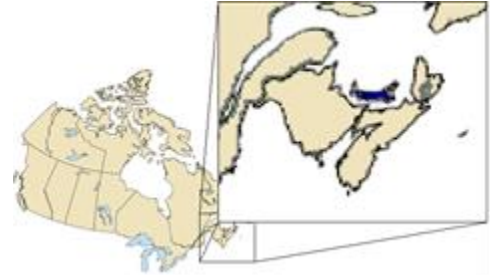




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island



October 2022

This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Prince Edward Island.

OVERVIEW

The Island's labour force and employment bases both increased in October. Both indicators remain short of their all-time highs, which for the labour force occurred this past May, and employment in June 2022. On a year-to-date basis, P.E.I.'s labour force and employment levels are up by 5.6% and 7.1%, respectively, indicating a robust post-pandemic recovery. With proportionately more people finding jobs relative to labour force growth, the unemployment rate in October fell to 5.4%, which is the second lowest figure on record. The cluster of those not looking for work, or available to work, contracted by 3% in October as many transitioned back to the labour force in search of employment. As a result, this exerted upward pressure on the Island's participation rate in the most recent month, which grew to 64.7%.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

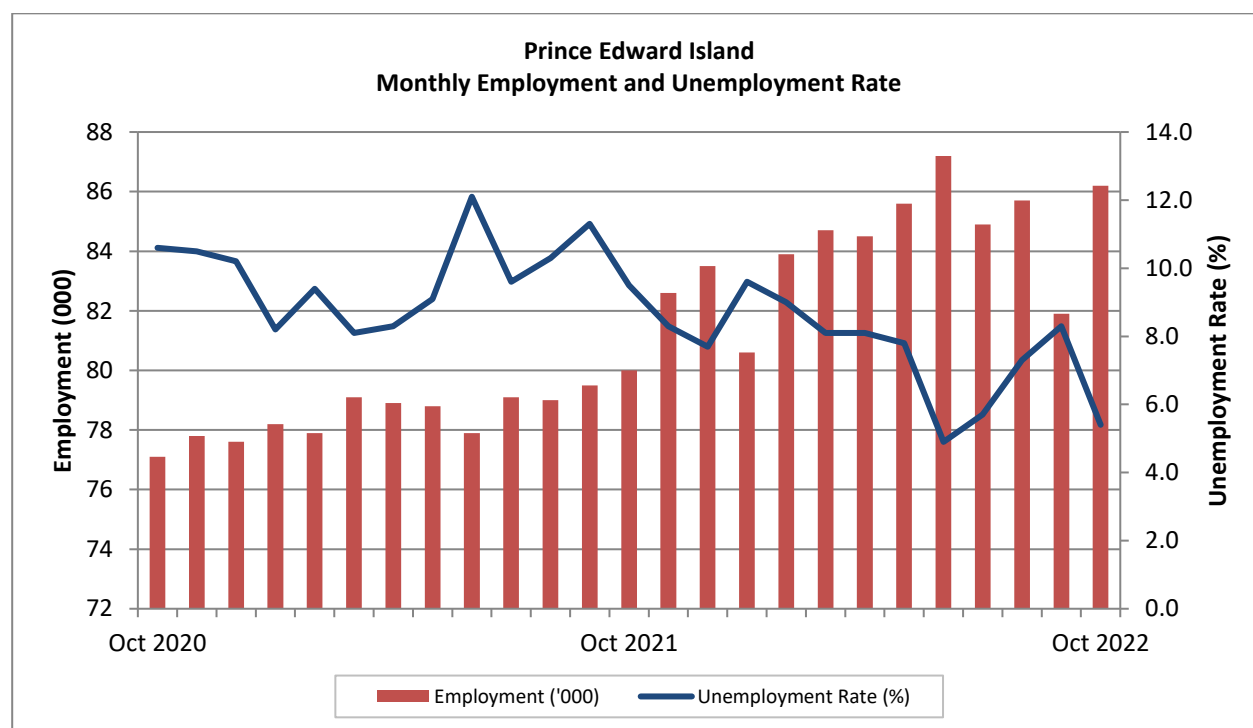
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	140.7	140.4	135.6	0.3	0.2	5.1	3.8
Labour Force ('000)	91.1	89.3	88.4	1.8	2.0	2.7	3.1
Employment ('000)	86.2	81.9	80.0	4.3	5.3	6.2	7.8
Full-Time ('000)	72.3	67.2	68.2	5.1	7.6	4.1	6.0
Part-Time ('000)	13.8	14.7	11.8	-0.9	-6.1	2.0	16.9
Unemployment ('000)	4.9	7.4	8.4	-2.5	-33.8	-3.5	-41.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.4	8.3	9.5	-2.9	-	-4.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.7	63.6	65.2	1.1	-	-0.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.3	58.3	59.0	3.0	-	2.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The labour force grew to 91,000 in October, which was 2% higher than the previous month, and 3% higher than a year earlier. The monthly increase in October 2022 was attributed almost entirely to the youths’ age group (15-24 years), with the majority being women. This gain served to recover the steep labour force decline experienced by youths in the previous month. Partially offsetting the labour force increase in October was a 3.2% contraction in the number of older workers participating in the labour market.

The number of people not participating in the labour force in October 2022 declined by 3% over the previous month, totalling 49,600 persons. On a year-to-date basis, it is 1.7% higher than it was during the January to October 2021 period. For the first ten months of 2022, there has consistently been about 3,900 persons, on average, who remained out of the labour force, despite having had some form of labour market attachment prior to the pandemic (the vast majority of those being older workers). In October 2022, there were 1,800 persons that entered the labour force looking for work and the majority of them were youths. Partially offsetting this was a decline in the number of older workers (55+ years) in the labour force that month.



The Island’s employment base, at 86,200, grew by 5.3% over the previous month and the majority of those that secured employment in October were males. A contraction in the number of part-time jobs in the province (attributed entirely to women) was more than offset by growth in full-time employment. Women belonging to the youth and core-aged (persons 25-54 years) cohorts made up the majority of the gain in full-time jobs in October.

Due to more people having found work relative to growth in the labour force in October, the number of those unemployed in the province declined to 4,900. The Island’s unemployment rate fell significantly, by nearly 3 percentage points to 5.4% in October – the second lowest rate on record.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.4	8.3	9.5	-2.9	-4.1
25 years and over	4.2	7.8	7.8	-3.6	-3.6
Men - 25 years and over	4.1	9.0	10.2	-4.9	-6.1
Women - 25 years and over	4.3	6.5	5.0	-2.2	-0.7
15 to 24 years	11.7	11.5	18.0	0.2	-6.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	5.5	10.2	18.8	-4.7	-13.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	18.1	12.9	17.1	5.2	1.0

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

The Island's participation rate increased to 64.7% as more people were looking for work in October, though it remains 3 percentage points lower than its February 2020 pre-pandemic rate. P.E.I.'s participation rate in the most recent month was slightly below the national average (64.9%) but remained highest in the Atlantic region. Further to this, the Island's participation rates for core-aged females (at 89.4%) was highest in the country in October 2022.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The monthly gain in employment in October 2022 was largely concentrated in the services-producing sector – particularly in the wholesale and retail trade; and information, culture and recreation industries. Goods-sector employment also increased, attributed mostly to gains in the manufacturing and construction industries.

Manufacturing employment increased by just over 10% in October and remains well above its pre-pandemic level. On a year-to-date basis, employment in the industry averaged 8,100 persons, which is nearly 19% higher than it was over the same period last year; and 18% higher compared to the first ten months of 2019. Manufacturing activity has been robust throughout the year, supported by surging shipments of both durable and non-durable products, which are up by nearly 38% and 12%, respectfully in 2022, on a year-to-date basis (January to August). Furthermore, this builds on record-level shipments experienced in 2021, which totaled nearly \$2.6B in sales for the year. Export values of manufactured goods are up by nearly 22% over the first three-quarters of 2022, relative to the same period a year ago. International demand for Island-based products so far this year was strongest for frozen food products; followed by durable goods products associated with pharmaceutical and aerospace-related manufacturing.

Construction employment continues to be supported by strong residential and non-residential construction activity. All indications point toward robust construction activity in the current period, which is expected to continue over the next couple of years. This is driven by major construction projects associated with the Building Canada Fund; provincial capital investment; ongoing residential construction and development; infrastructure upgrades; as well as other major projects that have been approved or are currently underway.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	86.2	81.9	80.0	4.3	5.3	6.2	7.8
Goods-producing sector	22.0	20.5	19.8	1.5	7.3	2.2	11.1
Agriculture	2.8	3.3	3.9	-0.5	-15.2	-1.1	-28.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.2	1.8	2.0	0.4	22.2	0.2	10.0
Utilities	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	50.0	-0.2	-40.0
Construction	7.4	6.7	6.0	0.7	10.4	1.4	23.3
Manufacturing	9.4	8.5	7.5	0.9	10.6	1.9	25.3
Services-producing sector	64.2	61.4	60.1	2.8	4.6	4.1	6.8
Trade	11.8	10.6	11.6	1.2	11.3	0.2	1.7
Transportation and warehousing	1.4	1.3	2.3	0.1	7.7	-0.9	-39.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.4	2.5	2.5	-0.1	-4.0	-0.1	-4.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	4.3	4.6	4.7	-0.3	-6.5	-0.4	-8.5
Business, building and other support services	2.7	2.8	2.2	-0.1	-3.6	0.5	22.7
Educational services	7.1	5.8	5.9	1.3	22.4	1.2	20.3
Health care and social assistance	13.4	13.0	11.4	0.4	3.1	2.0	17.5
Information, culture and recreation	3.7	2.9	2.2	0.8	27.6	1.5	68.2
Accommodation and food services	3.6	3.6	4.9	0.0	0.0	-1.3	-26.5
Other services	3.2	3.5	3.4	-0.3	-8.6	-0.2	-5.9
Public administration	10.6	10.8	9.1	-0.2	-1.9	1.5	16.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Wholesale and retail trade employment increased by 11% to total 11,800 in October which is on par with its February 2020 pre-pandemic level. Indications suggest that this gain is more about the industry's ongoing recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic and less a product of new job growth. The value of retail spending in the province has grown considerably in recent months, having increased by 7% over the January to August 2022 period, compared to the same period a year ago. In what appears to be a good news story, this growth is actually the result of higher prices – with inflation at 9% during the first three quarters of 2022.

The level of employment in the **information, culture and recreation** industry reached a record high in October and is up by nearly 30% over the same period in 2021. Strong job gains in this sector is in part supported by internet infrastructure initiatives and a strong tourism recovery. For example, the provincial government is committed to delivering high-speed internet connectivity to 95% of civic addresses in the province by 2023, and 100% by 2025. The Island's tourism sector experienced a banner year for visitation which supported amusement and recreational activity, as well as performing arts events, such as the Cavendish Beach Music Festival, which experienced record ticket sales in 2022.

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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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

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