Labour Market Information News

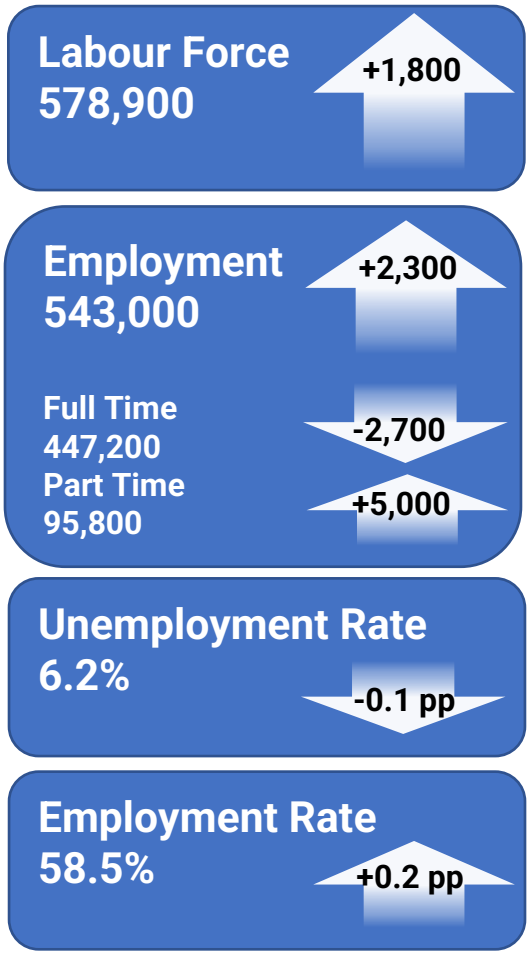
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November 2026

Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 2,300 jobs in October 2026. The unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 6.2%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in October 2026. The Labour Force Survey references the week of October 11 to 17, 2026, and compares it to the week of September 13 to 19, 2026.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in October 2026[1] Compared to September 2026



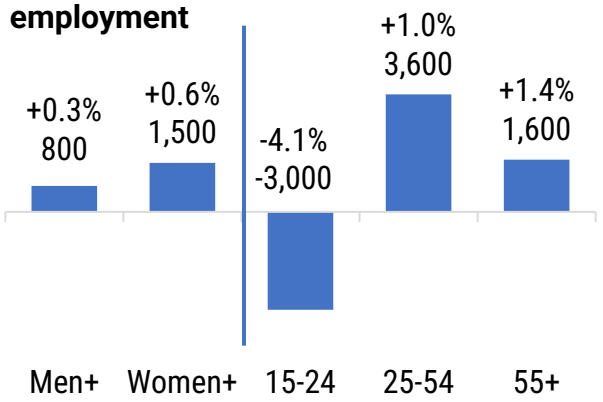
- The labour force expanded by 0.3% to 578,900 (+1,800) in October 2026. The labour participation rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 62.4%.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level rose in October (+2,300 jobs), with gains in part-time employment (+5,000, +5.5%), partially offset by losses in full-time (-2,700 jobs, -0.6%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics.)
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell to 6.2% in October, since employment rose (+0.4%) more than the labour force, which expanded by 0.3%. For context, the province's unemployment rate has averaged 9.9% since 1976.
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the population aged fifteen and over) rose 0.2 percentage points to 58.5% in October.

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

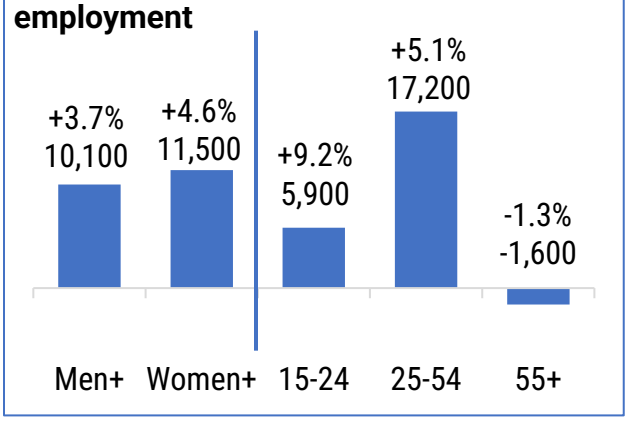
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Labour Market Trends by Population Groups

Month-over-month change in employment



Year-over-year change in employment

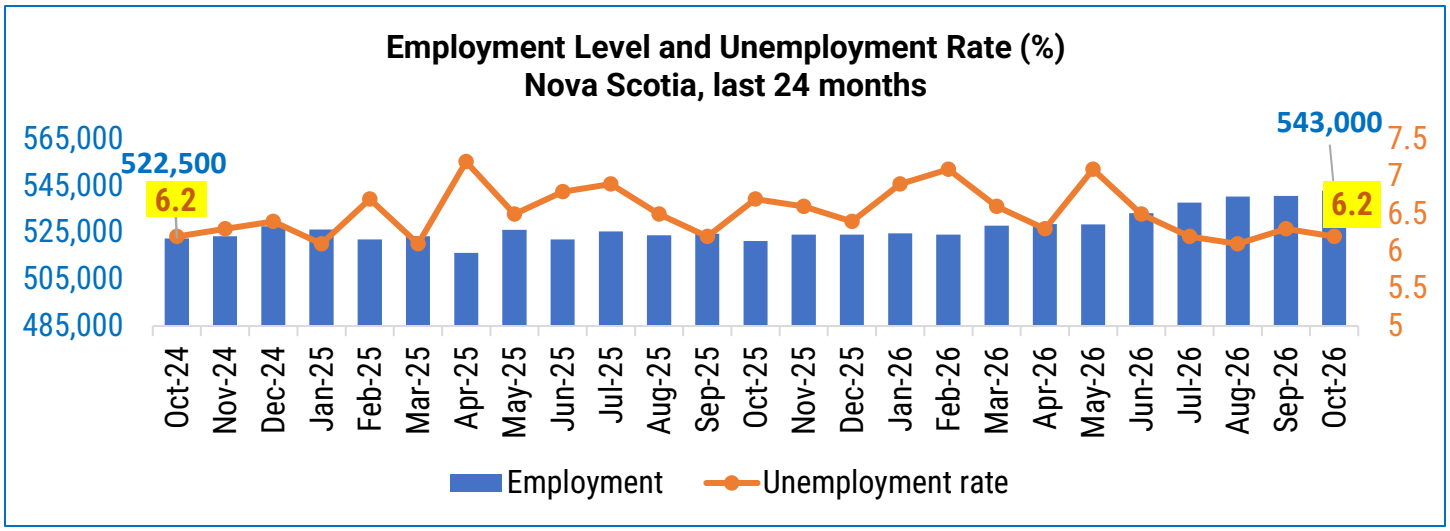


- In October 2026, employment increased for both women (1,500 jobs, +0.6%) and men (+800 jobs, +0.3%). Among men, employment growth consisted of gains in part-time jobs (+1,700 jobs) and losses in full-time jobs (-900 jobs). For women, there were also employment gains in part-time work (+3,300 jobs), partially offset by a loss of 1,700 full-time jobs.
- Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) and older workers (55 years and over) experienced employment growth in October 2026, gaining 3,600 jobs (+1.0%) and 1,600 jobs (+1.4%), respectively. In comparison, youth workers (15-24 years) lost 3,000 jobs (-4.1%).
- Compared with October 2025, employment expanded for both women (+4.6%) and men (+3.7%). Men's gains were driven by full-time work (+6,500 jobs), with additional gains in part-time employment (+3,500 jobs). Women's employment growth was led by part-time employment (+7,600 jobs), followed by full-time employment (+4,000).
- Over the past 12 months, employment rose among core-age workers (+17,200 jobs, +5.1%) and youth (+5,900 jobs, +9.2). Older workers lost 1,600 jobs (-1.3%).

In October 2026, the unemployment rate rose for both young men and young women. Among those aged 25+, the unemployment rate fell for both men and women.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

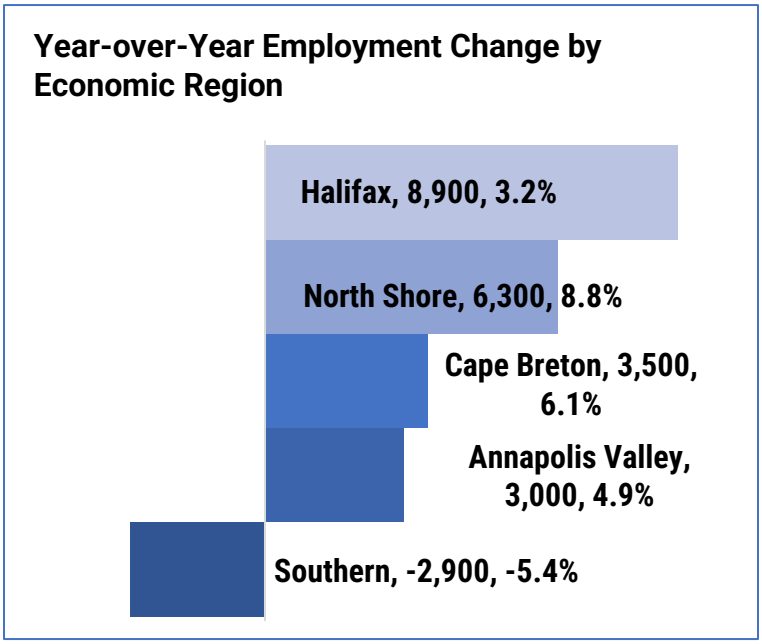
Unemployment Rate (%)	Oct-25	Sep-26	Oct-26	Month/month change	Year/year change
Age 15-24	**14.1**	**10.8**	**12.0**	**1.2 pp**	**-2.1 pp**
Men+	15.4	9.9	11.8	1.9 pp	-3.6 pp
Women+	12.6	11.8	12.2	0.4 pp	-0.4 pp
Age 25 and over	**5.6**	**5.6**	**5.3**	**-0.3 pp**	**-0.3 pp**
Men+	6.4	6.0	5.8	-0.2 pp	-0.6 pp
Women+	4.7	5.1	4.7	-0.4 pp	0.0 pp



Overall Employment and Unemployment Trend

- Employment levels remained elevated in the past twelve months, averaging 1.5% higher than the previous 12-month period.
- Over the past year, the average unemployment rate was 6.5%, the same as that of the previous 12-month period.

Employment Trend by Economic Region[2]

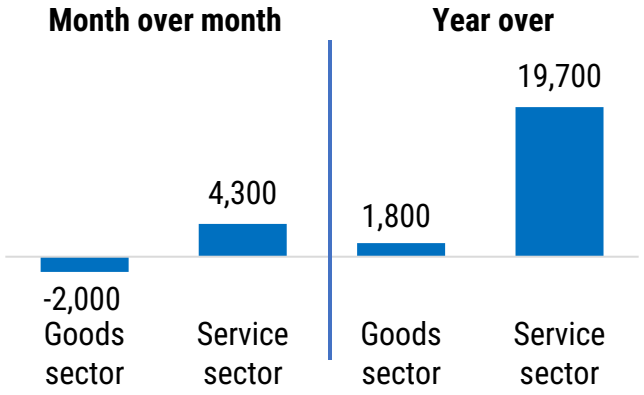


- In October 2026 (three-month average from August 2026 to October 2026), compared to September 2026 (July 2026 to September 2026), Halifax (+0.7%) and the North Shore (+0.1%) were the only regions that experienced job gains. Employment declined in Annapolis Valley (-1.2%), Cape Breton (-1.0%), and Southern (-1.0%).

- Compared with October 2025, all regions experienced job gains except Southern, which recorded a 5.4% 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

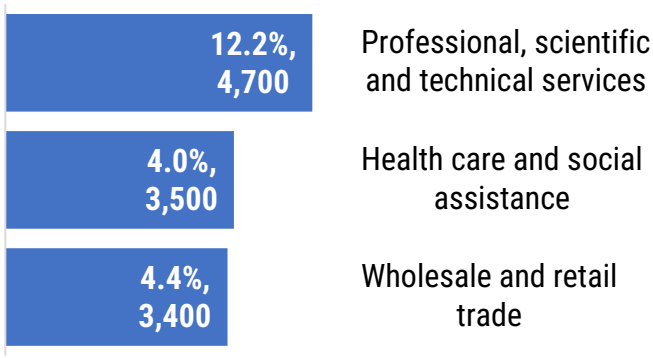


- Employment in the goods-producing sector fell month-over-month (-2.0%) and rose year-over-year (+1.9%), while employment in the services-producing sector rose both month-over-month (+1.0) and year-over-year (+4.6%).

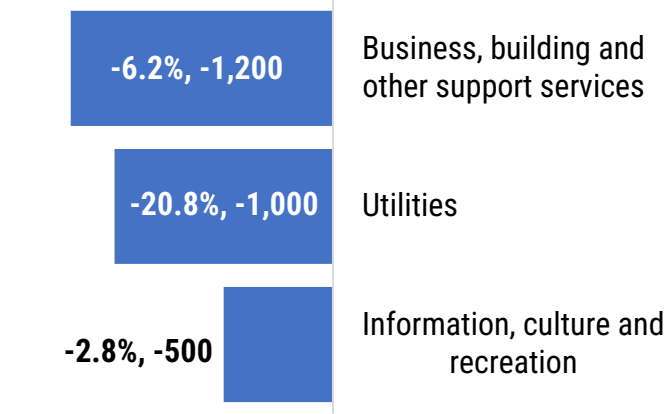
- In the last month, the top expanding industry was "transportation and warehousing (+2,000 jobs, +8.0%). The top contracting industry was "construction" (-2,000 jobs, -4.4%).

- Compared to twelve months ago (October 2025), employment gains were largest in "professional, scientific and technical services" (+4,700 jobs, +12.2%). This was followed by "health care and social assistance" (+3,500 jobs, +4.0%) & "wholesale and retail trade" (+3,400 jobs, +4.4%).

Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Gains

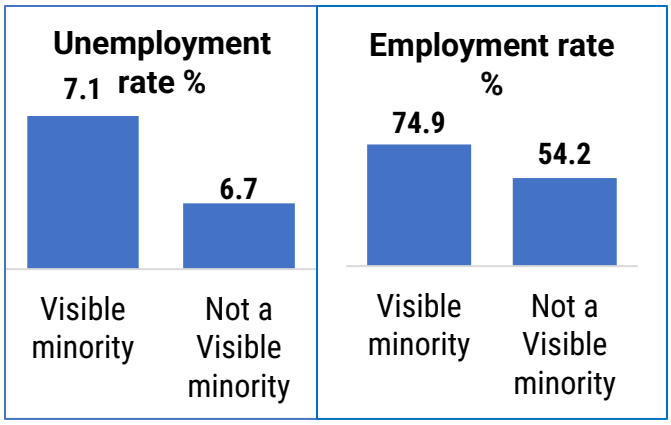


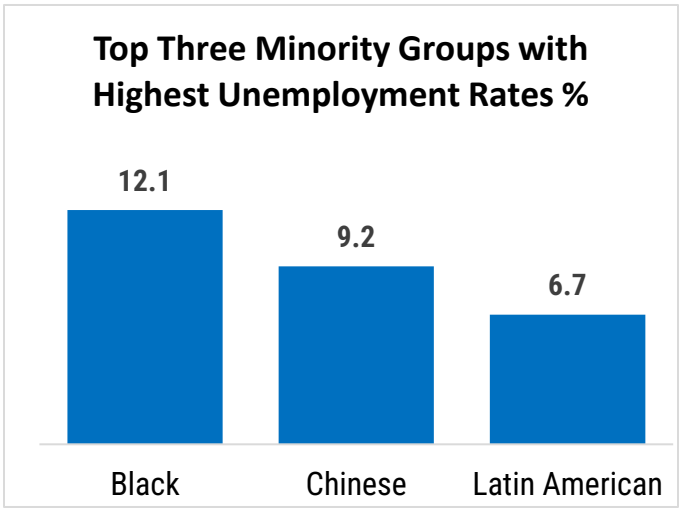
Top Three Industries with Year-over-Year Employment Loss

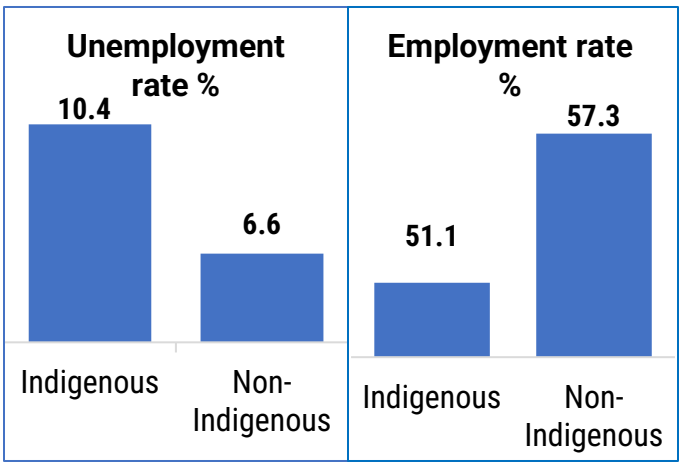


- Employment declines compared to twelve months ago were largest in "business, building and other support services" (-1,200 jobs, -6.2%), "utilities" (-1,000 jobs, -20.8%), and "information, culture and recreation" (-500 jobs, -2.8%).

Labour Market Outcomes of Diversity Groups in Atlantic Canada[3]







- The employment rate for visible minorities was higher than that of non-visible minorities (74.9% vs 54.2%) on average in the last three months ending in October 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 0.1 percentage points, while that of non-visible minorities fell by 0.3 percentage points in Atlantic Canada.

- Among the groups with available data[4], Black (12.1%), Chinese (9.2%), and Latin Americans (6.7%) faced the highest unemployment rates. Southeast Asians (4.0%) and Filipinos (4.0%) had the lowest unemployment rates in the last three months.

- Over the three months ending in October 2026, Indigenous people in Atlantic Canada had a higher unemployment rate than the non-Indigenous population (10.4% versus 6.6%) and a lower employment rate (51.1% versus 57.3%). Compared with the three-month period ending in September 2026, the Indigenous employment rate decreased by 0.3 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.

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **December 4, 2026**, covering the November 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