

# Labour Market Information News

Published by the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

April 2025

## Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 2,000 jobs (+0.4%) in March. The unemployment rate dropped to 6.1% by 0.5 percentage points. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in March. The Labour Force Survey references the week of March 9 to 15, 2025 and compares it to the week of February 9 to 15, 2025.

### Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in March 2025<sup>1</sup> Compared to February 2025

**Labour Force**  
558,900

-1,100

- The labour force contracted by 0.2% to 558,900 (-1,100) in March 2025. The labour participation rate dropped by 0.2 percentage point to 61.3%.

**Employment**  
524,900

+2,000

Full Time  
437,700  
Part Time  
87,200

+200

+1,800

- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose by 0.4% in March (+2,000 jobs) with most gains in part-time employment (+1,800, +2.1%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate dropped by 0.5 percentage points to 6.1% in March, driven by a combination of a 0.2% contraction in labour force and 0.4% expansion in employment. 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) rose by 0.2 percentage point to 57.6% in March.

**Unemployment Rate**  
6.1%

-0.5 pp

**Employment Rate**  
57.6%

+0.2 pp

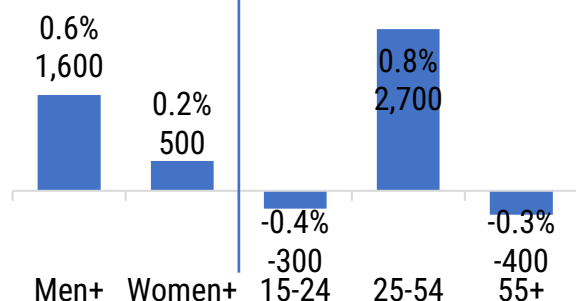
<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 14-10-0287-01](#), Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

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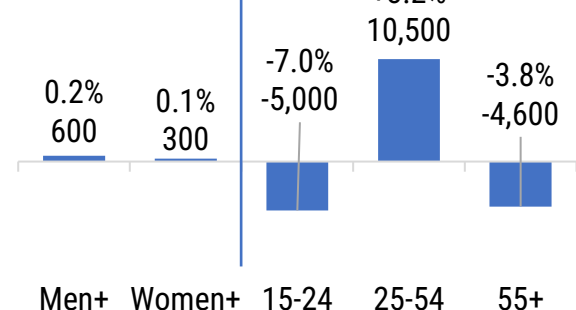
## Labour Market Trends by Population Groups

### Month-over-month change in employment



- In Nova Scotia, both men's and women's employment expanded over the past month. However, men's employment expansion is led by full-time employment growth (+2,900 jobs) while women's is led by part-time employment growth (+3,000 jobs).
- Only core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) experienced job gains in the last month. Both youth (15 to 24 years) and older workers (55 years and over) experienced minor employment contraction at 0.4% and 0.3%, respectively.

### Year-over-year change in employment



- Compared to March last year, the employment levels of men and women edged up by 0.2% and 0.1%, respectively. Men saw a larger increase in full-time employment, partially offset by a decline in part-time jobs. Women experienced a smaller increase in part-time employment, offset by losses in full-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 10,500 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.

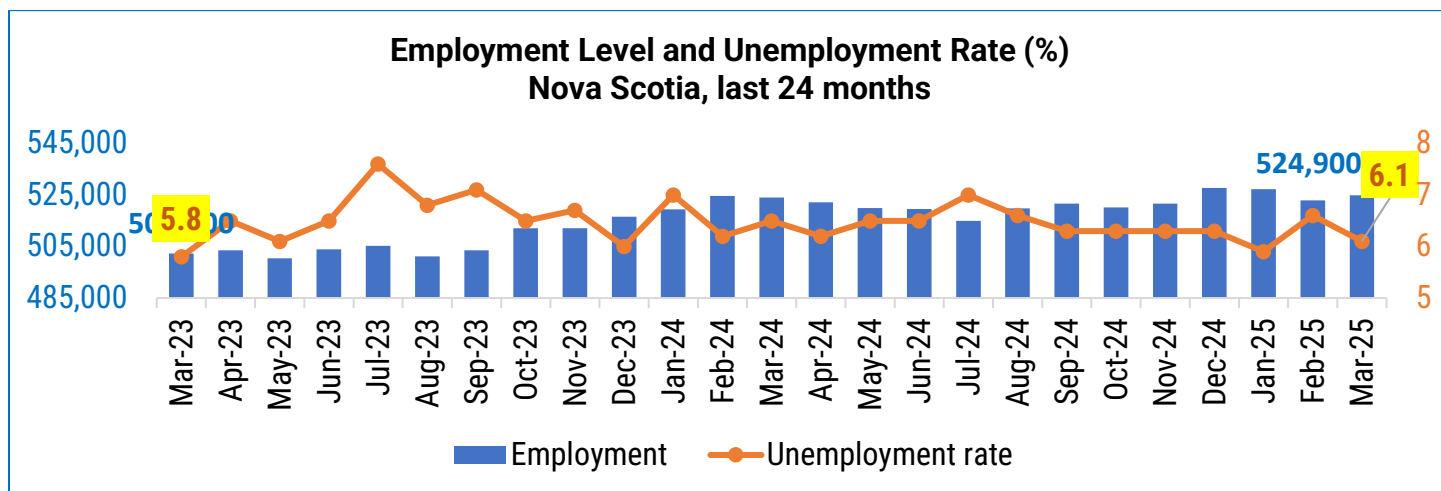
### Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Month/month change	Year/year change
<b>Age 15-24</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>-0.3 pp</b>	<b>1.6 pp</b>
Men+	9.1	13.6	12.4	-1.2 pp	3.3 pp
Women+	11.3	10.4	10.4	0.0 pp	-0.9 pp
<b>Age 25 and over</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>-0.6 pp</b>	<b>-0.7 pp</b>
Men+	6.7	6.6	5.7	-0.9 pp	-1.0 pp
Women+	4.9	4.9	4.7	-0.2 pp	-0.2 pp

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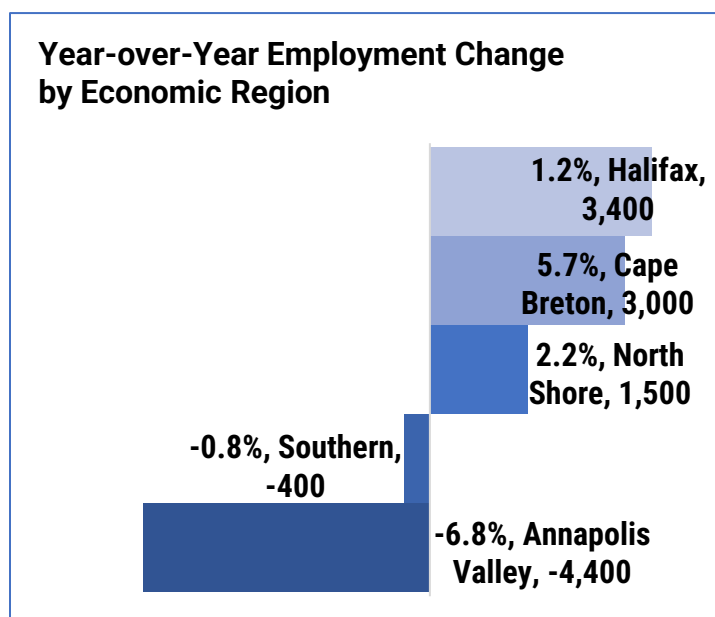
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## Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 2.6% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- Over the past year, the average unemployment rate was 6.4%, staying near historical low levels.

## Employment Trend by Economic Region<sup>2</sup>



- In March 2025 (three-month average from January to March 2025) compared to February 2025 (December 2024 to February 2025), Halifax reported a job gain of 1,900 jobs. The rest three regions experienced job loss, led by Cape Breton (-2,000 jobs, -3.5%).
- Compared to one year ago in March 2024, Annapolis Valley and Southern regions reported job loss while the rest three regions recorded job gains.<sup>3</sup>

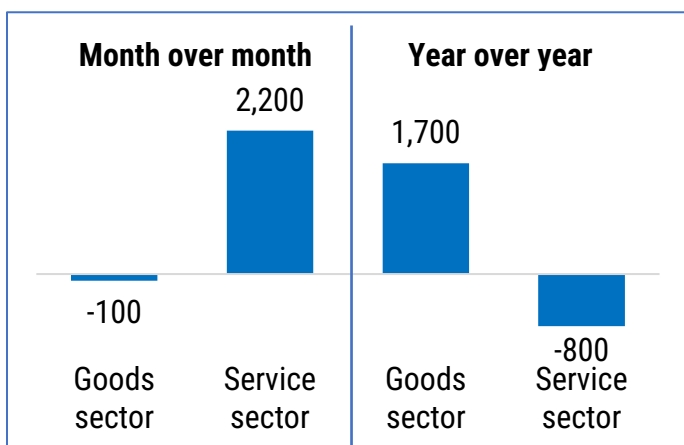
<sup>2</sup> **\*Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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

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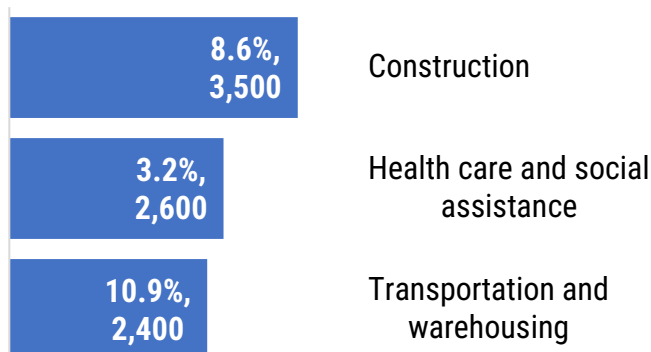
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## Employment Trend by Industry

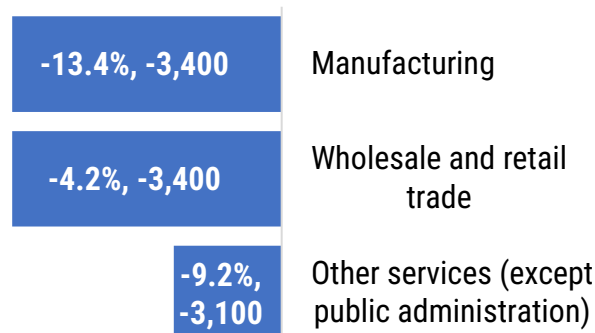


- Over the past month, employment in the goods-producing sector edged down by 0.1%, while the service-producing sector saw a 0.5% increase. However, on a year-over-year basis, the goods-producing sector recorded job growth at 1.8%, while the service-producing sector saw a 0.2% decline in employment level.
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “business, building and other support services” (+2,700 jobs, +17.1%). The top contracting industry was “wholesale and retail trade” (-2,200 jobs, -2.7%).
- Compared to twelve months ago (March 2024), employment gains were largest in the “construction” (+3,500 jobs, +8.6%). This was followed by “health care and social assistance” (2,600 jobs, +3.2%) & “transportation and warehousing” (+2,400 jobs, +10.9%).
- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in the “manufacturing” (-3,400 jobs, -13.4%), “wholesale and retail trade” (-3,400 jobs, -4.2%) & “other services (except public administration)” (-3,100 jobs, -9.2%).

### Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains



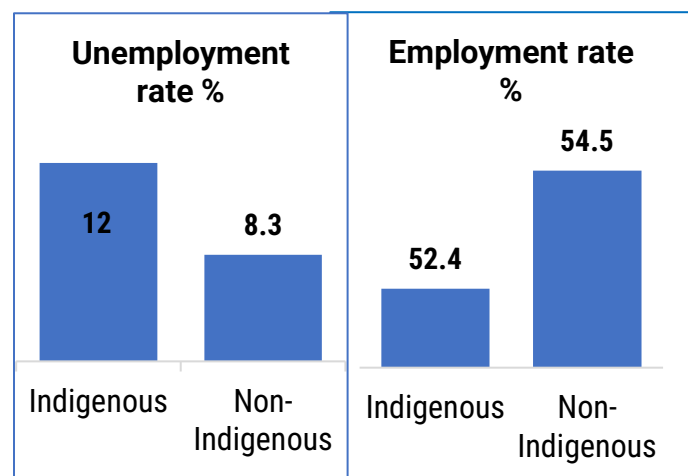
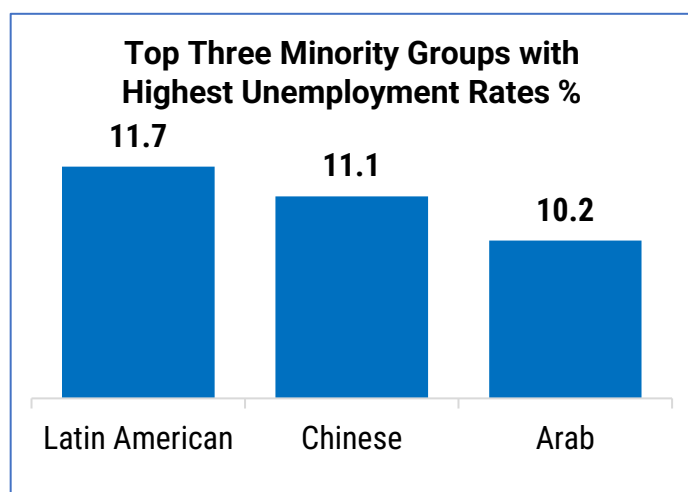
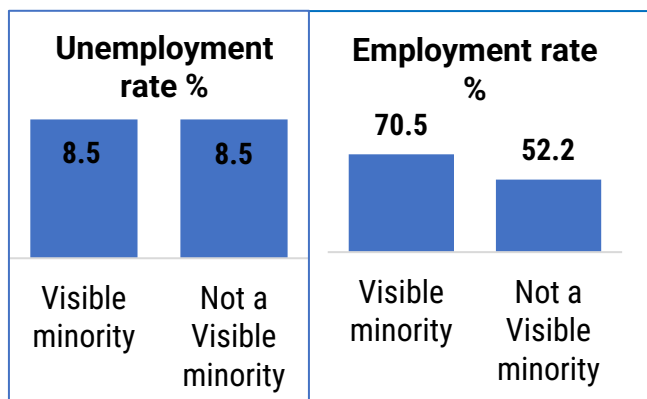
### Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Loss



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## Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada<sup>4</sup>



- 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 (70.5% vs 52.2%) on average in the last three months ending in March 2025. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to February 2025 (3-month average from December 2024 to February 2025), the employment rate of visible minorities dropped by 0.6 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people dropped by 0.2 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data<sup>5</sup>, Latin Americans, Chinese and Arabs face the highest unemployment rates (11.7%, 11.1% & 10.2%, respectively), while 6.1% 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 (12.0% versus 8.3%), while they face lower employment rate (52.4% versus 54.5%).
- It is worth noting that aggregate data masks the fact that visible minorities and indigenous people face additional labour market barriers.

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

<sup>5</sup> Data not available for West Asian, Korean, and Japanese minority groups.

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The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **May 09, 2024**, covering the April 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