

# Labour Market Information News

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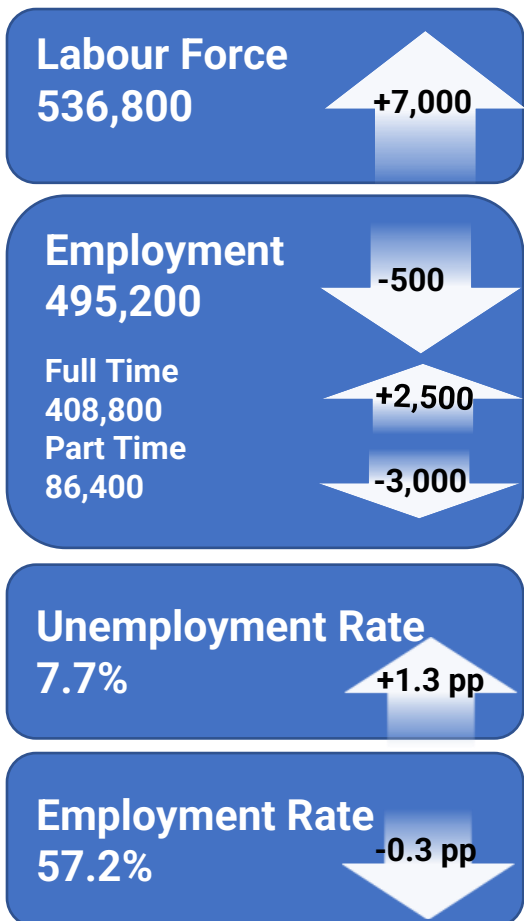
August 2023

## Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

### Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia decreased in July by 500 jobs (-0.1%). The unemployment rate rose to 7.7% (+1.3 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in July. The July Labour Force Survey references the week of July 09 to 15 and compares it to the week of June 11 to 17.

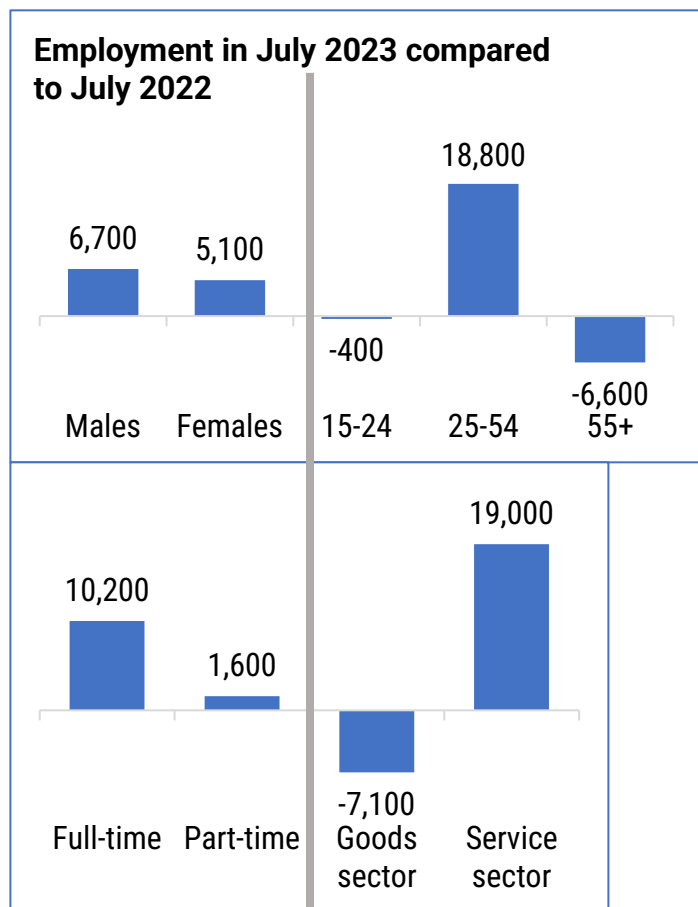
### Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in July 2023<sup>1</sup> Compared to June 2023



- The labour force increased by 1.3% to 536,800, with 7,000 more people entering the labour market than leaving. The labour participation rate rose by 0.6 percentage points to 62% in July.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level decreased by 0.1% in July (-500 jobs) with gains in full-time employment (+2,500 jobs, +0.6%), and losses in part-time jobs (-3,000, -3.4%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose to 7.7% in July (returning to the same level it was in March 2019). The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has averaged 10.1% since 1976.
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the whole labour force population aged 15 and over) fell by 0.3 percentage points to 57.2% in July.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0287-01, Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

## Employment Data in July 2023 Compared to June 2023 and July 2022

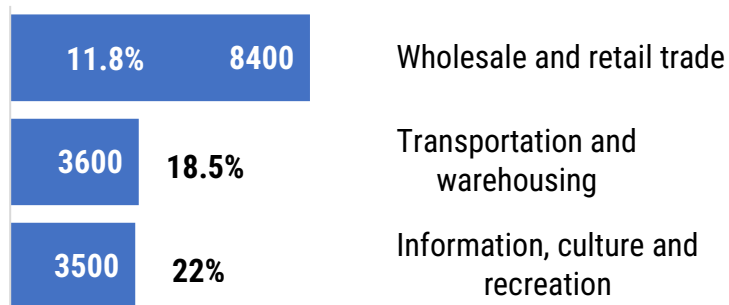


- Employment levels in July were lower for Nova Scotia males (-500 jobs, -0.2%), and unchanged for females. Employment losses for both males and females were in part-time positions – for males 1,700 job losses (-5.0%), and 1,300 job losses for females (-2.4%). Both females and males surpassed their employment levels from a year ago by 2.1% and 2.8% respectively.
- Youth (15-24 years) employment increased by 1.5% (+1,000 jobs) in July. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 200 positions (+0.1%), while the employment level for older workers was down by 1.6% (-1,800 jobs).
- Full-time employment increased by 2,500 jobs (+0.6%) in July, and it was 2.6% above its July 2022 level (+10,200 jobs). Part-time employment decreased by 3,000 jobs (-3.4%) in July and was 1.9% higher (+1,600 jobs) compared with July 2022.
- The services-producing sector gained 2,600 jobs in July (+0.6%), while the goods-producing sector lost 3,100 positions (-3.3%). The top expanding industries were “transportation and warehousing” (+1,800, +8.5%), “information, culture and recreation” (+1,200, +6.6%), and “manufacturing” (+900, +2.5%). The industries that lost the most jobs in July

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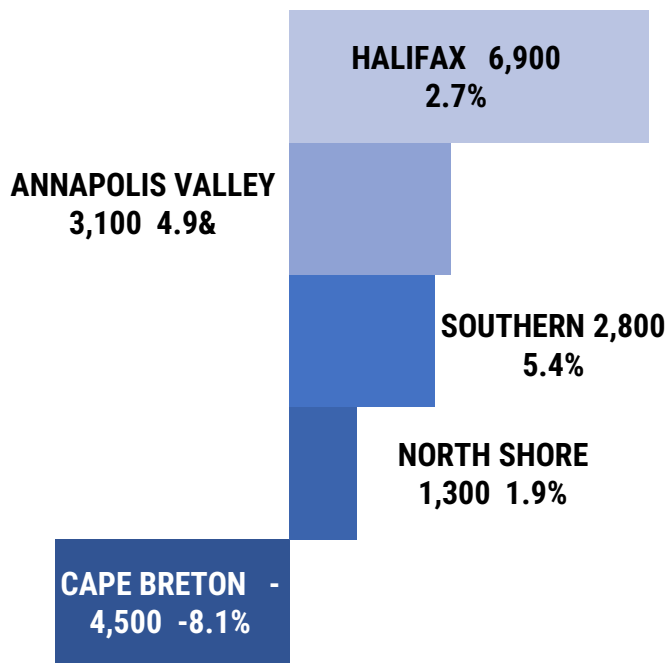
## Top Industries by Employment Gain July 2022 to July 2023



were: “construction” (-2,400, -6.2%). “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (-1,500, -13.8%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-1,200, -3.2%).

- Compared to July of last year, employment gains were largest in the “wholesale and retail trade” industry (+8,400, +11.8%). This was followed by “transportation and warehousing” (+3,600, +18.5%), and “information, culture and recreation” (+3,500, +22.0%).

## Employment Recovery Progress by Economic Region, July 2022 to July 2023



- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “construction” (-8,200 jobs, -18.5%), followed by “business, building and other support services” (-2,800, -14.9%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-2,100 -5.4%).

- In July (three-month average from May to July) compared to June (April to June), four economic regions posted job gains – Cape Breton region (+2,100 jobs, +4.3%), Annapolis Valley (+1,000, +1.5%), North Shore region (+900, +1.3%), Southern region (+800, +1.5%), while Halifax lost 100 jobs (-0.04%).

- Compared with one year ago (July 2023 to July 2022), four of the five regions posted employment gains, while the Cape Breton region lost jobs<sup>2</sup>.

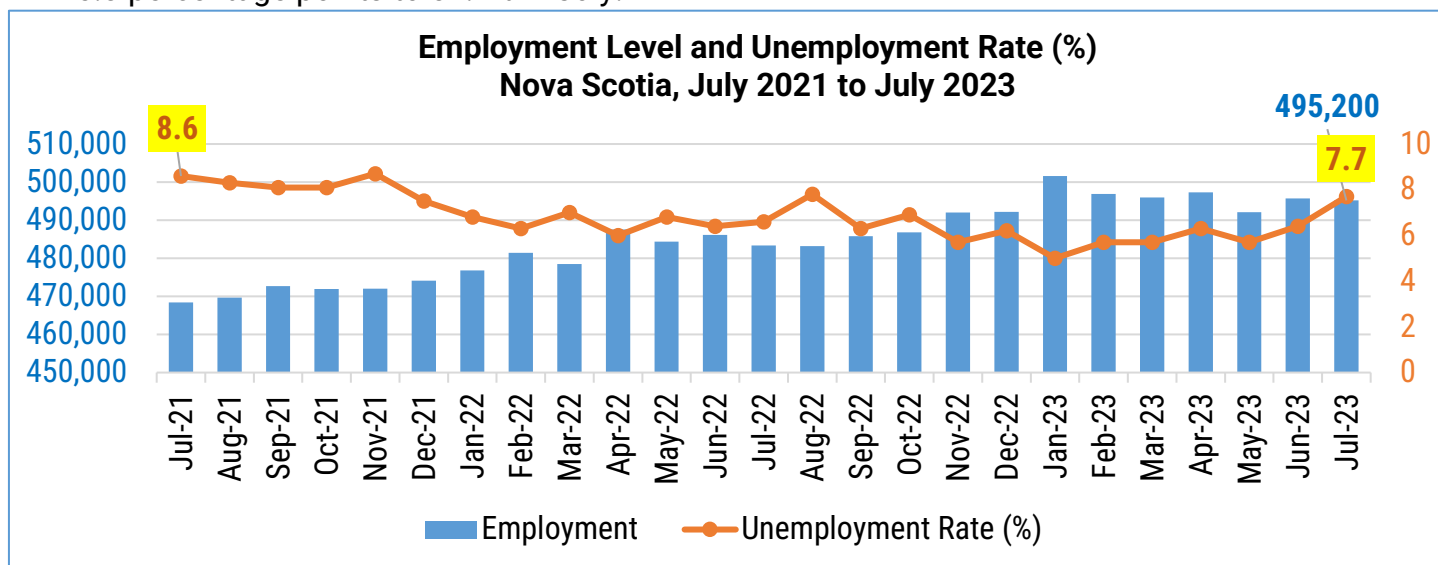
**\*Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0387-01, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

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- The employment level in Nova Scotia decreased by -0.1% in July. The employment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 57.2% in July.



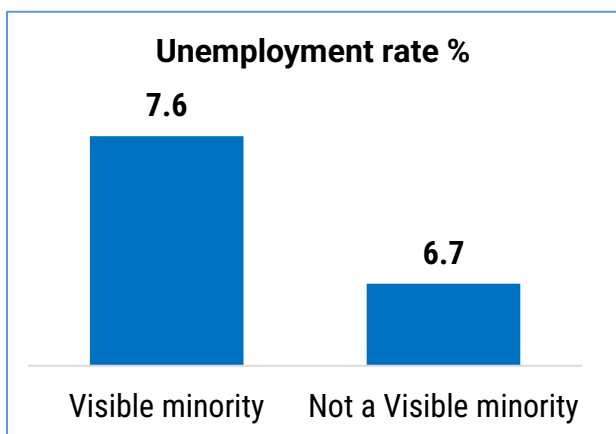
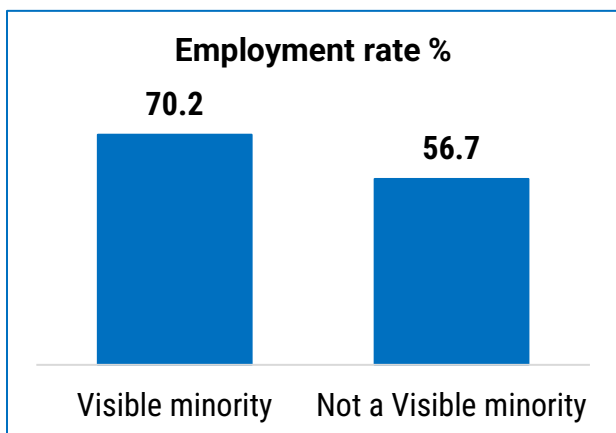
- The unemployment rate rose by 1.3 percentage points and landed at 7.7% in July (the same level it was in March 2019). When compared against historical Labour Force Survey data going back to 1976, Nova Scotia’s unemployment rate remains very low.

## Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Jul-22	Jun-23	Jul-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	9.9	12.4	11.5	-0.9 pp	1.6 pp
Males 15-24	11.2	13.5	12.5	-1.0 pp	1.3 pp
Females 15-24	8.8	11.3	10.6	-0.7 pp	1.8 pp
25+	6.0	5.4	7.1	1.7 pp	1.1 pp
Males 25+	7.0	5.9	7.4	1.5 pp	0.4 pp
Females 25+	4.8	5.0	6.8	1.8 pp	2.0 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate decreased by 0.9 percentage points between June and July to 11.5%. The female youth unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points in July, while the male youth unemployment rate was down by 1.0 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 1.8 percentage points higher than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 1.3 percentage points higher than in July 2022. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 2 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to a increase of 0.4 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

## Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in July 2023<sup>3</sup>



- The employment rate (number of employed for the entire labour force population 15 and over) for visible minorities in Atlantic Canada was higher than for non-visible minorities (70.2% vs 56.7%) on average in the last three months ending in July 2023.
- Compared to June (3-month average from April to June) the employment rate of visible minorities rose by 0.7 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or indigenous people rose by 0.8 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- It is worth noting that aggregate data masks the fact that visible minorities and indigenous people face additional labour market barriers.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data<sup>4</sup>, Arabs and Latin Americans face the highest unemployment rates (12.5% & 9.7%), while only 5.1% of blacks were unemployed in the last three months.
- Arabs have relatively low participation rate. They also faced the lowest employment rate and highest unemployment rate among all visible minority groups for whom data was reported (56% and 12.5%). Chinese had the second-lowest employment rate over the period at 61.5%

<sup>3</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, Table: 14-10-0373-01, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality. Starting in March 2022, the Monthly Labour Force Survey started to report labour market indicators of visible minority groups averaged over the last three-month period instead of monthly indicators.

<sup>4</sup> Data not available for West Asian, Korean, and Japanese minority groups.

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, covering the August 2023 labour market.

### **Labour Force Survey Glossary**

**Employment:** Employed persons are those who, during the reference week, did any work for pay or profit or had a job and were absent from work.

**Employment rate (employment/population ratio):** Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The employment rate for a particular group (for example, one defined by age, sex, marital status, or province) is the number employed in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

**Labour force:** Civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the survey reference week, were employed or unemployed. Prior to 1966, persons aged 14 and over were covered by the survey.

**Participation rate:** Total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. The participation rate for a particular group (for example, women aged 25 years and over) is the labour force of that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

**Unemployment:** Unemployed persons are those who, during reference week, were without work, were available for work and were either on temporary layoff, had looked for work in the past four weeks or had a job to start within the next four weeks.

**Unemployment rate:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (for example, one defined by age, sex, or marital status) is the number of unemployed persons in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that same group.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey Guide