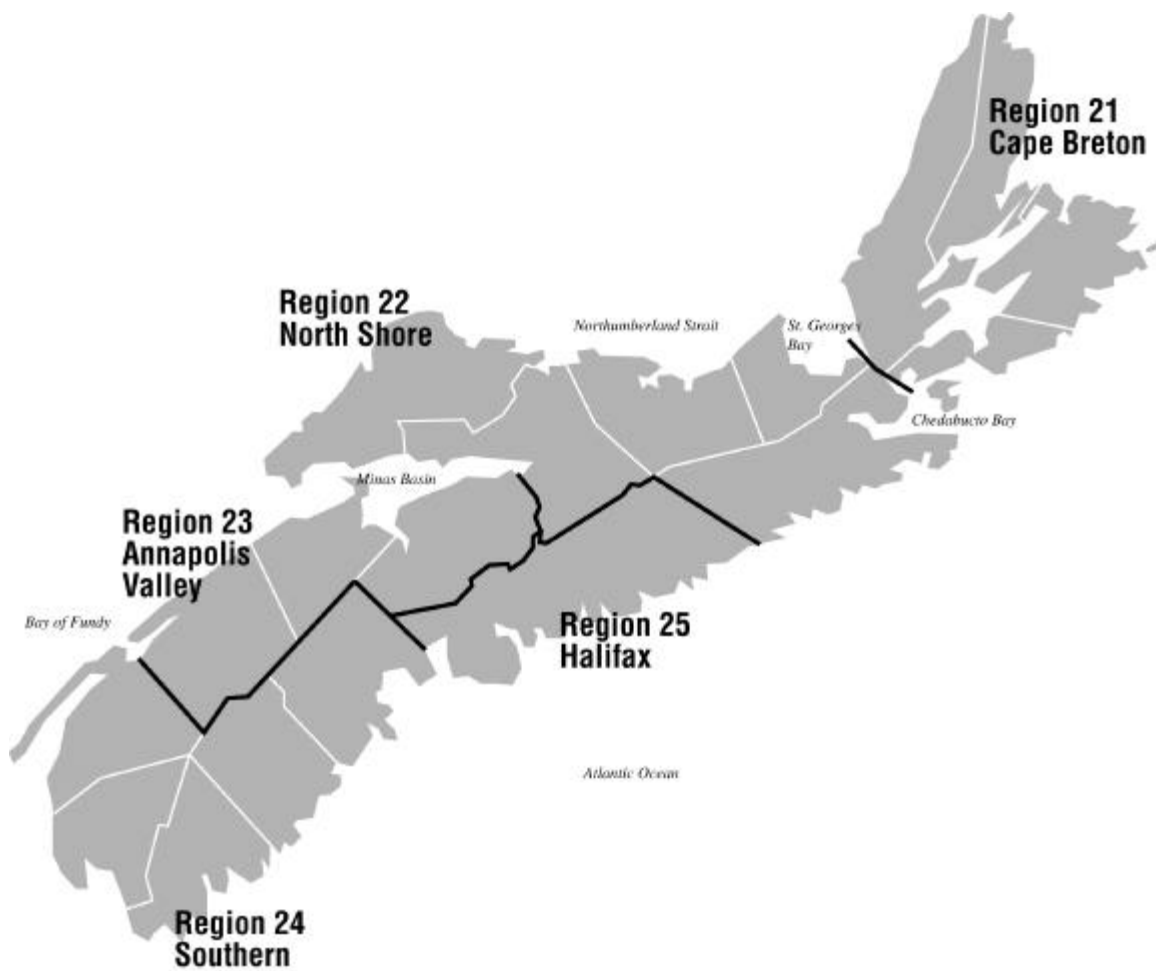


# Nova Scotia Labour Market

## January 2005



## Labour Force Survey - Nova Scotia

(February will be released March 11, 2005)

### HIGHLIGHTS - LFS Release January 2005

On a seasonally adjusted basis the provincial employment level in January 2005 increased by 1,200 persons over December 2004 to 444,600 employees. The size of the labour force increased 0.04% and the number of unemployed persons declined 2.3% when compared to the previous month. As a result, the monthly unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percentage points to 8.7%. When compared to January 2004, the employment level rose 2.1% while the unemployment rate decreased 0.5 percentage points. The participation rate was 64.1% in January 2005, unchanged from the previous month and increased 0.6 percentage points from January 2004.

Based on unadjusted three month moving averages, the unemployment rate increased in three of the five regions in the province as compared to January 2004. The unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points in the Annapolis Valley, 0.2 percentage points in the Halifax region and 0.1 percentage points in the North Shore region, while it declined 2.4 percentage points in the Cape Breton region and 1.8 percentage points in the Southern region.

On a seasonally adjusted three month moving average basis, the unemployment rate for the Halifax Census Metropolitan Area was 6.1%, an increase of 0.1 percentage points from January 2004. In January 2005 the Halifax rate stood as the lowest rate east of Quebec City.

*Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 71-001*

**NOTE: See next page for notice of important changes in LFS 2005. As a result of these changes, LFS estimates have been revised back to January 1976. Users must be aware that beginning with this release, historical comparisons of estimates produced by the LFS must be made with revised historical data.**

## Feature - Important Changes in LFS 2005

Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates have undergone extensive revisions. All estimates have been adjusted to reflect 2001 Census population counts (was based on the 1996 Census estimates); industry estimates have been classified from the 1997 to the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS); occupation estimates have been classified from the 1991 Standard Occupation Classification to the National Occupational Classification - Statistics 2001 (NOC-S). Lastly, geography boundaries have changed from the 1996 Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) to the 2001 SGC, which mainly affects boundaries of census metropolitan areas. The article [Improvements in 2005 to the LFS<sup>1</sup>](#) provides an overview of the effect of these changes on the estimates.

As a result of these changes, LFS estimates have been revised back to January 1976. Users must be aware that beginning with January 2005 data, to be released on February 4, 2005, historical comparisons of estimates produced by the LFS must be made with revised historical data.

Revised historical data are now available on CANSIM in tables [282-0001 to 282-0095](#). The revised data will also be available on the 2004 Labour Force Historical Review CD-ROM (Cat. No. 71F0004XCB), which will be released in mid-February.

<sup>1</sup> See [www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=71F0031X](http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=71F0031X)

Basic Labour Force Characteristics, Nova Scotia, 1976-2004  
 -Revised series released January 2005-

Year	<u>Population</u> '000	<u>Labour Force</u> '000	<u>Employment</u> '000	<u>Full-time</u> '000	<u>Part-time</u> '000	<u>Unemployment</u> '000	<u>Not in LF</u> '000	<u>Unemployment Rate</u> %	<u>Participation Rate</u> %	<u>Employment Rate</u> %
1976	589.5	328.0	297.9	261.0	36.9	30.1	261.4	9.2	55.6	50.5
1977	598.9	332.7	298.3	259.1	39.1	34.4	266.3	10.3	55.6	49.8
1978	608.5	342.0	306.0	267.2	38.8	36.0	266.5	10.5	56.2	50.3
1979	618.2	352.5	317.3	275.8	41.5	35.2	265.7	10.0	57.0	51.3
1980	626.6	359.2	324.4	279.6	44.8	34.8	267.5	9.7	57.3	51.8
1981	632.7	364.8	328.3	278.5	49.9	36.4	267.9	10.0	57.7	51.9
1982	639.8	368.2	321.1	270.3	50.8	47.1	271.6	12.8	57.5	50.2
1983	650.1	375.3	324.8	271.9	52.9	50.4	274.9	13.4	57.7	50.0
1984	659.8	390.8	339.9	284.4	55.5	50.9	269.0	13.0	59.2	51.5
1985	668.3	396.1	342.7	286.1	56.6	53.5	272.1	13.5	59.3	51.3
1986	675.0	403.9	350.2	290.4	59.8	53.7	271.1	13.3	59.8	51.9
1987	680.2	408.4	359.4	298.0	61.4	49.0	271.8	12.0	60.0	52.8
1988	685.1	416.1	373.9	312.2	61.7	42.2	269.0	10.1	60.7	54.6
1989	690.9	423.1	381.3	316.3	65.0	41.7	267.8	9.9	61.2	55.2
1990	697.0	431.4	385.2	319.1	66.0	46.2	265.6	10.7	61.9	55.3
1991	703.5	433.1	380.7	311.6	69.1	52.4	270.4	12.1	61.6	54.1
1992	708.0	424.3	368.4	299.2	69.2	55.9	283.7	13.2	59.9	52.0
1993	712.5	427.0	365.0	296.1	69.0	62.0	285.5	14.5	59.9	51.2
1994	716.5	429.7	371.0	297.0	74.0	58.7	286.8	13.7	60.0	51.8
1995	720.2	427.0	374.5	299.2	75.3	52.4	293.2	12.3	59.3	52.0
1996	724.7	429.3	375.7	299.6	76.1	53.6	295.3	12.5	59.2	51.8
1997	728.4	434.3	381.0	301.5	79.5	53.3	294.1	12.3	59.6	52.3
1998	730.8	440.8	393.8	316.4	77.4	47.0	290.0	10.7	60.3	53.9
1999	735.0	446.3	403.2	326.1	77.1	43.1	288.7	9.7	60.7	54.9
2000	739.2	452.4	411.1	334.9	76.2	41.3	286.8	9.1	61.2	55.6
2001	742.6	460.4	415.4	341.3	74.1	45.0	282.3	9.8	62.0	55.9
2002	747.5	467.2	422.4	342.6	79.7	44.8	280.4	9.6	62.5	56.5
2003	752.7	474.7	431.3	348.8	82.5	43.4	278.0	9.1	63.1	57.3
2004	756.9	484.3	441.6	358.6	83.0	42.7	272.6	8.8	64.0	58.3

Basic Labour Force Characteristics, Nova Scotia, by month 2003-2004  
-Revised series released January 2005-

	<u>Population</u> '000	<u>Labour Force</u> '000	<u>Employment</u> '000	<u>Full-time</u> '000	<u>Part-time</u> '000	<u>Unemployment</u> '000	<u>Not in LF</u> '000	<u>Unemployment Rate</u> %	<u>Participation Rate</u> %	<u>Employment Rate</u> %
Jan2003	750.5	459.5	412.4	324.5	87.9	47.1	290.9	10.3	61.2	55.0
Feb2003	750.8	456.9	412.6	322.2	90.4	44.3	294.0	9.7	60.9	55.0
Mar2003	751.0	463.6	415.3	330.8	84.5	48.3	287.4	10.4	61.7	55.3
Apr2003	751.5	467.0	422.8	339.0	83.9	44.1	284.6	9.4	62.1	56.3
May2003	751.8	478.5	435.1	360.3	74.8	43.4	273.4	9.1	63.6	57.9
Jun2003	752.4	483.7	445.9	368.3	77.6	37.9	268.7	7.8	64.3	59.3
Jul2003	752.9	490.0	445.5	374.5	71.0	44.5	262.9	9.1	65.1	59.2
Aug2003	753.3	493.3	444.7	374.3	70.4	48.5	260.1	9.8	65.5	59.0
Sep2003	753.7	476.6	436.1	351.6	84.5	40.5	277.2	8.5	63.2	57.9
Oct2003	754.2	474.1	435.8	351.8	83.9	38.4	280.1	8.1	62.9	57.8
Nov2003	754.7	477.8	432.9	343.5	89.5	44.9	276.8	9.4	63.3	57.4
Dec2003	755.0	474.9	436.5	344.9	91.6	38.5	280.0	8.1	62.9	57.8
Jan2004	755.3	466.9	418.2	329.6	88.6	48.7	288.4	10.4	61.8	55.4
Feb2004	755.5	464.8	419.7	331.2	88.5	45.1	290.7	9.7	61.5	55.6
Mar2004	755.7	471.9	423.3	339.9	83.4	48.7	283.8	10.3	62.4	56.0
Apr2004	755.9	475.8	428.9	346.6	82.3	46.9	280.2	9.9	62.9	56.7
May2004	756.2	492.5	447.2	365.9	81.2	45.3	263.8	9.2	65.1	59.1
Jun2004	756.5	498.2	459.2	378.7	80.5	39.0	258.3	7.8	65.9	60.7
Jul2004	757.2	504.6	462.9	387.2	75.7	41.7	252.5	8.3	66.6	61.1
Aug2004	757.7	499.3	457.1	388.0	69.0	42.3	258.3	8.5	65.9	60.3
Sep2004	757.8	486.9	449.3	366.2	83.0	37.6	270.9	7.7	64.3	59.3
Oct2004	758.2	483.6	447.2	361.6	85.6	36.4	274.6	7.5	63.8	59.0
Nov2004	758.4	485.2	444.0	356.0	88.0	41.3	273.2	8.5	64.0	58.5
Dec2004	758.8	482.5	442.6	352.0	90.6	39.8	276.3	8.2	63.6	58.3

Source: Labour Division, Statistics Canada

## Key Employment Indicators

February 4, 2005

Along with the monthly Labour Force Survey, several other data sources help view changes occurring in the labour market of the province. The following tables reflect some of those activities:

**Total Wages & Salaries** (Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 13F0016XPB)  
(October-December 2004 will be released February 28, 2005)

From 2002 to 2003, the annual growth in total wages and salaries stood at 4.0% in Nova Scotia reaching \$13,037.3 million and rose 3.2% in Canada to \$538,288.4 million. In the period January to September 2004, total wages and salaries were \$10,003.1 million in Nova Scotia, up 2.7% over the first three quarters of 2003, while the comparable figure for Canada was \$417,727.2 million, an increase of 3.4%.

### Total Wages & Salaries, Nova Scotia

(\$millions - Actual)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	Jan-Sept <u>2002</u>	Jan-Sept <u>2003</u>	Jan-Sept <u>2004</u>
Total Wages & Salaries	11,508.3	11,947.3	12,539.6	13,037.3	9,320.2	9,735.8	10,003.1

*Beginning with March 2001 data, the labour income estimates has been based on the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). NAICS based historical series were released for the period January 1997 through March 2001. Also beginning with the March 2001 data, the monthly estimates of labour income has become a quarterly release in conjunction with the National Income and Expenditure Accounts estimates.*

**Average Weekly Earnings** (Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 72-002-XPB)  
(December 2004 will be released February 25, 2004)

In 2003 the average earnings for all employees in Nova Scotia of \$597.89 per week increased \$7.21, up 1.2% from 2002, while the Canadian figure of \$689.66 rose \$8.76 or 1.3%. In November 2004, Nova Scotia's average weekly earnings (industrial aggregate) increased 3.3% over November 2003 to \$618.56 compared to an increase of 1.9% to \$705.08 in Canada. In November 2004 average weekly earnings in Nova Scotia were 87.7% of the Canadian average.

### Average Weekly Earnings, Nova Scotia

NAICS-based(including overtime)

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	Nov. <u>2004p</u>
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	532.33	526.47	533.00	538.61	549.26	549.24	562.77	574.14	590.68	597.89	618.56

## Employment Insurance

(December 2004 will be released February 22, 2005)

There were 29,670 beneficiaries (seasonally adjusted) in Nova Scotia that received regular Employment Insurance benefits in November 2004, an decrease of 1.1% from last month and a decline of 1.0% over November 2003. Nationwide there were 514,500 beneficiaries, a decrease of 1.3% over last month and a decline of 9.5% over November 2003. Compared to November 2003, the number of beneficiaries in all provinces and territories declined with the exclusion of the Yukon Territory where it remained unchanged, Newfoundland and Labrador which increased 0.6% and New Brunswick which increased 0.7%. The most significant decline was reported in Manitoba at -20.3%.

### Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular EI Benefits (Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>November 2004p</u>	<u>% Change November 2003 - November 2004</u>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>514,500</b>	<b>-9.5</b>
Newfoundland & Labrador	37,470	0.6
Prince Edward Island	7,810	-1.9
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<b>29,670</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
New Brunswick	34,370	0.7
Quebec	171,910	-7.8
Ontario	127,690	-13.1
Manitoba	11,630	-20.3
Saskatchewan	11,060	-14.5
Alberta	26,990	-18.5
British Columbia	55,680	-13.9
Yukon	920	0.0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	1,160	-2.5

*Statistics Canada's Employment Insurance program completed a revision of the benefit payments and disqualifications and disentitlements data series. Due to adjustments received from HRSDC, a revision to job creation, training and self-employment benefit payments occurred for the months of April to October 2001. Please note, the Employment Insurance data on beneficiaries, claims, weeks paid and average weekly payment were not affected by the revision.*

**Public Sector Employment - Nova Scotia** (Source: Statistics Canada, Public Institutions Division, Public Sector FMS Reports (CANSIM retrieval Tables 183-0002 and 183-0004)

(4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2004 will be released February 25, 2005)

	<u>1999*</u>	<u>2000*</u>	<u>2001*</u>	<u>2002*</u>	<u>2003*</u>	3rd Q <u>2004**</u>	% Change 3rd Q 2003 <u>to 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2004</u>
Federal Government (includes military)	23,077	22,592	22,709	23,146	23,480	23,576	-0.6
Military	11,431	10,814	10,391	10,526	10,599	10,584	0.9
Provincial General	11,922	11,615	11,303	11,108	11,288	11,161	-3.7
Universities & Colleges	9,144	8,877	8,268	7,906	7,200	5,191	-17.1
Health & Social Services Institution	27,301	27,501	28,156	29,068	30,309	26,561	-14.1
Local General Government	8,720	9,212	9,483	10,244	11,775	13,359	4.0
School Boards	17,038	16,933	16,470	15,800	16,374	12,540	-6.7
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>97,203</b>	<b>96,731</b>	<b>96,390</b>	<b>97,271</b>	<b>100,425</b>	<b>92,387</b>	<b>-6.5</b>
Government Business Enterprises	7,439	6,825	6,396	6,479	7,049	7,805	9.0
Federal GBE	4,652	4,050	3,738	3,809	4,333	5,047	13.3
Provincial GBE	2,302	2,290	2,172	2,183	2,229	2,269	2.2
Local GBE	485	485	486	486	487	489	0.0
<b>Total Public Sector</b>	<b>104,641</b>	<b>103,556</b>	<b>102,786</b>	<b>103,750</b>	<b>107,474</b>	<b>100,193</b>	<b>-5.4</b>

\* Figures by jurisdiction do not always add to published totals.

\*\* Quarterly data is not comparable to annual data due to normal seasonal changes in some groups, e.g., universities, schools.