

# Labour Market Information News

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## Labour Force Survey -- Nova Scotia Highlights

### Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia increased in September by 3,200 jobs (+0.7%). The unemployment rate fell to 6.9% (-0.1 percentage points). This issue of the *Labour Market Information News* monitors the key labour market indicators in September. The September Labour Force Survey references the week of September 10 to 16 and compares it to the week of August 13 to 19.

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

Labour Force  
531,500

+2,700

Employment  
494,800

+3,200

Full Time  
413,400  
Part Time  
81,300

+8,100

-5,000

Unemployment Rate  
6.9%

-0.1 pp

Employment Rate  
56.9%

+0.2 pp

- The labour force increased by 0.5% to 531,500, with 2,700 more people entering the labour market than leaving. The labour participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 61.1% in September.
- Nova Scotia's seasonally adjusted employment level increased by 0.7% in September (+3,200 jobs) with gains in full-time employment (+8,100 jobs, +2.0%), and losses in part-time jobs (-5,000, -5.8%). (Individuals switching between full-time and part-time status are also included in these statistics).
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 6.9% in September, as the increase in employment surpassed the increase in the labour force. The unemployment rate in Nova Scotia has averaged 10.1% since 1976.
- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the population aged 15 and over) rose by 0.2 percentage points to 56.9% in September.

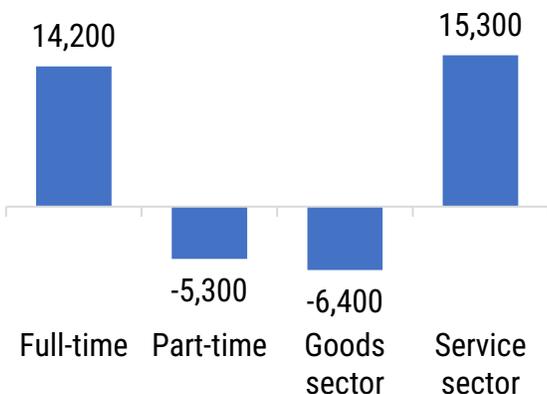
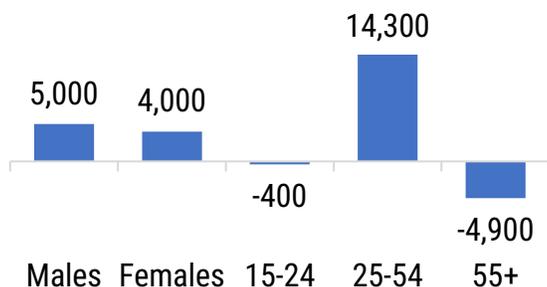
<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0287-01, Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

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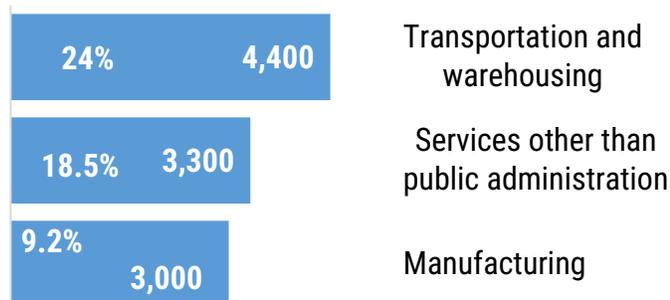
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## Employment Data in September 2023 Compared to August 2023 and September 2022

### Employment in September 2023 compared to September 2022



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

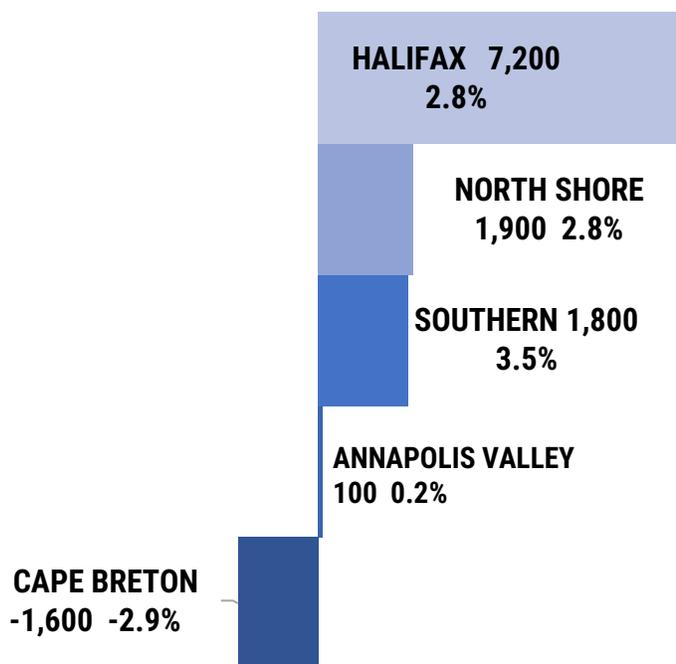


- Employment levels in September were lower for Nova Scotia males (-2,400 jobs, -1.0%), but higher for females (+5,700, +2.4%). Employment losses for males were predominantly in part-time positions (-2,800 jobs, -8.6%), while there were 2,100 part-time positions lost for females (-3.9%). Males gained 300 full-time positions (+0.1%). Females gained 7,900 full-time jobs (+4.2%).
- Youth (15-24 years) employment decreased by 3.0% (-2,000 jobs) in September. Core-aged workers (25 to 54 years) gained 8,300 positions (+2.7%), while the employment level for older workers was down by 2.8% (-3,200 jobs).
- Full-time employment in September 2023 was 3.6% above its September 2022 level (+14,200 jobs), due in part to a month-over-month gain of 8,100 jobs (+2.0%). Part-time employment decreased by 5,000 jobs (-5.8%) in September and was 6.1% lower (-5,300 jobs) compared with September 2022.
- The goods-producing sector lost 2,900 jobs in September (-3.2%), while the service-producing sector gained 6,100 positions (+1.5%). The top expanding industries were “public administration” (+2,300 jobs, +7.3%), “professional, scientific and technical services” (+1,800, +4.8%), and “educational services” (+1,500, +4.1%). The industries that lost the most jobs in September were: “health care and social assistance” (-4,400, -5.7%), “manufacturing” (-1,800, -4.8%), and “construction” (-1,300, -3.5%).

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



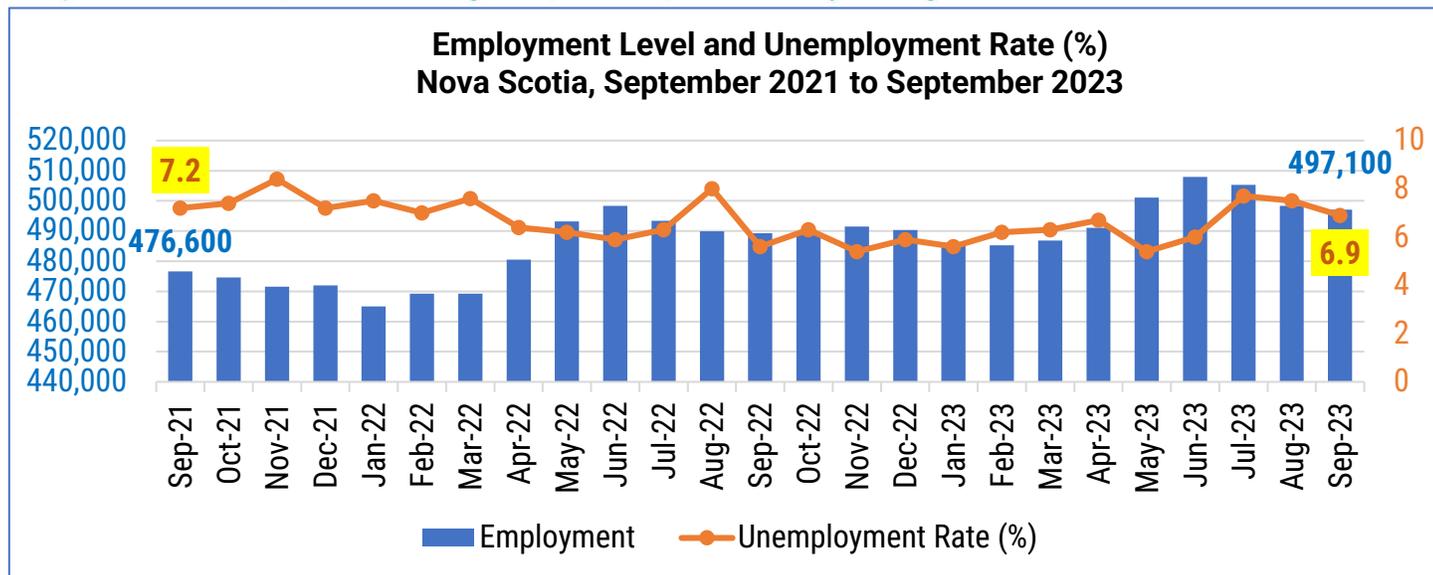
- Compared to September of last year, employment gains were largest in the “transportation and warehousing” industry (+4,400 jobs, +24.0%). This was followed by “other services (except public administration)” (+3,300, +18.5%), and “manufacturing” (+3,000, +9.2%).
- Employment declines compared to a year earlier were largest in the “health care and social assistance” industry (-7,400 jobs, -9.3%), followed by “construction” (-6,600, -15.4%), and “forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas” (-2,400 -23.5%).
- In September (three-month average from July to September) compared to August (June to August), one economic region posted job gains – the Cape Breton region (+800 jobs, +1.5%), while job losses occurred in four regions: in the Annapolis Valley (-1,700, -2.6%), North Shore (-1,200, -1.7%), Southern (-500, -0.9%), and Halifax (-900, -0.3%).
- Compared with one year ago (September 2023 to September 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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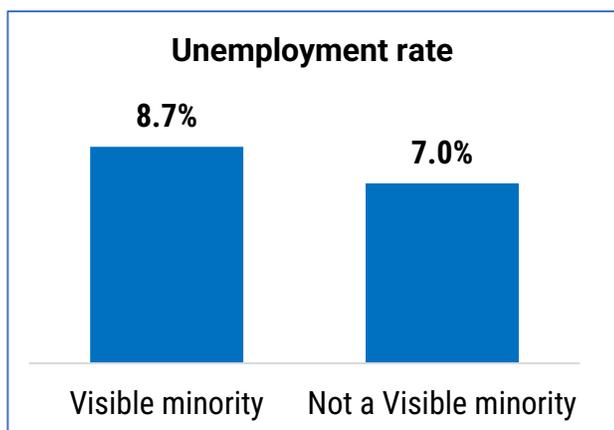
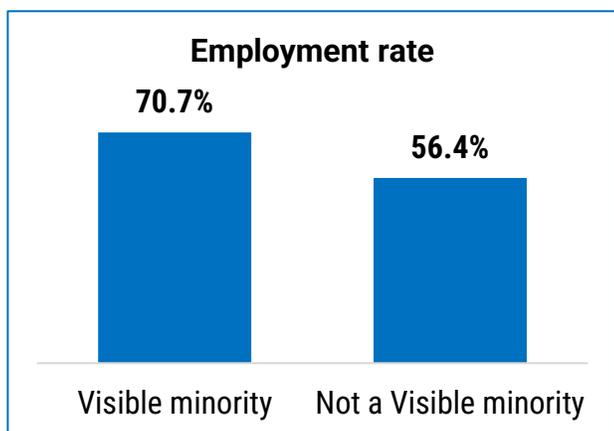
- The employment level in Nova Scotia increased by 0.7% in September. The employment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 56.9% in September.
- The unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points and landed at 6.9% in September. When compared against historical Labour Force Survey data going back to 1976, Nova Scotia's unemployment rate remains relatively low.

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

Unemployment Rate (%)	Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23	M/M change	Y/Y change
15-24	12.4	10.9	13.1	2.2 pp	0.7 pp
Males 15-24	14.6	16.1	17.8	1.7 pp	3.2 pp
Females 15-24	10.2	5.7	8.2	2.5 pp	-2.0 pp
25+	5.3	6.4	5.9	-0.5 pp	0.6 pp
Males 25+	6.3	6.0	6.6	0.6 pp	0.3 pp
Females 25+	4.2	6.7	5.1	-1.6 pp	0.9 pp

- The overall youth (aged 15-24) unemployment rate increased by 2.2 percentage points between August and September to 13.1%. The female youth unemployment rate rose by 2.5 percentage points in September, while the male youth unemployment rate was up by 1.7 percentage points. The female youth unemployment rate was 2.0 percentage points lower than a year ago, while the male youth unemployment rate was 3.2 percentage points higher than in September 2022. The unemployment rate for females aged 25 and over was 0.9 percentage points higher than a year ago, compared to an increase of 0.3 percentage points for males aged 25 and over.

## Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in September 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 (70.7% vs 56.4%) on average in the last three months ending in September 2023.
- Compared to August (3-month average from June to August) the employment rate of visible minorities fell by 0.1 percentage points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or indigenous people declined by 0.4 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 (19.8% and 14.9%, respectively), while 4.0% of Filipinos and 9.1% of Blacks were unemployed in the last three months.
- Arabs have a relatively low participation rate - 72.8%, while they also faced the lowest employment rate (59.2%), and the highest unemployment rate (16.9%) among all visible minority groups for whom data was reported. Blacks were the only group facing a lower participation rate than Arabs (72.5%).

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**, covering the October 2023 labour market.

<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.

## 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