

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 200 jobs in September 2026. The unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 6.3%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in September 2026. The Labour Force Survey references the week of September 13 to 19, 2026, and compares it to the week of August 9 to 15, 2026.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in September 2026¹ Compared to August 2026

Labour Force
577,100

+1,400

Employment
540,700

+200

Full Time
449,900
Part Time
90,800

+4,000

-3,800

Unemployment Rate
6.3%

+0.2 pp

Employment Rate
58.3%

unchanged

- The labour force expanded by 0.2% to 577,100 (+1,400) in September 2026. The labour participation rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 62.2%.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose very little in September (+200 jobs), with gains in full-time (+4,000 jobs, +0.9%) mostly offset by losses in part-time employment (-3,800 jobs, -4.0%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics.)
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose to 6.3% in September, since employment remained virtually unchanged while the labour force expanded by 0.2%. 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 the same at 58.3% in September.

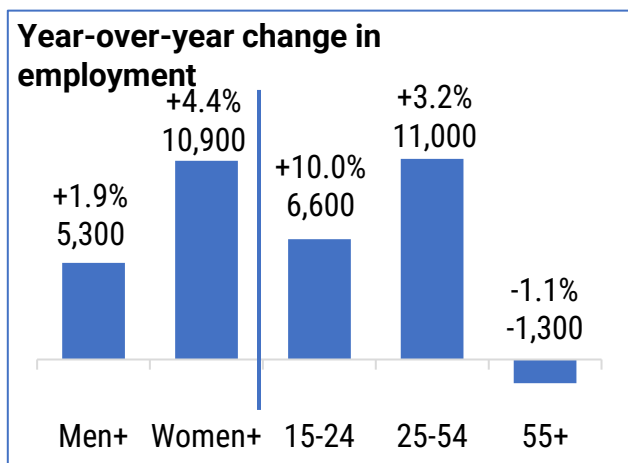
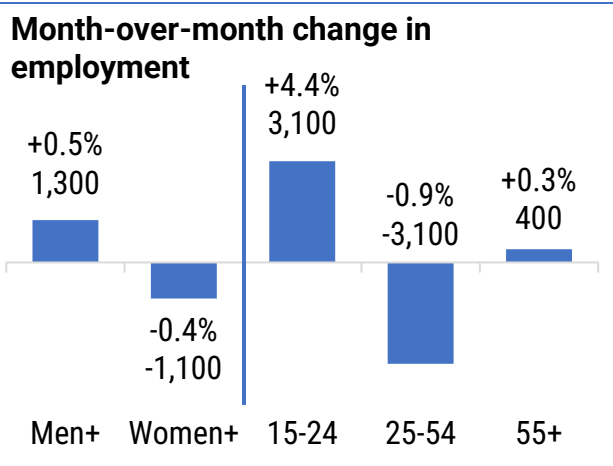
¹ Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 14-10-0287-01](#), Adjusted for Seasonality, Total - Gender, Ages 15+.

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Labour Market Trends by Population Groups

- In September 2026, employment increased for men gained by 1,300 jobs (+0.5%), and fell for women by 1,100 jobs (-0.4%). Among men, employment growth consisted of gains in full-time jobs (+3,800 jobs) and losses in part-time jobs (-2,500 jobs). For women, there were employment losses in part-time work (-1,300 jobs), partially offset by a gain of 300 full-time jobs.
- Youth (15-24 years) and older workers (55 years and over) experienced employment growth in September 2026, gaining 3,100 jobs (+4.4%) and 400 jobs (+0.3%), respectively. In comparison, core-aged workers (25-54 years) lost 3,100 jobs (-0.9%).
- Compared with September 2025, employment expanded for both men (+1.9%) and women (+4.4%). Men's gains were driven by full-time work (+5,300 jobs), partially offset by losses in part-time employment (-100 jobs). Women's employment growth was led by full-time employment (+8,000 jobs), followed by part-time employment (+2,800).
- Over the past 12 months, employment rose among core-age workers (+11,000 jobs, +3.2%) and youth (+6,600 jobs, +10.0). Older workers lost 1,300 jobs (-1.1%).



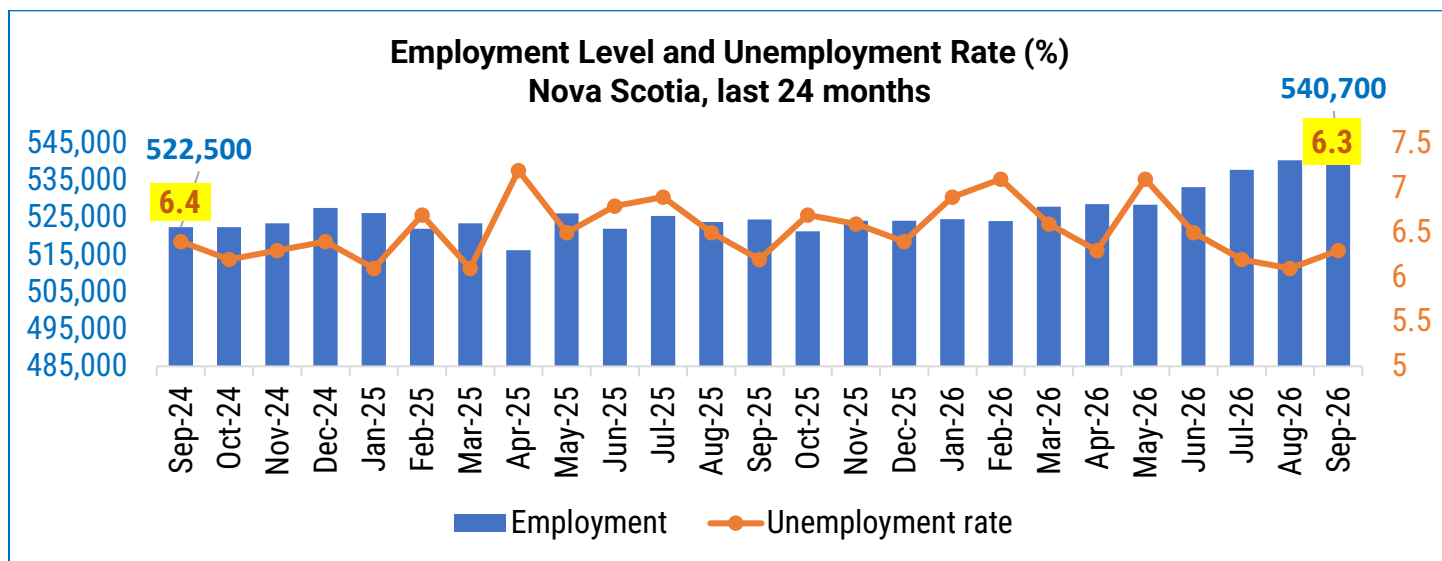
In September 2026, the unemployment rate rose for both young men and young women. Among those aged 25+, the unemployment rate did not change for men and rose for women.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-26	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	12.7	10.1	10.8	0.7 pp	-1.9 pp
Men+	10.8	9.4	9.9	0.5 pp	-0.9 pp
Women+	15.1	11.0	11.8	0.8 pp	-3.3 pp
Age 25 and over	5.2	5.5	5.6	0.1 pp	0.4 pp
Men+	5.8	6.0	6.0	0.0 pp	0.2 pp
Women+	4.5	4.9	5.1	0.2 pp	0.6 pp

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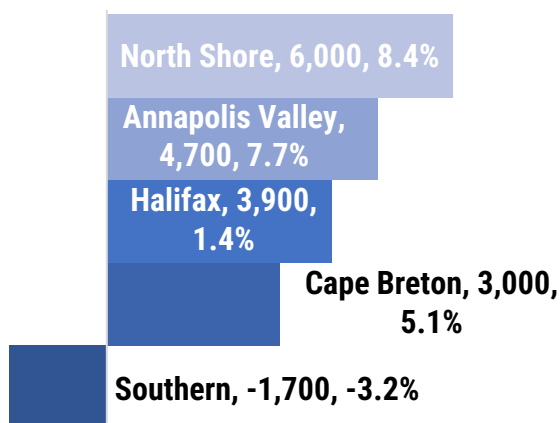


Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend

- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 1.1% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- Over the past year, the average unemployment rate was 6.6%, 0.1 percentage points higher than the previous 12-month period.

Employment Trend by Economic Region²

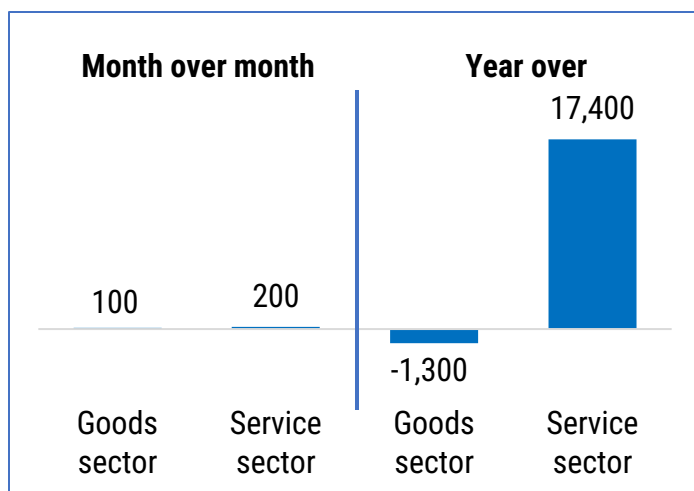
Year-over-Year Employment Change by Economic Region



- In September 2026 (three-month average from July 2026 to September 2026), compared to August 2026 (June 2026 to August 2026), Southern (-1.3%), the North Shore (+0.9%) is the only region that experienced job gains. Employment declined in Cape Breton (-1.0%), Halifax (-0.3%), and Annapolis Valley (-0.2%).
- Compared with September 2025, all regions experienced job gains except Southern, which recorded a 3.2% decline.

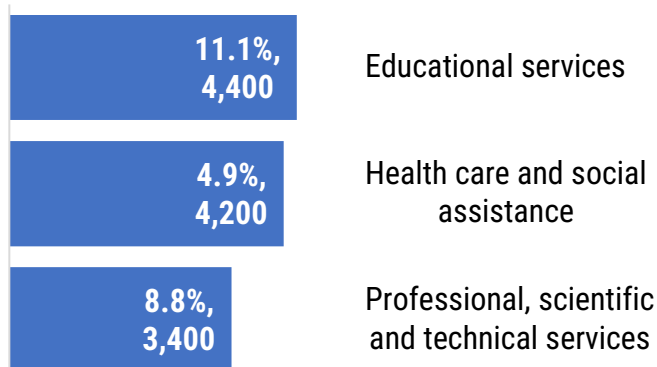
² ***Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

Employment Trend by Industry



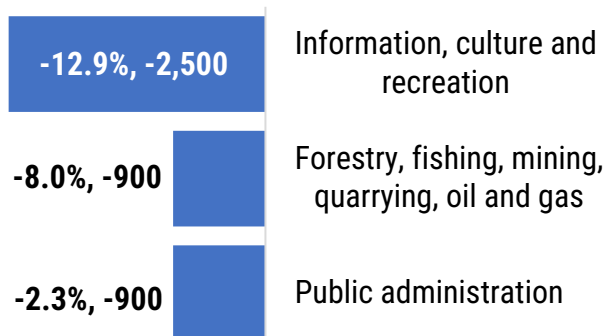
- Employment in the goods-producing sector rose month-over-month (+0.1%) and fell year-over-year (-1.3%), while employment in the services-producing sector remained virtually unchanged month-over-month and rose year-over-year (+4.1%).
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was "health care and social assistance" (+2,900 jobs, +3.3%). The top contracting industry was "transportation and warehousing" (-4,400 jobs, -15.0%).

Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains



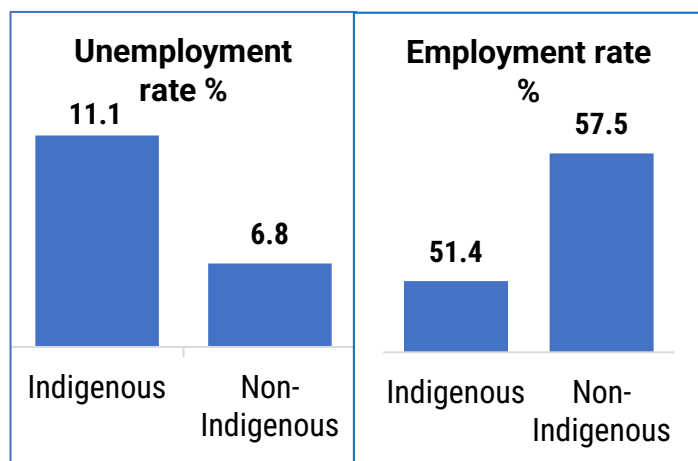
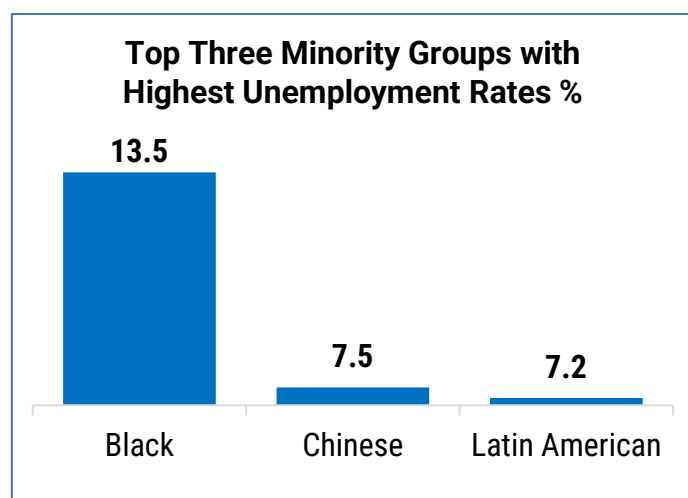
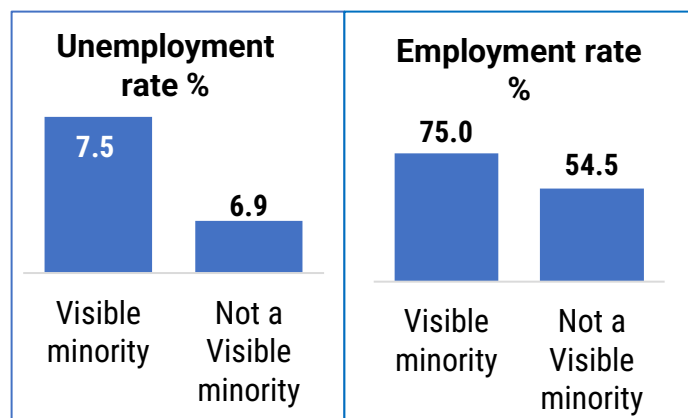
- Compared to twelve months ago (September 2025), employment gains were largest in "educational services" (+4,400 jobs, +11.1%). This was followed by "health care and social assistance" (+4,200 jobs, +4.9%) & "professional, scientific and technical services" (+3,400 jobs, +8.8%).

Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Loss



- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in "information, culture and recreation" (-2,500 jobs, -12.9%), "forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas" (-900 jobs, -8.0%), and "public administration" (-900 jobs, -2.3%).

Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada³



- The employment rate for visible minorities was higher than that of non-visible minorities (75.0% vs 54.5%) on average in the last three months ending in September 2026. This can mostly be attributed to the higher labour participation of visible minorities.
- Compared to September 2026 (3-month average from July 2026 to September 2026), the employment rate of visible minorities fell by 0.5 percentage points, while that of non-visible minorities fell by 0.3 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.
- Among the groups with available data⁴, Black (13.5%), Chinese (7.5%), and Latin Americans (7.2%) face the highest unemployment rates. Southeast Asians (2.9%) and South Asians (5.1%) had the lowest unemployment rates in the last three months.
- Over the three months ending in September 2026, Indigenous people in Atlantic Canada had a higher unemployment rate than the non-Indigenous population (11.1% versus 6.8%) and a lower employment rate (51.4% versus 57.5%). Compared with the three-month period ending in August 2026, the Indigenous employment rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points. 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.

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The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **November 6, 2026**, covering the October 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, gender, 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, gender, 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