

Youth Unemployment in Nova Scotia

A snapshot of May 2026 and annual averages of 2025.

May 2026

13.7%

unemployment rate

May 2026

10,600

youth were
unemployed

2025 Average

13.0%

unemployment rate

2025 Average

10,000

youth were
unemployed

Current Status: Youth Unemployment

Mar-May 2026

14.2%

Mar-May 2025

12.5%

Unemployment
rate **up 1.7 points**
compared to a
year ago.



6th-highest provincial unemployment rate in
May 2026, above national average (+0.3
points).



11.5% of unemployed youth were **out of
work for 6 months or longer** as of Feb-
Apr¹ 2026.

Youth Unemployment in 2025

2025

13.0%

2024

12.1%

Unemployment
rate **up 0.9 points**
compared to a
year ago.

6th

6th-highest provincial unemployment
rate, below national average (13.8%),
improving from 4th in 2024 (12.1%).

12%

12.0% of unemployed youth (1,200) were
out of work for 6 months or longer in
2025, down 2 points from 2024.

Who Are These Unemployed Youth, 2025



57% were
young men.



70% of them
attained a **high
school diploma or
lower** education.



Half of them
looked for **full-
time work**

Before youth became unemployed,



6 out of 10 were in **school,**



and 2 out of 10 were **working.**

Youth Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET), 2025

11

percent

of youth were NEET of which **40%**
were looking for work, and 60%
were not.

4th

highest

among provinces, tied with Ontario
and Alberta, Nova Scotia's NEET rate is
1 point **above the national average**
(10%).

*Unemployment rate: the share of the labour force that is not working and is actively looking for work.

*Youth are those aged 15-24 years.

1. Data for 27 weeks or more is suppressed for May by Statistics Canada. To be updated when available.