

Labour Market Information News

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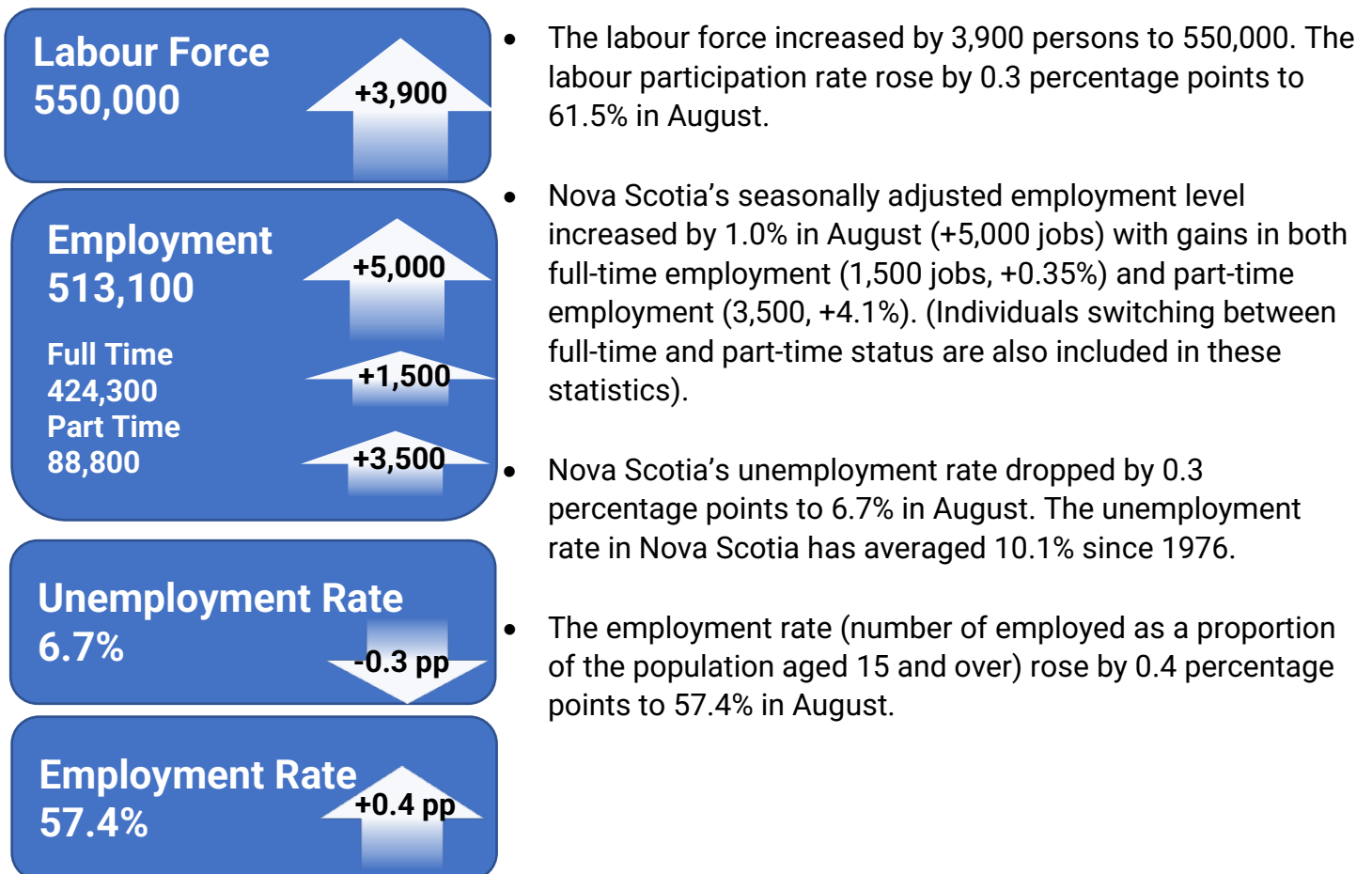
September 2024

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

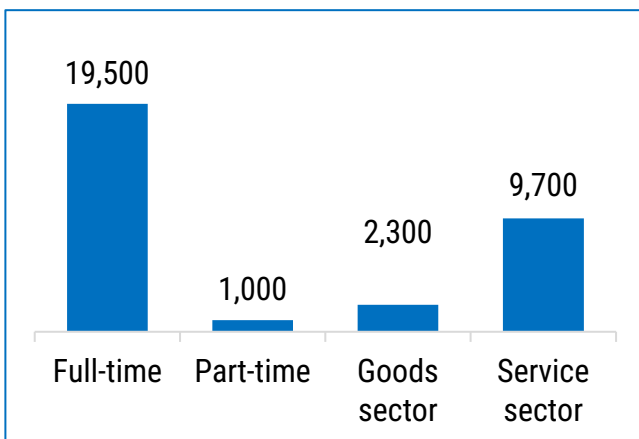
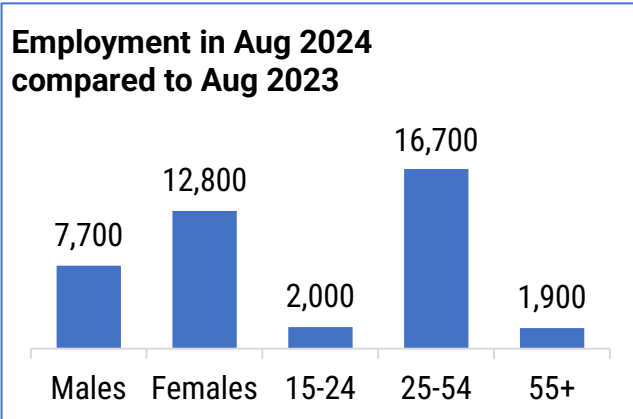
Employment in Nova Scotia increased in August by 5,000 jobs (+1.0%). The unemployment rate dropped to 6.7% (-0.3 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in August. The Labour Force Survey references the week of August 11 to 17, 2024 and compares it to the week of July 14 to 20, 2024.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in August 2024¹ Compared to July 2024



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

Employment Data in August 2024 Compared to July 2024 and August 2023

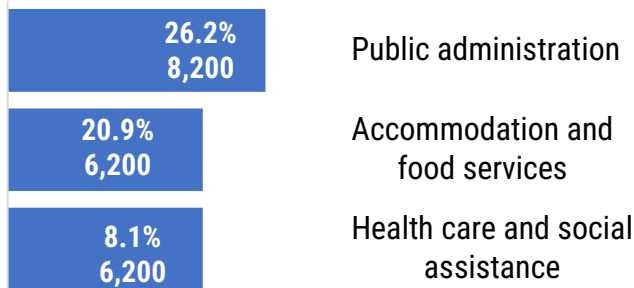


- Nova Scotia males gained more jobs compared to females in August. They gained 4,000 jobs (+1.6%), mostly in part-time positions (+3,700 jobs, +11.7%). Nova Scotia females gained 1,100 jobs overall (+0.4%), all in full-time positions.
- All age group experienced employment expansion in August. Youth (15-24 years) employment rose by 2.5% (+1,700 jobs) in August, recovering the job loss in July. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) continued to gain employment (+2,500 jobs, +0.8%). The employment level for older workers (55 years and over) was up by 0.8% (+900 jobs).
- Full-time employment in August 2024 was 4.8% above its August 2023 level (+19,500 jobs). Part-time employment rose by 1,000 jobs (+1.1%) in August 2024 compared with August 2023.
- The employment level in the goods-producing sector remained virtually unchanged in August (-0.1%), while the services-producing sector gained 5,000 jobs (+1.2%). The top expanding industries in August compared to July were “accommodation and food services” (+2,200 jobs, +6.5%), “health care and social assistance” (+1,700, +2.1%), and “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (+1,200 jobs, +11.7%). Industries that lost the most jobs in August were “professional, scientific and technical services” (-2,000, -5.5%), “other services (except public administration)” (-900, -4.2%) and “construction” (-500, -1.2%).

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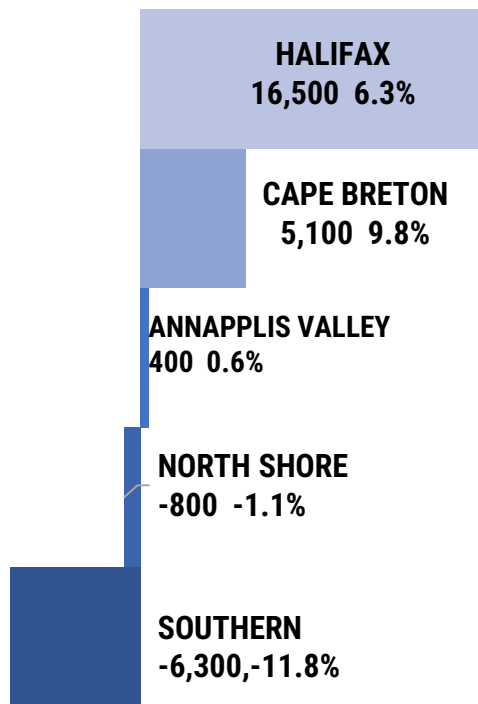
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Top Industries by Employment Gain Aug 2023 to Aug 2024



- Compared to August of last year, employment gains were largest in the “public administration” industry (+8,200 jobs, +26.2%). This was followed by “accommodation and food services” (+6,200 jobs, +20.9%), and “health care and social assistance” (+6,200 jobs, +8.1%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “manufacturing” (-3,600 jobs, -9.8%), “agriculture” (-2,500 jobs, -41.7%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-2,700 jobs, -7.2%).

Employment by Economic Region, Aug 2023 to Aug 2024



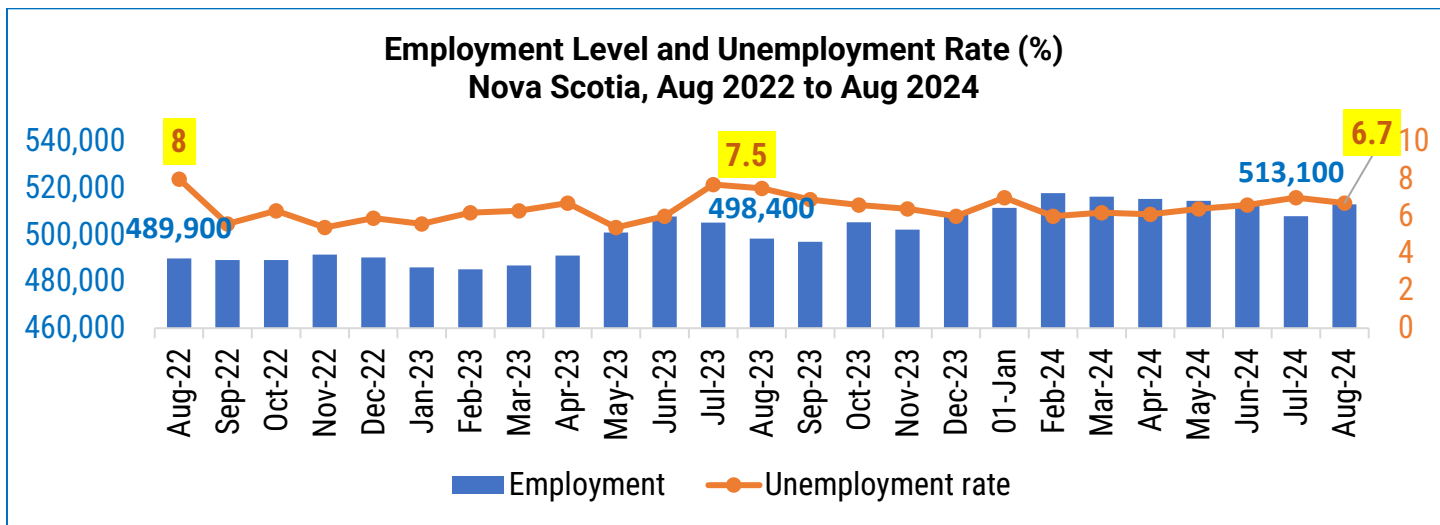
- In August 2024 (three-month average from June to August 2024) compared to July 2024 (May to July 2024), two economic regions recorded job gains –the Cape Breton region (+1,000, +1.8%), and the North Shore region (+900, +1.3%); while job losses occurred in the Southern region (-1,500 jobs, -3.1%), the Annapolis Valley region (-900, -1.4%) and the Halifax region (-600, -0.2%).
- Compared with one year ago (August 2024 versus August 2023), three economic regions recorded job gains, while the Southern region and North Shore recorded 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 increased by 1.0% in August. The employment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 57.4% in August.
- The unemployment rate dropped by 0.3 percentage points and landed at 6.7% in August. 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

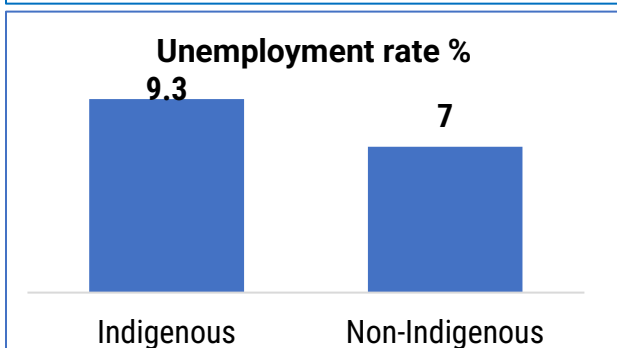
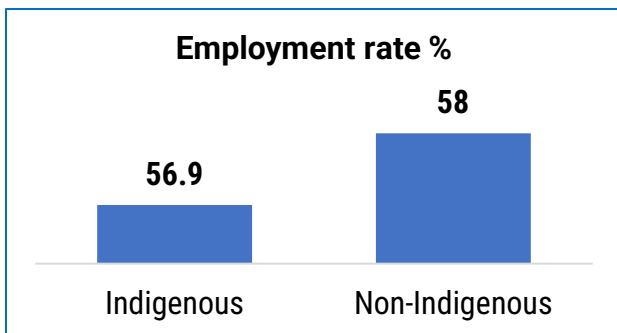
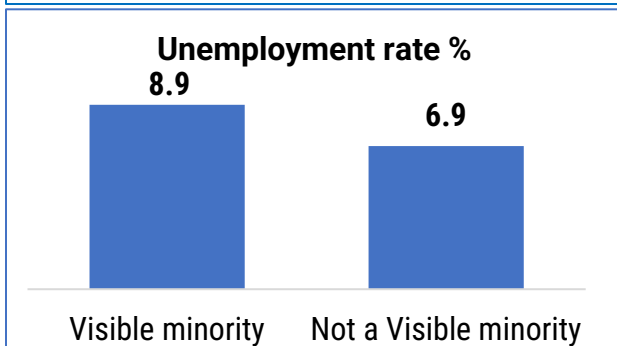
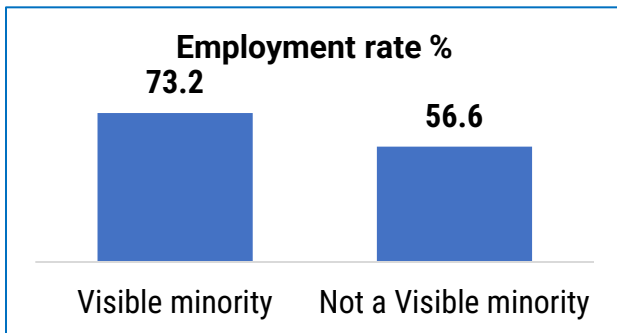
Unemployment Rate (%)	Aug-23	Jul-24	Aug-24	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	11.2	15.4	14.1	-1.3 pp	2.9 pp
Males 15-24	15.8	17.9	16.8	-1.1 pp	1.0 pp
Females 15-24	6.3	12.6	11.2	-1.4 pp	4.9 pp
25+	6.3	5.5	5.4	-0.1 pp	-0.9 pp
Males 25+	5.7	6.5	6.7	0.2 pp	1.0 pp
Females 25+	6.9	4.5	4.2	-0.3 pp	-2.7 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points between July and August 2024 to 14.1%. The male youth unemployment rate dropped by 1.1 percentage points in August, while the female youth unemployment rate fell by 1.4 percentage points. The male youth unemployment rate was 1.0 percentage point higher than a year ago, while the female youth unemployment rate was 4.9 percentage points higher than in August 2023. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 0.3 percentage points lower than a year ago, compared to an increase of 0.2 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

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Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada in August 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 (73.2% vs 56.6%) on average in the last three months ending in August 2024. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to July 2024 (3-month average from May to July 2024), the employment rate of visible minorities fell by 0.2 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people remained the same 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, Blacks and Arabs face the highest unemployment rates (11.5% and 10.9%, respectively), while 5.1% of Southeast Asians were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people in Atlantic Canada have an unemployment rate that is well above the region overall (9.3% versus 7.1%), while they also face the lower employment rate (55.8% versus 57.9%).

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 **October 11, 2024**, covering the September 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