

# Labour Market Information News

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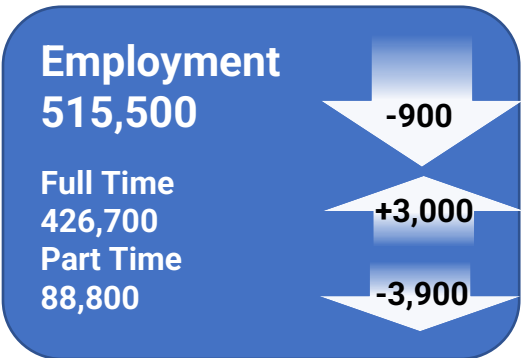
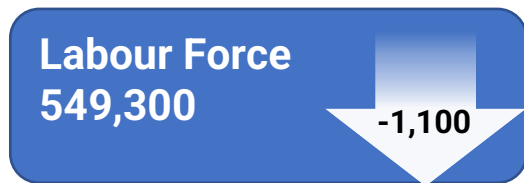
May 2024

## Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

### Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia decreased in April by 900 jobs (-0.2%). The unemployment rate fell to 6.1% (-0.1 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in April. The Labour Force Survey references the week of April 14 to 20, 2024 and compares it to the week of March 10 to 16, 2024.

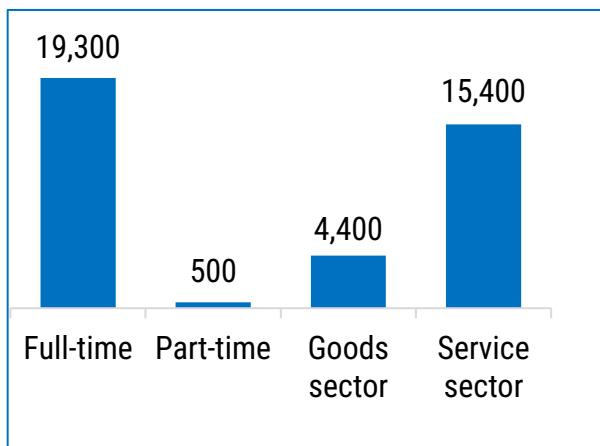
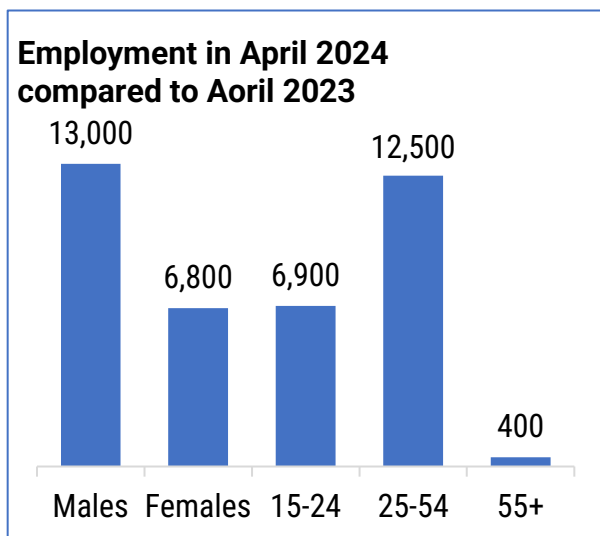
### Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in April 2024<sup>1</sup> Compared to March 2024



- The labour force decreased by 1,100 persons to 549,300. The labour participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 62.1% in April.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level decreased by 0.2% in April (-900 jobs) with gains in full-time employment (+3,000 jobs, +0.7%), and losses in part-time jobs (-3,900, -4.2%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 6.1% in April. 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) fell by 0.2 percentage points to 58.3% in April.

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

## Employment Data in April 2024 Compared to March 2024 and April 2023

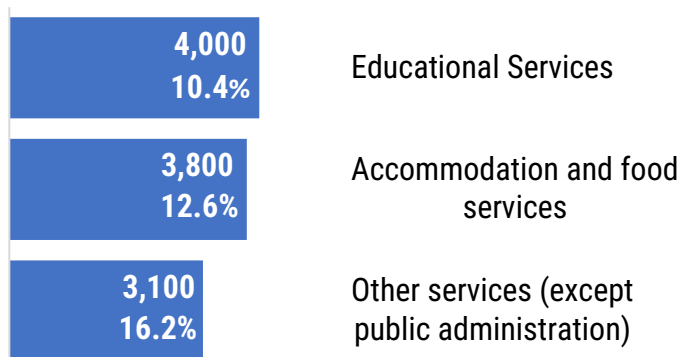


- Employment levels in April were higher for Nova Scotia females (+1,100 jobs, +0.4%) and lower for males (-2,000 jobs, -0.8%). Employment losses for males were concentrated in part-time positions (-5,700 jobs, -15.4%), while female job losses were concentrated in full-time jobs (-700 jobs, -0.4%). Males gained 3,700 full-time positions (+1.6%) while females gained 1,900 part-time jobs (+3.4%).
- Youth (15-24 years) employment decreased by 0.1% (-100 jobs) in April. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 2,300 positions (+0.7%), while the employment level for older workers was down by -2.6% (-3,100 jobs).
- Full-time employment in April 2024 was 4.7% above its April 2023 level (+19,300 jobs). Part-time employment increased by 500 jobs (+0.6%) in April 2024 compared with April 2023.
- The employment level in the goods-producing sector gained 2,500 jobs in April (+2.7%), while the services-producing sector lost 3,400 positions (-0.8%). The top expanding industries were “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (+1,700 jobs, +20.0%), accommodation and food services” (+1,000, +3.0%), “construction” (+700 jobs, +1.8%), and “manufacturing” (+700 jobs, +1.9%). Industries that lost the most jobs in April were: “wholesale and retail trade” (-1,400, -1.7%), “business, building and other support services” (-1,400 jobs, -8.1%), and “public administration (-700, -1.9%).

# Labour Market Information News

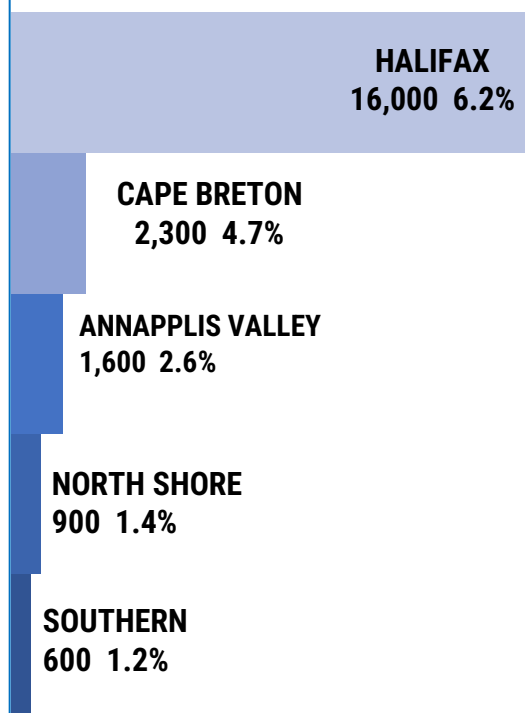
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## Top Industries by Employment Gain Apr 2023 to Apr 2024



- Compared to April of last year, employment gains were largest in the “educational services” industry (+4,000 jobs, +10.4%). This was followed by “accommodation and food services” (+3,800 jobs, +12.6%), and “other services (except public administration)” (+3,100 jobs, +16.2%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “agriculture” industry (-1,600 jobs, -29.1%), and “business, building and other support services” (-1,600 jobs, -9.1%), followed by “professional, scientific and technical services” (-1,200 jobs, -3.1%).

## Employment by Economic Region, April 2023 to April 2024



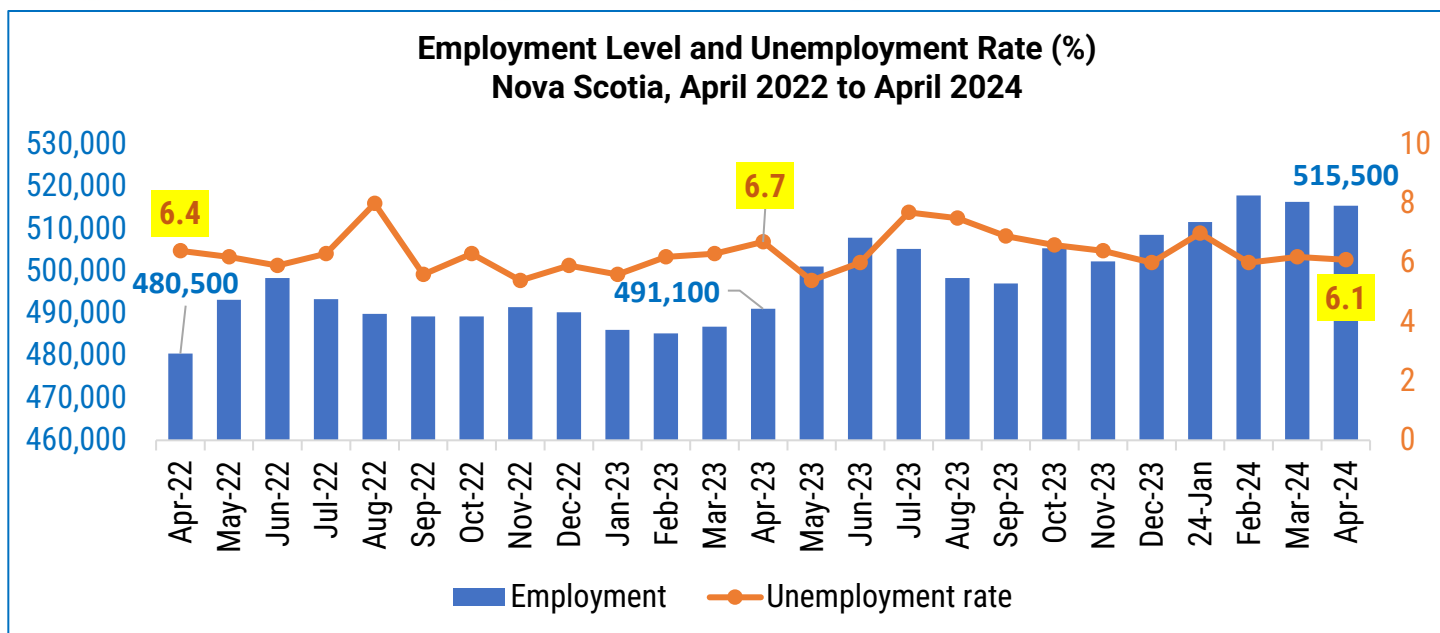
- In April 2024 (three-month average from February to April 2024) compared to March 2024 (January to March 2024) four economic regions posted job gains – the Southern region (+1,300 jobs, +2.6%), the North Shore region (+1,100 jobs, +1.7%), the Halifax region (+800 jobs, +0.3%), and the Cape Breton region (+700, +1.4%); while job losses occurred in the Annapolis Valley region (-300 jobs, -0.5%).
- Compared with one year ago (April 2024 to April 2023), all five regions posted employment gains<sup>2</sup>.

**\*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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 0.2% in April. The employment rate also decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 58.3% in April.
- The unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points and landed at 6.1% in April. 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

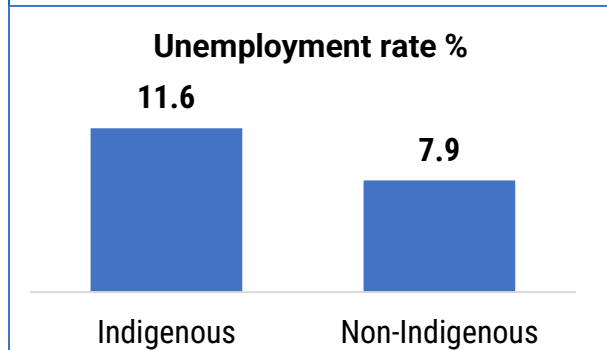
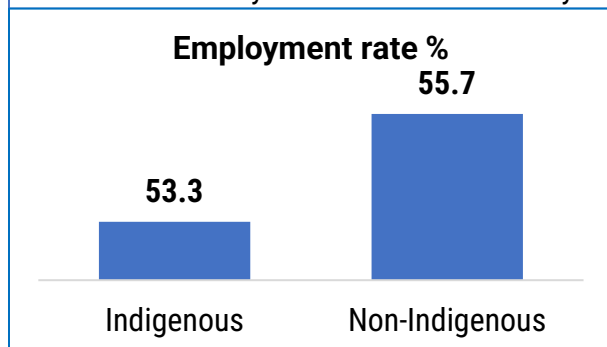
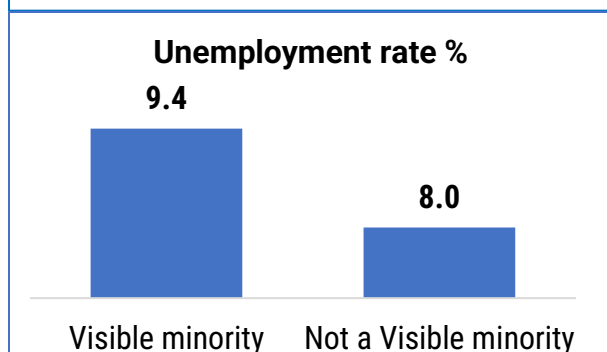
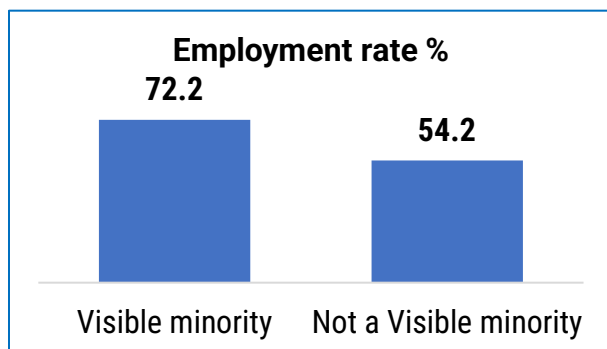
Unemployment Rate (%)	Apr-23	Mar-24	Apr-24	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	11.5	9.4	11.6	2.2 pp	0.1 pp
Males 15-24	12.4	8.4	13.3	4.9 pp	0.9 pp
Females 15-24	10.6	10.5	9.8	-0.7 pp	-0.8 pp
25+	5.6	5.6	5.2	-0.4 pp	-0.4 pp
Males 25+	6.5	6.3	5.2	-1.1 pp	-1.3 pp
Females 25+	4.7	5.0	5.1	0.1 pp	0.4 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate increased by 2.2 percentage points between March and April 2024 to 11.6%. The male youth unemployment rate rose by 4.9 percentage points in April, while the female youth unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage points lower than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage points higher than in April 2023. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 0.4 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to a decrease of 1.3 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

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## Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in April 2024<sup>3</sup>



- 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 (72.2% vs 54.2%) on average in the last three months ending in April 2024.
- Compared to March 2024 (3-month average from January to March 2024) 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 also rose 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 data<sup>4</sup>, Arabs and South Asians face the highest unemployment rates (13.8% and 10.3%, respectively), while 4.5% of Filipinos were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people have amongst the highest unemployment rates in Atlantic Canada (11.6%), while they also face the lowest employment rate (53.3%).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Data not available for West Asian, Korean, and Japanese minority groups.

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The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **June 07, 2024**, covering the May 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