



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

December 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

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2019 was lower than in the previous quarter. While employment remained relatively steady, the size of the labour force decreased. Though employment was lower than a year ago, the drop in the unemployment rate over this period was mainly due to fewer people being in the labour force. The quarterly unemployment rate had not been this low for an extended period in five years. While this rate would be similar to the rate at the end of 2014, there were approximately 13,000 more jobs and 15,000 more people in the labour force at that time.

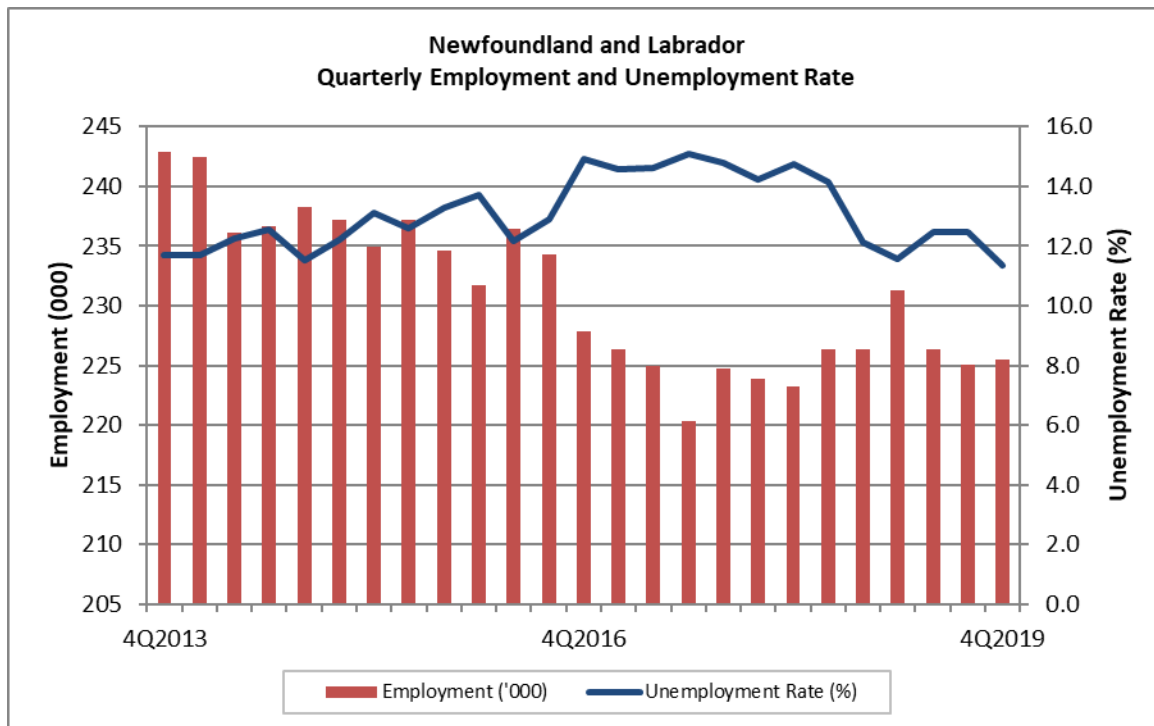
Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	439.9	440.0	442.4	-0.1	0.0	-2.5	-0.6
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	254.2	257.1	257.6	-2.9	-1.1	-3.4	-1.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	225.4	225.0	226.3	0.4	0.2	-0.9	-0.4
Full-Time ('000)	189.2	192.3	188.7	-3.1	-1.6	0.5	0.3
Part-Time ('000)	36.2	32.7	37.7	3.5	10.7	-1.5	-4.0
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	28.9	32.0	31.2	-3.1	-9.7	-2.3	-7.4
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	11.4	12.5	12.1	-1.1	-	-0.7	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	57.8	58.4	58.2	-0.6	-	-0.4	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	51.3	51.1	51.2	0.2	-	0.1	-

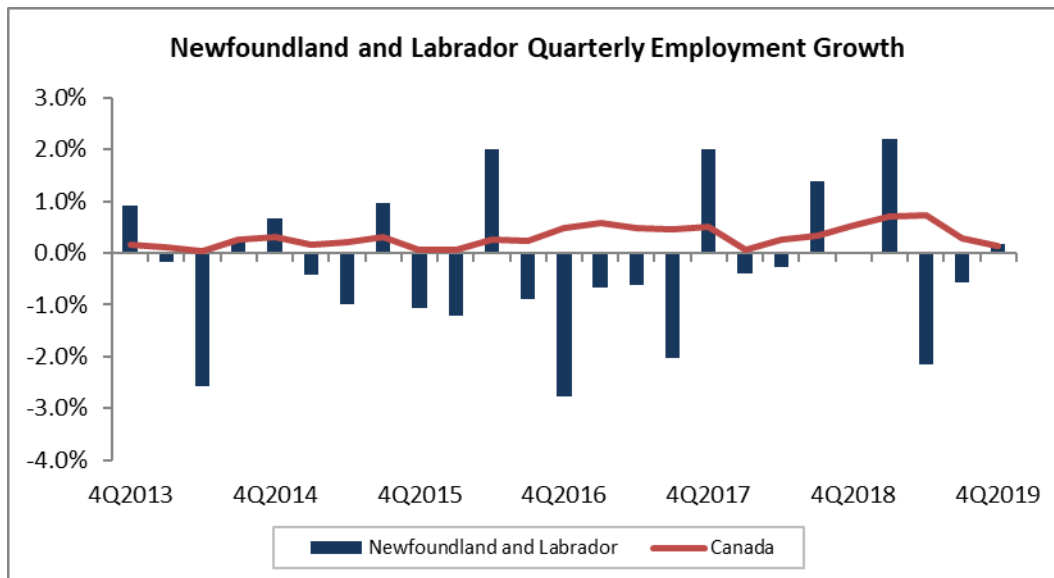
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Historically, a sustained decline in employment since 2013 had brought the quarterly unemployment rate to a seven-year high of 15.1% in the third quarter of 2017. This rate remained above 14% over the next four quarters due to slow employment and labour force growth. However, since last fall, the unemployment rate has dropped, mainly due to a shrinking labour force.



Canada has generally experienced consistent, small employment gains over the past six years, whereas employment levels in Newfoundland and Labrador have been more volatile. The pace of employment growth in the province has generally lagged behind the rest of the country since the second half of 2013. Compared to six years ago, Canada’s employment levels have risen by nearly 8%, while Newfoundland and Labrador has fallen by 7%, the largest decline in the country over this time. In comparison, employment in British Columbia has increased by 13% since the end of 2013.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate fell by more than four percentage points from the third quarter, reaching its lowest rate in more than three years. However, this was due to a decline in labour force size. Following gains in early 2019, youth employment has been quite stable.

The unemployment rate for males 25 years and older showed little change from the previous quarter. Throughout most of 2019, employment and the size of the labour force have both weakened slowly, keeping the unemployment rate for this group near 13%.

For females 25 years and over, quarterly employment increased for the first time in a year. The most recent results reversed a rise in the unemployment rate in the third quarter, bringing the rate closer to where it was a year ago. Even though the unemployment rate was virtually the same as in the fourth quarter of 2019, employment as well as the size of the labour force have both declined by more than 3,000 over this time.

#### Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
	2019 (%)	2019 (%)	2018 (%)		
<b>Total</b>	11.4	12.5	12.1	-1.1	-0.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	10.8	11.5	11.0	-0.6	-0.2
Men - 25 years and over	12.8	13.1	13.3	-0.3	-0.5
Women - 25 years and over	8.6	9.6	8.5	-1.0	0.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	15.2	19.4	21.1	-4.2	-5.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.9	17.6	24.5	0.3	-6.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.1	21.4	16.7	-9.2	-4.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In the fourth quarter (Q4) 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 72,800 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic Provinces was 41,200, unchanged from a year earlier (Q4) 2018. There was a slight increase in full-time positions (+300 or +0.9%) offset by a decrease in part-time positions (-300 or 3.6%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 12.6% in Q4 2019, up 0.3 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate increased to 7.9% (+0.2pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among Indigenous people decreased to 64.7% (-1.7pp), while the participation rate for the non-Indigenous population increased slightly to 60.6% (+0.3pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population decreased year-over-year to 56.5% (-1.7pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population reached 55.8% (+0.1%).

## Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q4 2019	Q4 2018	number	%	Q4 2019	Q4 2018	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	72.8	70.7	2.1	3.0%	1,942.5	1,928.3	14.2	0.7%
Labour Force ('000)	47.1	47.0	0.1	0.2%	1,176.7	1,163.7	13.0	1.1%
Employment ('000)	41.2	41.2	0.0	0.0%	1,083.5	1,074.0	9.5	0.9%
Full-Time ('000)	33.2	32.9	0.3	0.9%	899.8	894.7	5.1	0.6%
Part-Time ('000)	8.0	8.3	-0.3	-3.6%	183.8	179.2	4.6	2.6%
Unemployment ('000)	5.9	5.8	0.1	1.7%	93.2	89.8	3.4	3.8%
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.6	12.3	0.3	-	7.9	7.7	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.7	66.4	-1.7	-	60.6	60.3	0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.5	58.2	-1.7	-	55.8	55.7	0.1	-

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

A quarterly gain in the **services-producing sector** outweighed a loss in the **goods-producing sector**. In the **services-producing sector**, **retail and wholesale trade** had its strongest quarterly gain in four years. However, numerous losses in recent years have left employment levels close to where they were following a recession in 2009. **Public administration** has produced employment gains for eight of the past nine quarters.

In the **goods-producing sector**, **construction** employment has been trending downward over the past number of years due to a drop in major construction project activity. Construction related to the West White Rose Oil Project and Vale's underground mine expansion have prevented an otherwise steeper loss in the industry.

## Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2019	2019	2018	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	225.4	225.0	226.3	0.4	0.2	-0.9	-0.4
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	45.1	46.6	46.8	-1.5	-3.2	-1.8	-3.8
Agriculture	1.1	1.3	1.1	-0.1	-10.5	0.0	3.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.6	13.9	14.0	-0.3	-2.2	-0.3	-2.4
Utilities	2.5	2.8	3.1	-0.3	-9.5	-0.5	-17.4
Construction	18.5	19.5	19.5	-0.9	-4.8	-0.9	-4.8
Manufacturing	9.2	9.1	9.2	0.2	1.8	0.0	0.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	180.3	178.5	179.5	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.4
Trade	35.8	34.1	37.6	1.7	4.9	-1.8	-4.8
Transportation and warehousing	11.1	12.0	12.0	-0.9	-7.5	-0.9	-7.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.4	6.8	6.8	-0.4	-5.9	-0.4	-5.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	9.7	9.4	10.4	0.3	3.2	-0.7	-7.1
Business, building and other support services	7.5	7.6	6.5	-0.1	-0.9	1.0	15.4
Educational services	16.4	16.4	15.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	5.3
Health care and social assistance	38.7	38.3	40.8	0.4	1.0	-2.1	-5.1
Information, culture and recreation	7.2	7.7	7.5	-0.6	-7.3	-0.3	-4.0
Accommodation and food services	16.9	16.7	15.7	0.1	0.8	1.2	7.7
Other services	11.6	11.1	9.1	0.5	4.8	2.5	27.5
Public administration	19.1	18.3	17.5	0.8	4.2	1.6	8.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The **Avalon Peninsula** was the only economic region to have an employment gain. In other economic regions, the size of the labour force has decreased in each quarter for approximately the past two years.

Employment growth has resulted in lower unemployment rates in each of the past five quarters on the **Avalon Peninsula**. Most of the rise in employment has been in full-time positions. Services-producing industries experienced the bulk of the job gain, with educational services leading the way. In the goods-producing sector, forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas has been generally growing for over a year, mainly due to support activities related to mining and oil and gas.

Over the past two years, the unemployment rate in the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central Bonavista Bay** region has generally moved lower. There have been fewer people in the labour force. However, employment declined faster in the most recent quarter, raising the unemployment rate. Services-producing sector employment declined throughout 2019.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region, the size of the labour force has been getting smaller since the start of 2018, moving the unemployment rate lower. Employment in the most recent quarter was virtually unchanged from a year earlier. Gains in the goods-producing sector were matched by losses in the services-producing sector.

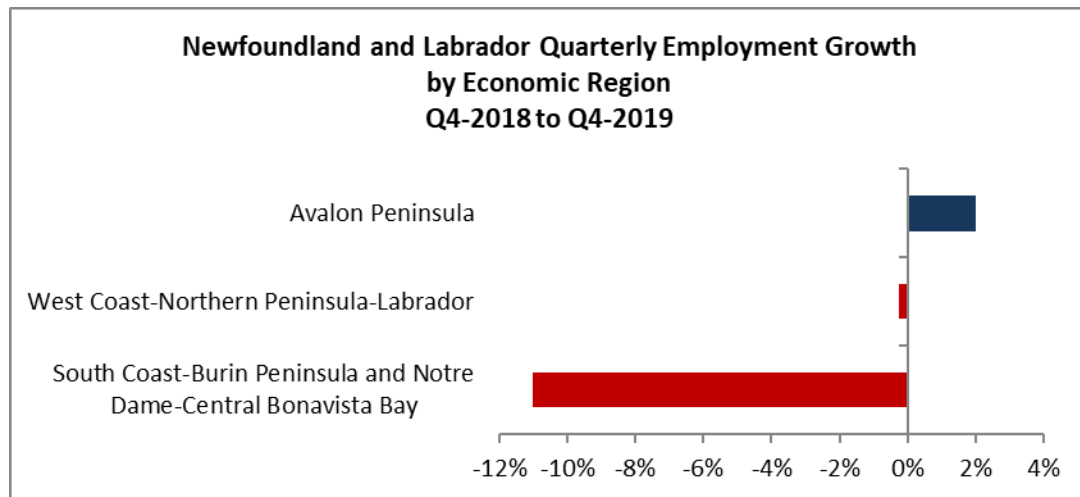
Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2019 ('000)	4th Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2019 (%)	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	223.4	226.6	-1.4	11.0	11.6	-0.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	136.7	134.0	2.0	8.3	8.5	-0.2
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	46.8	52.6	-11.0	16.3	15.9	0.4
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	39.9	40.0	-0.3	13.4	15.3	-1.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293

While employment increased on the **Avalon Peninsula** for the sixth consecutive quarter, the **South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay** region had its deepest quarterly employment loss in five years.



**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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