

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia increased in February by 6,300 jobs (+1.2%). The unemployment rate fell to 6.0% (-1.0 percentage point). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in February. The Labour Force Survey references the week of February 11 to 17 and compares it to the week of January 14 to 20.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in February 2024¹ Compared to January 2024

Labour Force
551,100

+1,200

The labour force increased by 1,200 persons to 551,100. The labour participation rate stayed unchanged in February.

Employment
517,900

+6,300

Full Time
422,600
Part Time
95,200

+7,900

-1,800

Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level increased by 1.2% in February (+6,300 jobs) with gains in full-time employment (+7,900 jobs, +1.9%), and losses in part-time jobs (-1,800, -1.9%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).

Unemployment Rate
6.0%

-1.0 pp

Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell 1.0 percentage point to 6.0% in February. The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has averaged 10.1% since 1976.

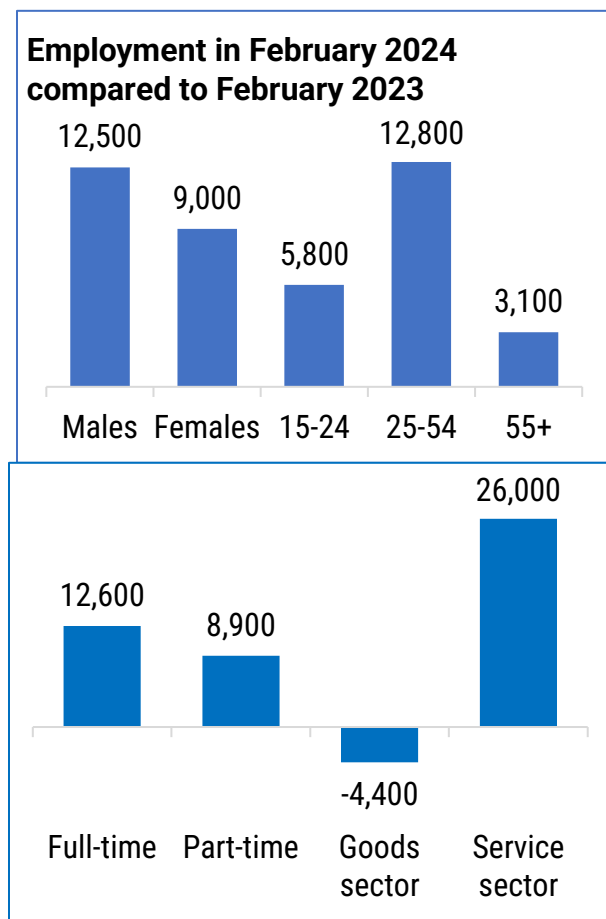
Employment Rate
58.8%

+0.5 pp

The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the population aged 15 and over) rose by 0.5 percentage points to 58.8% in February.

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

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

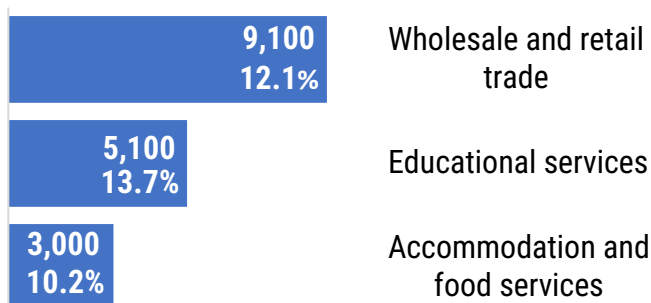


- Employment levels in February were higher for Nova Scotia females (+3,600 jobs, +1.4%) and for males (+2,600 jobs, +1.0%). Employment gains for males were concentrated in part-time positions (+2,900 jobs, +8.6%), and for females in full-time positions (+8,200 jobs, +4.3%). Males lost 300 full-time positions (-0.1%), while females lost 4,600 part-time jobs (-7.3%).
- Youth (15-24 years) employment increased by 2.8% (+2,000 jobs) in February. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 3,400 positions (+1.1%), while the employment level for older workers was up by 0.7% (+900 jobs).
- Full-time employment in February 2024 was 3.1% above its February 2023 level (+12,600 jobs). Part-time employment increased by 8,900 jobs (+10.3%) in February 2024 compared with February 2023.
- The employment level in the goods-producing sector gained 1,000 jobs in February (+1.1%), while the services-producing sector gained 5,200 positions (+1.2%). The top expanding industries were “wholesale and retail trade” (+2,000 jobs, +2.4%), “information, culture and recreation” (+1,600, +8.5%) and “accommodation and food services (+1,500, +4.9%). The industries that lost the most jobs in February were: “finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing” (-900, -2.9%), “other services (except public administration)” (-500, -2.2%), and “construction” (-500, -1.3%).

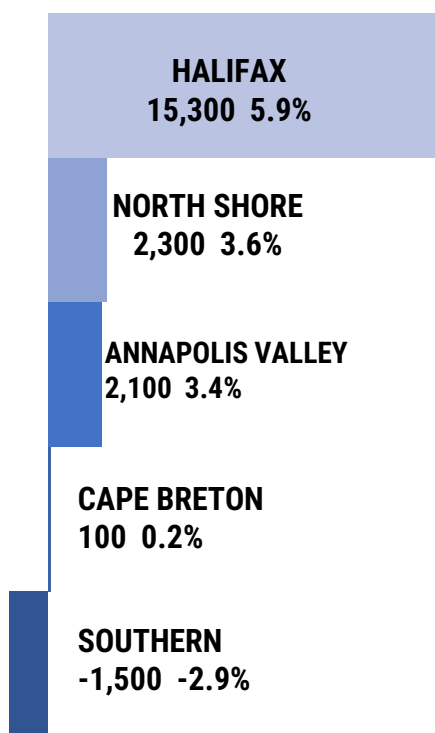
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Top Industries by Employment Gain Feb 2023 to Feb 2024



Employment by Economic Region, February 2023 to February 2024



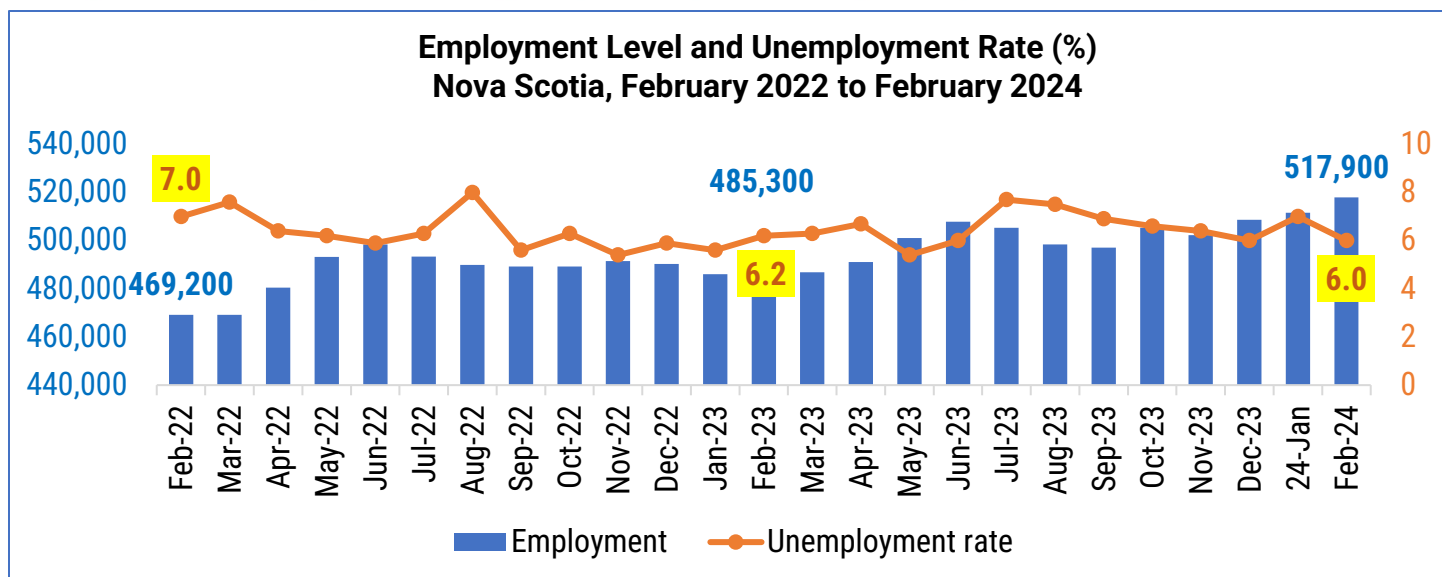
- Compared to February of last year, employment gains were largest in the “wholesale and retail trade” industry (+9,100 jobs, +12.1%). This was followed by “educational services” (+5,100 jobs, +13.7%), and “accommodation and food services” (+3,000 jobs, +10.2%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “construction” industry (-2,400 jobs, -5.9%), followed by “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (-2,000 jobs, -18.9%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-1,000 jobs, -2.6%).
- In February 2024 (three-month average from December 2023 to February 2024) compared to January 2024 (November 2023 to January 2024), three economic regions posted job gains – the Halifax region (+1,800 jobs, +0.7%), the Cape Breton region (+200 jobs, +0.4%), and Southern region (+200 jobs, +0.4%) while job losses occurred in one region: North Shore (-100 jobs, -0.2%), while the Annapolis Valley region experienced no change.
- Compared with one year ago (February 2024 to February 2023), four of the five regions posted employment gains, while the 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 1.2% in February. The employment rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 58.8% in February.
- The unemployment rate fell by 1.0 percentage point and landed at 6.0% in February. 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

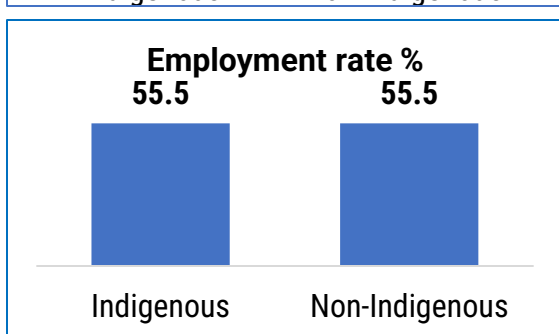
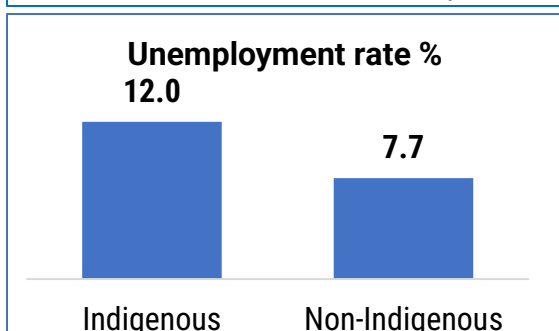
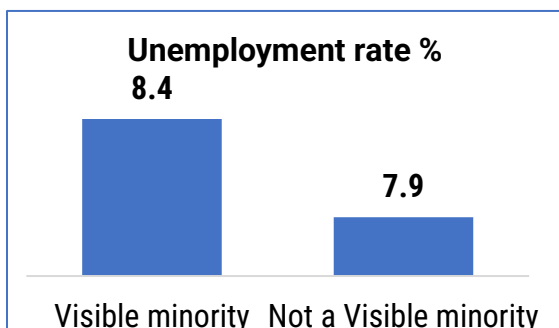
Unemployment Rate (%)	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	12.7	13.3	9.1	-4.2 pp	-3.6 pp
Males 15-24	14.3	15.1	11.6	-3.5 pp	-2.7 pp
Females 15-24	11.1	11.3	6.4	-4.9 pp	-4.7 pp
25+	4.6	5.9	5.5	-0.4 pp	0.9 pp
Males 25+	5.5	5.8	5.5	-0.3 pp	0.0 pp
Females 25+	3.8	6.0	5.4	-0.6 pp	1.6 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate decreased by 4.2 percentage points between January 2024 and February 2024 to 9.1%. The female youth unemployment rate fell by 4.9 percentage points in February, while the male youth unemployment rate decreased by 3.5 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 4.7 percentage points lower than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 2.7 percentage points lower than in February 2023. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 1.6 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to no change for males aged 25 and over.

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Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in February 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 (71.5% vs 54.2%) on average in the last three months ending in February 2024.
- Compared to January 2024 (3-month average from November 2023 to January 2024) the employment rate of visible minorities rose by 1.3 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people declined by 0.5 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 Chinese face the highest unemployment rates (16.2% and 10.8%, respectively), while 4.0% of Southeast Asians were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people have one of the highest unemployment rates in Atlantic Canada (12.0%), while they also face the second lowest employment rate (55.5%).

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 **April 05, 2024**, covering the March 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