

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 1,300 jobs (+0.2%) in September 2025. The unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 6.2%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in September 2025. The Labour Force Survey references the week September 14 to 20, 2025 and compares it to the week of August 10 to 16, 2025.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in September 2025¹ Compared to August 2025

Labour Force
560,300

-200

Employment
525,400

+1,300

Full Time
436,500
Part Time
88,900

+2,100

-800

Unemployment Rate
6.2%

-0.3 pp

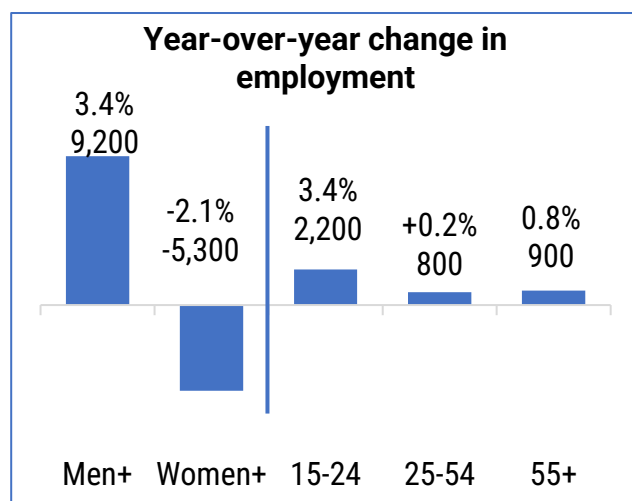
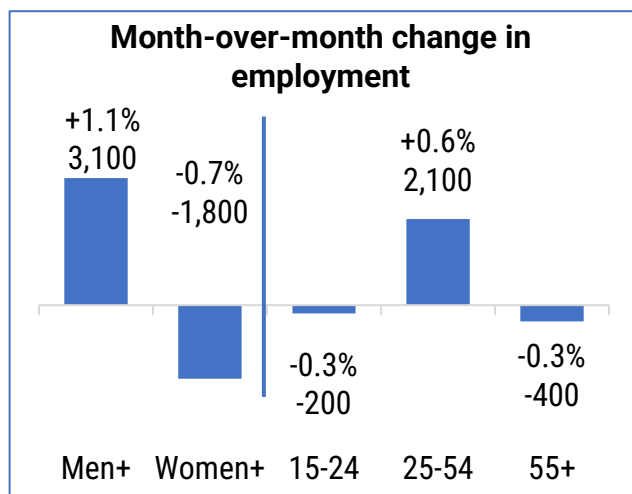
Employment Rate
57.4%

+0.1 pp

- The labour force contracted minimally to 560,300 (-200 jobs) in September 2025. The labour participation rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 61.2%.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose by 0.2% in September (+1,300 jobs) with gains in full-time (+2,100, +0.5%) and losses in part-time employment (-800, -0.9%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 6.2% in September, driven by minimal contraction in the labour force with 0.2% 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 fifteen and over) rose by 0.1 percentage points to 57.4% in September.

¹ 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 expanded while women's employment contracted (+1.1% vs -0.7%) over the past month. Men experienced growth in both full-time and part-time employment while women experienced a contraction in part-time employment (-2,200 jobs).
- Core age workers (25 to 54 years) experienced job gains last month, with employment rising by 0.6%. Youth workers (15 to 24 years) and older workers (55 years and over) experienced job losses of 200 (-0.3%) and 400 jobs (-0.3%), respectively.
- Compared to September last year, the employment levels of men increased by 3.4%, led by notable increase in full-time employment (+2.7%). Women's employment levels declined by 2.1%, driven by the contraction in both full-time and part-time employment (-1.9% and -2.8%). Youth (15 to 24 years) experienced the largest number of job gains in the past 12 months, followed by older workers (55+ years) and core age workers (25 to 54 years).

The unemployment rate for young women rose by 0.2 percentage points last month, while that of young men fell by 0.8 percentage points. Among those aged 25 and over, the both men and women saw a decrease in their unemployment rate, of 0.3 and 0.2 percentage points respectively.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Sep-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	12.1	13.1	12.7	-0.4 pp	0.6 pp
Men+	14.3	11.3	10.5	-0.8 pp	-3.8 pp
Women+	9.6	15.0	15.2	0.2 pp	5.6 pp
Age 25 and over	5.5	5.4	5.2	-0.2 pp	-0.3 pp
Men+	6.4	6.1	5.8	-0.3 pp	-0.6 pp
Women+	4.4	4.7	4.5	-0.2 pp	0.1 pp

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Employment Level and Unemployment Rate (%) Nova Scotia, last 24 months

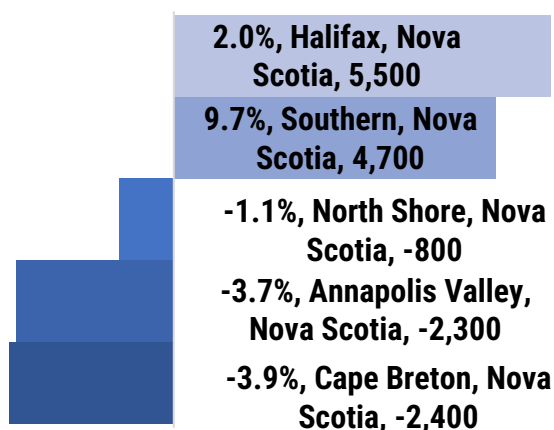


Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend

- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 1.0% 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 September 2025 (three-month average from July to September 2025) compared to August 2025 (June to August 2025), Southern (+1.5%) and Annapolis Valley (+0.7%) experienced employment expansion. Cape Breton experienced the highest job losses in Nova Scotia at -2.7%, followed by North Shore (-1.9%), and Halifax (-0.6%).
- Compared to one year ago in September 2024, all regions except Halifax and Southern reported recorded job losses.³

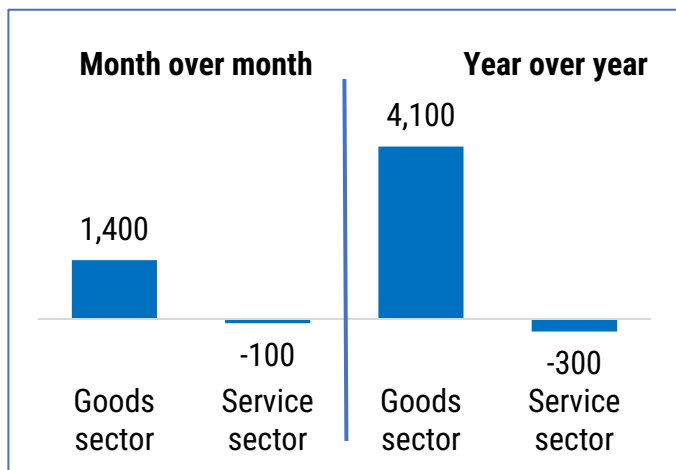
² ***Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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

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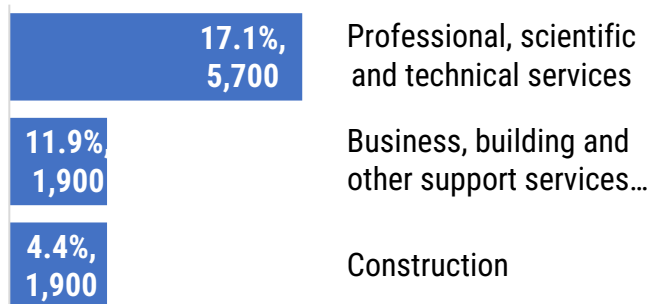
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Employment Trend by Industry



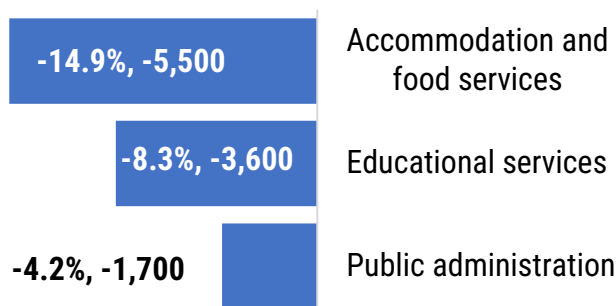
- Employment in the service-producing sector fell minimally both month-over-month and year-over-year while employment in goods-producing sector rose both month-over-month (+1.4%) and year-over-year (+4.2%).
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “accommodation and food services” (+2,500 jobs, +6.1%). The top contracting industry was “educational services” (-1,500 jobs, -3.6%).

Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains

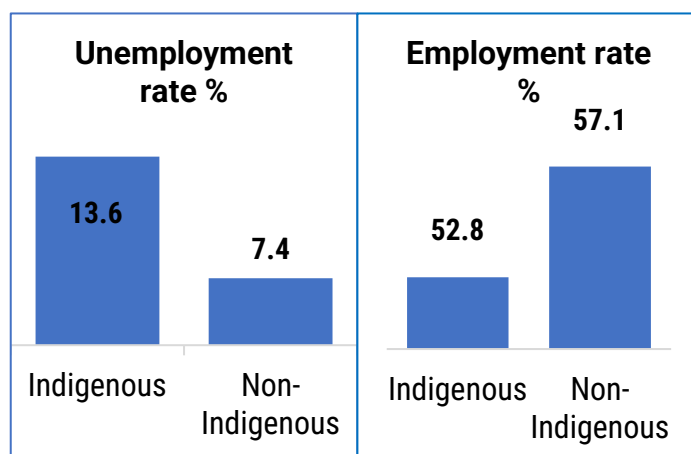
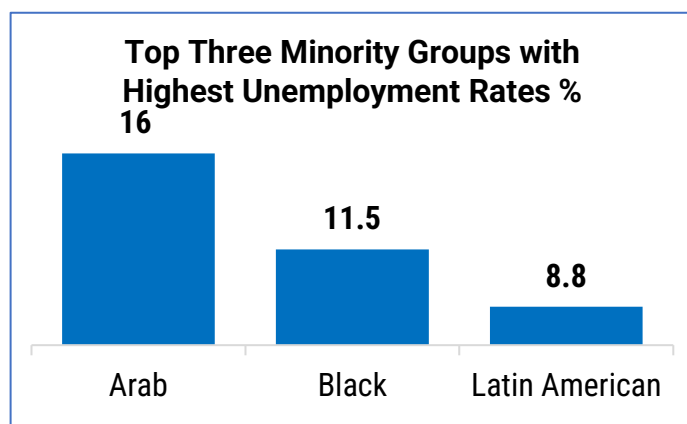
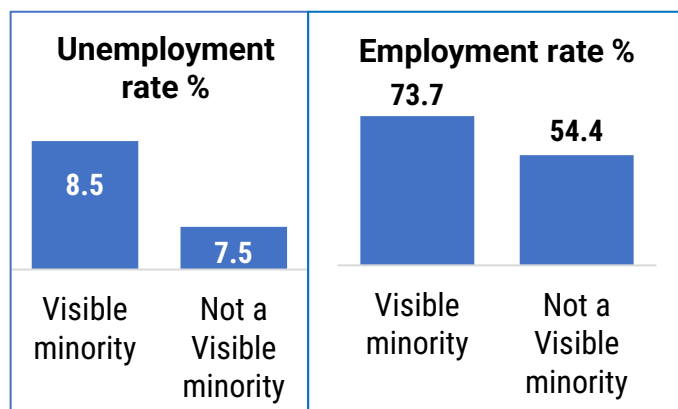


- Compared to twelve months ago (September 2024), employment gains were largest in the “professional, scientific and technical services” (+5,700 jobs, +17.1%). This was followed by “business, building and other support services” (+1,900 jobs, +11.9%) & “construction” (+1,900 jobs, +4.4%).
- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in the “accommodation and food services” (-5,500 jobs, -14.9%), “educational services” (-3,600 jobs, -8.3%) & “public administration” (-1,700 jobs, -4.2%).

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) of visible minorities was higher than that of non-visible minorities (73.7% vs 54.4%) on average in the last three months ending in September 2025. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to August 2025 (3-month average from June to August 2025), the employment rate of visible minorities increased by 0.4 percentage points. The employment rate fell by 0.8 percentage points for not visible minorities in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁵, Arabs, Blacks, and Latin Americans face the highest unemployment rates (16%, 11.5% & 8.8%, respectively), while 4.1% of Southeast 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 (13.6% versus 7.4%), while they face a lower employment rate (52.8% versus 57.1%).
- 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 **November 7, 2025**, covering the October 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