



Labour Market Bulletin

Newfoundland and Labrador

March 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

While employment increased for the fourth consecutive quarter, the size of the labour force rose to its highest level in over two years, raising the quarterly unemployment rate to 12.7%.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

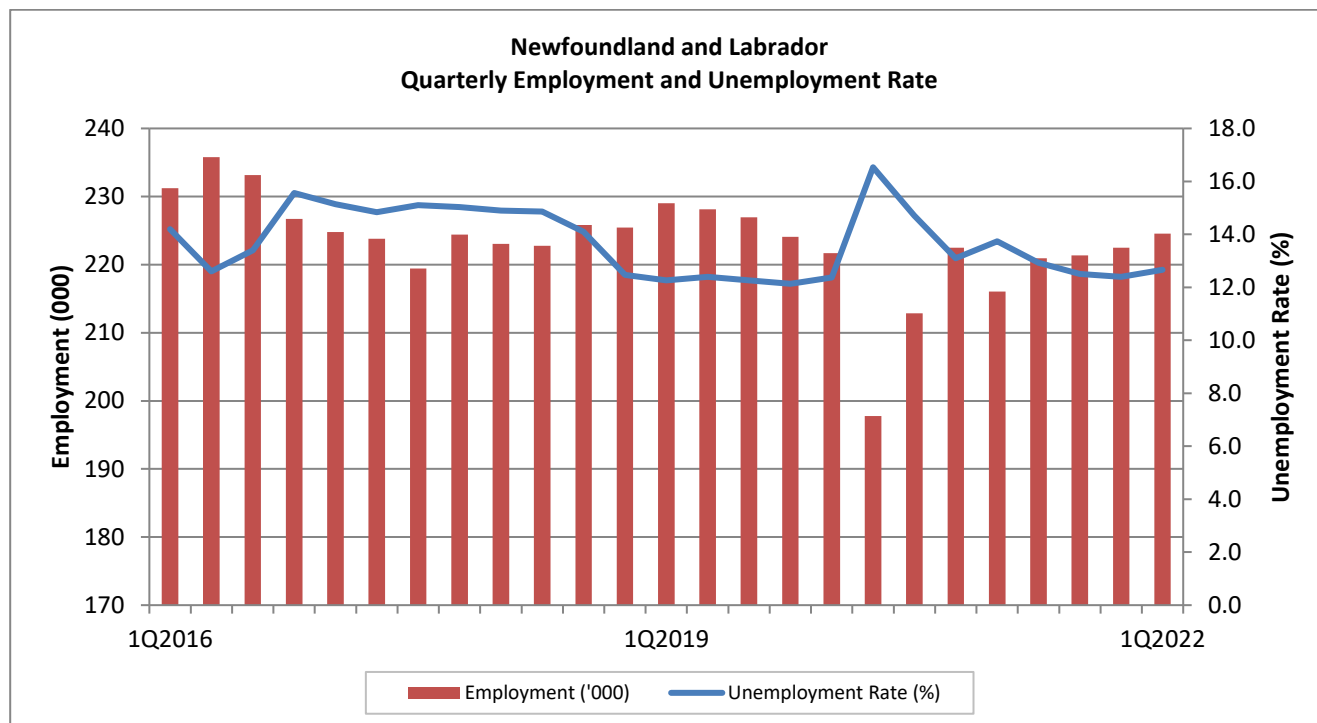
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	1st Quarter 2022	4th Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	446.7	445.7	445.2	1.0	0.2	1.5	0.3
Labour Force ('000)	257.1	254.0	250.4	3.1	1.2	6.7	2.7
Employment ('000)	224.6	222.5	216.0	2.1	0.9	8.6	4.0
Full-Time ('000)	191.8	189.2	181.4	2.6	1.4	10.4	5.7
Part-Time ('000)	32.7	33.3	34.6	-0.6	-1.8	-1.9	-5.5
Unemployment ('000)	32.6	31.4	34.4	1.2	3.8	-1.8	-5.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.7	12.4	13.7	0.3	-	-1.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	57.6	57.0	56.3	0.6	-	1.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.3	49.9	48.5	0.4	-	1.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

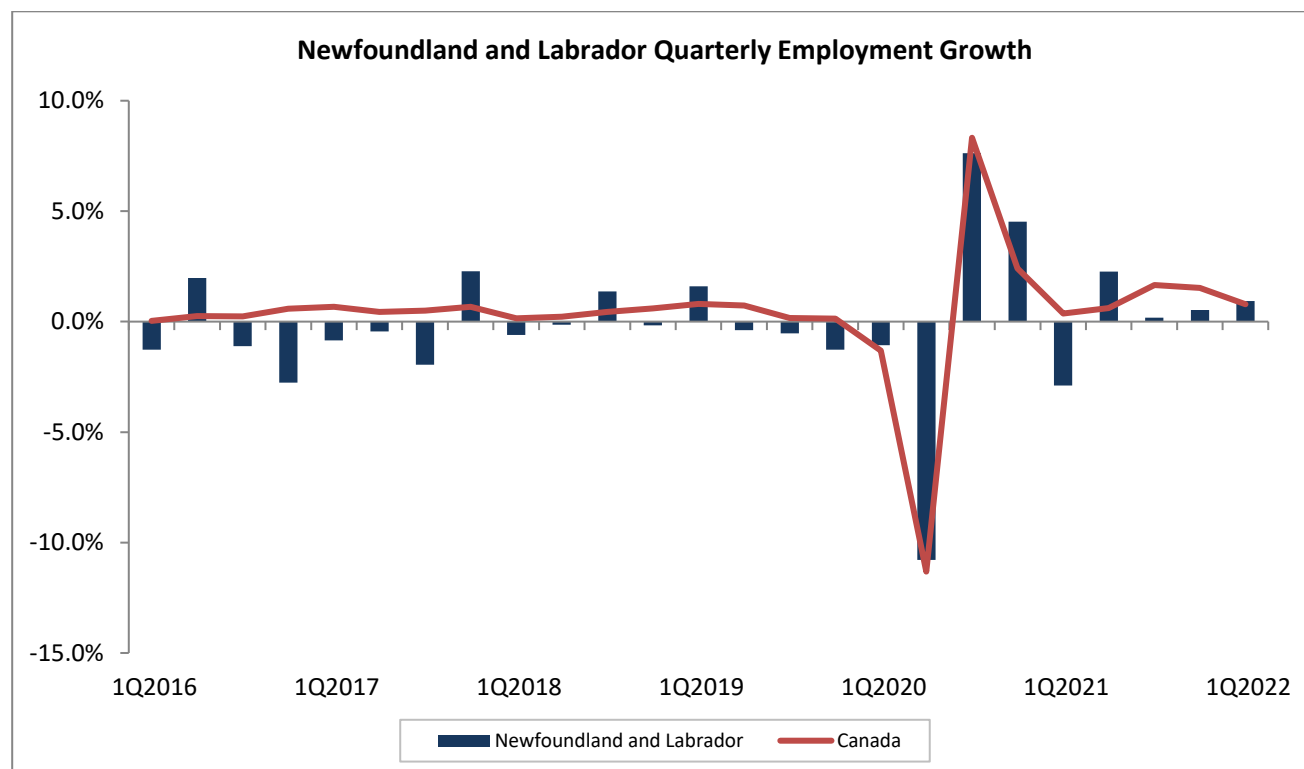
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

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 and labour force size have both grown, with the unemployment rate between 12% and 13%.



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 a sharp 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 slightly weaker than for the country as a whole.



The youth (aged 15 to 24 years) unemployment rate decreased from the previous quarter, as employment outpaced labour force growth. Compared to a year earlier, the unemployment rate for female youth dropped considerably, but this was because the size of its labour force shrunk. Employment gains were similar between male and female youth.

For those aged 25 years and older, both males and females had higher unemployment rates than in the previous quarter. For males, it was due to a small drop in employment. For females, the labour force showed a strong increase, growing faster than employment.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter 2022 %	4th Quarter 2021 %	1st Quarter 2021 %	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	12.7	12.4	13.7	0.3	-1.0
25 years and over	12.5	11.7	13.0	0.8	-0.5
Men - 25 years and over	15.7	15.2	15.5	0.5	0.2
Women - 25 years and over	9.1	7.8	10.2	1.3	-1.1
15 to 24 years	14.1	16.9	18.6	-2.8	-4.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.9	20.8	17.8	-2.9	0.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.5	12.5	19.7	-3.0	-10.2

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** was unchanged from the previous quarter. However, results were quite mixed in the sector. **Construction** (+1,100) climbed to its highest level in two years, and **agriculture** (+800) rebounded from its lowest quarterly level on record. This was offset by declines in **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas** (-1,000) and **manufacturing** (-800).

The **services-producing sector** (+2,000) had most of the employment gain compared to the previous quarter. Most industries in the sector added jobs, led by **accommodation and food services** (+900). **Professional, scientific, and technical services** matched its highest quarterly employment on record, led by the province's growing technology sector. However, **finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** has lost 1,700 jobs over the past three quarters.

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2022	4th Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	224.6	222.5	216.0	2.1	0.9	8.6	4.0
Goods-producing sector	45.0	45.0	41.9	0.0	0.0	3.1	7.4
Agriculture	1.4	0.6	1.2	0.8	133.3	0.2	16.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.0	15.0	12.6	-1.0	-6.7	1.4	11.1
Utilities	1.3	1.4	2.8	-0.1	-7.1	-1.5	-53.6
Construction	18.0	16.9	16.6	1.1	6.5	1.4	8.4
Manufacturing	10.3	11.1	9.1	-0.8	-7.2	1.2	13.2
Services-producing sector	179.5	177.5	174.1	2.0	1.1	5.4	3.1
Trade	37.4	37.3	35.6	0.1	0.3	1.8	5.1
Transportation and warehousing	9.3	9.0	8.6	0.3	3.3	0.7	8.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	5.4	5.8	7.0	-0.4	-6.9	-1.6	-22.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	11.4	11.0	10.4	0.4	3.6	1.0	9.6
Business, building and other support services	6.9	6.8	6.8	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.5
Educational services	17.9	18.5	15.7	-0.6	-3.2	2.2	14.0
Health care and social assistance	43.3	42.8	44.2	0.5	1.2	-0.9	-2.0
Information, culture and recreation	6.9	7.4	6.3	-0.5	-6.8	0.6	9.5
Accommodation and food services	12.6	11.7	12.2	0.9	7.7	0.4	3.3
Other services	8.4	7.6	8.4	0.8	10.5	0.0	0.0
Public administration	20.0	19.6	18.9	0.4	2.0	1.1	5.8

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, two economic regions had employment gains, resulting in lower unemployment rates.

Quarterly employment on the **Avalon Peninsula** increased for the fourth 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. The services-producing sector (+5,900) had most of the job growth compared to a year earlier, with most of the gain being in educational services (+4,100), and wholesale and retail trade (+1,500). However, accommodation and food services employment has produced year-over-year losses in each quarter since the COVID-19 pandemic started. In the services-producing sector, all industries had increases with the exception of utilities (-1,500), which has shown declines in each of the past three quarters.

The unemployment rate declined in the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame–Central–Bonavista Bay** economic region. Employment grew faster than the size of the labour force, and job gains were full-time in nature. Growth in the services-producing sector (+3,000) outweighed the loss in the goods-producing sector (-900). Most industries had more jobs than a year earlier. The largest increase was in accommodation and food services (+1,100), while educational services (-1,400) had the largest loss.

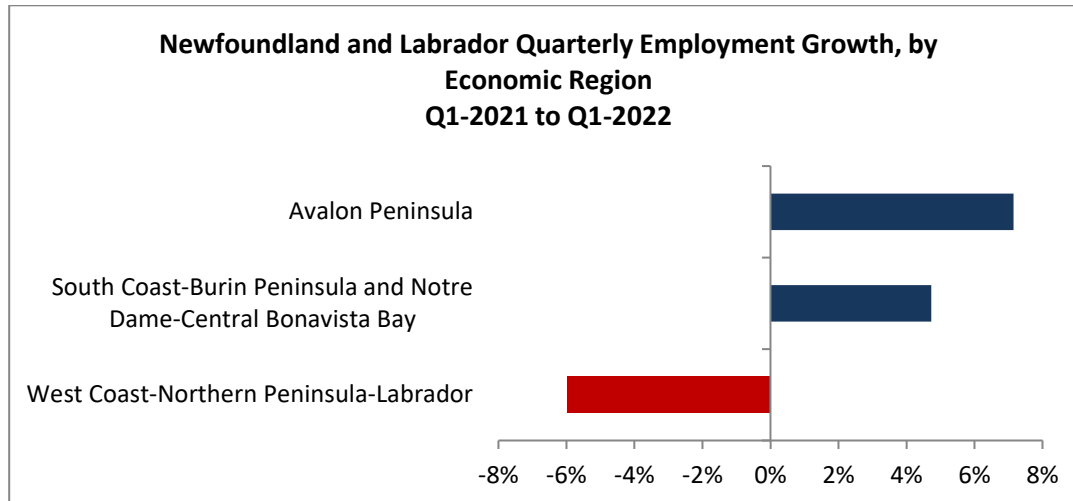
The **West Coast–Northern Peninsula–Labrador** region was the only area of the province to have fewer jobs and a higher unemployment rate than a year ago. Employment fell slightly faster than the size of the labour force, with most of the job loss being in full-time work and in the services-producing sector (-3,200). Health care and social assistance had the largest loss (-1,600). In the goods-producing sector (+800), a loss in forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas (-1,400) was outweighed by growth in construction (+1,300) and manufacturing (+500).

Newfoundland and Labrador Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2022 (‘000)	1st Quarter 2021 (‘000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2022 (%)	1st Quarter 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador	213.3	204.9	4.1	14.1	15.4	-1.3
Economic Regions						
Avalon Peninsula	129.0	120.4	7.1	11.1	12.9	-1.8
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	46.5	44.4	4.7	19.3	20.1	-0.8
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	37.8	40.2	-6.0	17.3	17.1	0.2

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact the LMI team at:

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

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2022, all rights reserved