

Labour Market Information News

Published by the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

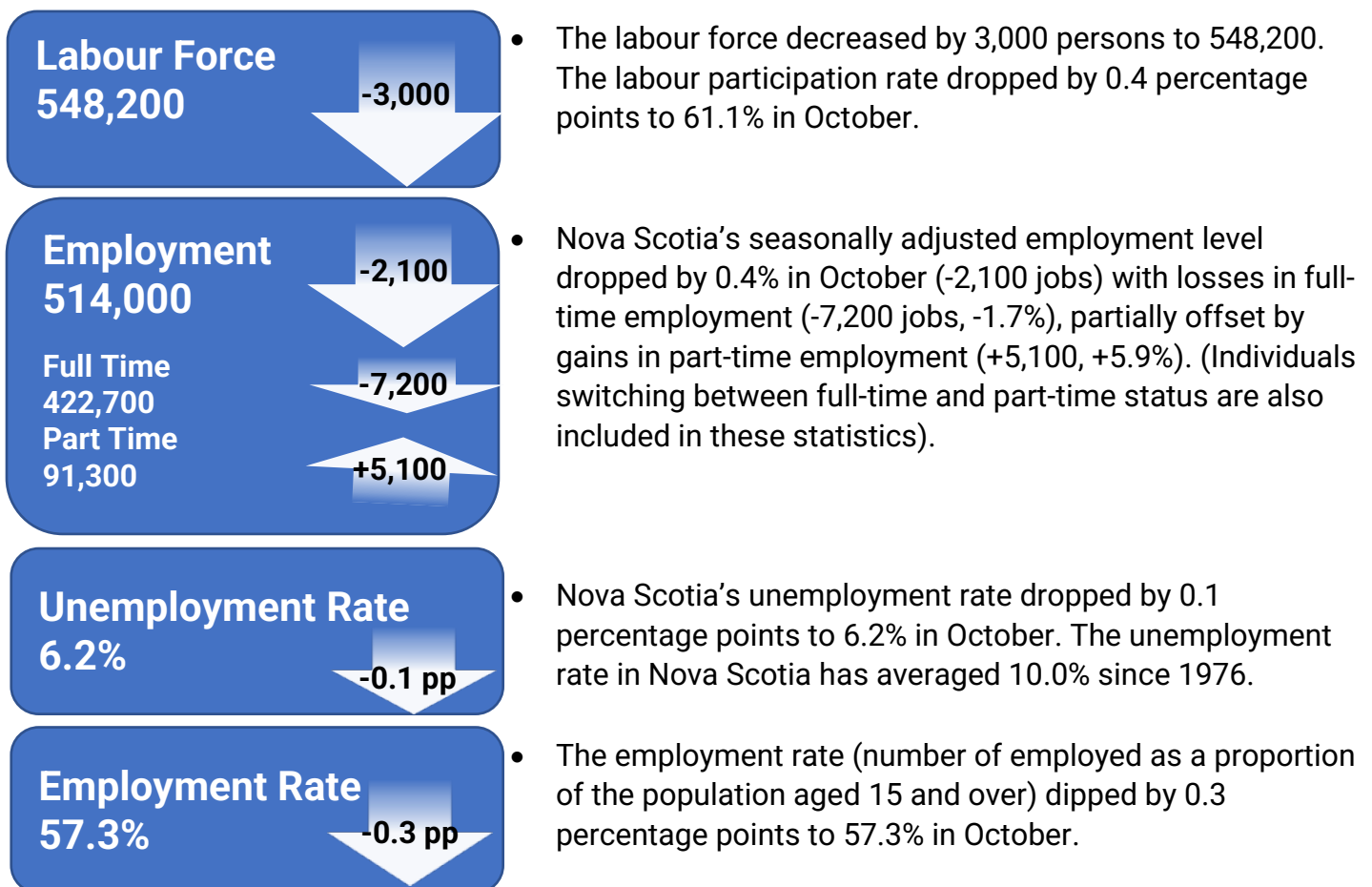
November 2024

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia dropped by 2,100 jobs (-0.4%) in October. The unemployment rate dropped to 6.2% (-0.1 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in October. The Labour Force Survey references the week of October 13 to 19, 2024 and compares it to the week of September 15 to 21, 2024.

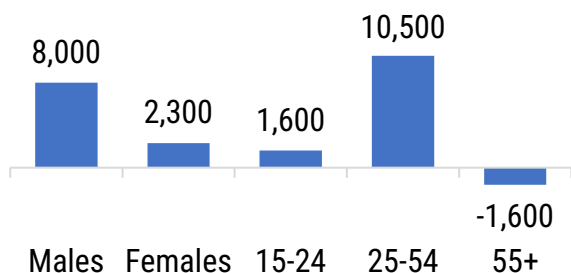
Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in October 2024¹ Compared to September 2024



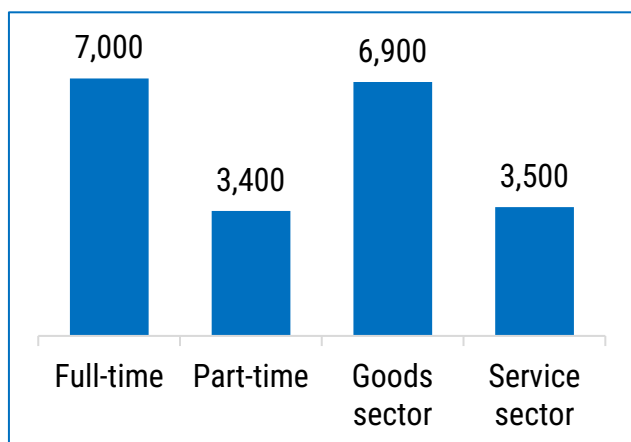
¹ Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 14-10-0287-01](#), Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

Employment Data in October 2024 Compared to September 2024 and October 2023

**Employment in Oct 2024
compared to Oct 2023**



- Nova Scotia males gained jobs while females lost jobs in the last month. Males gained 900 jobs (+0.3%) as gains in part-time positions partially offset by the losses in full-time positions. On the other hand, females lost 3,000 jobs (-1.2%), with 4,800 job loss in full-time positions and 1,800 gains in part-time positions. Compared to October 2023, males gained 8,000 jobs (+3.2%) while females gained 2,300 jobs (+0.9%). Most of the job gains happened in the full-time positions, both for males and females.

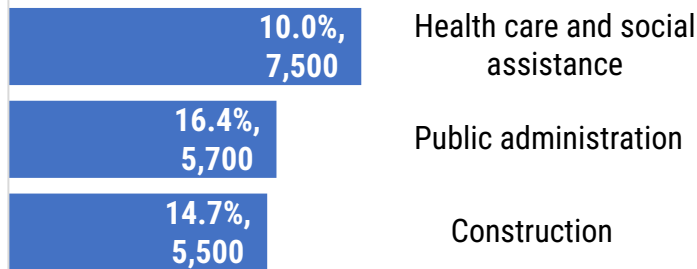


- Youth gained 1,700 jobs (+2.5%) in the last month while core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) and older workers (55 years and over) experienced job loss (-0.3% & -2.3%). Compared to October 2023, youth and core-aged workers reported employment gains by +2.3% & +3.3% while older workers reported job loss by 1.4%.
- Full-time employment in October 2024 was 1.7% above its October 2023 level (+7,000 jobs). Part-time employment rose by 3,400 jobs (+3.9%).
- Goods-producing expanded while service-producing sectors contracted in October (+2.0% & -0.9%). The top expanding industries in October compared to September were “professional, scientific and technical services” (+2,000 jobs, +5.9%), “construction” (1,200 jobs, +2.9%) & “educational services” (+900 jobs, +2.1%). Industries that lost the most jobs were “wholesale and retail trade” (-2,600 jobs, -3.4%), “other services (except public administration)” (-1,600 jobs, -3.5%) & “accommodation and food services” (-1,300 jobs, -3.5%).

Labour Market Information News

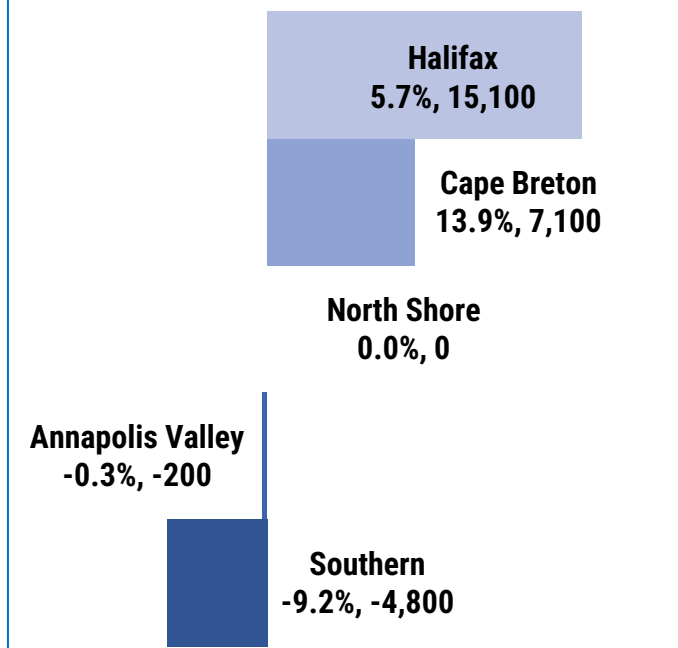
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Research, Accountability & Intergovernmental Affairs Division

Top Industries by Employment Gain, Oct 2023 to Oct 2024



- Compared to October of last year, employment gains were largest in the “health care and social assistance” (+7,500 jobs, +10.0%). This was followed by “public administration” (+5,700 jobs, +16.4%) & “construction” (+5,500 jobs, +14.7%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “wholesale and retail trade” (-8,000 jobs, -9.9%), “business, building and other support services” (-3,700 jobs, -20.1%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-2,900 jobs, -7.5%).

Employment by Economic Region, Oct 2023 to Oct 2024



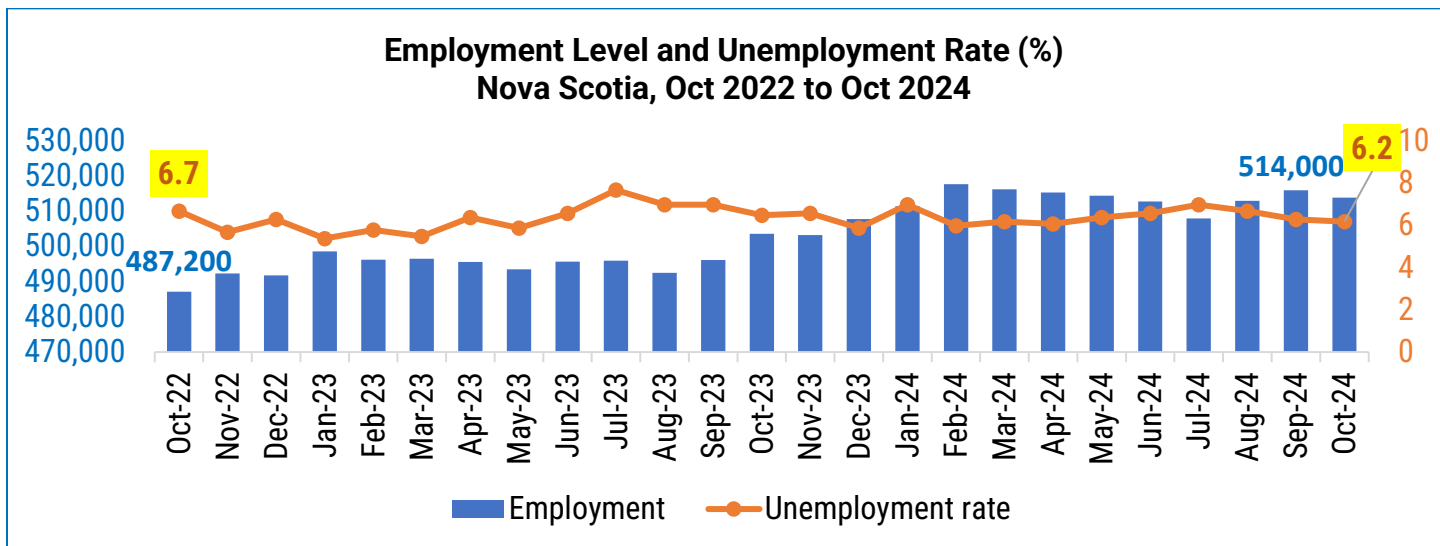
- In October 2024 (three-month average from August to October 2024) compared to September 2024 (July to September 2024), two economic regions recorded job gains – the Halifax region (+900, +0.3%) and the Southern region (+600, +1.3%); while job losses occurred in the North Shore region (-600, -0.9%) and the Annapolis Valley region (-400 jobs, -0.6%). Employment level in the Cape Breton region remained the same.
- Compared with one year ago (October 2024 versus October 2023), two economic regions recorded job gains (Halifax & Cape Breton) while the Southern region and Annapolis Valley recorded job losses. North Shore experienced no changes in employment².

***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.

Labour Market Information News

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Research, Accountability & Intergovernmental Affairs Division



- The employment level in Nova Scotia decreased by 0.4% in October. The employment rate dropped by 0.3 percentage points to 57.3% in October.
- The unemployment rate dropped by 0.1 percentage points and landed at 6.2% in October. 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

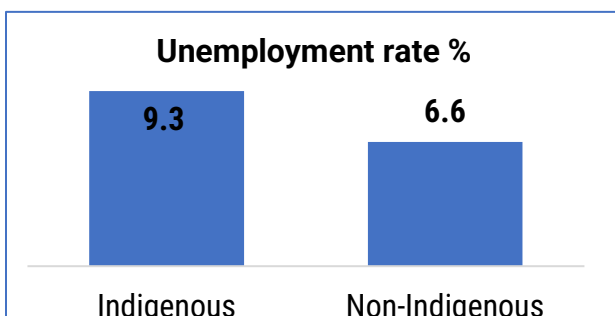
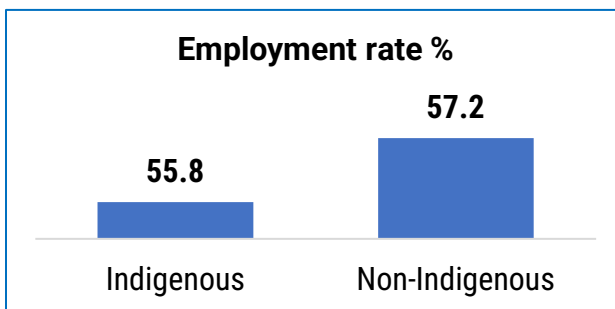
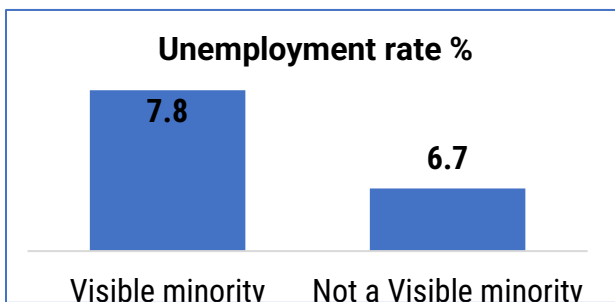
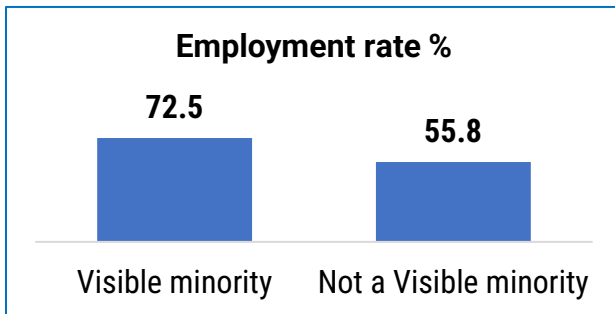
Unemployment Rate (%)	Oct-23	Sep-24	Oct-24	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	13.3	12.4	11.3	-1.1 pp	-2.0 pp
Males 15-24	16.0	15.0	11.6	-3.4 pp	-4.4 pp
Females 15-24	10.4	9.7	10.9	1.2 pp	0.5 pp
25+	5.4	5.3	5.4	0.1 pp	0.0 pp
Males 25+	5.7	6.3	6.6	0.3 pp	0.9 pp
Females 25+	5.0	4.3	4.2	-0.1 pp	-0.8 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate decreased by 1.1 percentage points between September and October 2024 to 11.3%. The male youth unemployment rate dropped by 3.4 percentage points in October, while the female youth unemployment rate rose by 1.2 percentage points. The male youth unemployment rate was 4.4 percentage points lower than a year ago, while the female youth unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage points higher than in October 2023. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 0.8 percentage points lower than a year ago, compared to an increase of 0.9 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

Labour Market Information News

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Research, Accountability & Intergovernmental Affairs Division

Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada in October 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 55.8%) on average in the last three months ending in October 2024. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to September 2024 (3-month average from July to September 2024), the employment rate of visible minorities fell by 0.6 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people dropped by 0.3 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 South Asians face the highest unemployment rates (10.0% and 8.5%, respectively), while 3.7% 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 6.6%), while they also face the lower employment rate (55.8% versus 57.2%).

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.

Labour Market Information News

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Research, Accountability & Intergovernmental Affairs Division

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **December 6, 2024**, covering the November 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