

Labour Market Information News

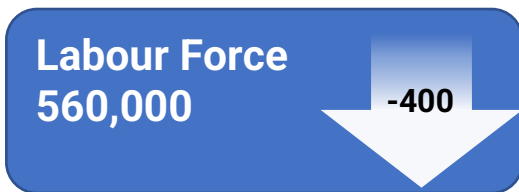
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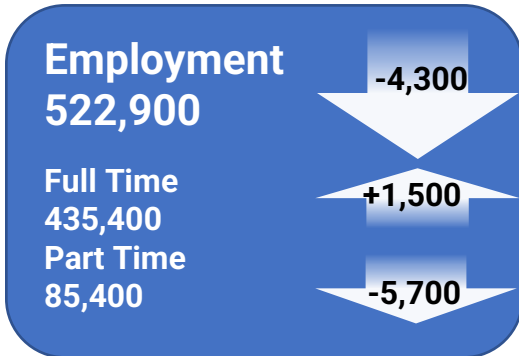
Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia dropped by 4,300 jobs (-0.8%) in February. The unemployment rate rose to 6.6% by 0.7 percentage points. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in February. The Labour Force Survey references the week of February 9 to 15, 2025 and compares it to the week of January 12 to 18, 2024.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in February 2025¹ Compared to January 2025



- The labour force contracted by 0.1% to 560,000 (-400) in February 2025. The labour participation rate dropped by 0.1 percentage point to 61.5%.



- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level dropped by 0.8% in February (-4,300 jobs) with losses in part-time employment (-5,700 jobs, -6.3%), partially offset by gains in full-time employment (+1,500, +0.3%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).



- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage points to 6.6% in February, driven by a 0.8% contraction in employment, which outpaced 0.1% decline in the labour force. For context, the province's unemployment rate has averaged 10.0% since 1976.



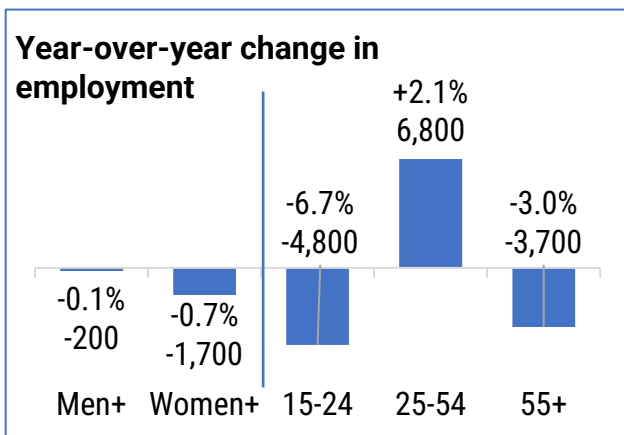
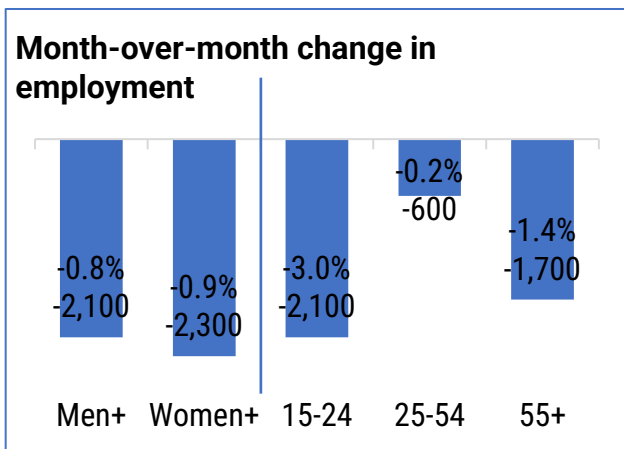
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the population aged 15 and over) dropped by 0.6 percentage point to 57.4% in February.

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, both men's and women's employment contracted over the past month. Both groups saw losses in part-time jobs, with men experiencing greater declines (-4,300 jobs vs. -1,400 jobs). However, men gained 2,200 full-time jobs while women lost 700.
- All three main age groups experienced job losses in the last month. Youth (15 to 24 years) saw the largest decline, losing 2,100 jobs, followed by older workers (55 years and over) with a loss of 1,700 jobs.
- Compared to February last year, both women and men saw an increase in full-time employment and a decline in part-time employment. However, women's part-time job losses outweighed their full-time gains, whereas men gained more full-time jobs than they lost in part-time positions.
- Youth (15 to 24 years) and older workers (55 years and over) experienced job losses in the last twelve months while core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 6,800 jobs.

- The youth unemployment rate dropped by 1.1 percentage points over the last month whereas the unemployment rate among adults aged 25 and over declined across both genders.

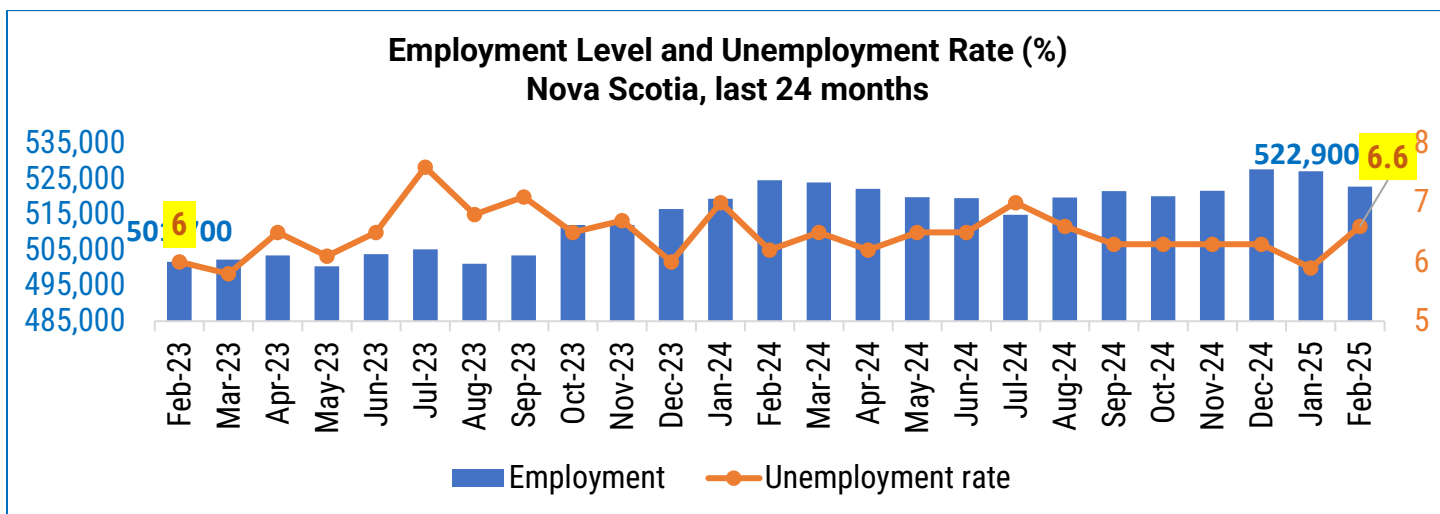
Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Feb-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	9.6	13.0	11.9	-1.1 pp	2.3 pp
Men+	11.9	14.6	13.6	-1.0 pp	1.7 pp
Women+	6.8	11.3	10.4	-0.9 pp	3.6 pp
Age 25 and over	5.6	4.8	5.8	1.0 pp	0.2 pp
Men+	6.0	5.2	6.6	1.4 pp	0.6 pp
Women+	5.2	4.2	4.9	0.7 pp	-0.3 pp

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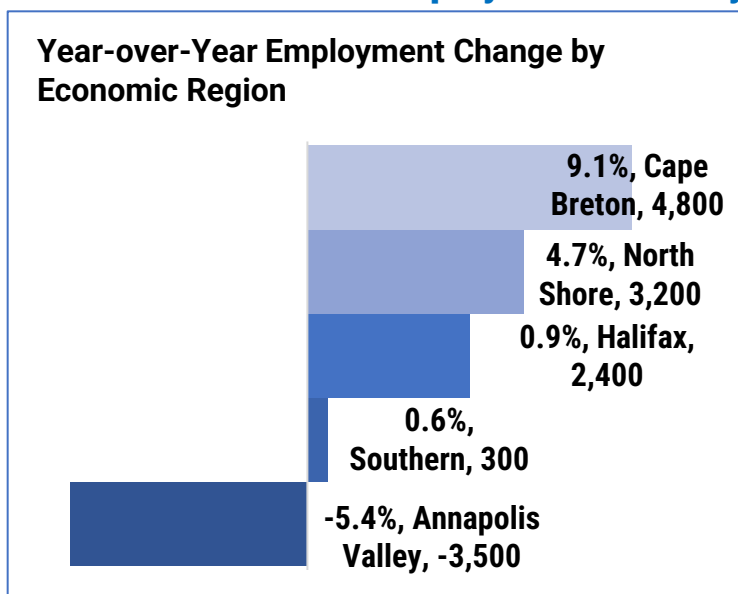
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Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 2.6% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- The average unemployment rate over the past year was 6.4%. Although the unemployment rate rose to 6.6% from 5.9% last month, it remained low compared to historical levels.

Employment Trend by Economic Region²



- In February 2025 (three-month average from December 2024 to February 2025) compared to January 2025 (November 2024 to January 2025), Southern and Halifax regions reported small job gains of 500 jobs & 300 jobs each. The rest three regions experienced job loss, led by North Shore (-1,300 jobs, -1.8%).
- Compared with one year ago in February 2024, Annapolis Valley reported job loss while the rest four regions recorded job gains.³

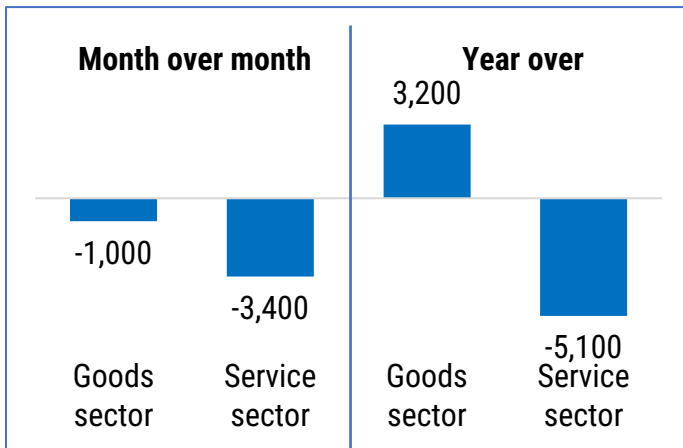
² *Note: The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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

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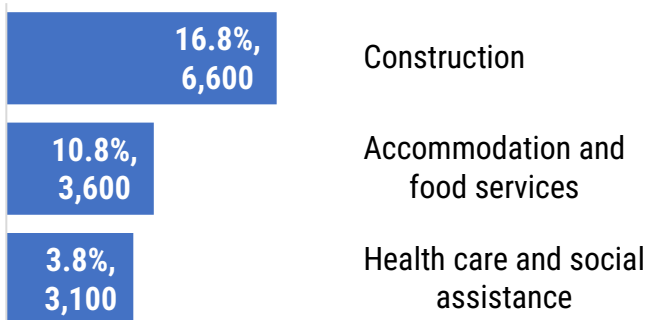
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Employment Trend by Industry

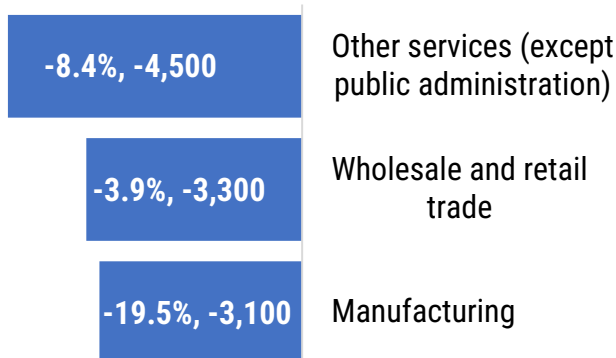


- Over the past month, employment in the goods-producing sector declined by 1.0%, while the service-producing sector saw a 0.8% decline. However, on a year-over-year basis, the goods-producing sector recorded job growth at 3.4%, while the service-producing sector saw a 1.2% decline in employment level.
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “construction” (+2,600 jobs, +6.0%). The top contracting industry was “agriculture” (-1,700 jobs, -35.4%).
- Compared to twelve months ago (February 2024), employment gains were largest in the “construction” (+6,600 jobs, +16.8%). This was followed by “accommodation and food services” (+3,600 jobs, +10.8%) & “health care and social assistance” (+3,100 jobs, +3.8%).
- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in the “other services (except public administration)” (-4,500 jobs, -8.4%), “wholesale and retail trade” (-3,300 jobs, -3.9%), and “manufacturing” (-3,100 jobs, -19.5%).

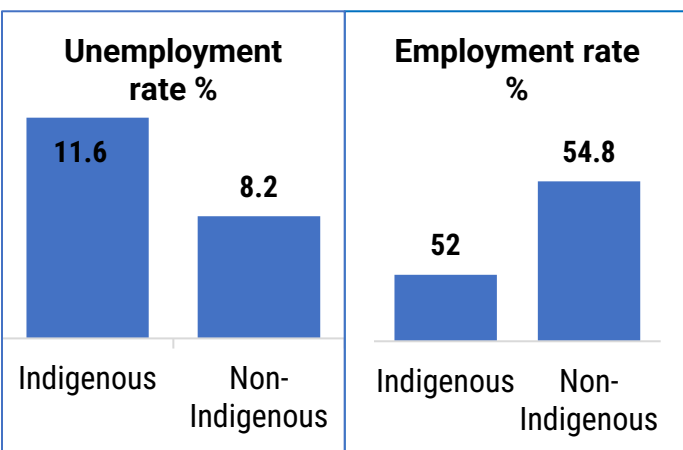
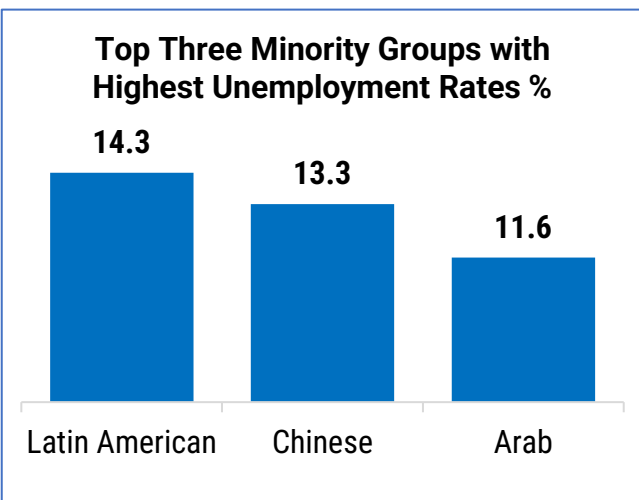
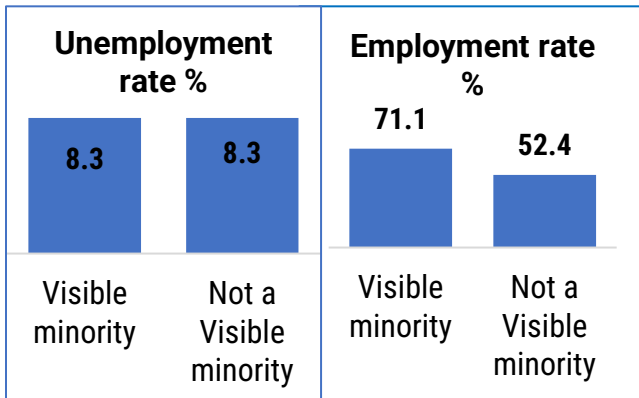
Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains



Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Loss



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 (71.1% vs 52.4%) on average in the last three months ending in February 2025. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to January 2025 (3-month average from November 2024 to January 2025), the employment rate of visible minorities dropped by 0.4 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, Chinese and Arabs face the highest unemployment rates (14.3%, 13.3% & 11.6%, respectively), while 6.6% of South 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 (11.6% versus 8.2%), while they face lower employment rate (52.0% versus 54.8%).
- 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.

Labour Market Information News

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The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **April 04, 2024**, covering the March 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