

Labour Force Survey, April 2022: Nova Scotia Highlights & Summary of Labour Impact of COVID


Overview

Employment in Nova Scotia increased by 5,900 in April and sat at a new record high. The unemployment rate dropped by 0.5 percentage points, reaching a record low of 6.0%. This issue of the Labour Market Information News monitors the key labour market indicators in April. The March Labour Force Survey references the week of April 16 to 26 and compares it to the week of March 13 to 19.

Snapshot of Nova Scotia's Labour Market in April 2022¹ Compared to March 2022

Labour Force: **512,100** +3,800 

- The labour force expanded by 0.7% to 512,100 – the highest on record, with 3,800 more people entering the labour market than leaving. The labour participation rate is up by 0.4 points from March yet remains 1.2 percentage points lower than February 2020.

Employment: **481,500** +5,900 

- Nova Scotia's employment level rebounded in April (+5,900 jobs, +1.2%) following a slight drop in March. Full-time employment increased by 3,100 jobs (0.8%) and part-time employment grew by 2,900 jobs (+3.4%).

Unemployment Rate: **6.0%** -0.5 points 

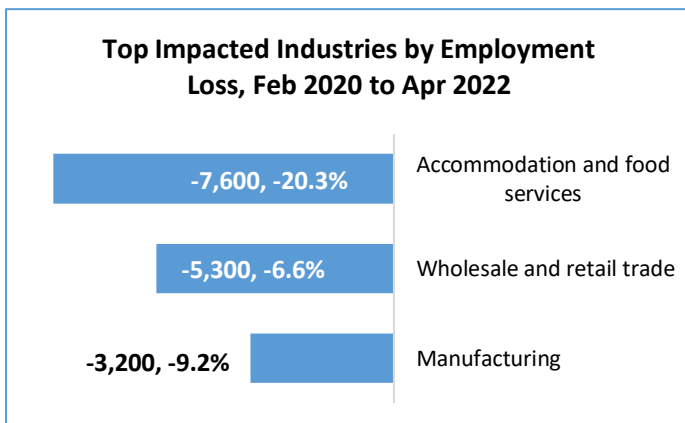
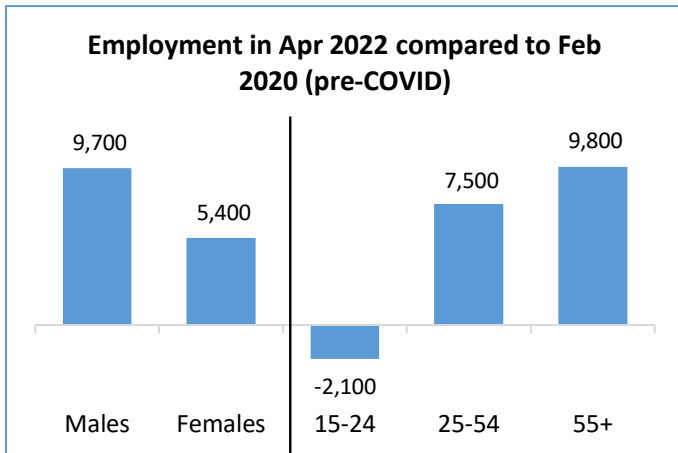
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate fell by 0.5 points to 6.0% in April 2022, the lowest monthly level on record since 1976. The previous record monthly low had been 6.5% and was observed on three separate occasions: March and May of 2019, and March 2022.

Employment Rate: **57.7%** +0.6 points 

- The employment rate (number of employed as a proportion of the whole labour force population aged 15 and over) increased by 0.6 points to 57.7%; surpassing its pre-COVID level for the first time by 0.2 points.

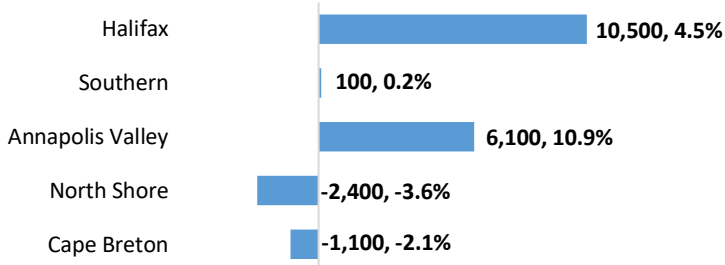
¹ Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0287-01, Adjusted for Seasonality, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

Employment Recovery Progress in April 2022 from the Impact of COVID Compared to March 2020



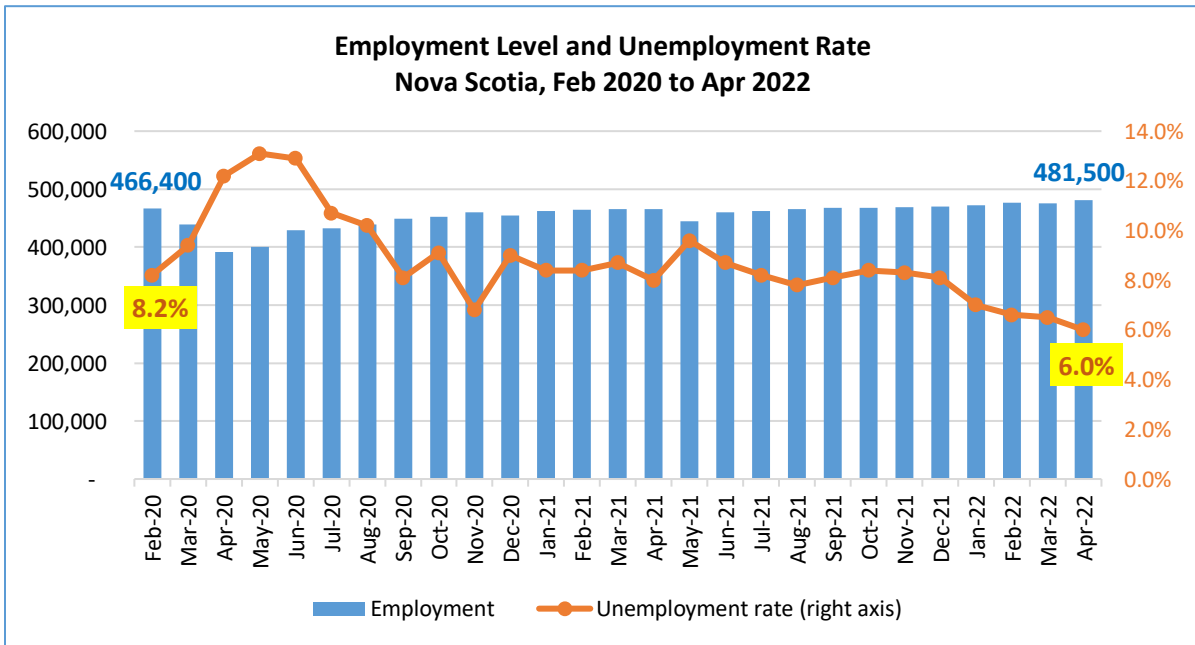
- Nova Scotia men lost 2,100 full-time jobs (-1.0%) but gained 4,500 part-time jobs (+14.9%) in April. On the contrary, Nova Scotia women gained 5,200 full-time jobs (+2.9%), while part-time positions were down by 1,800 (-3.3%). Both men and women have surpassed their pre-COVID employment levels.
- Youths continue to represent the only age group that is yet to recover to pre-COVID employment levels. Youth employment increased by 3,300 in April (+5.2%), now 2,100 jobs (-3.0%) lower than their pre-COVID level. Core-aged workers (aged 25-54) lost 900 jobs (-0.3%) while those over 55 gained 3,600 jobs (+3.1%) in April.
- Full-time employment increased in April (+3,100 jobs, +0.8%), and remained well above pre-COVID levels (+18,300 jobs, +4.9%). Part-time employment also increased in April (+2,900 jobs, +3.4%) yet remains 3,200 jobs lower (-3.5%) than February 2020.
- Changes in employment levels by industry were mixed in April, led by “wholesale and retail trade” (+3,600 jobs, +5.1%) and “accommodation and food services” (+1,900 jobs, +6.8%). On the other hand, “manufacturing” contracted by 2,700 jobs (-7.9%) followed by “construction” (-700 jobs, -1.8%), and “professional, scientific and technical services” (-700 jobs, -1.8%).
- “Manufacturing” replaced “information, culture and recreation” as one of the top 3 sectors that are furthest away from a full recovery due to the large employment contraction in April. It was down by nearly one-tenth of its pre-COVID level. The other top 2 sectors are “accommodation and food services”, still down by approximately one-fifth of its pre-COVID level, and “wholesale and retail trade” (see chart).

Employment Recovery Progress by Economic Region, Feb 2020 to Apr 2022



- Over the last three months, employment grew in four of five economic regions compared to the previous three months ending in March. Employment grew the most in the Halifax region and fell in the Southern region.
- The Halifax and Annapolis Valley regions have continued to lead the employment recovery as levels of employment in both regions remained surpassed pre-COVID levels². The Cape Breton and North Shore regions remain short of a full recovery in employment. It is worth noting that a comparison with pre-COVID levels fails to account for the foregone growth during the last twenty months.

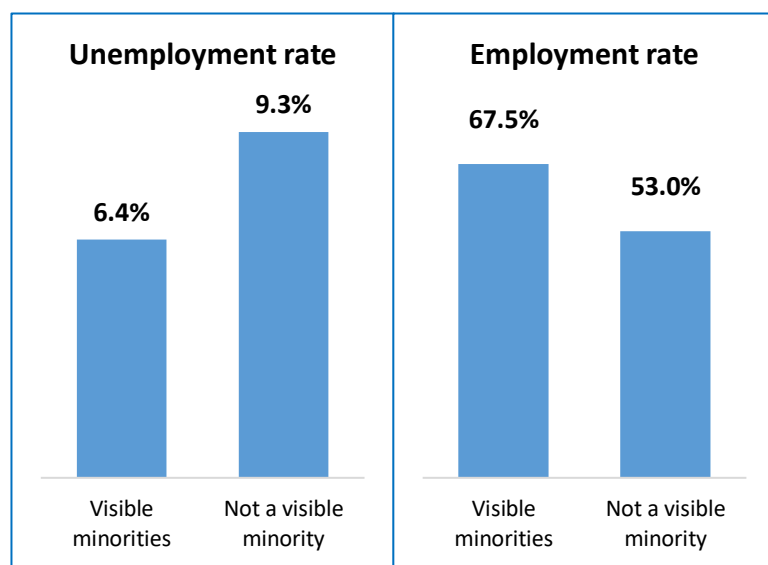
**Note: The regional statistics is a 3-month moving average and is seasonally unadjusted. Therefore, it is not comparable to the statistics used in the rest of the report and may show a delay in data demonstrating the impact of lockdown.*



- After dropping slightly in March, the employment level in Nova Scotia rebounded in April, increasing by 5,900 jobs (+1.2%). The employment level is 15,100 (+3.2%) higher than the pre-COVID level.
- The unemployment rate declined slightly for a sixth consecutive month to a historic low of 6.0%. It now sits 2.2 percentage points below the pre-COVID level. The employment rate increased by 0.6% to 57.7%, 0.2 points above its pre-COVID level.

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

Labour Market Outcomes of Visible Minorities in Atlantic Canada in April 2022³



- 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 (67.5% vs 53.0%) on average in the last three months ending in April 2022.
- Compared to last month, the employment rate of visible minorities increased by 0.8 points while the employment rate of people who are not visible minorities or indigenous people increased by 0.7 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. Arabs and Latin Americans face the highest unemployment rates (10.0% and 9.9%) while only 5.1% and 5.0% of Chinese and Blacks were unemployed in the last three months.
- However, due to the relatively low participation rates of Chinese, they face the lowest employment rates (56.9%) among all visible minority groups, followed by Latin Americans (60.7%).

The next Labour Force Survey will be released on June 10th, 2022, covering the May 2022 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.