

Economic Update **April 2018**



The **New Housing Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 99.0 in January 2018 down 0.6%*

The **Consumer Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 136.8 in February 2018 up 1.6%*

Retail trade for Newfoundland and Labrador was \$765.1 million in January 2018 down 2.1%*

* same month in the previous year.

... as of March 2018

Labour Force	118,100 (down -4.1%)
Unemployment Rate	8.6% (down -0.2 ppts)
Employment Rate	58.2% (down -3.1 ppts)
Participation Rate	63.7% (down -3.5 ppts)

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

Business Briefs



Conference Board Metropolitan Outlook for St. John's

According to a report by the Conference Board of Canada, St. John's 2018 real GDP growth is expected to be 2.5%, the 3rd highest of census metropolitan areas in Canada this year after Vancouver and Abbotsford-Mission, BC. This growth is due to the start of production at the Hebron offshore oil field that will boost output in the primary and utilities sector and government revenues. The primary resources and utilities sector is set to grow by an annual average of 11% over the next two years, but weakness will persist in other areas of the economy including construction and many of the service sectors. www.conferenceboard.ca

St. John's Metro Housing Market Insight

A new housing report from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), indicates the development of the offshore oil sector played a critical role in transforming the St. John's economy and housing market especially between 2005 and 2014 when housing prices in the St. John's area skyrocketed and new home construction boomed. Since mid-2014, the decline in oil prices has impacted the housing market negatively. Due to this ongoing economic downturn homebuyers in St. John's are choosing lower priced homes and shifting from traditional single-detached homes. Row, duplex and triplex homes, typically priced under \$300,000, are becoming increasingly popular. CMHC expects this trend to continue in the coming years. To read the full report [click here](#).

Four St. John's companies named to Canada's Best Managed Companies ranking

Established in 1993, Canada's Best Managed Companies is the country's leading business awards program, recognizing excellence in private Canadian-owned companies with revenues over \$15 million. Each year, hundreds of entrepreneurial companies compete for this designation in a rigorous and independent process that evaluates the calibre of their management abilities and practices. Congratulations to the St. John's based companies who are on the 2018 list: Crosbie Group Ltd. & Member Cos.; Oceanex Inc.; Pennecon Ltd.; and the Cahill Group. To see the full list of winners visit: www.canadianbusiness.com.



City Building Permits (year to date)

As of April 2, 2018 the value of:

- **Commercial** permits were up 62% to \$30,276,339 for 2018 over \$18,743,175 for 2017
- **Industrial** permits were \$5,000 for 2018 and \$0 for 2017
- **Government/Institutional** permits were up from \$6,000 in 2017 to \$2,000,000 in 2018.*
- **Residential** permits are up this year, 206% over 2017: \$21,889,767 for 2018 over \$7,159,294 for 2017
- **Repairs** were down 18%, from \$372,526 in 2017 to \$306,550 in 2018
- **Total** value of all permits was up 107% to \$54,477,656 for 2018 over \$26,280,995 for 2017

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



Business Approvals

Port Rexton Brewing, 286 Torbay Rd.
Dynamic Engineering Ltd., 62-64 Campbell Ave.
Different Strokes Art Studio, 18 Argyle St.
Canabo Medical Clinic, 8-10 Rowan St.
Gitten & Associates Law, 23 King's Bridge Rd.
Wild Island Forest Programs, 807 Water St.
Kiewit, 139 Water St.
Avalon Karate & Fitness Centre, 12-20 Highland Dr.

Home-based Businesses

Electrical Contractor, 41 Halley Dr.
Admin office for Parcel Delivery Service, 15 Hercules Pl.
Admin office for a Craft & Design business, 14 Maxse St.
Accounting services, 10 Fallowtree Pl.

Year to Date 34

- Regular 22
- Home-based 12

City Initiatives



St. John's enters Canadian Smart Cities Challenge

The City of St. John's and Happy City St. John's are teaming up to enter the Canadian Smart Cities Challenge, a federal government competition intended to inspire communities across the country to define their future with the help of their residents using a smart cities approach. The application for St. John's will focus on becoming a city of residents who, with the application of technologies, can better embrace and celebrate an active and healthy lifestyle. The Challenge is about defining a "big problem" e.g. public health and craft a solution utilizing data and connected technologies. To participate in the development of the application, residents will be encouraged to respond to a survey which will be available soon, or to participate in an upcoming public discussion, which will be announced in the coming week on both stjohns.ca and happycity.ca. If successful, St. John's application could result in a \$10-million prize to be spent on infrastructure meant to help residents get moving. The jury will select finalists by summer 2018.

Upcoming Events

- April 11 [Inclusive Tourism Job Fair](#)
- April 12 [Cover Your \(Intellectual\) Assets](#)
- April 12 [Genesis Evolution Pitch & Pick](#)
- April 12 [Immigration - Picture some new faces in your business!](#)
- April 12-14 [Rural and Remote Medicine Conference](#)

April 18-19 [NLOWE AGM & Conference](#)
April 27 [Starting or Expanding a Business?](#)
May 8 [NL Food Forum 2018](#)



Department of Community Services | Economic Development, Culture and Partnerships
(709) 576-8107 | business@stjohns.ca | www.stjohns.ca

