

Economic Update **September 2018**



The **New Housing Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 98.7 in June 2018 down 0.7%*

The **Consumer Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 138.5 in July 2018 up 2.4%*

Retail trade for Newfoundland and Labrador was \$737 million in June 2018 down 2.8%*

* same month in the previous year.



... as of July 2018

Labour Force	121,700 (up 2.5%)
Unemployment Rate	9.0% (up 0.7 ppts)
Employment	110,800 (down 1.7 ppts)
Participation Rate	65.6% (up 1.2 ppts)

St. John's CMA, seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average. Percentage change reflects the same month previous year.

Business Briefs



New call centre to create up to 500 Jobs in St. John's

S&P Data contact centre is expanding to St. John's and have signed a five year lease to operate at the Village Shopping Centre at a cost close to \$3 million. The Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada are teaming up to provide a \$1.725 million investment to S&P Data, which will support the establishment of a 500 person in-bound contact centre. Over the next five years, it is expected that the S&P Data contact centre will generate up to \$131 million in economic activity. With the St. John's location scheduled to open in November 2018, the company is presently recruiting employees. For information on recruitment, visit <http://spdatainc.com>.

Economic growth is expected to increase in 2018

According to the Conference Board of Canada, the St. John's economy is expected to grow by 1.9% this year, down slightly from the 2.1% increase posted last year. Once again, the economy will be led by oil and gas sector, thanks to the indirect benefits of rising oil production at the new Hebron offshore oil field, as many corporate offices and supply and services firms for the province's offshore oil industry are in St. John's. However, other sectors will struggle. Construction output is forecast to contract for the third time in four years in 2018, the result of a stalled housing market and the wind down of some non-residential projects. In addition, several services sectors are forecast to post modest declines this year, held back in part by provincial government fiscal austerity measures, a reaction to significant declines in offshore royalty revenues. The local job market also remains weak. Employment is on track to fall for the second straight year this year, pushing the unemployment rate up to a 12-year high of 8.6%.

C-NLOPB Calls for Nominations for Southeastern and Jeanne d'Arc Regions Offshore

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) has issued a call for nominations for parcels of land in the Southeastern and Jeanne d'Arc regions of the Newfoundland offshore. Assessments of regional and site-specific issues will be completed before any work can begin in the licence area according to the offshore regulator.

www.cnlopb.ca



City Building Permits (year to date)

As of September 4, 2018 the value of:

- **Commercial** permits were up 50% to \$159,580,798 for 2018 over \$106,671,565 for 2017
- **Industrial** permits were valued at \$5,000 for 2018 and \$5,000,000 for 2017
- **Government/Institutional** permits were up from \$436,000 in 2017 to \$2,496,132 in 2018*
- **Residential** permits are down this year, 5% over 2017: \$51,654,472 for 2018 over \$54,581,798 for 2017
- **Repair** permits were down 20%, from \$2,405,000 in 2017 to \$1,917,800 in 2018
- **Total** value of all permits was up 28% to \$215,654,202 for 2018 over \$134,277,981 for 2017

* Note that this data does not include the full range of permit activity undertaken by the provincial government and Memorial University.



Business Approvals

City Initiatives



- Green Kitchen, 47 Harvey Rd.
- Lemon and Lime Health Shoppe, 655 Topsail Rd.
- Mastermind Toys, 50 White Rose Dr.
- Neighbourhood, 36 Pearson St.
- Cleaning business, 414 Blackmarsh Rd.
- G Salon, 15 Lemarchant Rd.
- Convenience store, 643-649 Main Rd.
- Fire Hall brewer, 90 Duckworth St.
- Tattoo shop, 110 Duckworth St.
- Art studio, 29 Rowan St.
- Relationship Family Law, 93 Torbay Rd.
- Mad Catter Café, 124 Duckworth St.
- Bodhi Hot Yoga, 25 Kenmount Rd.
- Mobile Klinik, Avalon Mall
- Canopy Growth, 193 Kenmount Rd.
- Canopy Growth/Tweed, 187 Water St.

St. John's Bound

The post-secondary student community in St. John's is an immense source of talent and contributes to the cultural, social, scientific and economic richness of the city, adding youth and vibrancy to all aspects of city life. The City aims to connect with students over the course of their studies as a first step in encouraging them to choose St. John's as a place to live and work after graduation. This is important considering the aging population in St. John's and the City's strategic directions around creating a culture of cooperation through effective city-education collaborations and being responsive and progressive by becoming a welcoming and inclusive city. Over the last several years the City has partnered with Memorial University and the College of the North Atlantic on welcoming city initiatives and have developed a student specific brand and website stjohns.ca/bound with key information that students would be looking for: links to city apps, what to do in St. John's and city programs and services.

Home-based Businesses

- Communications Strategist & Writer, 24 Cambridge Ave.
- Family home childcare, 14 Howley Ave Ext.
- Family home childcare, 25 Royal Oak Dr.
- Family home childcare, 4 Nerissa Pl.
- Cleaning service, 119 Watson St.
- Online food product business, 293 Freshwater Rd.

Year to Date 113

- Regular 77
- Home-based 36

Upcoming Events

- Sept 11 [Exporting for Craft Businesses: Getting Export Ready](#)
- Sept 13 [Metro Business Opportunities: Small Business Dreams info session](#)
- Sept 16-18 [Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society conference](#)
- Sept 18 [Doing Business with the Government of Canada](#)
- Sept 19 [How to use census data workshop](#)
- Sept 23-26 [RIMS Canada conference](#)
- Sept 25 [#thinkBIG Atlantic Business magazine leadership workshop](#)
- Oct 10-11 [Newleaf green economy conference](#)



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