



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

2015



The Annual Edition of the Labour Market Bulletin is a look back over the past year, providing an analysis of annual Labour Force Survey results for the province of Nova Scotia, including the regions of Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton, Southern, Halifax and North Shore.

OVERVIEW

Nova Scotia was the only province in Atlantic Canada that saw its employment level rise during 2015. The increase was slight with 500 more persons working, a scant 0.1% increase from the level of employment in 2014. The unemployment rate decreased to 8.6%, down from 9% the previous year.

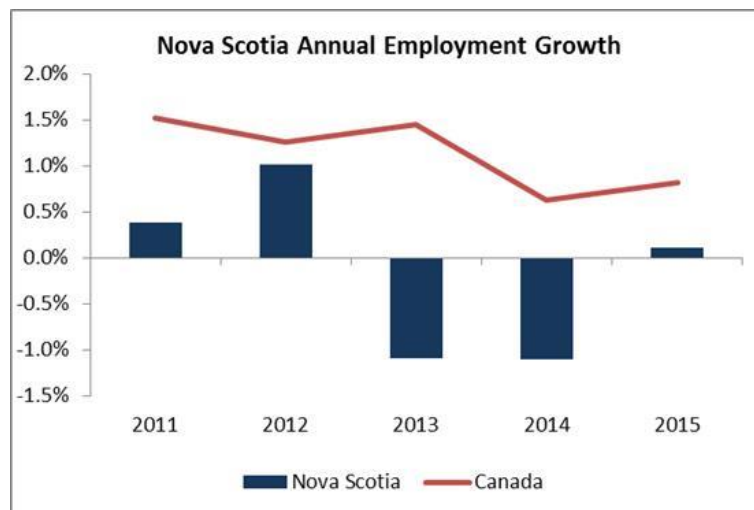
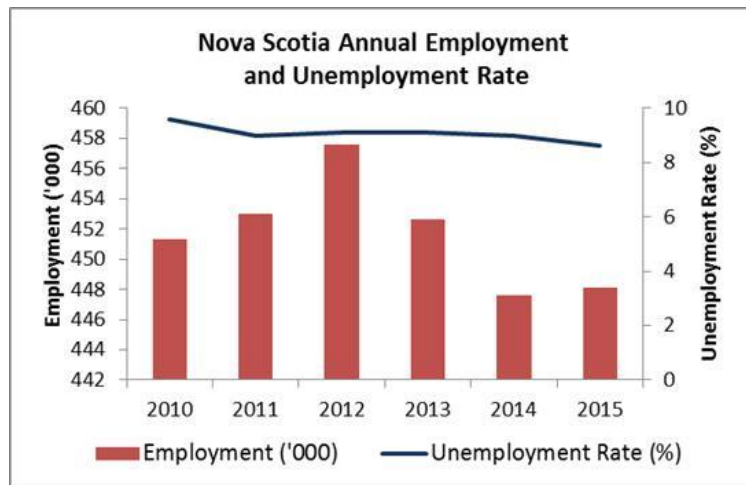
The labour force decreased in 2015 for the third consecutive year. Since 2012, more than 13,000 workers have left the labour force. The 2015 labour force participation rate of 62.4% was the lowest since 2001, the result of a labour force decline together with an increase in the working age population.

Nova Scotia Annual Labour Force Statistics

Annual Labour Force Survey Estimates	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	785.5	783	781.9	2.5	0.3%	1.1	0.1%
Labour Force ('000)	490.2	491.6	497.7	-1.4	-0.3%	-6.1	-1.2%
Employment ('000)	448.1	447.6	452.6	0.5	0.1%	-5	-1.1%
Full-Time ('000)	368.2	363.7	364.8	4.5	1.2%	-1.1	-0.3%
Part-Time ('000)	79.9	83.9	87.8	-4.0	-4.8%	-3.9	-4.4%
Unemployment ('000)	42	44	45.1	-2.0	-4.5%	-1.1	-2.4%
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	9	9.1	-0.4	-	-0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.4	62.8	63.7	-0.4	-	-0.9	-
Employment Rate (%)	57	57.2	57.9	-0.2	-	-0.7	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002



The overall employment increase experienced in 2015 occurred solely among the female labour force. The female employment increase was exclusively in full-time positions. Full-time employment among males also increased in 2015 accounting for 54% of all full-time jobs, but a greater number of losses in part-time employment accounted for a net decline in the overall employment level for males. Part-time employment in Nova Scotia was 67% female in 2015.

The unemployment rate for males in 2015 declined to 10.1% from 10.6% in 2014, and the 2015 female unemployment rate was also lower at 7.0%, down from 7.2% in 2014.

Nova Scotia Annual Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Annual Labour Force Survey Estimates	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015	2013 to 2014
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.6	9	9.1	-0.4	-0.1
25 years and over	7.4	7.4	7.4	0	0
Men - 25 years and over	8.7	8.7	8.7	0	0
Women - 25 years and over	6	6.1	6.1	-0.1	0
15 to 24 years	15.3	17.8	18.3	-2.5	-0.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.1	22	21.3	-3.9	0.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.5	13.4	15.2	-0.9	-1.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002

Unemployment rates for youth, aged 15 to 24 years, are substantially higher than for those aged 25 and over in both genders. The unemployment rate for male youth decreased in 2015 to 18.1% from 22% in 2014, while female youth also experienced an unemployment rate decrease from 13.4% in 2014 to 12.5% in 2015.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Eighty-one percent of the employed in Nova Scotia worked in the **Services-producing sector** during 2015. **Health care and social assistance** was the largest employing industry group in the province with 72,400 persons employed, followed by **Retail and Wholesale Trade** with 71,800 positions. Together, these two industry groups represented 32% of employment in Nova Scotia in 2015. Employment in the **Services-producing sector** has grown by 1.0% on average, per year, since 2000 when it accounted for 78% of all jobs in the province. The **Goods-producing sector** was responsible for 22% of Nova Scotia's total employment in the year 2000, but the sector's employment level has diminished since that time, and in 2015 the sector accounted for just 18.5% of all jobs in the province.

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** in 2015 was down by 900 fewer jobs than the sector supported in 2014. The decrease was due mostly to job losses in the **Manufacturing** and **Construction** industries. Despite a 2015 employment decline, **Construction** employment has been rising almost steadily since 2000. Almost ten thousand more persons were employed in the industry group in 2015 than in 2000, a 40% increase. For the fourth consecutive year, Nova Scotia's **Manufacturing** industry experienced an employment decline, losing 1200 jobs in 2015. In fact, employment in this industry group has been declining since 2003, when it reached a high for this century and employment was 15,600 greater. **Agriculture and Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** saw higher employment levels in 2015 than in 2014. These primary industry groups have experienced a downward employment trend in Nova Scotia since the early 1990s, however.

Natural gas production is currently a concern for the provincial outlook as the Sable Island energy project's productive capacity is approaching a conclusion. Decommission of the five fields is expected during 2017. In addition, the Deep Panuke offshore gas field will just supply the regional market, and during the winter months only. There is some optimism remaining in the energy sector, however. Shell Canada has recently begun exploratory drilling for oil in Nova Scotia's offshore, investing almost \$1 billion in the venture.

The Canadian dollar began its rise relative to the American dollar from 64 cents in 2002 to parity in 2011. This currency appreciation has had a profound adverse effect on Canadian exports and on the industries that manufacture commodities or harvest resources for export to our largest trading partner. Given the recent

declines in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar, together with a stronger economy south of the border, and new freer trade agreements with Europe and Asian markets, it is hoped that these exporting industries will be able to expand production and employment in the near future.

Employment rose in the **Services-producing sector** by 1,500 jobs between 2014 and 2015. The largest net job gains occurred in **Health care and social services** and **Professional, scientific and technical services** while the **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group lead the way in job losses during 2015. The fastest growing industry group in the **Services-producing sector** since the year 2000 has been **Professional, scientific and technical services**. This industry group has been creating jobs in Nova Scotia at a rate of 3.5% annually since the year 2000. Before the downturn of 2008-2009, **Business, building and other support services** displayed the highest annual average employment growth rate, but following the downturn, employment in that sector has been declining by 3.6% annually while **Professional, scientific and technical services** has increased its annual employment growth rate to 4.4% over the last seven years.

Nova Scotia Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Employment ('000)	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	448.1	447.6	452.6	0.5	0.1%	-5.0	-1.1%
Goods-producing sector	83.1	84	86.8	-0.9	-1.1%	-2.8	-3.2%
Agriculture	5.4	5.2	5.7	0.2	3.8%	-0.5	-8.8%
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.8	11.2	11.5	0.6	5.4%	-0.3	-2.6%
Utilities	3.7	3.8	4.2	-0.1	-2.6%	-0.4	-9.5%
Construction	33.6	34	34.7	-0.4	-1.2%	-0.7	-2.0%
Manufacturing	28.7	29.9	30.6	-1.2	-4.0%	-0.7	-2.3%
Services-producing sector	365.1	363.6	365.9	1.5	0.4%	-2.3	-0.6%
Trade	71.8	73.9	75.2	-2.1	-2.8%	-1.3	-1.7%
Transportation and warehousing	20.5	20.9	19.6	-0.4	-1.9%	1.3	6.6%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	23.4	22.2	20.9	1.2	5.4%	1.3	6.2%
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.8	26.1	26.5	1.7	6.5%	-0.4	-1.5%
Business, building and other support services	20.3	19.7	22.8	0.6	3.0%	-3.1	-13.6%
Educational services	36.4	35.4	34.6	1.0	2.8%	0.8	2.3%
Health care and social assistance	72.4	69.2	69.8	3.2	4.6%	-0.6	-0.9%
Information, culture and recreation	17.5	19.2	18.4	-1.7	-8.9%	0.8	4.3%
Accommodation and food services	30.9	32.1	31.4	-1.2	-3.7%	0.7	2.2%
Other services	17.1	18.3	19.4	-1.2	-6.6%	-1.1	-5.7%
Public administration	27	26.7	27.5	0.3	1.1%	-0.8	-2.9%

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0008

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

According to 2015 Labour Force Survey average annual data for Nova Scotia, both employment and the labour force declined from 2014 in every economic region except for Halifax and the North Shore. Halifax is the only region in the province that has successfully recovered from the economic downturn which began in late 2008 and lasted throughout most of 2009. Employment levels have dropped substantially in Cape Breton, and Southern Nova Scotia since 2008 and to a lesser degree in Northern Nova Scotia and in the Annapolis Valley region.

Nova Scotia Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Employment ('000)	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
				Number	%	Number	%
Nova Scotia	448.1	447.6	452.6	0.5	0.1%	-5	-1.1%
Economic Regions							
Cape Breton	49.8	50.9	53.3	-1.1	-2.2%	-2.4	-4.5%
North Shore	70.8	67.3	69.5	3.5	5.2%	-2.2	-3.2%
Annapolis Valley	54.2	56.2	57	-2	-3.6%	-0.8	-1.4%
Southern	49.3	49.9	50.5	-0.6	-1.2%	-0.6	-1.2%
Halifax	224.1	223.3	222.3	0.8	0.4%	1	0.4%

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

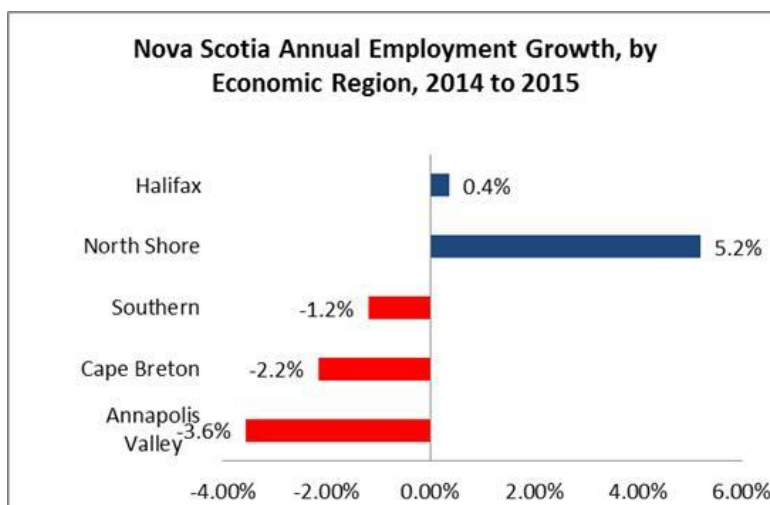
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0123

A decrease in full-time employment of 1,900 jobs mitigated by the addition of 800 part-time positions lead to a net loss of 1,100 jobs during 2015 in **Cape Breton**. A labour force decline resulted in fewer job seekers and maintained the previous year's unemployment rate of 15% in 2015. The local labour market has not yet recovered from the recession of 2008-2009, and employment is lower by 6,500 in 2015 than it was in 2008. Service sector employment was down from the 2014 level by 1,000 in 2015 because of job losses in **Public administration** and **Business, Building and Other Support Services**. The **Goods-producing sector** saw its employment level contract marginally in 2015, with slight employment declines in **Construction** and **Manufacturing**.

The **North Shore** of Nova Scotia experienced an employment increase in 2015 of 5,100 full-time jobs. The overall net job gain was less at 3,500 because of losses in part-time employment. There were fewer people unemployed in 2015 than in 2014, and the unemployment rate was lower at 9.2%, down from 10.7% in 2014. Both the **Goods-producing sector** and the **Services-producing sector** saw employment increases in 2015, but the **Services-producing sector** accounted for the bulk (91%) of the job gains. **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Health care and social assistance** showed the largest employment increases.

The **Annapolis Valley** saw a decline in its employment level during 2015 following a decline in 2014. The jobs lost were mostly full-time (70%). A reduction in the size of the labour force in 2014, greater than the employment decline, reduced the number of unemployed and lowered the unemployment rate to 8.4% from 8.9% in 2014. Additional job gains in both **Agriculture** and **Construction** accounted for an overall **Goods-producing sector** employment gain in 2015. The **Services-producing sector** experienced a decrease in its employment level in 2015. The largest number of job losses in the **Services-producing sector** took place in the **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** industry group. The **Wholesale and retail trade** industry group also saw an employment decline in 2015, for the fourth consecutive year.

The overall employment level in **Southern Nova Scotia** fell for the seventh straight year in 2015. The job losses between 2014 and 2015 were all full-time, and the region has been supporting fewer full-time jobs each year since 2008. The number of unemployed workers decreased in 2015 because a labour force contraction exceeded the employment decline. Fewer job seekers in 2015 resulted in a drop in the unemployment rate to 11% from 12% in 2014. Southern Nova Scotia's **Goods-producing sector** accounts for a greater share of overall employment (30% in 2015) than is seen in any other region of the province. A decline in employment in the **Manufacturing** industry accounted for a slight overall decrease in employment in the **Goods-producing sector** in the region. The **Services-producing sector** also suffered a modest employment decrease in 2015 as a result of job losses in the **Accommodation and food** industry and the **Wholesale and retail trade** industry.



The employment level in **Halifax** has risen in each year since 2005. The job gains in 2015 were in full-time positions net of fewer part-time losses. The unemployment rate increased, however, from 6.1% in 2014 to 6.3% in 2015 because of a labour force increase proportionally greater than the employment increase. While other economic regions of the province have been experiencing labour force declines, Halifax's labour force, like its employment level, has increased in every year since 2005. The **Goods-producing sector** saw its level of employment fall in 2015 from job losses in **Construction** and **Manufacturing**, but employment in the **Services-producing sector** was up by 2,300. **Health care and social assistance, Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, Accommodation and food and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services** all recorded healthy service-sector employment gains in 2015. **Wholesale and retail trade** employment, however, was down by 3,200 jobs in 2015.

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

Prepared by: the Labour Market Analysis (LMAD) Directorate, Service Canada, Nova Scotia

For further information, please contact the LMAD team at: lmi-imt@workingincanada.gc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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