

Labour Market Information News

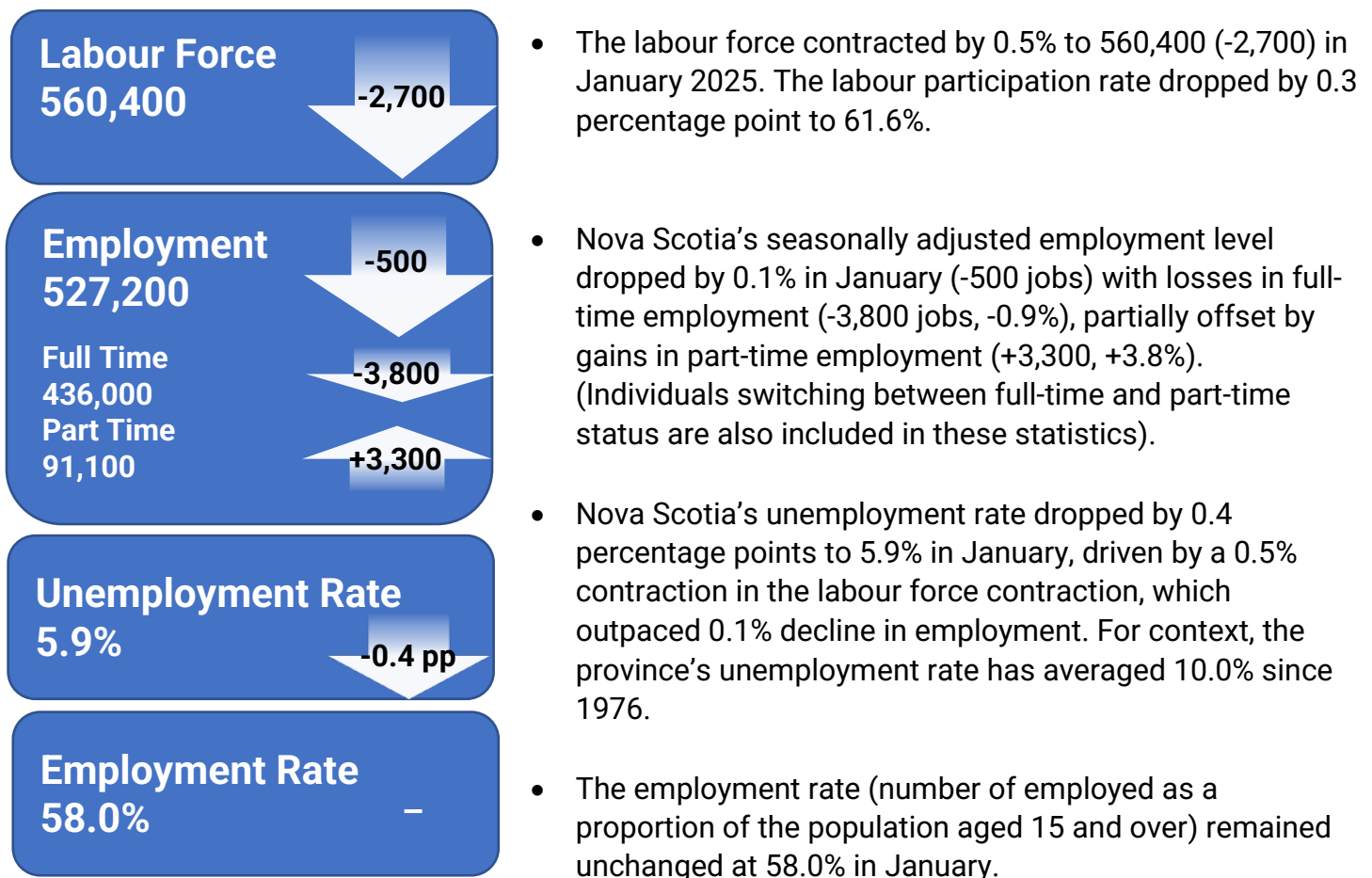
Published by the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

February 2025

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia dropped by 500 jobs (-0.1%) in January. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.9% by 0.4 percentage points. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in January. The Labour Force Survey references the week of January 12 to 18, 2025 and compares it to the week of December 8 to 14, 2024.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in January 2025¹ Compared to December 2024

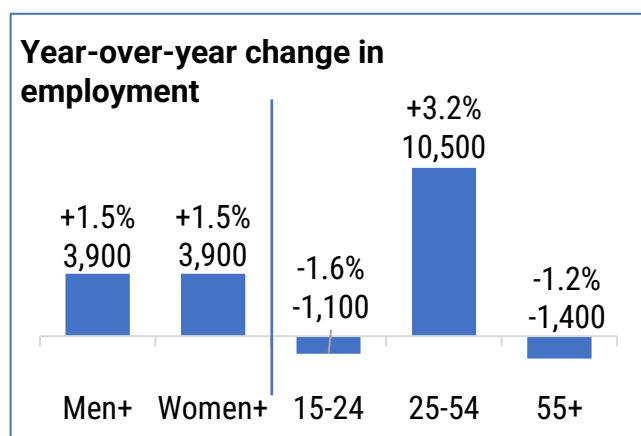
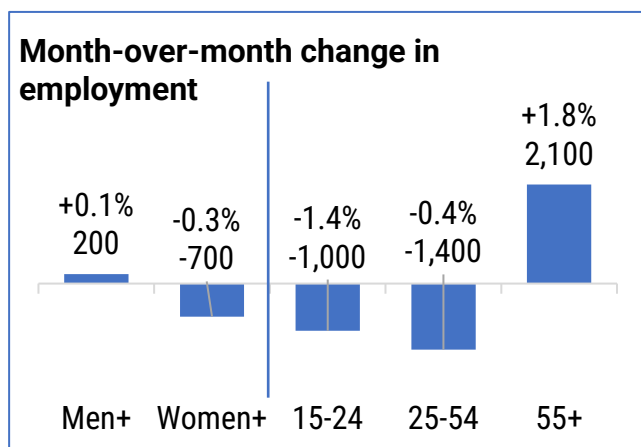


¹ Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 14-10-0287-01](#), Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

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Labour Market Trends by Population Groups



- In Nova Scotia, men’s employment expanded by 0.1% while women’s employment contracted by 0.3%. Both groups experienced a loss of 1,900 full-time jobs each. However, these losses were partially offset by gains in part-time jobs, with men adding 2,200 positions (+6.6%) and women adding 1,100 positions (+2.0%).
- Among the three main age groups, only older workers (55 years and over) experienced job gains in the last month (+2,100 jobs). Youth (15 to 24 years) and core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) lost 1,000 and 1,400 jobs respectively.
- Compared to January last year, both men and women saw an increase of 3,900 jobs each. Men's employment grew across full-time and part-time positions, while women's job gains were concentrated in full-time employment, offset by a decline in part-time positions.
- Youth (15 to 24 years) and older workers (55 years and over) experienced job loss in the last twelve months while core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 10,500 jobs.

- The youth unemployment rate rose by 3.1 percentage points over the last month with young men experiencing a more pronounced rise. In contrast, the unemployment rate among adults aged 25 and over declined across both genders.

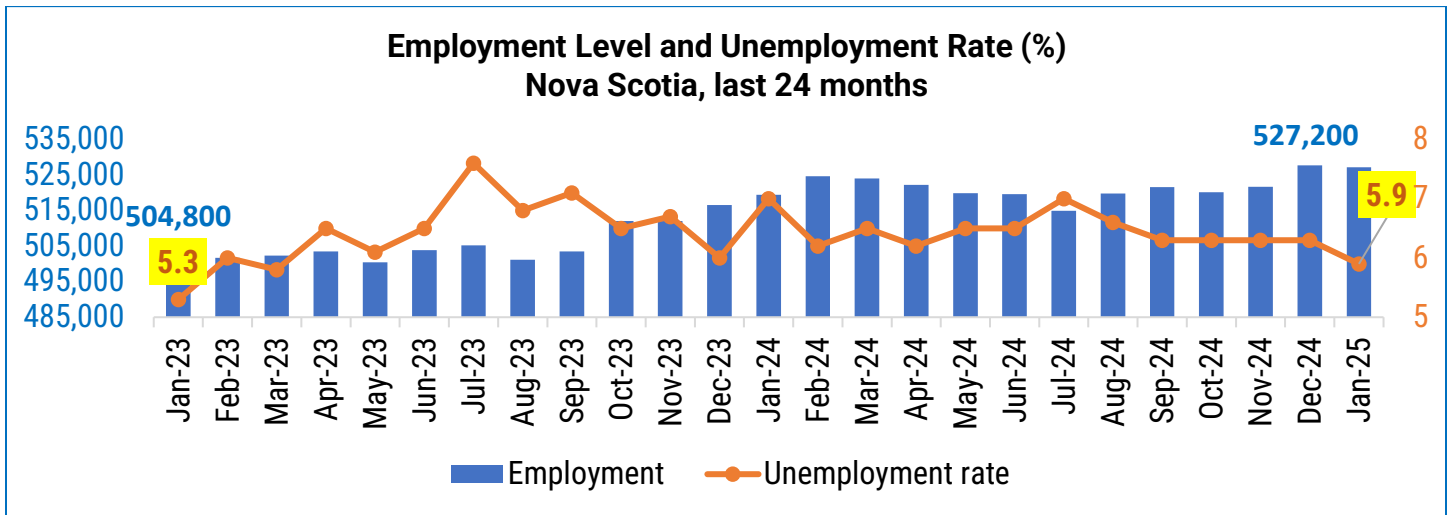
Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Jan-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	12.8	9.9	13.0	3.1 pp	0.2 pp
Men+	14.1	11.1	14.6	3.5 pp	0.5 pp
Women+	11.3	8.6	11.3	2.7 pp	0.0 pp
Age 25 and over	6.0	5.7	4.8	-0.9 pp	-1.2 pp
Men+	6.1	6.9	5.2	-1.7 pp	-0.9 pp
Women+	5.8	4.5	4.2	-0.3 pp	-1.6 pp

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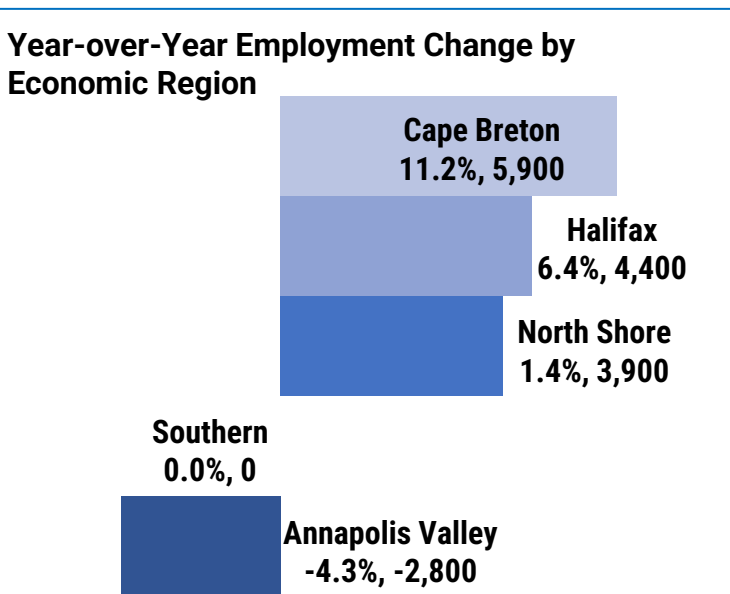
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Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 3.0% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- The average unemployment rate over the past year was 6.4%. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.9% from 6.3%, edging towards historic low levels.

Employment Trend by Economic Region²



- In January 2025 (three-month average from November 2024 to January 2025) compared to December 2024 (October to December 2024), Southern and North Shore regions reported small job gains of 700 jobs & 600 jobs each. The rest three regions experienced job loss, led by Annapolis Valley (-1,300 jobs, -2.1%).
- Compared with one year ago in January 2024, Cape Breton, Halifax & North Shore recorded job gains while Annapolis Valley recorded job loss. The employment levels in Southern region remained unchanged.³

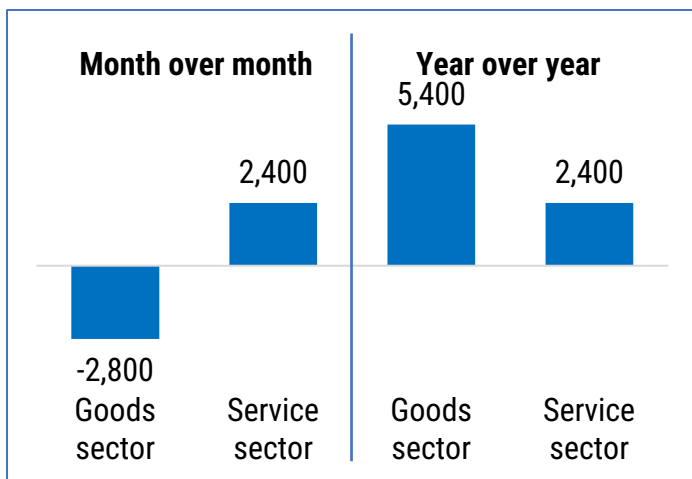
² ***Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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

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Employment Trend by Industry

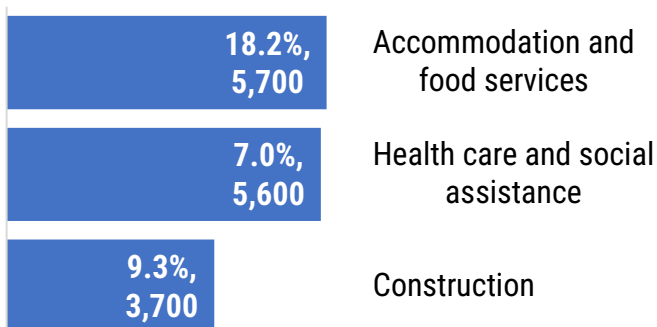


- Over the past month, employment in the goods-producing sector declined by 2.8%, while the service-producing sector saw a 0.6% increase. However, on a year-over-year basis, the goods-producing sector recorded stronger job growth at 5.8%, outpacing the 0.6% gain in the service-producing sector.

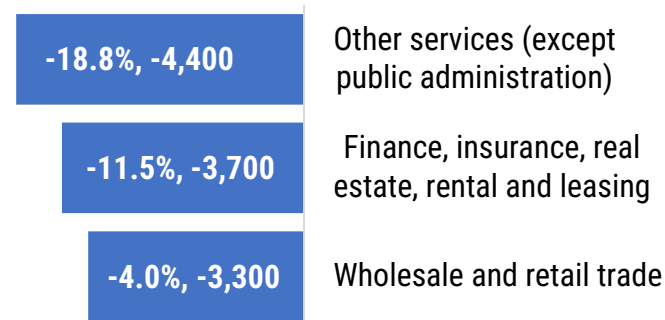
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “wholesale and retail trade” (+4,100 jobs, +5.4%). The top contracting industry was “information, culture and recreation” (-2,400 jobs, -11.4%).

- Compared to twelve months ago (January 2024), employment gains were largest in the “accommodation and food services” (+5,700 jobs, +18.2%). This was followed by “health care and social assistance” (+5,600 jobs, +7.0%) & “construction” (+3,700 jobs, +9.3%).

Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains

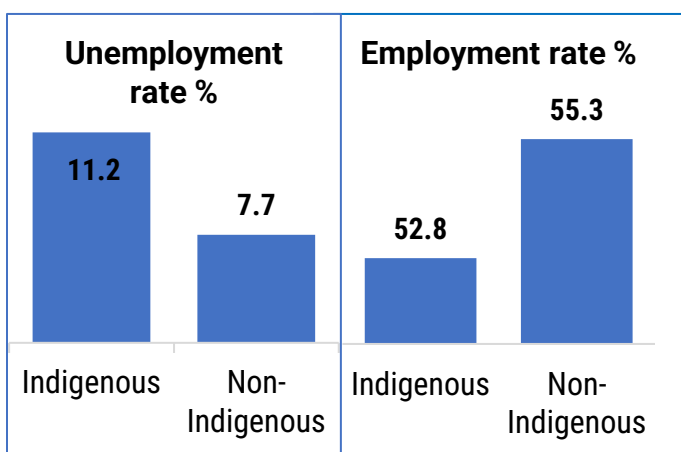
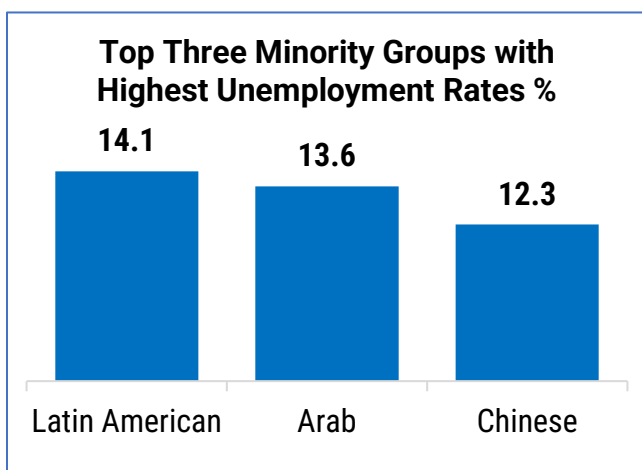
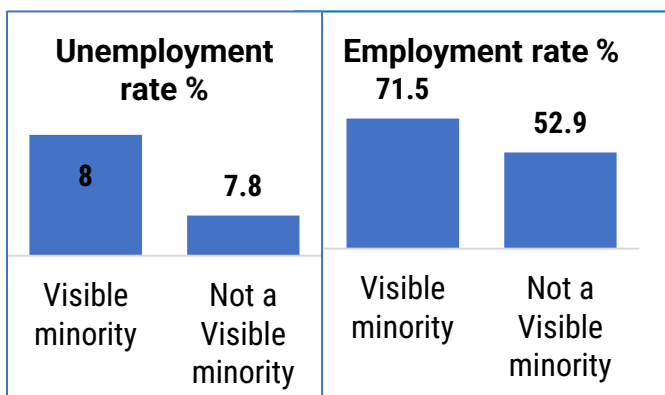


Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Loss



- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in the “other services (except public administration)” (-4,400 jobs, -18.8%), “finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing” (-3,700 jobs, -11.5%), and “wholesale and retail trade” (-3,300 jobs, -4.0%).

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 (71.5% vs 52.9%) on average in the last three months ending in January 2025. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to December 2024 (3-month average from October to December 2024), the employment rate of visible minorities dropped by 0.3 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.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁵, Latin Americans, Arabs and Chinese face the highest unemployment rates (14.1%, 13.6% & 12.3%, respectively), while 4.1% of Southeast Asians were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people in Atlantic Canada have an unemployment rate that is well above that of non-indigenous population (11.2% versus 7.7%), while they face lower employment rate (52.8% versus 55.3%).
- 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 **March 07, 2024**, covering the February 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