

This monthly newsletter provides a snapshot of new research and data on Nova Scotia's labour market collected by LAE's [PRA division](#).

Labour Force Survey, March 2019: Nova Scotia Highlights

- Nova Scotia's **labour force** decreased marginally by 1,300 (-0.3%) from 498,500 in February to 497,200 in March. Compared to a year ago, the labour force increased by 6,100 (+1.2%).
 - In the past twelve months, both youth (aged 15-24 years) and older workers (aged 55 and over) experienced labour force expansion by 3,100 (+4.5%) and 4,200 (+3.7%) respectively. The expansion was partially offset by the shrinking labour force of core-aged (-1,300, -0.4%).
- In the last month, **employment** remained at 466,500 while **unemployment** decreased by 1,400 (-4.4%) compared to February. Compared to a year ago, employment increased by 11,800 (+2.6%).
 - All youth, core-aged (aged 25-54) and older workers experienced employment expansion in the last twelve months. Youth employment particularly increased by 5,000 (+8.5%).
 - The employment expansion in the last twelve months was mostly driven by the expansion of **part-time employment** (+7,900, +9.9%). **Full-time employment** also increased by 4,000 (+1.1%) during the same period.
 - The sectoral decomposition showed that both **good sector** and **service sector** contributed to the employment expansion during the last twelve months by 4,600 (+5.5%) and 7,300 (+2.0%). Manufacturing, Wholesale and retail trade & Health care and social assistance are the top three contributors.
- The **unemployment rate** was 6.2%, down by 0.2 percentage points from February. Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate was down by 1.2 percentage points. This marks another record-breaking low unemployment rate since the inception of the modern Labour Force Survey in 1976.

Nova Scotia Labour Force Update, March, 2019

Labour Force Characteristic	Mar-18	Feb-19	Mar-19	Mar'18 - Mar'19 % change	Feb'19 - Mar'19 % change
Population	796,600	803,400	803,800	0.9%	0.0%
Labour force	491,100	498,500	497,200	1.2%	-0.3%
Employment	454,700	466,500	466,500	2.6%	0.0%
Employment full-time	374,900	382,700	378,900	1.1%	-1.0%
Employment part-time	79,800	83,800	87,700	9.9%	4.7%
Unemployment	36,400	32,100	30,700	-15.7%	-4.4%
Unemployment rate	7.4%	6.4%	6.2%	-1.2	-0.2
Participation rate	61.6%	62.0%	61.9%	0.3	-0.1
Employment rate	57.1%	58.1%	58.0%	0.9	-0.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-01-0287-01, Seasonally Adjusted, Both Sexes, Ages 15+

Notes: The sum of individual categories may not always add up to the total as a result of rounding.