



Prince Edward Island Labour Force Survey

2019 Annual Report



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Authored by: Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Colin Mosley

Economist – Statistics

PEI Statistics Bureau

Department of Finance

902-368-4035 cdmosley@gov.pe.ca

A Guide To The Labour Force Survey can be found on the Statistics Canada website:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-543-g/71-543-g2018001-eng.htm>

Totals may not equal the sum of components due to rounding.

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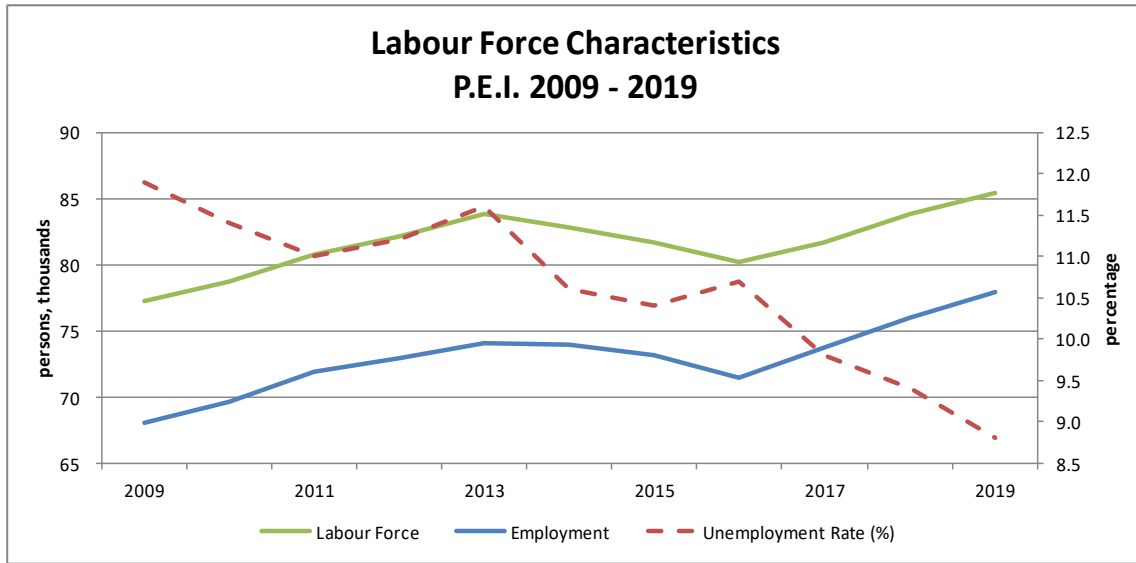
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Highlights:

- Employment increased by 2.6 per cent or 2,000 in 2019, averaging 78,000. This was the second highest growth rate among provinces.
- PEI's unemployment rate averaged 8.8 per cent in 2019, down 0.6 percentage points from 2018. This is the lowest annual rate for PEI on current records (since 1976).
- The youth unemployment rate (ages 15 to 24) dropped by 2.1 percentage points to reach an all-time low of 10.9 per cent. Employment for this age group increased 7.5 per cent.
- Total labour force averaged 85,500 persons, an increase of 1.9 per cent from 2018.
- Total unemployed persons on PEI averaged 7,500 in 2019, a 5.1 per cent decrease.
- Notable employment gains were seen in Public Administration (14.9 per cent), Health Care and Social Assistance (5.7 per cent) and Construction (10.3 per cent).
- Notable losses occurred in Information, Culture and Recreation (-18.5 per cent), Accommodation and Food Services (-6.5 per cent), and Other Primary Industries¹ (-14.8 per cent).
- PEI's average hourly wage rate was \$22.74 in 2019. This is an increase of \$0.48 or 2.2 per cent over 2018.
- The average hourly wage rate was \$22.85 for females and \$22.62 for males in 2019.
- The average weekly wage increased by 2.4 per cent to \$850.93.
- Average weekly wages have increased 28.3 per cent since 2009, the fourth fastest among provinces. The national average over this period was 26.6 per cent.
- In 2019 national employment increased by 398,200, or 2.1 per cent, over 2018.
- The national unemployment rate averaged 5.7 per cent.

¹ Primary Industries excluding Agriculture

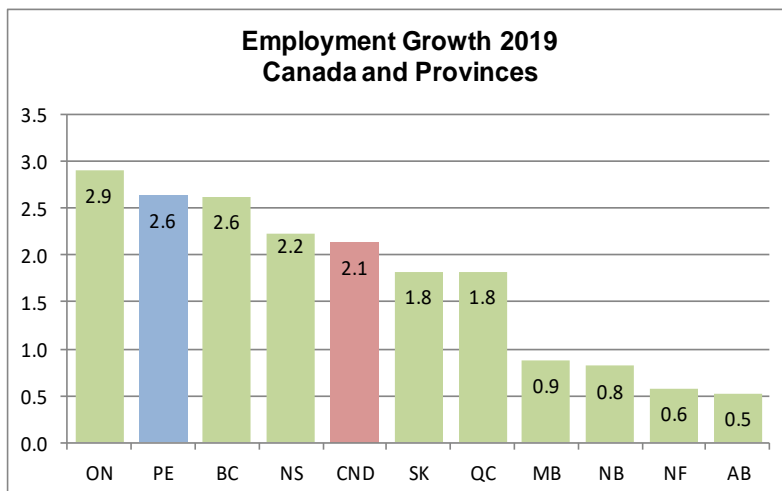
Diagram 1



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01

Annual Labour Force Survey data released by Statistics Canada on January 10, 2020 showed that among the provinces, Prince Edward Island had the second highest employment growth increasing by 2.6 per cent, or 2,000 persons. As can be seen in diagram 2, Prince Edward Island was behind only Ontario at 2.9 per cent and on par with British Columbia at 2.6 per cent. All provinces saw employment growth in 2019.

Diagram 2



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01

Prince Edward Island employment in 2019 reached an all-time high of 78,000. The annual unemployment rate for Prince Edward Island decreased by 0.6 percentage points to reach 8.8 per cent in 2019, the lowest annual unemployment rate since 1975. Despite this, PEI's unemployment rate remains the second highest in the country for 2019, behind only Newfoundland and Labrador, which was 11.9 per cent. The total labour force increased by 1,600 people, or 1.9 per cent. The total number of unemployed persons decreased by 400, or 5.1 per cent, to reach 7,500 persons in 2019. The participation rate for PEI stood at 66.5 per cent in 2019, compared to an average of 66.8 in 2018. Annual labour force survey statistics for Prince Edward Island from 2010 to 2019 can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1 – PEI Annual Labour Force Survey, 2010 to 2019

	Population 15 +	Labour Force	Employment	Unemployment	Not In Labour Force	Unemployment Rate (%)	Participation Rate (%)
2010	116.5	78.7	69.7	9.0	37.8	11.4	67.6
2011	118.6	80.8	71.9	8.9	37.9	11.0	68.1
2012	119.8	82.2	73.0	9.2	37.6	11.2	68.6
2013	120.2	83.8	74.1	9.7	36.4	11.6	69.7
2014	120.6	82.8	74.0	8.8	37.8	10.6	68.7
2015	120.9	81.7	73.2	8.5	39.2	10.4	67.6
2016	121.8	80.2	71.5	8.6	41.7	10.7	65.8
2017	123.7	81.7	73.7	8.0	42.0	9.8	66.0
2018	125.6	83.9	76.0	7.9	41.8	9.4	66.8
2019	128.6	85.5	78.0	7.5	43.2	8.8	66.5

Persons, thousands (except rates where noted)

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01

Employment by Industry

Table 2

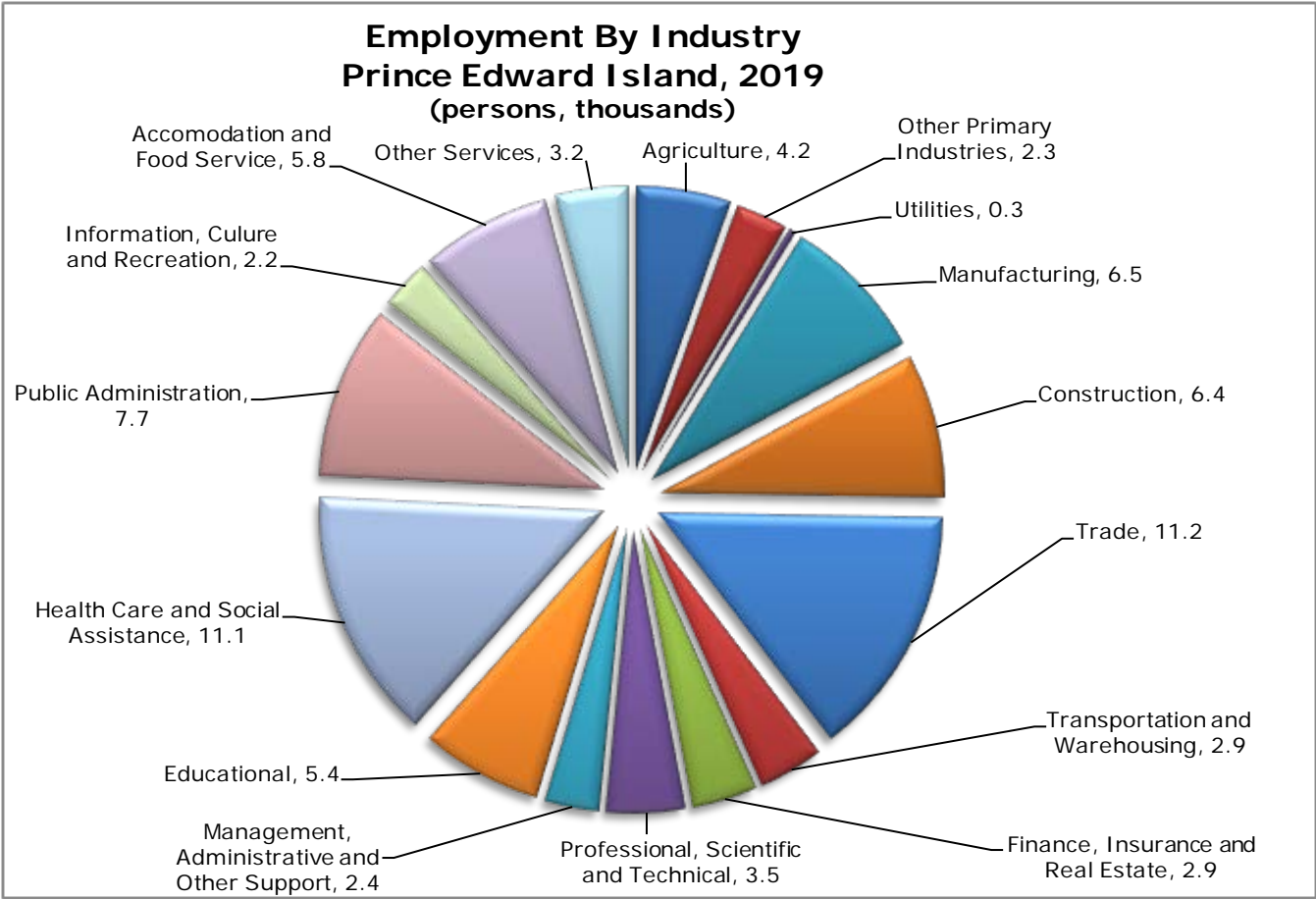
	2018	2019	Change	
			Number	Percent
Goods Producing Sector	19,400	19,700	300	1.5
Agriculture	4,000	4,200	200	5.0
Other Primary Industries	2,700	2,300	-400	-14.8
Utilities	200	300	100	50.0
Manufacturing	6,800	6,500	-300	-4.4
Construction	5,800	6,400	600	10.3
Services Producing Sector	56,600	58,200	1,600	2.8
Trade	11,100	11,200	100	0.9
Transportation and Warehousing	2,600	2,900	300	11.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2,900	2,900	0	0.0
Professional, Scientific and Technical	3,500	3,500	0	0.0
Management, Administrative and Other Support Services	1,900	2,400	500	26.3
Educational	5,400	5,400	0	0.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	10,500	11,100	600	5.7
Public Administration	6,700	7,700	1,000	14.9
Information, Culture and Recreation	2,700	2,200	-500	-18.5
Accommodation and Food Service	6,200	5,800	-400	-6.5
Other Services	3,100	3,200	100	3.2
Total	76,000	78,000	2,000	2.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0023-01

Employment in the goods producing sector increased for the third consecutive year to reach an all-time high of 19,700. This was mostly due to a 10.3 per cent increase in construction.

Employment in the service providing sector also increased in 2019, growing by 1,600 to total 58,200, also an all-time high. Significant gains were seen in public administration and health care and social assistance. Declines occurred in information, culture and recreation and accommodation and food services. The wholesale and retail trade sector remains the largest employment industry on Prince Edward Island in 2019, employing 11,200 people, followed closely by health care and social assistance, which employs 11,100 people.

Diagram 3



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0023-01

Employment by Occupation

Table 3

	2018	2019	Change	
			Number	Percent
Management	6,700	6,000	-700	-10.4
Business, Finance and Administrative	10,600	11,800	1,200	11.3
Natural and Applied Sciences and Related	4,300	3,900	-400	-9.3
Health	6,900	6,700	-200	-2.9
Services	7,700	8,200	500	6.5
Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	1,600	1,300	-300	-18.8
Sales and Service	19,400	19,400	0	0.0
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related	10,400	12,300	1,900	18.3
Natural resources, Agriculture, and Related	4,900	5,200	300	6.1
Manufacturing and Utilities	3,500	3,000	-500	-14.3
All Occupations	76,000	78,000	2,000	2.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0335-01

As seen above in Table 3, occupations in trades, transport and equipment operators and related led the way in employment increases in 2019, increasing by 1,900 or 18.3 per cent. This was followed by occupations in business, finance and administrative (+1,200, 11.3 per cent) and education, law and social, community and government services (+500, 6.5 per cent). Occupations where notable declines occurred were management (-700, -10.4 per cent) and manufacturing and utilities (-500, -14.3 per cent).

Labour Force Characteristics By Age and Gender

The number of females employed increased by 1,200 over 2018, a rise of 3.2 per cent. Male employment increased by 2.1 per cent or 800. The unemployment rate for females declined 1.5 percentage points to 6.6 per cent and the total labour force increased by 1.5 per cent. The unemployment rate for males was 10.8 per cent, up 0.2 percentage points, and the total labour force increased by 2.5 per cent.

By age cohort, the largest increases in employment occurred in females aged 25 to 44 (5.5 per cent or 800 persons), males aged 25 to 44 (4.2 per cent or 600 persons), and males aged 15 to 24 (11.1 per cent or 600 persons). The number of employed males aged 65 and over was unchanged in 2019 at 3,000, while the number of females employed in this age group increased by 100 to reach 1,900. The population cohort with the lowest unemployment rate in 2019 was females aged 25 to 44 with a rate of 5.5 per cent.

There were more youth aged 15 to 24 working or looking for work in 2019 than in 2018, as the labour force for that age group increased by 4.9 per cent or 600 persons. Employment also increased by 800 or 7.5 per cent, resulting in a decline in the unemployment rate from 13.0 per cent in 2018 to 10.9 per cent in 2019. The unemployment rate for females aged 15 to 24 dropped from 10.2 per cent to 8.3 per cent, while the unemployment rate for males in this age group dropped from 15.6 per cent in 2018 to 14.3 per cent in 2019.

Labour Force characteristics by age and gender for 2019 can be found in Table 4.

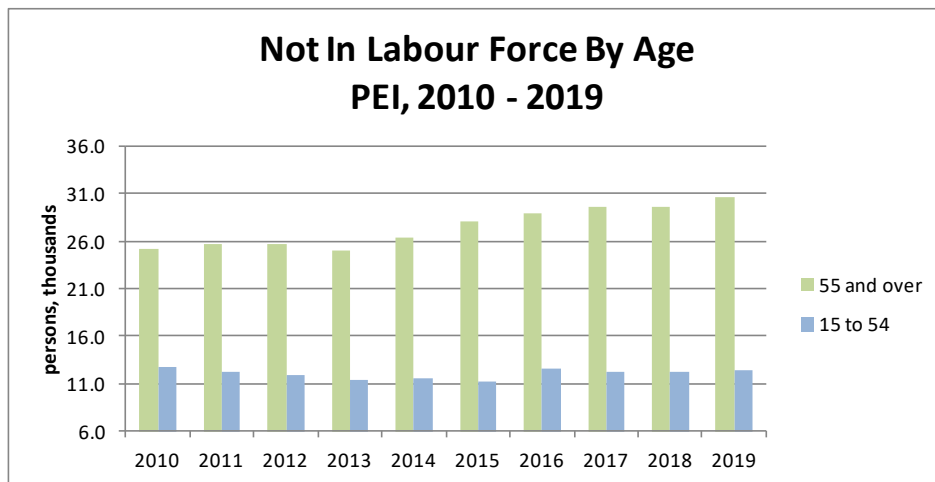
Table 4

**Labour Force Characteristics By Age and Gender
Prince Edward Island 2019**

	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15 - 24	7.0	6.0	12.9	6.0	5.5	11.5	14.3	8.3	10.9
25 - 44	16.3	16.3	32.6	14.9	15.3	30.2	8.6	5.5	7.4
45 - 64	17.8	16.8	34.6	15.8	15.6	31.4	11.2	7.1	9.2
65+	3.4	2.0	5.4	3.0	1.9	4.8	x	x	9.3
Total	44.4	41.1	85.5	39.6	38.4	78.0	10.8	6.6	8.8

Persons, thousands (except unemployment rates)
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01

Diagram 4



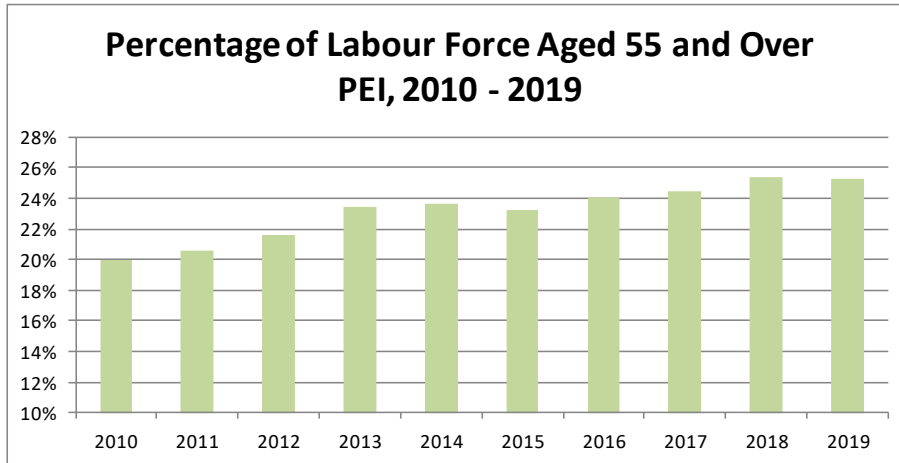
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0128-01

PEI’s total labour force increased by 1.9 per cent to reach an all-time high of 85,500 in 2019. The participation rate also decreased slightly to 66.5 per cent. The number of people not participating in the labour force² increased to 43,200, up from 41,800 in 2018, as the population 15 and over increased by 2.4 per cent. The majority of people not participating in the labour force,

71.2 per cent, are people aged 55 and over (Diagram 4). The participation rate for this age group was 41.3 per cent, down from 41.8 per cent in 2018. This age cohort made up 25.3 per cent of the total labour force in 2019, down slightly from 25.4 per cent in 2018.

² A person not in the labour force is not employed and not looking for work

Diagram 5



From 2010 to 2019, the number of people in the labour force aged 15 to 54 has been relatively unchanged, increasing by only 1.3 per cent over that time period. This age group made up 80.1 per cent of the labour force in 2010 and has declined to 74.7 per cent in 2019. Over this same time period, the labour

force aged 55 and over has increased 37.6 per cent, growing from 15,700 in 2010 to 21,600 in 2019. As a percentage of the total labour force, this is an increase from 19.9 per cent to 25.3 per cent (Diagram 5).

The number of people in the labour force aged 15 to 24 was at an all-time low in 2017 of 12,100. Following two consecutive years of increases, this number reached 12,900 in 2019, with an increase of 600 in 2019 over 2018, or 4.9 per cent. This was the highest percentage increase for this age cohort since 1979, indicating more younger people were entering the labour force in 2019.

Type of Employment

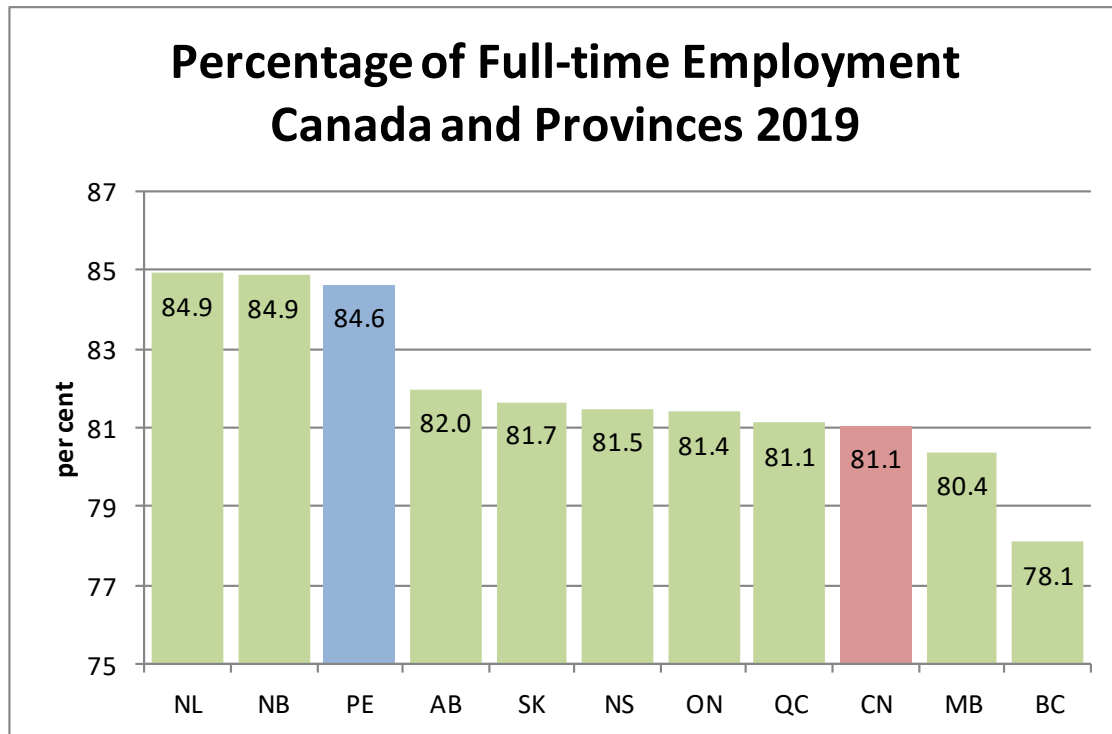
There were more people employed full-time in 2019 than ever before on PEI, as full-time employment accounted for almost all of the increase in employment. Full-time employment increased by 3.1 per cent to reach 66,000, up from 64,000 in 2018. Part-time employment increased by 0.8 per cent, or 100, to 12,000.

At 84.6 per cent of total employment, PEI had the third highest percentage of full-time employment in the country, behind only New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador, which were both at 84.9 per cent. The percentage of full-time employment in 2018 was 84.2 per cent. Part-time employment represented 15.4 per cent of total

employment. This is a decrease from 2018 when part-time employment made up 15.7 per cent of total employment.

By comparison, nationally 81.1 per cent was full-time in 2019 and 18.9 per cent of total employment was part-time. Percentage of full-time employment by province for 2019 is shown in Diagram 6.

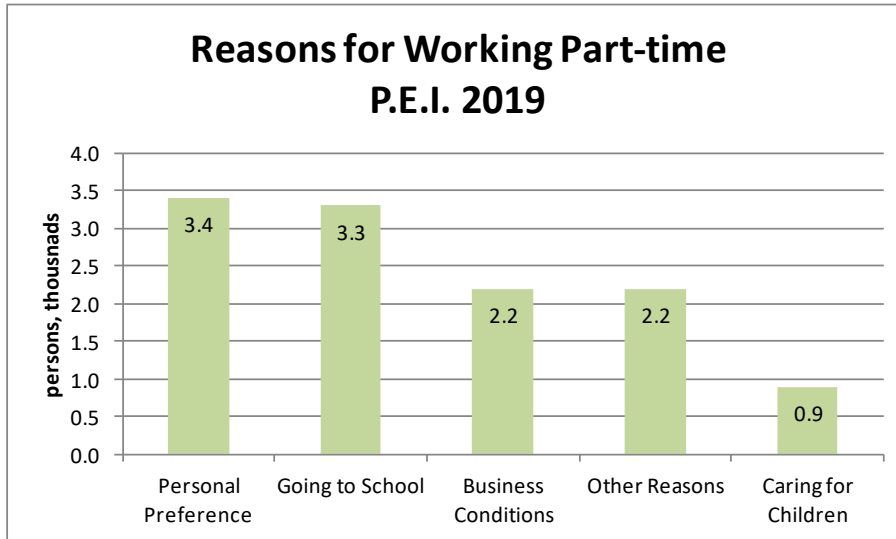
Diagram 6



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01

Reasons for Working Part-Time

Diagram 7



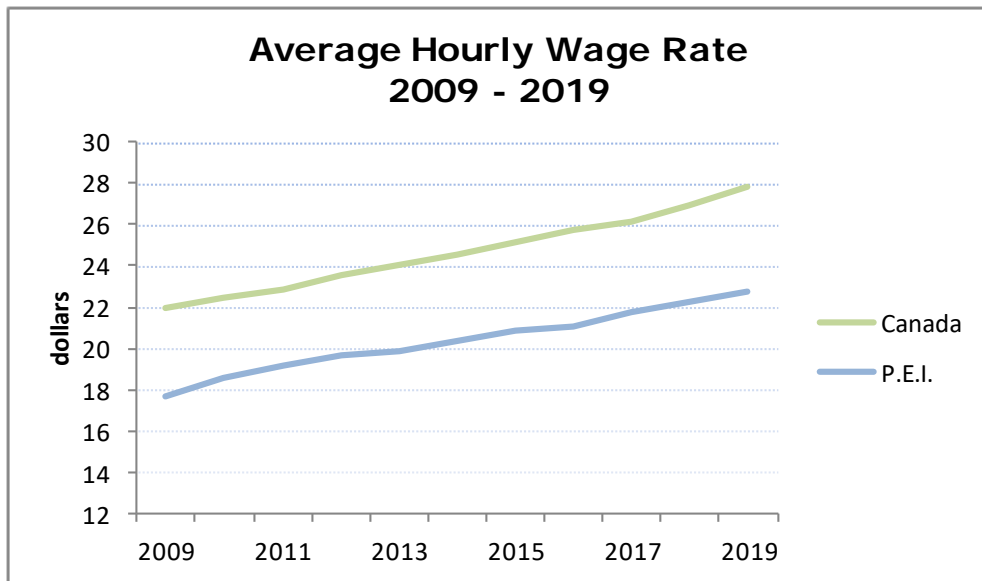
Of PEI's 12,000 part-time workers in 2019, 28.3 per cent stated *Personal Preference* as the main reason for working part time, 27.5 per cent indicated *Going to School*, 18.3 per cent stated *Business Conditions*, 18.3 per cent stated *Other Reasons*

(*Voluntary, Illness, Family Responsibilities, or Could Not Find Full-time Work*), and 7.5 per cent indicated *Caring for Children* as the main reason they were working part-time.

Wages

According to the Labour Force Survey, PEI's average hourly wage rate was \$22.74 in 2019. This is an increase of \$0.48 or 2.2 per cent over 2018. The average hourly wage rate for Canada was \$27.83 in 2019, an increase of 3.4 per cent over 2018. Since 2009, PEI's average hourly wage has increased by 28.3 per cent, while the average rate for Canada has increased by 26.6 per cent over the same period (Diagram 8).

Diagram 8



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0064-01

Urban and Rural Areas

Employment growth in rural areas increased by 1.0 per cent, an increase of 300 over 2018, to reach 29,500. Urban areas also saw an increase in employment in 2019, rising 3.6 per cent or 1,700, to total 48,400.

Employment in urban areas³ accounted for 62.1 per cent of total employment on Prince Edward Island in 2019 while employment in rural areas accounted for 37.9 per cent. This compares to 61.5 per cent for urban and 38.5 per cent for rural in 2018. The unemployment rate in rural areas decreased by 1.7 percentage points to reach 11.4 per cent, as there were less people looking for work. The participation rate fell from 66.9 per cent in 2018 to 65.6 per cent in 2019. In urban areas, the unemployment rate was rose 0.1 percentage point to 7.1 per cent. More people were looking for work in urban areas as the labour force increased by 1.9 per cent and the participation rate increased to 67.1 per cent.

Labour force characteristics for urban and rural areas can be found in table 5 below.

³ Urban areas, as defined by Statistics Canada for Labour Force Survey purposes, consist of the Charlottetown and Summerside census agglomerations (CA). **Charlottetown CA** consists of Charlottetown, Stratford, Cornwall, Rocky Point, Lot 65, Meadowbank, Clyde River, Lot 31, Lot 23, Warren Grove, Miltonvale Park, Winsloe South, Brackley, Union Road, Lot 33, Lot 34, Lot 35, Lot 36, Scotchfort, and Lot 48. **Summerside CA** consists of Summerside, Linkletter, Lot 17, and Miscouche. Rural areas are the non-census agglomeration areas of the province.

Table 5

**Labour Force Characteristics by Urban and Rural Areas
Prince Edward Island 2019**

	Urban			Rural		
	2019	Change		2019	Change	
		persons	per cent/pp		persons	per cent/pp
Population (15+)	77.7	2.3	3.1%	50.9	0.7	1.4%
Labour Force	52.1	1.9	3.8%	33.4	-0.2	-0.6%
Employment	48.4	1.7	3.6%	29.5	0.3	1.0%
Unemployment	3.7	0.2	5.7%	3.8	-0.6	-13.6%
Unemployment Rate(%)	7.1		0.1 pp	11.4		-1.7 pp
Not In Labour Force	25.7	0.6	2.4%	17.5	0.9	5.4%
Participation Rate (%)	67.1		0.5 pp	65.6		-1.3 pp

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0106-01