

Labour Market Information News

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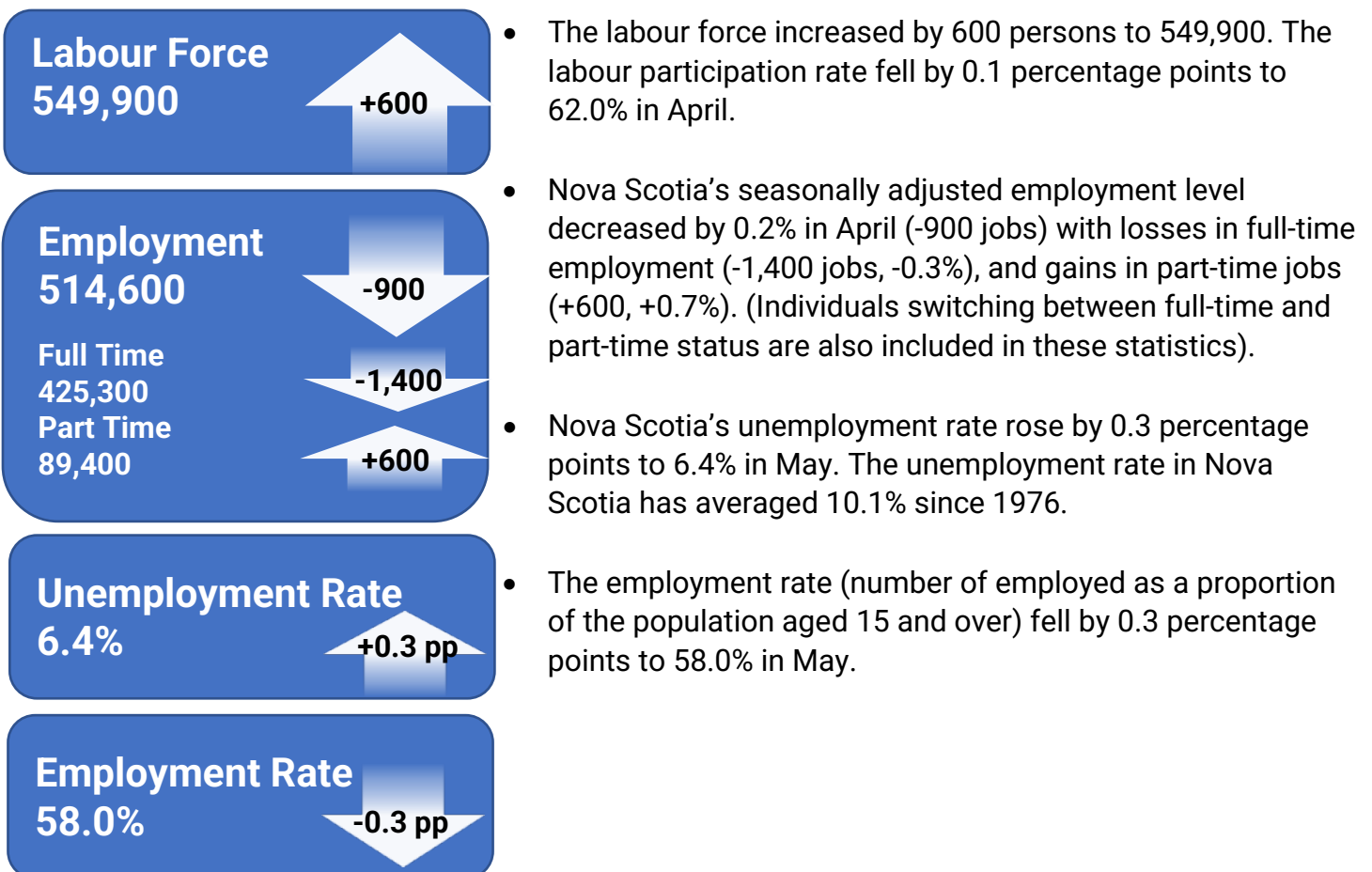
June 2024

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

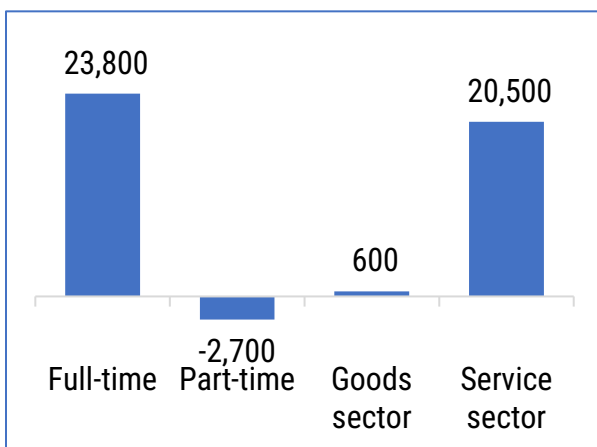
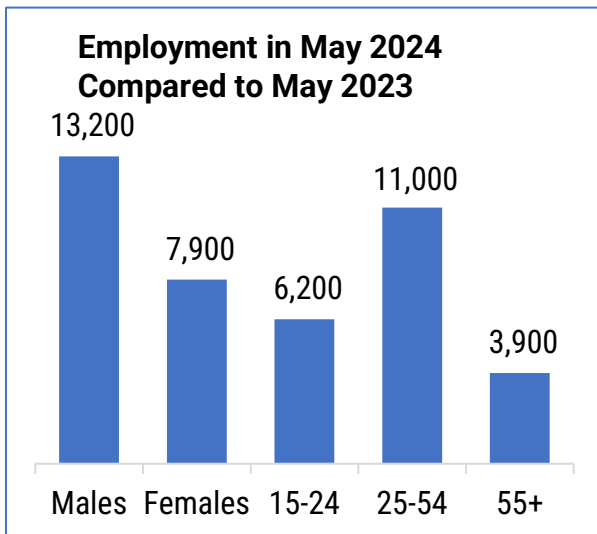
Employment in Nova Scotia decreased in May by 900 jobs (-0.2%). The unemployment rate rose to 6.4% (+0.3 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in May. The Labour Force Survey references the week of May 12 to 18, 2024 and compares it to the week of April 14 to 20, 2024.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in May 2024¹ Compared to April 2024



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

Employment Data in May 2024 Compared to April 2024 and May 2023

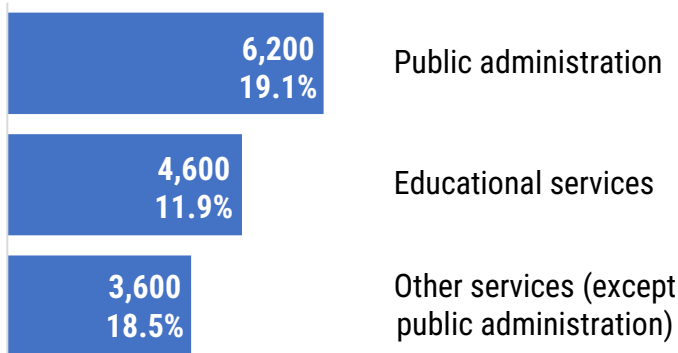


- Employment levels in May were lower for Nova Scotia females (-1,400 jobs, -0.5%) but higher for males (+500 jobs, +0.2%) compared to April. Employment gains for males were concentrated in part-time positions (+2,100 jobs, +6.7%), and female job losses were also concentrated in part-time work (-1,500 jobs, -2.6%). Males lost 1,600 full-time positions (-0.7%) while females gained 200 part-time jobs (+0.1%).
- Youth (15-24 years) employment decreased by 2.9% (-2,100 jobs) in May. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) lost 2,700 positions (-0.8%), while the employment level for older workers was up by 3.3% (+3,900 jobs).
- Full-time employment in May 2024 was 5.9% above its May 2023 level (+23,800 jobs). Part-time employment decreased by 2,700 jobs (-2.9%) in April 2024 compared with April 2023.
- The employment level in the goods-producing sector decreased by 3,600 jobs in May (-3.6%), while the services-producing sector added 2,700 positions (+0.6%). The top expanding industries were “public administration” (+2,900 jobs, +8.1%), “transportation and warehousing” (+1,200, +5.5%), and “other services (except public administration)” (+900 jobs, +4.1%). Industries that lost the most jobs in May were “manufacturing” (-3,400 jobs, -9.1%), “health care and social assistance” (-1,300, -1.6%), and “accommodation and food services” (-900, -2.7%).

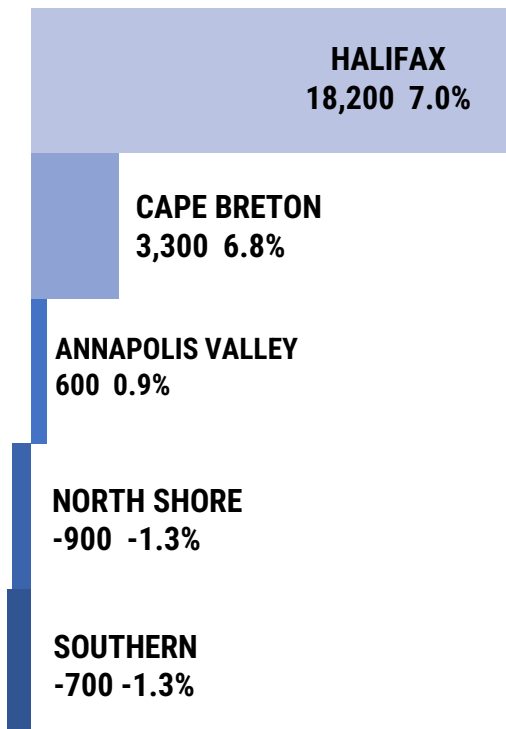
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Top Industries by Employment Gain May 2023 to May 2024



Employment by Economic Region, May 2023 to May 2024



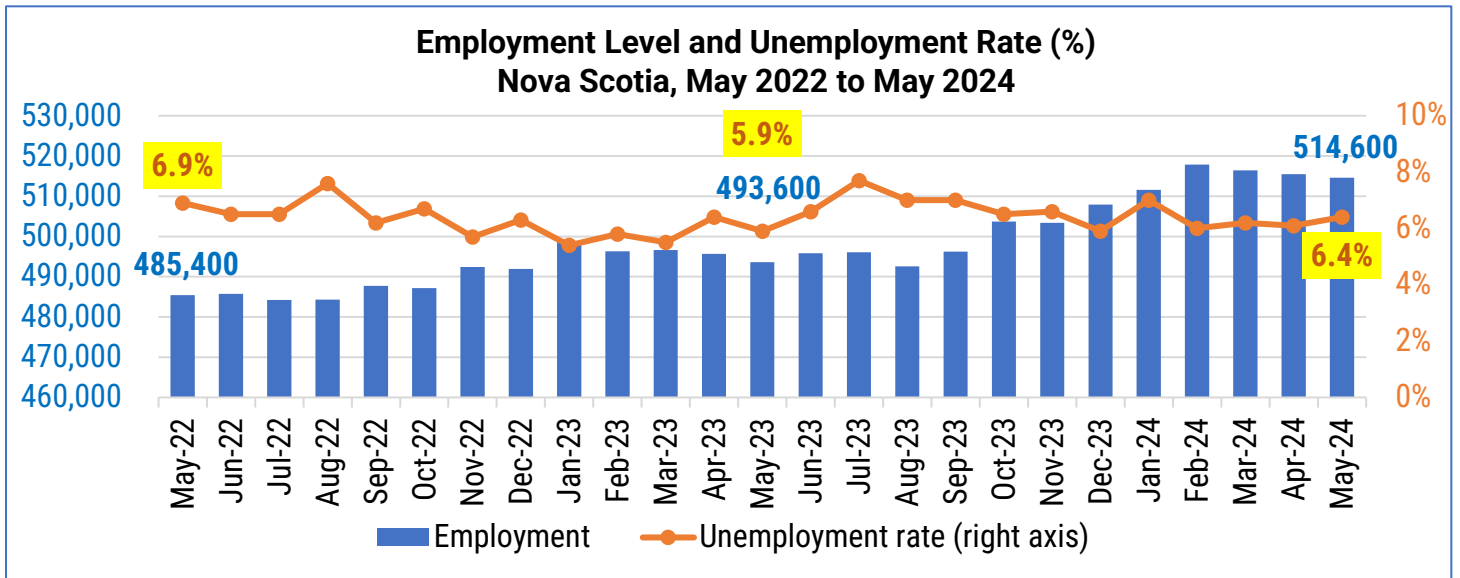
- Compared to May of last year, employment gains were largest in the “public administration” industry (+6,200 jobs, +19.1%). This was followed by “educational services” (+4,600 jobs, +11.9%), and “other services (except public administration)” (+3,600 jobs, +18.5%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “agriculture” industry (-2,700 jobs, -44.3%), followed by “business, building and other support services” (-1,900 jobs, -10.9%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-1,600 jobs, -4.1%).
- In May 2024 (three-month average from March to May 2024) compared to April 2024 (February to April 2024) four economic regions recorded job gains – the Halifax region (+2,900 jobs, +1.1%), the Cape Breton region (+900, +1.8%), the Southern region (+300, +0.6%), and the Northern region (+300, +1.4%); while job losses occurred in the Annapolis Valley region (-100 jobs, -0.1%).
- Compared with one year ago (May 2024 versus May 2023), three economic regions recorded job gains, while the North Shore and Southern regions recorded modest job losses².

***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 0.2% in May. The employment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 58.0% in May.
- The unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points and landed at 6.4% in May. 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

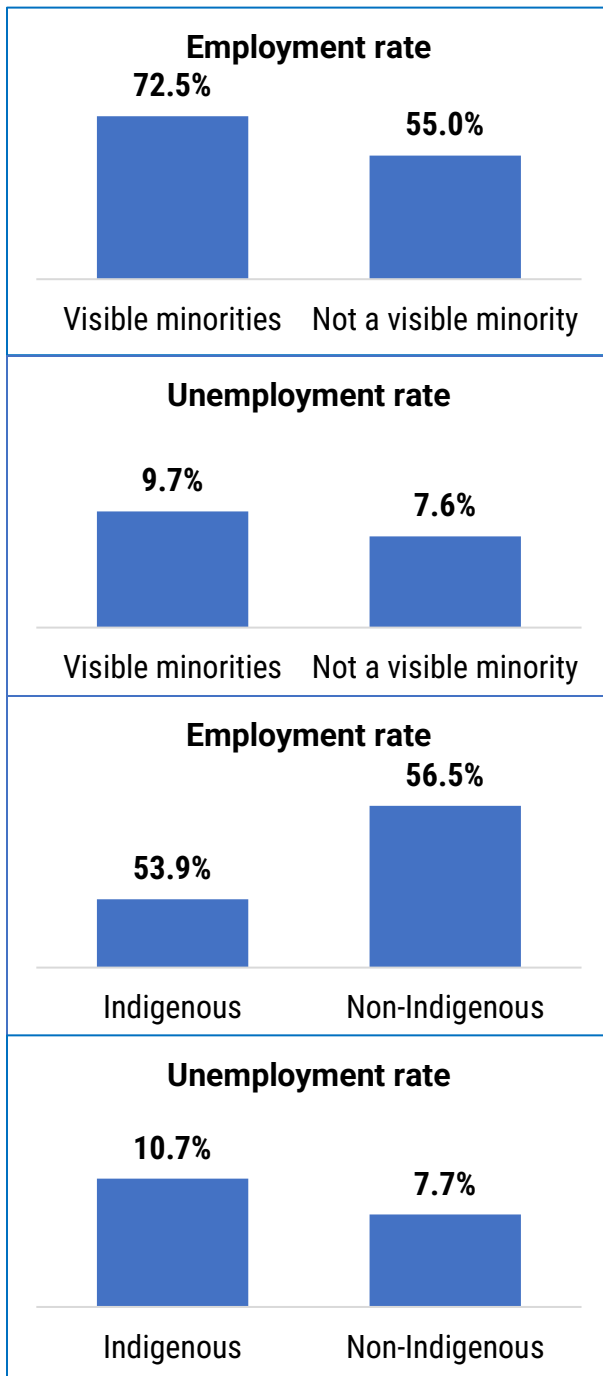
Unemployment Rate (%)	May-23	Apr-24	May-24	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	11.4	12.9	11.6	-1.3 pp	0.2 pp
Males 15-24	12.7	10.5	13.3	2.8 pp	0.6 pp
Females 15-24	10.2	15.0	9.8	-5.2 pp	-0.4 pp
25+	5.0	5.3	5.2	-0.1 pp	0.2 pp
Males 25+	5.9	5.9	5.2	-0.7 pp	-0.7 pp
Females 25+	4.1	4.7	5.1	0.4 pp	1.0 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points between May and June 2024 to 11.6%. The male youth unemployment rate rose by 2.8 percentage points in May, while the female youth unemployment rate fell by 5.2 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 0.4 percentage points lower than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage points higher than in May 2023. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 1.0 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to a decrease of 0.7 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

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Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in May 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 (72.5% vs 55.0%) on average in the last three months ending in May 2024.
- Compared to April 2024 (3-month average from February to April 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 rose by 0.8 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 Blacks face the highest unemployment rates (11.6% and 11.4%, respectively), while 4.0% of Filipinos were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people in Atlantic Canada have an unemployment rate that is well above the region overall (10.7% versus 7.8%), while they also face the lowest employment rate of any visible minority group (53.9%).

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 **July 05, 2024**, covering the June 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