

# LABOUR MARKET OBSERVER

## Commentary on Labour Market Performance in Newfoundland and Labrador

### SEPTEMBER 2018

September marked the start of a new academic year as well as shorter days and leaves changing colours. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for the month however did not show dramatic changes in the Province's labour market. **Table 1** summarizes changes in the main labour market indicators for Newfoundland and Labrador for September 2018 compared to the previous month (August 2018) and over the last year (compared to September 2017). The

**Table 1: Labour market characteristics, NL**

	Sep-18	Aug-18	Change		% Change	
			Sep-17 to Sep-18	Aug-18 to Sep-18	Sep-17 to Sep-18	Aug-18 to Sep-18
Population	442,800	443,200	-2,700	-400	-0.6	-0.1
Labour force	262,700	264,400	1,900	-1,700	0.7	-0.6
Employment	227,100	226,300	5,500	800	2.4	0.4
Unemployment	35,600	38,100	-3,600	-2,500	-9.2	-6.6
Unemployment rate (%)	13.6	14.4	-1.4	-0.8	-	-
Participation rate (%)	59.3	59.7	0.8	-0.4	-	-
Employment rate (%)	51.3	51.1	1.6	0.2	-	-

*Source: CANSIM Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle. All working age population (15+ years of age).*

number of unemployed people in the Province fell by 2,500 (6.6%) between August and September 2018. This decline in unemployment should be viewed alongside a relatively small increase in employment (800 persons or 0.4%) and a larger decline in the labour force (1,700 persons or 0.7%). Compared to September 2017, the figures for September 2018 show overall unemployment fell by 3,600 persons (9.2%) and both employment and labour force participation increased. Over the year, employment grew by 5,500 persons (2.4%) and the labour force increased by 1,900 persons (0.7%). The unemployment rate stood at 13.6% in September 2018 compared to 14.4% the previous month and 15% in September 2017.

### EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The changes in the labour market overall obscure variations across industries. Focusing on year-over-year changes (i.e. September 2017 to September 2018), employment increased in a number of sectors, including: public administration (by 3,000 persons); professional, scientific and technical services (1,900); information, culture and recreation (1,600) health care and social assistance (1,500); finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (1,400); transportation and warehousing (1,200); and, forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (1,000). Employment has decreased in: wholesale and retail trade (by 2,000 persons); manufacturing (1,900); and, other services (except public administration) (1,900). From August 2018 to September 2018, employment in NL increased in construction (1,800); wholesale and retail trade (900); and professional, scientific and technical services (900) but decreased in educational services (1,800) and, public administration (700).

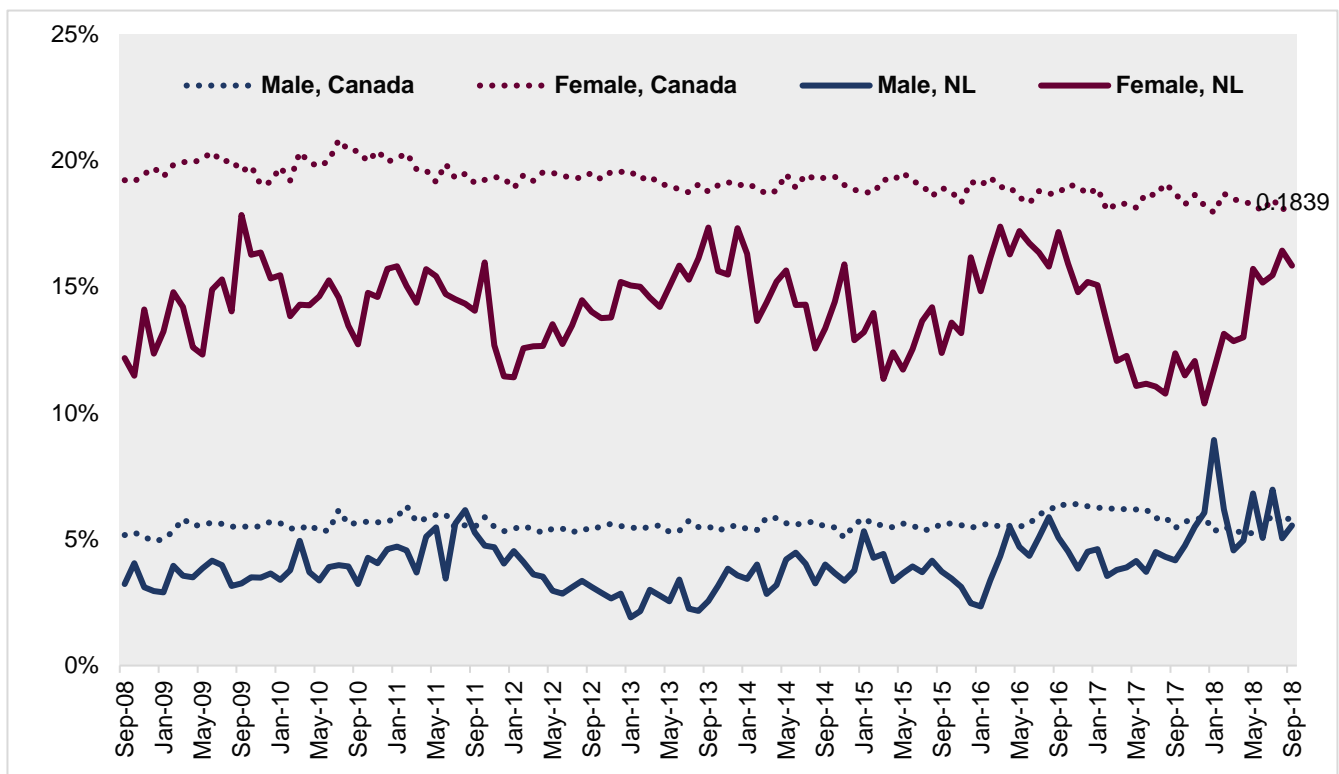
Authors: **Lynn Gambin** and **Troy Osmond**

Note: All opinions expressed in commentary are those of the author(s) and do not represent those of Memorial University of Newfoundland nor CARE.

### PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Across the country as a whole, much of the growth in employment has been attributed to an increase in part-time work. **Figure 1** shows monthly estimates of part-time (PT) employment as a share of total employment for NL and for Canada by sex. The figures are for the core working age group (ages 25-54 years) and data are provided from September 2008 to September 2018. In NL and across Canada, part-time employment is more common amongst women than men. Over most of the period shown in Figure 2, part-time employment has been less common for men in NL than across Canada. Part-time work was at a low of 1.9% of all employment for men in NL in January 2013. It was highest in January 2018 at 8.9%. From around late 2017, the part-time employment share for men in NL has been the same as or higher than the corresponding figure for Canada overall. In September 2018, 5.5% of employment men in NL worked part-time which is on par with the Canadian average of 5.9%. The share of women working part-time in NL has been noticeably lower than the Canada-wide figure over the full period shown in Figure 2. This share in NL reached a low of 10.4% in December 2017 and stood at 15.8% in September 2018. Overall, across Canada, 18.4% of employed women worked part-time.

**Figure 1: Part-time employment as % of all employment, by sex, NL and Canada**



Source: CANSIM Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle (25-54 years of age)

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