

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 600 jobs (+0.1%) in November. The unemployment rate dropped to 6.1% by 0.1 percentage points. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in November. The Labour Force Survey references the week of November 10 to 16, 2024 and compares it to the week of October 13 to 19, 2024.

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

Labour Force
548,300

+100

- The labour force remained virtually unchanged at 548,300 (+100, 0.0%). The labour participation rate dropped by 0.1 percentage points to 61.0% in November.

Employment
514,600

+600

Full Time
418,400
Part Time
96,200

-4,300

+4,900

- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose by 0.1% in November (+600 jobs) with losses in full-time employment (-4,300 jobs, -1.0%), offset by gains in part-time employment (+4,900, +5.4%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).

Unemployment Rate
6.1%

-0.1 pp

- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate dropped by 0.1 percentage points to 6.1% in November. The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has averaged 10.0% since 1976.

Employment Rate
57.3%

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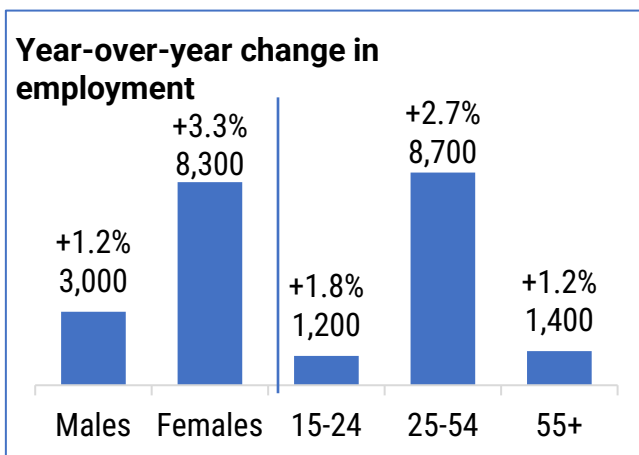
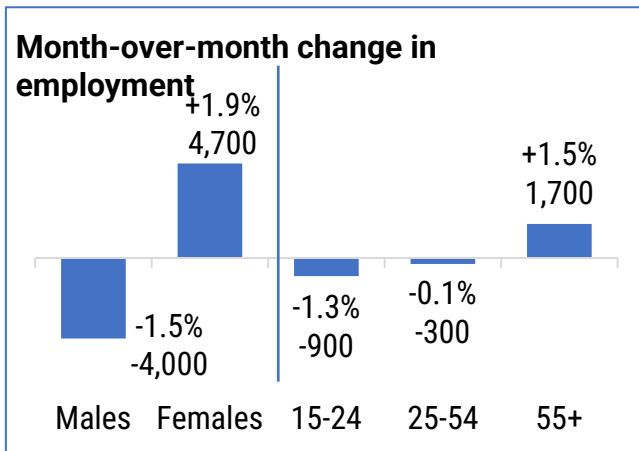
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the population aged 15 and over) remained unchanged at 57.3% in November.

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

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Labour Market Trends by Population Groups



- Nova Scotia males lost jobs while females gained jobs in the last month. The job loss experienced by males concentrated in full-time positions (-4,000 jobs, -1.5%) while the job gains experienced by females concentrated in part-time positions (4,700 jobs, +1.9%).
- Among the three main age groups, only older workers (55 years and over) gained employment in the last month (1,700 jobs, +1.5%). Youth (15 to 24 years) and core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) lost 900 and 300 jobs respectively.
- Compared to November last year, both males and females gained employment, mostly driven by gains in part-time positions. Changes in full-time employment are mixed with males losing 300 full-time positions and females gaining 1,600 full-time positions.
- All age groups gained employment in the last twelve months. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) experienced the largest growth of the three age groups at 2.7%.

- Youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points in the last month. Male youths saw a 3-percentage-point rise in unemployment rate. Compared to November last year, all groups faced lower unemployment rates except for males aged 25 and over.

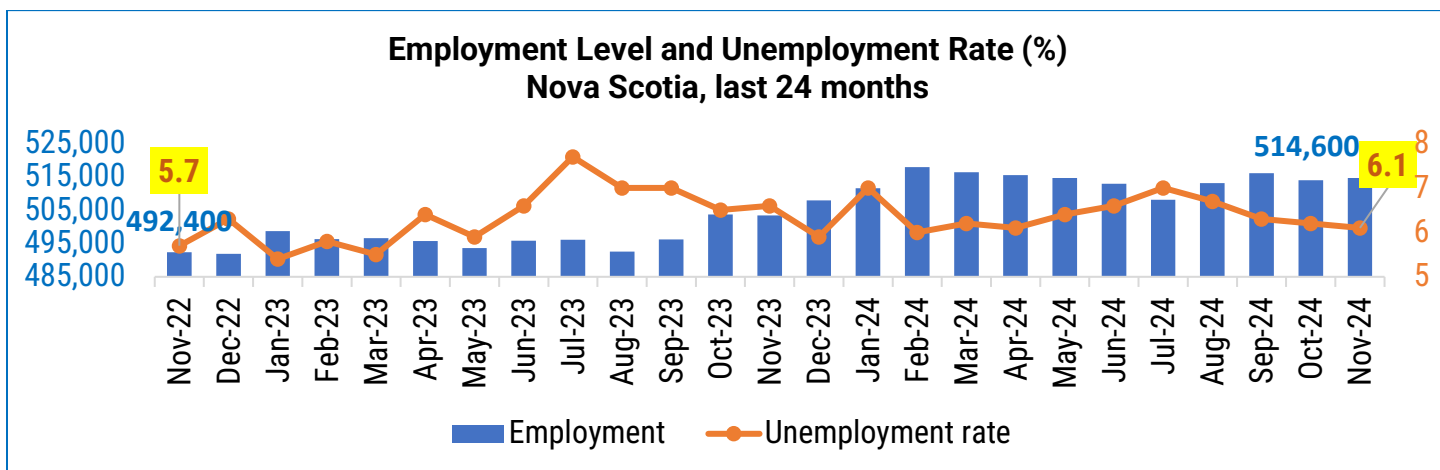
Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Nov-23	Oct-24	Nov-24	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	13.3	11.3	10.7	-0.6 pp	-2.6 pp
Males	15.8	11.6	14.6	3.0 pp	-1.2 pp
Females	10.8	10.9	6.5	-4.4 pp	-4.3 pp
Age 25 and over	5.5	5.4	5.4	0.0 pp	-0.1 pp
Males	5.8	6.6	6.3	-0.3 pp	0.5 pp
Females	5.2	4.2	4.5	0.3 pp	-0.7 pp

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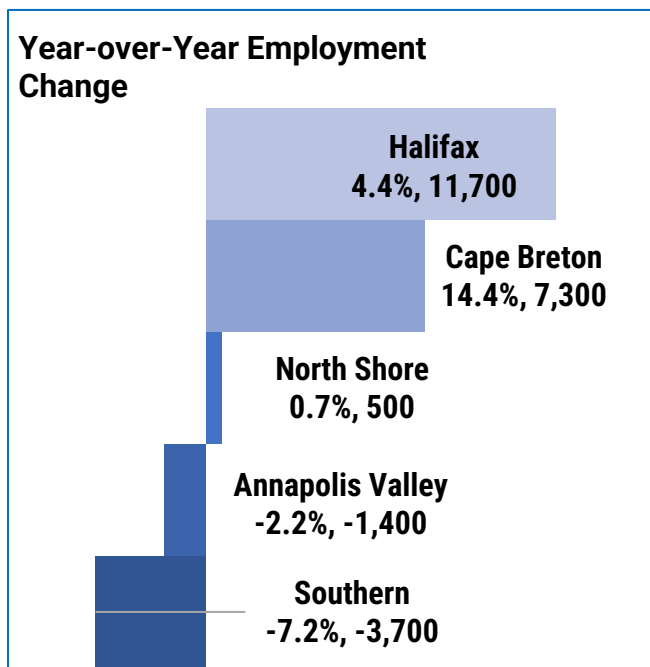
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Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- The employment levels remained high in 2024, with the average of the last twelve months being 3.4% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- The average unemployment rate in the last twelve months was 6.4%. The unemployment rate was on a downward trend since 7.0% in July, edging towards historic low levels.

Employment Trend by Economic Region²



- In November 2024 (three-month average from September to November 2024) compared to October 2024 (August to October 2024), only the Southern region recorded job gains (+400 jobs, +0.8%). The most job loss happened in Halifax (-1,600 jobs, -0.6%). Cape Breton, North Shore and Annapolis Valley lost 200 jobs or fewer.
- Compared with one year ago (November 2024 versus November 2023), three economic regions recorded job gains (Halifax, Cape Breton & North Shore) while the Southern region and Annapolis Valley recorded job losses³.

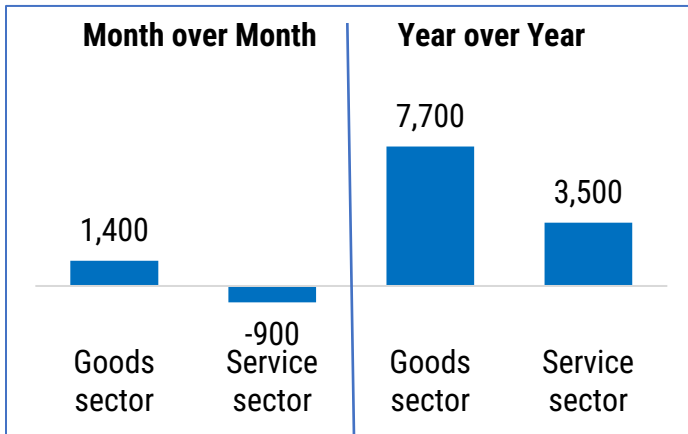
² *Note: The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

³ Source: Statistics Canada, Table [14-10-0387-01](#), three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

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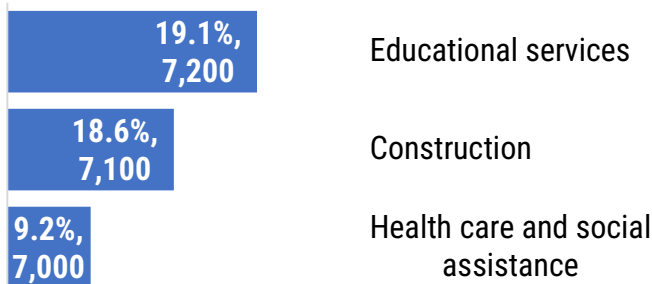
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Employment Trend by Industry



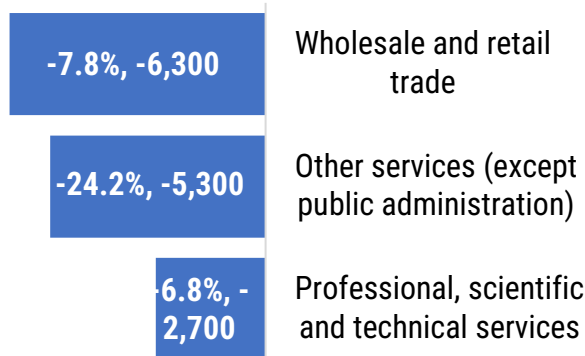
- Goods-producing sector expanded by 1.5% while service-producing sector contracted by 0.2% in November. Compared to November of last year, both goods and service sectors expanded (+8.6% & +0.8%).
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “construction” (+2,200 jobs, +5.1%). The top contracting industry was “other services (except public administration)” (-3,800 jobs, -18.6%).

Top three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains



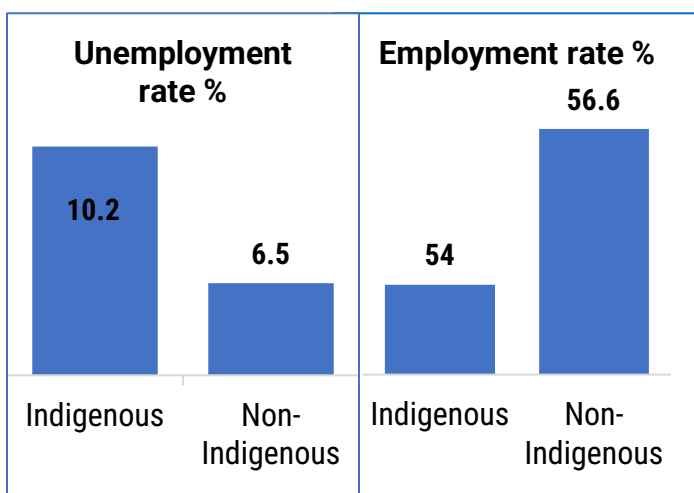
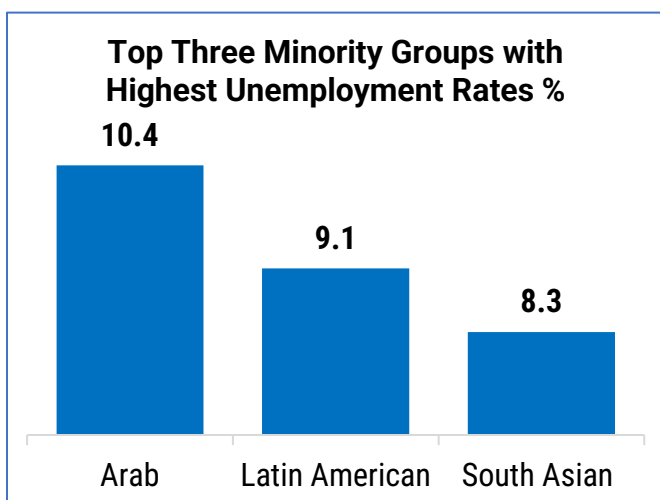
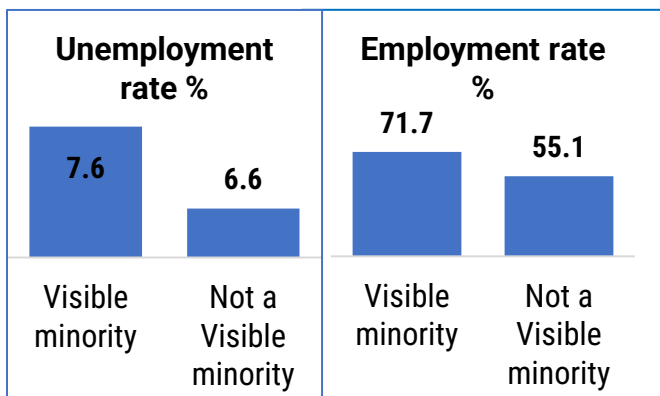
- Compared to twelve months ago (November 2023), employment gains were largest in the “educational services” (+7,200 jobs, +19.1%). This was followed by “construction” (+7,100 jobs, +18.6%) & “health care and social assistance” (+7,000 jobs, +9.2%).

Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Loss



- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in the “wholesale and retail trade” (-6,300 jobs, -7.8%), “other services (except public administration)” (-5,300 jobs, -24.2%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-2,700 jobs, -6.8%).

Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada⁴



- 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 (71.7% vs 55.1%) on average in the last three months ending in November 2024. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to October 2024 (3-month average from August to October 2024), the employment rate of visible minorities fell by 0.8 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people dropped by 0.7 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁵, Arabs, Latin Americans and South Asians face the highest unemployment rates (10.4%, 9.1% & 8.3%, respectively), while 2.5% 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 (10.2% versus 6.5%), while they face lower employment rate (54% versus 56.6%).
- It is worth noting that aggregate data masks the fact that visible minorities and indigenous people face additional labour market barriers.

⁴ Source: Statistics Canada, Table: [14-10-0373-01](#); [14-10-0401-01](#), three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

⁵ Data not available for West Asian, Korean, and Japanese minority groups.

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The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **January 10, 2024**, covering the December 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