

NL LABOUR MARKET OBSERVER

Commentary on Labour Market Performance in Newfoundland and Labrador
March 2015

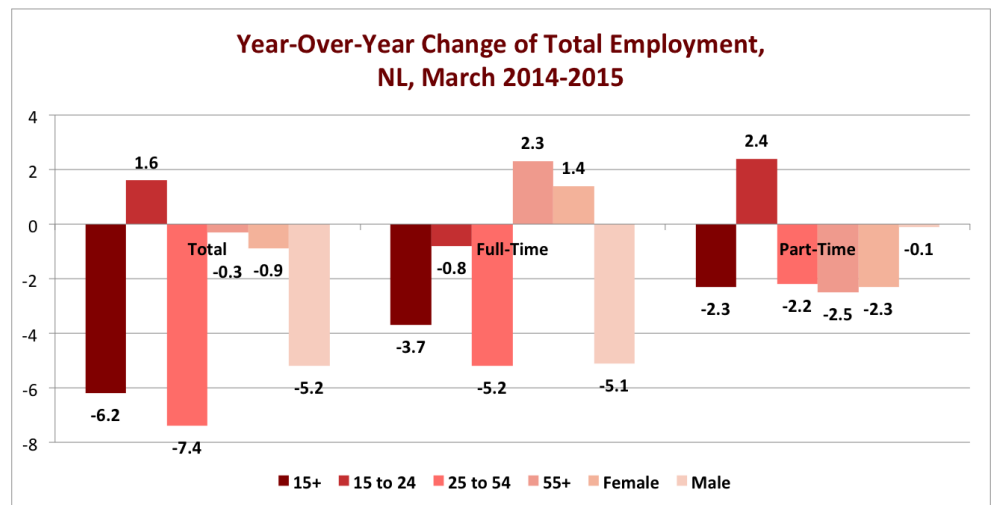
Monthly Headlines

“March Holds Steady, But Year-Over-Year Changes Miss the Mark.”

- **No change in total employment since February.**ⁱ There was no change in employment levels for Newfoundland and Labrador between February and March 2015 as an increase of almost 1,600 full-time jobs offset a loss of 1,500 part-time jobs.
- **Unemployment rate increases to 13.3% despite zero growth of employment.**ⁱⁱ An increase in the number of people entering the labour force (+2,300) served to drive the unemployment rate up by 0.7 percentage points to 13.3% in March compared to 12.6% in February. The growth in the labour force was due mainly to women (1,600) and those aged 25 to 54 (1,600).

	15+	15 to 24	25 to 54	55+	Females. 15+	Males. 15+
Unemployment rate	13.3	17	11.5	16.5	11.4	15.1
Participation rate	61.2	64	84.1	32.6	57.7	64.7
Employment rate	53	53.1	74.3	27.2	51.1	55

- **Since March 2014, total employment declines 2.6%.**ⁱⁱⁱ Year-over-year, total employment declined -6,200, or -2.6%, as a loss of 3,700 full-time jobs was compounded with a decline of -2,300 part-time jobs. While youth part-time employment grew by 2,400, or 21.1%, there were heavy losses for those aged 55 and above (-2,500), and women (-2,300).

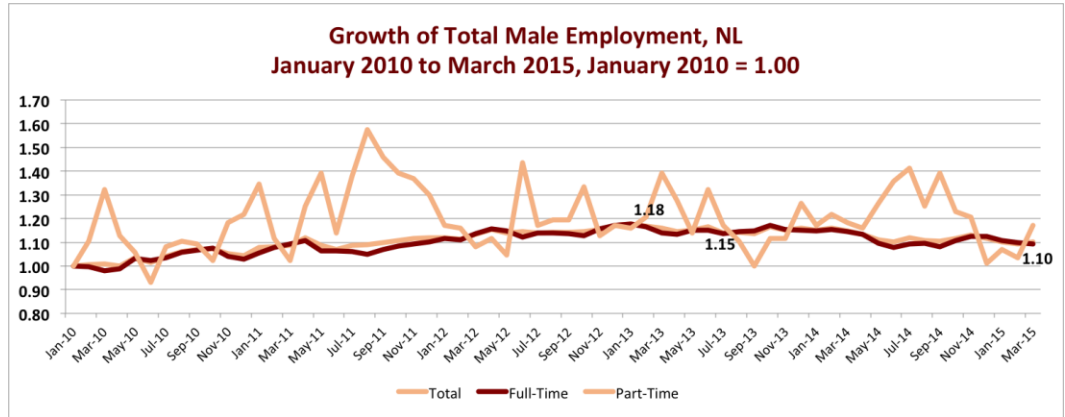


Full time employment for those aged 25 to 54 fell -5,200, or -3.5%, and for men by -5,100, or -4.5%, though slightly cushioned by gains for those aged 55 and above (2,300) and women (1,400).

Source(s): Statistics Canada, Cansim Table 282-0087, Seasonally

- Year-over-year losses continue to be concentrated in male, full-time employment.^{iv}** Since March 2013, male employment declined by 5,200, mostly full-time jobs. The following chart shows the change of male employment since January 2010. As part-time employment

represents about 10% of total male employment, the total employment curve follows the full-time employment curve more closely. While male employment had grown more than 15% in 2013, there was a drop in the spring of 2014 that seems to have stabilized around 110,000 men employed.

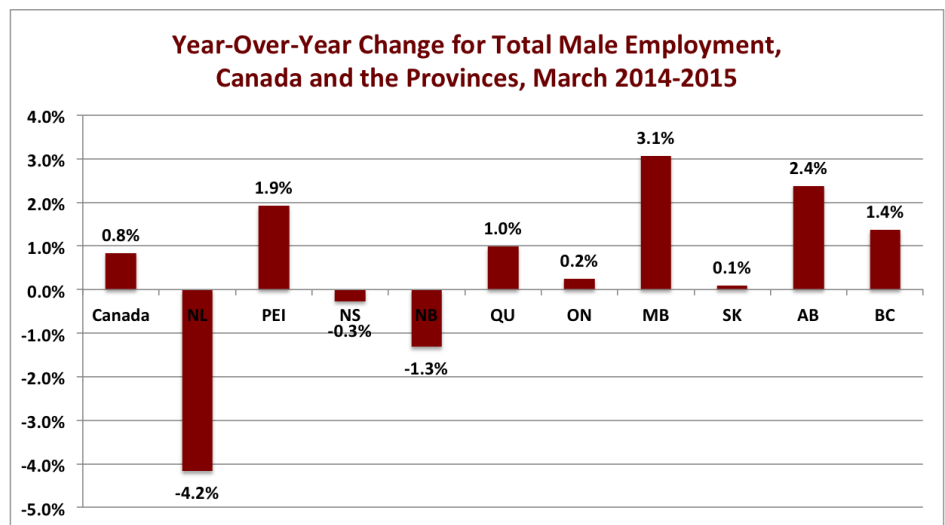


Source(s): Statistics Canada, Cansim Table 282-0087, Seasonally

This is about 11,000, or 10%, more than in January 2010.

- Compared to other provinces, Newfoundland has greatest decline of year-over-year employment for men.^v**

Year-over-year, most Maritime Provinces experienced a decline of male employment since March 2014. With male employment falling by -4.2%, Newfoundland and Labrador had the biggest year-over-year decline. Manitoba saw a 3.1%, or 10,100, gain in male employment, with Alberta close behind at 2.4% growth, or 29,500 new jobs.

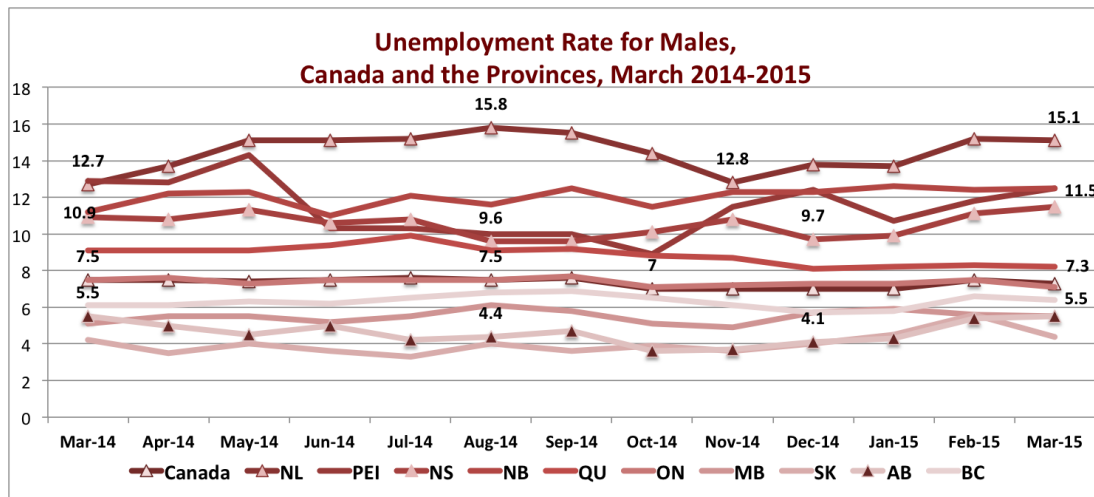


Source(s): Statistics Canada, Cansim Table 282-0087, Seasonally

- *Since March 2014, male unemployment rates have risen in Maritime Provinces.^{vi}*

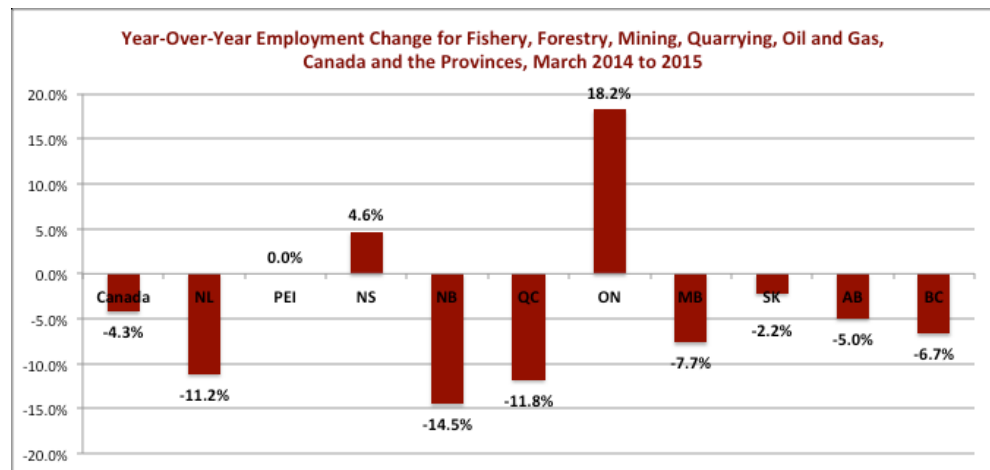
Nationally, the male unemployment rate has fallen 0.2 points from 7.5% in March 2014 to 7.3% in March 2015. This has been largely due to a decline of 0.9 points to 8.2% in Quebec and 0.4 points to 7.1% in Ontario and to 12.5% in PEI. PEI's success, however, was an outlier on the East Coast where Nova Scotia's male unemployment rate rose 0.6 points to 11.5%, New Brunswick's rose 1.3 points to 12.5% and Newfoundland's gained a significant 2.4 points to 15.1%.

Source(s): Statistics Canada, Cansim Table 282-0087, Seasonally



- *Gains in services-producing sector offset job losses in goods-producing sector.^{vii}* A decline of 600, or 2.64%, of employment in the construction industry since February is a major determinant of 600 job losses in goods-producing sector as weak growth was seen in other industries. Employment in the services-producing sector increased by .44%, or 800, due to gains in other services (900), and accommodation and food services (500).

- Nationally, year-over-year decline in goods-producing sector pushed down by job losses in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas.**^{viii} Across Canada, total employment grew by 0.8% as 185,300 new jobs in the services-producing sector largely outweighed the 47,100 jobs lost in the goods-producing sector. These losses were largely concentrated in the forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas sector, with Alberta (-8,800), British Columbia (-3,400), and Newfoundland (-2,100) were the biggest losers. Gains in Ontario (6,200) and NS (500) helped offset the loss, but did not negate the -15,900, or -4.3%, of jobs lost across Canada.



Source(s): Statistics Canada, Cansim Table 282-0088, Seasonally

- As growth in goods-producing industry slows, wages take a tumble.**^{ix} Since December, wages in industrial aggregate excluding unclassified business fell \$22.44, or 2.2%, to \$988.81. This fall was largely impacted by declining wages in the goods-producing sector of \$75.60, or 5.1%, to \$1408.34. Industries with the biggest wage losses were mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (-\$81.82) and construction (-\$80.30). Wages in the service sector slightly increased by \$2.34, or 0.3%, to \$908.99.

ⁱ Table 2820087-Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (Persons unless specified)

ⁱⁱ Source(s): Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Source(s): Ibid.

^{iv} Source(s): Ibid.

^v Source(s): Ibid.

^{vi} Source(s): Ibid.

^{vii} Table 2820088-Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (Persons unless specified)

^{viii} Source(s): Ibid.

^{ix} Table 2810063 - Employment and average weekly earnings including overtime (SEPH), seasonally adjusted, for all employees by industries classified using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), monthly (Persons unless specified)