

Labour Market Information News

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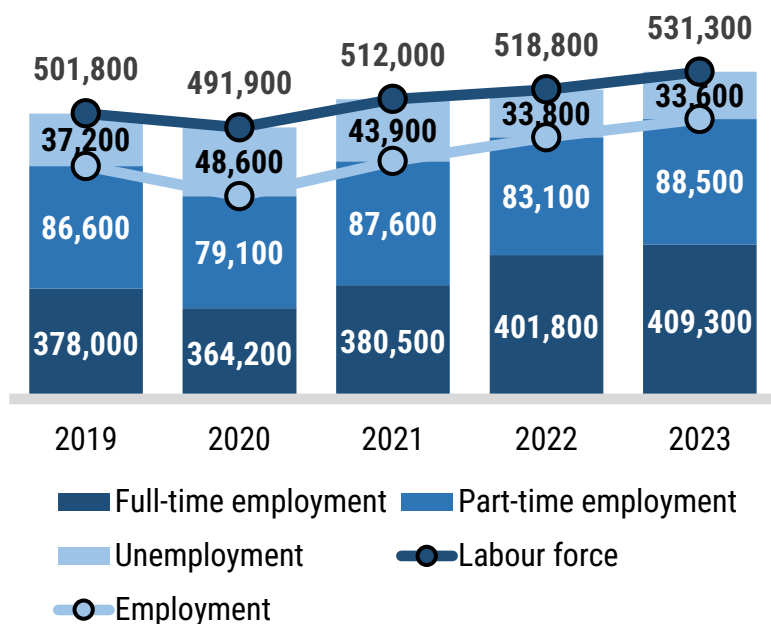
Labour Force Survey, 2023 Annual Results Nova Scotia Highlights

Overview

Nova Scotia's labour market continued its positive momentum in 2023, continuing the recovery witnessed in 2021 and 2022. The average employment level in 2023 was 12,900 jobs higher than the previous year and the average unemployment rate in 2023 was the lowest of any year since the beginning of the modern Labour Force Survey (in 1976).

Nova Scotia's Labour Market Trends 2019-2023

Labour Force Trend, 2019-2023

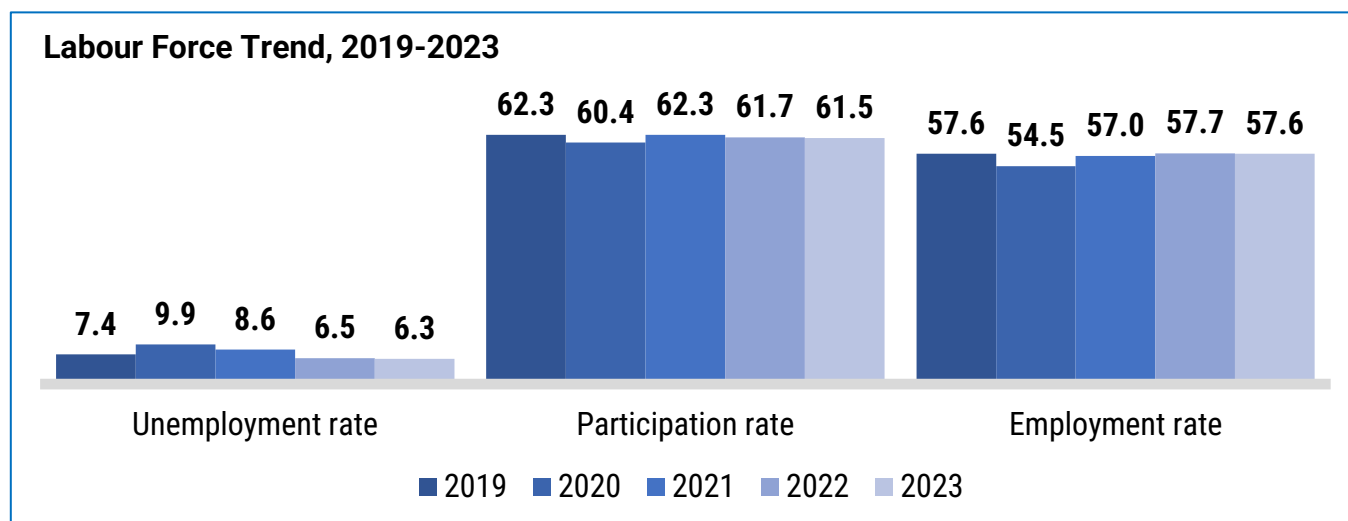


- The labour force expanded by 2.4% in 2023 in Nova Scotia (12,500 persons), following gains in 2021 and 2022 of 4.1%, and 1.3% respectively. From 2019 to 2023, the labour force increased by 5.9%.
- Nova Scotia's employment level increased for the third straight year in 2023, with 12,900 jobs added (+2.7%) compared with 2022. These gains were due to increases in full-time jobs (+7,500 jobs, +1.9%), and part-time jobs (5,400 jobs, +6.5%).

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Labour Market Indicators Nova Scotia, 2019-2023



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01, Both Sexes, Ages 15+.

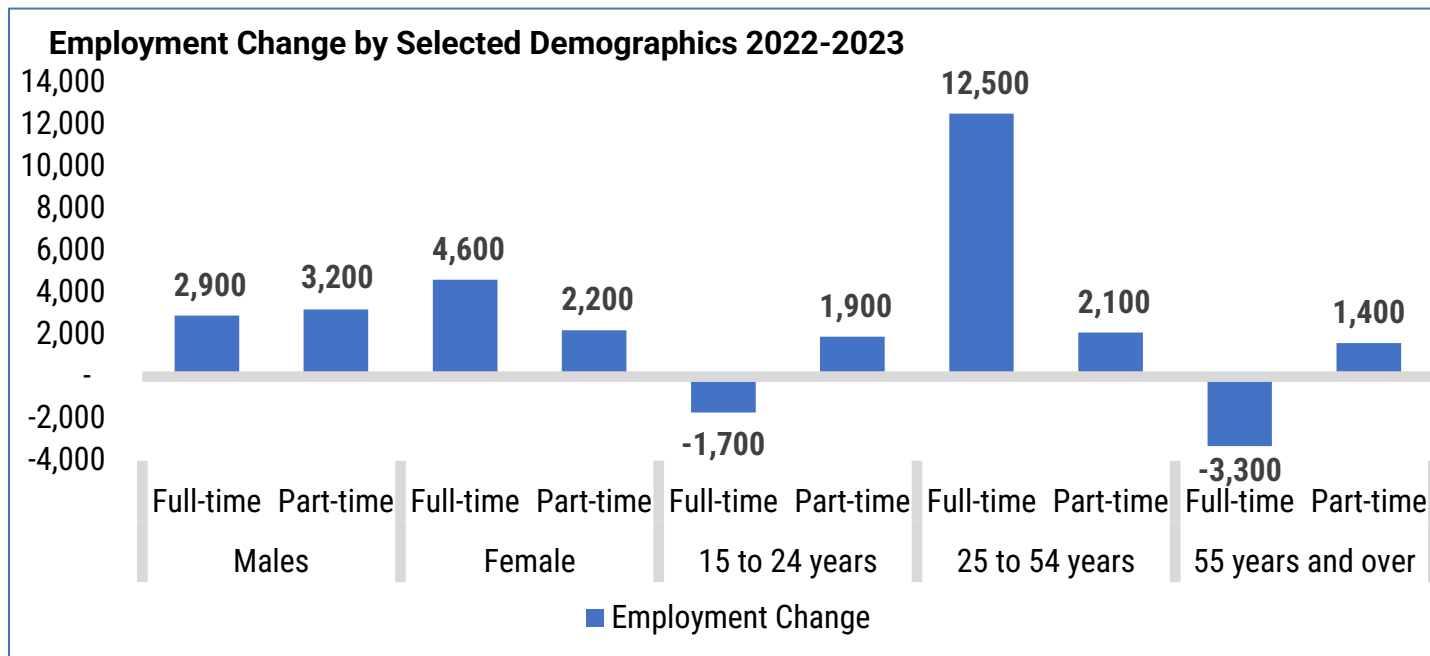
- The average unemployment rate in Nova Scotia in 2023 was 6.3%, the lowest of any year in the history of the modern Labour Force Survey.
- The participation rate (number of Nova Scotians aged 15 and up participating in the labour market) decreased by 0.2 percentage points in 2023 to 61.5%, and remained 0.8 percentage points short of the pre-pandemic year of 2019.
- Nova Scotia's employment rate slightly decreased in 2023. The employment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 57.6%, and remained on par with the 2019 figure.

Employment Change by Selected Demographics Nova Scotia, 2022-2023

- Nova Scotia's employment recovery has been unevenly distributed across demographic groups and industries.
 - The youth (aged 15-24) employment level increased by 0.3% (+200 jobs) in 2023, compared to a gain of 2.7% among the entire provincial labour force aged 15 and up.
 - Nova Scotia females gained more jobs than males in 2023 (+6,700 jobs, +2.8%; versus +6,000 jobs, +2.5%). Both genders gained full-time jobs, but this was more pronounced for females (+4,600 jobs, +2.5%) than males (+2,900 jobs, +1.4%). Both genders also gained part-time jobs, with males (+3,200 jobs, +10.6%) gaining more than females (+2,200 jobs, +4.2%).
 - The industries with the largest employment gains in 2023 were "Wholesale and retail trade" (+4,700 jobs, +6.3%), "Information, culture and recreation" (+3,600 jobs, +22.2%), and "other services (except public administration)" (+3,000 jobs, +16.9%). "Construction" posted the largest job losses of any industry (-4,000 jobs, -9.5%).

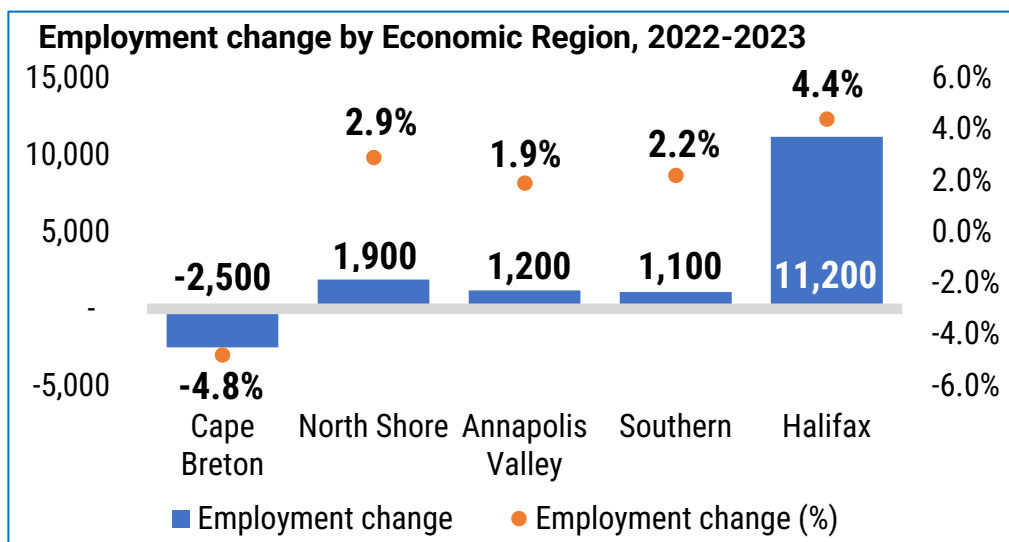
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Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0327-01.

Employment Change and Labour Market Indicators By Economic Region, 2023



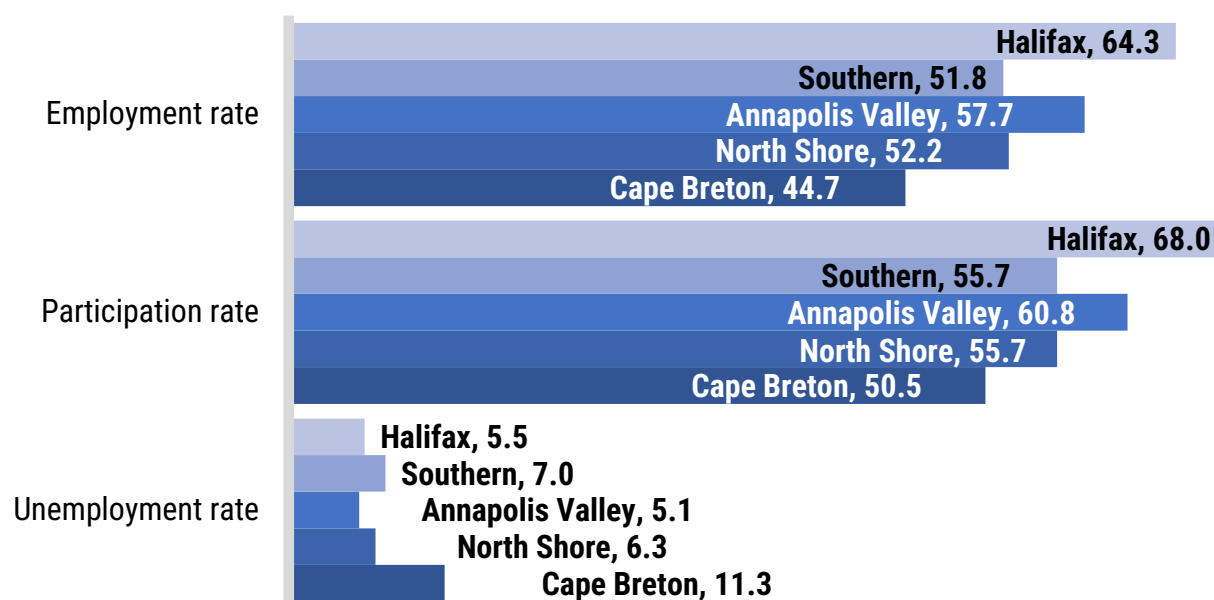
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table 14-10-0393-01, Both Sexes, Ages 15+

- The Halifax region accounts for just over half of the provincial labour force. Over two-thirds of jobs gained in 2023 were in this region (+11,200 jobs, +4.4%).
- By percentage increases, the Halifax region led the province with an employment gain of 4.4%, followed by the North Shore region at 2.9% (+1,900 jobs). The Cape Breton was the only economic region to register a decrease in jobs in 2023 (-2,500 jobs, -4.8%).

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Labour Market Indicators by Economic Region (%), 2023



- The Halifax region posted the highest employment (64.3%) and participation (68.0%) rates of any economic region in the province in 2023.
- The Annapolis Valley economic region recorded the lowest average unemployment rate of any region in 2023 at 5.1%.
- The Cape Breton region had the lowest employment (44.7%) and participation (50.5%) rates of any economic region. While the Cape Breton region continued its historical trend of having a considerably higher unemployment rate than the rest of the province in 2023 at 11.3%, this is the lowest unemployment rate (matching the 2022 figure of 11.3%) recorded in the region in the available data dating back to 2006.

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