

# Labour Market Information News

Published by the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

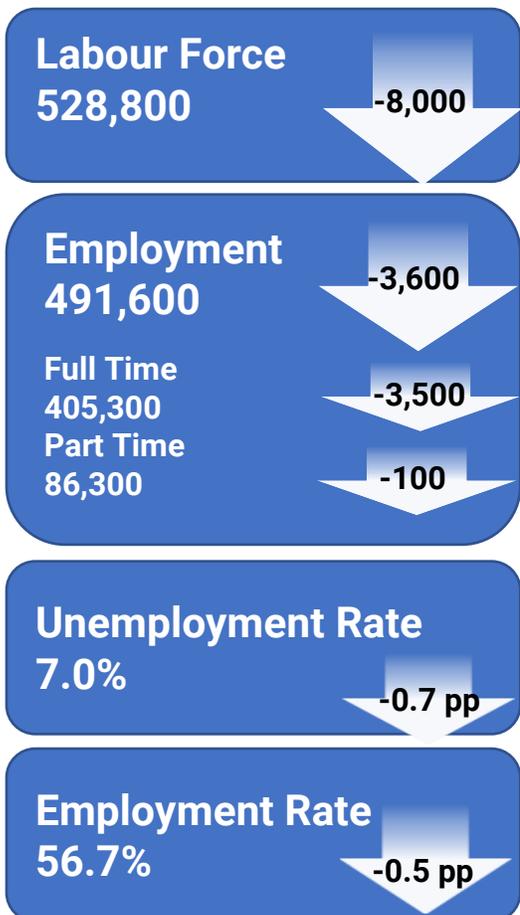
September 2023

## Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

### Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia decreased in August by 3,600 jobs (-0.7%). The unemployment rate fell to 7.0% (-0.7 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in August. The August Labour Force Survey references the week of August 13 to 19 and compares it to the week of July 09 to 15.

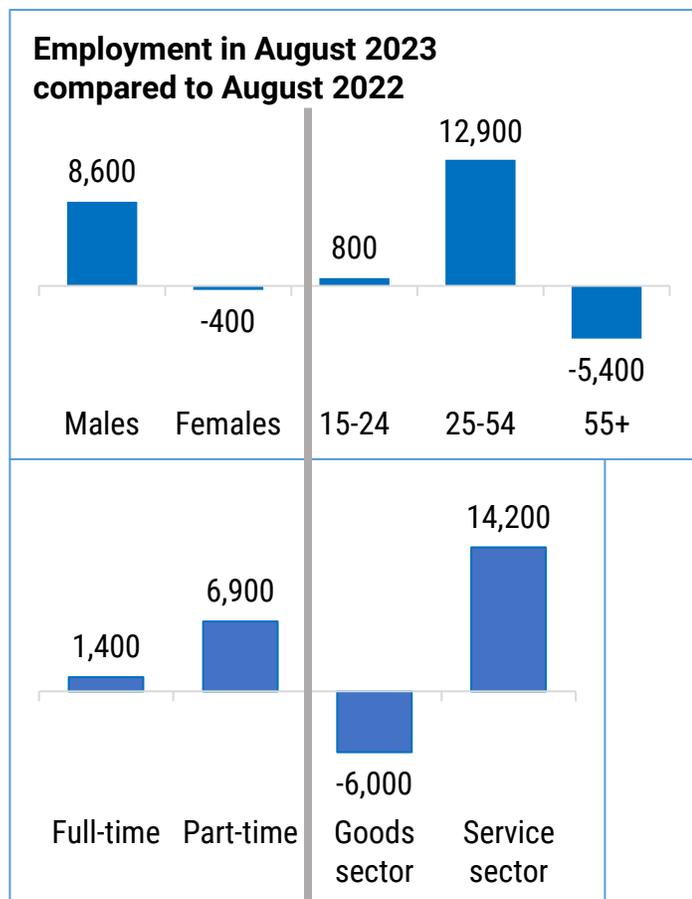
### Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in August 2023<sup>1</sup> Compared to July 2023



- The labour force decreased by 1.5% to 528,800, with 8,000 more people leaving the labour market than entering. The labour participation rate fell by 1.1 percentage points to 60.9% in August.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level decreased by 0.7% in August (-3,600 jobs) with losses in both full-time employment (-3,500 jobs, -0.9%), and in part-time jobs (-100, -0.1%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell to 7.0% in August, as the decline in the labour force outweighed the drop in the employment level. The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has averaged 10.1% since 1976.
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the whole labour force population aged 15 and over) fell by 0.5 percentage points to 56.7% in August.

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

## Employment Data in August 2023 Compared to July 2023 and August 2022

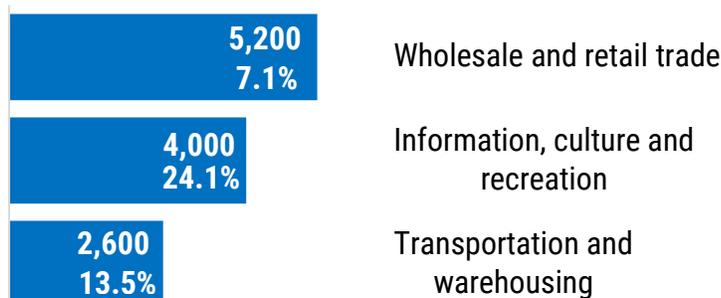


- Employment levels in August were lower for both Nova Scotia females (-4,100 jobs, -1.7%), but higher for males (+400, +0.2%). Employment losses for females were predominantly in full-time positions (-4,000 jobs, -2.1%), while there were 100 part-time positions lost for females (-0.2%). Males gained 500 full-time positions (+0.2%) while their part-time employment remained unchanged.
- Youth (15-24 years) employment increased by 0.1% (+100 jobs) in August. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) lost 5,900 positions (-1.9%), while the employment level for older workers was up by 1.9% (+2,200 jobs).
- Even though full-time employment fell by 3,500 jobs (-0.9%) in August, it was 0.3% above its August 2022 level (+1,400 jobs). Part-time employment decreased by 100 jobs (-0.1%) in August and was 8.7% higher (+6,900 jobs) compared with August 2022.
- The services-producing sector lost 3,800 jobs in August (-0.9%), while the goods-producing sector gained 100 positions (+0.1%). The top expanding industries were “business, building and other support services” (+2,200, +13.8%), “construction” (+1,500, +4.2%), and “information, culture and recreation” (+1,200, +6.2%). The industries that lost the most jobs in August

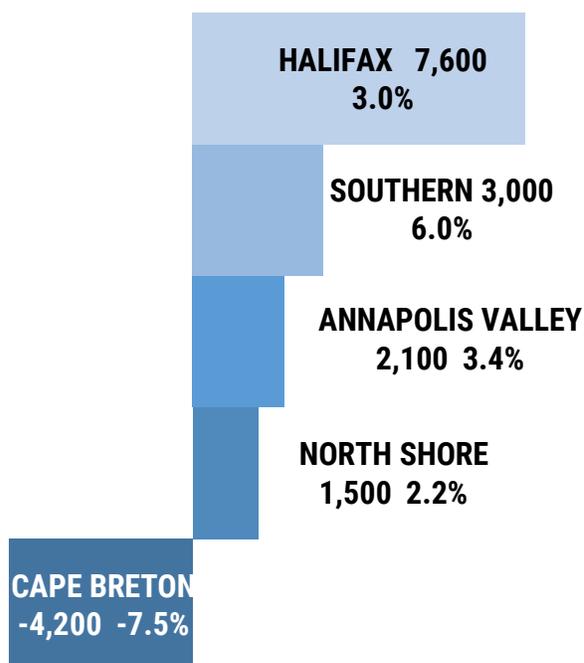
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Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, Research, Accountability & Intergovernmental Affairs Division

## Top Industries by Employment Gain August 2022 to August 2023



## Employment by Economic Region, August 2022 to August 2023



were: “public administration” (-2,800, -8.2%), “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (-2,000, -21.3%), and “transportation and warehousing” (-1,300, -5.6%).

- Compared to August of last year, employment gains were largest in the “wholesale and retail trade” industry (+5,200, +7.1%). This was followed by “information, culture and recreation” (+4,000, +24.1%), and “transportation and warehousing” (+2,600, +13.5%).

- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “construction” industry (-6,100 jobs, -14.0%), followed by “health care and social assistance” (-2,700, -3.4%), and “utilities” (-1,900 -41.3%).

- In August (three-month average from June to August) compared to July (May to July), two economic regions posted job gains – the Halifax region (+1,200 jobs, +0.5%) and the Cape Breton region (+900, +1.8%), while job losses occurred in the Annapolis Valley (-1,500, -2.3%), Southern (-1,200, -2.2%), and North Shore (-300, -0.4) regions.

- Compared with one year ago (August 2023 to August 2022), four of the five regions posted employment gains, while the Cape Breton region lost jobs<sup>2</sup>.

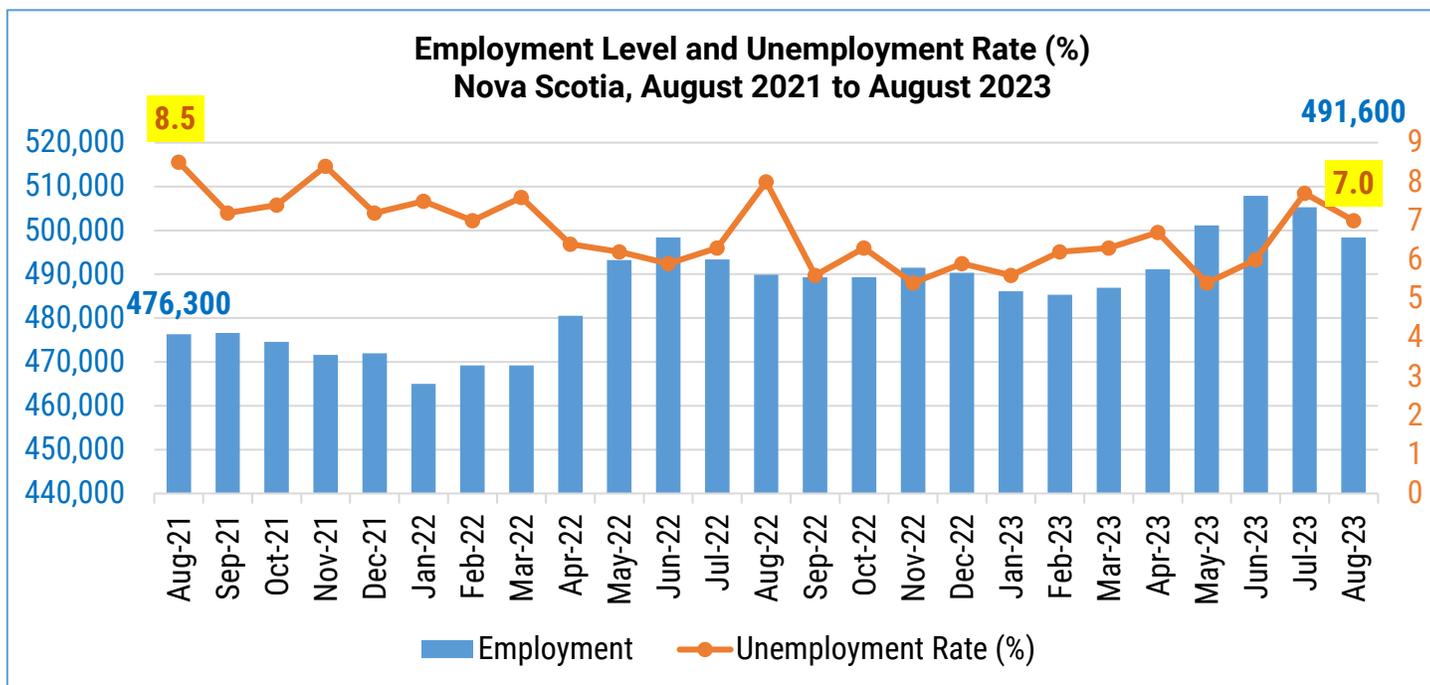
**\*Note:** The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating sudden impacts to labour.

<sup>2</sup> 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 0.7% in August. The employment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 56.7% in August.



- The unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points and landed at 7.0% in August, due to the labour force declining faster than the employment level. When compared against historical Labour Force Survey data going back to 1976, Nova Scotia's unemployment rate remains relatively low.

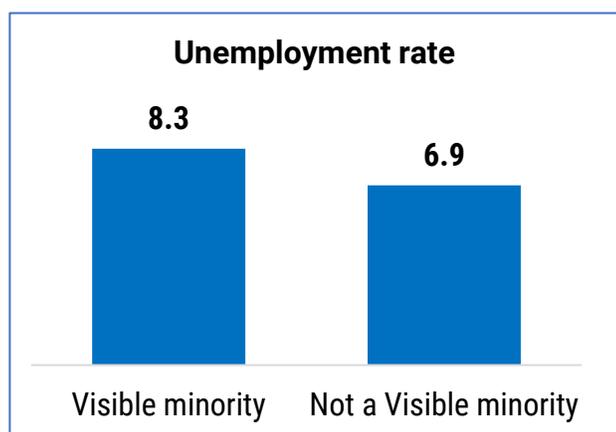
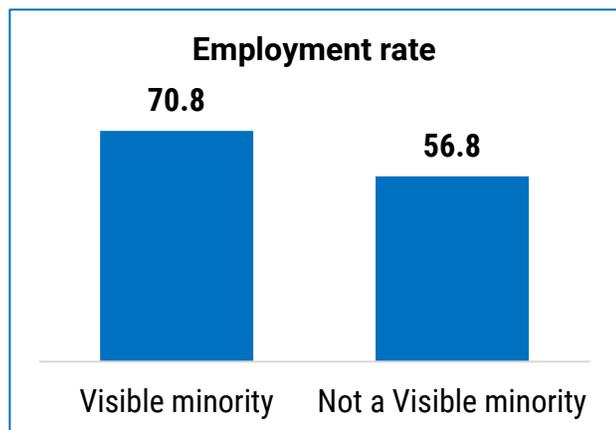
## Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age

Unemployment Rate (%)	Aug-22	Jul-23	Aug-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15 to 24 years	15.0	11.5	10.9	-0.6 pp	-4.1 pp
Males 15 to 24 years	18.8	12.5	16.1	3.6 pp	-2.7 pp
Females 15 to 24 years	11.6	10.6	5.7	-4.9 pp	-5.9 pp
25 years and over	6.6	7.1	6.4	-0.7 pp	-0.2 pp
Males 25 years and over	8.4	7.4	6.0	-1.4 pp	-2.4 pp
Females 25 years and over	4.6	6.8	6.7	-0.1 pp	2.1 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points between July and August to 10.9%. The female youth unemployment rate fell by 4.9 percentage points in August, while the male youth unemployment rate was up by 3.6 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 5.9 percentage points lower than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 2.7 percentage points lower than in August 2022. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 2.1 percentage points

higher than a year ago, compared to a decrease of 2.4 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

## Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in August 2023<sup>3</sup>



- The employment rate (number of employed for the entire population 15 and over) for visible minorities in Atlantic Canada was higher than for non-visible minorities (70.8% vs 56.8%) on average in the last three months ending in August 2023.
- Compared to July (3-month average from May to July) 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 0.1 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 data<sup>4</sup>, Arabs and Latin Americans face the highest unemployment rates (16.9% and 11.8%, respectively), while 6.6% of Blacks were unemployed in the last three months.
- Arabs have a relatively low participation rate (70.6%). They also faced the lowest employment rate (58.7%) and highest unemployment rate (16.9%) among all visible minority groups for whom data was reported.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Data not available for West Asian, Korean, and Japanese minority groups.

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, covering the September 2023 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, 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