

Labour Market Information News

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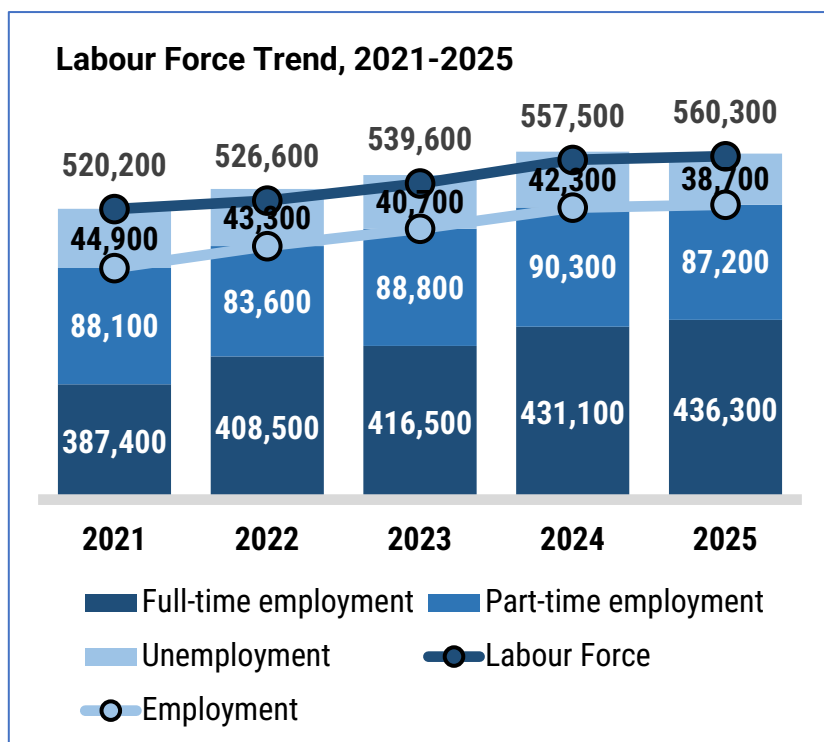
Labour Force Survey, 2025 Annual Results

Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Nova Scotia's labour market continued its positive momentum in 2025, marking the sixth year of growth since 2020. The average employment level in 2025 was 523,500 – 2,200 jobs higher than the previous year. The average unemployment rate in 2025 rose by 0.1 percentage points to 6.6% from 2025.

Nova Scotia's Labour Market Trends 2021-2025



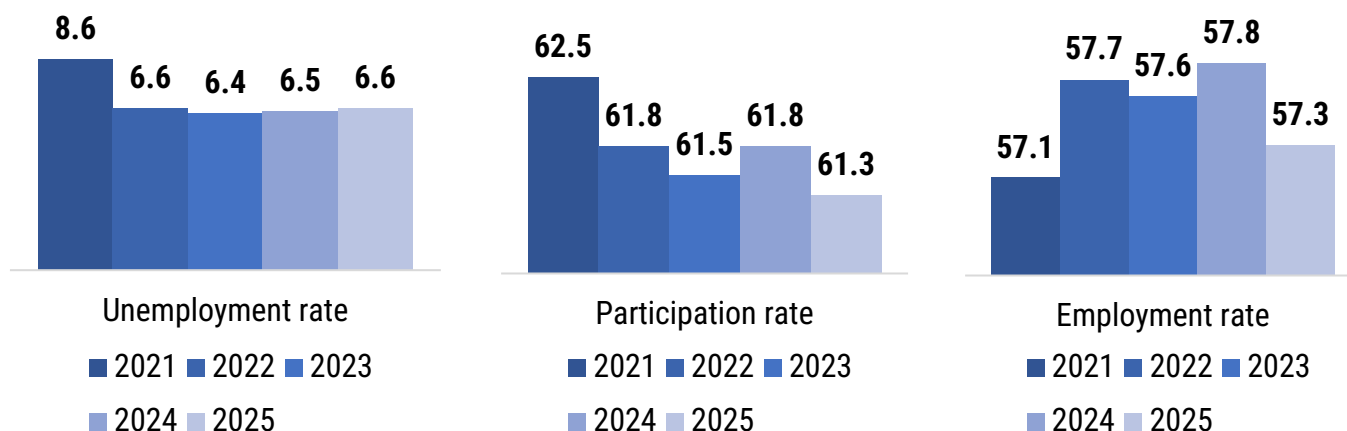
- The labour force expansion slowed to 0.5% in 2025 in Nova Scotia (+2,800 persons), following the gains in 2024 and 2023 of 3.3% and 2.5%, respectively. From 2021 to 2025, the labour force increased by 7.7%, slower than population growth at 9.7%.
- Nova Scotia has sustained positive employment growth since 2021, though growth slowed in 2025, with 2,200 jobs added (+0.4%). This growth was driven by an increase in full-time jobs (+5,200 jobs, +1.2%), partially offset by a decrease in part-time jobs (-3,100 jobs, -3.4%).

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

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Labour Market Indicators, Nova Scotia, 2021-2025



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

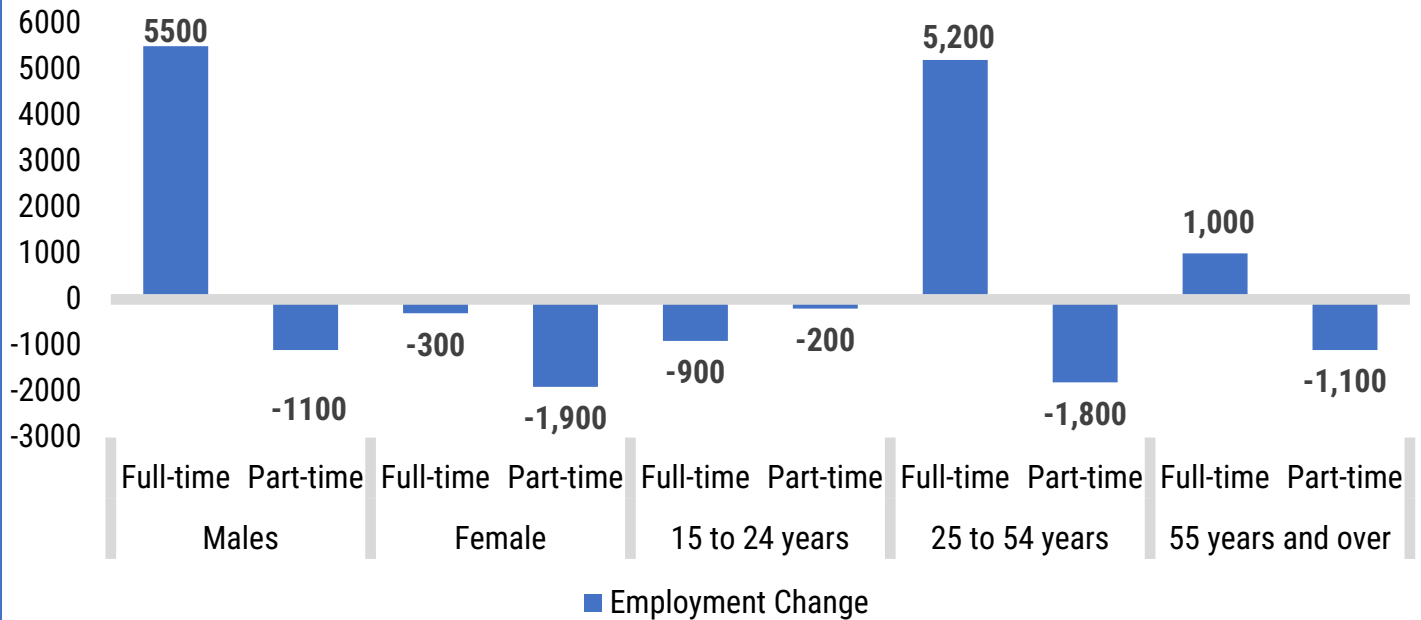
- The average unemployment rate in Nova Scotia in 2025 was 6.6%, 0.1 percentage points higher than 2024. However, it continues to remain at historic low levels.
- The participation rate (number of Nova Scotians aged 15 and up participating in the labour market) fell by 0.5 percentage points in 2025 to 61.3% as labour force expansion failed to keep pace with population growth.
- Nova Scotia's employment rate decreased by 0.5 percentage points in 2025, to 57.3%, following three years of higher employment rates. Despite the decrease, the rate remained 0.2 percentage points above its 2021 level (57.1%).

Employment Change by Selected Demographics

Nova Scotia, 2024-2025

- Nova Scotia's employment growth has been unevenly distributed across demographic groups and industries.
 - Core-age (aged 25-54) workers experienced growth (+3,400, +1.0%) while older (aged 55 and over) workers and youth (aged 15 to 24) faced a decline in employment (-100 jobs, -0.1%; and -1,200 jobs, -1.0%).
 - Men experienced job gains (+4,400, +1.7%), while women experienced job losses (-2,200, -0.9%) in 2025. Men saw job gains in full-time employment (+5,500, +2.4%), while women faced job losses (-300, -0.2%). Both groups faced losses in part-time jobs, but this was more pronounced for women (-1,900, -3.4%) than men (-1,100, -3.2%).
 - The industries with the largest employment gains in 2025 were "health care and social assistance" (+2,700 jobs, +3.2%), "transportation and warehousing" (+2,300 jobs, +10.6%), and "construction" (+1,400 jobs, +3.3%). "Accommodation and food services" posted the largest job losses of any industry (-2,300 jobs, -6.6%).

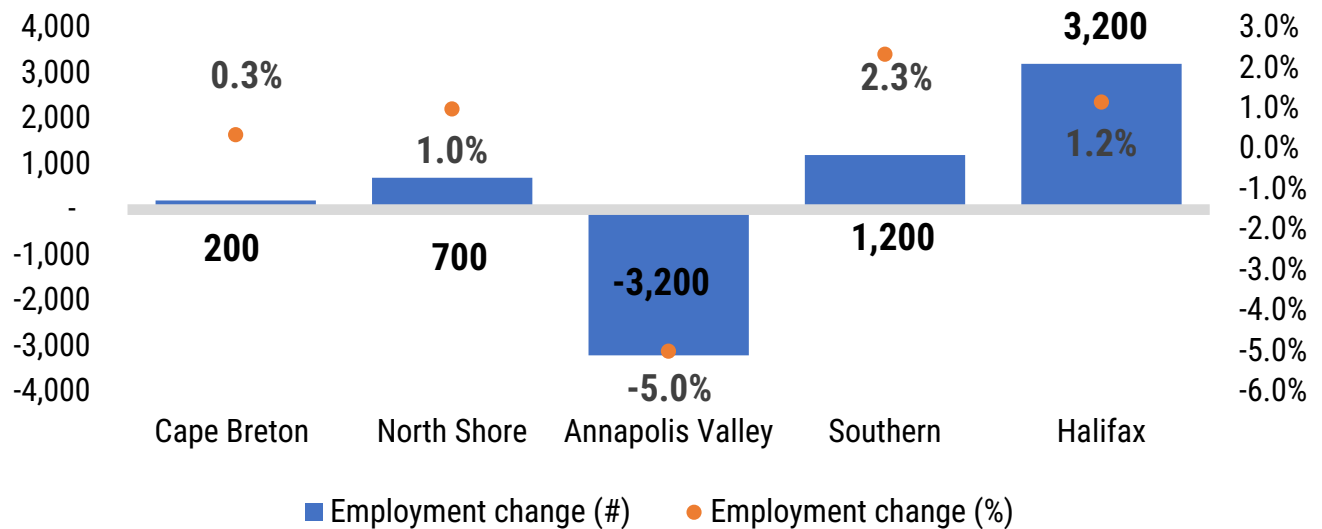
Employment Change by Selected Demographics, 2024-2025



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

Employment Change and Labour Market Indicators By Economic Region, 2024-2025

Employment Change by Economic Region, 2024-2025



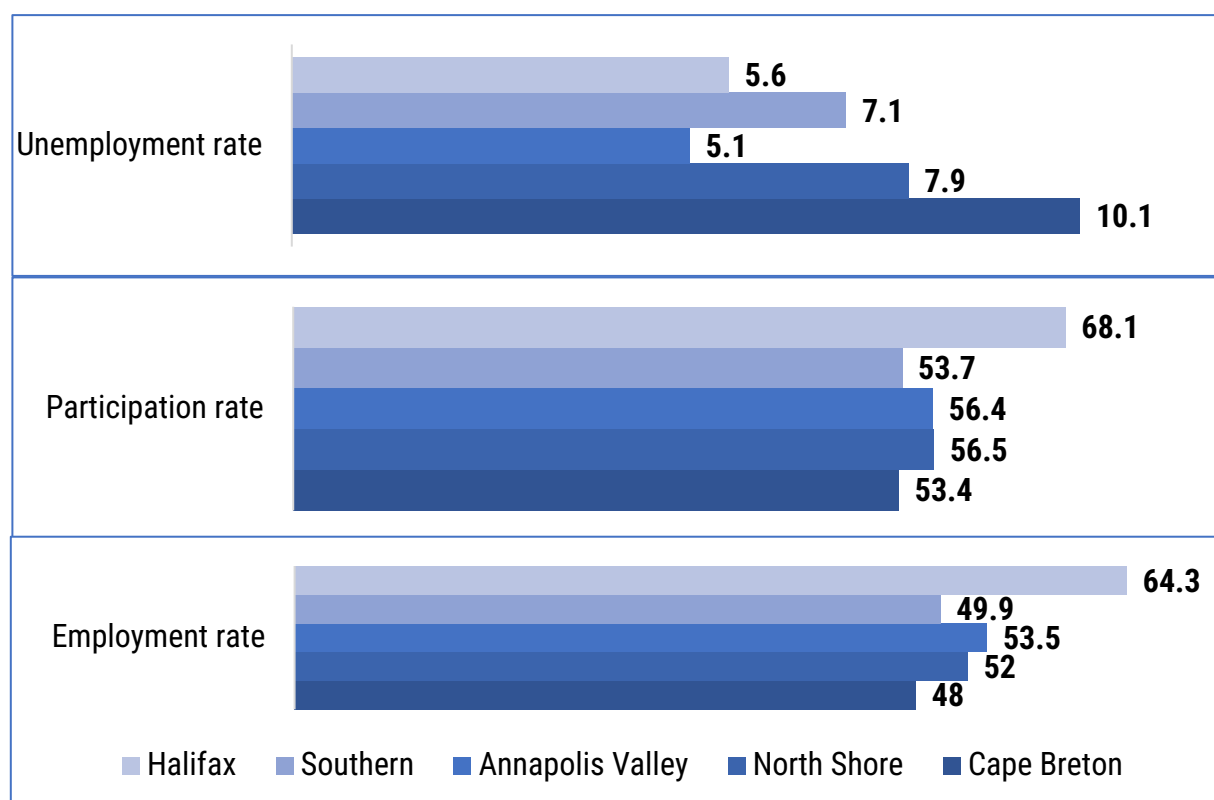
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0393-01, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

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- The Halifax region accounts for just over half of the provincial employment (53.6%). Almost two-thirds of the jobs gained in 2025 were located in this region, with 3,200 jobs out of 5,300 total job gains in the province. However, a total of 3,200 job losses also occurred.
- In percentage terms, Southern led the province with an employment gain of 2.3% (+1,200 jobs), followed by the Halifax region at 1.2% (+3,200 jobs). North Shore (+700, +1.0%) and Cape Breton (+200, +0.3%) experienced minor employment growth. The Annapolis Valley was the only economic region to register a decline in jobs in 2025 (-3,200 jobs, -5.0%).

Labour Market Indicators by Economic Region (%),



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0393-01, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

- The Halifax region posted the highest participation (68.1%) and employment (64.3%) rates of all economic regions in the province in 2025.
- The Annapolis Valley recorded the lowest average unemployment rate of all region in 2025 at 5.1%, followed by the Halifax region (5.6%).
- Cape Breton region had the lowest participation (53.4%) and employment (47.7%) rates of all economic regions in 2025. The unemployment rate in Cape Breton (10.1%) also exceeded that of all other region in Nova Scotia.

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