

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 4,800 jobs in June 2026. The unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage points to 6.5%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in June 2026. The Labour Force Survey references the week of June 14 to 20, 2026, and compares it to the of May 10 to 16, 2026.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in June 2026¹ Compared to May 2026

Labour Force
570,600

+1,500

Employment
533,300

+4,800

Full Time
442,400
Part Time
90,900

+4,000

+800

Unemployment Rate
6.5%

-0.6 pp

Employment Rate
57.7%

+0.4 pp

- The labour force expanded by 0.3% to 570,600 (+1,500) in June 2026. The labour participation rate remained unchanged at 61.7%.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose by 0.9% in June (+4,800 jobs) with gains in full-time (+4,000 jobs, +0.9%) and part-time employment (+800 jobs, +0.9%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics.)
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate dropped to 6.5% in June, as the 0.9% employment expansion outpaced the 0.3% labour force expansion. 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 0.4 percentage points to 57.7% in June.

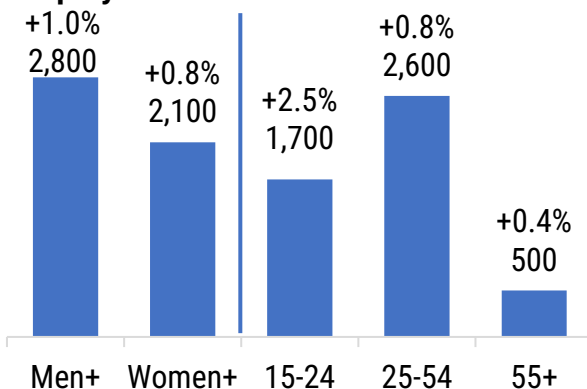
¹ Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 14-10-0287-01](#), Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

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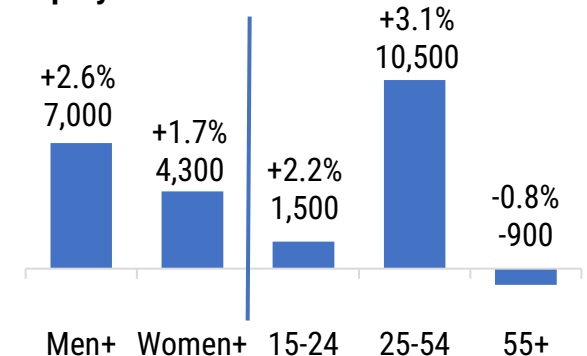
Labour Market Trends by Population Groups

Month-over-month change in employment



- In June 2026, employment increased for both men and women, with gains of 2,800 jobs (+1.0%) and 2,100 jobs (+0.8%), respectively. Among men, employment growth consisted of 1,000 full-time jobs and 1,700 part-time jobs. For women, employment gains were concentrated in full-time work (+3,000 jobs), partially offset by a loss of 900 part-time jobs.
- All age groups experienced employment growth in June 2026, led by youth (15 to 24 years) with 1,700 job gains (+2.5%). Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) and older workers (55 years and over) gained 2,600 jobs (+0.8%) and 500 (+0.4%), respectively.

Year-over-year change in employment



- Compared with June 2025, employment expanded for both men (+2.6%) and women (+1.7%). Men's gains were driven largely by increases in part-time work (+5,800 jobs), while gains in full-time employment were more modest (+1,200 jobs). In contrast, women's employment growth was concentrated in full-time work (+5,700 jobs), despite losses in part-time employment (-1,400 jobs).
- Over the past 12 months, employment rose among core-age workers aged 25-54 (+10,500 jobs, +3.1%) and youth (+1,500 jobs, +2.2%), and fell for older workers (-900 jobs, -0.8%).

In June 2026, the unemployment rate declined for both young men and women. Among those aged 25+, the unemployment rate for women rose 0.1 points, while the rate for men fell by 0.4 points.

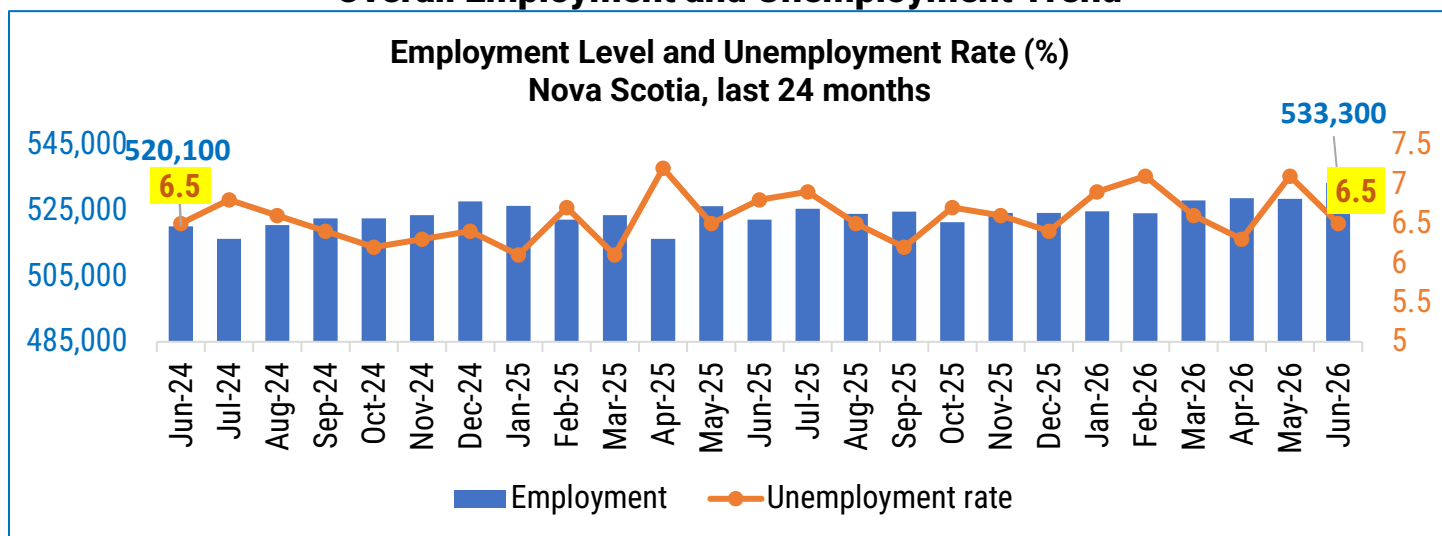
Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Jun-25	May-26	Jun-26	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	13.5	13.7	10.5	-3.2 pp	-3.0 pp
Men+	14.2	15.7	11.4	-4.3 pp	-2.8 pp
Women+	12.8	11.1	9.6	-1.5 pp	-3.2 pp
Age 25 and over	5.7	6.1	5.9	-0.2 pp	0.2 pp
Men+	6.5	6.5	6.1	-0.4 pp	-0.4 pp
Women+	4.8	5.6	5.7	0.1 pp	0.9 pp

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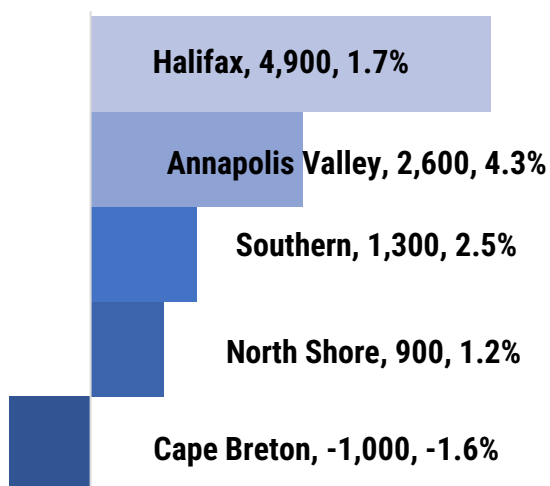
Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend



- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 0.7% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- Over the past year, the average unemployment rate was 6.7%, 0.2 percentage points higher than the previous 12-month period.

Employment Trend by Economic Region²

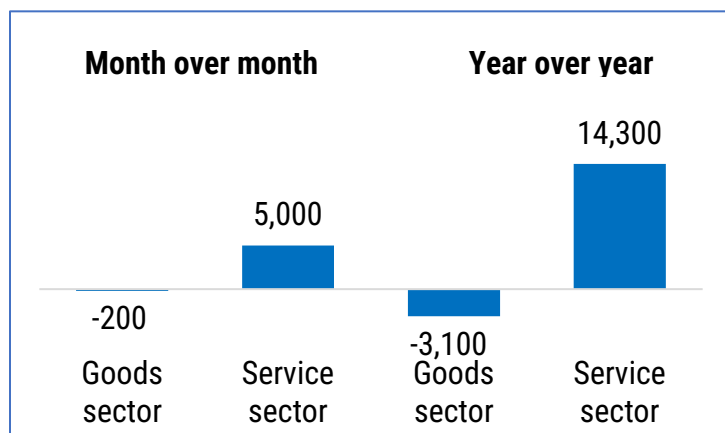
Year-over-Year Employment Change by Economic Region



- In June 2026 (three-month average from April 2026 to June 2026), compared to May 2026 (March 2026 to May 2026), all economic regions experienced job gains, led by Cape Breton (+3.5%), followed by Annapolis Valley (+3.1%), North Shore (+1.8%), Halifax (+0.7%) and Southern (+0.4%).
- Compared to one year ago in June 2025, all regions experienced job gains except Cape Breton, which experienced 1,000 job losses.

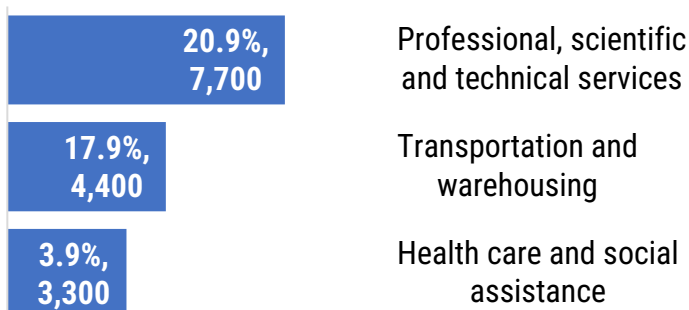
² ***Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

Employment Trend by Industry



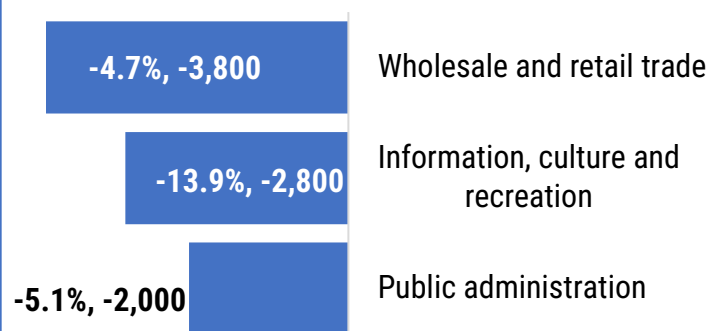
- Employment in the goods-producing sector fell both month-over-month (-0.2%) and year-over-year (-3.2%), while employment in the services-producing sector rose both month-over-month (+1.2%) and year-over-year (+3.4%).
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was "Professional, scientific and technical services" (+4,200 jobs, +10.4%). The top contracting industry was "wholesale and retail trade" (-1,000 jobs, -1.3%).

Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains



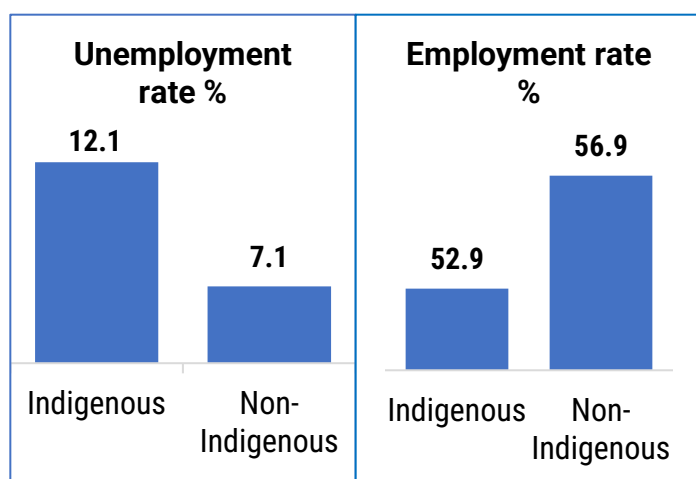
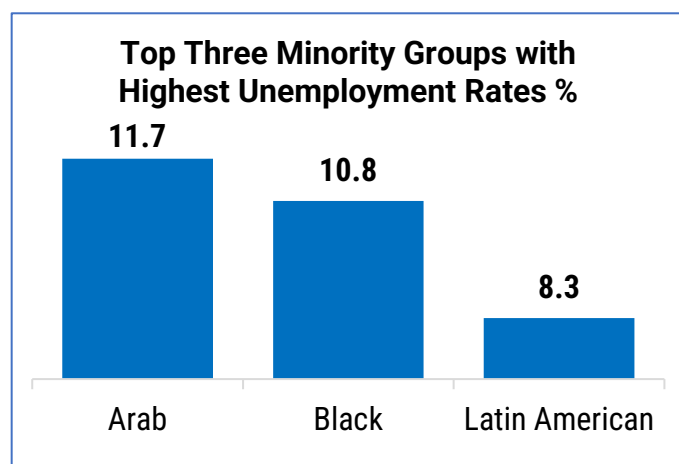
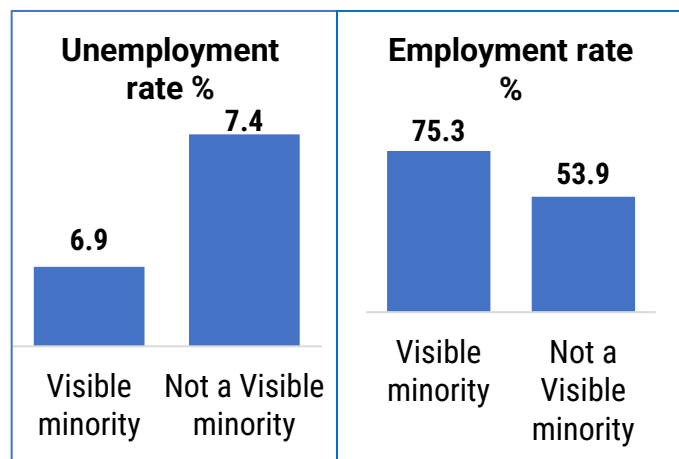
- Compared to twelve months ago (June 2025), employment gains were largest in "professional, scientific and technical services" (+7,700 jobs, +20.9%). This was followed by "transportation and warehousing" (+4,400 jobs, +17.9%) & "health care and social assistance" (+3,300 jobs, +3.9%).

Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Loss



- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in "wholesale and retail trade" (-3,800 jobs, -4.7%), "information, culture and recreation" (-2,800 jobs, -13.9%), and "public administration" (-2,000 jobs, -5.1%).

Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada³



- The employment rate (number of employed for and non-visible minorities) for visible minorities was higher than that of non-visible minorities (75.3% vs 53.9%) on average in the last three months ending in June 2026. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to May 2026 (3-month average from March 2026 to May 2026), the employment rate of visible minorities rose by 0.6 percentage points, while that of non-visible minorities rose by 1.1 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁴, Arab, Black, and Latin American people face the highest unemployment rates (11.7%, 10.8%, & 8.3%, respectively), while 3.5% of Filipinos in the labour force were unemployed in the last three months.
- Over the three months ending in June 2026, Indigenous people in Atlantic Canada had a higher unemployment rate than the non-Indigenous population (12.1% versus 7.1%) and a lower employment rate (52.9% versus 56.9%). Compared with the three-month period ending in May 2026, the Indigenous employment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points.
- It is worth noting that aggregate data masks the fact that visible minorities and indigenous people face additional labour market barriers.

³ Source: Statistics Canada, Table: [14-10-0373-01](#); [14-10-0401-01](#), three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

⁴ Data not available for West Asian, Korean, and Japanese minority groups.

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **August 7, 2026**, covering the July 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