

Labour Market Information News

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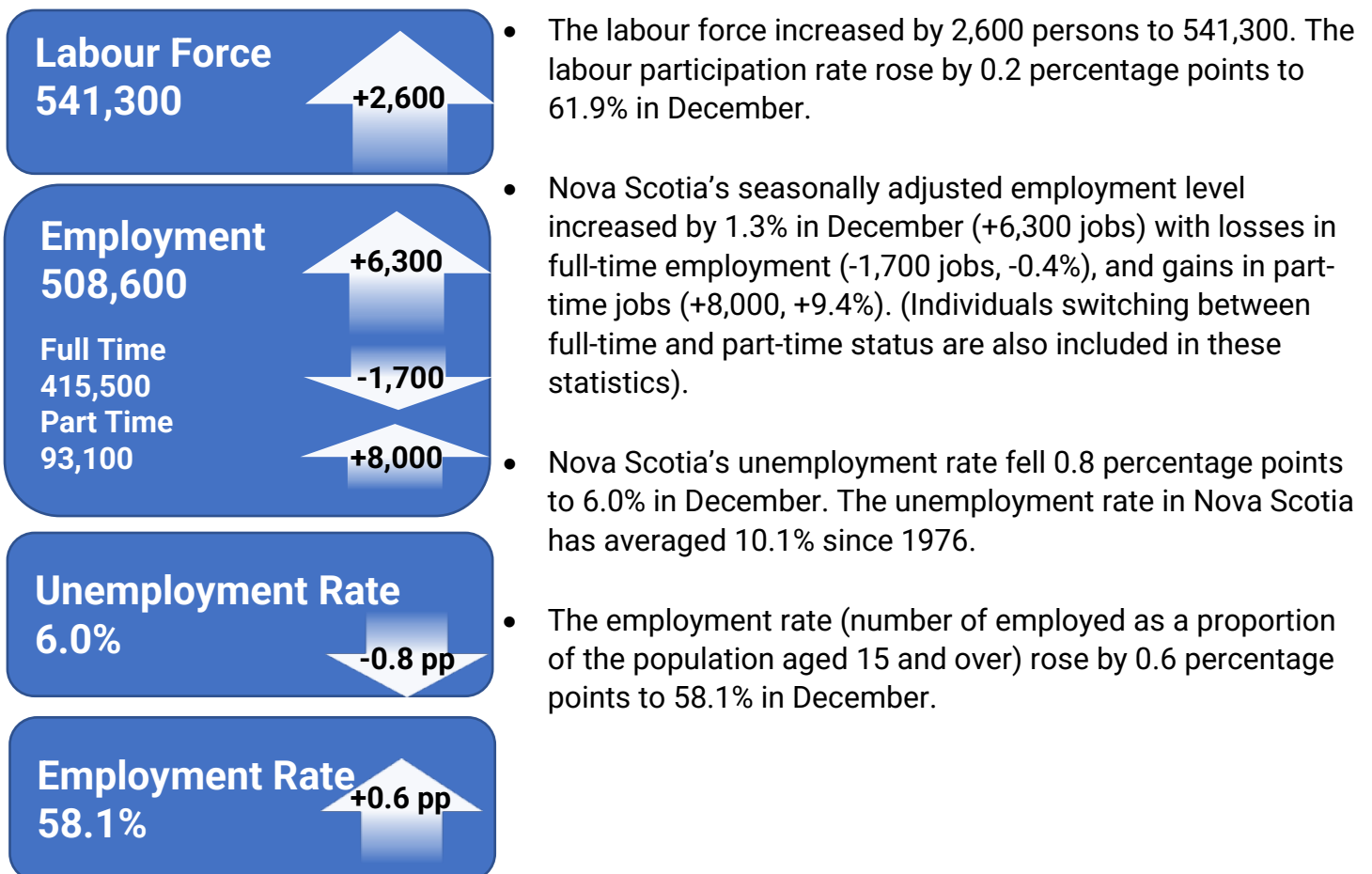
January 2024

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

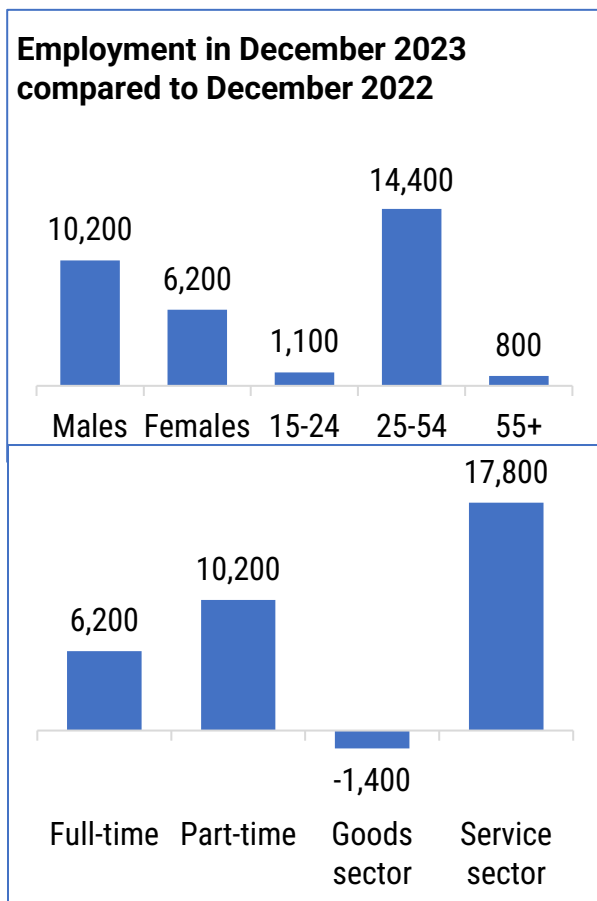
Employment in Nova Scotia increased in December by 6,300 jobs (+1.3%). The unemployment rate fell to 6.0% (-0.8 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in December. The Labour Force Survey references the week of December 03 to 09 and compares it to the week of November 05 to 11.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in December 2023¹ Compared to November 2023



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

Employment Data in December 2023 Compared to November 2023 and December 2022

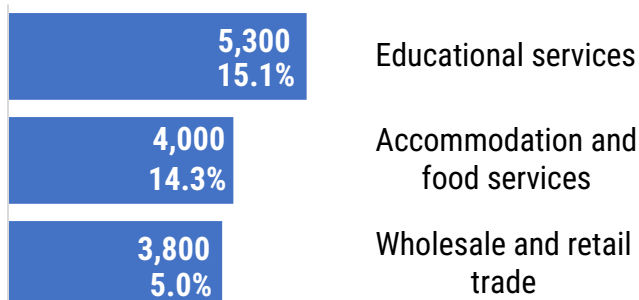


- Employment levels in December were higher for Nova Scotia females (+5,200 jobs, +2.1%) and for males (+1,100 jobs, +0.4%). Employment gains for males were concentrated in part-time positions (+3,100 jobs, +9.6%), as was the case as well for females (+4,900 jobs, +9.3%). Males lost 2,000 full-time positions (-0.9%), while females gained 400 full-time jobs (+0.2%).
- Youth (15-24 years) employment increased by 1.2% (+800 jobs) in December. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 4,200 positions (+1.3%), while the employment level for older workers was up by 1.0% (+1,200 jobs).
- Full-time employment in December 2023 was 1.5% above its December 2022 level (+6,200 jobs). Part-time employment increased by 10,200 jobs (+12.3%) in December 2023 compared with December 2022.
- The employment level in the goods-producing sector gained 900 jobs in December (+1.0%), while the services-producing sector gained 5,400 positions (+1.3%). The top expanding industries were “educational services” (+2,900 jobs, +7.8%) and “public administration” (+1,400, +4.0%). The industries that lost the most jobs in December were: “information, culture and recreation” (-1,300, -6.1%), “agriculture” (-900, -15.5%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-800, -2.0%).

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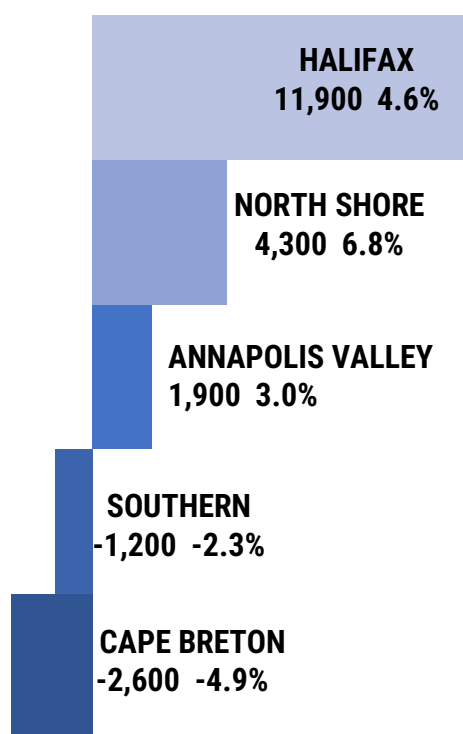
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Top Industries by Employment Gain December 2022 to December 2023



- Compared to December of last year, employment gains were largest in the “educational services” industry (+5,300 jobs, +15.1%). This was followed by “accommodation and food services” (+4,000 jobs, +14.3%), and “wholesale and retail trade” (+3,800 jobs, +5.0%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “health care and social assistance” industry (-4,300 jobs, -5.3%), followed by “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (-2,800 jobs, -24.8%), and “construction” (-2,600 jobs, -6.3%).

Employment by Economic Region, December 2022 to December 2023



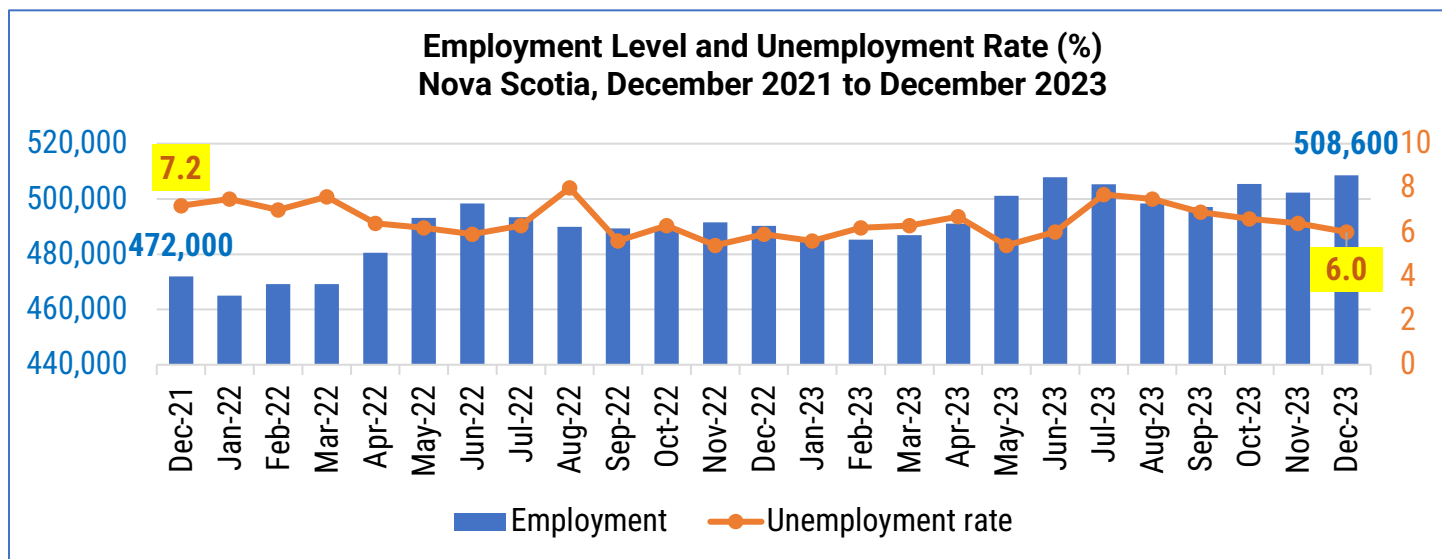
- In December (three-month average from October to December) compared to November (September to November), two economic regions posted job gains – the Halifax region (+3,700 jobs, +1.4%), and the Annapolis Valley region (+1,100 jobs, +1.7%), while job losses occurred in three regions: North Shore (-700 jobs, -1.0%), Cape Breton (-600, -1.2%), and Southern (-300, -0.6%).
- Compared with one year ago (December 2023 to December 2022), three of the five regions posted employment gains, while the Cape Breton and Southern 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 1.3% in December. The employment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points to 58.1% in December.
- The unemployment rate fell by 0.8 percentage points and landed at 6.0% in December. 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

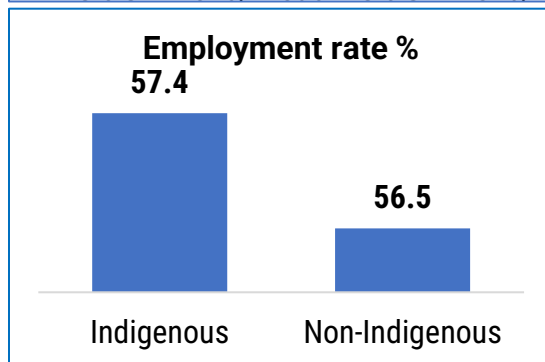
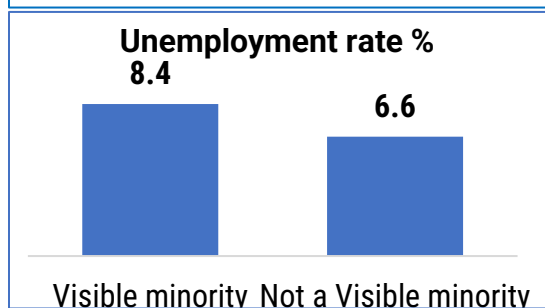
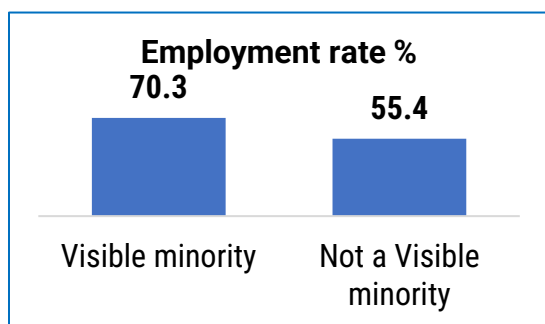
Unemployment Rate (%)	Dec 22	Nov-23	Dec-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	12.5	13.8	12.1	-1.7 pp	-0.4 pp
Males 15-24	13.7	15.6	16.2	0.6 pp	2.5 pp
Females 15-24	11.4	11.5	7.8	-3.7 pp	-3.6 pp
25+	5.1	5.6	5.0	-0.6 pp	-0.1 pp
Males 25+	5.8	5.7	5.3	-0.4 pp	-0.5 pp
Females 25+	4.3	5.4	4.7	-0.7 pp	0.4 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate decreased by 1.7 percentage points between November and December to 12.1%. The female youth unemployment rate fell by 3.7 percentage points in December, while the male youth unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 3.6 percentage points lower than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 2.5 percentage points higher than in December 2022. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 0.4 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to a decrease of 0.5 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

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Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in December 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 (70.3% vs 55.4%) on average in the last three months ending in December 2023.
- Compared to November (3-month average from September to November) the employment rate of visible minorities rose by 0.4 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.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁴, Arabs and Filipinos face the highest unemployment rates (19.6% and 9.6%, respectively), while 4.3% of Southeast Asians were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people have the highest unemployment rate (10.9%), while they also face the second lowest employment rate (57.4%).

³ Source: Statistics Canada, Table: [14-10-0373-01](#); [14-10-0401-01](#), 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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The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **February 09, 2024**, covering the January 2024 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