

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia decreased in February by 4,700 jobs (-0.9%). The unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage points to 5.7%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in February. The February Labour Force Survey references the week of February 12 to 18 and compares it to the week of January 15 to 21.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in February 2023¹ Compared to January 2023

Labour Force
527,100

-1,000

Employment
496,900

-4,700

Full Time
410,100
Part Time
86,700

-3,700

-1,000

Unemployment Rate
5.7%

+0.7
points

Employment Rate
58.2%

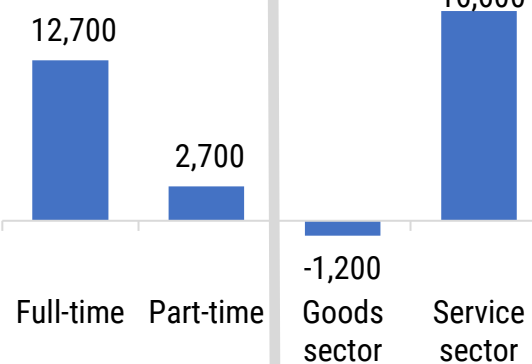
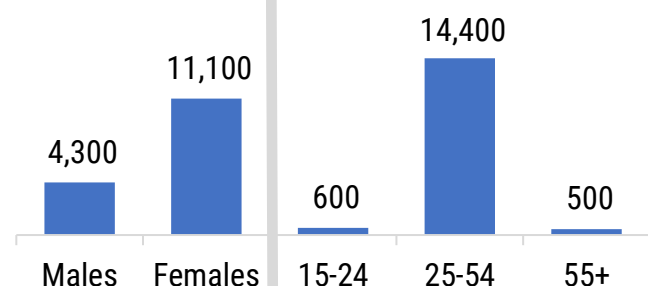
-0.7
points

- The labour force decreased by 0.2% to 527,100, with 1,000 more people leaving the labour market than entering. The labour participation rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 61.8% in February.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level declined by 0.9% in February (-4,700 jobs) with losses in both part-time (-1.1%) and full-time (-0.9%) employment. (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage points to 5.7%, following January's historical low of 5.0%. The province's unemployment rate remains very low when compared with past years. 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) fell by 0.7 percentage points to 58.2% in February.

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

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

Employment in Feb 2023 compared to Feb 2022

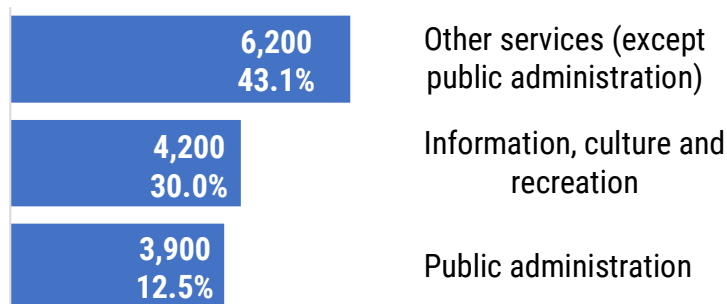


- Employment levels in February were lower for both Nova Scotia men (-3,400 jobs, -1.3%) and women (-1,400, -0.6%). Employment losses for men were nearly evenly split between full-time (-1,700, -0.8%), and part-time positions (-1,600, -4.8%). The decline in the employment level for women was due to a drop in full-time employment (-2,000, -1.0%), while women added 600 part-time jobs (+1.1%). Both women and men surpassed their employment levels from a year ago by 4.7% and 1.8% respectively.
- Core-aged (25-54 years) workers had the largest employment losses in February (-5,200, -1.6%). The employment level of workers over 55 was mostly unchanged (-300, -0.3%), and youth employment was 900 jobs higher (+1.4%).
- Full-time employment decreased by 3,700 jobs (-0.9%) in February, and was 3.2% above its February 2022 level (+12,700 jobs). Part-time employment dropped by 1,000 jobs (-1.1%) in February and was 3.2% higher (+2,700 jobs) compared with February 2022.
- The services-producing sector lost 4,900 jobs in February (-1.2%), while employment in the goods-producing sector was essentially unchanged (+100 jobs, +0.1%). The top expanding industries were “manufacturing” (+2,200, +6.3%), “transportation & warehousing” (+600, +2.9%), and “educational services” (+600, +1.6%). The three industries that lost the most jobs in February: “wholesale & retail trade” (-2,800, -3.6%), “construction” (-2,500, -5.8%), and “business, building & other support services” (-1,000, -5.6%).

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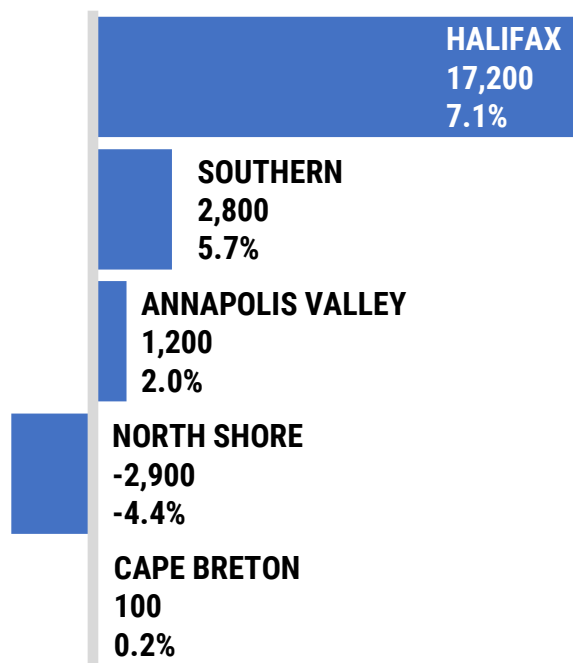
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Top Industries by Employment Gain Feb 2022 to Feb 2023



- Compared to February of last year, employment gains were largest in the “other services (except public administration)” sector (+6,200, +43.1%). This was followed by “information, culture & recreation” (+4,200, +30.0%), and “public administration” (+3,900, +12.5%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “business, building & other support services” sector (-3,200 jobs, -15.9%), followed by “agriculture” (-2,100, -33.3%), and “health care & social assistance” (-1,600, -2.0%).

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



- In February (three-month average from December to February) compared to January (November to January), the only economic region to post job gains was the North Shore region (+1,000 jobs, +1.6%). All other regions lost jobs, with the Cape Breton region losing the most (-1,800, -3.5%), followed by the Halifax (-1,000, -0.4%), Annapolis Valley (-300, -0.5%) and Southern (-100, -0.2%) regions.
- Compared with one year ago (December 2021 to February 2022), all regions except for the North Shore region posted employment gains².

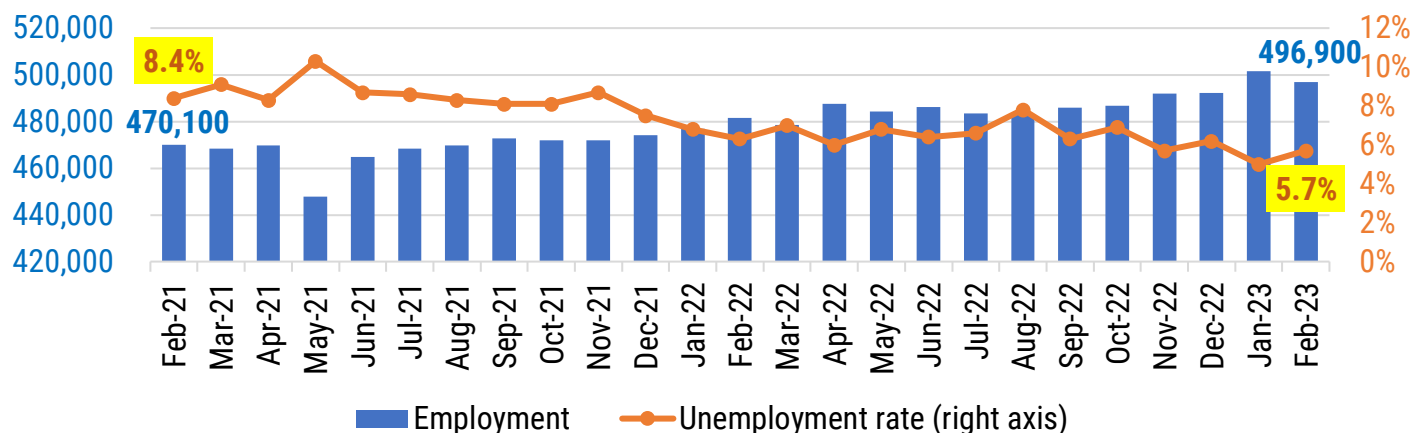
***Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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

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**Employment Level and Unemployment Rate
Nova Scotia, Feb 2021 to Feb 2023**



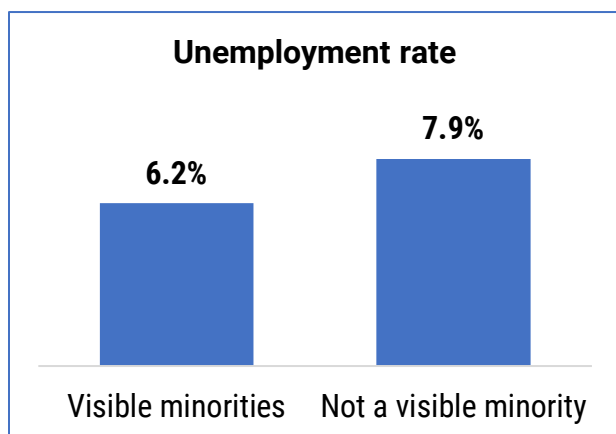
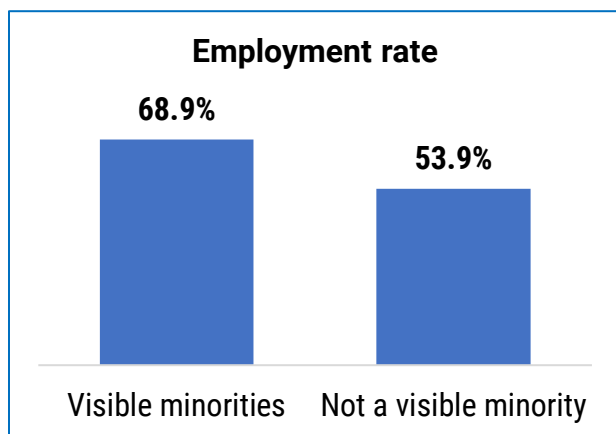
- The employment level in Nova Scotia fell by 0.9% in February, following an increase of 1.9% in January. The employment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points to 58.2% in February. The employment rate remains higher in comparison with recent history, as it has averaged 56.5% in Nova Scotia over the past decade.
- The unemployment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points to 5.7% in February. When compared against historical Labour Force Survey data going back to 1976, Nova Scotia's unemployment rate remains very low.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Unemployment Rate	Feb-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15 to 24 years	12.1%	12.5%	12.9%	0.4 pp	0.8 pp
Men 15 to 24 years	14.9%	14.2%	14.5%	0.3 pp	-0.4 pp
Women 15 to 24 years	9.2%	10.7%	11.3%	0.6 pp	2.1 pp
25 years and over	5.3%	3.8%	4.5%	0.7 pp	-0.8 pp
Men 25 years and over	5.4%	3.6%	5.3%	1.7 pp	-0.1 pp
Women 25 years and over	5.2%	3.9%	3.6%	-0.3 pp	-1.6 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points between January and February to 12.9%. The female youth unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points in February, while the male youth unemployment rate was up by 0.3 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was higher than one year ago (up by 2.1 percentage points), while the male unemployment rate was 0.4 percentage points lower. The unemployment rate for women aged 25 and over was 1.6 percentage points lower than a year ago, compared to a drop of 0.1 percentage points for men aged 25 and over.

Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in February 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 (68.9% vs 53.9%) on average in the last three months ending in February 2023.
- Compared to January (3-month average from November to January) the employment rate of visible minorities fell by a full percentage point while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or indigenous people dropped by half a percentage point 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, Blacks face the highest unemployment rates (9.9%), while only 2.8% of South Asians and 4.0% of Chinese were unemployed in the last three months.
- Due to the relatively low participation rate of Arabs, they face the lowest employment rate among all visible minority groups for whom data was reported (53.3%). Blacks had the second-lowest employment rate over the period at 63.4%

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on April 6th, 2023, covering the March 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