

Labour Market Information News

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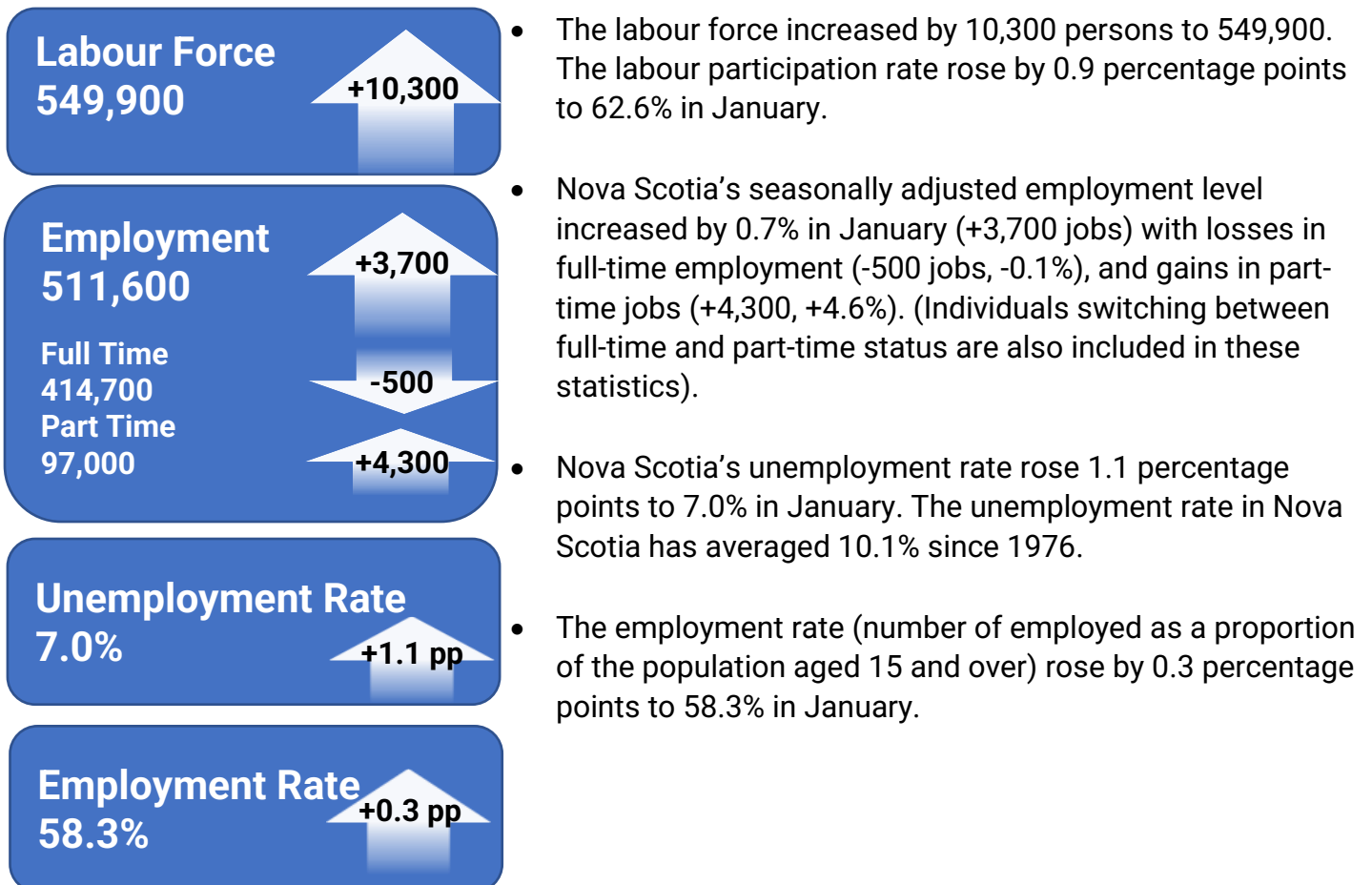
February 2024

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia increased in January by 3,700 jobs (+0.7%). The unemployment rate rose to 7.0% (+1.1 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in January. The Labour Force Survey references the week of January 14 to 20, 2024 and compares it to the week of December 03 to 09, 2023.

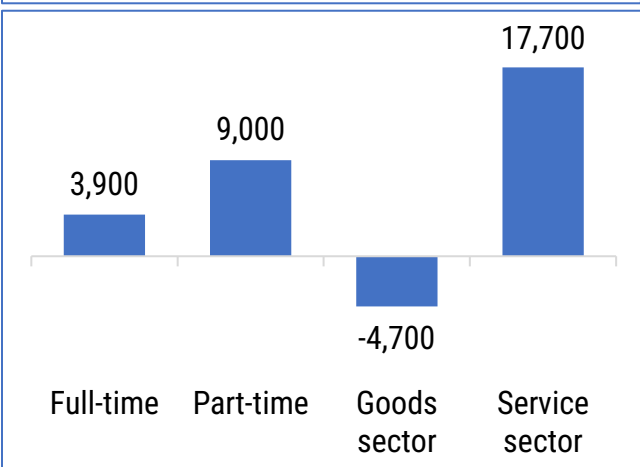
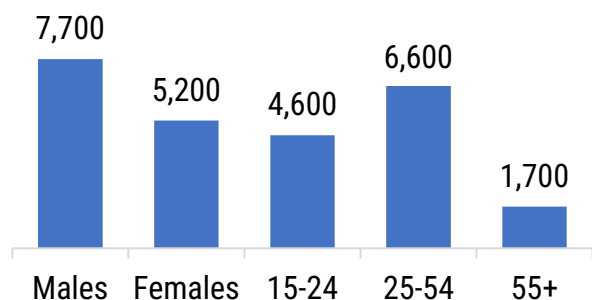
Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in January 2024¹ Compared to December 2023



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

Employment Data in January 2024 Compared to December 2023 and January 2023

Employment in January 2024 compared to January 2023

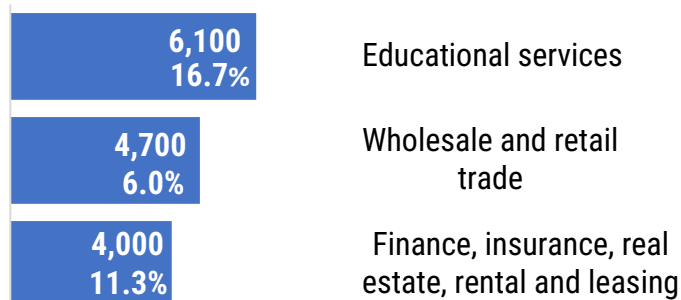


- Employment levels in January were higher for Nova Scotia males (+2,900 jobs, +1.1%) and for females (+800 jobs, +0.3%). Employment gains for males were entirely in full-time positions (+4,500 jobs, +2.0%), and in part-time jobs for females (+5,800 jobs, +10.1%). Females lost 5,000 full-time positions (-2.6%), while males lost 1,600 part-time jobs (-4.5%).
- Youth (15-24 years) employment increased by 5.2% (+3,500 jobs) in January. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) lost 2,700 positions (-0.8%), while the employment level for older workers was up by 2.5% (+2,900 jobs).
- Full-time employment in January 2024 was 0.9% above its January 2023 level (+3,900 jobs). Part-time employment increased by 9,000 jobs (+10.2%) in January 2024 compared with January 2023.
- The employment level in the goods-producing sector lost 1,000 jobs in January (-1.1%), while the services-producing sector gained 4,800 positions (+1.2%). The top expanding industries were “wholesale and retail trade” (+2,400 jobs, +3.0%) and “educational services” (+2,400, +6.0%). The industries that lost the most jobs in January were: “professional, scientific and technical services” (-1,400, -3.6%), and “agriculture” (-1,400, -27.5%).

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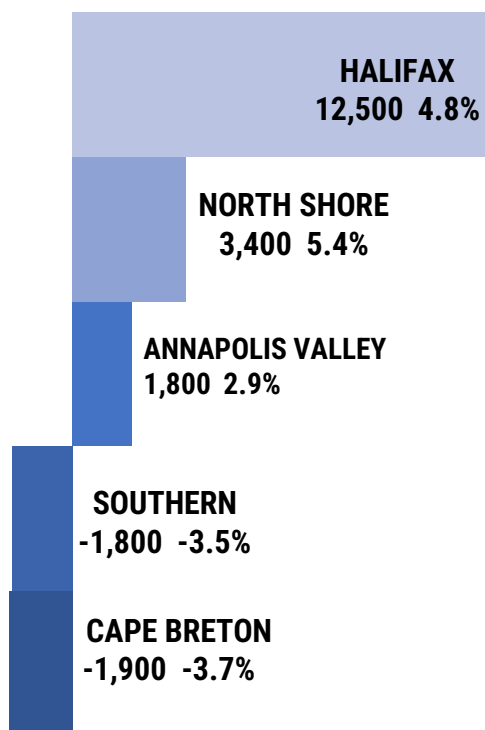
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Top Industries by Employment Gain Jan 2023 to Jan 2024



- Compared to January of last year, employment gains were largest in the “educational services” industry (+6,100 jobs, +16.7%). This was followed by “wholesale and retail trade” (+4,700 jobs, +6.0%), and “Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing” (+3,200 jobs, +11.3%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “construction” industry (-3,500 jobs, -8.3%), followed by “health care and social assistance” (-2,400 jobs, -3.0%), and “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (-1,800 jobs, -17.3%).

Employment by Economic Region, January 2023 to January 2024



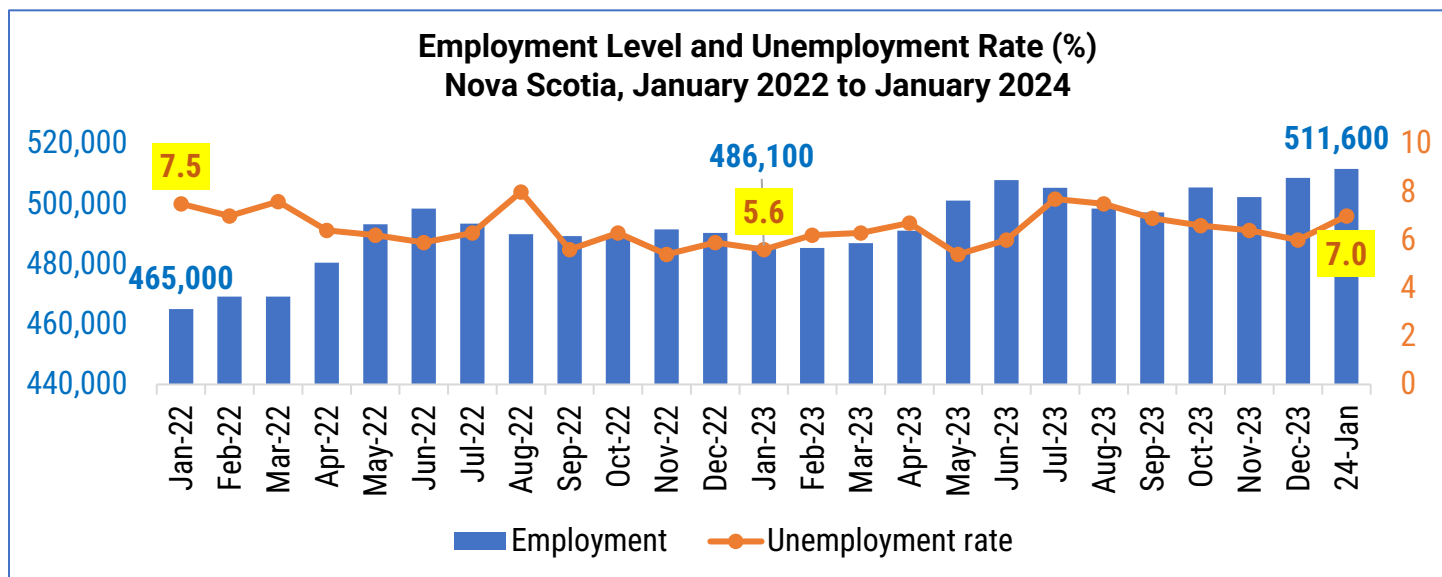
- In January 2024 (three-month average from November 2023 to January 2024) compared to December 2023 (October to December 2023), only one economic region posted job gains – the Halifax region (+1,700 jobs, +0.6%), while the employment level was unchanged for the Cape Breton region. Job losses occurred in three economic regions – the North Shore region (-1,900 jobs, -2.8%), Southern region (-700, -1.4%), and Annapolis Valley region (-500, -0.8%).
- Compared with one year ago (January 2024 to January 2023), 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 0.7% in January. The employment rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to 58.3% in January.
- The unemployment rate rose by 1.1 percentage points and landed at 7.0% in January. 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

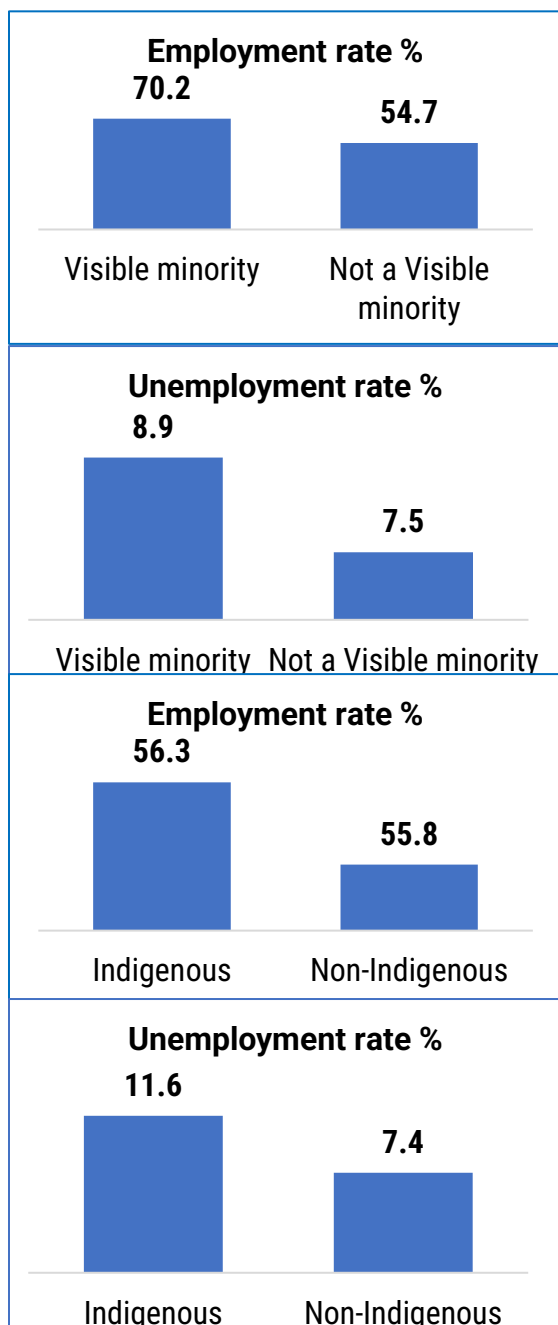
Unemployment Rate (%)	Jan 23	Dec-24	Jan-24	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	12.9	12.1	13.3	1.2 pp	0.4 pp
Males 15-24	14.2	15.9	15.1	-0.8 pp	0.9 pp
Females 15-24	11.6	7.7	11.3	3.6 pp	-0.3 pp
25+	4.1	4.8	5.9	1.1 pp	1.8 pp
Males 25+	4.3	5.3	5.8	0.5 pp	1.5 pp
Females 25+	3.9	4.4	6.0	1.6 pp	2.1 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate increased by 1.2 percentage points between December 2023 and January 2024 to 13.3%. The male youth unemployment rate fell by 0.8 percentage points in January, while the female youth unemployment rate rose by 3.6 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage points lower than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage points higher than in January 2023. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 2.1 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to an increase 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 January 2024³



- 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 (70.2% vs 54.7%) on average in the last three months ending in January 2024.
- Compared to December 2023 (3-month average from October to December 2023) the employment rate of visible minorities fell by 0.1 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people declined by 0.7 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 face the highest unemployment rates (18%), while 5.3% of Southeast Asians were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people have the highest unemployment rate in Atlantic Canada (11.6%), while they also face the second lowest employment rate (56.3%).

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.

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **March 08, 2024**, covering the February 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