

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia decreased in March by 900 jobs (-0.2%). The unemployment rate remained at 5.7%. This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in March. The March Labour Force Survey references the week of March 12 to 18 and compares it to the week of February 12 to 18.

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

Labour Force
525,800

-1,300

Employment
496,000

-900

Full Time
404,200
Part Time
91,800

-5,900

+5,100

Unemployment Rate
5.7%

unchanged

Employment Rate
58.0%

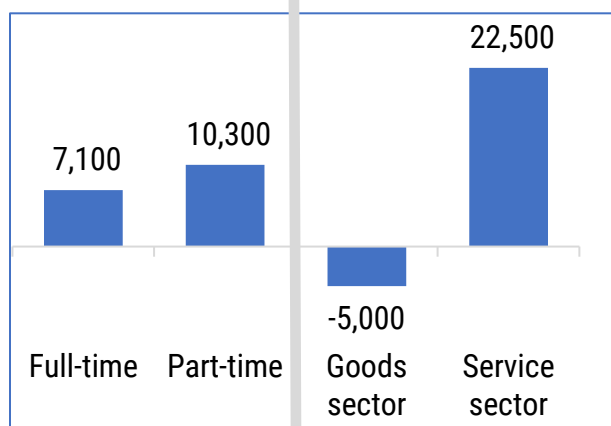
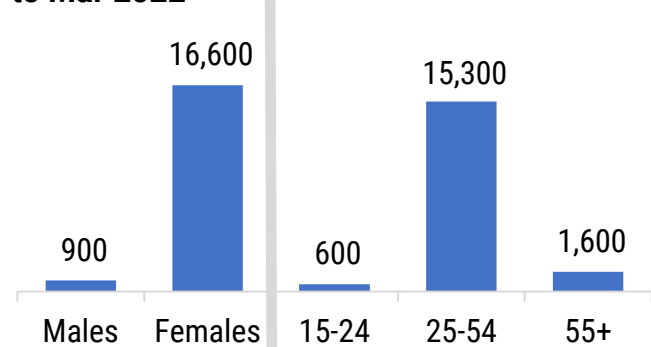
-0.2
points

- The labour force decreased by 0.2% to 525,800, with 1,300 more people leaving the labour market than entering. The labour participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 61.5% in March.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level declined by 0.2% in March (-900 jobs) with losses in full-time employment (-5,900 jobs, -1.4%), and gains in part-time jobs (+5,100, +5.9%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.7% in March and has been under 6% for three consecutive months – very low 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 0.2 percentage points to 58.0% in March.

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

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

Employment in Mar 2023 compared to Mar 2022

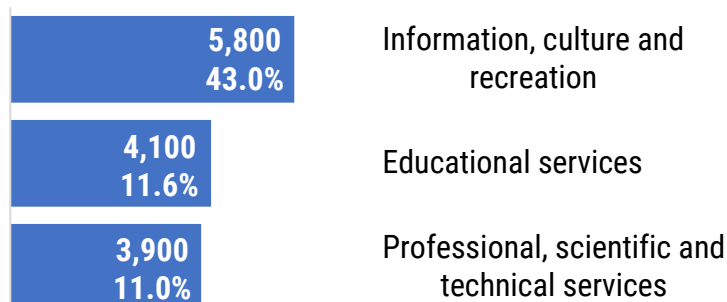


- Employment levels in March were lower for Nova Scotia men (-3,000 jobs, -1.2%), but higher for women (+2,200, +0.9%). Employment losses for men were in full-time positions (-5,200, -2.4%), while part-time positions increased (+2,100, +6.6%). The rise in the employment level for women was due to an increase in part-time employment (+3,000, +5.5%), while women lost 700 full-time jobs (-0.4%). Both women and men surpassed their employment levels from a year ago by 7.1% and 0.4% respectively.
- Youth (15-24 years) had the largest proportional drop in employment in March, decreasing by 1.0% (700 jobs). The employment level for older workers (55+) was down by 0.7% (800 jobs), and core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 600 positions (+0.2%).
- Full-time employment decreased by 5,900 jobs (-1.4%) in March, but was 1.8% above its March 2022 level (+7,100 jobs). Part-time employment increased by 5,100 jobs (+5.9%) in March and was 12.6% higher (+10,300 jobs) compared with March 2022.
- The services-producing sector gained 3,100 jobs in March (+0.8%), while employment in the goods-producing sector dropped by 3,900 positions (-4.1%). The top expanding industries were “educational services” (+2,400, +6.5%), “information, culture & recreation” (+1,100, +6.0%), and “wholesale & retail trade” (+700, +0.9%). The industries that lost the most jobs in March: “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil & gas” (-1,800, -16.5%), “construction” (-1,600, -3.9%), and “health care & social assistance” (-1,200, -1.5%).

Labour Market Information News

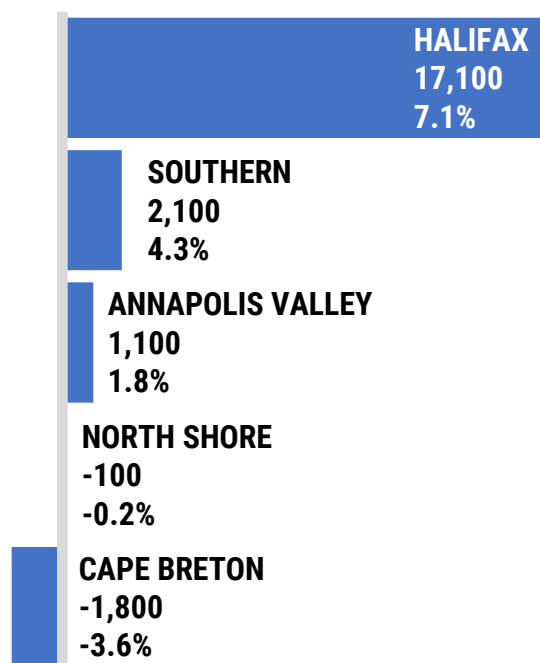
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Top Industries by Employment Gain Mar 2022 to Mar 2023



- Compared to March of last year, employment gains were largest in the “information, culture & recreation” sector (+5,800, +43.0%). This was followed by “educational services” (+4,100, +11.6%), and “professional, scientific & technical services” (+3,900, +11.0%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “business, building & other support services” sector (-5,100 jobs, -23.2%), followed by “agriculture” (-2,600, -37.1%), and “construction” (-2,100, -5.1%).

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



- In March (three-month average from January to March) compared to February (December to February), two of the five economic regions posted job gains -- the North Shore region (+1,700 jobs, +2.7%), and the Annapolis Valley region (+400, +0.6%). All other regions lost jobs, with the Southern region losing the most (-1,500, -2.9%), followed by the Cape Breton (-1,400 -2.8%), and Halifax (-200, -0.1%) regions.
- Compared with one year ago (January 2022 to March 2022), three of five regions posted employment gains, while the Cape Breton and North Shore regions lost jobs².

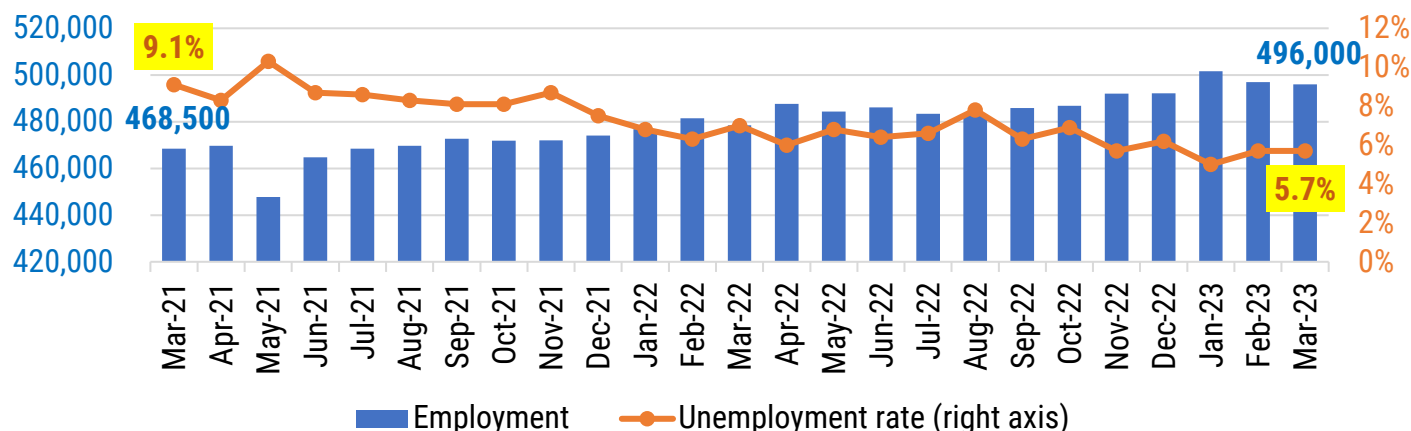
***Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

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, Mar 2021 to Mar 2023



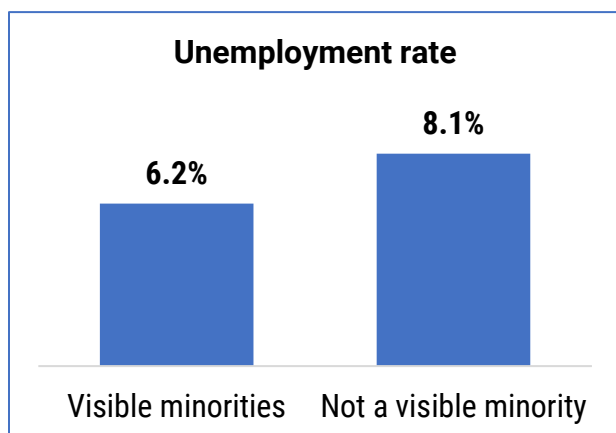
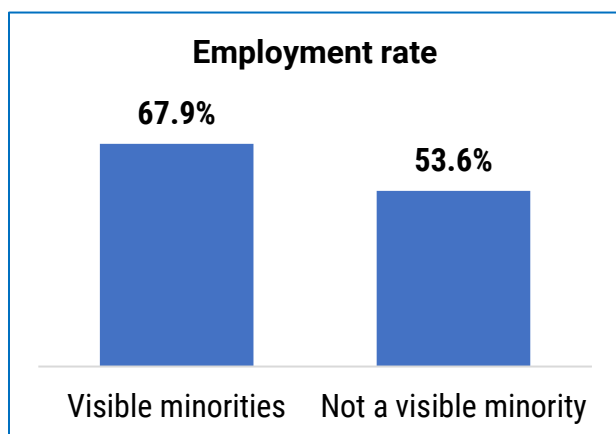
- The employment level in Nova Scotia decreased by 0.2% in March, following a decrease of 0.9% in February. The employment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 58.0% in March. The employment rate remains higher in comparison with recent history, as it has averaged 56.5% in Nova Scotia over the past decade.
- The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.7% in March. 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	Mar-22	Feb-23	Mar-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15 to 24 years	11.7%	12.9%	12.0%	-0.9 pp	0.3 pp
Men 15 to 24 years	12.3%	14.5%	15.3%	0.8 pp	3.0 pp
Women 15 to 24 years	11.4%	11.3%	9.0%	-2.3 pp	-2.4 pp
25 years and over	6.1%	4.5%	4.6%	0.1 pp	-1.5 pp
Men 25 years and over	5.3%	5.3%	5.4%	0.1 pp	0.1 pp
Women 25 years and over	7.0%	3.6%	3.8%	0.2 pp	-3.2 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage points between February and March to 12.0%. The female youth unemployment rate dropped by 2.3 percentage points in March, while the male youth unemployment rate was up by 0.8 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was lower than one year ago (down by 2.4 percentage points), while the male unemployment rate was 3.0 percentage points higher. The unemployment rate for women aged 25 and over was 3.2 percentage points lower than a year ago, compared to an increase of 0.1 percentage points for men aged 25 and over.

Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in March 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 (67.9% vs 53.6%) on average in the last three months ending in March 2023.
- Compared to February (3-month average from December to February) 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 0.3 percentage 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, Blacks face the highest unemployment rates (10.7%), while only 3.5% 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 (51.0%). Blacks had the second-lowest employment rate over the period at 61.8%

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on May 5th, 2023, covering the April 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