



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

July 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 rose by 1,600 in July, following a weak monthly gain in June (+100). Most of the employment gains were in part-time positions (+1,000). The unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points in July, as a drop in unemployment (-5,900) exceeded labour force decline (-4,400), resulting in an all-time low rate for the province, at 5.9%. Meanwhile, employment reached its second highest level observed since 1976.

July data reflects labour market conditions during the July 10th to 16th reference week. The spread of COVID-19 still persists in the province, but gathering limits and restrictions for businesses have been lifted.

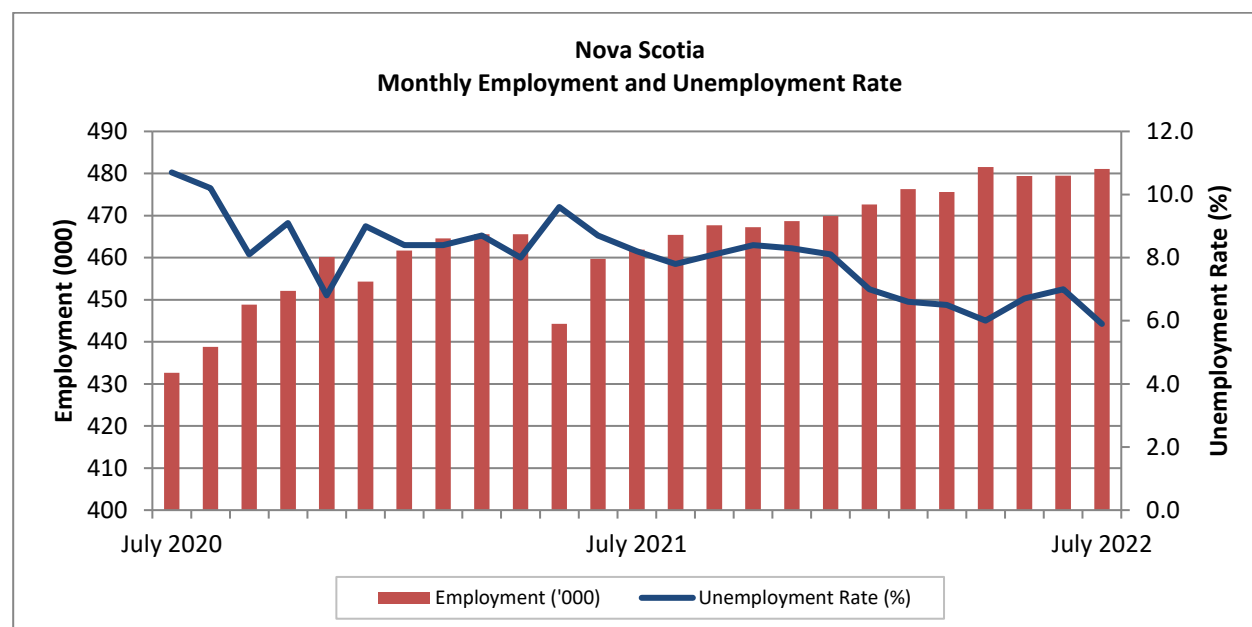
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data | July 2022 | June 2022 | July 2021 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 840.8 | 838.6 | 820.5 | 2.2 | 0.3 | 20.3 | 2.5 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 511.1 | 515.5 | 503.3 | -4.4 | -0.9 | 7.8 | 1.5 |
| Employment ('000) | 481.1 | 479.5 | 461.9 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 19.2 | 4.2 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 392.5 | 391.9 | 372.1 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 20.4 | 5.5 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 88.6 | 87.6 | 89.8 | 1.0 | 1.1 | -1.2 | -1.3 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 30.0 | 35.9 | 41.4 | -5.9 | -16.4 | -11.4 | -27.5 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 5.9 | 7.0 | 8.2 | -1.1 | - | -2.3 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 60.8 | 61.5 | 61.3 | -0.7 | - | -0.5 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 57.2 | 57.2 | 56.3 | 0.0 | - | 0.9 | - |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared to July 2021, the labour market in Nova Scotia has made significant improvements. Employment has risen by 19,200, entirely due to full-time jobs (+20,400) as part-time jobs declined (-1,200). The unemployment rate has also fallen by 2.3 percentage points from 8.2% to 5.9%. The labour force in Nova Scotia grew by 7,800 over the last year, however, this was outpaced by the working-age population (15 years of age and older) experiencing growth of 20,300. These changes resulted in a fall in the labour force participation rate from 61.3% in July 2021, to 60.8% in July 2022.



Employment increases in July primarily benefited youth aged 15 to 24 years (+2,400). That month, the youth unemployment rate fell by 6.1 percentage points to 7.4%, down from 13.5%. Male youth saw the largest unemployment rate decline of 12.8 percentage points, down from 19.0% in June. Within youth, employment among females remained unchanged, while the entirety of the 2,400 increase in youth employment were male.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | July 2022 | June 2022 | July 2021 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|
| | % | % | % | (% points) | (% points) |
| Total | 5.9 | 7.0 | 8.2 | -1.1 | -2.3 |
| 25 years and over | 5.6 | 5.9 | 7.4 | -0.3 | -1.8 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 6.4 | 6.8 | 8.0 | -0.4 | -1.6 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 4.8 | 4.9 | 6.8 | -0.1 | -2.0 |
| 15 to 24 years | 7.4 | 13.5 | 13.0 | -6.1 | -5.6 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 6.2 | 19.0 | 16.4 | -12.8 | -10.2 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 8.5 | 7.8 | 9.5 | 0.7 | -1.0 |

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

Employment gains among working-age (aged 25 years and older) Nova Scotian's during July 2022 were concentrated among males and the unemployment rate for males fell from 6.8% in June to 6.4% in July. The

unemployment rate for females fell from 4.9% in June to 4.8% in July, remaining lower than males. Even with a lower unemployment rate, employment for females declined by 900 while growing by 200 for males when compared to June. During the same period, female full-time employment fell by 100, while part-time grew by 1,100. Similarly, male full-time employment grew by 1,100 and part-time employment fell by 900.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment gains occurred exclusively in the **goods-producing** sector (+3,100) in July, while declines were observed in the **services-producing** sector (-1,500). However, compared to July of last year, employment in the **services-producing sector** grew to 13,900, far exceeding the gain of 5,300 workers in the **goods-producing** sector.

Among goods-producing industries, the largest employment increase occurred in the **manufacturing** industry. Employment was up 3,000 in this industry group in July and by 2,700 compared to a year earlier. **Construction** also experienced strong employment growth, up 1,000 in July, and by 6,800 (+18.7%) compared to a year earlier as the housing market remains strong. The largest employment declines occurred in the **agriculture** industry. Employment in this industry fell by 1,000 (-15.9%) in July, however, had a smaller decline annually of 700 (-11.7%). This industry continues to struggle with labour supply issues as well as increasing prices on inputs such as fertilizers, feed and fuel. The **forestry, fishing, mining and quarrying, oil and gas** industry had the largest annual decline in July losing 3,700 jobs (-33.6%) but had a monthly employment gain of 500 (+7.4%).

Among services-producing industries, the largest employment gain in July occurred in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry. Employment was up by 1,900 jobs in July but declined by 500 compared to July of last year. The **information, culture, and recreation** also experienced noticeable employment growth of 1,200 jobs in July. Furthermore, employment in this industry grew by 2,800 (+20.9%) compared to last year as the impact of travel restrictions on tourism is no longer in effect for the 2022 summer season. Notably, the **transportation and warehousing industry group** had the largest decline in employment, losing 1,700 jobs in July, and had a decline of 4,500 jobs (-18.0%) compared to a year earlier; this was the only significant decline on an annual basis for service industries. The **accommodation and food services** industry also experienced a noticeable monthly decline in employment of 1,500 jobs, while both **public administration** and **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** industries lost 1,200 jobs in July.

Nova Scotia Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | July 2022 | June 2022 | July 2021 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 481.1 | 479.5 | 461.9 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 19.2 | 4.2 |
| Goods-producing sector | 93.8 | 90.7 | 88.5 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 5.3 | 6.0 |
| Agriculture | 5.3 | 6.3 | 6.0 | -1.0 | -15.9 | -0.7 | -11.7 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 7.3 | 6.8 | 11.0 | 0.5 | 7.4 | -3.7 | -33.6 |
| Utilities | 3.9 | 4.2 | 3.4 | -0.3 | -7.1 | 0.5 | 14.7 |
| Construction | 43.1 | 42.1 | 36.3 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 6.8 | 18.7 |
| Manufacturing | 34.3 | 31.3 | 31.6 | 3.0 | 9.6 | 2.7 | 8.5 |
| Services-producing sector | 387.3 | 388.8 | 373.4 | -1.5 | -0.4 | 13.9 | 3.7 |
| Trade | 71.4 | 69.5 | 71.9 | 1.9 | 2.7 | -0.5 | -0.7 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 20.5 | 22.2 | 25.0 | -1.7 | -7.7 | -4.5 | -18.0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 24.5 | 25.7 | 23.3 | -1.2 | -4.7 | 1.2 | 5.2 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 40.6 | 40.6 | 34.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.1 | 17.7 |
| Business, building and other support services | 17.9 | 18.0 | 18.2 | -0.1 | -0.6 | -0.3 | -1.6 |
| Educational services | 39.6 | 38.9 | 35.3 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 4.3 | 12.2 |
| Health care and social assistance | 78.4 | 78.2 | 77.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 16.2 | 15.0 | 13.4 | 1.2 | 8.0 | 2.8 | 20.9 |
| Accommodation and food services | 30.2 | 31.7 | 29.0 | -1.5 | -4.7 | 1.2 | 4.1 |
| Other services | 17.8 | 17.7 | 15.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 2.8 | 18.7 |
| Public administration | 30.1 | 31.3 | 30.5 | -1.2 | -3.8 | -0.4 | -1.3 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to July 2021, employment rose significantly in three of Nova Scotia's economic regions. Both **Halifax** and the **Annapolis Valley** economic regions have notably lower unemployment rates compared to the rest of the province at 4.9% and 4.6% respectively.

In the **Cape Breton** economic region, employment grew by 4,800 compared to a year earlier, a 9.7% increase. The unemployment rate in Cape Breton fell by 2.8 percentage points year-over-year to 9.8%, an all-time low since recording began. Jobs added in the past year totaled 5,400 in the **services-producing** sector while the **goods producing** sector lost 600. The largest twelve-month employment gains have been in the **health and social assistance** (+2,000), **manufacturing** (+1,200), and **wholesale and retail trade** (+1,000) industries.

Employment in the **North Shore** region declined by 2,000 (-2.8%) over the last year. The unemployment rate in the economic region was up 0.5 percentage points year-over-year to 7.9%. Employment in the **goods-producing** sector was up 1,900 jobs, while the **services-producing** sector was down 3,800 compared to last year. The largest employment gains over the year were in the **construction** (+3,200), and **health care and social assistance** industries (+1,600).

In the **Annapolis Valley** economic region, employment was up 5,100 jobs year-over-year, an increase of 8.9%. This added 6,600 full-time positions but lost 1,500 part-time jobs over the year. The unemployment rate in the economic region fell by 3.8 percentage points compared to last July to 4.6%, as a result of 43.4% less people seeking work. This was the lowest rate since recording began, and the lowest within Nova Scotia. Employment expanded by 6,100 in the **services-producing** sector, while falling by 1,000 in the **goods producing** sector year-over-year. Employment gains were largest in the **professional, scientific and technical services** (+1,700) and **public administration** industries (+1,500).

Compared with July 2021, employment in the **Southern** economic region declined by 1,500 (-2.9%), with all job losses in part-time jobs. The unemployment rate in this economic region grew by 0.7 percentage points to 7.8%. Year-over-year, employment increased by 1,000 in the **services-producing** sector while declining by 2,500 in the **goods-producing** sector. The largest employment gains were in **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing**

(+1,100) and **health care and social assistance** (+700), while **wholesale and retail trade** (-1,300) and **manufacturing** (-1,100) had the greatest declines.

In the **Halifax** economic region, the level of employment rose by 19,200 jobs since last July, growing at a rate of 8.2%. Over 71% of the additional employment over the year was in full-time positions. The unemployment rate in the region fell by 3.7 percentage points year-over-year to 4.9%, as 9,100 job seekers became employed. Compared with July 2021, employment was up 15,400 in the services-producing sector and up 3,700 in the goods-producing sector. The largest employment gains were in **business, building and other support services** (+5,100), **accommodation and food services** (4,200), and **educational services** (3,700). Notably, employment declined by 2,800 in the **transportation and warehousing** industry.

Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| 3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| | July 2022 ('000) | July 2021 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | July 2022 (%) | July 2021 (%) | Yearly Variation (% Points) |
| Nova Scotia | 490.4 | 464.9 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 8.7 | -2.5 |
| Economic Regions | | | | | | |
| Cape Breton | 54.3 | 49.5 | 9.7 | 9.8 | 12.6 | -2.8 |
| North Shore | 68.8 | 70.8 | -2.8 | 7.9 | 7.4 | 0.5 |
| Annapolis Valley | 62.7 | 57.6 | 8.9 | 4.6 | 8.4 | -3.8 |
| Southern | 50.5 | 52.0 | -2.9 | 7.8 | 7.1 | 0.7 |
| Halifax | 254.1 | 234.9 | 8.2 | 4.9 | 8.6 | -3.7 |

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact the LMI team at:

http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

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

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2022, all rights reserved