



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

November 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

In November, there was little change in the unemployment rate from the month before. Employment and labour force size both had small losses. Full-time employment fell to its lowest level in nearly a year. The unemployment rate was lower than a year ago. While there were more people employed than in November of last year, there were fewer people in the labour market.

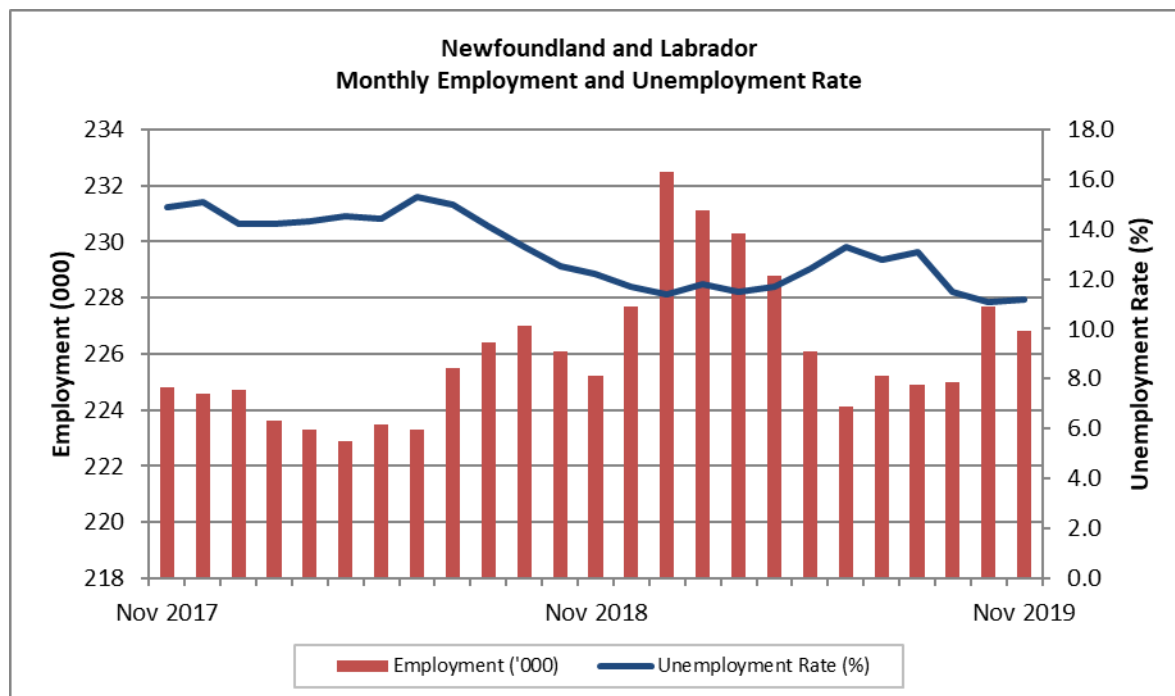
Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data | Nov 2019 | Oct 2019 | Nov 2018 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 439.9 | 439.9 | 442.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -2.5 | -0.6 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 255.4 | 256.0 | 256.4 | -0.6 | -0.2 | -1.0 | -0.4 |
| Employment ('000) | 226.8 | 227.7 | 225.2 | -0.9 | -0.4 | 1.6 | 0.7 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 189.7 | 192.0 | 187.4 | -2.3 | -1.2 | 2.3 | 1.2 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 37.1 | 35.7 | 37.8 | 1.4 | 3.9 | -0.7 | -1.9 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 28.6 | 28.4 | 31.2 | 0.2 | 0.7 | -2.6 | -8.3 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 11.2 | 11.1 | 12.2 | 0.1 | - | -1.0 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 58.1 | 58.2 | 58.0 | -0.1 | - | 0.1 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 51.6 | 51.8 | 50.9 | -0.2 | - | 0.7 | - |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Relatively steady labour market conditions kept the unemployment rate elevated through the first half of 2018, until falling in the second half of the year due to employment growth. In 2019, employment moved lower through August, raising the unemployment rate. However, a shrinking labour force combined with rising employment levels in recent months have lowered the unemployment rate.



Among major age and gender groups, employment losses over the previous month were experienced by males 25 years and older. While having fewer jobs, this group had more people in the labour force. This resulted in a considerably higher unemployment rate than a month ago.

Youth (ages 15 to 24 years) and women aged 25 years and older both experienced lower unemployment rates from October. Both groups had a small employment increase and slightly fewer people active in the labour market.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | Nov 2019 | Oct 2019 | Nov 2018 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| | % | % | % | (% points) | (% points) |
| Total | 11.2 | 11.1 | 12.2 | 0.1 | -1.0 |
| 25 years and over | 10.9 | 10.4 | 10.9 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 13.4 | 10.9 | 13.4 | 2.5 | 0.0 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 8.1 | 9.7 | 8.2 | -1.6 | -0.1 |
| 15 to 24 years | 13.6 | 16.4 | 22.0 | -2.8 | -8.4 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 15.0 | 18.0 | 24.2 | -3.0 | -9.2 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 12.2 | 13.9 | 19.4 | -1.7 | -7.2 |

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

While the youth unemployment rate in November was significantly lower than a year ago, caution should be exercised in assuming that labour market conditions for this group have notably improved. This is because data for this group can be quite volatile from one month to another, with large changes up and down throughout the year.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** was slightly higher than the previous month, as well as a year ago. A gain in **construction** outweighed a loss in **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**. While **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** showed lower employment than in October, the industry has been relatively steady for most of the year following an increase in 2018. The Hebron Oil Project became operational in 2018, while mining has experienced increased activity with the start of the Voisey's Bay Mine Expansion among the positive developments.

Employment in the **services-producing sector** has declined from the previous month. Following a period of relatively steady employment levels over the past year, **information, culture and recreation** had a sharp loss in November. **Health care and social assistance** continued to decline, with 3,700 fewer workers than in January. **Wholesale and retail trade** rebounded slightly, but employment in the industry remained lower than a year ago. **Public administration** employment has generally climbed over the past two years. The past two months have reported the highest levels for this industry in nearly six years. Most of the job gains came from the federal and local government levels.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | Nov 2019 | Oct 2019 | Nov 2018 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 226.8 | 227.7 | 225.2 | -0.9 | -0.4 | 1.6 | 0.7 |
| Goods-producing sector | 46.1 | 45.7 | 45.8 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Agriculture | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 100.0 | 0.3 | 27.3 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 13.9 | 14.9 | 13.7 | -1.0 | -6.7 | 0.2 | 1.5 |
| Utilities | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.1 | -0.3 | -11.1 | -0.7 | -22.6 |
| Construction | 19.5 | 17.9 | 18.8 | 1.6 | 8.9 | 0.7 | 3.7 |
| Manufacturing | 9.0 | 9.5 | 9.1 | -0.5 | -5.3 | -0.1 | -1.1 |
| Services-producing sector | 180.6 | 181.9 | 179.4 | -1.3 | -0.7 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Trade | 36.2 | 35.3 | 37.5 | 0.9 | 2.5 | -1.3 | -3.5 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 11.5 | 10.8 | 11.9 | 0.7 | 6.5 | -0.4 | -3.4 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.9 | -0.1 | -1.5 | -0.5 | -7.2 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 9.9 | 9.4 | 10.4 | 0.5 | 5.3 | -0.5 | -4.8 |
| Business, building and other support services | 7.5 | 8.1 | 6.3 | -0.6 | -7.4 | 1.2 | 19.0 |
| Educational services | 16.8 | 16.9 | 15.6 | -0.1 | -0.6 | 1.2 | 7.7 |
| Health care and social assistance | 38.2 | 39.2 | 41.3 | -1.0 | -2.6 | -3.1 | -7.5 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 6.8 | 8.0 | 7.4 | -1.2 | -15.0 | -0.6 | -8.1 |
| Accommodation and food services | 16.6 | 17.0 | 15.6 | -0.4 | -2.4 | 1.0 | 6.4 |
| Other services | 11.6 | 11.5 | 8.9 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 2.7 | 30.3 |
| Public administration | 19.2 | 19.3 | 17.5 | -0.1 | -0.5 | 1.7 | 9.7 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate dropped in all three economic regions.

The **Avalon Peninsula** was the only economic region with an increase in employment and labour force size. This growth has been mainly in the St. John's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), adding 3,600 full-time jobs compared to a year ago. The services-producing sector added jobs, continuing a trend since the summer of 2018. Educational services was particularly strong. The goods-producing sector employed

fewer people, led by losses in construction. Declines have persisted over the past year, with losses deepening in recent months.

While the unemployment rate declined in the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** region, labour force and employment losses have been steep. Virtually all of the employment decline was in the services-producing sector, in industries such as educational services and health care and social assistance. Compared to this part of the province, employment and labour force losses in the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** have been milder, with generally small employment changes across industries.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| 3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Nov 2019 ('000) | Nov 2018 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | Nov 2019 (%) | Nov 2018 (%) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 228.0 | 229.5 | -0.7 | 10.2 | 11.5 | -1.3 |
| Economic Regions | | | | | | |
| Avalon Peninsula | 138.3 | 134.9 | 2.5 | 7.5 | 8.7 | -1.2 |
| South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay | 48.7 | 53.4 | -8.8 | 15.2 | 15.5 | -0.3 |
| West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador | 41.1 | 41.2 | -0.2 | 12.6 | 14.9 | -2.3 |

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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