



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

August 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 August, employment in the province grew (+2,100) compared to the previous month, led by part-time positions. The size of the labour force also increased (+700), but to a lesser extent, resulting in a slightly lower unemployment rate compared to July. Employment and labour force size were notably larger than a year ago, when the economy was only starting to climb out of steep losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

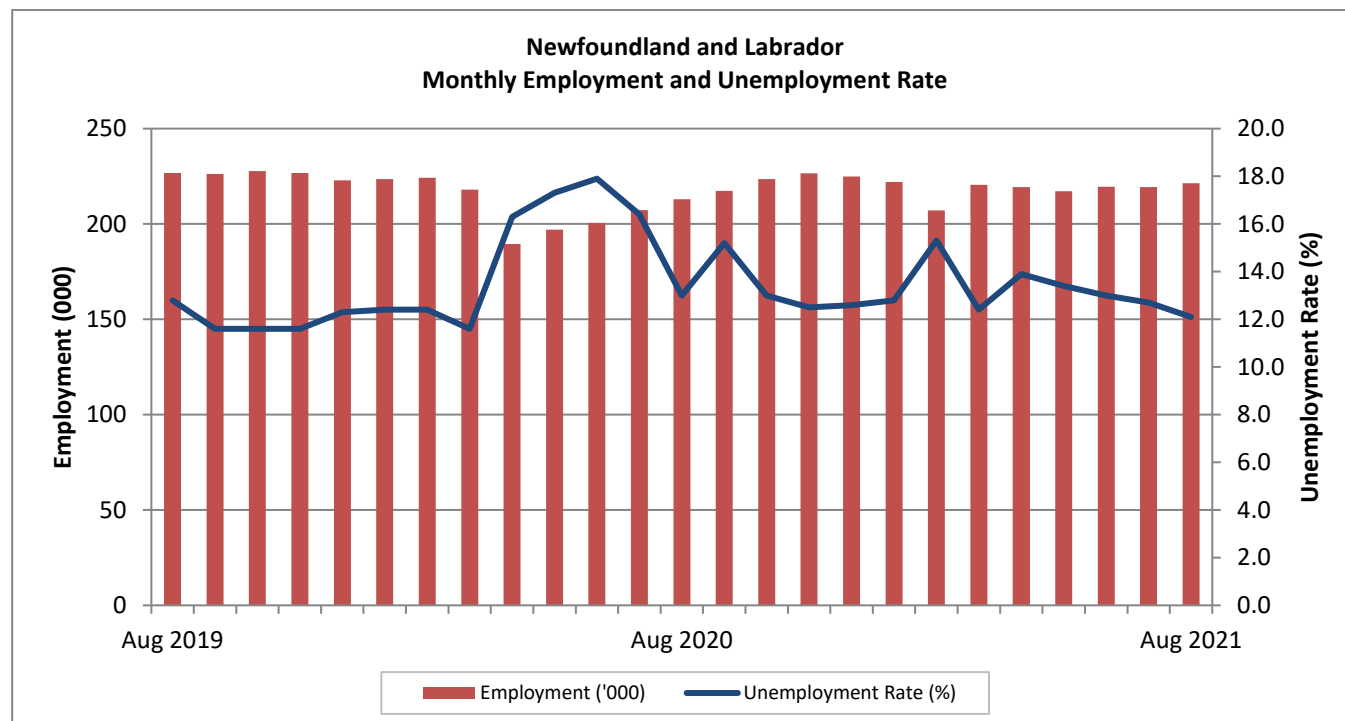
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Aug 2021	July 2021	Aug 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	445.2	445.0	445.5	0.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.1
Labour Force ('000)	251.9	251.2	244.9	0.7	0.3	7.0	2.9
Employment ('000)	221.4	219.3	212.9	2.1	1.0	8.5	4.0
Full-Time ('000)	184.8	186.2	175.3	-1.4	-0.8	9.5	5.4
Part-Time ('000)	36.6	33.1	37.6	3.5	10.6	-1.0	-2.7
Unemployment ('000)	30.5	31.9	31.9	-1.4	-4.4	-1.4	-4.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.1	12.7	13.0	-0.6	-	-0.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	56.6	56.4	55.0	0.2	-	1.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	49.7	49.3	47.8	0.4	-	1.9	-

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 approaching 12% in recent months.



Most of the employment gain was shared evenly between males and females aged 25 years and older. However, employment growth was mainly in full-time positions for males, while part-time job gains outweighed full-time losses for females. The size of the labour force remained stable for both genders, resulting in lower unemployment rates compared to July. Compared to a year earlier, males have experienced most of the job gains, rebounding from the steep losses they had during the initial months of the pandemic. Males and females of this age group are nearing pre-pandemic employment levels.

The unemployment rate for youth (ages 15 to 24 years) was only slightly higher than it was a year earlier, showing similar labour market conditions.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Aug 2021	July 2021	Aug 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	12.1	12.7	13.0	-0.6	-0.9
25 years and over	11.5	12.4	12.7	-0.9	-1.2
Men - 25 years and over	14.7	15.7	16.1	-1.0	-1.4
Women - 25 years and over	8.0	8.9	9.0	-0.9	-1.0
15 to 24 years	15.8	14.7	15.4	1.1	0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.5	16.3	19.4	1.2	-1.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.9	12.8	11.0	1.1	2.9

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The monthly employment gain was mainly in the **services-producing sector** (+2,500). **Professional, scientific, and technical services** (+1,300) and **health care and social assistance** (+1,200) had notable gains. **Accommodation and food services** (+1,300) also increased, continuing to grow since May, when it reached its lowest level since 2002. **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (-400) has generally weakened since the end of 2020, losing 1,700 jobs over that time.

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** fell slightly over the previous month (-400). Most of the loss was in Agriculture (-700), falling from strong levels in the previous two months. While **Utilities** was relatively unchanged in August, employment in the industry has trended downward over the past five months. **Construction** has increased by 3,100 jobs compared to a year ago, but remained 2,500 jobs lower than it was prior to the pandemic.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Aug 2021	July 2021	Aug 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	221.4	219.3	212.9	2.1	1.0	8.5	4.0
Goods-producing sector	43.6	44.0	38.2	-0.4	-0.9	5.4	14.1
Agriculture	1.8	2.5	0.7	-0.7	-28.0	1.1	157.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.0	13.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	-7.1
Utilities	1.6	1.7	2.6	-0.1	-5.9	-1.0	-38.5
Construction	16.0	15.8	12.9	0.2	1.3	3.1	24.0
Manufacturing	11.2	11.0	8.0	0.2	1.8	3.2	40.0
Services-producing sector	177.8	175.3	174.7	2.5	1.4	3.1	1.8
Trade	36.8	37.1	33.5	-0.3	-0.8	3.3	9.9
Transportation and warehousing	9.1	8.8	9.9	0.3	3.4	-0.8	-8.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.3	6.7	7.4	-0.4	-6.0	-1.1	-14.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	11.0	9.7	10.1	1.3	13.4	0.9	8.9
Business, building and other support services	5.9	6.0	7.0	-0.1	-1.7	-1.1	-15.7
Educational services	16.3	16.5	15.3	-0.2	-1.2	1.0	6.5
Health care and social assistance	44.7	43.5	41.3	1.2	2.8	3.4	8.2
Information, culture and recreation	7.2	7.0	6.5	0.2	2.9	0.7	10.8
Accommodation and food services	12.8	11.5	14.9	1.3	11.3	-2.1	-14.1
Other services	7.8	7.9	11.4	-0.1	-1.3	-3.6	-31.6
Public administration	20.1	20.6	17.4	-0.5	-2.4	2.7	15.5

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 in all economic regions, led by gains in full-time positions. The unemployment rate declined in two of the province's three regions.

The unemployment rate on the **Avalon Peninsula** economic region declined notably, as strong employment growth combined with a small drop in labour force size. This region's gain in employment was its strongest since the start of the pandemic. Health care and social assistance, as well as public administration, both continued to show strong gains. However, accommodation and food services has struggled since the onset of the pandemic. In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing employment grew for the third consecutive month.

In the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central-Bonavista Bay** economic region, the unemployment rate fell as employment grew faster than the size of the labour force. The goods-producing sector gained 3,900 jobs, led by manufacturing and construction, while the services-producing sector produced mixed results.

In the **West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador** economic region, the unemployment rate increased slightly, as the size of the labour force grew faster than employment. Nearly all of the job growth was in the services-producing sector, mainly in wholesale and retail trade, and health care and social assistance. This region was also the only one in the province with higher employment than two years earlier, before the pandemic started.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Aug 2021 ('000)	Aug 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Aug 2021 (%)	Aug 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador	231.6	218.6	5.9	11.6	14.4	-2.8
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	131.8	126.6	4.1	8.8	13.3	-4.5
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	54.1	49.5	9.3	14.4	16.4	-2.0
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	45.6	42.4	7.5	15.7	15.2	0.5

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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