



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

September 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

Employment increased for the second consecutive quarter, while the size of the labour force showed little change. As a result, the quarterly unemployment rate fell to 12.6%.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

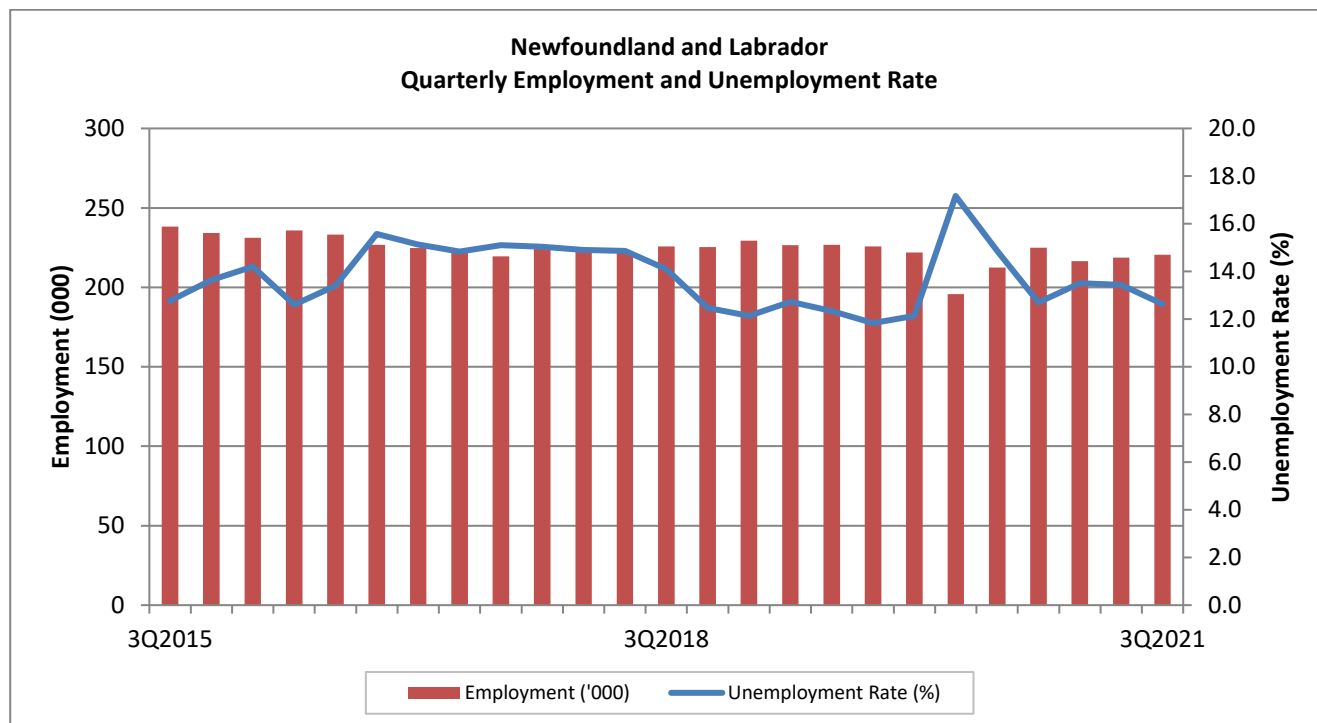
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	3rd Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	445.2	445.0	445.5	0.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.1
Labour Force ('000)	252.3	252.6	249.8	-0.3	-0.1	2.5	1.0
Employment ('000)	220.4	218.7	212.5	1.7	0.8	7.9	3.7
Full-Time ('000)	186.8	184.1	176.6	2.7	1.5	10.2	5.8
Part-Time ('000)	33.7	34.5	35.9	-0.8	-2.3	-2.2	-6.1
Unemployment ('000)	31.9	34.0	37.2	-2.1	-6.2	-5.3	-14.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.6	13.4	14.9	-0.8	-	-2.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	56.7	56.8	56.1	-0.1	-	0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	49.5	49.1	47.7	0.4	-	1.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

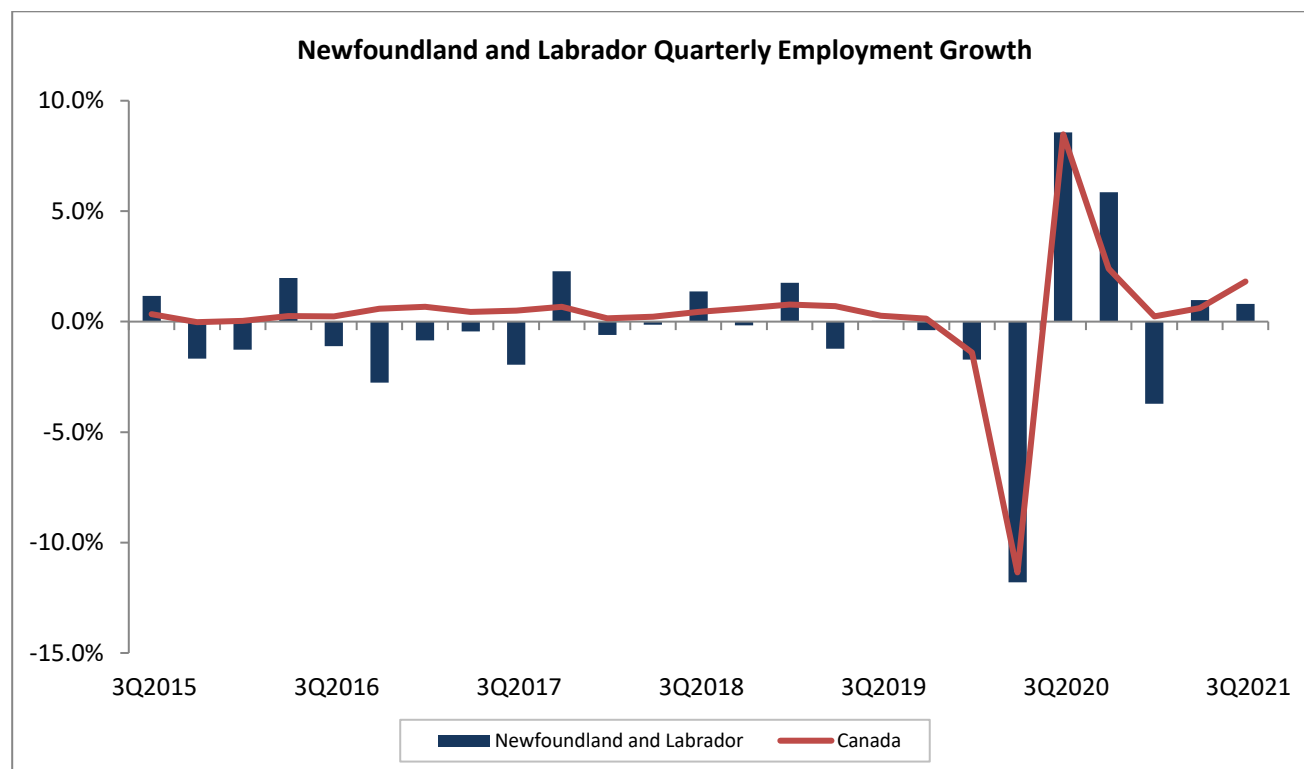
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

Historically, a fall in major project spending contributed to a sustained reduction in employment beginning in 2013. This raised the quarterly unemployment rate to a six-year high of 15.6% in the fourth quarter of 2016. This rate remained near 15% over the next six quarters as employment and labour force levels remained steady. In the second half of 2018, a decline in labour force size reduced the unemployment rate, where it remained steady until pandemic-related job losses elevated the rate through most of 2020. While labour market conditions improved in

Q4 of 2020, employment fell in the following quarter due to a large COVID-19 outbreak. Since then, employment has grown slowly, resulting in unemployment rate near 13% throughout 2021.



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada generally experienced small, consistent employment gains, whereas employment levels in Newfoundland and Labrador were more volatile. The onset of the pandemic caused massive job losses at both the provincial and national levels in the second quarter of 2020. While the two quarters that followed brought employment gains at both levels, Newfoundland and Labrador had its sharpest loss in the first quarter of 2021 as a COVID-19 outbreak resulted in widespread restrictions and business closures. Since then, the rate of provincial job growth has been slower than for the country as a whole.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate decreased (-1.6) from the previous quarter, as the size of the labour force declined while employment was unchanged. Compared to a year earlier, youth employment has grown (+1,300), mainly in full-time positions.

For females aged 25 years and older, employment increased compared to the previous quarter (+1,700), resulting in this group's lowest unemployment rate since Q1 of 2020. While males 25 years and older showed little change from the previous quarter, this group had 3,600 more jobs than a year earlier, led by full-time positions.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter 2021 %	2nd Quarter 2021 %	3rd Quarter 2020 %	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	12.6	13.4	14.9	-0.8	-2.3
25 years and over	12.2	12.9	14.4	-0.7	-2.2
Men - 25 years and over	15.5	15.8	18.0	-0.3	-2.5
Women - 25 years and over	8.6	9.6	10.5	-1.0	-1.9
15 to 24 years	15.5	17.1	18.4	-1.6	-2.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.1	20.8	24.1	-2.7	-6.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.6	13.1	12.3	-0.5	0.3

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** was relatively unchanged from the previous quarter. Losses in **utilities** and **manufacturing** were offset by small gains in the rest of the sector. While **construction** employment has increased from a year earlier, it remained notably lower than pre-pandemic levels. Construction for the West White Rose Project has been put on hold until at least 2022, leaving uncertainty on whether the project will move forward or not.

The **services-producing sector** added jobs (+1,800) over the previous quarter. **Transportation and warehousing** led the increase, rebounding from a record low in the previous quarter. **Accommodation and food services** grew, recovering some of the 4,700 jobs lost over the previous two quarters. Public health restrictions related to COVID-19 have contributed to generally weak employment in this industry. **Wholesale and retail trade** gained jobs, exceeding pre-pandemic levels in the most recent quarter. **Health care and social assistance** has fallen slightly in the past two quarters after reaching a record high.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	220.4	218.7	212.5	1.7	0.8	7.9	3.7
Goods-producing sector	43.2	43.1	39.1	0.1	0.2	4.1	10.5
Agriculture	1.9	1.5	0.9	0.4	26.7	1.0	111.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.2	13.0	13.0	0.2	1.5	0.2	1.5
Utilities	1.6	2.2	2.6	-0.6	-27.3	-1.0	-38.5
Construction	15.9	15.6	14.0	0.3	1.9	1.9	13.6
Manufacturing	10.6	10.8	8.6	-0.2	-1.9	2.0	23.3
Services-producing sector	177.3	175.5	173.4	1.8	1.0	3.9	2.2
Trade	37.2	36.5	33.6	0.7	1.9	3.6	10.7
Transportation and warehousing	9.0	7.8	9.9	1.2	15.4	-0.9	-9.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.6	7.1	7.9	-0.5	-7.0	-1.3	-16.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.8	10.2	10.1	0.6	5.9	0.7	6.9
Business, building and other support services	6.2	7.7	6.4	-1.5	-19.5	-0.2	-3.1
Educational services	16.9	15.8	15.4	1.1	7.0	1.5	9.7
Health care and social assistance	43.4	44.2	41.0	-0.8	-1.8	2.4	5.9
Information, culture and recreation	6.9	6.6	6.4	0.3	4.5	0.5	7.8
Accommodation and food services	12.3	11.3	15.1	1.0	8.8	-2.8	-18.5
Other services	7.9	8.2	10.3	-0.3	-3.7	-2.4	-23.3
Public administration	20.2	20.0	17.3	0.2	1.0	2.9	16.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to a year earlier, employment increased throughout the province, led by an increase in full-time positions.

Quarterly employment on the **Avalon Peninsula** increased for the second consecutive quarter, mainly in full-time positions. The labour force also grew, but could not match the gain in jobs. This resulted in a lower unemployment rate. Employment rose in the services-producing sector (+2,500), led by health care and social assistance. However, accommodation and food services employment was down by 34% compared to a year ago. In the goods-producing sector, employment increased (+2,900) as a loss in utilities was outweighed by growth elsewhere in the sector.

The unemployment rate declined in the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** economic region. Employment increased slightly faster than the size of the labour force. The goods-producing sector had most of the job gain, mainly in construction and manufacturing. The services-producing sector fell slightly as a decrease in accommodation and food services exceeded a gain in public administration.

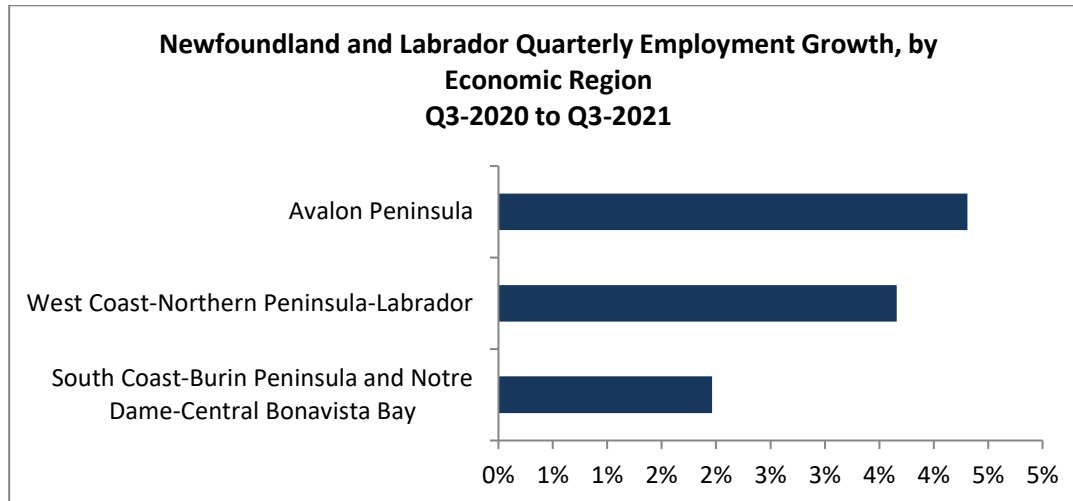
The **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region was the only area of the province to experience a higher unemployment rate than a year ago. While employment increased (+1,600), the labour force had stronger growth. This was the fourth consecutive quarter with an employment gain. The services-producing sector had most of the job growth, driven by strength in wholesale and retail trade. Transportation and warehousing grew for the fifth consecutive quarter. The goods-producing sector had a small loss, as a loss in forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas outweighed gains through the rest of the sector.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2021 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2021 (%)	3rd Quarter 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador	230.2	222.1	3.6	11.4	13.3	-1.9
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	133.1	127.6	4.3	8.8	12.4	-3.6
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	51.9	50.9	2.0	14.6	15.4	-0.8
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	45.3	43.7	3.7	14.8	13.3	1.5

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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