# Nova Scotia Labour Market Snapshot 2025

*Key labour market indicators and trends.*

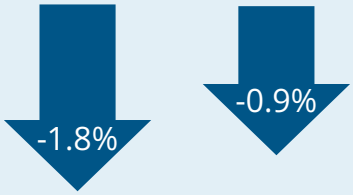
## Employment

### Employment

**523,500** Nova Scotians are **working**, which is **57.3%** of Nova Scotians aged 15 and over (*employment rate*). Most of these jobs (78%) are full-time.

Nova Scotia **added 2,200 jobs** from 2024 to 2025 (+0.4%), including 5,200 full-time positions.

### Job Losses for Youth & Women




**Youth** lost jobs **(-1.8%)**, performing worse than other age groups. **Women** also lost jobs **(-0.9%)**, while men gained jobs.

## Unemployment rate

### Unemployment

**36,900** Nova Scotians are **unemployed**, that is **6.6%** of our workforce (*unemployment rate).*

The **unemployment rate rose** by 0.1 percentage points in 2025.
It has remained at historic lows from 2022 to 2025.

### Unemployment Rate by Age and Gender

**Youth** unemployment rate **rose 0.9 percentage points** to 13.0%, the highest among all age groups.

**Women's** unemployment rate **rose 0.1 percentage points** to 5.7%, remaining below men's rate of 7.4%.

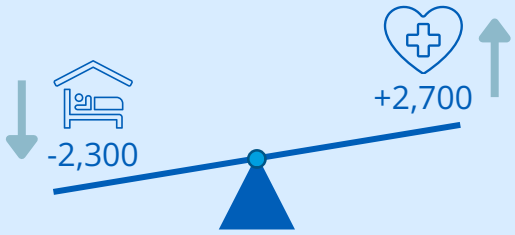
## Industry

### Top Three Industry Employers

**Health care & social assistance:** 16%
**Wholesale & retail trade:** 15%
**Construction:** 8%

The **service sector** made up 81.3% of Nova Scotia's jobs, the highest in Atlantic Canada.

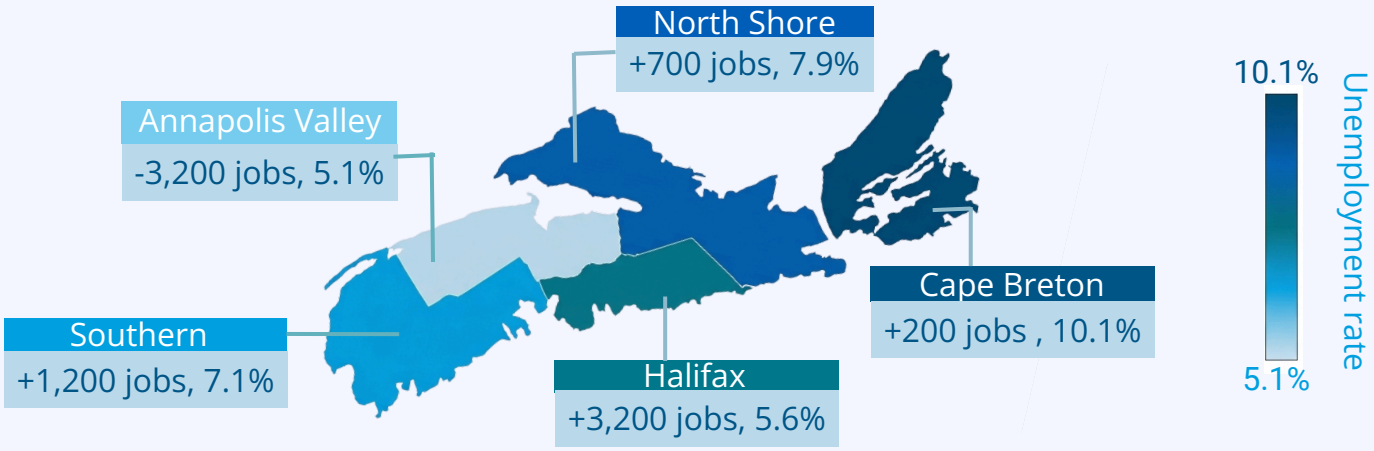
### Top Job Gains and Losses




Health care & social assistance gained 2,700 jobs while accommodation & food services lost 2,300 jobs, compared to 2024.

## Region

### Regional Employment Change 2024-25 & Unemployment Rate 2025




Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

NOVA SCOTIA