

# Labour Market Information News

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## Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 700 jobs (+0.1%) in April 2026. The unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 6.3%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in April 2026. The Labour Force Survey references the week of April 12 to 18, 2026, and compares it to the of March 15 to 21, 2026.

### Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in April 2026<sup>1</sup> Compared to March 2026

Labour Force  
564,500

-1,000

Employment  
528,700

+700

Full Time  
439,400  
Part Time  
89,400

+4,700

-3,900

Unemployment Rate  
6.3%

-0.3pp

Employment Rate  
57.4%

No Change

- The labour force contracted by 0.2% to 564,500 (-1,000) in April 2026. The labour participation rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 61.3%.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose by 0.1% in April (+700 jobs) with gains in full-time (+4,700, +1.1%) and losses in part-time employment (-3,900, -4.2%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics.)
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell to 6.3% in April, with a 0.2% contraction in the labour force alongside a 0.1% 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) remained virtually unchanged at 57.4% in April.

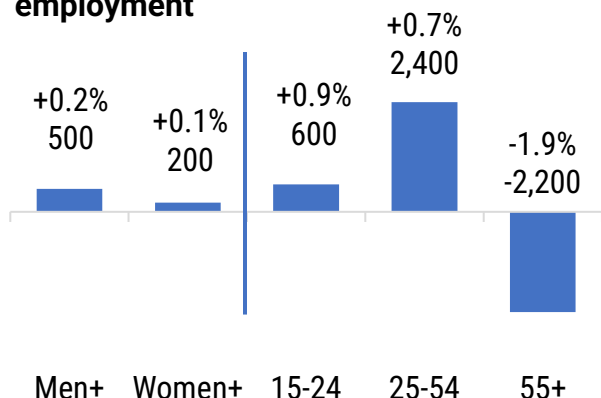
<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 14-10-0287-01](#), Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

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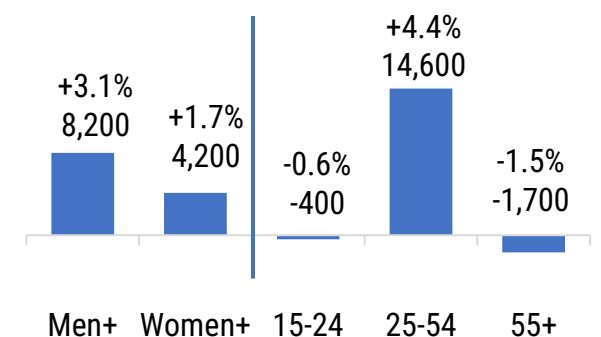
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Research, Accountability & Intergovernmental Affairs Division

## Labour Market Trends by Population Groups

### Month-over-month change in employment



### Year-over-year change in employment



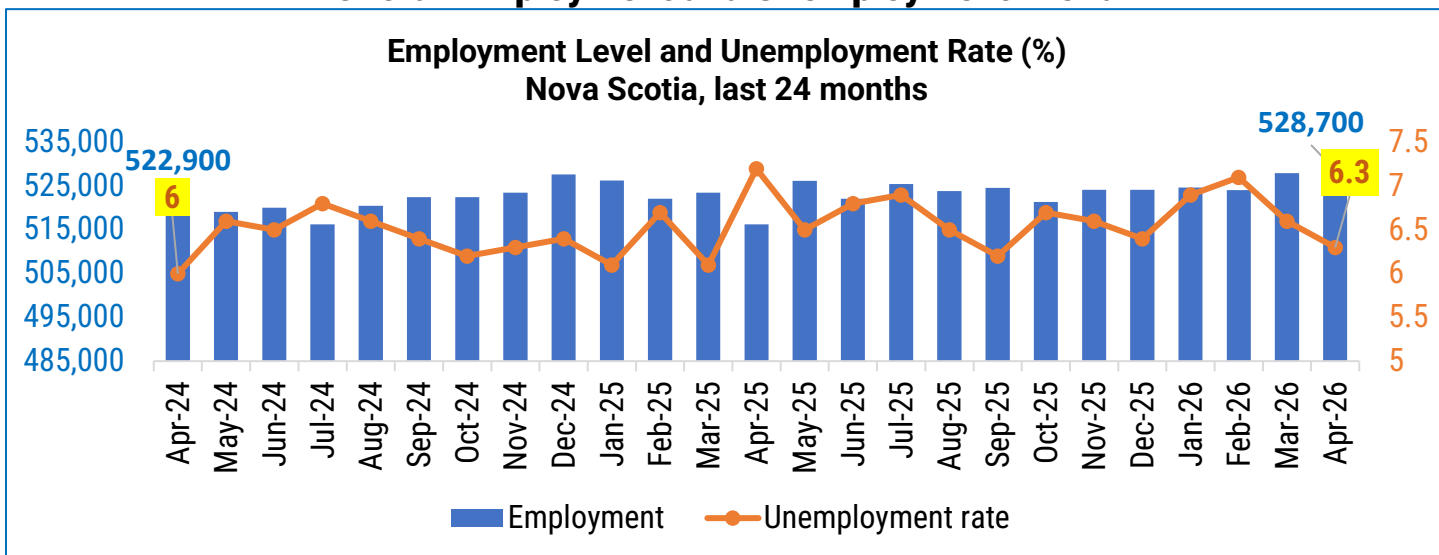
- In Nova Scotia, employment increased for both men (+0.2%) and women (+0.1%). Full-time employment rose for men (+3,500 jobs) and women (+1,200 jobs), while part-time employment declined for both groups, down 3,000 jobs for men and 900 jobs for women.
- Older workers (55 years and over) experienced job losses of 2,200 (-1.9%). Core age workers (25 to 54 years) and youth workers (15 to 24 years) experienced job gains last month of 2,400 jobs (+0.7%) and 600 (+0.9%), respectively.
- Compared with April of last year, employment increased for both men (+3.1%) and women (+1.7%). Growth was driven by gains in both full-time and part-time employment across genders. Men recorded larger increases, with full-time employment up by 5,400 jobs and part-time employment up by 2,800 jobs. Women also saw notable gains, with full-time employment increasing by 2,300 jobs and part-time employment rising by 2,000 jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, employment declined among older workers aged 55 and over (-1,700 jobs, -1.5%) and youth aged 15-24 (-400 jobs, -0.6%), while core-age workers aged 25-54 recorded employment gains.

The unemployment rate for young women rose, while that of young men fell in the last month. Among those aged 25+, both men's and women's unemployment rates fell by 0.2 and 0.3 points, respectively.

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

Unemployment Rate (%)	Apr-25	Mar-26	Apr-26	Month/month change	Year/year change
<b>Age 15-24</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>-0.4 pp</b>	<b>0.5 pp</b>
Men+	15.3	14.3	12.8	-1.5 pp	-2.5 pp
Women+	12.0	15.0	15.9	0.9 pp	3.9 pp
<b>Age 25 and over</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>-0.3 pp</b>	<b>-1.1 pp</b>
Men+	6.9	5.9	5.7	-0.2 pp	-1.2 pp
Women+	5.4	4.9	4.6	-0.3 pp	-0.8 pp

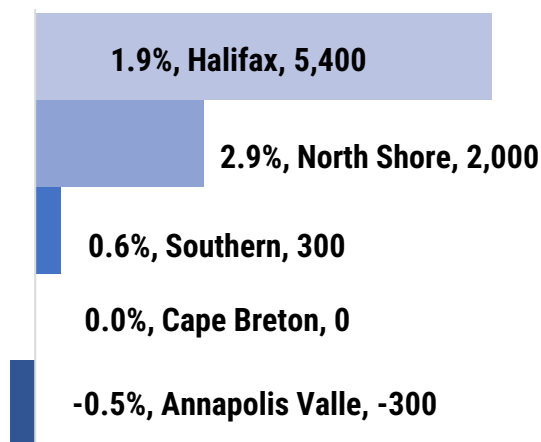
## Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 0.6% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- Over the past year, the average unemployment rate was 6.6%, staying near historical low levels.

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

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

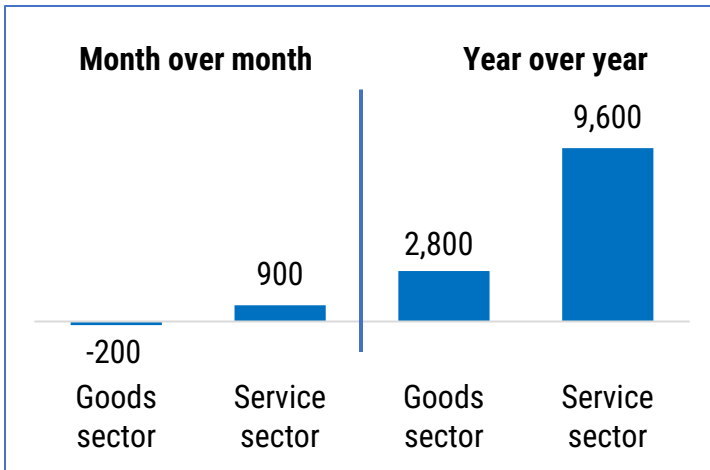


- In April 2026 (three-month average from February 2026 to April 2026), compared to March 2026 (January 2026 to March 2026), Halifax (+0.9%), Cape Breton (+0.7%), and Annapolis Valley (+0.7%) experienced job gains, while those of Southern remained unchanged. North Shore (-0.4%) experienced job losses.
- Compared to one year ago in April 2025, the Annapolis Valley reported job losses, while those of Cape Breton remained unchanged, and the other three regions recorded job gains<sup>3</sup>.

<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.

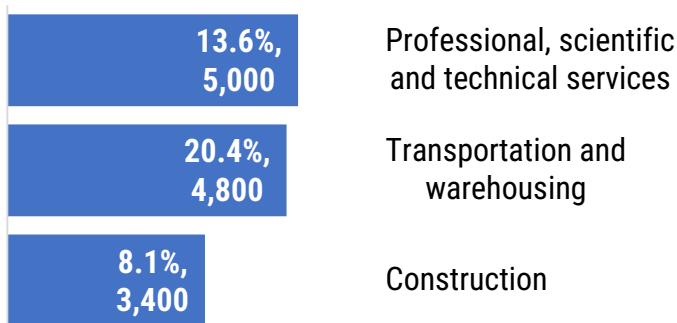
<sup>3</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, Table [14-10-0387-01](#), three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

## Employment Trend by Industry



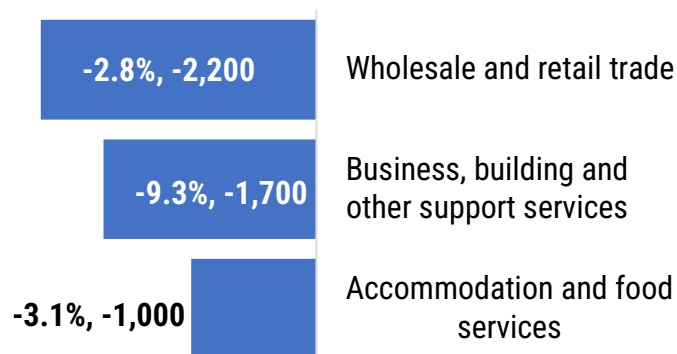
- Employment in the goods-producing sector fell month-over-month (-0.2%) and rose year-over-year (+3.0%), while employment in the services-producing sector rose both month-over-month (+0.2%) and year-over-year (+2.3%).
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was “professional, scientific and technical services” (+2,100 jobs, +5.3%). The top contracting industry was “information, culture and recreation” (-2,100 jobs, -10.4%).

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



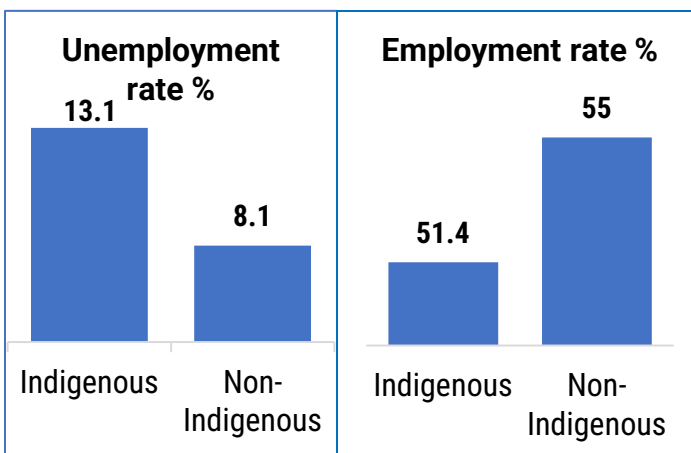
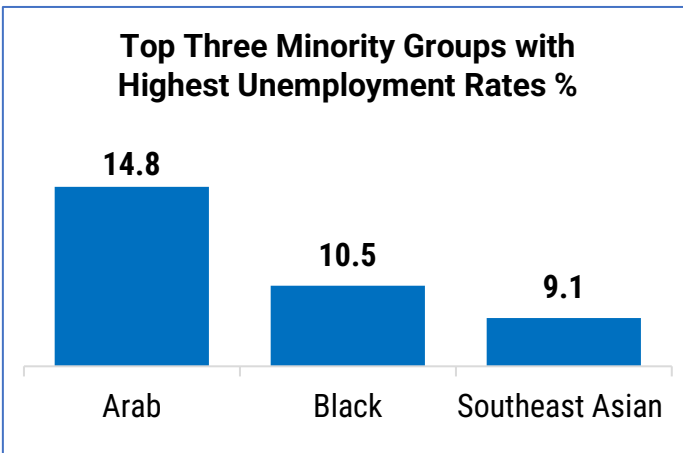
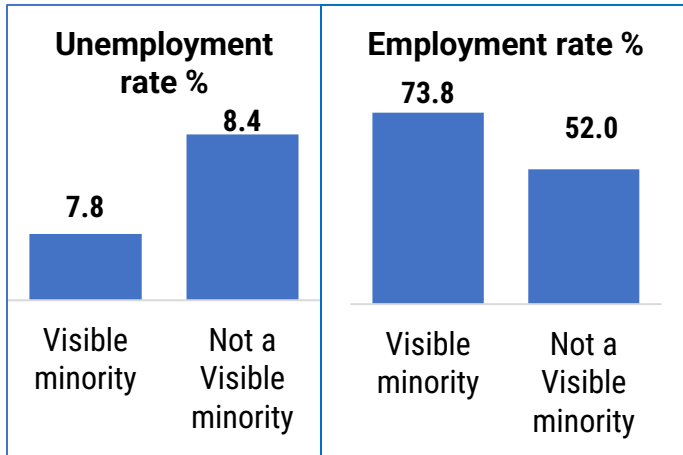
- Compared to twelve months ago (April 2025), employment gains were largest in “professional, scientific and technical services” (+5,000 jobs, +13.6%). This was followed by “transportation and warehousing” (+4,800 jobs, +20.4%) & “construction” (+3,400 jobs, +8.1%).

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



- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in “wholesale and retail trade” (-2,200 jobs, -2.8%), “business, building and other support services” (-1,700 jobs, -9.3%), and “accommodation and food services” (-1,000 jobs, -3.1%).

## Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada<sup>4</sup>



- The employment rate (number of employed for and non-visible minorities) for visible minorities was higher than that of non-visible minorities (73.8% vs 52.0%) on average in the last three months ending in April 2026. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to March 2026 (3-month average from January 2026 to March 2026), the employment rate of visible minorities rose by 0.7 percentage points, while that of non-visible minorities rose by 0.2 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data<sup>5</sup>, Arab, Black, and Southeast Asian people face the highest unemployment rates (14.8%, 10.5%, & 9.1%, respectively), while 4.9% of Filipinos were unemployed in the last three months.
- Indigenous people in Atlantic Canada have a higher unemployment rate than the non-indigenous population (13.1% versus 8.1%), while they face a lower employment rate (51.4% versus 55.0%). Indigenous employment rate remained unchanged in April 2026.
- 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.

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **June 5, 2026**, covering the May 2026 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