

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia fell by 8,500 jobs (-1.6%) in April. The unemployment rate rose to 7.2% by 1.1 percentage points. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in April. The Labour Force Survey references the week of April 13 to 19, 2025 and compares it to the week of March 9 to 15, 2025.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in April 2025¹ Compared to March 2025

Labour Force
556,500

-2,400

- The labour force contracted by 0.4% to 556,500 (-2,400) in April 2025. The labour participation rate dropped by 0.3 percentage point to 61.0%.

Employment
516,400

-8,500

Full Time
432,700
Part Time
83,700

-5,000

-3,500

- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level fell by 1.6% in April (-8,500 jobs) with most losses in full-time employment (-5,000, -1.1%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose by 1.1 percentage points to 7.2% in April. 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) fell by 1 percentage points to 56.6% in April.

Unemployment Rate
7.2%

+1.1 pp

Employment Rate
56.6%

-1 pp

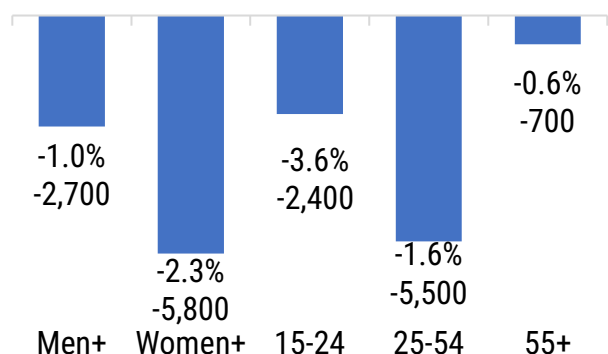
¹ Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 14-10-0287-01](#), Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

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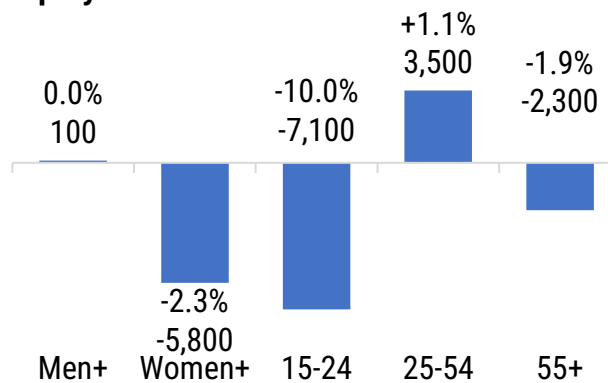
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Labour Market Trends by Population Groups

Month-over-month change in employment



Year-over-year change in employment



- In Nova Scotia, both men's and women's employment fell over the past month. However, men's employment contraction is led by a fall in full-time employment (-4,400 jobs) while women's is led by a fall in part-time employment (-5,100 jobs).
- Youth (15 to 24 years), core-aged workers (25 to 54 years), and older workers (55 years and over) experienced employment contractions at 3.6%, 1.6%, and 0.6%, respectively.
- Compared to April last year, the employment levels of men were unchanged. Women's employment levels fell by 2.3%. Men saw a minor increase in full-time employment, offset by a decline in part-time jobs. Women experienced a decrease in both part-time employment and full-time employment.
- 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 3,500 jobs.

- The unemployment rate increased over the last month and the last year for youth aged 15-24 and those aged 25 and over for both men+ and women+.

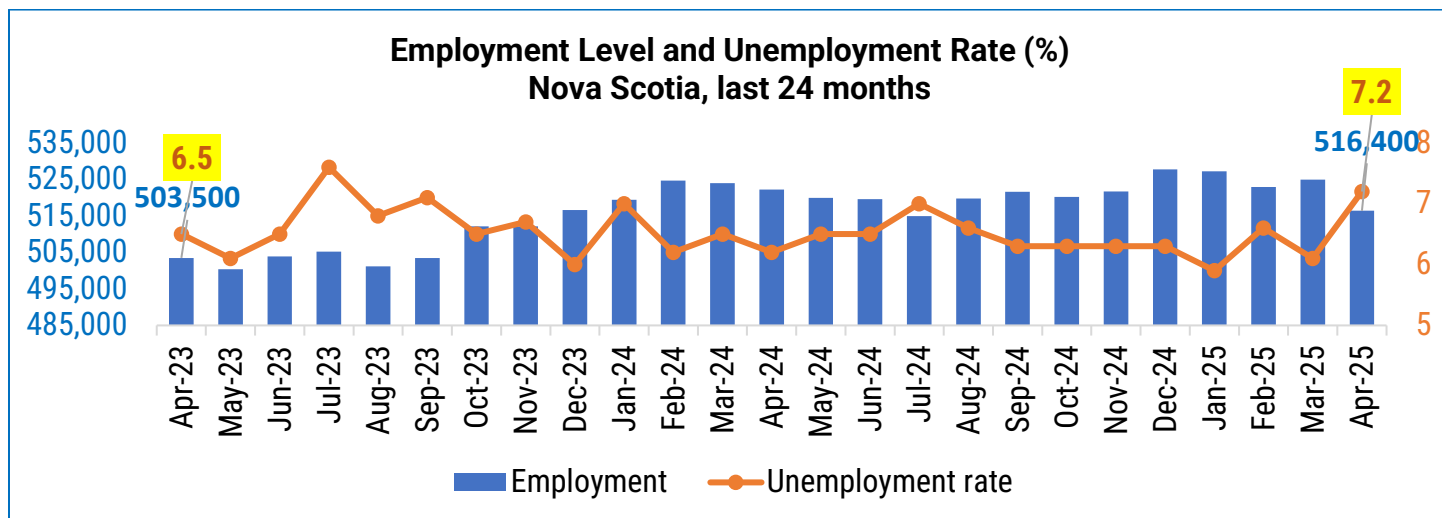
Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Apr-24	Mar-25	Apr-25	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	11.8	11.6	13.6	2.0 pp	1.8 pp
Men+	13.1	12.4	15.1	2.7 pp	2.0 pp
Women+	10.4	10.4	12.1	1.7 pp	1.7 pp
Age 25 and over	5.3	5.2	6.2	1.0 pp	0.9 pp
Men+	5.8	5.7	6.9	1.2 pp	1.1 pp
Women+	4.8	4.7	5.4	0.7 pp	0.6 pp

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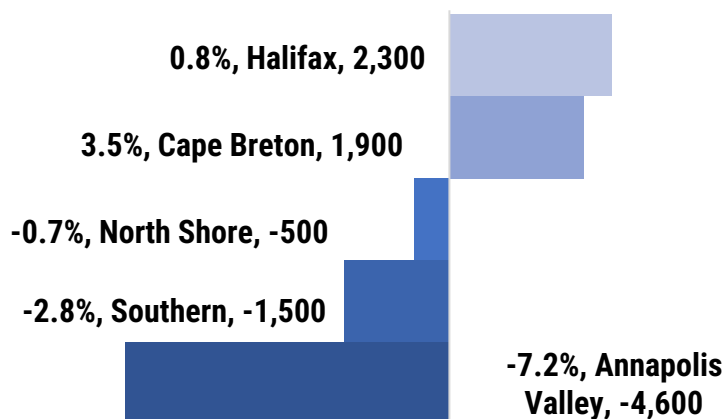
Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 1.8% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- Over the past year, the average unemployment rate was 6.5%.

Employment Trend by Economic Region²

Year-over-Year Employment Change by Economic Region



- In April 2025 (three-month average from February to April 2025) compared to March 2025 (January 2024 to March 2025), Annapolis Valley recorded the largest job losses (-4,600 jobs), followed by Southern (-1,500 jobs) and North Shore (-500 jobs). Cape Breton was the only area to experience employment growth.
- Compared to one year ago, in April 2025, Cape Breton and Halifax experienced job gains while the other three suffered job losses.³

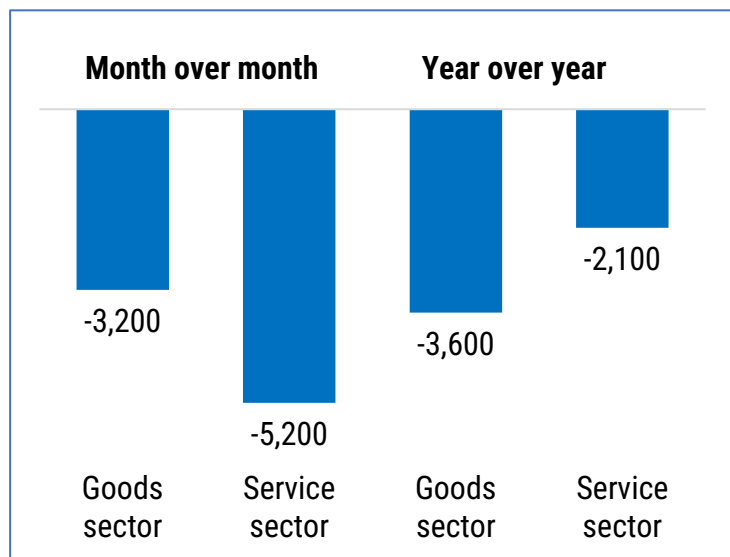
² ***Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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

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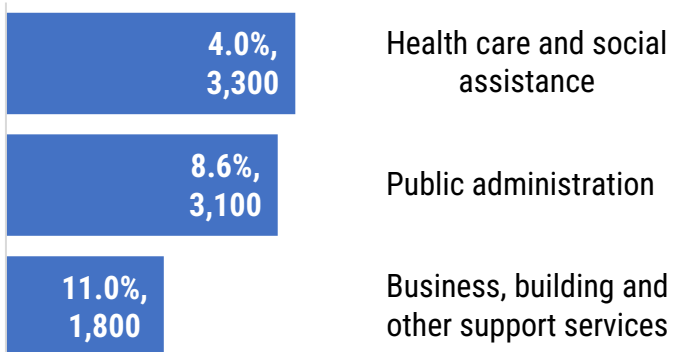
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Employment Trend by Industry

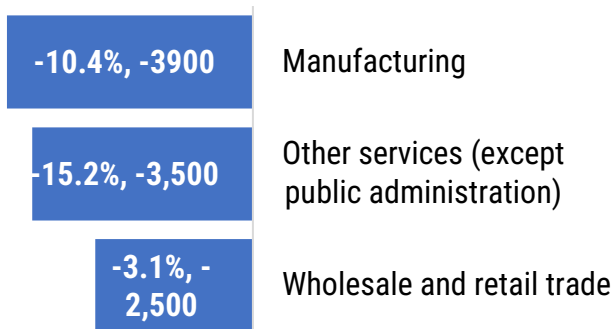


- Over the past month, employment dropped by 3.3% in the goods-producing sector, and 1.2% in the service-producing sector. On a year-over-year basis, the goods-producing sector faced a larger decline than service-producing sector (-3.7% vs -0.5%).
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “professional, scientific, and technical services” (+1,300 jobs, +3.6%). The top contracting industry was “accommodations and food services” (-3,500 jobs, -9.1%).
- Compared to twelve months ago (April 2024), employment gains were largest in the “health care and social assistance” industry (+3,300 jobs, +4.0%). This was followed by “public administration” (3,100 jobs, +8.6%) & “business, building, and other support services” (+1,800 jobs, +11.0%).
- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in “manufacturing” (-3,900 jobs, -10.4%), “other services” (-3,500 jobs, -15.2%), and “wholesale and retail trade” (-2,500 jobs, -3.1%).

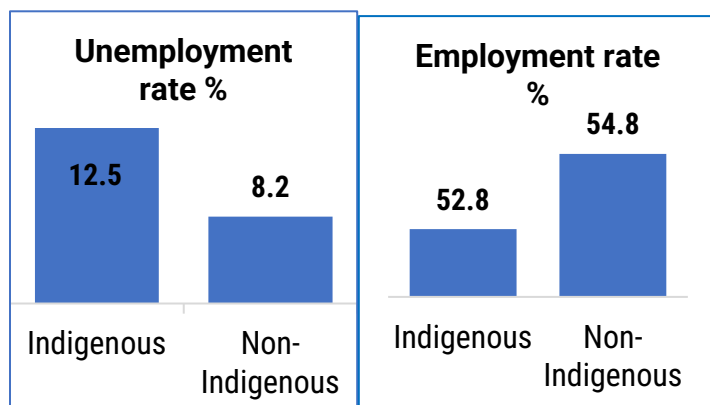
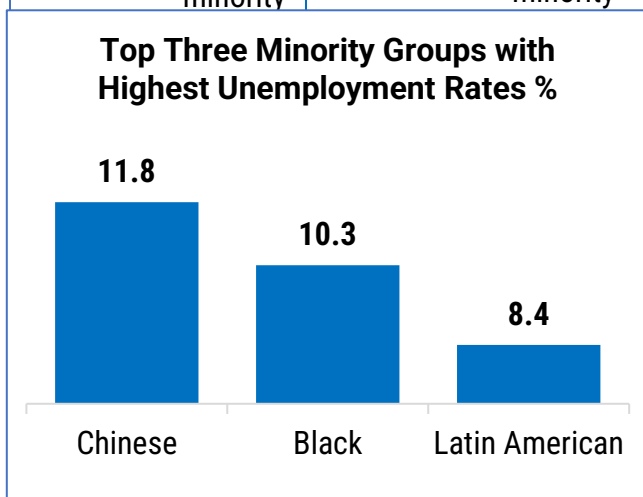
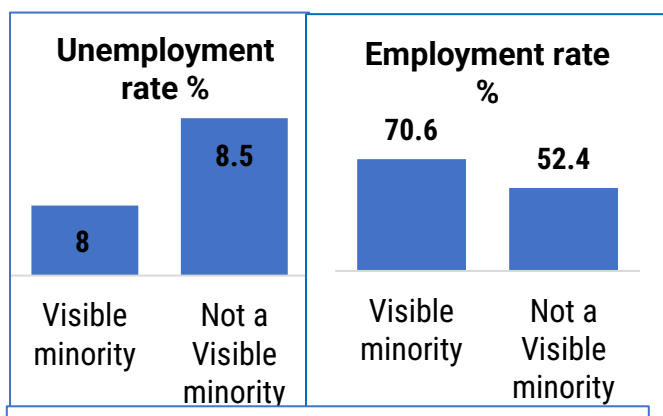
Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains



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 population 15 and over) for visible minorities in Atlantic Canada was higher than for non-visible minorities (70.6% vs 52.4%) on average in the last three months ending in April 2025.
- Compared to March 2025 (3-month average from January 2024 to March 2025), the employment rate of visible minorities grew by 0.1 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people grew by 0.2 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁵, Chinese, Black, and Latin Americans face the highest unemployment rates (11.8%, 10.3%, & 8.4%, respectively), while 6.3% 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 (12.5% versus 8.2%), while they face a lower employment rate (52.8% 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.

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The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **June 6, 2024**, covering the May 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