. Employment in this industry has been on an upward trend over the past year. Exports of fish and seafood products have been higher through the first half of 2019 including exports to China, the U.S. and Europe. There continues to be positive news in mining with

the recent opening of the Touquoy gold mine in Moose River and the Donkin coal mine in Cape Breton. The **construction** industry also experienced strong job gains, adding 2,800 positions since August 2018. A number of large residential and non-residential projects are underway in the province including school, hospital and highway projects.

Employment in the **services-producing** sector rose by 1,200 compared with August 2018. The only significant job gains among **services-producing** industries occurred in the **health care and social assistance** industry which has added 6,800 positions since last year. Employment has continued to trend higher in this industry as demand for health services grow due in part to the aging demographics.

Nova Scotia Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | Aug 2019 | July 2019 | Aug 2018 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|-------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 463.7 | 462.2 | 455.2 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 8.5 | 1.9 |
| Goods-producing sector | 86.2 | 83.6 | 78.8 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 7.4 | 9.4 |
| Agriculture | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 0.2 | 3.5 | 0.6 | 11.3 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 10.6 | 10.6 | 7.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.4 | 47.2 |
| Utilities | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.7 | -0.4 | -10.5 | -0.3 | -8.1 |
| Construction | 35.0 | 33.3 | 32.2 | 1.7 | 5.1 | 2.8 | 8.7 |
| Manufacturing | 31.3 | 30.2 | 30.4 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| Services-producing sector | 377.6 | 378.6 | 376.4 | -1.0 | -0.3 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| Trade | 81.2 | 80.1 | 81.6 | 1.1 | 1.4 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 19.0 | 19.6 | 18.5 | -0.6 | -3.1 | 0.5 | 2.7 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 21.4 | 20.9 | 21.2 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 0.2 | 0.9 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 27.7 | 28.2 | 28.9 | -0.5 | -1.8 | -1.2 | -4.2 |
| Business, building and other support services | 16.8 | 16.3 | 18.3 | 0.5 | 3.1 | -1.5 | -8.2 |
| Educational services | 36.2 | 35.8 | 37.3 | 0.4 | 1.1 | -1.1 | -2.9 |
| Health care and social assistance | 74.2 | 74.9 | 67.4 | -0.7 | -0.9 | 6.8 | 10.1 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 18.7 | 19.3 | 18.6 | -0.6 | -3.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Accommodation and food services | 35.5 | 36.0 | 36.5 | -0.5 | -1.4 | -1.0 | -2.7 |
| Other services | 17.4 | 18.2 | 19.1 | -0.8 | -4.4 | -1.7 | -8.9 |
| Public administration | 29.5 | 29.3 | 28.9 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 2.1 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

From a regional perspective, labour markets strengthened in four of Nova Scotia's economic regions. Employment levels in the **Southern** economic region, by contrast, have declined from last August.

In the **Cape Breton** economic region 2,500 more people have found work since August 2018 resulting in a fall in the region's unemployment rate, from 14.6% to 13.1% August 2019. 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**, **construction** and **wholesale and retail trade**. 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.

Employment in the **North Shore** economic region increased by 2,600 year-over-year mainly as a result of an increase in part-time jobs. The region's unemployment rate declined noticeably from 9.4% last year to 6.9% in August 2019. Among industry groups, employment rose the most in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry. Employment in the region's **manufacturing** industry was up by 500. A couple of large manufacturers in the

region have announced hiring plans since last August, including Michelin and Zennabis Cannabis, though a Truro carpet mill employing roughly 240 workers closed in July.

In the **Annapolis Valley** economic region, employment rose by 200 since August 2018. Over the same period, more people joined the labour force in search of work resulting in a slight rise in the unemployment rate from 5.8% last year to 6.7% in August 2019. 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, public administration** and **accommodation and food services**.

Employment levels in the **Southern** economic region were lower than they were in August of last year as a result of declines in both part-time and full-time work. With fewer persons employed, the unemployment rate rose noticeably from 6.1% in August 2018 to 9.1% in August 2019. Among industries, the largest employment declines were in the **wholesale and retail trade** and **accommodation and food services** industry groups. Construction and approval delays associated with the renovations of the Bar Harbor ferry terminal have impacted the seasonal ferry service between Yarmouth and Bar Harbour, ME. Provincial tourism indicators also point to lower activity in the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores region of the province in the first half of 2019.

The **Halifax** economic region has experienced the largest increase in employment since last August, adding 10,900 jobs, with similar 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 rising steadily over the past couple of years, but picked up pace in the summer months with employment reaching its highest level on record, at 248,000 in August 2019. As a result, the region's unemployment rate fell to 5.7% in August 2019, down from 6.6% last August. The region has experienced job gains across a broad range of industries in both the goods-producing and service-producing sectors. The largest increases have been in **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing, wholesale and retail trade, and accommodation and food services** industries.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| 3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Aug 2019 ('000) | Aug 2018 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | Aug 2019 (%) | Aug 2018 (%) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
| Nova Scotia | 475.3 | 465.6 | 2.1 | 7.1 | 7.8 | -0.7 |
| Economic Regions | | | | | | |
| Cape Breton | 50.5 | 48.0 | 5.2 | 13.1 | 14.6 | -1.5 |
| North Shore | 71.1 | 68.5 | 3.8 | 6.9 | 9.4 | -2.5 |
| Annapolis Valley | 58.5 | 58.3 | 0.3 | 6.7 | 5.8 | 0.9 |
| Southern | 47.2 | 53.8 | -12.3 | 9.1 | 6.1 | 3.0 |
| Halifax | 248.0 | 237.1 | 4.6 | 5.7 | 6.6 | -0.9 |

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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