

In the News

Atlantic Region

LMI
LABOUR MARKET
INFORMATION

A monthly summary of labour market news for the Atlantic Region

OCTOBER 2025

Highlights

(News published October 1st – 31st 2025)

- The federal and provincial governments will provide \$32M over four years to invest in French education on P.E.I.
- KMK Capital is planning to build a large mixed-use development with 1,246 housing units in addition to office, retail, clinic and recreation spaces in the former Bally Haly golf course in the east end of St. John's.
- The federal government will invest \$617M over five years into the Canada Border Services Agency, with money going toward the hiring of 1,000 new officers.
- Five Corners Properties is readying plans to present to the Municipality of Colchester County for approval that could see 2,300-2500 housing units built in Bible Hill.
- ExxonMobil announced it will be cutting jobs in N.L. as part of a global restructuring plan.
- Statistics Canada reports that N.B. continues to record net gains in interprovincial migration, seeing a net growth of 630 people in the first six months of 2025.

Industry Updates

The federal government will soon offer financial relief to Canada's tariff-struck softwood lumber sector. The program will allow Canadian businesses to access \$700M in loans or credit to help them to continue to operate and deal with increased tariffs.

International student enrolment across Atlantic universities has declined by 36% since a cap was imposed in January 2024 by the federal government. The Association of Atlantic Universities says it has had an impact on the economy and population growth.

Newfoundland and Labrador

KMK Capital is planning to build a large mixed-use development with 1,246 housing units in addition to office, retail, clinic and recreation spaces in the former Bally Haly golf course in the east end of St. John's. Rezoning is needed for the project to move forward and they are currently seeking public engagement regarding land use.

City Council has approved a new "small lot" housing development in St. John's that plans to build 52 single-detached homes under reduced lot sizes.

The new NL Health Services facility is now open in the former Costco

building in St. John's, offering several outpatient services that were relocated from city hospitals that include surgery specialty clinics, cardiac diagnostics, orthopedics, audiology, X-rays, physiotherapy and occupational therapy among others. An urgent care centre will also open later this year.

Prince Edward Island

P.E.I. potato farmers are increasingly looking to add irrigation systems after this summer's drought impacted their crops. Many growers will invest millions over the next couple of years.

The P.E.I. Pharmacists Association states that the need for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in P.E.I. has never been higher. An internal survey estimates that vacancies at Island pharmacies will double in the coming years.

The Hermanville wind farm will soon have all nine turbines fully operational after experiencing repeated damage, faulty parts and manufacturing problems. In a good year the wind farm turns over \$3M in profit and all the electricity produced is used on P.E.I.

Health P.E.I. says it has increased the total number of doctors in the province from 292 to 320 over the past two years. The province's roster of nurse practitioners has grown by



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28% since 2023, with about 60% working in a primary care setting.

Nova Scotia

Five Corners Properties is readying plans to present to the Municipality of Colchester County for approval that could see 2,300-2500 housing units built in Bible Hill. The multi-phase 20-year development plans include single family homes, duplexes, apartment buildings and commercial space with phase 1 of construction starting as early as 2026.

Combined Federal / Provincial / Municipal funding of \$2.9M has been announced for critical water infrastructure upgrades to support growth in Glace Bay and Sydney Mines.

EverWind Fuels has filed for an environmental assessment to build the largest onshore wind farm in N.S. in Guysborough County as part of its green hydrogen export project. The project would include 54 turbines, access roads, a substation, an operations and maintenance building and transmission lines. Pending approval, construction would take three years and start in late 2026.

New Brunswick

The federal government is spending \$30M to help with the construction of a 79-residential unit structure being built by the Fundy Harbour Group in Saint John. It is the first of five buildings to be constructed and will also include retail opportunities.

Tracadie has received a \$7.4M investment in water infrastructure which will support the development of 300 new housing units. The project involves drilling a new well and building a manganese treatment system and a two-kilometre water pipeline.

The province will spend \$21M so 57 N.B. students can get preferred admission to health programs at Dalhousie University, including dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and others. Over 200 physiotherapists are expected to be needed over 10 years.

N.B. softwood lumber exports to the U.S. will face an additional tariff of 10% on Oct. 14, bringing total tariffs and duties to just over 45%. A 25% levy will also be applied to kitchen cabinets, vanities and upholstered wood products.

Job Creation

Newfoundland and Labrador

Little Caesars Express has opened its first N.L. location in a Clarenville Orangestore. This is the first of eight franchise locations set to open across N.L. in coming months. Other locations are also slated to open in P.E.I. and N.S.

Prince Edward Island

The federal and provincial governments will provide \$32M over four years to invest in French education on P.E.I. The main focus will be on recruitment and retention of French educators, to help provide more stability and allow French language to grow.

New Brunswick

The federal government will invest \$617M over five years into the Canada Border Services Agency, with money going toward the hiring of 1,000 new officers. It is expected that the Port of Saint John and some N.B. border crossing locations will get more support.

Layoffs

Newfoundland and Labrador

ExxonMobil announced it will be cutting jobs in N.L. as part of a global restructuring plan. ExxonMobil is the lead owner in the Hibernia project and says it plans to cut 2,000 jobs globally, but how many will be cut in N.L. is unknown.

FFAW-Uniform, the union that represents Molson workers in St. John's, confirm no unionized jobs will be lost as part of Molson-Coors' recent announcement that it would cut 9% of its North American salaried workforce (approximately 400 jobs). Only management and administrative roles will be part of the changes.

Memorial University (MUN) has reported a 4.6% decrease in total enrolment and a 23.5% decrease in international enrolment this fall compared to the 2024 fall semester, resulting in \$6M in lost revenue that could bring further cuts. MUN previously announced 20 layoffs back in July.

Lucky's Restaurant in Mount Pearl in the metro St. John's area will be closing its doors by October 26, 2025, after 56 years in business.





Nova Scotia

Residential care facility Harbour Glen (Dartmouth) is scheduled to close on December 15. It employs 14 people (3 full-time, 10 part-time, and 1 casual). There are 22 residential care facilities and 7 adult residential/regional rehabilitation centres in the province scheduled to close by spring 2028 as N.S. advances its disability support transformation.

New Brunswick

Tony's Music Box in downtown Fredericton is closing its doors after 50 years of business. The Queen Street store stocked various musical instruments and accessories. The owner cited that the closure was due to the economy, Amazon, and other competition.

Economic Reports

Montreal Economic Institute

The Montreal Economic Institute issued a report that shows that N.B. has the second worst retention of young nurses in Canada. For every 100 nurses under 35 years old who started in N.B. in 2023, there were 62 who left, with burn-out being a key issue.

A new report by the Montreal Economic Institute shows that N.L. has the highest rate nationwide of young nurses leaving the workplace, highlighting ongoing retention issues. In N.L., for every 100 new nurses under age 35 who entered the profession in 2023, 98 others left, compared to the Canada-wide average of 40.

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada reports that N.B. continues to record net gains in interprovincial migration, seeing a net growth of 630 people in the first six months of 2025. Most people came from Ontario with 3,490 Ontarians moving to N.B. during that time. Affordable housing is a key factor with the average home in N.B. being \$328K compared to \$805K in Ontario.

CIBC

A CIBC forecast on provincial trade reports that N.B.'s reliance on the U.S. trade in the forestry sector makes it the province most impacted by ongoing tariffs. The industry is worth \$600M in direct revenues for N.B. and employs over 24,000 people. Job losses are expected.

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