



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

October 2021



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 October, employment in the province dropped slightly (-800) compared to the previous month, mainly due to a loss in full-time positions. The size of the labour force increased (+1,300) over the same period, resulting in the highest unemployment rate since April. Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province to have lower employment (-3,700) than a year earlier.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

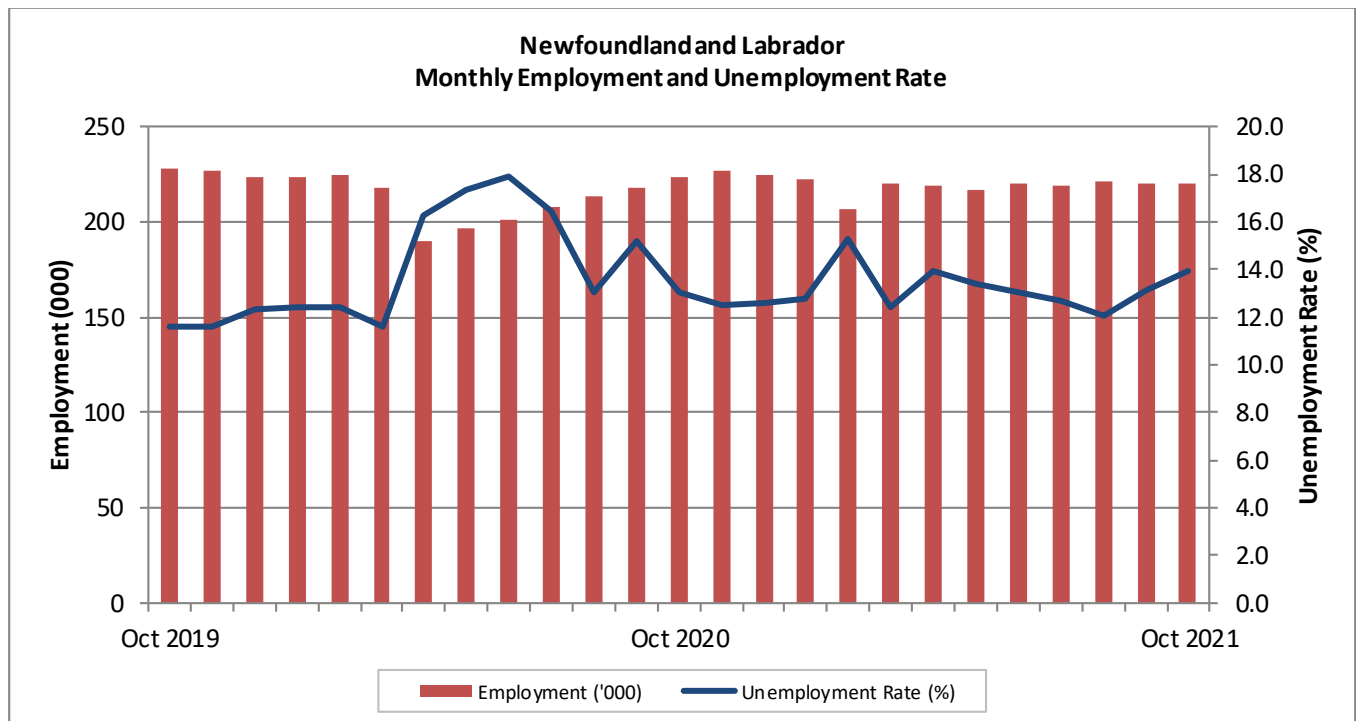
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	445.5	445.4	445.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Labour Force ('000)	255.2	253.9	256.9	1.3	0.5	-1.7	-0.7
Employment ('000)	219.8	220.6	223.5	-0.8	-0.4	-3.7	-1.7
Full-Time ('000)	186.4	189.3	186.4	-2.9	-1.5	0.0	0.0
Part-Time ('000)	33.4	31.3	37.1	2.1	6.7	-3.7	-10.0
Unemployment ('000)	35.4	33.3	33.5	2.1	6.3	1.9	5.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.9	13.1	13.0	0.8	-	0.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	57.3	57.0	57.7	0.3	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	49.3	49.5	50.2	-0.2	-	-0.9	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Prior to April of 2020, the unemployment rate was generally stable, near 12% since the fall of 2018. This was because the size of the labour force moved in line with changing employment levels over this time. However, employment declined by nearly 30,000 jobs in April of 2020, raising the unemployment rate considerably through

the summer of that year. Since then, the province has regained much of this employment loss, with the unemployment rate typically near 13% over the past year.



Youth (ages to 15 to 24 years) had most of the monthly employment loss, with 1,300 fewer jobs. As a result, the youth unemployment rate was more than three percentage points higher. Compared to a year earlier, youth unemployment rate increased by nearly seven percentage points.

For males aged 25 years and older, employment increased over the previous month, but the unemployment rate also went up. This was mainly due to strong growth (+3,100) in the size of the labour force. While the unemployment rate for females of the same age group fell from the month before, this was due to having fewer people in the labour force. Females of this age group had fewer people employed (-3,000) and a smaller labour force (-4,200) compared to a year ago. In contrast, males 25 years and older showed little difference.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	13.9	13.1	13.0	0.8	0.9
25 years and over	13.0	12.7	13.1	0.3	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	17.4	16.2	17.0	1.2	0.4
Women - 25 years and over	8.1	8.9	8.9	-0.8	-0.8
15 to 24 years	19.1	15.9	12.4	3.2	6.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	22.7	20.6	11.8	2.1	10.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.2	11.0	13.0	4.2	2.2

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **services-producing sector** declined (-3,300) over the past month. **Accommodation and food services** (-1,500) continued to struggle. In February of 2020, just prior to the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, this industry set a record employment high. Since then, employment in the industry has fallen by 38%. **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** (-1,100) fell to its lowest level since the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when a virtual economic lockdown occurred.

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** increased (+2,400) over the previous month. Even with a job gain in **Construction** (+1,000), employment was 1,600 less than pre-pandemic levels. A monthly rise in **manufacturing** (+1,100) had the industry at a similar level as a year earlier. **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** (+1,000) continued its upward trend experienced over the past year. Mining projects throughout the province have been the main source of growth.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	219.8	220.6	223.5	-0.8	-0.4	-3.7	-1.7
Goods-producing sector	44.3	41.9	43.6	2.4	5.7	0.7	1.6
Agriculture	0.7	1.4	1.0	-0.7	-50.0	-0.3	-30.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.5	13.5	12.3	1.0	7.4	2.2	17.9
Utilities	1.5	1.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	-1.4	-48.3
Construction	16.9	15.9	16.8	1.0	6.3	0.1	0.6
Manufacturing	10.7	9.6	10.6	1.1	11.5	0.1	0.9
Services-producing sector	175.5	178.8	179.8	-3.3	-1.8	-4.3	-2.4
Trade	37.6	37.6	37.8	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.5
Transportation and warehousing	9.4	9.1	9.8	0.3	3.3	-0.4	-4.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	5.8	6.9	8.1	-1.1	-15.9	-2.3	-28.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	11.3	11.6	10.2	-0.3	-2.6	1.1	10.8
Business, building and other support services	6.4	6.7	5.5	-0.3	-4.5	0.9	16.4
Educational services	18.7	17.9	16.4	0.8	4.5	2.3	14.0
Health care and social assistance	41.2	41.9	43.2	-0.7	-1.7	-2.0	-4.6
Information, culture and recreation	7.1	6.4	5.7	0.7	10.9	1.4	24.6
Accommodation and food services	11.2	12.7	15.5	-1.5	-11.8	-4.3	-27.7
Other services	7.2	7.9	9.4	-0.7	-8.9	-2.2	-23.4
Public administration	19.6	20.0	18.3	-0.4	-2.0	1.3	7.1

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, employment increased on the Avalon Peninsula, but declined elsewhere in the province. The unemployment rate increased in two of the province's three regions.

The unemployment rate on the **Avalon Peninsula** economic region declined for the sixth consecutive month, mainly due to strong employment growth. This region has shown year-over-year employment gains of 5,000 or more for six consecutive months, led by full-time positions. Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas led employment growth, with 2,300 more jobs than a year earlier, a 53% increase. Manufacturing grew for the fifth consecutive month, but utilities lost jobs (-1,500). Health care and social assistance, educational services, and public administration continued to show higher employment than a year earlier. However, accommodation and food services has struggled since the onset of the pandemic, with 3,900 fewer jobs than two years earlier (-36%).

In the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** economic region, the unemployment rate increased slightly as employment fell faster than the size of the labour force. Construction gains have weakened in recent months, but remained positive. Accommodation and food services has shown year-over-year losses of 1,000 jobs or more since February. However, public administration has experienced strong gains since July.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** economic region, the unemployment rate increased, as employment fell but the size of the labour force remained stable. Accommodation and food services has shown strong year-over-year losses in each month since February. Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas (-1,300) had its heaviest decline in over two years, while the drop in health care and social assistance (-1,400) was its largest since June of 2020. On a positive note, wholesale and retail trade (+2,100) grew strongly for the third consecutive month.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2021 ('000)	Oct 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Oct 2021 (%)	Oct 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador	226.7	224.4	1.0	11.6	12.0	-0.4
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	133.0	128.0	3.9	8.7	10.5	-1.8
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	50.6	51.9	-2.5	15.2	14.9	0.3
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	43.1	44.5	-3.1	15.7	12.6	3.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387

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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