



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

September 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 employed Nova Scotians fell by 2,900 positions in the third quarter (Q3). It was the first time that employment declined since Q3 2017. The drop in employment was mainly due to a loss of part-time work. With fewer Nova Scotians working, the unemployment rate rose slightly to 7.5%, up from 6.7% the previous quarter.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

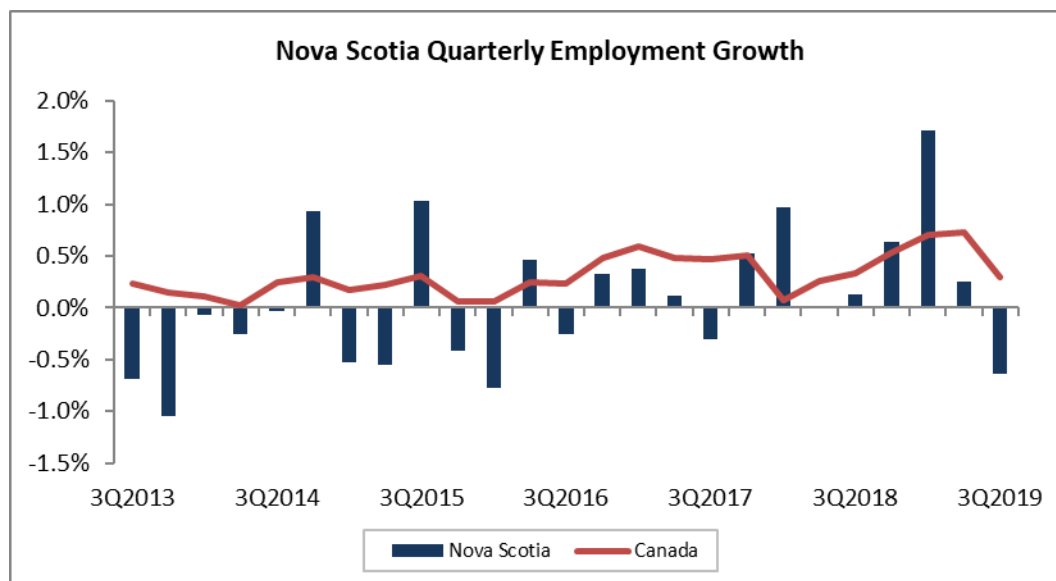
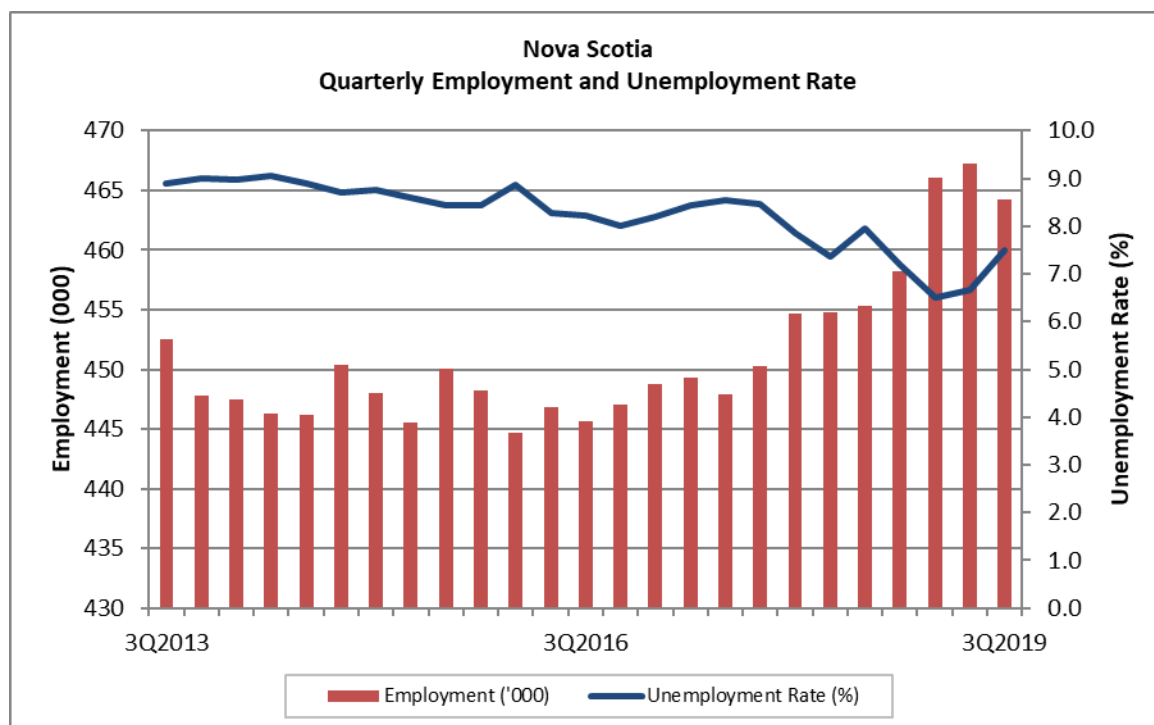
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	808.6	805.2	799.7	3.4	0.4	8.9	1.1
Labour Force ('000)	501.8	500.6	494.7	1.2	0.2	7.1	1.4
Employment ('000)	464.3	467.2	455.3	-2.9	-0.6	9.0	2.0
Full-Time ('000)	378.7	379.1	374.7	-0.4	-0.1	4.0	1.1
Part-Time ('000)	85.6	88.1	80.6	-2.5	-2.8	5.0	6.2
Unemployment ('000)	37.5	33.4	39.4	4.1	12.3	-1.9	-4.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	6.7	8.0	0.8	-	-0.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.1	62.2	61.9	-0.1	-	0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.4	58.0	56.9	-0.6	-	0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared with the third quarter (Q3) of 2018, there were more noticeable improvements in the labour market. The number of employed Nova Scotians has risen by 9,000, with gains in both part-time and full-time work. There have also been strong gains in the working-age population and labour force. As a result of higher employment levels, the province's unemployment rate fell from 8.0% in Q3 2018 to 7.5% in Q3 2019.

The private sector in Nova Scotia, representing two-thirds of workers, benefitted from healthy employment gains with 14,900 jobs added since Q3 2018. The public sector, representing just a quarter of employment, lost 800 positions while employment among the self-employed declined by 5,100.



While the job gains over the past year have been shared among the broad age groups, more than half have been for prime-age workers (aged 25-54 years old), resulting in a decline in the unemployment rate for this group. Nearly all of the jobs added for prime-aged workers were full-time. The number of youth (aged 15-24 years old) employed rose by 1,700 from a year ago, all in part-time work. The youth unemployment rate declined by a full percentage point from 15.8% to 14.8%. Still, this was higher than the overall youth unemployment rate in Canada which was 11.6%. The number of employed older workers (aged 55 and over) also rose from a year ago. Similar to youth, the gains were in part-time work. As a result of higher employment levels among older workers, the unemployment rate for this group declined slightly. The largest gains in population over the past year were for older workers. These gains did not translate into higher labour force participation though, and the participation rate fell to 33.7% for this group, the lowest level since Q3 2015.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2019 (%)	2019 (%)	2018 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.5	6.7	8.0	0.8	-0.5
25 years and over	6.3	5.8	6.6	0.5	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	7.4	7.2	8.2	0.1	-0.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.0	4.3	4.8	0.7	0.2
15 to 24 years	14.8	11.6	15.8	3.2	-1.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.6	13.3	18.2	1.3	-3.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.9	9.8	13.2	5.1	1.6

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

Compared with Q3 2018, there were over 4,000 jobs added in each of the **goods-producing** and **services-producing** sectors in Nova Scotia. Among the **goods-producing** industries, only two industries had noticeable job gains. The **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry added 2,400 positions from the previous year, a gain of 30%. Employment in this industry has been helped by higher international exports through 2019. Exports of fishing products are up 20% in Nova Scotia while exports of forestry and logging products are up by 15%. Activity in the oil and gas sector has been weaker as a result of the end of production at Nova Scotia's only two offshore gas developments in late 2018.

The **construction** industry has added 2,200 jobs since Q3 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 and highway construction. This includes expansions and renovations at Hospitals in Halifax and Cape Breton as part of the Queen Elizabeth II and Cape Breton Regional Municipality health care redevelopment projects, as well as the twinning and improvement of Highways 101, 102, 103, 104, and construction of the Burnside Connector.

Among the **services-producing** industries, only the **health care and social assistance** industry experienced noticeable employment gains, with 7,700 positions added. Employment has been expanding in this industry in the last four quarters after a year of decline. Aging demographics have boosted demand for health services while fiscal constraints and the supply of some health care professionals have limited job growth. The **business, building and other support services, education, and other services** industries each experienced modest employment declines since Q3 2018. Employment in the **business, building and other support services** and **other services** industries has been on a downward trend over the past year while employment in the **education** industry had been trending higher.

Nova Scotia Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	464.3	467.2	455.3	-3.0	-0.6	9.0	2.0
Goods-producing sector	85.5	86.1	80.9	-0.6	-0.7	4.6	5.7
Agriculture	5.8	6.2	5.3	-0.4	-6.4	0.5	10.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.5	11.7	8.1	-1.2	-10.3	2.4	29.8
Utilities	3.6	3.7	3.6	-0.1	-3.6	0.0	-0.9
Construction	34.7	33.6	32.5	1.1	3.4	2.2	6.9
Manufacturing	30.9	30.9	31.4	0.1	0.2	-0.5	-1.6
Services-producing sector	378.8	381.1	374.4	-2.3	-0.6	4.4	1.2
Trade	80.6	82.4	80.2	-1.8	-2.2	0.4	0.5
Transportation and warehousing	19.2	19.8	18.7	-0.7	-3.4	0.4	2.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	21.7	21.0	21.4	0.7	3.5	0.3	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.0	28.2	28.6	-0.2	-0.8	-0.6	-2.0
Business, building and other support services	16.6	17.3	18.3	-0.7	-4.2	-1.7	-9.3
Educational services	36.1	38.6	37.8	-2.4	-6.3	-1.6	-4.3
Health care and social assistance	74.7	73.2	67.0	1.6	2.1	7.7	11.5
Information, culture and recreation	18.7	19.7	18.9	-1.0	-5.1	-0.2	-1.2
Accommodation and food services	36.0	34.4	35.4	1.7	4.8	0.6	1.8
Other services	17.5	17.3	19.2	0.2	1.2	-1.6	-8.5
Public administration	29.5	29.1	28.9	0.4	1.4	0.7	2.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared with Q3 2018, four out of five economic regions in Nova Scotia experienced employment gains while the **Southern** economic region experienced job losses.

Labour market conditions in the **Cape Breton** economic region improved from a year earlier with 2,000 more persons employed, mostly in full-time work. The rise in employment resulted in a noticeable drop in the region's unemployment rate from 14.9% to 12.7%. The largest employment gains were for the **health care and social assistance** and **educational services** industries. There are some construction projects underway in the region including the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) Health Care Redevelopment Plan which involves expansion, renovations and construction of health care facilities.

There were similar employment increases observed in the **North Shore** economic region with 2,100 positions added, but most of the gains were in part-time work. Higher employment levels in the region contributed to a sizeable decline in the unemployment rate from 8.8% in Q3 2018 to 7.1% in Q3 2019. The **wholesale and retail trade** industry was responsible for more than half of the jobs added in the region, growing by 4,300 positions. The **manufacturing** industry also experienced relatively large gains with 1,600 positions added. Michelin, a large employer in the region, announced last fall it would be adding 150 jobs at its Granton site. International exports of tires and related products have also been higher through the first eight months of the year.

Jobs gained in the **Annapolis Valley** economic region were slightly higher, with 2,400 positions added. At the same time, a large number of people joining the labour force in search of work resulted in a rise in the region's unemployment rate to 6.8% from 5.8% in Q3 2018. Job gains were concentrated in three industries: **health care and social assistance**, **public administration** and **agriculture**. Job gains in the **agriculture** industry occurred in spite of negative impacts related to late frosts in 2018 and damage from hurricane Dorian in September of 2019.

The **Southern** economic region experienced an employment decline of 6,800 positions, mostly in full-time work. The region's unemployment rate rose substantially over the year from 5.6% in Q3 2018 to 9.2% in Q3 2019. Employment losses occurred across a number of industries, with the largest in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry. The Yarmouth ferry was not operating through the summer months of 2019, negatively impacting tourism. Room nights sold through the first seven months of 2019 were down by more than 20% in the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores, the largest decline among tourism regions.

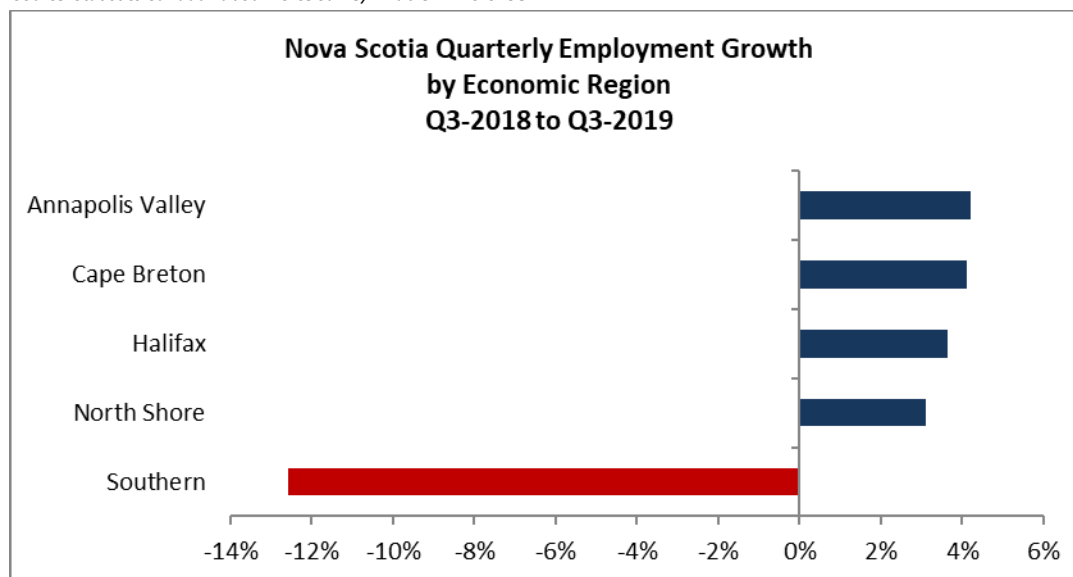
The labour market in the **Halifax** region improved greatly over the past year. Employment rose by 8,600 with similar gains in the working-age population and labour force. Nearly all of Nova Scotia's population and labour force gains were in this region. The majority of the job gains were full-time in nature, and with more people employed the region's unemployment rate declined to 5.9% from 6.5% a year ago. This was the lowest unemployment rate among the economic regions of Nova Scotia. Employment gains were spread across a number of industries, reflecting the diversity in the Halifax economy. The largest gains were in the **health care and social assistance**; **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing**; **accommodation and food services**, and **construction** industries.

Nova Scotia 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)
Nova Scotia	473.1	464.8	1.8	7.3	7.6	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	50.5	48.5	4.1	12.7	14.9	-2.2
North Shore	70.1	68.0	3.1	7.1	8.8	-1.7
Annapolis Valley	59.3	56.9	4.2	6.8	5.8	1.0
Southern	47.3	54.1	-12.6	9.2	5.6	3.6
Halifax	245.9	237.3	3.6	5.9	6.5	-0.6

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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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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