

Labour Market Information News

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August 2025

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 1,800 jobs (+0.3%) in July 2025. The unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 7.0%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in July 2025. The Labour Force Survey references the week July 13 to 19, 2025 and compares it to the week of June 15 to 21, 2025.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in July 2025¹ Compared to June 2025

Labour Force
564,700

+3,500

- The labour force expanded by 0.6% to 564,700 (+3,500) in July 2025. The labour participation rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 61.8%.

Employment
525,400

+1,800

Full Time
438,800
Part Time
86,600

+1,600

+200

- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose by 0.3% in July (+1,800 jobs) with more gains in full-time (+1,600, +0.4%) than in part-time employment (+200, +0.2%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).

Unemployment Rate
7.0%

+0.3 pp

- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 7.0% in July, driven by a 0.6% expansion in labour force outpacing the 0.3% expansion in employment. For context, the province's unemployment rate has averaged 10.0% since 1976.

Employment Rate
57.5%

+0.2 pp

- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the population aged fifteen and over) rose by 0.2 percentage points to 57.5% in July.

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

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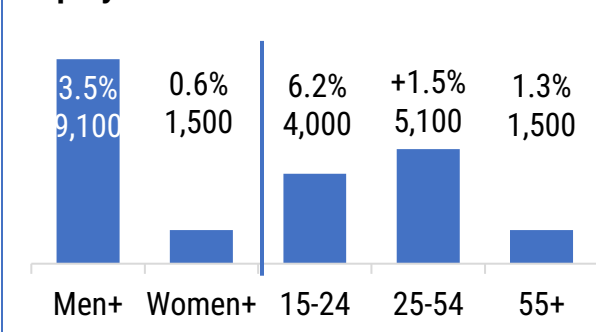
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Labour Market Trends by Population Groups

Month-over-month change in employment



Year-over-year change in employment



- In Nova Scotia, men's employment expansion outpaced women's (+0.4% vs +0.3%) over the past month. Men's employment expansion is led by an increase in part-time employment (+2,700 jobs) partially offset by a decrease in full-time employment (-1,500) while women's is led by full-time employment growth (+3,100 jobs).
- Older workers (55 years and over) experienced the largest job gains last month, with employment rising by 2.2%. They were followed by youth workers (15 to 24 years), who saw a 1.2% increase. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) experienced a job loss of 1,500 jobs (-0.4%).
- Compared to July last year, the employment levels of men and women increased by 3.5% and 0.6%, respectively. Both men's and women's employment level increase is led by full-time employment. Youth (15 to 24 years) experienced the largest job gains in the past 12 months, followed by core age workers (15 to 24 years) and older workers (55 years and over).

The unemployment rate for young women fell by 1.4 percentage points last month, while that of young men rose by 2.8 percentage points. Among those aged 25 and over, the trend was similar: men saw a 0.7-point increase in their unemployment rate, while the rate for women declined by 0.4-points.

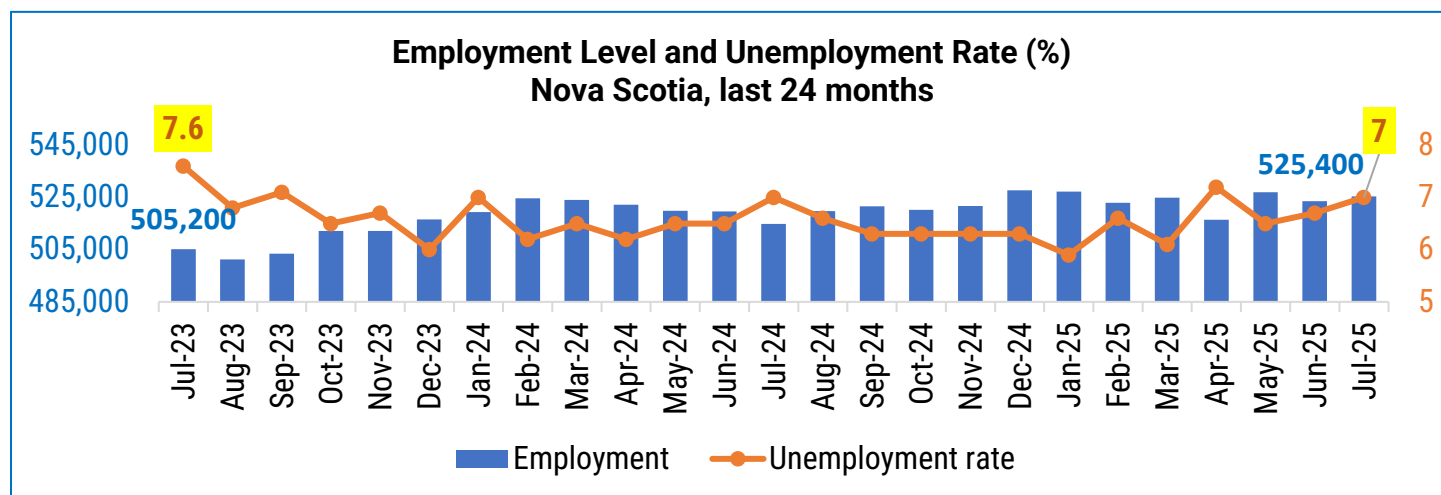
Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Jul-24	Jun-25	Jul-25	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	15.5	13.1	14.0	0.9 pp	-1.5 pp
Men+	18.3	13.8	16.6	2.8 pp	-1.7 pp
Women+	12.4	12.4	11.0	-1.4 pp	-1.4 pp
Age 25 and over	5.7	5.7	5.8	0.1 pp	0.1 pp
Men+	6.7	6.4	7.1	0.7 pp	0.4 pp
Women+	4.6	4.8	4.4	-0.4 pp	-0.2 pp

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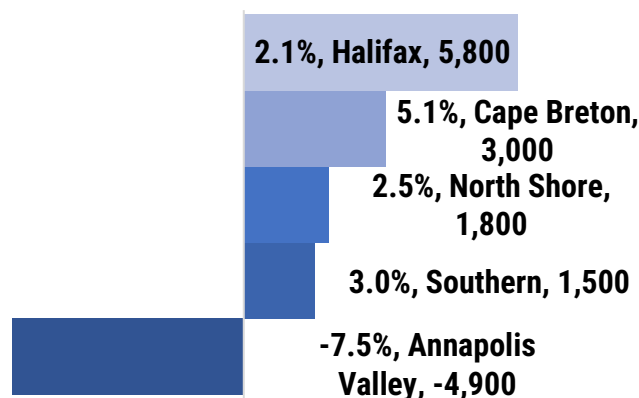
Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- 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.

Employment Trend by Economic Region²

Year-over-Year Employment Change by Economic Region



- In July 2025 (three-month average from April to July 2025) compared to June 2025 (March to June 2025), all regions experienced employment expansion except for the Southern region. Cape Breton experienced the highest job gains in Nova Scotia at 1.6%, followed by Halifax (+1.5%), North Shore (+0.8%), and Annapolis Valley (0.3%). Southern experienced a decline (-1.3%).
- Compared to one year ago in July 2024, Annapolis Valley reported job loss while the other 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.

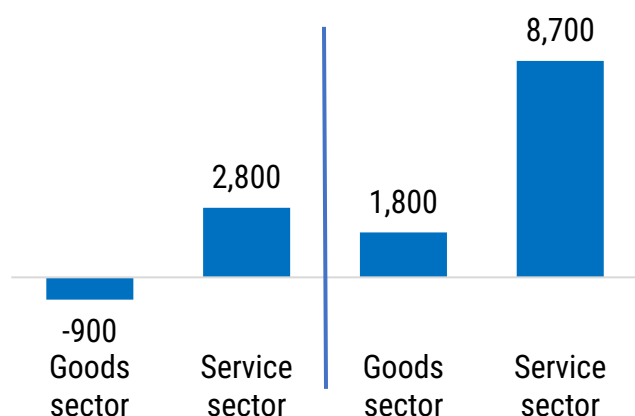
³ Source: Statistics Canada, Table [14-10-0387-01](#), three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

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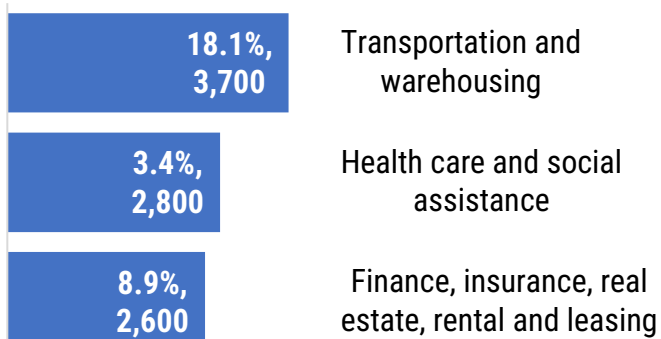
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Month over month

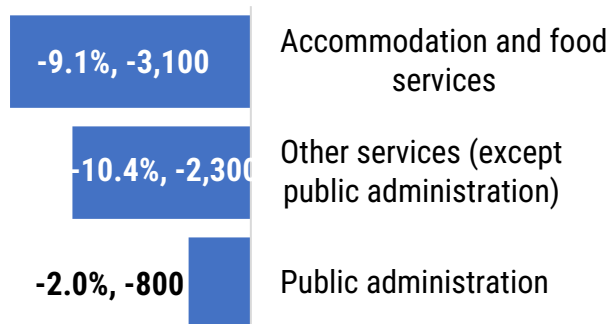
Year over



Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains



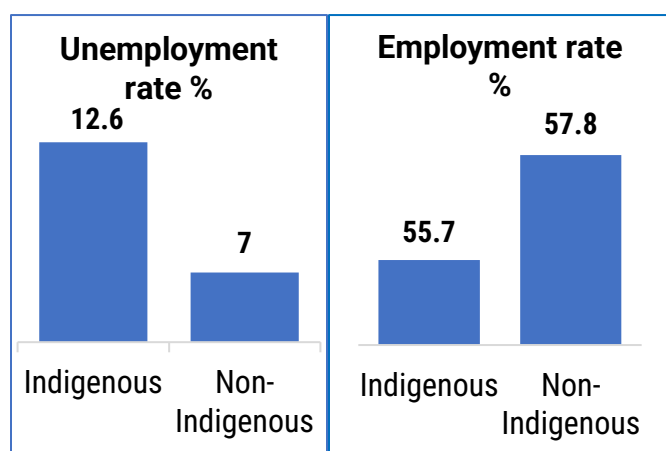
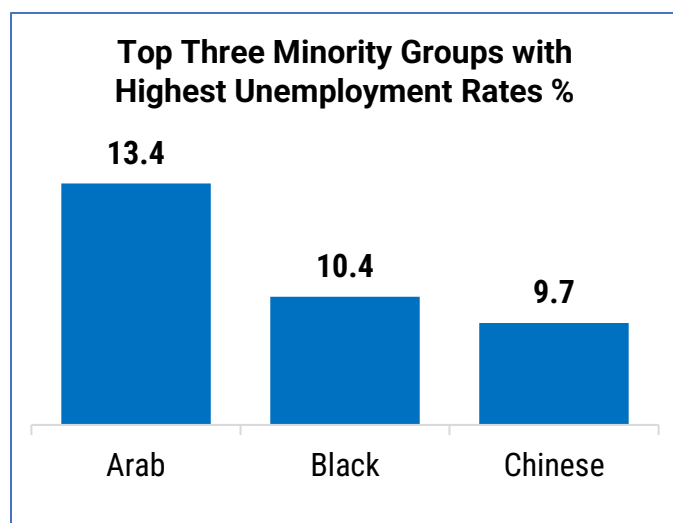
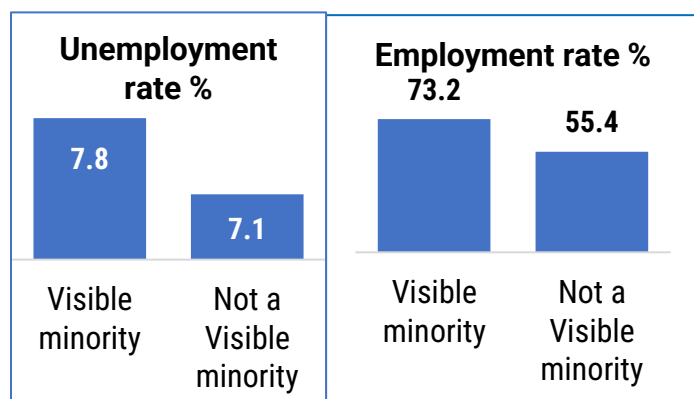
Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Loss



Employment Trend by Industry

- Over the past month, employment in the service-producing sector rose both month-over-month (+0.7%) and year-over-year (+2.1%). Employment in goods-producing sector fell month-over-month (-0.9%) and rose year-over-year (+1.9%).
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “professional, scientific and technical services” (+1,700 jobs, +4.7%). The top contracting industry was “wholesale and retail trade” (-3,200 jobs, -3.9%).
- Compared to twelve months ago (July 2024), employment gains were largest in the “transportation and warehousing” (+3,700 jobs, +18.1%). This was followed by “health care and social assistance” (+2,800 jobs, +3.4%) & “finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing” (+2,600 jobs, +8.9%).
- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in the “accommodation and food services” (-3,100 jobs, -9.1%), “other services” (-2,300 jobs, -10.4%) & “public administration” (-800 jobs, -2.0%).

Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada⁴



- The employment rate (number of employed for the entire population 15 and over) for visible for non-visible minorities (73.2% vs 55.4%) on average in the last three months ending in July 2025. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to June 2025 (3-month average from April to June 2025), the employment rate of both visible and not visible minorities increased by 0.8 percentage points each in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁵ Arabs, Blacks, and Chinese face the highest unemployment rates (13.4%, 10.4% & 9.7%, respectively), while 4.3% 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 (12.6% versus 7.0%), while they face a lower employment rate (55.7% versus 57.8%).
- 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 **September 5, 2025**, covering the August 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