



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Newfoundland and Labrador

May 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 May, the unemployment rate reached a record low for the second consecutive month as employment increased (+4,100) faster than labour force size (+2,300). Employment in May was the highest for the province since September of 2016.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics

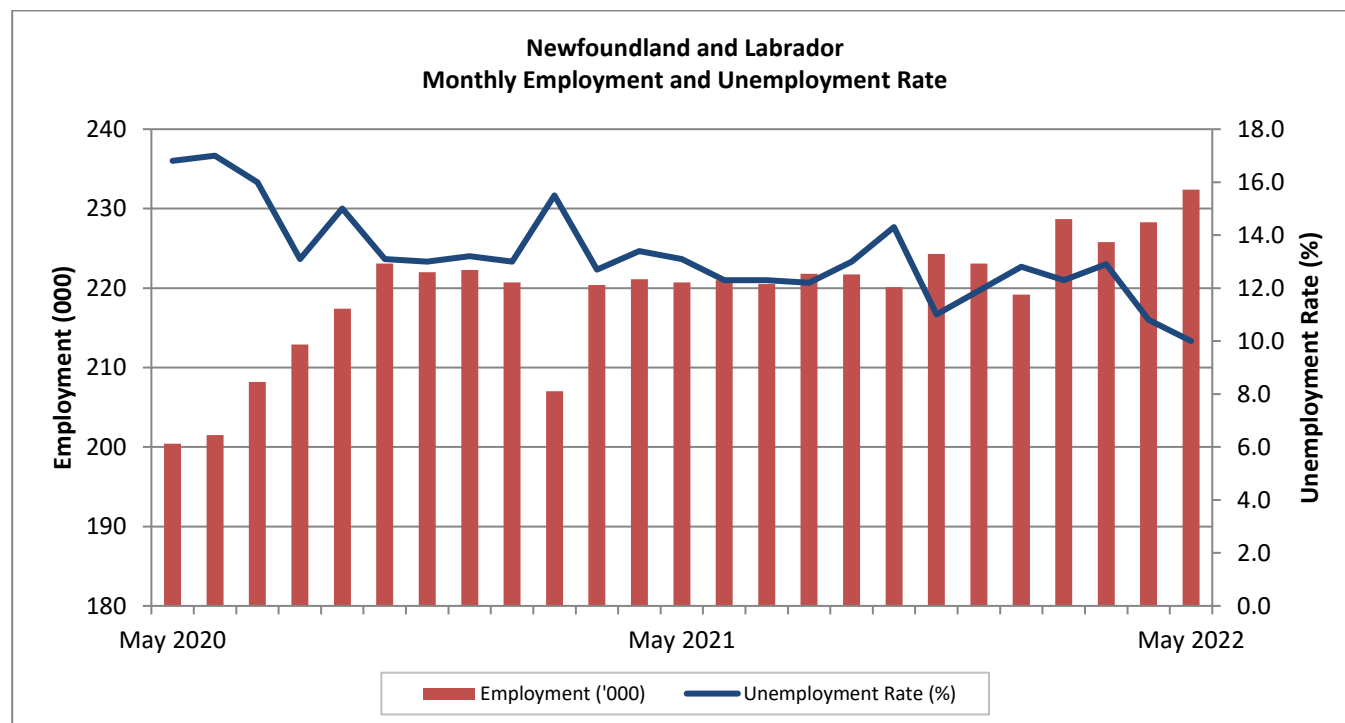
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	447.7	447.2	445.0	0.5	0.1	2.7	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	258.1	255.8	253.9	2.3	0.9	4.2	1.7
Employment ('000)	232.4	228.3	220.7	4.1	1.8	11.7	5.3
Full-Time ('000)	192.4	189.9	186.5	2.5	1.3	5.9	3.2
Part-Time ('000)	40.0	38.4	34.2	1.6	4.2	5.8	17.0
Unemployment ('000)	25.7	27.6	33.2	-1.9	-6.9	-7.5	-22.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.0	10.8	13.1	-0.8	-	-3.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	57.7	57.2	57.1	0.5	-	0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.9	51.1	49.6	0.8	-	2.3	-

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%. In the past four months, employment has grown to exceed pre-pandemic levels, with the unemployment rate falling sharply to a record low.



Approximately half of the monthly job gain was among females 25 years of age and older (+2,000), resulting in a lower unemployment rate for this group. Employment for males of this age group increased for the fourth consecutive month. The gain in jobs combined with a drop in labour force size dropped the unemployment rate for this group to its lowest since November of 2007. Compared to a year ago, employment for males of this age group has risen strongly (+5,500), with little change in labour force size. The result has been a sharp decline in this group's unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate for youth (ages 15 to 24 years) increased for the third consecutive month. The labour force increased faster than employment. However, compared to the pre-pandemic conditions of February of 2020, this group's unemployment rate has fallen considerably from 17.9%. Employment growth (+3,500) has outpaced the increase in labour force size (+2,400).

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	10.0	10.8	13.1	-0.8	-3.1
<b>25 years and over</b>	9.4	10.5	12.8	-1.1	-3.4
Men - 25 years and over	10.6	11.6	15.2	-1.0	-4.6
Women - 25 years and over	8.1	9.3	10.3	-1.2	-2.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	13.6	12.9	14.5	0.7	-0.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.5	15.6	19.7	-0.1	-4.2

Women - 15 to 24 years	12.0	9.8	9.0	2.2	3.0
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Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The monthly employment gain was concentrated in the **services-producing sector** (+6,600). Growth occurred across most industries in this sector, led by the other services industry (+1,700), which includes repair and maintenance, and personal care services. While this industry grew, it was 3,400 jobs less than the pre-pandemic level. Wholesale and retail trade and educational services both added 1,200 jobs. Professional, technical, and scientific services reached a new high, fuelled by a growing information technology sector as well as architectural, engineering, and design services. Another industry on the rise was accommodation and food services (+800), which reached its highest level since December of 2020. The industry has grown by 36% in the past twelve months.

Employment fell in the **goods-producing sector** (-2,500), but remained higher than a year earlier (+1,600). Manufacturing (-1,800) had the sharpest drop of any industry in May. Construction also lost jobs (-700), but still had 2,900 more jobs than a year earlier. Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+500) was the only industry in the sector to produce a gain. This increase was led by oil and gas as well as its supporting services.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	232.4	228.3	220.7	4.1	1.8	11.7	5.3
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	44.9	47.4	43.3	-2.5	-5.3	1.6	3.7
Agriculture	1.2	1.5	1.2	-0.3	-20.0	0.0	0.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	14.6	14.1	13.1	0.5	3.5	1.5	11.5
Utilities	1.4	1.6	1.9	-0.2	-12.5	-0.5	-26.3
Construction	19.0	19.7	16.1	-0.7	-3.6	2.9	18.0
Manufacturing	8.7	10.5	11.0	-1.8	-17.1	-2.3	-20.9
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	187.5	180.9	177.4	6.6	3.6	10.1	5.7
Trade	38.5	37.3	34.7	1.2	3.2	3.8	11.0
Transportation and warehousing	10.2	10.1	7.3	0.1	1.0	2.9	39.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	6.2	5.3	7.2	0.9	17.0	-1.0	-13.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	11.6	10.8	10.5	0.8	7.4	1.1	10.5
Business, building and other support services	5.7	6.1	7.5	-0.4	-6.6	-1.8	-24.0
Educational services	18.8	17.6	15.9	1.2	6.8	2.9	18.2
Health care and social assistance	43.6	43.4	45.3	0.2	0.5	-1.7	-3.8
Information, culture and recreation	7.7	7.2	9.3	0.5	6.9	-1.6	-17.2
Accommodation and food services	15.4	14.6	11.3	0.8	5.5	4.1	36.3
Other services	9.0	7.3	8.0	1.7	23.3	1.0	12.5
Public administration	20.7	21.2	20.4	-0.5	-2.4	0.3	1.5

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 declined in the West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador economic region, but increased elsewhere. The unemployment rate fell in all economic regions in the province.

The **Avalon Peninsula** led employment growth (+9,000), mainly in full-time positions (+7,600). Labour force growth was also strong (+6,900). The unemployment rate has fallen for thirteen consecutive months, mainly due to employment gains over this period. Educational services had 3,400 more jobs than a year earlier, while health care and social assistance (+2,300) and construction (+3,200) showed healthy gains as well. Construction has increased by 49% compared to year ago. Accommodation and food services (+1,500) posted its second consecutive increase following declines in every month since February of 2020, just prior to the start of the COVID-10 pandemic. However, finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-1,400) and utilities (-900) have both experienced consistent losses since July of 2021.

In the **South Coast–Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central-Bonavista Bay** economic region, employment (+1,000) increased while the size of the labour force declined (-1,800), lowering the unemployment rate. Employment gains were full-time in nature. Following a prolonged period of losses, conditions have improved for accommodation and food services in recent months, adding more jobs (+1,100) than any other industry in May. Transportation and warehousing (+1,000) grew for the seventh consecutive month following an extended period of losses. The goods-producing sector lost jobs (-1,100) as losses in construction (-1,000) and manufacturing (-1,100) outweighed a gain in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (+1,000).

In the **West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador** economic region, the unemployment rate fell for the second consecutive month following eight months with losses. The size of the labour force fell (-1,600) slightly faster than employment (-1,000). Job losses were in full-time positions (-2,400). While there was a gain in construction (+1,300), forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas (-900) was down by 25% from a year ago. Professional, scientific and technical services (+500) has increased the fastest (71%). Accommodation and food services (+500) also added jobs. While employment was higher than a year ago, it was lower than in May of 2020, when the pandemic was bringing the economy to a virtual halt. Health care and social assistance (-2,300) had the largest loss compared to twelve months ago, but was 2,000 jobs (30%) higher than two years earlier.

Newfoundland and Labrador Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2022 ('000)	May 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2022 (%)	May 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% Points)
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	222.6	213.5	4.3	12.5	14.8	-2.3
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Avalon Peninsula	133.3	124.3	7.2	9.4	11.4	-2.0
South Coast-Burin Peninsula and Notre Dame-Central Bonavista Bay	49.1	48.1	2.1	16.4	20.5	-4.1
West Coast-Northern Peninsula-Labrador	40.2	41.2	-2.4	16.9	17.6	-0.7

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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