

Labour Market Information News

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Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia decreased in May by 5,200 jobs (-1.0%). The unemployment rate fell to 5.7% (-0.6 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in May. The May Labour Force Survey references the week of May 14 to 20 and compares it to the week of April 09 to 15.

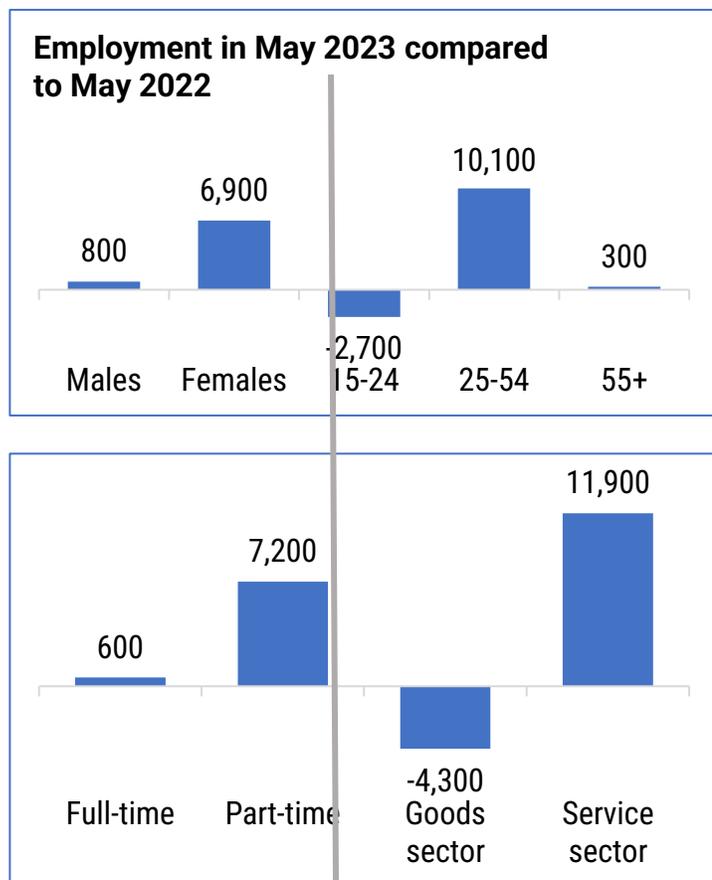
Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in May 2023¹ Compared to April 2023



- The labour force decreased by 1.7% to 522,000, with 8,800 more people leaving the labour market than entering. The labour participation rate fell by 1.2 percentage points to 60.7% in May.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level declined by 1.0% in May (-5,200 jobs) with losses in full-time employment (-8,600 jobs, -2.1%), and gains in part-time jobs (+3,500, +4.0%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell to at 5.7% in May (returning to the same level it was in March 2023). 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 0.8 percentage points to 57.2% in May.

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

Employment data in May 2023 Compared to April 2023 and May 2022



- Employment levels in May were lower for Nova Scotia males (-1,300 jobs, -0.5%), as well as females (-3,800, -1.5%). Employment losses for males were both in full-time positions (-1,100, -0.5%), and in part-time positions (-200, -0.6%). The rise in the employment level for females was due to an increase in part-time employment (+3,700, +6.8%), while they lost -7,400 full-time jobs (-3.8%). Both females and males surpassed their employment levels from a year ago by 2.9% and 0.3% respectively.
- Youth (15-24 years) had the largest proportional drop in employment in May, decreasing by 5.5% (-3,700 jobs). Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) lost 2,200 positions (-0.7%), while the employment level for older workers was up by 0.7% (+800 jobs).
- Full-time employment decreased by -8,600 jobs (-2.1%) in May, but was 0.2% above its May 2022 level (+600 jobs). Part-time employment increased by 3,500 jobs (+4.0%) in May and was 8.5% higher (+7,200 jobs) compared with May 2022.
- The services-producing sector lost 5,000 jobs in May (-1.2%), while the goods-producing sector lost 200 positions (-0.2%). The top expanding industries were “wholesale and retail trade” (+2,200, +2.8%), “professional, scientific and technical services” (+600, +1.6%), and “agriculture” (+600, +10.9%). The industries that lost the most jobs in May were: “healthcare and social assistance” (-2,500, -3.1%), “public

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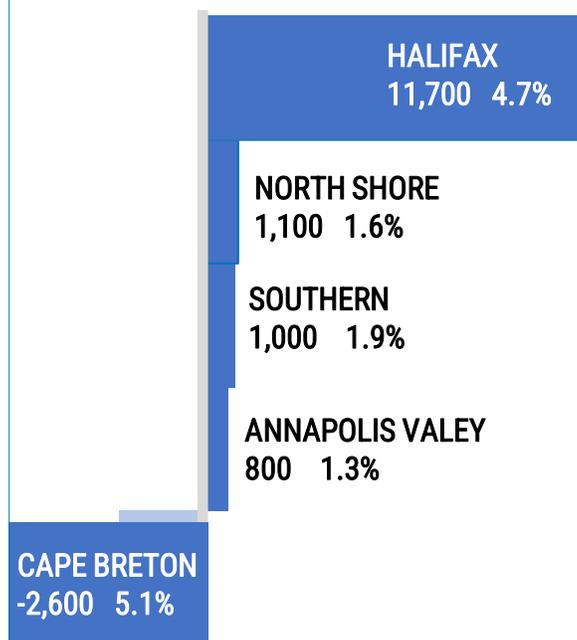
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administration" (-2,200, -6.4%), and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing" (-1,600, -5.3%) as well as "manufacturing" (-1,600, -4.5%).

Top Industries by Employment Gain May 2022 to May 2023



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



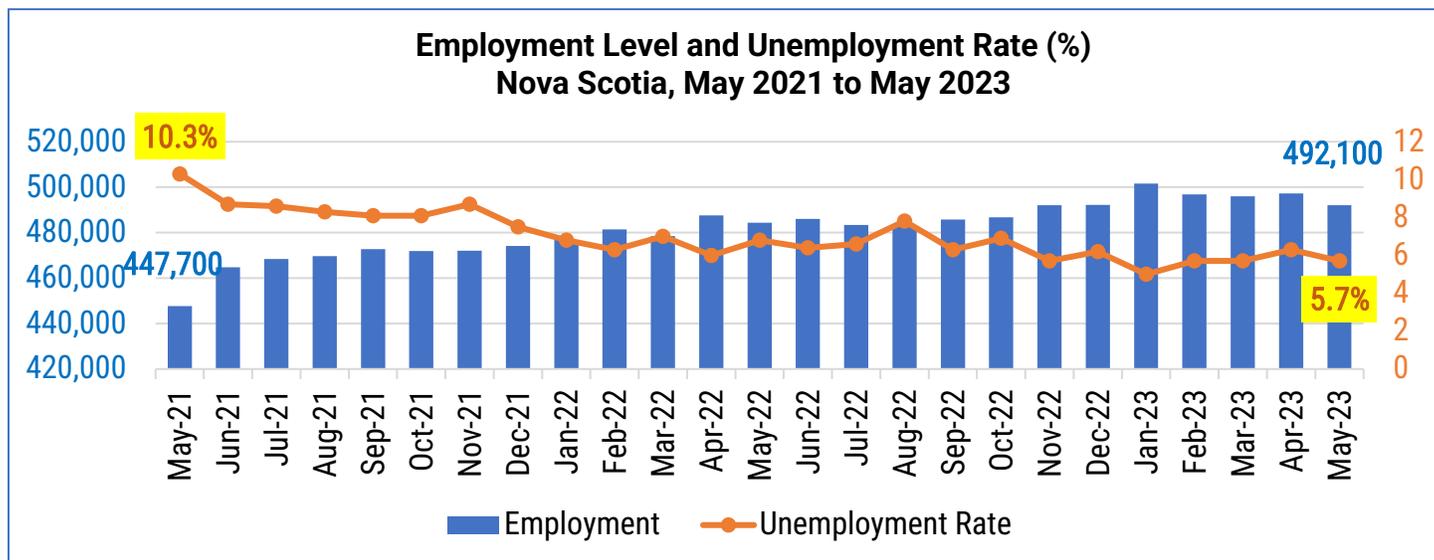
- Compared to May of last year, employment gains were largest in the "wholesale and retail trade" industry (+7,700, +10.6%). This was followed by "information, culture and recreation" (+2,900, +18.7%), and "accommodation and food services" (+2,000, +7.3%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the "construction" industry (-4,000 jobs, -9.4%), followed by "business, building and other support services" (-2,600, -12.9%), and "health care and social assistance" (-2,200 -2.8%).
- In May (three-month average from March to May) compared to April (February to April), four of the five economic regions posted job gains -- the North Shore region (+1,700 jobs, +2.6%), Southern (+1,600, +3.1%), Annapolis Valley region (+1,300, +2.1%) and Halifax (+700, +0.3%). Cape Breton lost 100 jobs (-0.2%).
- Compared with one year ago (May 2023 to May 2022), four of the five regions posted employment gains, while the Cape Breton region 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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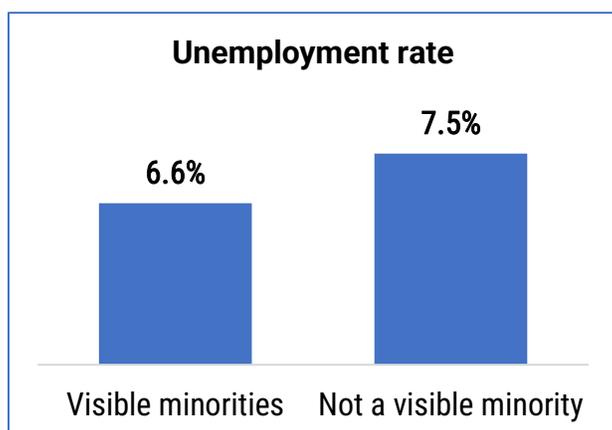
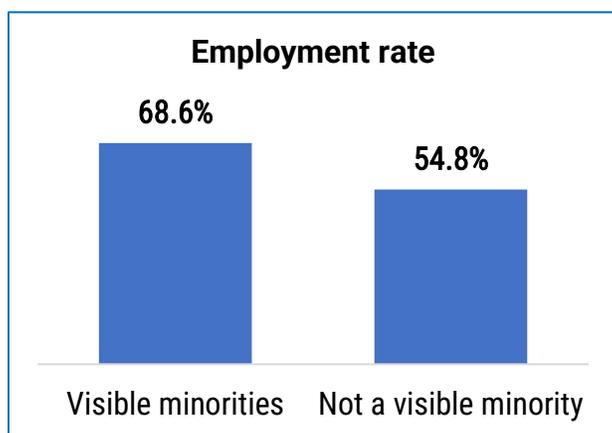
- The employment level in Nova Scotia decreased by 1.0% in May. The employment rate fell by 0.8 percentage points to 57.2% in May. The employment rate remains higher in comparison with recent history, as it has averaged 56.5% in Nova Scotia over the past decade.
- The unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points and landed at 5.7% in May. 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 Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	May-22	Apr-23	May-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15 to 24 years	11.5	10.8	11.2	0.4 pp	-0.3 pp
Males 15 to 24 years	13.2	10.9	12.7	1.8 pp	-0.5 pp
Females 15 to 24 years	9.8	10.7	9.8	-0.9 pp	0.0 pp
25 years and over	6.0	5.6	4.8	-0.8 pp	-1.2 pp
Males 25 years and over	6.1	6.4	5.8	-0.6 pp	-0.3 pp
Females 25 years and over	6.0	4.7	3.8	-0.9 pp	-2.2 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points between April and May to 11.2%. The female youth unemployment rate dropped by -0.9 percentage points in May, while the male youth unemployment rate was up by +1.8 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was the same as one year ago (9.8%) while the male youth unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage points lower than May 2022. The unemployment rate for women aged 25 and over was 2.2 percentage points lower than a year ago, compared to a decrease of 0.3 percentage points for men aged 25 and over.

Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in May 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 (68.6% vs 54.8%) on average in the last three months ending in May 2023.
- Compared to April (3-month average from February to April) the employment rate of visible minorities rose by 0.6 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or indigenous people rose by 0.9 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 (9%), while only 4.5% of South Asians 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 (54.10%). Chinese had the second-lowest employment rate over the period at 60.8%

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **July 7th, 2023**, covering the June 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