

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia increased in January by 9,400 jobs (+1.9%). The unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points to 5.0%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in January. The January Labour Force Survey references the week of January 15 to 21 and compares it to the week of December 4 to 10.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in January 2023¹ Compared to December 2022

Labour Force
528,100

+3,500

Employment
501,600

+9,400

Full Time
413,800
Part Time
87,700

+4,500

+4,800

Unemployment Rate
5.0%

-1.2
points

Employment Rate
58.9%

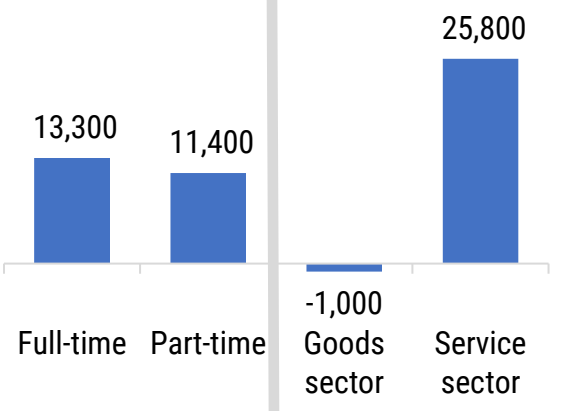
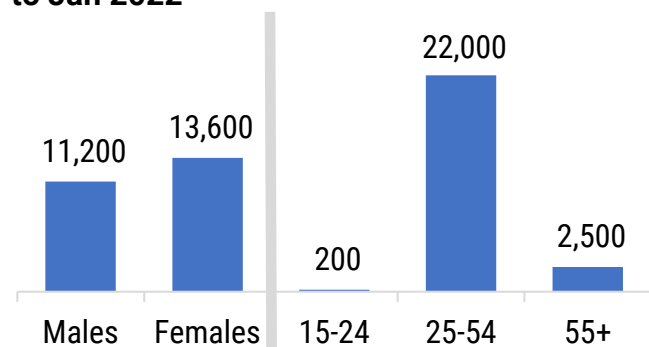
+1.0
points

- The labour force expanded by 0.7% to 528,100, with 3,500 more people entering the labour market than leaving. The labour participation rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 62.0% in January.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level expanded by 1.9% in January (+9,400 jobs) with gains in both part-time (+5.8%) and full-time (+1.1%) employment.
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points to 5.0%. This represents a new historical low for the unemployment rate in the province since the beginning of the modern Labour Force Survey. The previous low was 5.7% in November 2022. The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has averaged 10.2% since 1976.
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the whole labour force population aged 15 and over) rose by a full percentage point to 58.9% in January.
- *Note: Annual revisions to past Labour Force Survey data were released by Statistics Canada in January 2023.*

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

Employment data in January 2023 Compared to December 2022 and January 2022

Employment in Jan 2023 compared to Jan 2022

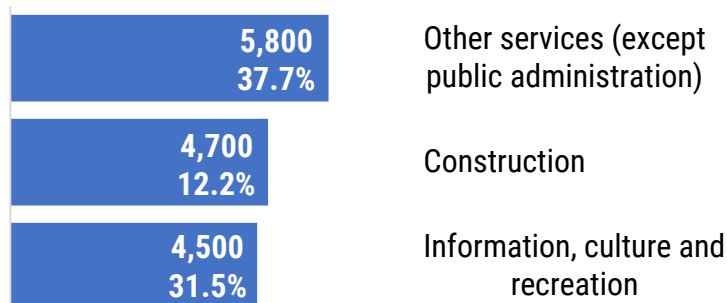


- Employment levels in January were higher for both Nova Scotia men (+7,000 jobs, +2.9%) and women (+2,400 jobs, +1.0%). The employment gain for men was mostly in full-time positions (+4,400 jobs, +2.1%), and part-time jobs for men were also higher (+2,500 jobs, +8.1%). Full-time employment was essentially unchanged for women, and part-time jobs were up by 2,300 (+4.4%). Both women and men surpassed their employment levels from a year ago by 5.8% and 4.6% respectively.
- Core-aged (25-54 years) workers led employment gains in January. They gained 7,700 jobs (+2.5%) while workers over 55 added 2,500 positions (+2.1%). Youth employment was down by 900 jobs in January (-1.3%) and was only 0.3% higher on a year-over-year basis.
- Full-time employment increased by 4,500 jobs (+1.1%) in January, and was 3.3% above its January 2022 level (+13,300 jobs). Part-time employment rose by 4,800 jobs (+5.8%) in January and was 14.9% higher (+11,400 jobs) compared with January 2022.
- The services-producing sector gained 5,400 jobs in January (+1.3%) while the goods-producing sector added 4,000 jobs (+4.3%). The top expanding industries were “manufacturing” (+2,200, +6.7%), “construction” (+1,800, +4.3%), and “educational services” (+1,500, +4.3%). Three industries lost jobs in January: “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil & gas” (-600, -5.3%), “professional, scientific and technical services” (-500, -1.3%), and “health care and social assistance” (-200, -0.2%).

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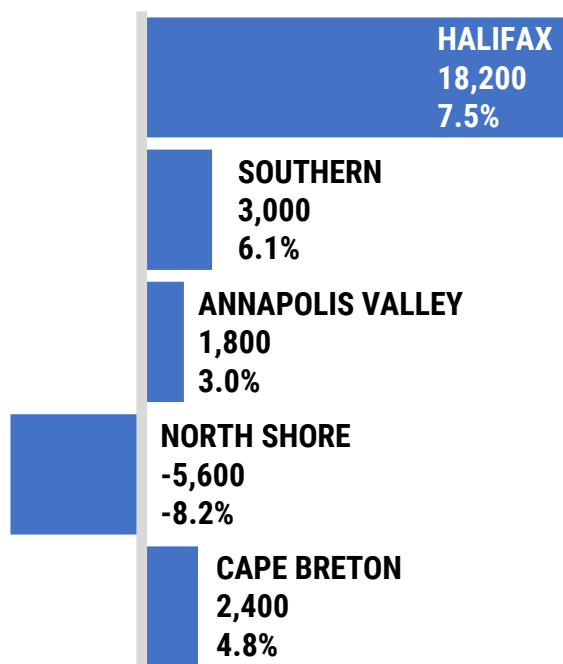
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Top Industries by Employment Gain Jan 2022 to Jan 2023



- Compared to January of last year, employment gains were largest in the “other services except public administration” sector (+5,800, +37.7%). This was followed by “construction” (+4,700, +12.2%), and “Information, culture and recreation” (+4,500, +31.5%).
- Employment losses compared to a year earlier were largest in the “manufacturing” sector (-2,400, -6.5%), followed by “transportation and warehousing” (-2,300, -10.0%), and “agriculture” (-2,000, -33.9%).

Employment Recovery Progress by Economic Region, Jan 2022 to Jan 2023



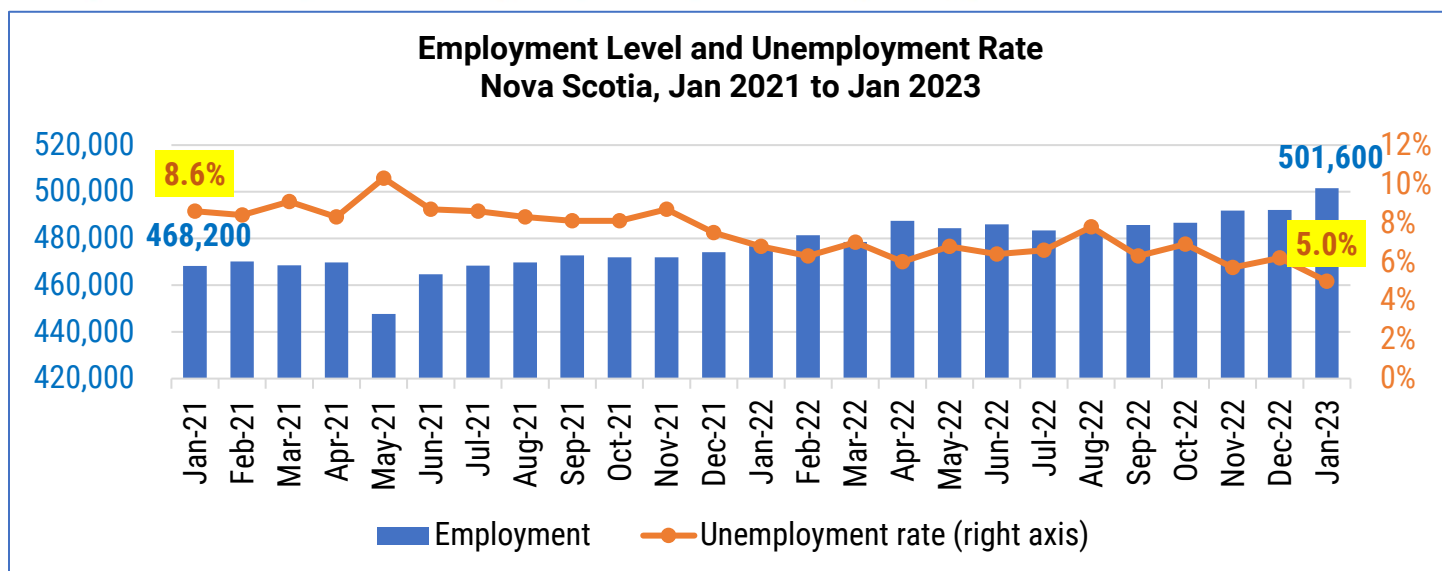
- In January (three-month average from November to January) compared to December (October to December), the only economic region to post job gains was Halifax (+1,100, +0.4%). All other regions lost jobs, with the North Shore region losing the most (-1,000, -1.6%), followed by the Cape Breton (-700, -1.3%), Annapolis Valley (-400, -0.6%) and Southern (-100, -0.2%) regions.
- Compared with one year ago (November 2021 to January 2022), all regions except for the North Shore region posted employment gains².

***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.

² Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0387-01, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

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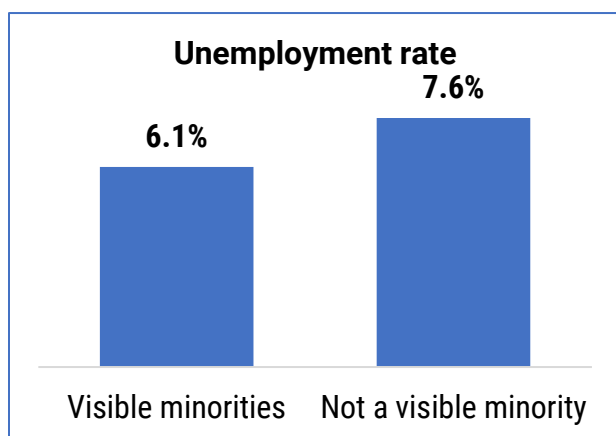
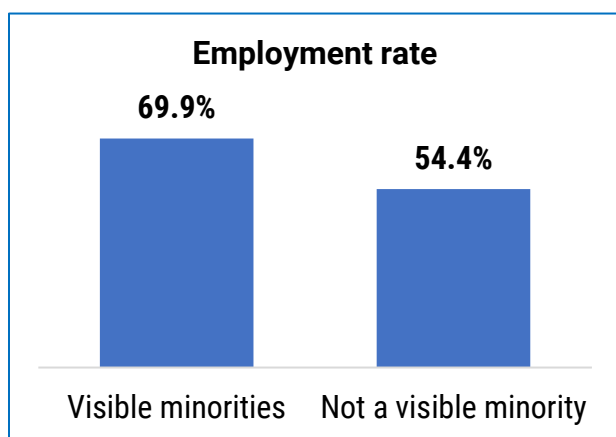
- The employment level in Nova Scotia rose by 1.9% in January, following a increase of less than 0.1% in December. The employment rate increased by a full percentage point to 58.9% in January. This is the highest the employment rate has been in Nova Scotia since June 2013.
- The unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points to 5.0% in January, a record low in the history of the modern Labour Force Survey dating back to 1976.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Unemployment Rate	Jan-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15 to 24 years	9.7%	12.5%	12.5%	0.0 pts	2.8 pts
Men 15 to 24 years	13.1%	13.7%	14.2%	0.5 pts	1.1 pts
Women 15 to 24 years	6.1%	11.4%	10.7%	-0.7 pts	4.6 pts
25 years and over	6.3%	5.1%	3.8%	-1.3 pts	-2.5 pts
Men 25 years and over	6.0%	5.8%	3.6%	-2.2 pts	-2.4 pts
Women 25 years and over	6.6%	4.3%	3.9%	-0.4 pts	-2.7 pts

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate was unchanged between December to January at 12.5%. The male youth unemployment rate rose by 0.5 percentage points in January, while the female youth unemployment rate fell by 0.7 points. The youth unemployment rate was higher than one year ago for both sexes (particularly for female youth), while falling for both men and women aged 25 and up.

Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in January 2023³



- The employment rate (number of employed for the entire labour force population 15 and over) for visible minorities in Atlantic Canada was higher than for non-visible minorities (69.9% vs 54.4%) on average in the last three months ending in January 2023.
- Compared to December (3-month average from October to December) the employment rate of visible minorities rose by 0.1 points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or indigenous people dropped by 0.9 points in Atlantic Canada.
- It is worth noting that aggregate data masks the fact that visible minorities and indigenous people face additional labour market barriers.
- There are large gaps among different visible minority groups. Among the groups with available data⁴, Southeast Asians face the highest unemployment rates (8.6%), while only 4.0% of Chinese and 3.0% of South Asians were unemployed in the last three months.
- Due to the relatively low participation rates of Arabs and Chinese, they face the lowest employment rates among all visible minority groups for whom data was reported (58.0% and 64.2%, respectively).

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on March 10th, 2023, covering the February 2023 labour market.

³ Source: Statistics Canada, Table: 14-10-0373-01, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality. Starting in March 2022, the Monthly Labour Force Survey started to report labour market indicators of visible minority groups averaged over the last three-month period instead of monthly indicators.

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

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 14 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