



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

January 2022



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 January, employment had its sharpest monthly decline in nearly a year (-3,900) as the rise of the COVID-19 Omicron variant resulted in increased public health restrictions. The job losses were mainly in part-time positions. The size of the labour force declined but to a lesser extent (-1,700) over the same period, resulting in a higher unemployment rate.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

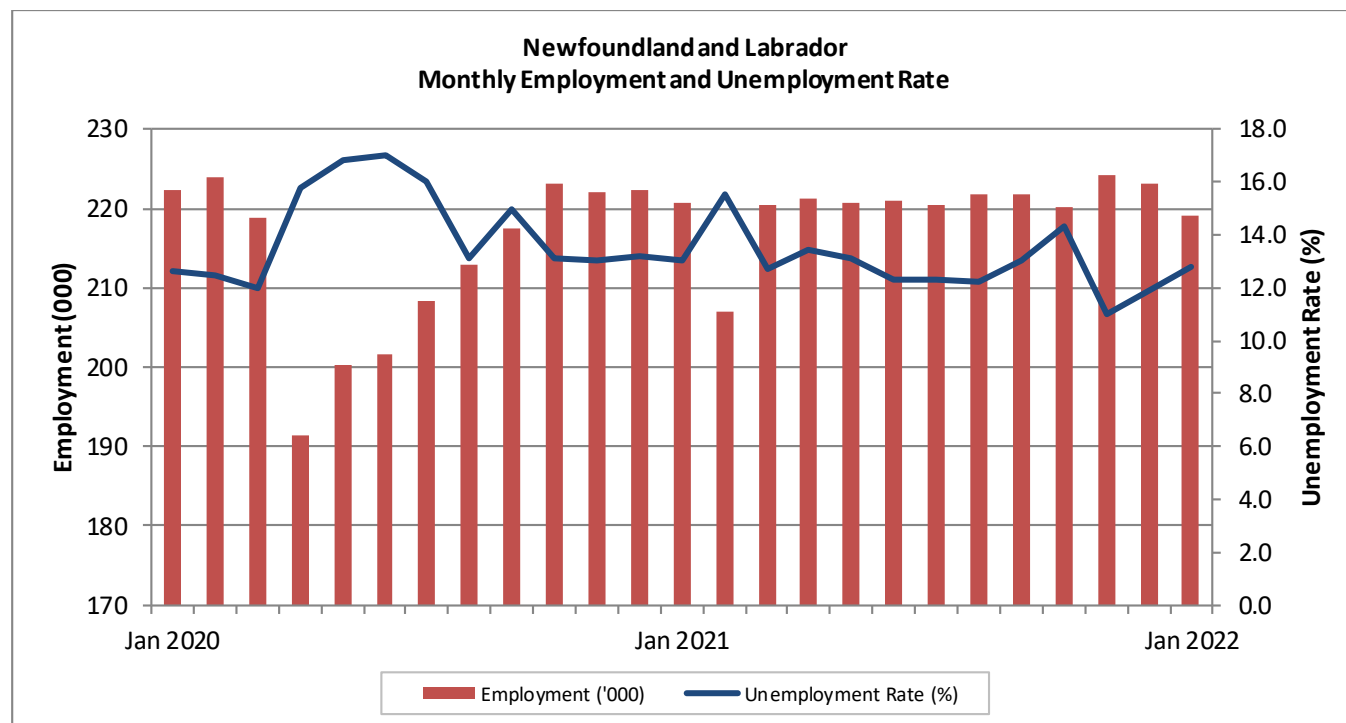
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Jan 2022	Dec 2021	Jan 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	446.4	446.0	445.3	0.4	0.1	1.1	0.2
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	251.4	253.1	253.7	-1.7	-0.7	-2.3	-0.9
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	219.2	223.1	220.7	-3.9	-1.7	-1.5	-0.7
Full-Time ('000)	190.4	189.8	183.8	0.6	0.3	6.6	3.6
Part-Time ('000)	28.7	33.2	36.8	-4.5	-13.6	-8.1	-22.0
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	32.2	30.0	33.0	2.2	7.3	-0.8	-2.4
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	12.8	11.9	13.0	0.9	-	-0.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	56.3	56.7	57.0	-0.4	-	-0.7	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	49.1	50.0	49.6	-0.9	-	-0.5	-

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. By the fall of 2020, April's loss was recovered and employment levels remained generally steady since that time, with an unemployment rate between 12% and 13%. The only notable exceptions were in February of 2021, when a COVID-19 outbreak caused employment to fall, and November of 2021, when employment rose sharply.



Small changes in labour force and employment size resulted in a higher unemployment rate for youth (ages 15 to 24 years). While the youth unemployment rate was lower than a year earlier, it was caused by a decline in labour force size, not an employment gain.

For those aged 25 years and older, females showed little change in labour market conditions from a month earlier. In contrast, employment for males of this age group fell by 3,200 jobs, mainly in full-time positions. This was the main factor behind the increase in the group's unemployment rate. Compared to a year ago, females of this age group had an increase (+1,400) in jobs led by a strong jump in full-time work (+5,900). While males also had a gain in full-time work (+1,300), this was outweighed by a loss in part-time jobs (-2,700).

**Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Jan 2022	Dec 2021	Jan 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	12.8	11.9	13.0	0.9	-0.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	12.1	11.1	12.1	1.0	0.0
Men - 25 years and over	15.7	13.8	13.7	1.9	2.0
Women - 25 years and over	8.3	8.2	10.4	0.1	-2.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	17.6	17.1	18.8	0.5	-1.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.2	19.3	18.0	-0.1	1.2

Women - 15 to 24 years	15.5	14.5	19.5	1.0	-4.0
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Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Most of the monthly employment loss was in the **services-producing sector** (-3,500). The decline was concentrated in **educational services** (-2,300) and **information, culture and recreation** (-2,000), which felt the impact of increased public health restrictions related to the onset of the Omicron variant. **Accommodation and food services** (+700) rebounded from its loss in December, but employment in this industry was 31% lower than in February of 2020, before COVID-19 started to affect the economy and labour market. Meanwhile, **professional, scientific and technical services** (+500) reached its second-highest level on record, led by the growing information technology industry.

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** fell slightly (-300) from the previous month. **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (-1,300) had the sharpest loss in the sector. However, employment in this industry remained higher (+900) than a year ago. **Construction** (-700) also lost jobs during the month. This was the industry's first loss since July of 2021. **Agriculture** (+900) had a strong gain after five consecutive months with losses. **Manufacturing** (+800) recovered some of the loss it had in the previous month. This industry was the only one in the sector that had higher employment than it did just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Jan 2022	Dec 2021	Jan 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	219.2	223.1	220.7	-3.9	-1.7	-1.5	-0.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	43.8	44.1	43.2	-0.3	-0.7	0.6	1.4
Agriculture	1.4	0.5	1.1	0.9	180.0	0.3	27.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	13.8	15.1	12.9	-1.3	-8.6	0.9	7.0
Utilities	1.1	1.3	2.9	-0.2	-15.4	-1.8	-62.1
Construction	16.8	17.5	17.2	-0.7	-4.0	-0.4	-2.3
Manufacturing	10.6	9.8	9.2	0.8	8.2	1.4	15.2
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	175.4	178.9	177.5	-3.5	-2.0	-2.1	-1.2
Trade	37.2	36.4	35.8	0.8	2.2	1.4	3.9
Transportation and warehousing	9.2	8.8	8.3	0.4	4.5	0.9	10.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	5.7	5.7	6.6	0.0	0.0	-0.9	-13.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	11.5	11.0	11.1	0.5	4.5	0.4	3.6
Business, building and other support services	7.0	6.9	6.4	0.1	1.4	0.6	9.4
Educational services	16.5	18.8	16.3	-2.3	-12.2	0.2	1.2
Health care and social assistance	42.5	43.9	44.0	-1.4	-3.2	-1.5	-3.4
Information, culture and recreation	5.8	7.8	6.7	-2.0	-25.6	-0.9	-13.4
Accommodation and food services	12.4	11.7	14.4	0.7	6.0	-2.0	-13.9
Other services	7.7	7.8	9.6	-0.1	-1.3	-1.9	-19.8
Public administration	19.8	20.0	18.3	-0.2	-1.0	1.5	8.2

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 declined in the West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador economic region, but increased elsewhere in the province. The unemployment rate fell in two of the province's three regions.

The unemployment rate on the **Avalon Peninsula** economic region declined for the ninth consecutive month, mainly due to strong employment growth. This region has shown year-over-year employment gains of 4,000 or more since May, led by full-time positions. Educational services had 3,200 more jobs than a year earlier, while forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas (+2,900) has risen by 74% compared to a year ago. However, utilities (-1,800) has fallen sharply over the past year, and accommodation and food services has struggled since the onset of the pandemic, with 4,400 fewer jobs than two years earlier (-38%).

In the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** economic region, the size of the labour force fell while employment increased, lowering the unemployment rate. Most of the gain was in the services-producing sector, mainly in public administration. Accommodation and food services (+100) had its first month of job growth since December of 2020. In the goods-producing sector, losses were in the construction industry (-1,300).

In the **West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador** economic region, the unemployment rate increased, as employment fell faster than the size of the labour force. Job losses were mainly in full-time positions. While there were gains in construction (+1,100) and manufacturing (+700), forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas (-1,400) was down by 33% from a year ago. Wholesale and retail trade (+800) added jobs, but most industries in the services-producing sector experienced a loss, led by health care and social assistance (-1,600) and public administration (-1,100).

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2022 ('000)	Jan 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Jan 2022 (%)	Jan 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	219.4	218.6	0.4	11.8	13.0	-1.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	131.8	127.8	3.1	9.1	10.7	-1.6
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	48.9	47.9	2.1	15.1	18.5	-3.4
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	38.8	42.9	-9.6	16.2	13.0	3.2

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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