

# Labour Market Information News

Published by the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

July 2025

## Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia fell by 3,400 jobs (-0.6%) in June 2025. The unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 6.7%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in June 2025. The Labour Force Survey references the week June 15 to 21, 2025 and compares it to the week of May 11 to 17, 2025.

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

**Labour Force**  
561,200

-2,700

**Employment**  
523,600

-3,400

Full Time  
437,200  
Part Time  
86,400

-1,900

-1,400

**Unemployment Rate**  
6.7%

+0.2 pp

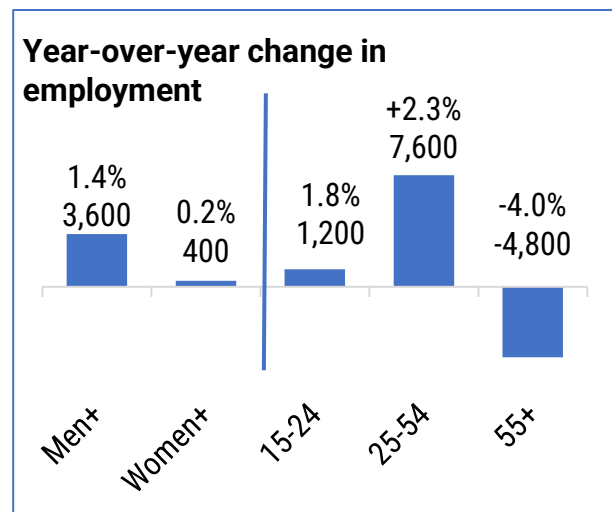
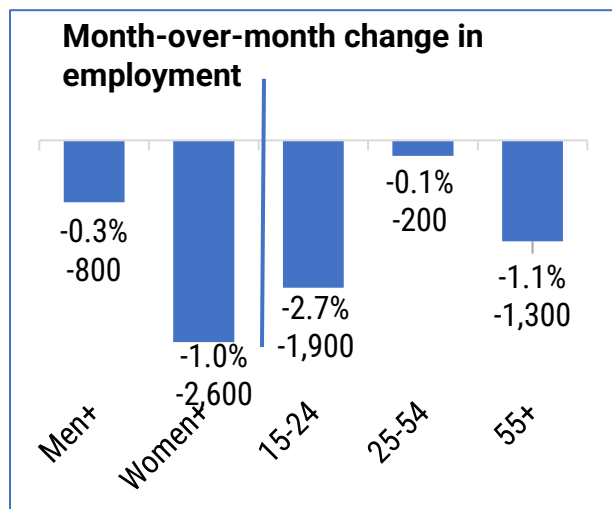
**Employment Rate**  
57.3%

-0.5 pp

- The labour force contracted by 0.5% to 561,200 (-2,700) in June 2025. The labour participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 61.5 %.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level fell by 0.6% in June (-3,400 jobs) with more losses in full-time (-1,900, -0.4%) than in part-time employment (-1,400, -1.6%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 6.7% in June, driven by a 0.5% contraction in labour force outpaced by a 0.6% contraction 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 fifteen and over) fell by 0.5 percentage points to 57.3% in June.

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

## Labour Market Trends by Population Groups



- In Nova Scotia, men's employment contraction was outpaced by women's (-0.3% vs -1.0%) over the past month. Men's employment contraction is led by part-time employment decline (-700 jobs) while women's is led by full-time employment growth (-1,800 jobs).
- Youth (15 to 24 years) experienced the largest job losses last month, with employment declining by 2.7%. They were followed by older workers (55 years and over), who saw a 1.1% decrease. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) experienced minimal change, with a loss of 200 jobs (-0.1%).
- Compared to June last year, the employment levels of men and women increased by 1.4% and 0.2%, respectively. Men saw an increase in full-time employment, partially offset by a decline in part-time jobs. Women experienced a decline in full-time jobs with a relatively larger increase in part-time jobs.
- Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) experienced the largest job gains in the past 12 months, followed by youth (15 to 24 years). Employment for older workers (55 years and over) declined.

The unemployment rate for young women rose by 2.4 percentage points last month, significantly outpacing the 0.5-point increase among young men. Among those aged 25 and over, the gender gap was less pronounced: men saw a 0.2-point decline in their unemployment rate, while the rate for women remained unchanged.

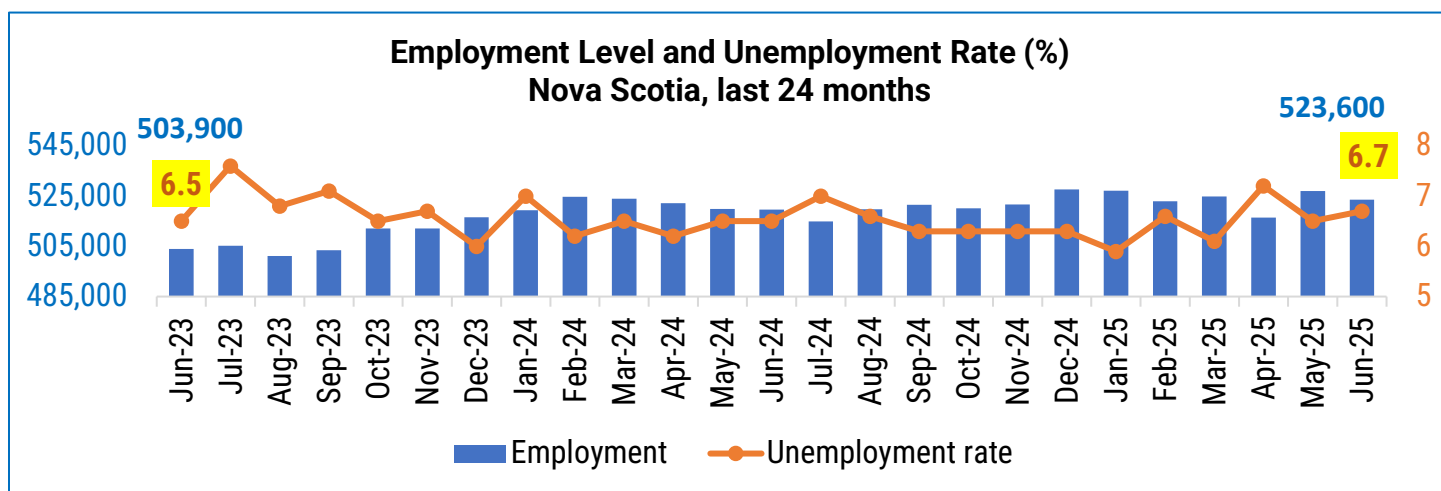
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## Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

| Unemployment Rate (%)  | Jun-24      | May-25      | Jun-25      | Month/month change | Year/year change |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Age 15-24</b>       | <b>12.7</b> | <b>11.7</b> | <b>13.1</b> | <b>1.4 pp</b>      | <b>0.4 pp</b>    |
| Men+                   | 13.9        | 13.3        | 13.8        | 0.5 pp             | -0.1 pp          |
| Women+                 | 11.5        | 10.0        | 12.4        | 2.4 pp             | 0.9 pp           |
| <b>Age 25 and over</b> | <b>5.5</b>  | <b>5.7</b>  | <b>5.7</b>  | <b>0.0 pp</b>      | <b>0.2 pp</b>    |
| Men+                   | 6.2         | 6.6         | 6.4         | -0.2 pp            | 0.2 pp           |
| Women+                 | 4.8         | 4.8         | 4.8         | 0.0 pp             | 0.0 pp           |

## Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 1.4% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- Over the past year, the average unemployment rate was 6.5%, staying near historical low levels.

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## Year-over-Year Employment Change by Economic Region

7.4%, Cape Breton, 4,200

3.3%, North Shore,  
2,300

0.2%, Halifax, 700

-0.4%, Southern, -200

### Month over month

1,200

Goods  
sector

-4,500

Service  
sector

### Year over year

3,900

Goods  
sector

0

Service  
sector

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

- In June 2025 (three-month average from March to June 2025) compared to May 2025 (Feb to May 2025), all five regions experienced employment expansion. Cape Breton experienced the highest job gains in Nova Scotia at 5.2%, followed by North Shore (1.8%), Annapolis Valley (0.8%), Halifax (0.6%), and Southern (0.2%).
- Compared to one year ago in June 2024, Annapolis Valley and Southern reported job loss while the other three regions recorded job gains.<sup>3</sup>

## Employment Trend by Industry

- Over the past month, employment in the goods-producing sector rose both month-over-month (+1.2%) and year-over-year (+4.1%). Employment in service-producing sector fell month-over-month (-1.0%) and remained unchanged year-over-year.

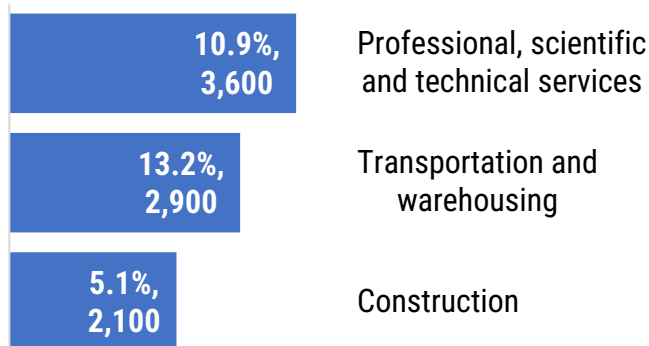
<sup>2</sup> **\*Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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

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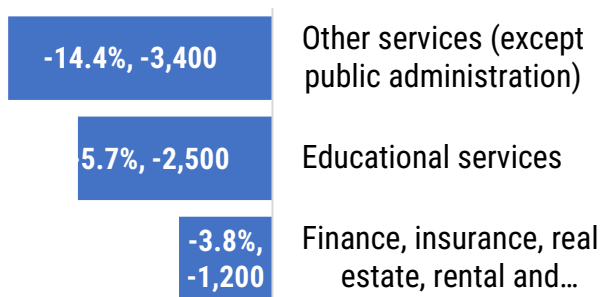
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## Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains



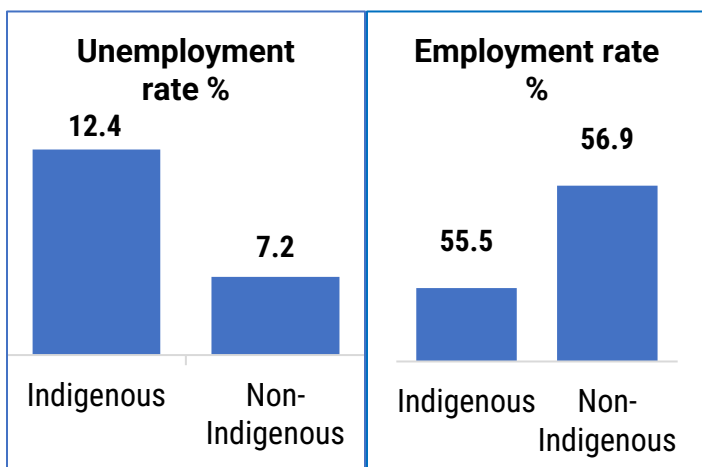
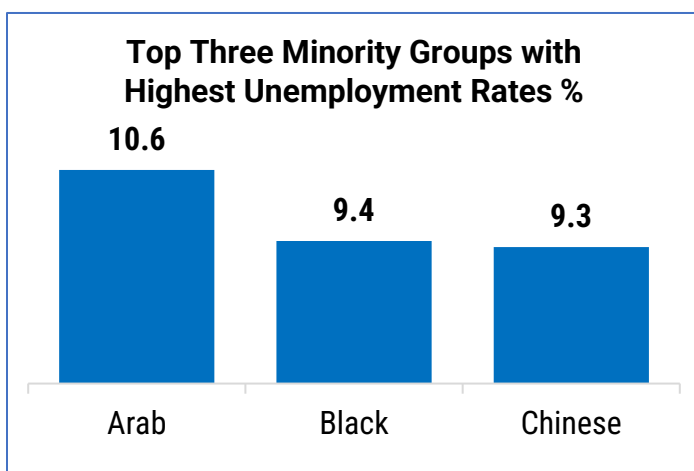
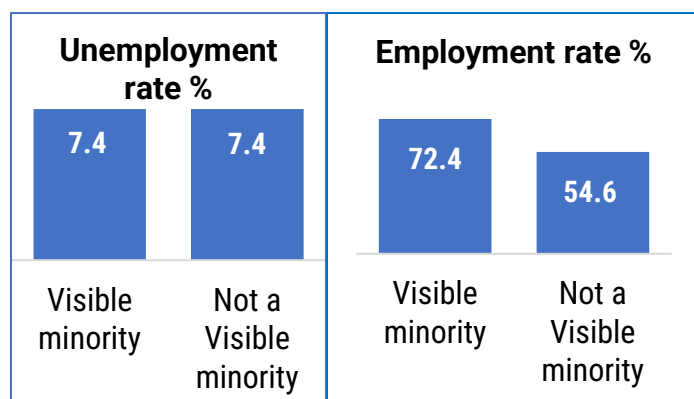
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (+800 jobs, +7.0%). The top contracting industry was “accommodation and food services” (-3,300 jobs, -9.8%).
- Compared to twelve months ago (June 2024), employment gains were largest in the “professional, scientific and technical services” (+3,600 jobs, +10.9%). This was followed by “transportation and warehousing” (2,900 jobs, +13.2%) & “construction” (+2,100 jobs, +5.1%).

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



- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in the “accommodation and food services” (-5,300 jobs, -14.8%), “educational services” (-3,600 jobs, -8.2%) & “other services” (-2,000 jobs, -9.1%).

## 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 for non-visible minorities (72.4% vs 54.6%) on average in the last three months ending in June 2025. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to May 2025 (3-month average from March to May 2025), the employment rate of visible minorities increased by 0.6 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or Indigenous people rose by 1.2 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data<sup>5</sup> Arabs, Blacks, and Chinese face the highest unemployment rates (10.6%, 9.4% & 9.3%, respectively), while 4.5% of Filipinos 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 (12.4% versus 7.2%), while they face lower employment rate (55.5% versus 56.9%).
- 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 **August 8, 2024**, covering the July 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 fourteen 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