



Labour Market Bulletin

Nova Scotia

August 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 fell by 5,200 (-1.1%) in August to its lowest point since March 2022. The fall in employment is owed to a drop in part-time work (-11,900). In July, employment rose by 1,600. The province's unemployment rate increased by 1.7 percentage points in August to 7.6%, its highest level since December 2021. July had been an all-time low for Nova Scotia's unemployment rate.

August data reflects labour market conditions during the August 14 to 20, 2022 reference week. The spread of COVID-19 continues to persist in the province, but all gathering limits and restrictions for business activity have been lifted.

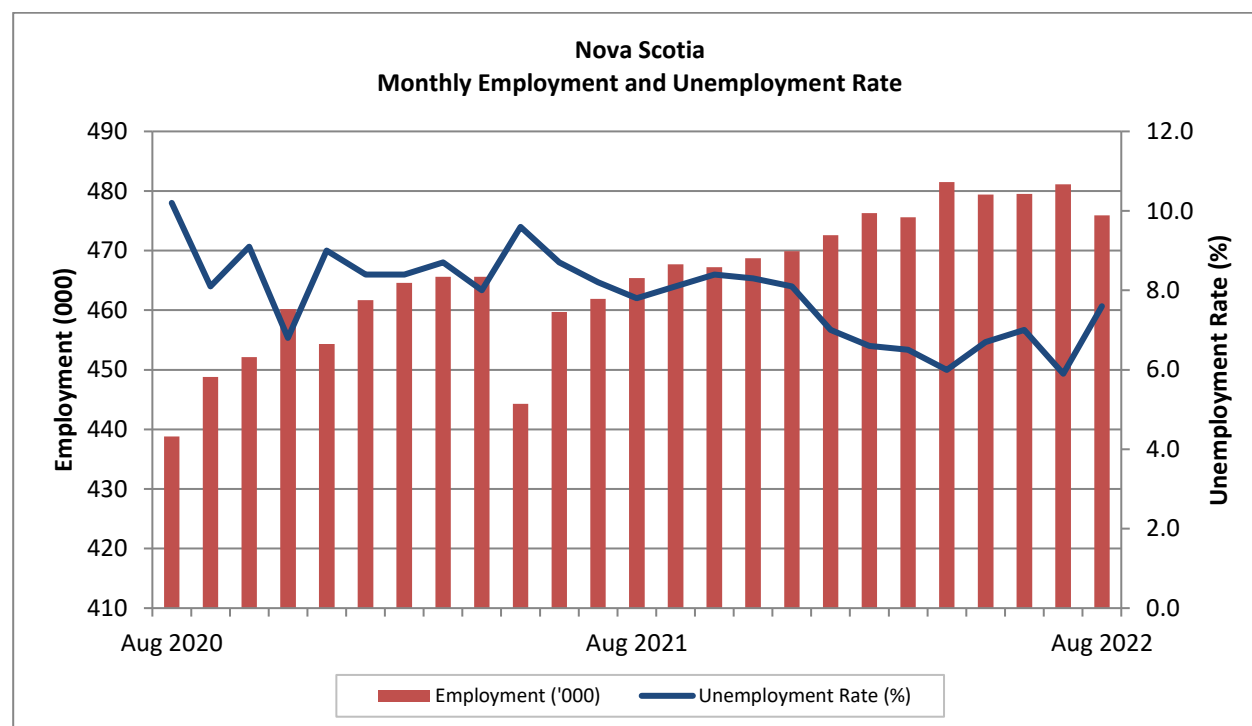
Nova Scotia Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Aug 2022	July 2022	Aug 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	844.0	840.8	822.3	3.2	0.4	21.7	2.6
Labour Force ('000)	514.9	511.1	504.7	3.8	0.7	10.2	2.0
Employment ('000)	475.9	481.1	465.4	-5.2	-1.1	10.5	2.3
Full-Time ('000)	399.2	392.5	371.5	6.7	1.7	27.7	7.5
Part-Time ('000)	76.7	88.6	93.9	-11.9	-13.4	-17.2	-18.3
Unemployment ('000)	39.0	30.0	39.3	9.0	30.0	-0.3	-0.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.6	5.9	7.8	1.7	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.0	60.8	61.4	0.2	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.4	57.2	56.6	-0.8	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared to August 2021, the labour market in Nova Scotia has improved. Employment has risen by 10,500, entirely due to full-time jobs (+27,700) as part-time jobs declined (-17,200). The unemployment rate has also fallen by 0.2 percentage points from 7.8% a year ago. The labour force in Nova Scotia grew by 10,200 over the last year, however, the working age population (15 years of age and older) experienced faster growth. The working age population grew by 21,700, resulting in a fall in the labour force participation rate from 61.4% in August 2021, to 61.0% in August 2022.



Employment changes in August have been uneven across age groups in Nova Scotia. Proportionally, employment decreases in August hit the youth aged 15-24 the hardest (-2.9%) with a loss of 2,000 jobs. They are the demographic most likely to be employed on a part-time basis. Youth employment has never fully recovered to the level it held before the pandemic as they constituted a larger share of their employment in industries that were hardest hit during the pandemic, such as retail and wholesale trade and accommodations and food services. The youth unemployment rate shot up 6.0 percentage points to 11.1% in August after hitting a record low the month prior. Male youth experienced the largest unemployment rate increase of 9.9 percentage points to 16.1%, up from 6.2% in July. The female youth unemployment rate rose 2.2 percentage points to 10.7%.

Nova Scotia Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Aug 2022	July 2022	Aug 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.6	5.9	7.8	1.7	-0.2
25 years and over	6.6	5.6	7.2	1.0	-0.6
Men - 25 years and over	7.8	6.4	7.4	1.4	0.4
Women - 25 years and over	5.2	4.8	7.0	0.4	-1.8

15 to 24 years	13.4	7.4	11.1	6.0	2.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.1	6.2	13.5	9.9	2.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.7	8.5	8.7	2.2	2.0

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

The portion of the labour market aged 25-55 lost 2,900 jobs in August, a fall of 1.0%. Workers aged 55 years and older were relatively unscathed by the employment decreases in August compared to the younger population groups. Employment has grown higher than pre-COVID levels for the 25-54 and 55+ age groups. Unemployment for those over the age of 25 has increased by 1.0 percentage point in August to 6.6%. While the unemployment rate has risen in the last month, it is still down 0.6 percentage points over August 2021.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment losses were larger in the **goods-producing** sector (-3,100) than the **services-producing** sector (-2,100) in August. However, compared to August of last year, employment in the **services-producing** sector grew by 6,800, far exceeding the gain of 3,700 workers in the **goods-producing** sector.

Among goods-producing industries, the largest employment increase occurred in the **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** industry. Employment was up 2,100 in this industry group in August, but has fallen by 1,400 compared to a year earlier. The only other goods-producing industry to experience employment gains this month is **utilities** which has grown by 600 jobs but is up by only 300 in the last year. The largest employment declines occurred in the **construction** industry. Employment in this industry fell by 3,100 (-7.2%) in August, however, it has increased annually by 5,100 (+14.6%) as the housing market remains stronger. Employment in the **agriculture** industry declined in August, losing 2,100 jobs (-22.6%) and has dropped even further since a year ago (-1,900).

Among services-producing industries, the largest employment gain in August occurred in the **transportation and warehousing** industry. Employment was up by 1,100 jobs in August but declined by 2,000 compared to August of last year. The **information, culture, and recreation** also experienced noticeable employment growth of 1,000 jobs in August. Furthermore, employment in this industry grew by 3,600 (+26.5%) compared to last year as the impact of travel restrictions on tourism is no longer in effect for the 2022 summer season. Notably, the **educational services** industry had the largest decline in employment, losing 3,500 jobs in August, and had a decline of 500 jobs (-1.4%) compared to a year earlier. The rest of the services-producing industries had either mild growth or mild losses in employment this month.

Nova Scotia Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Aug 2022	July 2022	Aug 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	475.9	481.1	465.4	-5.2	-1.1	10.5	2.3
Goods-producing sector	90.7	93.8	87.0	-3.1	-3.3	3.7	4.3
Agriculture	4.1	5.3	6.0	-1.2	-22.6	-1.9	-31.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.4	7.3	10.8	2.1	28.8	-1.4	-13.0
Utilities	4.5	3.9	4.2	0.6	15.4	0.3	7.1

Construction	40.0	43.1	34.9	-3.1	-7.2	5.1	14.6
Manufacturing	32.8	34.3	31.1	-1.5	-4.4	1.7	5.5
Services-producing sector	385.2	387.3	378.4	-2.1	-0.5	6.8	1.8
Trade	71.5	71.4	73.6	0.1	0.1	-2.1	-2.9
Transportation and warehousing	21.6	20.5	23.6	1.1	5.4	-2.0	-8.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	24.3	24.5	23.0	-0.2	-0.8	1.3	5.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	40.8	40.6	37.7	0.2	0.5	3.1	8.2
Business, building and other support services	18.0	17.9	18.2	0.1	0.6	-0.2	-1.1
Educational services	36.4	39.6	36.9	-3.2	-8.1	-0.5	-1.4
Health care and social assistance	78.4	78.4	76.5	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.5
Information, culture and recreation	17.2	16.2	13.6	1.0	6.2	3.6	26.5
Accommodation and food services	29.9	30.2	28.1	-0.3	-1.0	1.8	6.4
Other services	16.8	17.8	16.1	-1.0	-5.6	0.7	4.3
Public administration	30.4	30.1	31.2	0.3	1.0	-0.8	-2.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to August 2021, employment rose significantly in three of Nova Scotia's economic regions: **Halifax**, **Annapolis Valley** and **Cape Breton**. Both the **Halifax** and **Annapolis Valley** economic regions have notably lower unemployment rates compared to the rest of the province at 5.4% and 4.8%, respectively.

In the **Cape Breton** economic region, employment grew by 3,400 compared to a year earlier, a 6.6% increase. The unemployment rate in Cape Breton fell by 2.7 percentage points year-over-year to 9.1%, an all-time low since recording began. Jobs added in the past year totaled 3,900 in the **services-producing** sector while the **goods producing** sector lost 500. The largest twelve-month employment gains have been in the **manufacturing** (+1,200), the **transportation and warehousing** (+800), and the **health and social assistance** (+700) industries.

Employment in the **North Shore** region declined by 3,200 (-4.5%) over the last year. The unemployment rate in the economic region was up 2.2 percentage points year-over-year to 9.7%. Employment in the **goods-producing** sector was up 1,900 jobs, while the **services-producing** sector was down 5,000 compared to last year. The largest employment gains over the year were in the **construction** (+2,300) and **health care and social assistance** (+1,200) industries.

In the **Annapolis Valley** economic region, employment was up 4,700 jobs year-over-year, an increase of 8.2%. This added 7,600 full-time positions but lost 2,900 part-time jobs over the year. The unemployment rate in the economic region fell by 4.4 percentage points compared to last August to 4.8%, as a result of 46.6% fewer people are seeking employment. Employment expanded by 5,900 in the **services-producing** sector, while falling by 1,200 in the **goods producing** sector year-over-year. Employment gains were largest in the **professional, scientific and technical services** (+1,800) and **public administration** industries (+1,000).

Compared with August 2021, employment in the **Southern** economic region declined by 2,400 (-4.7%), with most of the losses being part-time jobs. The unemployment rate in this economic region grew by 1.6 percentage points to 9.1%. Year-over-year, employment fell by 400 in the **services-producing** sector while also declining by 1,900 in the **goods-producing** sector. The largest employment gains were in **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (+900) and **accommodation and food services** (+800). The largest declines occurred in the **wholesale and retail trade** (-1,300) and **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (-1,300) industries.

In the **Halifax** economic region, the level of employment rose by 13,900 jobs since last August, growing at a rate of 5.8%. All of the employment growth over the year was in full-time positions. The unemployment rate in the region fell by 2.0 percentage points year-over-year to 5.4%. Compared with August 2021, employment was up 8,600 in the services-producing sector and up 5,200 in the goods-producing sector. The largest employment gains were in **accommodation and food services** (4,200), **professional, scientific and technical services** (+4,100), and **construction** (3,200). Notably, employment declined by 3,600 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		
	Aug 2022 ('000)	Aug 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Aug 2022 (%)	Aug 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% Points)
Nova Scotia	488.4	472.1	3.5	6.8	8.2	-1.4
Economic Regions						
Cape Breton	55.1	51.7	6.6	9.1	11.8	-2.7
North Shore	68.1	71.3	-4.5	9.7	7.5	2.2
Annapolis Valley	62.1	57.4	8.2	4.8	9.2	-4.4
Southern	49.2	51.6	-4.7	9.1	7.5	1.6
Halifax	254.0	240.1	5.8	5.4	7.4	-2.0

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

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