



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

May 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 May, employment in the province fell (-2,100) compared to the previous month, mainly in part-time positions. The size of the labour force had a greater loss (-3,700), resulting in a slightly lower unemployment rate compared to April. Both employment and labour force size were notably larger than a year ago, when the economy virtually closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and brought employment to its lowest level in more than 20 years.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

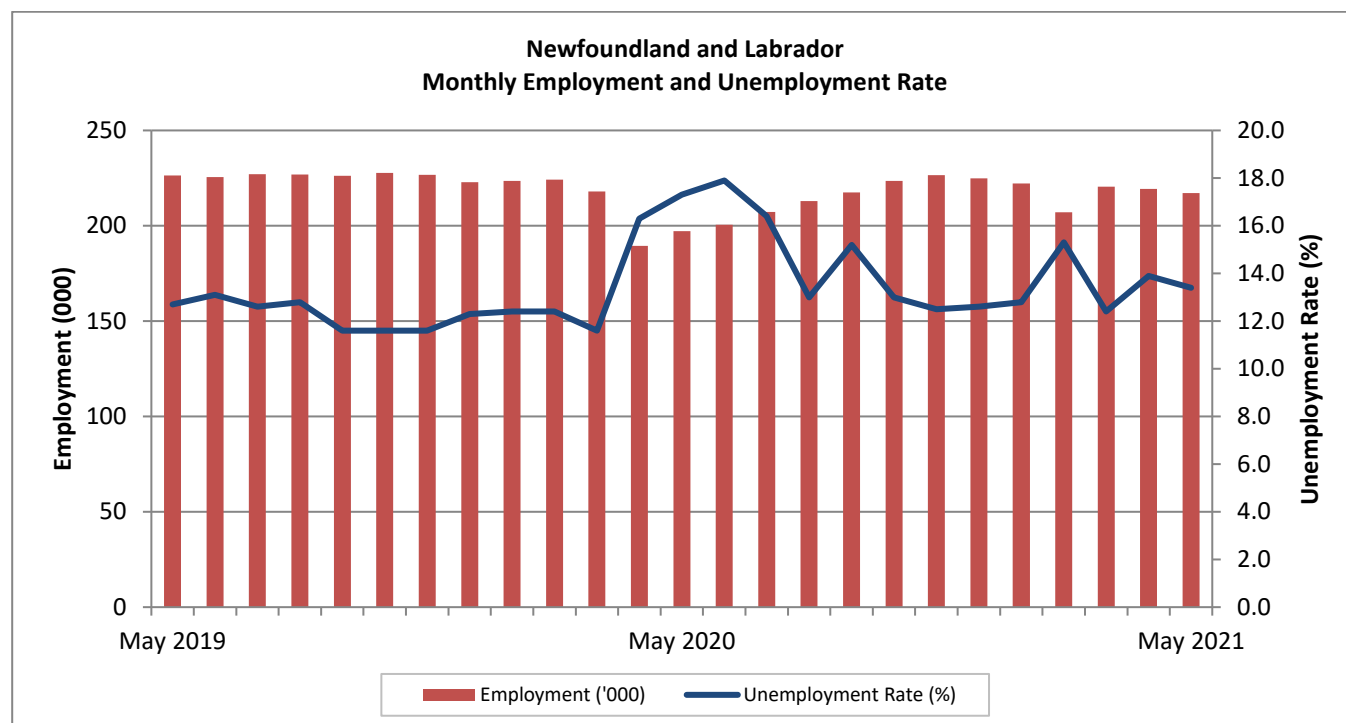
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	445.0	445.0	445.5	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.1
Labour Force ('000)	250.9	254.6	238.3	-3.7	-1.5	12.6	5.3
Employment ('000)	217.2	219.3	197.1	-2.1	-1.0	20.1	10.2
Full-Time ('000)	183.6	184.4	168.4	-0.8	-0.4	15.2	9.0
Part-Time ('000)	33.5	34.9	28.7	-1.4	-4.0	4.8	16.7
Unemployment ('000)	33.7	35.3	41.2	-1.6	-4.5	-7.5	-18.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.4	13.9	17.3	-0.5	-	-3.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	56.4	57.2	53.5	-0.8	-	2.9	-
Employment Rate (%)	48.8	49.3	44.2	-0.5	-	4.6	-

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 2020. Since last April, the province has regained most of this employment loss, with the unemployment rate typically near 13% since August of last year.



Females aged 25 years and older experienced most of the monthly employment loss. Combined with growth in labour force size, the unemployment rate for this group increased over the previous month. In contrast, there was virtually no change in employment for males of the same age group, while the labour force decreased in size, resulting in a lower unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate for youth (ages 15 to 24 years) showed a notable decline from April. This was mainly due to a drop in the size of the labour force. This group’s unemployment rate was nearly 10 percentage points lower than it was a year earlier, when the pandemic brought the economy to a virtual halt.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	13.4	13.9	17.3	-0.5	-3.9
25 years and over	13.2	12.9	16.3	0.3	-3.1
Men - 25 years and over	15.3	16.4	22.5	-1.1	-7.2
Women - 25 years and over	10.9	9.1	9.6	1.8	1.3
15 to 24 years	15.1	19.6	24.9	-4.5	-9.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	20.1	21.4	29.5	-1.3	-9.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.8	17.5	20.1	-7.7	-10.3

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** fell slightly over the previous month (-700). **Manufacturing** declined (-2,000) after two months of growth. Even with the loss in May, employment in the industry was considerably higher than it was a year earlier. Much of the increase has been in food manufacturing, with brighter prospects in fish processing compared to a year ago. **Construction** (+1,700) recovered most of the loss it experienced in April, but had 2,300 fewer jobs than it had prior to the pandemic.

The **services-producing sector** (-1,500) lost jobs in May. **Wholesale and retail trade** (-3,300) experienced a sharp loss, while **transportation and warehousing** (-1,000) declined for the second consecutive month, falling to its lowest level based on data going back to 1976. **Accommodation and food services** (-900) reached its lowest level since 2002. However, **information, culture and recreation** (+3,200) increased considerably in May, reaching its highest level since 2010. **Health care and social assistance** (+1,000) remained strong, just shy of a record high for the industry. **Public administration** (+800) reached a record high, with employment growth of more than 20% from a year earlier.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	217.2	219.3	197.1	-2.1	-1.0	20.1	10.2
Goods-producing sector	42.5	43.2	35.8	-0.7	-1.6	6.7	18.7
Agriculture	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.1	9.1	0.6	100.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.1	13.0	13.0	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.8
Utilities	2.0	2.5	2.5	-0.5	-20.0	-0.5	-20.0
Construction	16.2	14.5	12.5	1.7	11.7	3.7	29.6
Manufacturing	10.1	12.1	7.1	-2.0	-16.5	3.0	42.3
Services-producing sector	174.6	176.1	161.3	-1.5	-0.9	13.3	8.2
Trade	34.5	37.8	31.9	-3.3	-8.7	2.6	8.2
Transportation and warehousing	7.2	8.2	9.1	-1.0	-12.2	-1.9	-20.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	7.3	7.2	6.6	0.1	1.4	0.7	10.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.2	10.0	8.8	0.2	2.0	1.4	15.9
Business, building and other support services	7.6	8.1	6.3	-0.5	-6.2	1.3	20.6
Educational services	15.6	16.3	17.0	-0.7	-4.3	-1.4	-8.2
Health care and social assistance	44.8	43.8	38.0	1.0	2.3	6.8	17.9
Information, culture and recreation	8.1	4.9	4.4	3.2	65.3	3.7	84.1
Accommodation and food services	10.8	11.7	13.6	-0.9	-7.7	-2.8	-20.6
Other services	8.2	8.6	8.9	-0.4	-4.7	-0.7	-7.9
Public administration	20.3	19.5	16.8	0.8	4.1	3.5	20.8

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 declined in all economic regions, with each area showing an employment gain. However, employment throughout the province remained lower than it was two years earlier.

The **Avalon Peninsula** economic region's employment gain was mainly in full-time positions. Construction and educational services had strong losses compared to a year earlier, while gains were made in public administration as well as wholesale and retail trade.

In the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** economic region, the unemployment rate had a very small decline as the size of the labour force and employment increased at similar rates. Manufacturing was approximately three times larger compared to a year ago, while the services-producing sector produced mixed results.

In the **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** economic region, employment grew faster than the size of the labour force, resulting in a lower unemployment rate. Employment growth was concentrated in full-time work and in the services-producing sector, mainly in health care and social assistance.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2021 ('000)	May 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2021 (%)	May 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador	213.5	197.5	8.1	14.8	16.7	-1.9
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	124.3	118.8	4.6	11.4	13.6	-2.2
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	48.1	43.9	9.6	20.5	20.7	-0.2
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	41.2	34.9	18.1	17.6	21.4	-3.8

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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