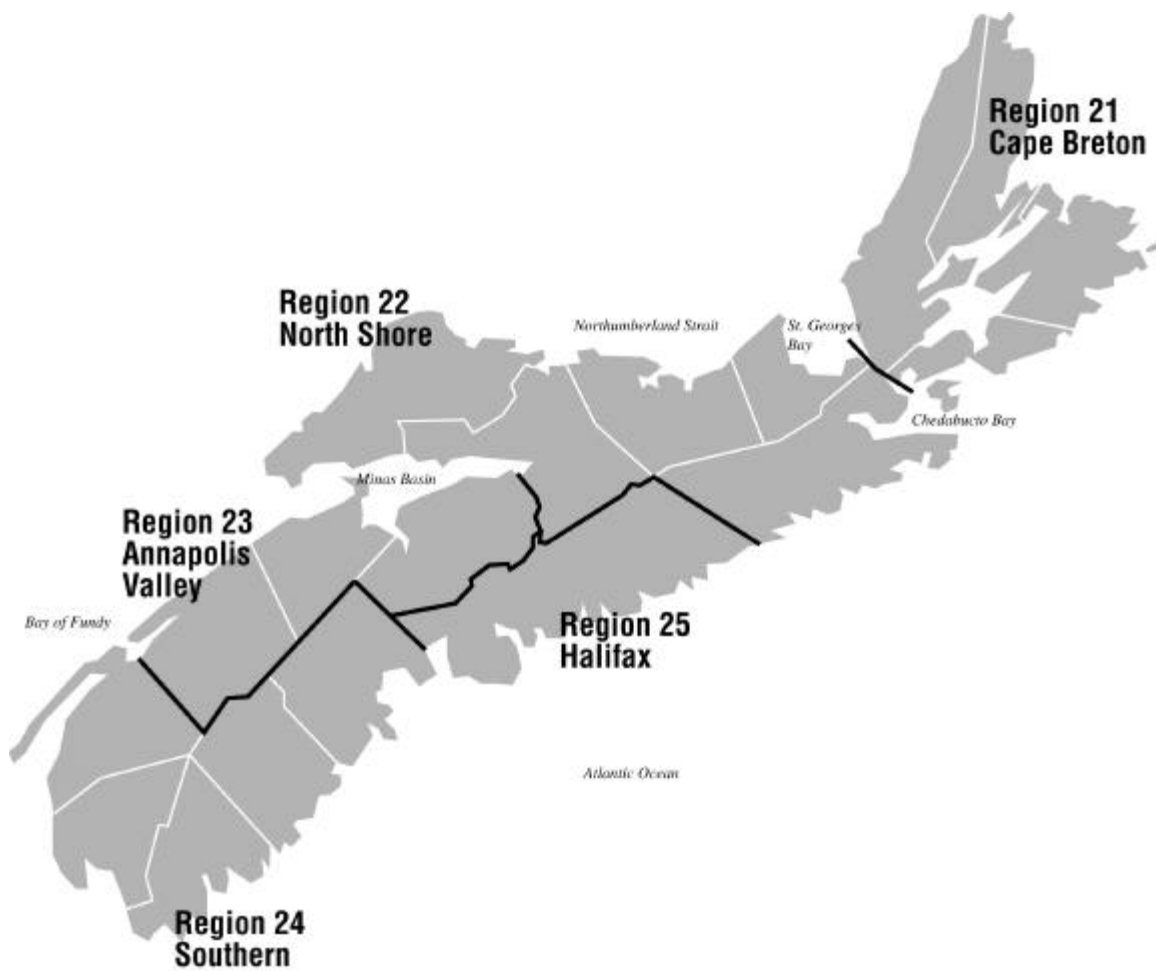


Nova Scotia Labour Market May 2005



Labour Force Survey - Nova Scotia

(June will be released July 8, 2005)

HIGHLIGHTS - LFS Release May 2005

On a seasonally adjusted basis the provincial employment level in May 2005 increased by 3,200 persons over April 2005 to 448,100 employees. The size of the labour force decreased 0.02 % and the number of unemployed persons declined 8.3% when compared to the previous month. As a result, the monthly unemployment rate decreased 0.7 percentage points to 7.7 %. When compared to May 2004, the employment level increased 1.1 % while the unemployment rate decreased 1.2 percentage points. The participation rate was 63.9 % in May 2005, the same as the previous month and a decrease of 0.4 percentage points from May 2004.

Based on unadjusted three month moving averages, the unemployment rate decreased in four of the five regions in the province as compared to May 2004. The unemployment rate decreased

- 0.4 percentage points in the North Shore region
- 0.6 percentage points in the Halifax region
- 1.6 percentage points in the Cape Breton region
- 3.1 percentage points in the Annapolis Valley

The unemployment rate increased 0.6 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 0.2 percentage points from May 2004. In May 2005 the Halifax rate stood as the lowest rate east of Quebec City.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 71-001

NOTE-SAMPLE SIZE:

The new LFS sample allocation for the decennial redesign project and CV's by province, employment insurance region (EI) and economic region (ER) was phased in between November 2004 and April 2005. The sample reduction impact, began with a 0.5% reduction in each month commencing in November 2004 through April 2005 and resulted in a 3% reduction that will then be maintained for 3 years, ending in 2007-08. Therefore, effective April 2005, the LFS sample for Nova Scotia will be reduced to 2,873.

Key Employment Indicators - Feature

June 10, 2005

Employees by Union Coverage and Industry, Nova Scotia, 2004

(Source: Statistics Canada, 2004 Labour Force Historic Review, Cat. No. 71F0004XCB)

“Unionization rate” is defined as the percentage of employees belonging to a union. It does not include those who are covered by a collective agreement but do not belong to a union. From 1997 to 2004, the period for which comparable data is available, the percentage of Nova Scotia workers that belonged to a union decreased from 29.2% in 1997 to 28.7% in 2004. The percentage of all male employees that were unionized also showed a declining trend from 31.6% to 27.1%. During this time, the percentage of all female employees that were unionized grew from 26.6% to 30.3%.

Unionization was polarized among the 25-54 year age group. However, while male employees in this age group experienced a declining rate from 27.5% to 22.2% from 1997 to 2004, the rate among female employees increased from 23.8% to 25.5%. The unionization rate of both males and females in the 55-64 year age group increased—males from 2.7% to 3.9% and females from 1.7% to 3.3%. While the unionization rate of males in the 15-24 year age group showed decline from 1.3% to 0.8% from 1997 to 2004, females in the same age group increased from 1.1% to 1.4%.

Employees, by Union Coverage, by Age and Sex, Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2004

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Employees ('000)	322.0	334.1	344.2	353.7	361.5	361.0	374.4	383.2
% Union Coverage by Age Group								
Total Employees	29.2	29.8	29.5	30.2	29.7	28.1	28.5	28.7
15-24 years	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.1
25-54 years	25.7	26.2	25.6	26.4	25.3	23.9	23.7	23.9
55-64 years	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.6
65 years and over	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Male Employees ('000)	165.0	172.2	175.4	179.8	182.6	178.9	186.3	191.8
% Union Coverage by Age Group								
Total Employees	31.6	31.1	30.3	29.6	29.5	27.1	27.0	27.1
15-24 years	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.8
25-54 years	27.5	27.1	26.1	25.3	25.1	22.4	22.0	22.2
55-64 years	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.9	3.9
65 years and over	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Female Employees ('000)	157.0	161.9	168.8	173.9	179.0	182.0	188.1	191.4
% Union Coverage by Age Group								
Total Employees	26.6	28.5	28.6	30.8	29.8	29.1	29.9	30.3
15-24 years	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.5	1.4
25-54 years	23.8	25.3	25.1	27.4	25.5	25.3	25.4	25.5
55-64 years	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.2	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.3
65 years and over	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Of the 383,200 Nova Scotia employees in 2004, 19.9% or 76,400 were in the goods-producing sector and 80.1% or 306,800 were in the service-producing sector. The trend in union membership varied

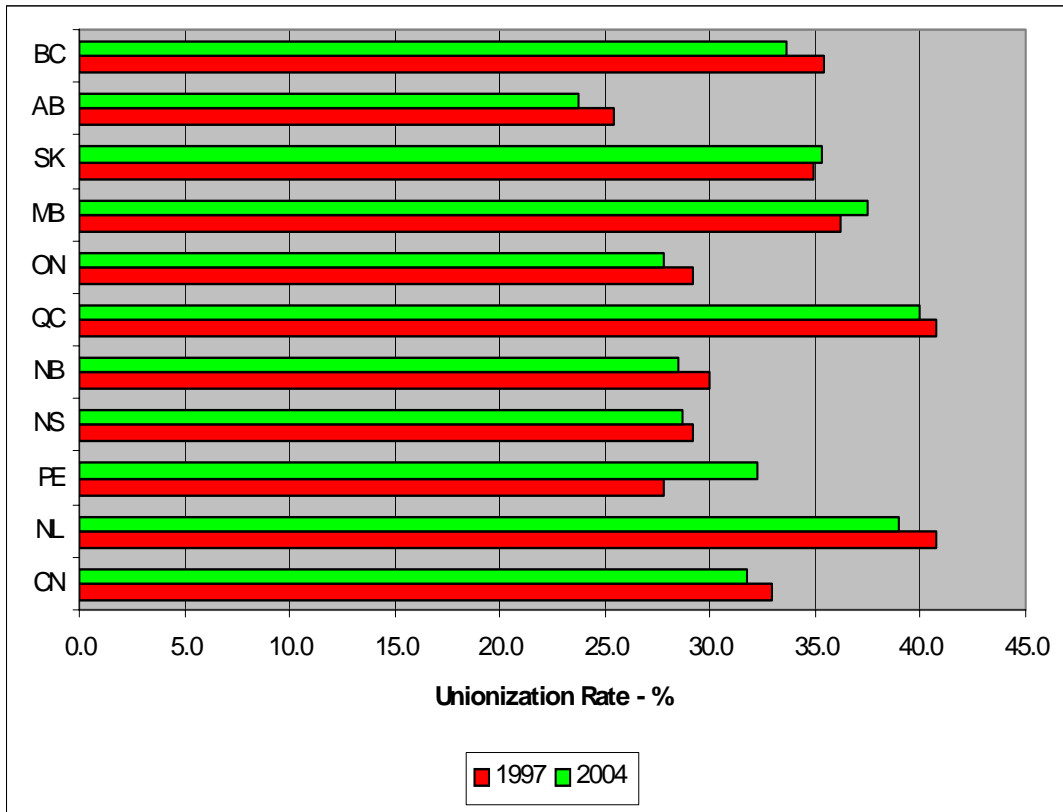
from industry to industry. The goods-producing sector held 4.8% of the province's unionized people and 23.9% were in the service-producing sector. Employees in manufacturing were the most highly unionized industry within the goods-producing sector (2.7% or 10,400 of total employees), while employees in health care and social assistance were the most highly unionized industry within the service-producing sector with 7.5% or 28,600 of total employees with union coverage.

Employees, by Union Coverage, by Industry Group, Nova Scotia, 2004

Employees by Industry	Total Employees (^{'000})	Union Coverage		No Union Coverage	
		Total Employees (^{'000})	(%)	Total Employees (^{'000})	(%)
Total employees	383.2	109.9	28.7	273.3	71.3
Goods-producing sector	76.4	18.4	4.8	58.0	15.1
Agriculture	3.3	-	-	3.0	90.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	8.1	1.4	0.4	6.8	1.8
Utilities	2.5	1.1	0.3	1.4	0.4
Construction	20.8	5.3	1.4	15.4	4.0
Manufacturing	41.8	10.4	2.7	31.4	8.2
Services-producing sector	306.8	91.5	23.9	215.3	56.2
Trade	67.6	3.3	0.9	64.3	16.8
Transportation and warehousing	18.3	8.1	2.1	10.3	2.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	18.7	1.2	6.4	17.5	4.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	13.6	-	-	13.2	3.4
Business, building and other support services	22.4	0.9	0.2	21.5	5.6
Educational services	35.0	25.7	6.7	9.3	2.4
Health care and social assistance	48.2	28.6	7.5	19.6	5.1
Information, culture and recreation	14.6	3.4	0.9	11.2	2.9
Accommodation and food services	27.9	0.9	0.2	27.0	7.0
Other services	12.8	0.7	0.2	12.0	3.1
Public administration	27.8	18.2	4.7	9.6	2.5

In 2004, Nova Scotia reported 2.8% of the total 13,497,900 employees across Canada. Of the country's 4,286,600 unionized employees, 2.6% were employees in Nova Scotia. Of Canada's 9,211,300 non-unionized employees, 3.0% were employees in Nova Scotia. From 1997 to 2004, the growth of total employees in Canada and Nova Scotia was comparable at 19.2% and 19.0% respectively. The rate of unionization in Canada declined 1.2 percentage points to 31.8% compared to a 0.5 percentage point decrease in Nova Scotia to 28.7%. The three provinces that showed an increase in their unionization rate from 1997 to 2004 were Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Saskatchewan (increases of 4.5, 1.3 and 0.3 percentage points respectively). The greatest decline was noted in British Columbia where the rate dropped 1.9 percentage points to 33.6%.

Unionization Rate of Employees, Canada & the Provinces, 1997 and 2004



Key Employment Indicators

June 10, 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)
 (April-June 2005 will be released August 31, 2005)

From 2003 to 2004, the annual growth in total wages and salaries stood at 2.9% in Nova Scotia reaching \$13,368.9 million and rose 4.0% in Canada to \$563,149.2 million.

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

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	Jan-Mar <u>2005</u>
Total Wages & Salaries	11,508.3	11,947.3	12,539.6	12,997.2	13,368.9	3,326.6

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)
 (April 2005 will be released June 23, 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%. In March 2005 Nova Scotia's average weekly earnings (industrial aggregate) increased 4.3% over March 2004 to \$636.24 compared to an increase of 2.0% to \$716.78 in Canada. The February 2005 average weekly earnings in Nova Scotia were 88.8% of the Canadian average.

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

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	March <u>2005p</u>
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	574.14	590.68	597.08	611.93	636.24

Employment Insurance

(April 2005 will be released June 28, 2005)

There were 30,210 beneficiaries (seasonally adjusted) in Nova Scotia that received regular Employment Insurance benefits in March 2005. This figure represented an increase of 1.9% over last month and represented an increase of 1.1% over March 2004. Nationwide there were 530,020 beneficiaries, an increase of 0.8% over last month and a decline of 3.5% over March 2004. Compared to March 2004, change in the number of beneficiaries ranged from -19.1% in Alberta to +2.2% in New Brunswick.

Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular EI Benefits

(Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>March 2005p</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>March 2004 -</u> <u>March 2005</u>
Canada	530,020	-3.5
Newfoundland & Labrador	37,700	1.7
Prince Edward Island	8,060	-0.1
Nova Scotia	30,210	1.1
New Brunswick	34,920	2.2
Quebec	179,530	-1.5
Ontario	134,780	-3.4
Manitoba	12,800	-7.6
Saskatchewan	11,620	-4.5
Alberta	24,590	-19.1
British Columbia	52,430	-14.8
Yukon	870	-10.3
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	1,100	1.6

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)

(2nd Quarter 2005 will be released August 24, 2005)

	<u>2000*</u>	<u>2001*</u>	<u>2002*</u>	<u>2003*</u>	<u>2004*</u>	Jan-Mar <u>2005**</u>	% Change 1 st Q 2004- <u>1st Q 2005</u>
Federal Government (includes military)	22,592	22,709	23,146	23,480	23,396	23,646	1.4
Military	10,814	10,391	10,526	10,599	10,696	10,948	2.7
Provincial General	11,615	11,303	11,108	11,288	11,082	11,125	1.4
Universities & Colleges	8,877	8,280	7,986	7,388	7,636	8,227	-4.3
Health & Social Services Institution	27,501	28,155	29,070	30,324	27,738	27,429	-7.4
Local General Government	9,212	9,490	10,228	11,031	11,068	11,079	1.9
School Boards	16,933	16,468	15,797	16,375	16,127	17,200	-2.6
Total Government	96,731	96,404	97,334	99,885	97,046	98,704	-2.3
Government Business Enterprises	6,825	6,396	6,479	7,049	7,676	8,214	9.1
Federal GBE	4,050	3,738	3,809	4,333	4,912	5,418	13.3
Provincial GBE	2,290	2,172	2,183	2,229	2,277	2,311	2.1
Local GBE	485	486	486	487	487	485	0.2
Total Public Sector	103,556	102,800	103,812	106,934	104,722	106,918	-1.5

* 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.