



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

February 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 February, employment had its strongest monthly gain in over a year (+9,500). This was only the second month where employment was greater than in February of 2020, before COVID-19 greatly affected the economy and labour market. The job growth was mainly in part-time positions. The size of the labour force also increased (+9,500) but at a slightly slower pace than employment, lowering the unemployment rate.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

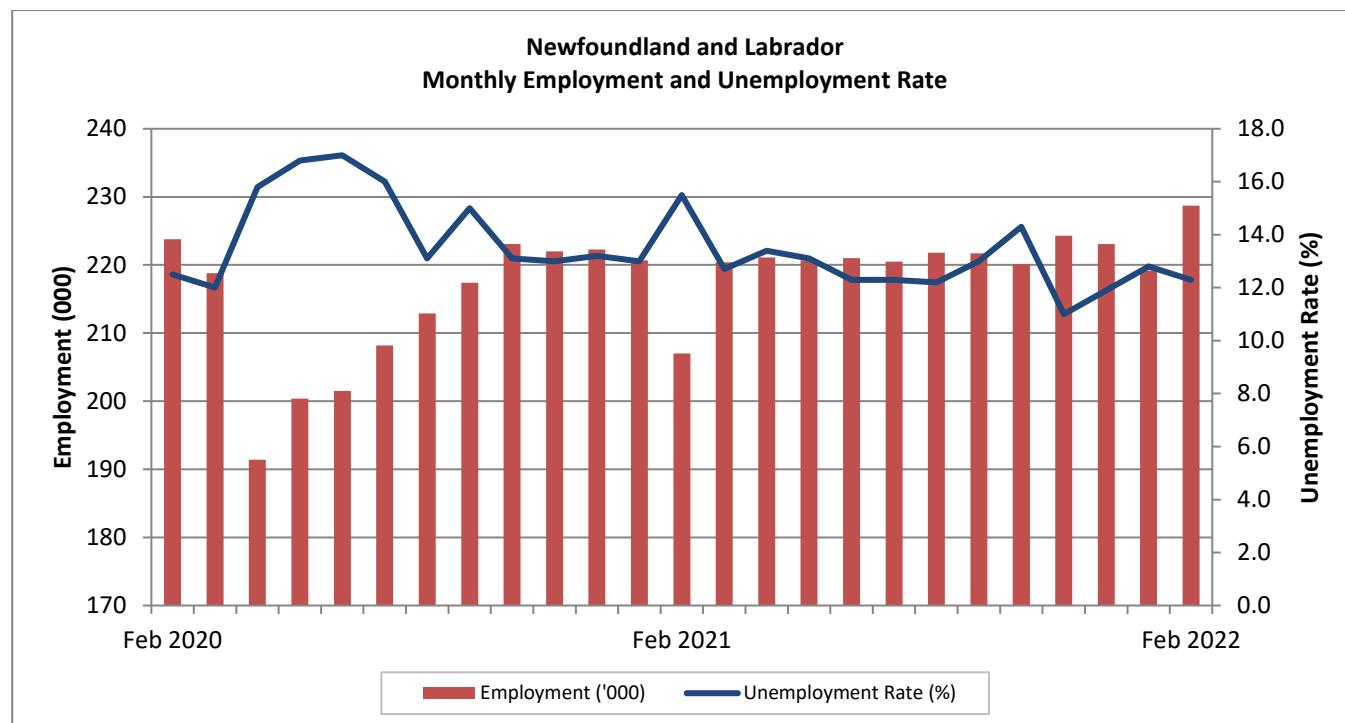
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2022	Jan 2022	Feb 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	446.7	446.4	445.1	0.3	0.1	1.6	0.4
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	260.9	251.4	245.1	9.5	3.8	15.8	6.4
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	228.7	219.2	207.0	9.5	4.3	21.7	10.5
Full-Time ('000)	191.5	190.4	175.0	1.1	0.6	16.5	9.4
Part-Time ('000)	37.2	28.7	32.1	8.5	29.6	5.1	15.9
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	32.2	32.2	38.1	0.0	0.0	-5.9	-15.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	12.3	12.8	15.5	-0.5	-	-3.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	58.4	56.3	55.1	2.1	-	3.3	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	51.2	49.1	46.5	2.1	-	4.7	-

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, 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 temporarily fall; November of 2021, when the unemployment rate fell briefly to 11%; and this most recent month, when employment rose to surpass pre-pandemic levels.



The unemployment rate for youth (ages 15 to 24 years) fell to its lowest since May of 2016. Employment grew by 3,800 jobs, its largest monthly increase in nearly a year. Most of the job gain was in part-time work. There were 7,000 more jobs among youth compared to a year ago.

For those aged 25 years and older, females had most of the employment gain in February, adding 4,500 jobs. However, the unemployment rate for women of this age group showed little change as the size of the labour force also increased sharply (+4,800). In contrast, employment for males of this age group did not rise as much (+1,300) and was outpaced by labour force growth (+2,300), raising the group's unemployment rate.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2022	Jan 2022	Feb 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	12.3	12.8	15.5	-0.5	-3.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	12.4	12.1	14.8	0.3	-2.4
Men - 25 years and over	16.3	15.7	18.0	0.6	-1.7
Women - 25 years and over	8.2	8.3	11.1	-0.1	-2.9
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.2	17.6	21.1	-5.4	-8.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.8	19.2	20.4	-3.4	-4.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.7	15.5	21.8	-7.8	-14.1

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** (+7,400), with most industries showing an increase. Leading the way were **educational services** (+2,600) and **information, culture and recreation** (+1,600), which rebounded from a sharp loss in the previous month due to the impact of increased public health restrictions related to the onset of the Covid-19 Omicron variant. While **professional, scientific and technical services** (+100) showed little change, it reached a record employment high, led by a growing information technology industry. In a period when overall employment rose sharply, **accommodation and food services** showed no change from the previous month. Employment has been persistently low over the past year, with the most recent month being 31% lower than in February of 2020, before COVID-19 started to affect the economy and labour market.

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** also increased (+2,100) from the previous month. **Construction** (+1,600) had its strongest gain in nearly a year, bringing employment to its highest level since March of 2020, when COVID-19 had not yet fully affected the economy. **Manufacturing** (-100) showed little change from the previous month, but employment in this industry has grown by 2,300 jobs (+28%) compared to a year earlier.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2022	Jan 2022	Feb 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	228.7	219.2	207.0	9.5	4.3	21.7	10.5
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	45.9	43.8	39.6	2.1	4.8	6.3	15.9
Agriculture	1.5	1.4	1.3	0.1	7.1	0.2	15.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.1	13.8	12.2	0.3	2.2	1.9	15.6
Utilities	1.4	1.1	2.6	0.3	27.3	-1.2	-46.2
Construction	18.4	16.8	15.3	1.6	9.5	3.1	20.3
Manufacturing	10.5	10.6	8.2	-0.1	-0.9	2.3	28.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	182.8	175.4	167.4	7.4	4.2	15.4	9.2
Trade	38.4	37.2	33.0	1.2	3.2	5.4	16.4
Transportation and warehousing	9.4	9.2	8.6	0.2	2.2	0.8	9.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	5.4	5.7	7.2	-0.3	-5.3	-1.8	-25.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	11.6	11.5	10.1	0.1	0.9	1.5	14.9
Business, building and other support services	7.1	7.0	6.9	0.1	1.4	0.2	2.9
Educational services	19.1	16.5	15.3	2.6	15.8	3.8	24.8
Health care and social assistance	43.5	42.5	43.9	1.0	2.4	-0.4	-0.9
Information, culture and recreation	7.4	5.8	4.9	1.6	27.6	2.5	51.0
Accommodation and food services	12.4	12.4	11.1	0.0	0.0	1.3	11.7
Other services	8.8	7.7	7.6	1.1	14.3	1.2	15.8
Public administration	19.7	19.8	18.7	-0.1	-0.5	1.0	5.3

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 **Avalon Peninsula** led employment growth (+7,400), mainly in full-time positions. Its unemployment rate fell for the tenth consecutive month, mainly due to strong employment growth over this period. Educational services had 4,100 more jobs than a year earlier, while forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas (+2,700) has risen by 71% compared to a year ago. However, utilities (-1,700) has shown declines since July of 2021, and accommodation and food services (-1,900) has struggled since the onset of the pandemic, with 3,900 fewer jobs than two years earlier (-35%).

In the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central-Bonavista Bay** economic region, employment (+2,900) grew faster than the size of the labour force, lowering the unemployment rate. Public administration (+1,100) has consistently shown strong growth since the middle of 2021. Meanwhile, professional, scientific and technical services (+1,400) has more than tripled in size compared to a year ago. In the goods-producing sector, construction (-900) had a loss for the fourth consecutive month. This was the only economic region in the province where employment exceeded the pre-pandemic conditions of two years ago.

In the **West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador** economic region, the unemployment rate increased, as employment fell slightly faster than the size of the labour force. Job losses were mainly in full-time positions. While there were gains in construction (+1,500), forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas (-1,400) was down by 33% from a year ago. Professional, scientific and technical services (+600) added jobs, but most industries in the services-producing sector experienced a loss, led by health care and social assistance (-1,200) and public administration (-1,000).

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2022 ('000)	Feb 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Feb 2022 (%)	Feb 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	215.6	208.8	3.3	13.1	14.7	-1.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	129.5	122.1	6.1	10.4	12.3	-1.9
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	48.2	45.3	6.4	17.2	19.8	-2.6
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	37.9	41.5	-8.7	16.7	15.9	0.8

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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