

Labour Market Information News

Published by the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

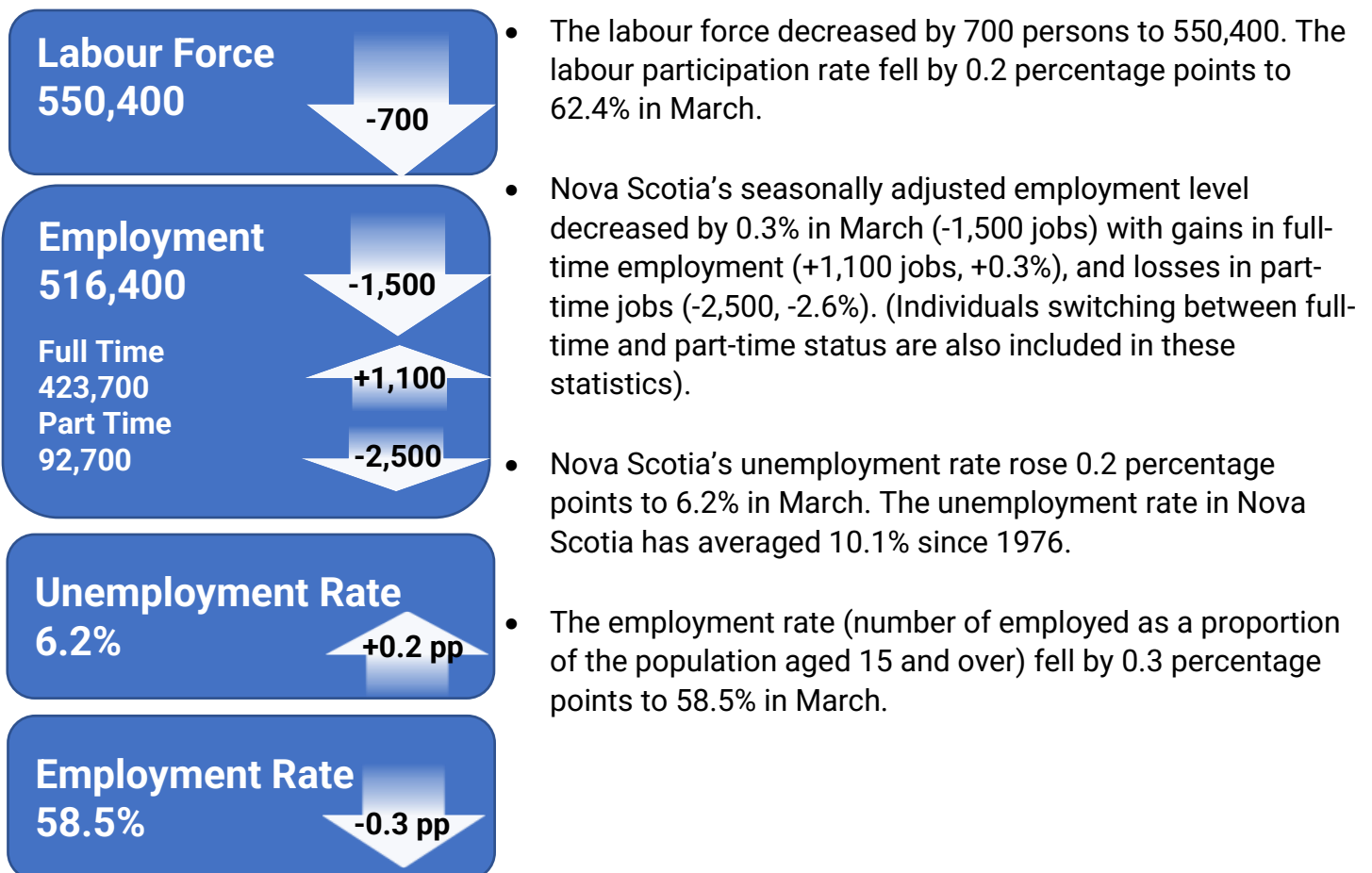
April 2024

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia decreased in March by 1,500 jobs (-0.3%). The unemployment rate rose to 6.2% (+0.2 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in March. The Labour Force Survey references the week of March 10 to 16 and compares it to the week of February 11 to 17, 2024.

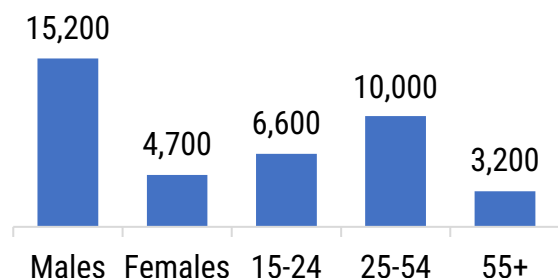
Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in March 2024¹ Compared to February 2024



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

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

Employment in March 2024 compared to March 2023



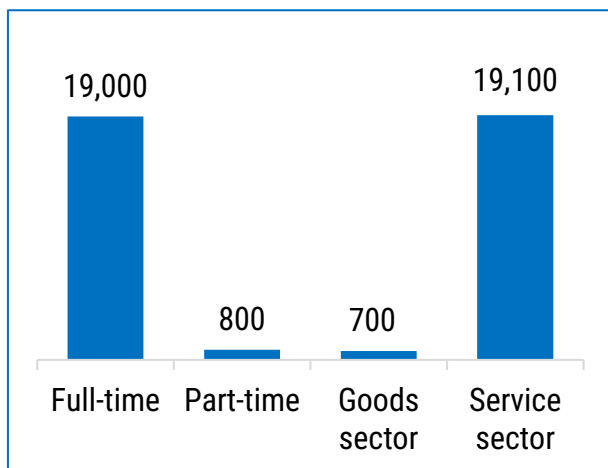
- Employment levels in March were higher for Nova Scotia males (+300 jobs, +0.1%) and lower for females (-1,700 jobs, -0.7%). Employment gains for males were concentrated in part-time positions (+300 jobs, +0.8%), while female job losses were concentrated in part-time jobs (-2,900 jobs, -5.0%). The number of male full-time positions was unchanged, while females gained 1,100 full-time jobs (+0.6%).

- Youth (15-24 years) employment increased by 0.1% (+100 jobs) in March. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) lost 1,700 positions (-0.5%), while the employment level for older workers was up by 0.1% (+100 jobs).

- Full-time employment in March 2024 was 4.7% above its March 2023 level (+19,000 jobs). Part-time employment increased by 800 jobs (+0.9%) in March 2024 compared with March 2023.

- The employment level in the goods-producing sector gained 2,000 jobs in March (+2.2%), while the services-producing sector lost 3,500 positions (-0.8%). The top expanding industries were “health care and social assistance” (+1,500 jobs, +1.9%), “construction” (+1,200, +3.1%), and “manufacturing” (+900 jobs, +2.5%). Industries that lost the most jobs in March were: “wholesale and retail trade” (-2,400, -7.0%), “business, building and other support services” (-1,300 jobs, -7.0%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-1,100, -2.9%).

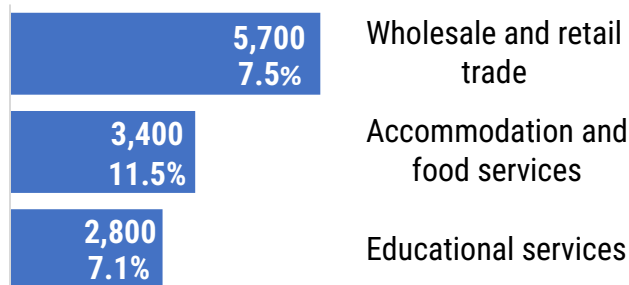
- Compared to March of last year, employment gains were largest in the “wholesale and retail trade” industry (+5,700 jobs, +7.5%). This was



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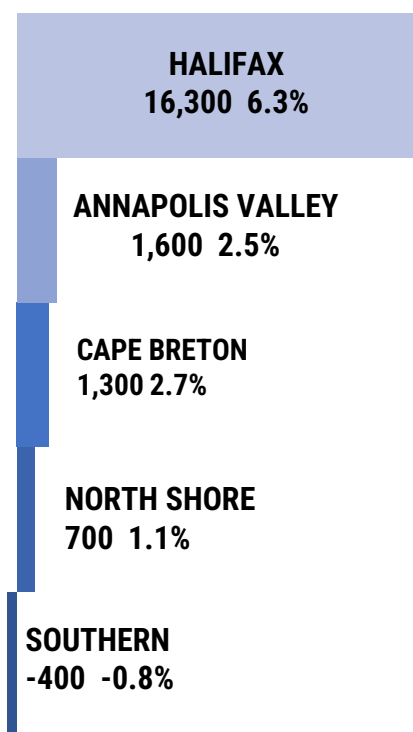
Top Industries by Employment Gain Mar 2023 to Mar 2024



followed by “accommodation and food services” (+3,400 jobs, +11.5%), and “educational services” (+2,800 jobs, +7.1%).

- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “professional, scientific and technical services” industry (-2,500 jobs, -6.4%), followed by “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (-800 jobs, -8.6%), and “agriculture” (-100 jobs, -2.3%).
- In March 2024 (three-month average from January to March 2024) compared to February 2024 (December 2023 to February 2024) two economic regions posted job gains – the Halifax region (+800 jobs, +0.3%), and the North Shore region (+100 jobs, +0.2%), while job losses occurred in three regions: Southern region (-400 jobs, -0.8%), Cape Breton (-200, -0.4%), and Annapolis Valley (-100, -0.2%).
- Compared with one year ago (March 2024 to March 2023), four of the five regions posted employment gains, while the Southern region lost jobs².

Employment by Economic Region, March 2023 to March 2024

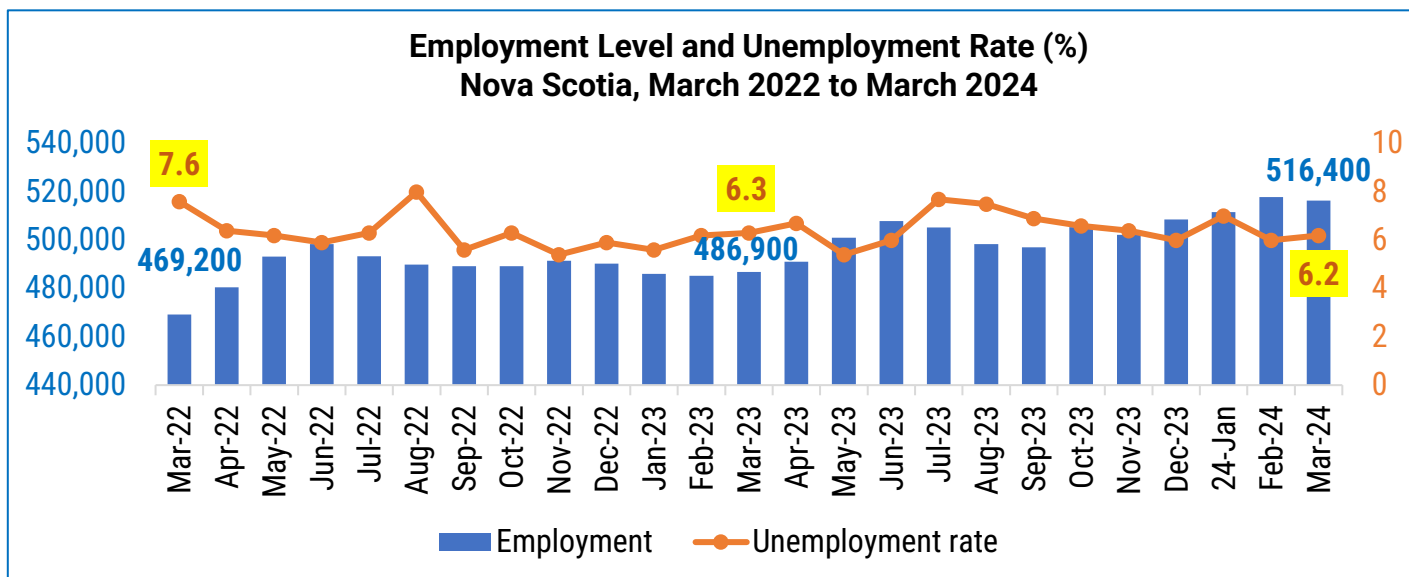


***Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

² Source: Statistics Canada, Table [14-10-0387-01](#), three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

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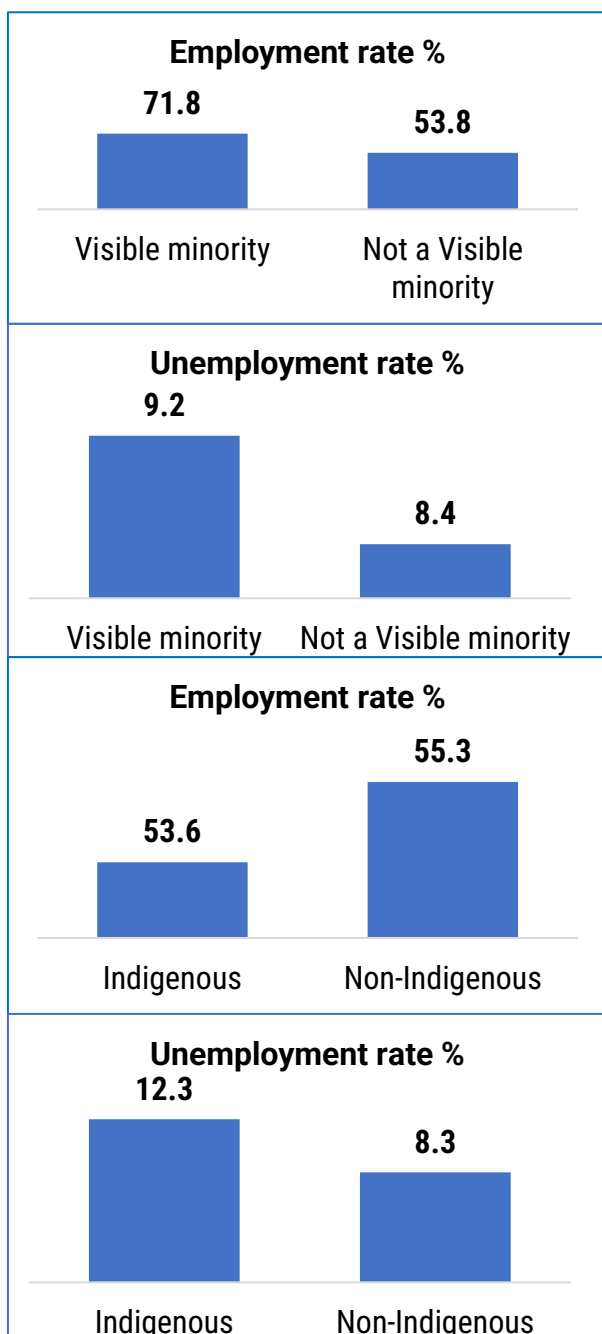
- The employment level in Nova Scotia decreased by 0.3% in March. The employment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 58.5% in March.
- The unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points and landed at 6.2% in March. When compared against historical Labour Force Survey data going back to 1976, Nova Scotia’s unemployment rate remains relatively low.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Mar 23	Feb-24	Mar-24	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	11.6	9.1	9.4	0.3 pp	-2.2 pp
Males 15-24	14.3	11.6	8.4	-3.2 pp	-5.9 pp
Females 15-24	9.0	6.4	10.5	4.1 pp	1.5 pp
25+	4.5	5.5	5.6	0.1 pp	1.1 pp
Males 25+	5.5	5.5	6.3	0.8 pp	0.8 pp
Females 25+	3.5	5.4	5.0	-0.4 pp	1.5 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage points between February 2024 and March 2024 to 9.4%. The male youth unemployment rate fell by 3.2 percentage points in March, while the female youth unemployment rate rose by 4.1 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 1.5 percentage points higher than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 5.9 percentage points lower than in March 2023. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 1.5 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to an increase of 0.8 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in March 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 (71.8% vs 53.8%) on average in the last three months ending in March 2024.
- Compared to February 2024 (3-month average from December 2023 to February 2024) the employment rate of visible minorities rose by 0.3 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people declined by 0.4 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 (15.8% and 11.3%, respectively), while 3.9% of Latin Americans were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people have amongst the highest unemployment rates in Atlantic Canada (12.3%), while they also face the lowest employment rate (53.6%).

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 **May 10, 2024**, covering the April 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