

Economic Update **March 2019**



The **New Housing Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 98.1 in December 2018 down -0.9%*

The **Consumer Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 136.4 in January 2019 up 0.1%*

Retail trade for New foundland and Labrador was \$755 million in December 2018 down -1.7%*

* same month in the previous year. Source: Statistics Canada

... as of January 2019

Labour Force	122,400 (up 2.3%)
Unemployment Rate	7.4% (down 1.3 pts)
Employment	113,400 (up 3.8%)
Participation Rate	65.9% (up 1.2 pts)

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

Business Briefs



Social and economic benefits of NL oil and gas

A study on the socio-economic impact of the offshore petroleum industry in New foundland and Labrador (NL) was released in February funded by Petroleum Research New foundland and Labrador and conducted by Stantec. It found that from 2010 to 2017, industry had a major economic impact: responsible for 29.7% of the province's GDP, 12.9% of all labour income, 10.8% of all retail sales, and 24,000 jobs. Almost \$2.5 billion in oil royalties was paid to the province from 2015-17. Oil production declined in N.L. 2015 compared to 2014, however up each in both 2016, 2017. 30 exploration parcels were offered between 2015-17 and 16 licences have been issued for expenditure commitments of nearly \$2 billion. Currently, a concrete gravity structure for West White Rose is under construction in Argentina with a first oil target date of 2022. The study noted other benefits including investments made in infrastructure, education and training, and research and development. Download the report [here](#).

C-CORE signs contract with airbus defence and space

A St. John's-based research and development non-profit has inked an almost \$10-million deal to help build a transponder to help the European Space Agency with its work. Their biomass transponder will include several firsts in terms of software and design that will make it the most precise transponder on the planet. C-CORE is leading the team to build the new hardware to measure carbon in forests and what happens to it over time. The location of the transponder, which will have an eight-metre dish, is still to be determined. C-CORE staff in St. John's will travel to that site, install the transponder and make sure everything works. The project will see four new full-time employees join C-CORE and will also help retain some of the expertise that Memorial University has built up in this area over the years.

Non-profits are an important part of the economy

Economic activity in the non-profit sector totaled \$3.1 billion in 2017, representing 10.2% of New foundland and Labrador gross domestic product. In 2017, the economic contribution of the non-



City Building Permits (year to date)

As of March 4, 2019 the value of:

- **Commercial** permits were up 29% to \$33,083,375 for 2019 over \$25,581,763 for 2018
- **Industrial** permits were valued at \$0 for 2018 and 2019
- **Government/Institutional** permits were down from \$2,000,000 in 2018 to \$0 in 2019*
- **Residential** permits were down 85% over 2018: \$2,824,652 for 2019 over \$19,343,267 for 2018
- **Repair** permits were down 7%, from \$150,500 in 2018 to \$140,250 in 2019
- **Total** value of all permits was down 23% to \$36,048,277 for 2019 over \$47,075,530 for 2018

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



Business Approvals

Gingergrass, 345 Duckworth St.
Rising Edge Group, 67 Major's Path
The Salt House, 171 Water St.
Lush, Avalon Mall
Ceramics studio, 8-10 Spencer St.
Embroidery on the Rock, 355a Main Rd.
Four crows vintage store, 576 Water St.
Sun Sushi, 446 Newfoundland Dr.
Nails Time, 272 Torbay Rd.
Yoga on the Rock, 355 Main Rd.
Mary Browns, 336 Water St.
ATV sales and service, 25 Hebron Way
Scanmudring Canada Inc., 40 O'Leary Ave.
Butler Wills & Estates, 40 Hamlyn Rd.

Home-based Businesses

Online vehicle sales, 558 Thorburn Rd.
Art studio, 26 Wadland Cres.
Naturopathic counselling and body work therapy,
6 Wallace Pl.
Home appraisal company, 51 Rumbolt Pl.
the shop, SVLT, 10 Merrymeeting Rd.

2019 Total 36

- Regular 25
- Home-based 11

City Initiatives



Did you know businesses in St. John's can avail of free cardboard recycling?

If your business is on an existing City collection route for recycling, you can put an unlimited amount of cardboard in see-through blue bags, or bundled, at the curb by 8 a.m. on your recycling collection day. Other cardboard disposal options include: drop off at Robin Hood Bay Waste Management facility for free; for mixed office paper and cardboard the cost is \$20 per tonne, with an annual disposal permit cost of \$30; or disposal in the landfill at a cost of \$67.60 per tonne. This is not a preferred option as it wastes natural resources, contributes to climate changing gases, and shortens the life of the landfill. Recycling creates new jobs, saves money with lower disposal (tipping fees), and extends the life of the landfill.

For further info email curbit@stjohns.ca or 311.

Upcoming Events

- Mar 12 [Futurpreneur Entrepreneurship Workshop Series – Activate](#)
- Mar 15 & 16 [Future of Oceans Symposium](#)
- Mar 18 [Business Tax workshop, Part 1](#)
- Mar 21 [OceansAdvance AGM](#)
- Mar 21 [Pitch, please!](#)
- Mar 21 [Business Solutions Pop-up](#)
- Mar 21 [Geoscience Day](#)
- Mar 22 [Deliver Your Message with Poise, Confidence, Clarity, and Character](#)
- Mar 25 [Business Tax workshop, Part 2](#)
- Apr 10-11 [NLOWE's 2019 Annual Conference](#)
- Apr 17-18 [Atlantic Immigration Summit](#)

