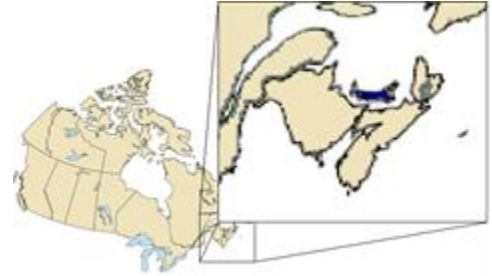




# Labour Market Bulletin

## Prince Edward Island



August 2022

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

### OVERVIEW

Following somewhat of a labour market correction in the previous month, the Island's labour force and employment bases both increased in August. Both indicators remain short of their all-time highs, which for the labour force occurred this past May, and employment, in June 2022. The unemployment rate was the lowest on record in June as well, at 4.9%. On a year-to-date basis, P.E.I.'s labour force and employment levels are up by 5.5% and 7.7%, respectively, indicating a robust recovery post-pandemic. The unemployment rate in August did increase, however, as there were more people looking for work that month. The cluster of those not looking for work, or available to work, contracted by 4% in August as many transitioned back to the labour force in search of jobs. As a result, this put upward pressure on the Island's participation rate in the most recent month, which stood at 66%.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Labour Force Statistics

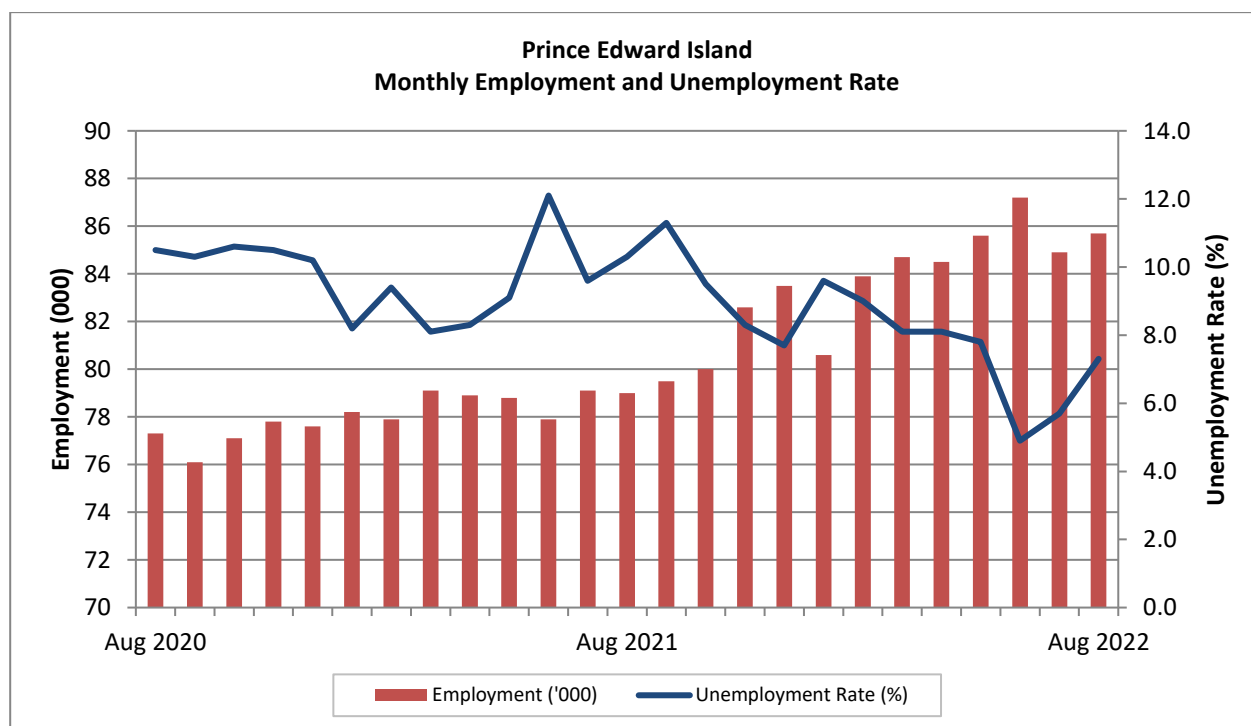
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Aug 2022	July 2022	Aug 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	140.1	139.7	134.6	0.4	0.3	5.5	4.1
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	92.4	90.1	88.1	2.3	2.6	4.3	4.9
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	85.7	84.9	79.0	0.8	0.9	6.7	8.5
Full-Time ('000)	71.7	72.3	66.7	-0.6	-0.8	5.0	7.5
Part-Time ('000)	14.0	12.7	12.2	1.3	10.2	1.8	14.8
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	6.7	5.1	9.1	1.6	31.4	-2.4	-26.4
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	7.3	5.7	10.3	1.6	-	-3.0	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	66.0	64.5	65.5	1.5	-	0.5	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	61.2	60.8	58.7	0.4	-	2.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The labour force in August totalled 92,400 which was 2.6% higher compared to the previous month, and nearly 5% higher year-over-year. The monthly increase in August 2022 was attributed almost evenly between men and women, and in both cases, the majority were those in the core-aged group (25-54 years) followed by older workers (55+ years).

The number of people not participating in the labour force in August 2022 declined by 3.9% over the previous month, and totalled 47,700 persons. On a year-to-date basis, it is on par with the number of people out of the labour force from January to August 2021. For the first eight months of 2022, there has consistently been about 3,300 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 were older workers). In the most recent month, another 1,900 persons entered the labour force looking for work – the majority of which were comprised of people from the core-aged (25-54 years) group, followed by older workers.



The Island’s employment base, at 85,700, edged up by nearly 1% over the previous month and the majority that secured employment in August were males. A slight contraction in full-time employment in the province was more than offset by a 10.2% surge in part-time jobs. Youths (persons 15-24 years) secured the majority of these part-time jobs in August.

Due to more people engaged in the labour market in August than the previous month, the number of those unemployed increased to 6,700. Despite more unemployed in the most recent month, there were far fewer when compared to August 2021, at 9,100. The Island’s unemployment rate increased by 1.6 percentage points to 7.3% in August.

Prince Edward Island Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Aug 2022	July 2022	Aug 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.3	5.7	10.3	1.6	-3.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.3	5.2	9.3	2.1	-2.0
Men - 25 years and over	8.2	6.2	11.5	2.0	-3.3
Women - 25 years and over	6.4	4.1	6.7	2.3	-0.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	6.8	8.2	15.8	-1.4	-9.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	6.5	10.4	16.7	-3.9	-10.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.1	7.2	14.7	-0.1	-7.6

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

The Island's participation rate increased as more people were looking for work in August, to 66%, but remains 1.7 percentage points lower than its February 2020 pre-pandemic rate. P.E.I.'s participation rate in the most recent month was third highest compared to its provincial counterparts, and remains highest in the Atlantic region. Further to this, the Island's participation rates for both older worker males and core-aged females were highest in the country in August 2022.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The monthly gain in employment in the most recent month was largely concentrated in the goods-producing sector – particularly in the Manufacturing and Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industries. However, these gains were partially offset by a decrease in construction employment. Employment in the services-sector increased marginally, with notable employment growth in the Health care and social assistance industry.

**Manufacturing** employment increased by 6.4% in August and remains well above its pre-pandemic level. On a year-to-date basis, employment in the industry averaged 7,900 persons which is nearly 18% higher than it was over the same period last year; and 14% higher compared to the first eight 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 57% and 9% respectfully in the first half of 2022 compared to the same period last year.

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 20% over the first seven months 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 products; followed by durable products associated with aerospace-related manufacturing.

The **construction** industry has fared relatively well throughout the pandemic and despite lower employment in the most recent month, the industry 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; 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.

#### Prince Edward Island Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Aug 2022	July 2022	Aug 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	85.7	84.9	79.0	0.8	0.9	6.7	8.5
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	21.6	21.1	18.5	0.5	2.4	3.1	16.8
Agriculture	3.6	3.4	3.8	0.2	5.9	-0.2	-5.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.3	1.9	2.3	0.4	21.1	0.0	0.0
Utilities	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	-	-0.5	-100.0
Construction	7.3	7.9	5.4	-0.6	-7.6	1.9	35.2
Manufacturing	8.3	7.8	6.6	0.5	6.4	1.7	25.8
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	64.1	63.8	60.4	0.3	0.5	3.7	6.1
Trade	10.6	10.9	11.5	-0.3	-2.8	-0.9	-7.8
Transportation and warehousing	1.2	1.5	2.5	-0.3	-20.0	-1.3	-52.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.7	2.6	2.7	0.1	3.8	0.0	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	5.1	5.1	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.7	15.9
Business, building and other support services	2.3	2.5	2.6	-0.2	-8.0	-0.3	-11.5
Educational services	6.0	6.0	6.5	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-7.7
Health care and social assistance	13.1	12.5	11.8	0.6	4.8	1.3	11.0
Information, culture and recreation	3.5	3.3	2.4	0.2	6.1	1.1	45.8
Accommodation and food services	5.9	5.6	4.7	0.3	5.4	1.2	25.5
Other services	3.0	3.1	3.3	-0.1	-3.2	-0.3	-9.1
Public administration	10.8	10.8	8.2	0.0	0.0	2.6	31.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

**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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[http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact\\_us.aspx?section=lmi](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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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