

# Labour Market Information News

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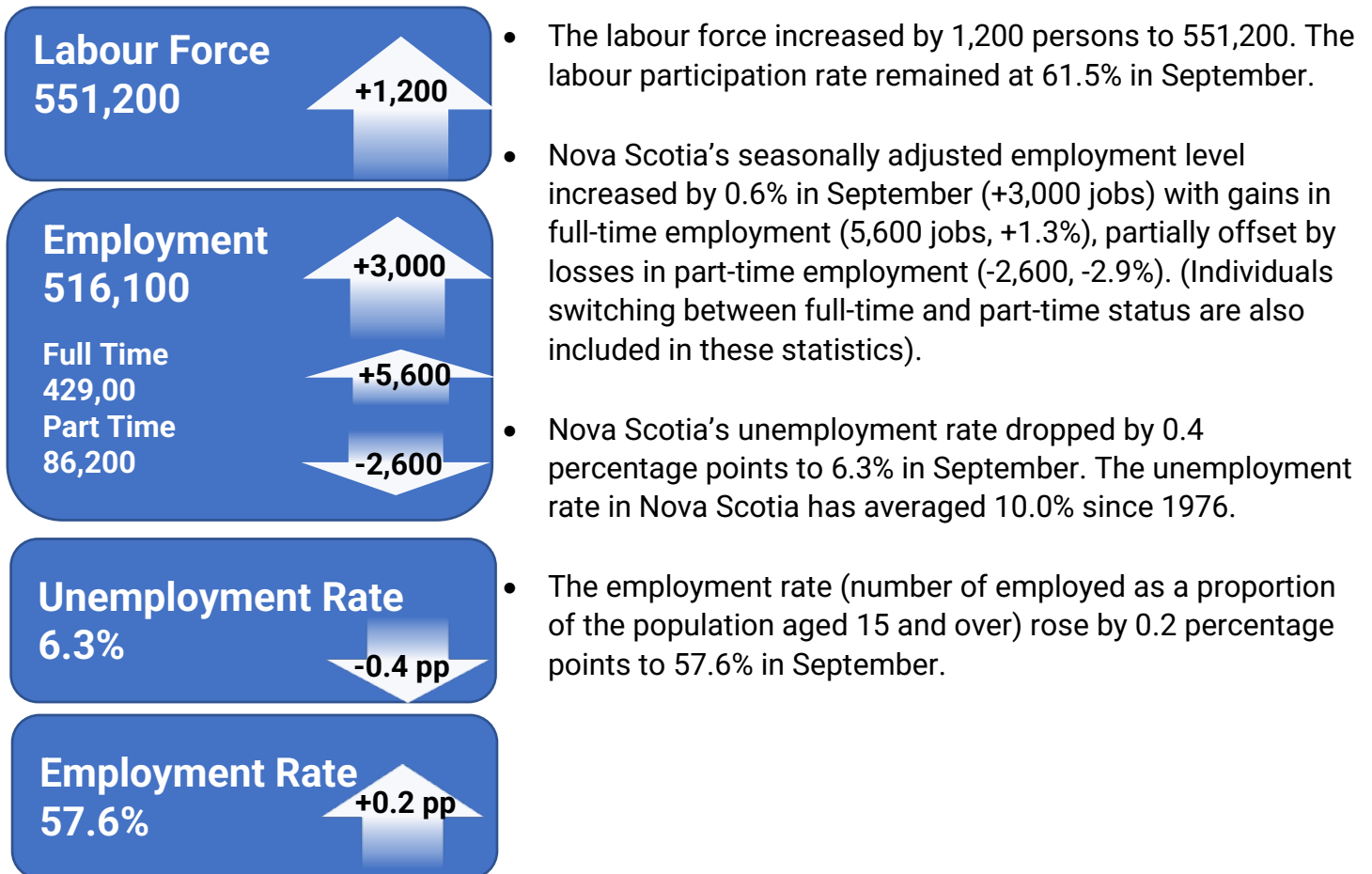
October 2024

## Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

### Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia increased in September by 3,000 jobs (+0.6%). The unemployment rate dropped to 6.3% (-0.4 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in September. The Labour Force Survey references the week of September 15 to 21, 2024 and compares it to the week of August 11 to 17, 2024.

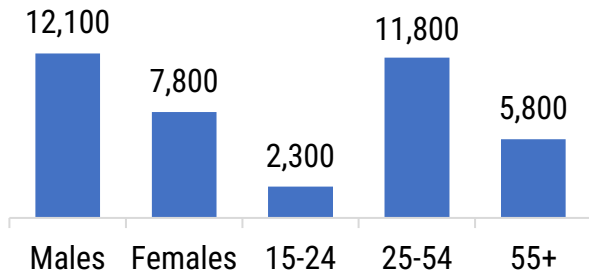
### Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in September 2024<sup>1</sup> Compared to August 2024



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

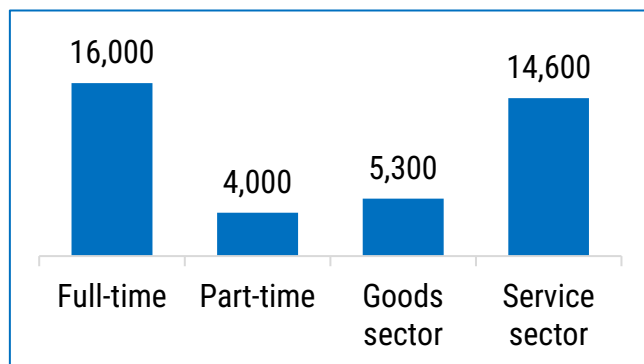
## Employment Data in September 2024 Compared to August 2024 and September 2023

**Employment in Sep 2024 compared to Sep 2023**



- Nova Scotia males gained more jobs compared to females in the last month. Males gained 2,100 jobs (+0.8%), due to the gains in full-time positions. Females gained 900 jobs (+0.4%), with gains in both in full-time and part-time positions. Compared to September 2023, males gained 12,100 jobs (+4.9%) while females gained 7,800 jobs (+3.2%). Most of the job gains happened in the full-time positions, both for males and females.

- Youth lost 1,200 jobs in (-1.7%) the last month while core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) and older workers (55 years and over) continued to gain employment (+0.8% & +1.4%). Compared to September 2023, all age groups reported employment gains by 3.5%, 3.7% & 5.1%.

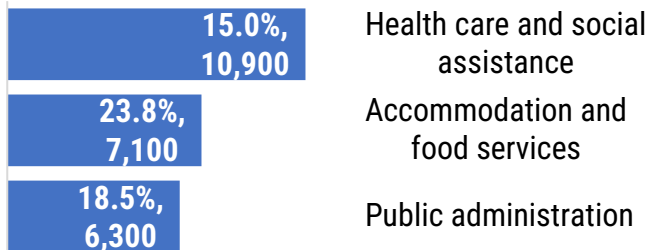


- Full-time employment in September 2024 was 3.9% above its September 2023 level (+16,000 jobs). Part-time employment rose by 4,000 jobs (+4.9%).
- Both goods-producing and service-producing sectors expanded in September (+1.7% & +0.4%). The top expanding industries in September compared to August were “educational services” (+2,000 jobs, +4.9%), “construction” (1,400 jobs, +3.5%), “other services (except public administration)” (+1,300 jobs, +6.3%) & “manufacturing” (+1,300 jobs, +3.9%). Industries that lost the most jobs were “wholesale and retail trade” (-3,200 jobs, -4.1%), “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (-1,000 jobs, -8.7%) & “finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing” (-1,000 jobs, -3.4%).

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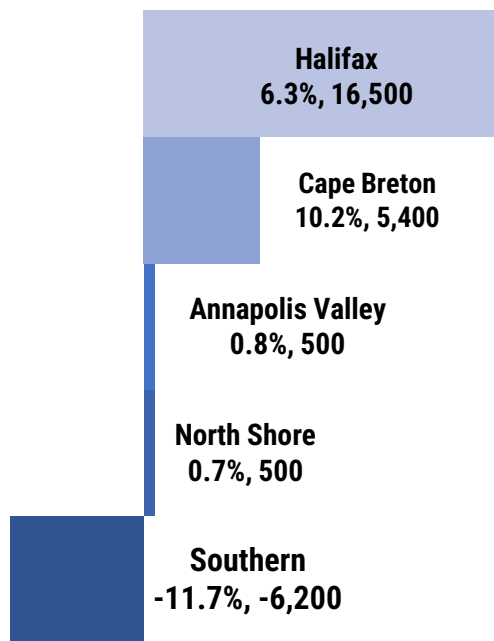
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## Top Industries by Employment Gain, Sep 2023 to Sep 2024



- Compared to September of last year, employment gains were largest in the “health care and social assistance” (+10,900 jobs, +15.0%). This was followed by “accommodation and food services” (+7,100 jobs, +23.8%), and “public administration” (+6,300 jobs, +18.5%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “professional, scientific and technical services” (-5,100 jobs, -13.1%) “business, building and other support services” (-4,100 jobs, -21.1%), and “wholesale and retail trade” (-3,800 jobs, -4.8%).

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



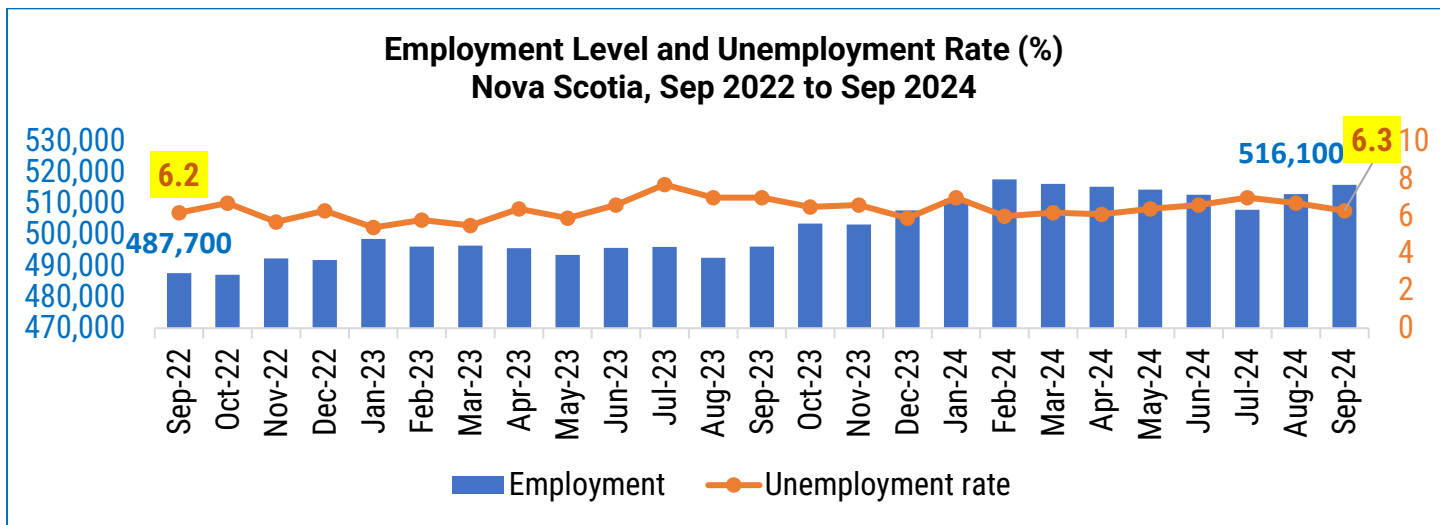
- In September 2024 (three-month average from July to September 2024) compared to August 2024 (June to August 2024), two economic regions recorded job gains –the Cape Breton region (+1,100, +1.9%), and the North Shore region (+100, +0.1%); while job losses occurred in the Annapolis Valley region (-1,600, -2.5%), the Southern region (-400 jobs, -0.9%), and the Halifax region (-900, -0.3%).
- Compared with one year ago (September 2024 versus September 2023), all economic regions recorded job gains with the exception of the Southern region which recorded job losses<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 increased by 0.6% in September. The employment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 57.6% in September.
- The unemployment rate dropped by 0.4 percentage points and landed at 6.3% in September. 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

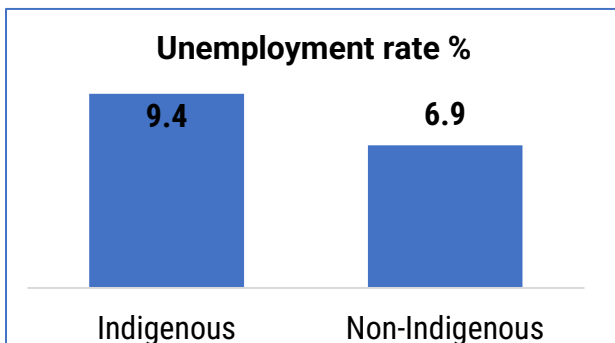
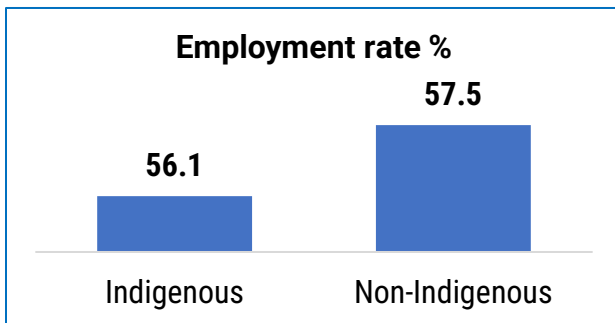
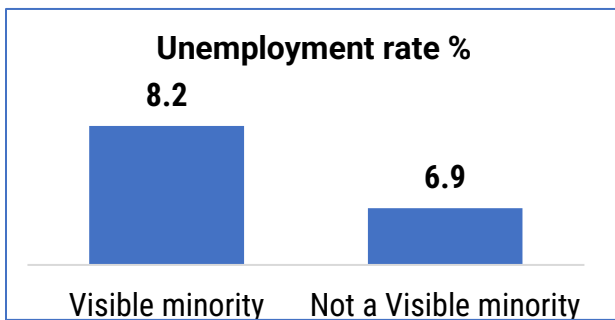
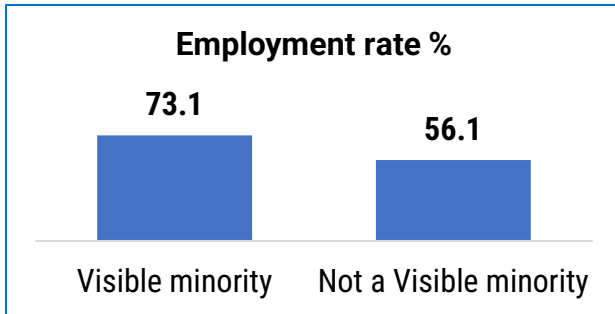
Unemployment Rate (%)	Sep-23	Aug-24	Sep-24	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	13.2	14.1	12.4	-1.7 pp	-0.8 pp
Males 15-24	5.9	5.4	5.3	-0.1 pp	-0.6 pp
Females 15-24	18.1	16.8	15.0	-1.8 pp	-3.1 pp
25+	6.7	6.7	6.3	-0.4 pp	-0.4 pp
Males 25+	7.9	11.2	9.7	-1.5 pp	1.8 pp
Females 25+	5.2	4.2	4.3	0.1 pp	-0.9 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate decreased by 1.7 percentage points between August and September 2024 to 12.4%. The male youth unemployment rate dropped by 1.8 percentage points in September, while the female youth unemployment rate fell by 1.5 percentage points. The male youth unemployment rate was 3.1 percentage point lower than a year ago, while the female youth unemployment rate was 1.8 percentage points higher than in September 2023. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 0.9 percentage points lower than a year ago, compared to an drop of 0.4 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

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## Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada in September 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 (73.1% vs 56.1%) on average in the last three months ending in September 2024. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to August 2024 (3-month average from May to August 2024), the employment rate of visible minorities fell by 0.1 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people dropped 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 data<sup>4</sup>, Arabs and Blacks face the highest unemployment rates (10.7% and 9.7%, respectively), while 5.0% 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 (9.4% versus 6.9%), while they also face the lower employment rate (56.1% versus 57.5%).

<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 **November 8, 2024**, covering the October 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