



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Nova Scotia

### April 2022



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Nova Scotia, including the regions of Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton, Southern, Halifax and North Shore.

## OVERVIEW

Employment in Nova Scotia rose by 5,900 in April, following a slight decline the previous month. Employment has continued to trend higher since last June and nearly all of the added employment has been in full time work. With the rise in employment, Nova Scotia’s unemployment rate fell to 6.0% in April, the lowest rate since labour force data have been collected.

Compared with last April, 15,900 more Nova Scotians are employed. As more Nova Scotians have found work, the unemployment rate has fallen by 2 percentage points from a rate of 8.0% last year and has diminished considerably from the peak of 13.1% in the pandemic’s first wave. Likewise, the number of unemployed Nova Scotians to 30,600 in April, the lowest rate in 40 years, and less than half the number reported in June 2020 (63,600).

The Labour Force Survey was conducted from 10 to 16 April. Nova Scotia lifted most public health restrictions including gathering limits, mask requirements and proof-of-vaccination on 21 March 2022. The government of Nova Scotia declared the start of the sixth wave of COVID-19 on 1 March, and reported that total case counts had peaked and appeared to be declining as of 28 April.

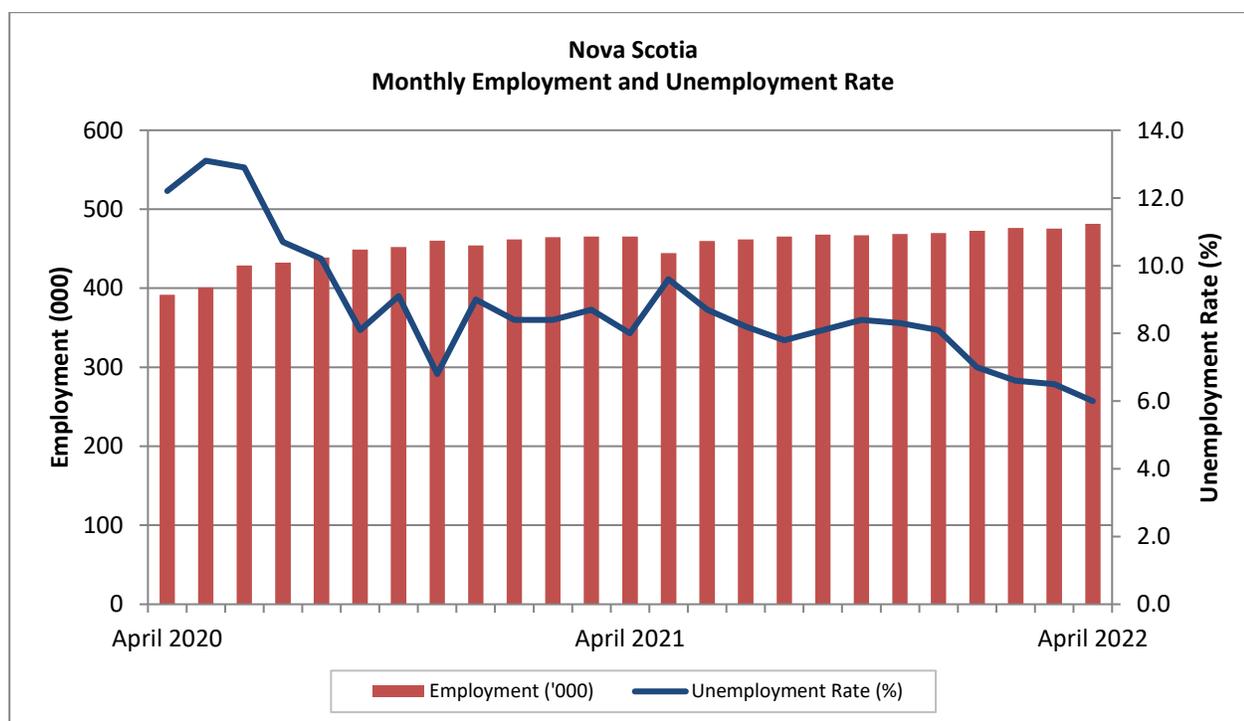
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	834.7	833.1	818.0	1.6	0.2	16.7	2.0
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	512.1	508.3	506.4	3.8	0.7	5.7	1.1
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	481.5	475.6	465.6	5.9	1.2	15.9	3.4
Full-Time ('000)	394.1	391.0	379.0	3.1	0.8	15.1	4.0
Part-Time ('000)	87.4	84.5	86.6	2.9	3.4	0.8	0.9
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	30.6	32.8	40.7	-2.2	-6.7	-10.1	-24.8

<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	6.0	6.5	8.0	-0.5	-	-2.0	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	61.4	61.0	61.9	0.4	-	-0.5	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	57.7	57.1	56.9	0.6	-	0.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287



While the labour market has improved over the past year among most demographic groups, the gains have been uneven. More than two thirds of the 15,900 jobs added over the past year have accrued to males. At the same time, the unemployment rate for males, of 6.4%, remains higher than the female unemployment rate (5.5%), though the gap has narrowed. Last April, for instance, the gap was larger, with an unemployment rate of 9.2% for males versus 6.8% for females.

Among broad age groups, the largest proportional increase in employment over the past year occurred among older workers (aged 55 years and older). Employment grew at a rate of 6.2% for older workers, compared to a rate of 2.4% and 2.6% for youth (aged 15 to 24 years of age) and core-aged workers (aged 25 to 54), respectively. Youth were disproportionately impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to report a rate of unemployment much higher than the overall rate of 6.0%. The youth unemployment rate was 9.9% in April 2022, down from a rate of 12.3% last April. In April 2020, the youth unemployment rate peaked at 27.5%.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
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	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.0	6.5	8.0	-0.5	-2.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.3	5.4	7.3	-0.1	-2.0
Men - 25 years and over	6.0	5.2	8.4	0.8	-2.4
Women - 25 years and over	4.6	5.6	6.2	-1.0	-1.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	9.9	12.6	12.3	-2.7	-2.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	8.7	15.0	13.9	-6.3	-5.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.1	10.2	10.4	0.9	0.7

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment growth was limited to the **services-producing** sector in April. Employment in the **goods-producing** sector declined by 4,500 that month, echoing the trends observed over the past year, as employment growth continues to be concentrated among services-producing industries. Compared with last April, employment in the **goods-producing** sector fell by 2,300 while the **services-producing** sector added 18,200 positions.

The largest annual employment declines among goods-producing industries occurred in the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry. While there have been some positive developments for this sector, including strong growth in international shipments of fish and seafood and forest products over the past year, there are some challenges ahead, including the sustainability of resource stocks. Recently, a moratorium on mackerel fishery was announced, a traditional source of bait in many commercial fisheries. Employment in the **construction** industry remains a bright spot, however. Employment in construction grew by 2,700 since last April, supported by high levels of public spending on road and building construction for health care facilities and schools and an exceptionally strong local housing market.

All **services-producing** industries experienced employment gains over the past year, with the exception of the **education** industry. The largest employment gains occurred in the **professional, scientific and technical services** and **health care and social assistance** industries where employment grew by 3,500 and 3,400, respectively over the year. Businesses within the **professional, scientific and technical services** industry were less impacted during the pandemic possibly due to their adaptability to the shift to remote work. Meanwhile, demands for health care professionals increased during the pandemic and will be sustained due to the aging population though the sector faces recruitment and labour supply challenges. The new provincial health-care professional recruitment and retention office says there are over 2,100 health-care vacancies across the health-care system.

Nova Scotia Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	481.5	475.6	465.6	5.9	1.2	15.9	3.4
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	91.0	95.5	93.3	-4.5	-4.7	-2.3	-2.5
Agriculture	6.8	7.3	7.5	-0.5	-6.8	-0.7	-9.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.4	9.7	11.4	-0.3	-3.1	-2.0	-17.5
Utilities	4.2	4.5	4.6	-0.3	-6.7	-0.4	-8.7

Construction	39.2	39.9	36.5	-0.7	-1.8	2.7	7.4
Manufacturing	31.5	34.2	33.3	-2.7	-7.9	-1.8	-5.4
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	<b>390.5</b>	<b>380.0</b>	<b>372.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Trade	74.6	71.0	71.3	3.6	5.1	3.3	4.6
Transportation and warehousing	23.3	23.1	22.4	0.2	0.9	0.9	4.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	26.2	24.4	23.4	1.8	7.4	2.8	12.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	37.3	38.0	33.8	-0.7	-1.8	3.5	10.4
Business, building and other support services	20.7	21.0	17.8	-0.3	-1.4	2.9	16.3
Educational services	38.2	36.7	40.7	1.5	4.1	-2.5	-6.1
Health care and social assistance	76.4	75.6	73.0	0.8	1.1	3.4	4.7
Information, culture and recreation	15.3	13.6	14.9	1.7	12.5	0.4	2.7
Accommodation and food services	29.8	27.9	28.4	1.9	6.8	1.4	4.9
Other services	17.8	17.5	16.0	0.3	1.7	1.8	11.3
Public administration	31.0	31.2	30.5	-0.2	-0.6	0.5	1.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In the **Cape Breton** economic region, employment has risen by 6,200 over the year. The unemployment rate rose to 14.8% as the number of people entering the labour force in search of work grew faster than employment. Most of the jobs added in the past year have been in the services-producing sector. The largest gain has been in health care and social assistance, up by 1,400. Manufacturing also saw an increase of 1,100. The largest employment decline was in the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** sector.

In the **North Shore** economic region, employment declined by 2,000 since last April. The number of persons entering the labour force in search of work declined by a slightly larger amount 3,300 over the same period. The unemployment rate was 7.6%, down considerably from a rate of 9.0% in April 2021. The largest employment increase among goods-producing industries occurred in **construction**. Employment declined in the services-producing sector. The largest employment decline among services industries occurred in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry, of 4,100, while the largest increase occurred in the **accommodation and food services** sector.

In the **Annapolis Valley** economic region, employment rose by 5,400 over the year. The unemployment rate fell substantially to 5.1%, down from 9.5% last April. Employment was higher in both the goods-producing and services-producing sectors, though gains were stronger among services. The largest gain occurred in the **health care and social assistance** industry.

In the **Southern** economic region, employment declined by 1,400 since last April and most of the losses were in part time positions. The unemployment rate was 8.1%, up slightly from a rate of 7.7% last April. From an industry perspective, a decline in employment in the goods-producing sector offset a gain in services-producing industries. Among goods-producing industries, the largest employment decline occurred in **construction** while the largest employment gain was in the **health care and social assistance** industry.

In the **Halifax** economic region, employment rose by 4,700 over the year and the majority of the employment gains were part-time in nature. The unemployment rate declined noticeably to 5.0%, down from a rate of 8.3% last April. Employment was higher in both the goods and services-producing sectors. The strongest gains were in the **retail and wholesale trade** and **professional, scientific and technical services** industries. The largest employment decline was in **health care and social assistance** industry and **accommodation and food services**.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2022 ('000)	April 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2022 (%)	April 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% Points)
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	468.3	455.4	2.8	6.9	9.1	-2.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Cape Breton	50.2	44.0	14.1	14.8	14.4	0.4
North Shore	64.8	66.8	-3.0	7.6	9.0	-1.4
Annapolis Valley	61.9	56.5	9.6	5.1	9.5	-4.4
Southern	48.6	50.0	-2.8	8.1	7.7	0.4
Halifax	242.7	238.0	2.0	5.0	8.3	-3.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387

**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.

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