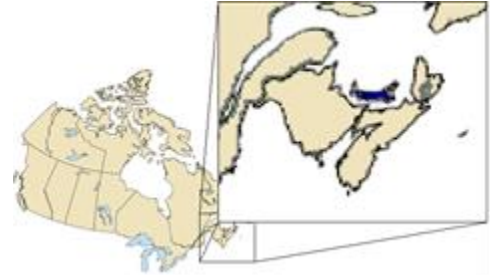




Labour Market Bulletin

Prince Edward Island



April 2022

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

OVERVIEW

The Prince Edward Island labour market remains healthy in April 2022 – which, this month marks the two year anniversary since the full impact of COVID-19 was felt across the country. The Island’s economy and labour market has proven resilient during the recovery, and in the most recent month, both its labour force and employment bases continue to hover at record levels. The Government of P.E.I. has been rolling out its transition plan to living with COVID-19, which outlines easing of restrictions. On April 6, capacity limits were removed for personal and organized gathering; and prior to this, business operations saw higher capacity limits, which in turn, has bode well for the local labour market.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

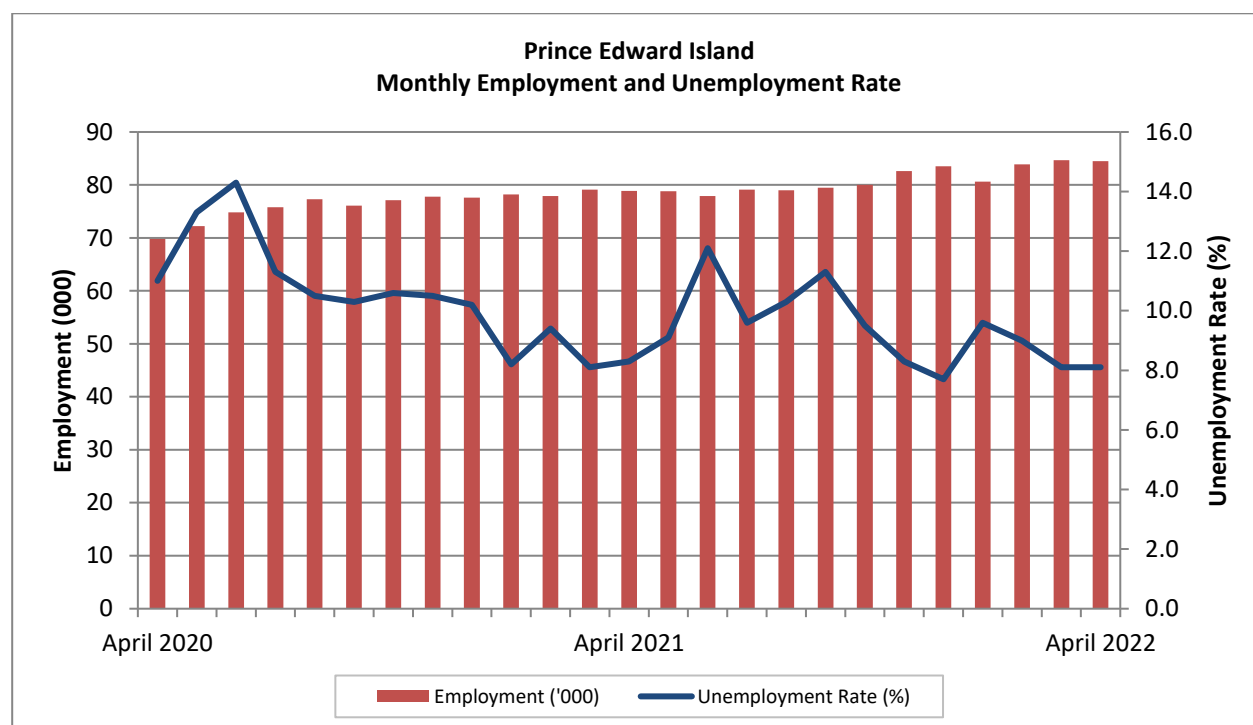
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	138.1	137.6	133.5	0.5	0.4	4.6	3.4
Labour Force ('000)	92.1	92.2	86.0	-0.1	-0.1	6.1	7.1
Employment ('000)	84.5	84.7	78.9	-0.2	-0.2	5.6	7.1
Full-Time ('000)	69.9	71.0	65.8	-1.1	-1.5	4.1	6.2
Part-Time ('000)	14.6	13.7	13.1	0.9	6.6	1.5	11.5
Unemployment ('000)	7.5	7.5	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	5.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.1	8.1	8.3	0.0	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.7	67.0	64.4	-0.3	-	2.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.2	61.6	59.1	-0.4	-	2.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The unemployment rate in P.E.I., at 8.1% in April, was unchanged from the previous month, and remains just under its February 2020 pre-pandemic level. The province’s unemployment rate in the most recent month is the lowest April rate on record (the highest being 18.7% in April 1992 – during the recession). The Island’s participation rate, at 66.7% in April 2022 was down slightly from the previous month.

Overall, there was little monthly variation in the labour force in April. There were slightly fewer youths (15-24 years) participating in the labour market, however, this was nearly offset by more people from the core-age category (25-54 years) that were available and looking for work. There was no change in the number of older workers (55+ years) in the labour force in April.



The number of people not participating in the labour force in April 2022 increased marginally from the previous month. This was attributed largely to more men from the youths and older worker age groups not available or looking for work. A total of 46,000 persons were not in the Island’s labour force in the most recent month, which is about 8% higher than what it was in February 2020, just before the pandemic hit. This means that there remains about 3,400 persons who had some form of labour market attachment prior to the pandemic, but continue to remain unattached (the vast majority of which are older workers).

The Island’s employment base varied little from the previous month, having totalled 84,500 in April 2022. This was just shy of its all-time high reached just a month prior. The province’s employment composition in the most recent month shifted slightly with fewer full-time jobs and more part-time employment. The number of people unemployed in April was on par with its February 2020 pre-pandemic level. The Island’s unemployment rate was also unchanged from the month prior.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.1	8.1	8.3	0.0	-0.2
25 years and over	6.4	7.1	7.4	-0.7	-1.0
Men - 25 years and over	6.5	8.5	8.6	-2.0	-2.1
Women - 25 years and over	6.1	5.5	6.5	0.6	-0.4
15 to 24 years	17.3	13.2	11.9	4.1	5.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.8	16.9	10.8	2.9	9.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.5	8.6	13.1	5.9	1.4

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

The Island's participation rate in April 2022 fell marginally from the previous month and is a percentage-point shy of its February 2020 pre-pandemic rate. P.E.I.'s participation rate exceeded the national average (65.3%) and ranked third highest in the country in the most recent month. Further to this, the participation rates for both Island male youths and older worker males were highest in the country in April 2022 (at 74.8% and 46.9% respectively).

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment growth in the most recent month was concentrated in the goods-producing sector – particularly in the **construction** and **manufacturing** industries. For the services-sector, employment contracted – due primarily to a sharp decline in the **accommodation and food services** industry in April.

The **construction** industry has fared relatively well throughout the pandemic and employment in April continues to be supported by strong residential and non-residential construction activity. Indeed, the level of employment in the most recent month, at 8,000 persons, exceeded the record high set for the industry in the prior month. In terms of construction activity in the province: the total value of residential and non-residential building permits is up by 36% in the first two months of 2022 compared to the same two months in 2021. It should be noted that total permits were at an all-time high in 2021. Further, the number of new single dwelling housing starts are up considerably in the first two months of 2022 compared to the same period a year earlier. All indications point toward robust construction activity in the current period, driven by major construction projects associated with the Building Canada Fund; provincial capital investment; ongoing residential construction and development; and infrastructure upgrades in preparation for the Canada Winter Games in 2023; as well as other major projects that have been approved or are currently underway.

The monthly employment gain in P.E.I.'s **manufacturing** industry in April is supported by a strong start to 2022 with respect to manufacturing shipments in January and February. Year-to-date, the value of P.E.I.'s manufacturing shipments are up by nearly 20% and attributed to strong growth in shipments of both durable and non-durable goods. 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 22% in the first quarter of 2022, relative to the same

period a year ago. International demand for Island-based products so far in 2022 was strongest for frozen food and fresh/processed seafood; followed by durable goods - particularly pharmaceutical and medicine products; and manufactured engine, turbine and power transmission equipment products.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	84.5	84.7	78.9	-0.2	-0.2	5.6	7.1
Goods-producing sector	22.2	20.9	19.5	1.3	6.2	2.7	13.8
Agriculture	3.6	3.5	3.7	0.1	2.9	-0.1	-2.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.6	2.0	2.5	0.6	30.0	0.1	4.0
Utilities	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	50.0
Construction	8.0	7.6	6.5	0.4	5.3	1.5	23.1
Manufacturing	7.8	7.4	6.7	0.4	5.4	1.1	16.4
Services-producing sector	62.4	63.8	59.4	-1.4	-2.2	3.0	5.1
Trade	11.4	11.4	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	6.5
Transportation and warehousing	1.6	2.0	2.5	-0.4	-20.0	-0.9	-36.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.7	2.6	2.9	0.1	3.8	-0.2	-6.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	5.1	5.4	4.5	-0.3	-5.6	0.6	13.3
Business, building and other support services	2.1	1.9	2.2	0.2	10.5	-0.1	-4.5
Educational services	6.2	6.1	6.3	0.1	1.6	-0.1	-1.6
Health care and social assistance	12.1	12.2	11.4	-0.1	-0.8	0.7	6.1
Information, culture and recreation	3.2	2.9	2.7	0.3	10.3	0.5	18.5
Accommodation and food services	4.7	5.6	4.2	-0.9	-16.1	0.5	11.9
Other services	3.2	3.4	3.1	-0.2	-5.9	0.1	3.2
Public administration	10.1	10.3	8.9	-0.2	-1.9	1.2	13.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The **accommodation and food services (AFS)** industry continues to benefit from easing of public health measures in the province which has aided in its ongoing recovery. With this said, employment in the industry contracted in April from its post-pandemic high recorded in the previous month. Employment in the industry averaged 4,700 persons in April 2022, and is about 75% of its February 2020 pre-pandemic level. However, the light at the end of the tunnel in terms of full recovery is certainly in sight for the industry providing the province continues to roll out its transition plan with further easing of restrictions – a timely initiative as the tourist season is soon approaching.

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