

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 7,400 jobs (+1.4%) in December. The unemployment rate rose to 6.3% by 0.2 percentage points. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in December. The Labour Force Survey references the week of December 8 to 14, 2024 and compares it to the week of November 10 to 16, 2024.

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

Labour Force
557,200

+8,900

- The labour force expanded by 1.6% to 557,200 (+8,900, +1.6%). The labour participation rate rose by 1 percentage point to 62.0% in December.

Employment
522,000

+7,400

Full Time
434,300
Part Time
87,700

+15,900

-8,500

- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose by 1.4% in December (+7,400 jobs) with gains in full-time employment (+15,900 jobs, +3.8%), partially offset by gains in part-time employment (-8,500, -8.8%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).

Unemployment Rate
6.3%

+0.2 pp

- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 6.3% in December as the labour force expansion (+1.6%) outpaced the employment growth (+1.4%). The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has averaged 10.0% since 1976.

Employment Rate
58.1%

+0.8 pp

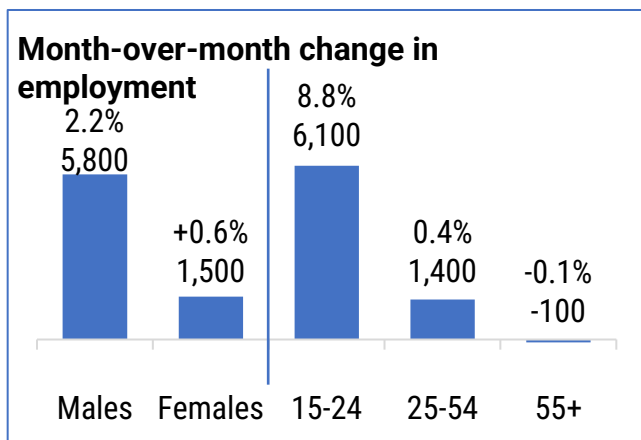
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the population aged 15 and over) rose by 0.8 percentage points to 58.1% in December.

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

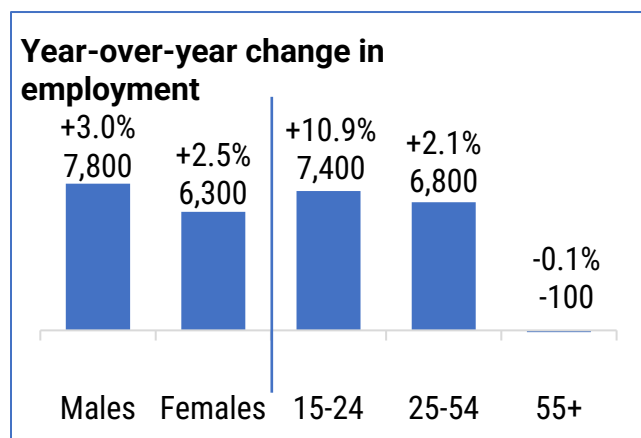
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Labour Market Trends by Population Groups



- In Nova Scotia, male employment experienced greater growth than female employment in the last month. Both genders saw increases in full-time positions, with males gaining 10,200 jobs (+4.6%) and females gaining 5,700 jobs (+2.9%). Both groups experienced declines in part-time positions, with males losing 4,400 jobs (-12.1%) and females losing 4,200 (-7.2%).
- Among the three main age groups, only older workers (55 years and over) experienced job loss in the last month (-100 jobs). Youth (15 to 24 years) and core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 6,100 and 1,400 jobs respectively.



- Compared to December last year, both males and females gained employment, driven by gains in full-time positions. While full-time employment rose for both genders, part-time employment declined over the same period.
- Youth (15 to 24 years) and core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained employment in the last twelve months with youth experienced the fastest growth of the three age groups at 10.9%.

- Youth unemployment rate dropped by 0.7 percentage points in the last month. However, female youths saw a 2.1-percentage-point rise in unemployment rate. Compared to December last year, all age groups faced higher unemployment rates except for males aged 15 to 24.

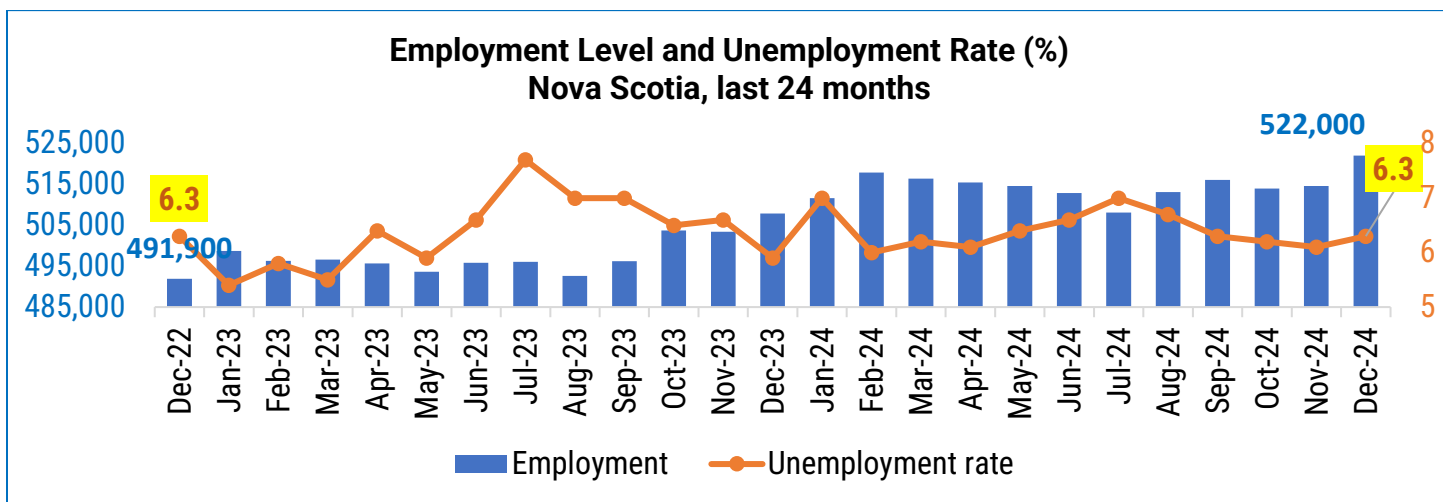
Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	12.1	10.7	10.0	-0.7 pp	-2.1 pp
Males	15.9	14.6	11.5	-3.1 pp	-4.4 pp
Females	7.7	6.5	8.6	2.1 pp	0.9 pp
Age 25 and over	4.8	5.4	5.7	0.3 pp	0.9 pp
Males	5.3	6.3	6.8	0.5 pp	1.5 pp
Females	4.4	4.5	4.5	0.0 pp	0.1 pp

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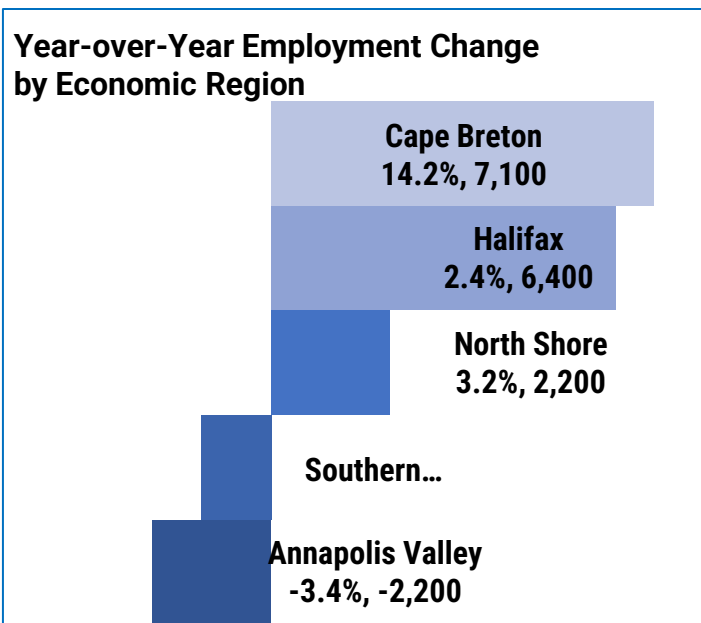
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Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- The employment levels remained high in 2024, with the average of the last twelve months being 3.3% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- The average unemployment rate in the last twelve months was 6.4%. The unemployment rate hovered around 6.3% over the last 4 months, maintaining historic low levels.

Employment Trend by Economic Region²



- In December 2024 (three-month average from October to December 2024) compared to November 2024 (September to November 2024), Halifax and Cape Breton experienced job losses of 1,600 jobs (-0.6%) & 800 jobs (-1.4%) respectively. Among the remaining regions, Southern region led employment growth with a gain of 2,100 jobs (+4.4%).
- Compared with one year ago in December 2023, Halifax, Cape Breton & North Shore recorded job gains while the Southern region and Annapolis Valley recorded job losses³.

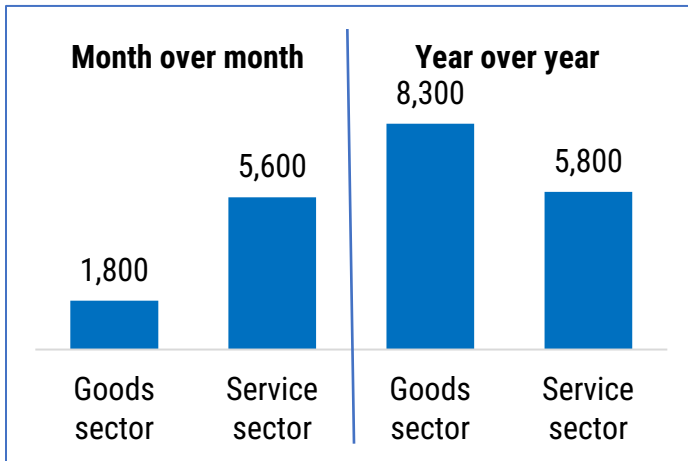
² *Note: The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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

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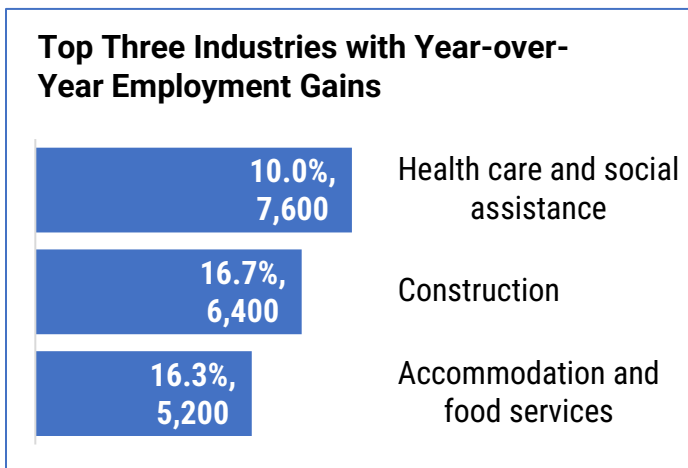
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Employment Trend by Industry

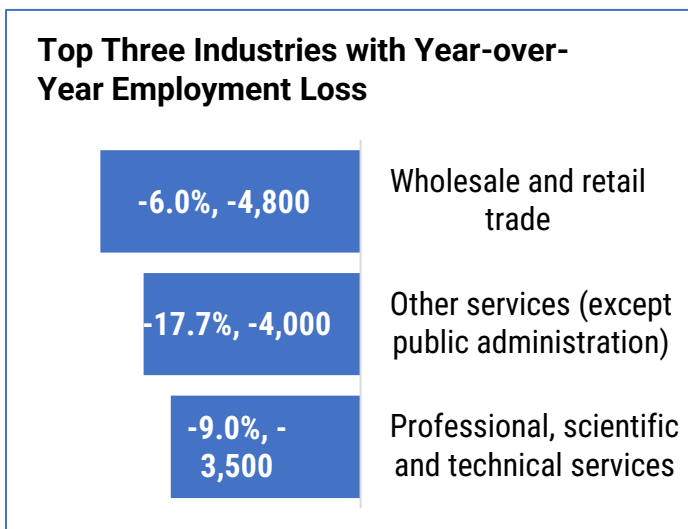


- Both the goods-producing and service-producing sectors recorded growth on a month-over-month and year-over-year basis. While the growth over the last month is relatively balanced between the two sectors (+1.8% & +1.3%), the goods-producing sector outpaced the service-producing sector in year-over-year growth (+9.1% vs 1.4%).

- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “other services (except public administration)” (+2,000 jobs, +12.0%). The top contracting industry was “professional, scientific and technical services” (-1,800 jobs, -4.8%).



- Compared to twelve months ago (December 2023), employment gains were largest in the “health care and social assistance” (+7,600 jobs, +10.0%). This was followed by “construction” (+6,400 jobs, +16.7%) & “accommodation and food services” (+5,200 jobs, +16.3%).

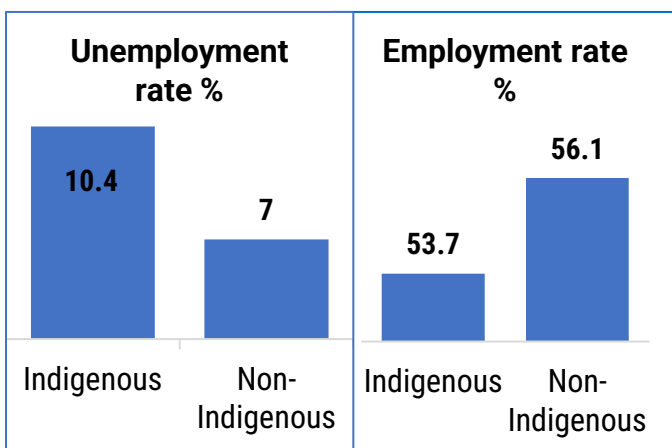
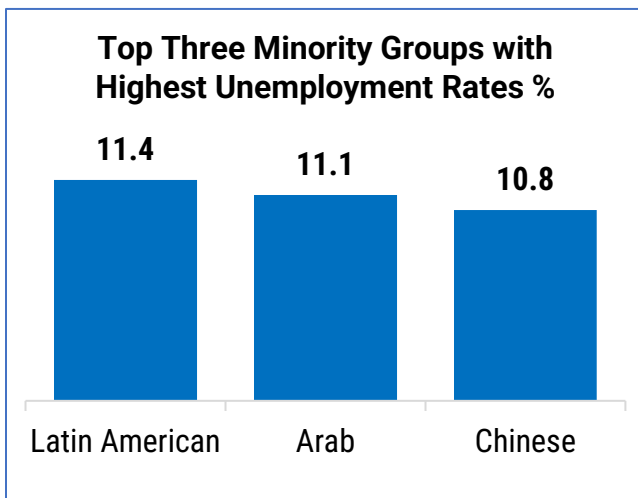
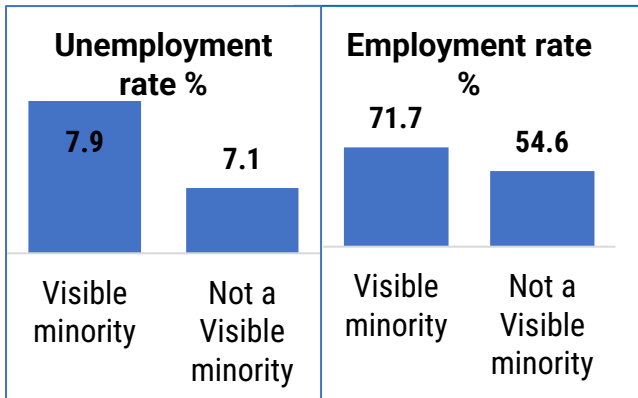


- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in the “wholesale and retail trade” (-4,800 jobs, -6.0%), “other services (except public administration)” (-4,100 jobs, -17.7%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-3,500 jobs, -9.0%).

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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 54.6%) on average in the last three months ending in December 2024. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to November 2024 (3-month average from September to November 2024), the employment rate of visible minorities remained unchanged at 71.7% while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people dropped by 0.5 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁵, Arabs, Chinese and Latin Americans face the highest unemployment rates (11.4%, 11.1% & 10.8%, respectively), while 3.57% 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 (10.4% versus 7.0%), while they face lower employment rate (53.7% versus 56.1%).
- 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 **February 07, 2024**, covering the January 2025 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