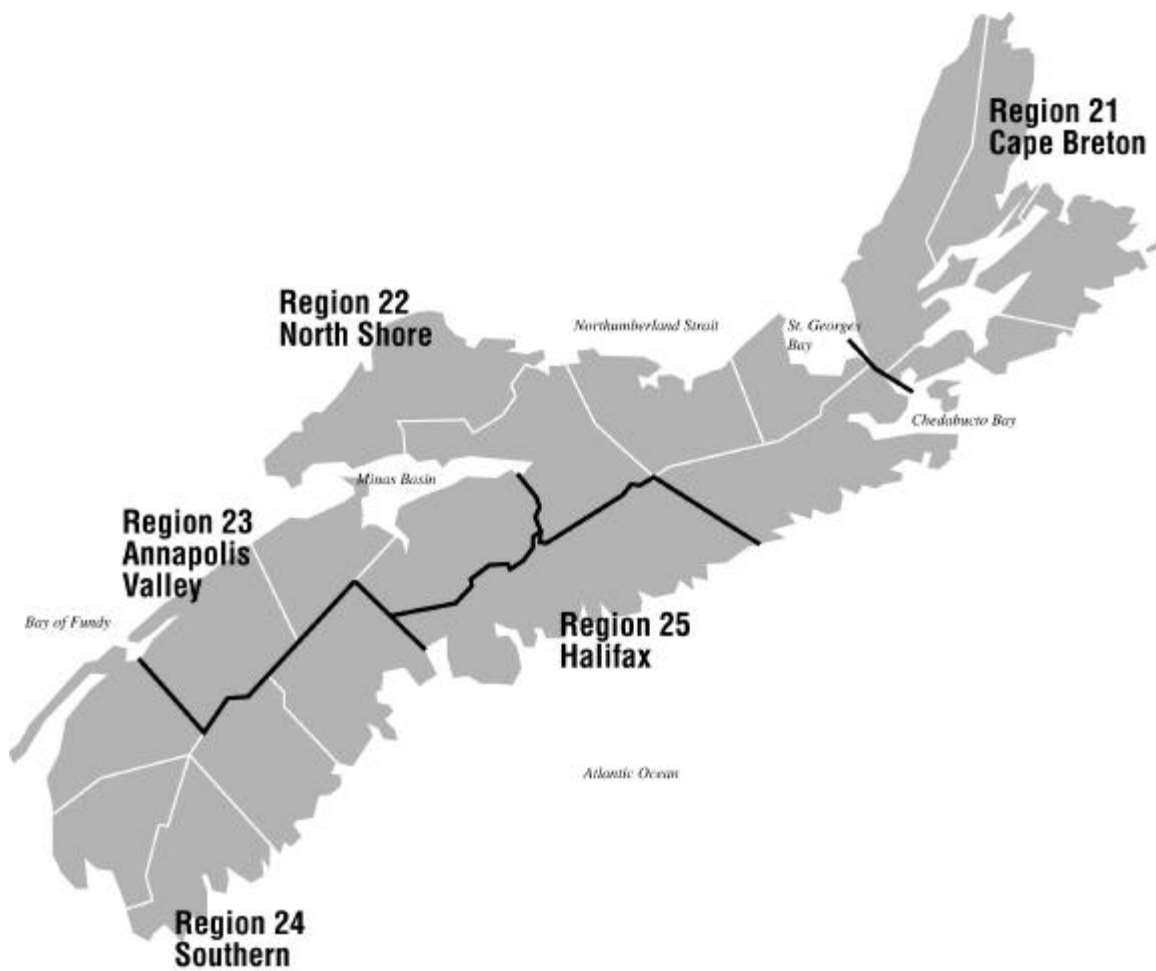


Nova Scotia Labour Market March 2005



Labour Force Survey - Nova Scotia

(April will be released May 6, 2005)

HIGHLIGHTS - LFS Release March 2005

On a seasonally adjusted basis the provincial employment level in March 2005 increased by 300 persons over February 2005 to 443,100 employees. The size of the labour force decreased 1.3% and the number of unemployed persons declined 13.5% when compared to the previous month. As a result, the monthly unemployment rate decreased 1.2 percentage points to 8.6%. When compared to March 2004, the employment level rose 1.2% while the unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage points. The participation rate was 63.8% in March 2005, a decrease of 0.8 percentage points from the previous month and increased 0.1 percentage points from March 2004.

Based on unadjusted three month moving averages, the unemployment rate increased in two of the five regions in the province as compared to March 2004. The unemployment rate increased 0.7 percentage points in the North Shore region and 0.1 percentage points in the Halifax region, while it declined 1.0 percentage points in the Cape Breton region, 0.3 percentage points in the Annapolis Valley and 0.2 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 6.3%, an increase of 0.1 percentage points from March 2004. In March 2005 the Halifax rate stood as the lowest rate east of Quebec City.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 71-001

**Average Days Lost by Full-time Employees for Personal Reasons
Canada & Nova Scotia, 2000 to 2004**

(Source: Statistics Canada, 2004 Labour Force Historic Review, Cat. No. 71F0004XCB; Labour Force Information, Cat. No. 71-0001-XIE)

Data on total days lost is collected in Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS). The estimated number of days lost per worker per year is calculated by pro-rating the time lost during reference week for personal reasons over the whole year. These estimates apply only to full-time employees who are single job holders. Personal reasons include family responsibilities, maternity leave and own illness or disability.

Total Days Lost, including & excluding Maternity Leave, Canada & the Provinces, 2000 to 2004

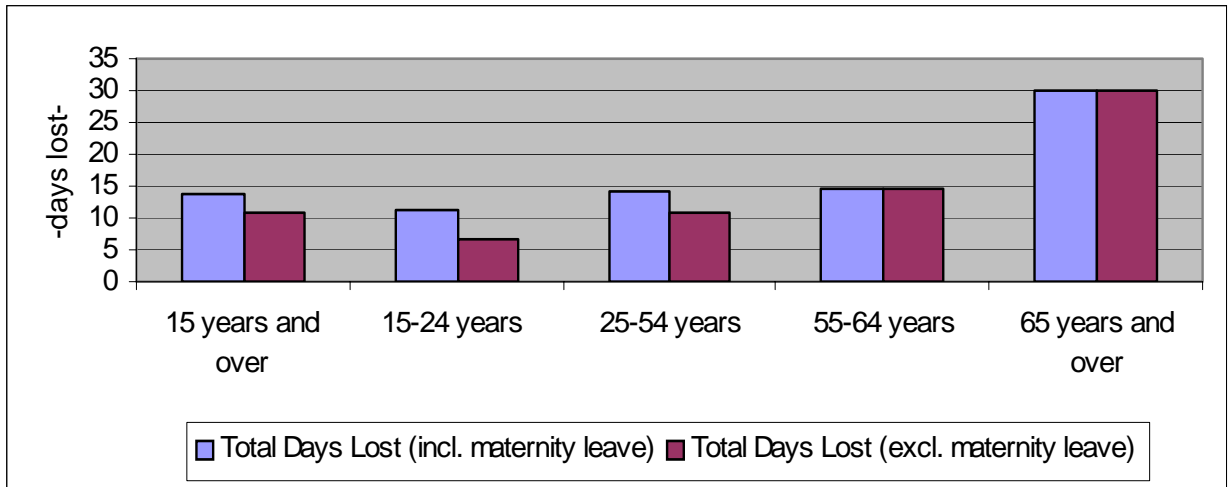
	Total Days Lost (incl. Maternity Leave)					Total Days Lost (excl. Maternity Leave)				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Canada	9.9	10.6	11.8	12.2	12.4	8.0	8.4	9.0	9.1	9.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	10.3	10.0	10.4	13.6	12.9	9.2	8.6	8.5	10.4	10.2
Prince Edward Island	8.6	9.6	11.1	10.7	10.0	6.8	7.6	8.4	7.6	7.5
Nova Scotia	11.0	12.0	12.9	12.3	13.8	9.4	9.6	10.3	9.7	10.9
New Brunswick	10.1	12.0	11.8	12.8	13.0	8.6	10.1	9.6	10.0	9.5
Quebec	10.9	11.3	12.5	14.0	14.5	8.8	9.0	9.7	10.6	10.6
Ontario	9.2	9.8	11.2	11.3	11.9	7.0	7.5	8.3	8.1	8.4
Manitoba	10.5	11.2	13.3	12.4	13.3	8.7	9.3	10.0	9.2	9.7
Saskatchewan	11.4	12.0	13.2	13.5	13.1	9.3	9.8	10.2	10.3	10.2
Alberta	8.8	9.6	10.8	10.2	10.0	7.6	8.1	8.4	7.9	7.4
British Columbia	10.4	11.9	12.3	12.9	11.7	8.7	9.6	9.4	9.7	8.7

Including maternity leave, Nova Scotia reported 13.8 days lost in 2004 as compared to 11.0 days lost in 2000, while Canada reported 12.4 days lost in 2004 compared to 9.9 days lost in 2000. In 2004, Quebec was the only province with total days lost higher than Nova Scotia, at 14.5 total days lost. Prince Edward Island and Alberta reported the lowest number of days lost, each at 10.0 days. In 2000 the province's figure was only surpassed by Saskatchewan at 11.4 total days lost while again, Prince Edward Island and Alberta reported the lowest number of days lost at 8.6 and 8.8 respectively.

Excluding maternity leave, Nova Scotia reported 10.9 days lost in 2004 as compared to 9.4 days lost in 2000, while Canada reported 9.1 days lost in 2004 compared to 8.0 days lost in 2000. Excluding maternity leave, the total days lost in Nova Scotia was the highest of all other provinces in three of the five most recent years—2000, 2002 and 2004.

Employees in Nova Scotia—including those on maternity leave—in the 15-24 years of age range, lost an average of 11.1 days in 2004, while the same age group—excluding those on maternity leave—lost 6.5 days. In the 25-54 year age group, total days lost—including those on maternity leave—averaged 14.1 days, while total days lost—excluding those maternity leave—averaged 10.9 days. Maternity leave was irrelevant for employees in the 55 years and over age group, therefore, the number of days lost averaged 14.9 days for this age group.

Average Days Lost for Personal Reasons per Full-time Employee per Year by Age Group, Nova Scotia 2004



Days lost varies among occupational groupings. In 2004, Nova Scotia's reported 13.8 days lost—including maternity leave—was represented by 9.0 days for own illness or disability and 4.8 days for other personal reasons, while the 10.9 days lost reported during the same period—excluding maternity leave—included 9.0 days for own illness or disability and 1.8 days for other personal reasons. Looking at data for both sexes combined, the most significant number of days lost occurred in the health occupations. This sector reported a total of 28.6 days lost—including maternity leave (14.1 days for own illness or disability and 14.5 days for other personal reasons) and a total of 16.9 days lost—excluding maternity leave (14.1 for own illness or disability and 2.8 days for other personal reasons).

Men lost an average of 9.1 days in 2004, 7.3 days for own illness or disability and 1.8 days for other personal reasons. When factoring in maternity leave, women lost twice as many days as men. In 2004 women reported 20.0 days lost (including maternity leave)—an average of 11.3 days lost for own illness or disability and 8.7 days for other personal reasons. Excluding maternity leave, women lost 13.2 days, of which 11.3 days were for own illness or disability and 1.9 days were for other personal reasons. Occupational groupings in which men reported the highest number of days lost were occupations unique to primary industry (12.2 days lost) and in occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities (11.3 days lost) and in social science, education, government service and religion (10.7 days lost). Women reported the highest number of days lost in the following occupational groupings—including maternity leave—trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (39.6 days lost) and occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities (27.1 days lost). Excluding maternity leave—the occupations reporting the greatest days lost by women were trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (31.7 days lost) and occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities (21.8 days lost).

Days Lost by Major Occupational Grouping, by Sex, Nova Scotia, 2004

Occupational Groupings	Total Days Lost (incl. maternity <u>leave</u> (days)	Total Days Lost (excl. maternity <u>leave</u> (days)	Other Personal Own Illness or <u>Disability</u> (days)	Other Personal (incl. maternity <u>leave</u> (days)	Other Personal (excl. maternity <u>leave</u> (days)
Both sexes					
Total, all occupations	13.8	10.9	9.0	4.8	1.8
Management occupations	6.7	5.3	4.2	2.5	1.1
Business, finance & administrative occupations	14.0	10.6	8.8	5.3	1.8
Natural & applied sciences & related occupations	10.3	9.7	8.3	2.0	1.4
Health occupations	28.6	16.9	14.1	14.5	2.8
Occup. in social science, education, gov't service & religion	19.0	11.2	8.7	10.3	2.5
Occup. in art, culture, recreation & sport	15.9	7.4	5.4	10.5	2.0
Sales & service occupations	13.2	11.2	9.7	3.5	1.5
Trades, transport & equipment operators & related occup.	10.3	10.1	8.1	2.1	1.9
Occup. unique to primary industry	13.4	12.2	10.4	3.0	1.8
Occup. unique to processing, manufacturing & utilities	15.8	14.3	12.0	3.8	2.3
Men					
Total, all occupations	9.1	9.1	7.3	1.8	1.8
Management occupations	6.5	6.5	5.2	1.3	1.3
Business, finance & administrative occupations	9.2	9.2	6.9	2.3	2.3
Natural & applied sciences & related occupations	9.0	9.0	7.8	1.2	1.2
Health occupations	9.7	9.7	6.5	3.1	3.1
Occup. in social science, education, gov't service & religion	10.7	10.7	6.4	4.3	4.3
Occup. in art, culture, recreation & sport	3.2	3.2	1.5	1.7	1.7
Sales & service occupations	7.7	7.7	6.3	1.4	1.4
Trades, transport & equipment operators & related occup.	9.5	9.5	7.5	2.0	2.0
Occup. unique to primary industry	12.2	12.2	11.0	1.2	1.2
Occup. unique to processing, manufacturing & utilities	11.3	11.3	10.0	1.4	1.4
Women					
Total, all occupations	20.0	13.2	11.3	8.7	1.9
Management occupations	6.9	3.5	2.7	4.3	0.9
Business, finance & administrative occupations	16.2	11.2	9.6	6.6	1.6
Natural & applied sciences & related occupations	16.0	12.8	10.4	5.6	2.3
Health occupations	31.5	18.1	15.3	16.2	2.8
Occup. in social science, education, gov't service & religion	23.5	11.4	9.9	13.6	1.5
Occup. in art, culture, recreation & sport	26.8	10.9	8.7	18.1	2.2
Sales & service occupations	18.3	14.5	12.9	5.4	1.6
Trades, transport & equipment operators & related occup.	39.6	31.7	31.7	8.0	0.0
Occup. unique to primary industry	19.2	12.1	7.4	11.9	4.7
Occup. unique to processing, manufacturing & utilities	27.1	21.8	17.1	10.0	4.7

Key Employment Indicators

April 8, 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)
 (January - March 2005 will be released May 31, 2005)

From 2003 to 2004, the annual growth in total wages and salaries stood at 2.8% in Nova Scotia reaching \$13,401.1 million and rose 3.9% in Canada to \$559,376.9 million.

Total Wages & Salaries, Nova Scotia (\$millions - Actual)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Total Wages & Salaries	11,508.3	11,947.3	12,539.6	13,037.3	13,401.1

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)
 (February 2005 will be released April 28, 2005)

In 2004 the average earnings for all employees—incl. overtime (industrial aggregate) in Nova Scotia of \$611.93^r per week increased \$14.85, up 2.5% from 2003, while the Canadian figure of \$705.68^r represented an increase of \$15.33 or 2.2%.

Average Weekly Earnings, Nova Scotia NAICS-based(including overtime)

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>January 2005</u>
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	532.33	526.47	533.00	538.61	549.26

Employment Insurance

(February 2005 will be released April 26, 2005)

There were 29,450 beneficiaries (seasonally adjusted) in Nova Scotia that received regular Employment Insurance benefits in January 2005, a decrease of 0.7% from last month and a decline of 2.6% over January 2004. Nationwide there were 519,820 beneficiaries, an increase of 0.6% over last month and a decline of 6.6% over January 2004. Compared to January 2004, the number of beneficiaries in all provinces and territories declined. The most significant decline was reported in Manitoba at -13.9%.

Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular EI Benefits

(Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>January 2005p</u>	<u>% Change January 2004 - January 2005</u>
Canada	519,820	-6.6
Newfoundland & Labrador	37,040	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	7,790	-5.3
Nova Scotia	29,450	-2.6
New Brunswick	33,760	-2.3
Quebec	175,040	-5.8
Ontario	127,320	-6.3
Manitoba	12,290	-13.9
Saskatchewan	11,610	-6.5
Alberta	26,570	-12.8
British Columbia	56,220	-10.8
Yukon	890	-8.2
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	1,060	-10.9

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)

(1st Quarter 2005 and 4-year revision will be released May 25, 2005)

	<u>1999*</u>	<u>2000*</u>	<u>2001*</u>	<u>2002*</u>	<u>2003*</u>	<u>2004p**</u>	% Change 2003- <u>2004p</u>
Federal Government (includes military)	23,077	22,592	22,709	23,146	23,480	23,397	-0.3
Military	11,431	10,814	10,391	10,526	10,599	10,697	0.9
Provincial General	11,922	11,615	11,303	11,108	11,288	11,047	-2.1
Universities & Colleges	9,144	8,877	8,268	7,906	7,200	5,745	-20.2
Health & Social Services Institution	27,301	27,501	28,156	29,068	30,309	27,717	-8.6
Local General Government	8,720	9,212	9,483	10,244	11,775	12,349	4.9
School Boards	17,038	16,933	16,470	15,800	16,374	16,120	-1.6
Total Government	97,203	96,731	96,390	97,271	100,425	96,374	-4.0
Government Business Enterprises	7,439	6,825	6,396	6,479	7,049	7,676	8.9
Federal GBE	4,652	4,050	3,738	3,809	4,333	4,912	13.4
Provincial GBE	2,302	2,290	2,172	2,183	2,229	2,277	2.2
Local GBE	485	485	486	486	487	488	0.2
Total Public Sector	104,641	103,556	102,786	103,750	107,474	104,051	-3.2

* 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.