

Labour Market Information News

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November 2023

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia increased in October by 8,200 jobs (+1.7%). The unemployment rate fell to 6.6% (-0.3 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in October. The October Labour Force Survey references the week of October 08 to 14 and compares it to the week of September 10 to 16.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in October 2023¹ Compared to September 2023

Labour Force
538,800

+7,300

Employment
503,000

+8,200

Full Time
415,900
Part Time
87,000

+2,500

+5,700

Unemployment Rate
6.6%

-0.3 pp

Employment Rate
57.7%

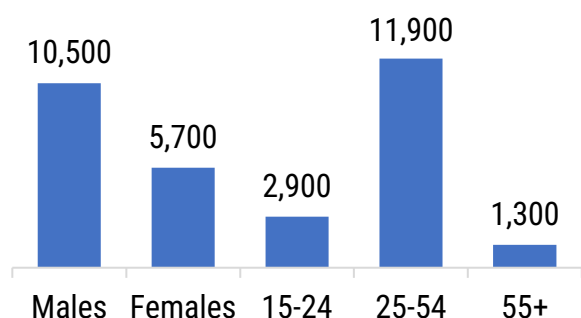
+0.8 pp

- The labour force increased by 1.4% to 538,800, with 7,300 more people entering the labour market than leaving. The labour participation rate rose by 0.7 percentage points to 61.8% in October.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level increased by 1.7% in October (+8,200 jobs) with gains both in full-time employment (+2,500 jobs, +0.6%), and in part-time jobs (+5,700, +7.0%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage point to 6.6% in October, as the increase in employment surpassed the increase in the labour force. The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has averaged 10.1% since 1976.
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the population aged 15 and over) rose by 0.8 percentage points to 57.7% in October.

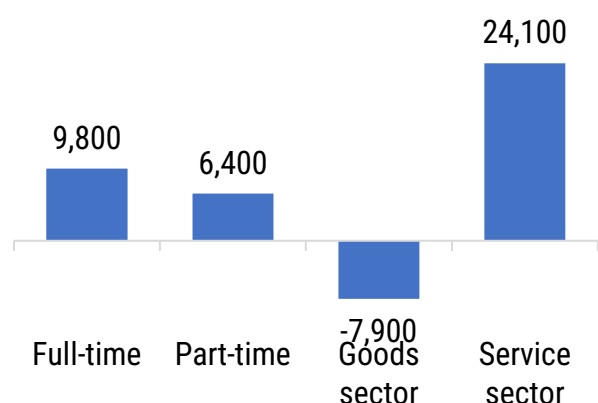
¹ Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 14-10-0287-01](#), Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

Employment Data in October 2023 Compared to September 2023 and October 2022

Employment in October 2023 Compared to October 2022

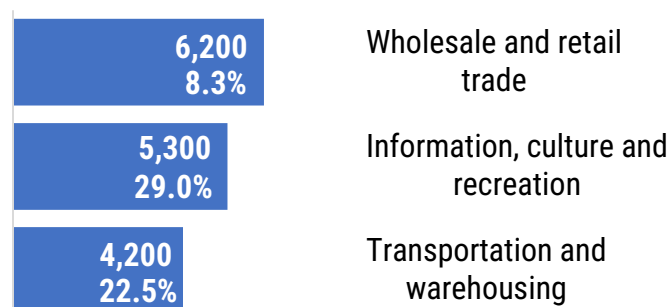


- Employment levels in October were higher for Nova Scotia males (+5,600 jobs, +2.3%) and females (+2,600 jobs, +1.1%). Employment gains for males were predominantly in part-time positions (+3,200 jobs, +10.7%), while there were 2,500 part-time positions gained for females (+4.8%). Males gained 2,500 full-time positions (+1.1%). The female full-time employment level was unchanged.



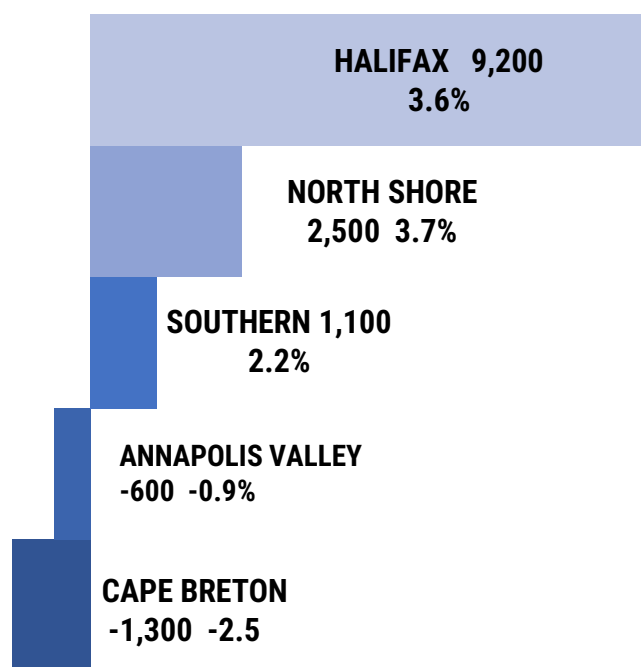
- Youth (15-24 years) employment increased by 5.0% (+3,300 jobs) in October. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) lost 300 positions (-0.1%), while the employment level for older workers was up by 4.6% (+5,200 jobs).
- Full-time employment in October 2023 was 2.4% above its October 2022 level (+9,800 jobs). Part-time employment increased by 5,700 jobs (+7.0%) in October and was 7.9% higher (+6,400 jobs) compared with October 2022.

Top Industries by Employment Gain October 2022 to October 2023



- The goods-producing sector gained 1,600 jobs in October (+1.8%), while the service-producing sector gained 6,700 positions (+1.6%). The top expanding industries were “information, culture and recreation” (+2,900 jobs, +14.0%), “health care and social assistance” (+1,800, +2.5%), and “construction” (+1,200, +3.3%). The industries that lost the most jobs in October were: “business, building and other support services” (-1,000, -5.1%), “agriculture” (-800, -13.6%), “manufacturing” (-300, -0.8%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-300, -0.8%).

Employment by Economic Region, October 2022 to October 2023



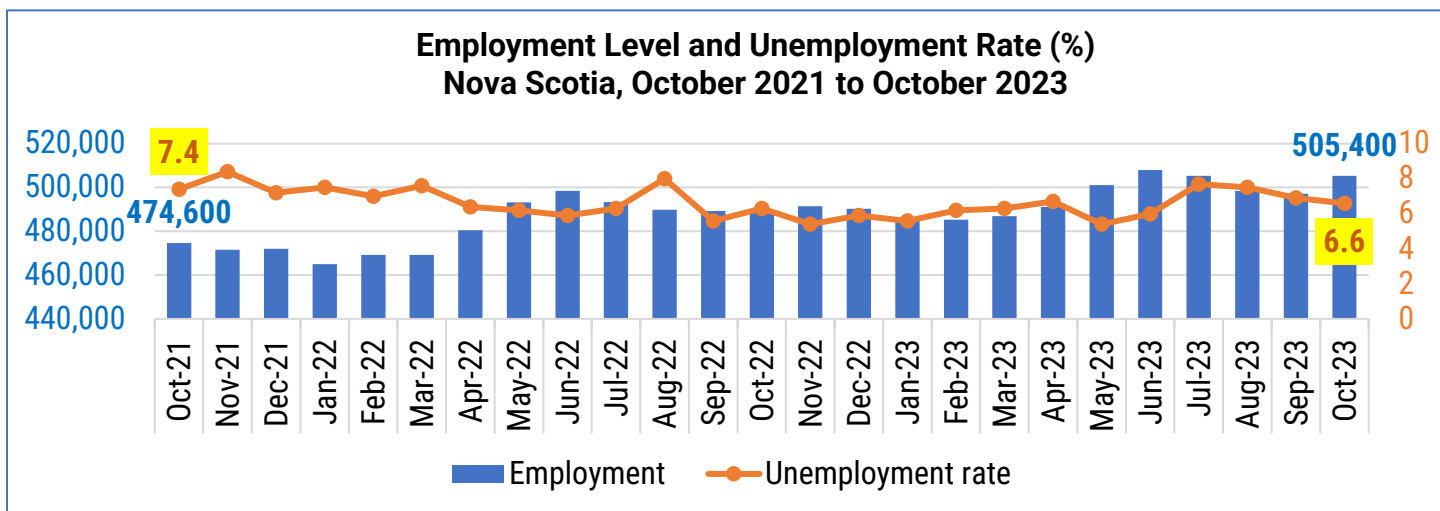
- Compared to October of last year, employment gains were largest in the “wholesale and retail trade” industry (+6,200 jobs, +8.3%). This was followed by “information, culture and recreation” (+5,300, +29.0%), and “transportation and warehousing” (+4,200, +22.5%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “construction” industry (-5,900 jobs, -13.6%), followed by “health care and social assistance” (-5,300, -6.7%), and “utilities” (-1,400, -31.8%).
- In October (three-month average from August to October) compared to September (July to September), two economic regions posted job gains – the Halifax region (+2,300 jobs, +0.9%), and the Annapolis Valley region (300 jobs, +0.5%), while job losses occurred in three regions: Cape Breton (-1,700, -3.2%), Southern (-800, -1.5%), and North Shore (-100, -0.1%).
- Compared with one year ago (October 2023 to October 2022), three of the five regions posted employment gains, while the Cape Breton region as well as the Annapolis Valley region lost jobs².

***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.

² 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 increased by 1.7% in October. The employment rate rose by 0.8 percentage points to 57.7% in October.
- The unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points and landed at 6.6% in October. When compared against historical Labour Force Survey data going back to 1976, Nova Scotia’s unemployment rate remains relatively low.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

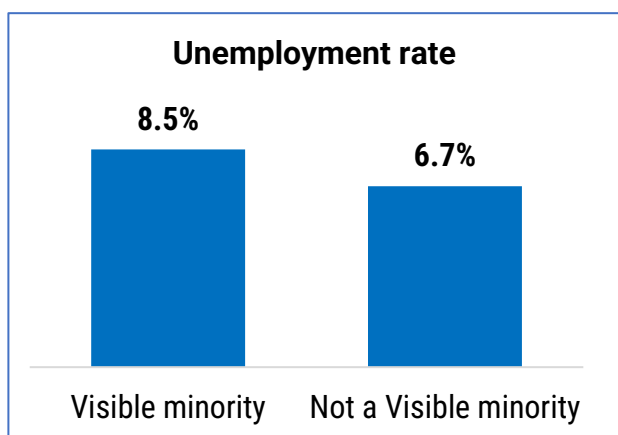
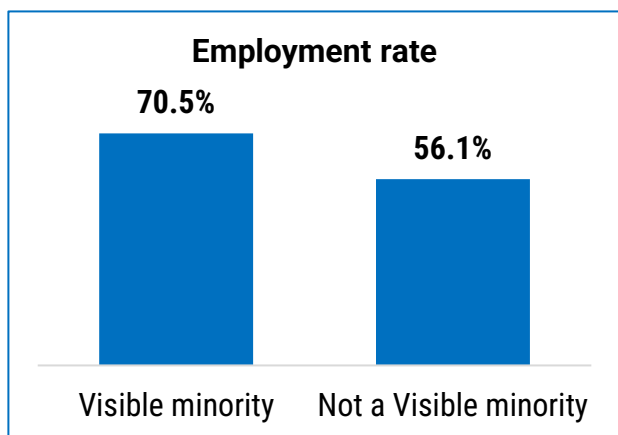
Unemployment Rate (%)	Oct 22	Sep-23	Oct-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	12.7	13.1	13.4	0.3 pp	0.7 pp
Males 15-24	15.4	17.8	15.9	-1.9 pp	0.5 pp
Females 15-24	10.1	8.2	10.9	2.7 pp	0.8 pp
25+	5.9	5.9	5.5	-0.4 pp	-0.4 pp
Males 25+	7.4	6.6	5.9	-0.7 pp	-1.5 pp
Females 25+	4.4	5.1	5.1	0.0 pp	0.7 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage points between September and October to 13.4%. The female youth unemployment rate rose by 2.7 percentage points in October, while the male youth unemployment rate was down by 1.9 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage points higher than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage points higher than in October 2022. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 0.7 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to an decrease of 1.5 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

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Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in October 2023³



- The employment rate (number of employed for the entire population 15 and over) for visible minorities in Atlantic Canada was higher than for non-visible minorities (70.5% vs 56.1%) on average in the last three months ending in October 2023.
- Compared to September (3-month average from July to September) the employment rate of visible minorities fell by 0.2 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people declined by 0.3 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.
- The unemployment rate for visible minorities and indigenous people in Atlantic Canada was lower than the rate for those who are not visible minorities or indigenous people from the onset of the data series (March to May 2022) up to March to May 2023. The unemployment rate for those who are visible minorities and indigenous people has been higher than those who are not from April to June 2023 (gap of 0.2 percentage points), until the most recent data point of July to September 2023 (1.8 percentage points).
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁴, Arabs and Latin Americans face the highest unemployment rates (18.2% and 11.0%, respectively), while 4.9% of Filipinos were unemployed in the last three months.

³ 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.

⁴ Data not available for West Asian, Korean, and Japanese minority groups.

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- Arabs have the lowest participation rate (71.0%), while they also face the lowest employment rate (58.1%), and the highest unemployment rate (18.2%) among all visible minority groups for whom data was reported. Despite having the second highest unemployment rate, Latin Americans have the highest participation rate at 85.9%.

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **December 01, 2023**, covering the November 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