

Nova Scotia Labour Market August 2005



Labour Force Survey - Nova Scotia

(September will be released October 7, 2005)

HIGHLIGHTS - LFS Release August 2005

On a seasonally adjusted basis the provincial employment level in August 2005 increased by 4,900 persons over July 2005 to 446,300 employees. The size of the labour force increased 0.4% and the number of unemployed persons decreased 7.9% when compared to the previous month. As a result, the monthly unemployment rate decreased 0.7 percentage points to 7.2%. When compared to August 2004, the employment level increased 1.0% while the unemployment rate decreased 1.6 percentage points. The participation rate was 63.2% in August 2005, an increase of 0.2 percentage points from the previous month and a decrease of 0.8 percentage points from August 2004.

Based on unadjusted three month moving averages, the unemployment rate decreased in three of the five regions in the province since August 2004. The unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage points in the Annapolis Valley region, 0.6 percentage points in the Halifax region, and 0.8 percentage points in the North Shore region, while it increased 0.9 percentage points in the Cape Breton region and 0.4 percentage points in the Southern region.

On a seasonally adjusted three month moving average basis, the unemployment rate for the Halifax Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was 6.3 % in August 2005, an increase of 0.2 percentage points from August 2004. In August 2005 the Halifax CMA rate stood as the lowest rate east of Regina.

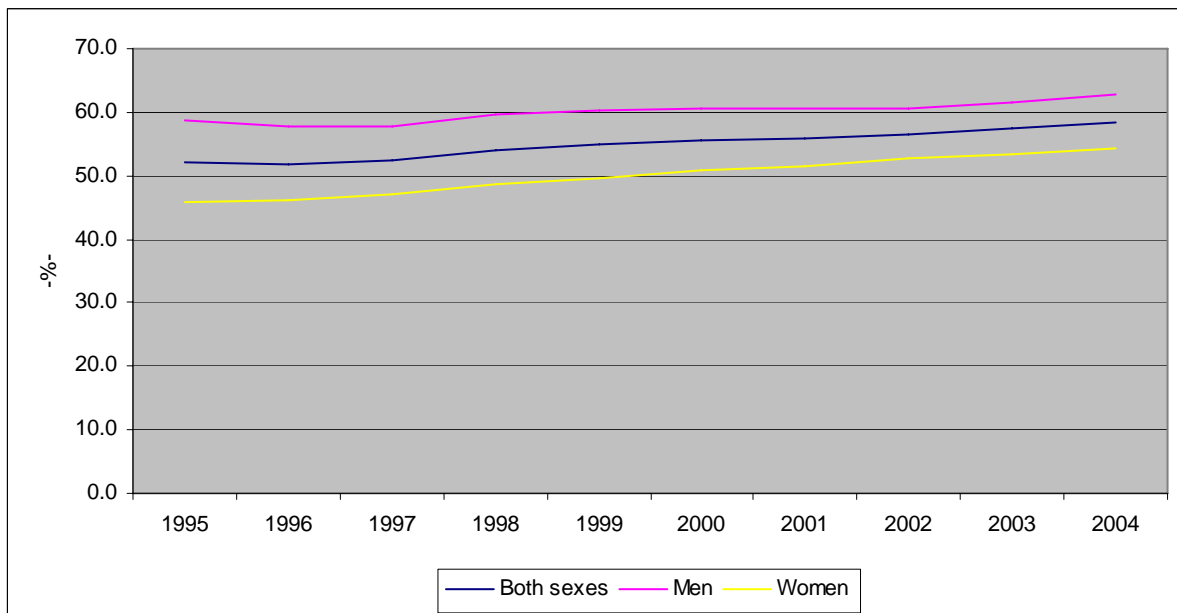
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue. No. 71-001

EMPLOYMENT RATE

The employment rate (formerly the employment/population ratio) is the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, etc.) is the number employed in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group. Estimates are percentages, rounded to the nearest tenth.

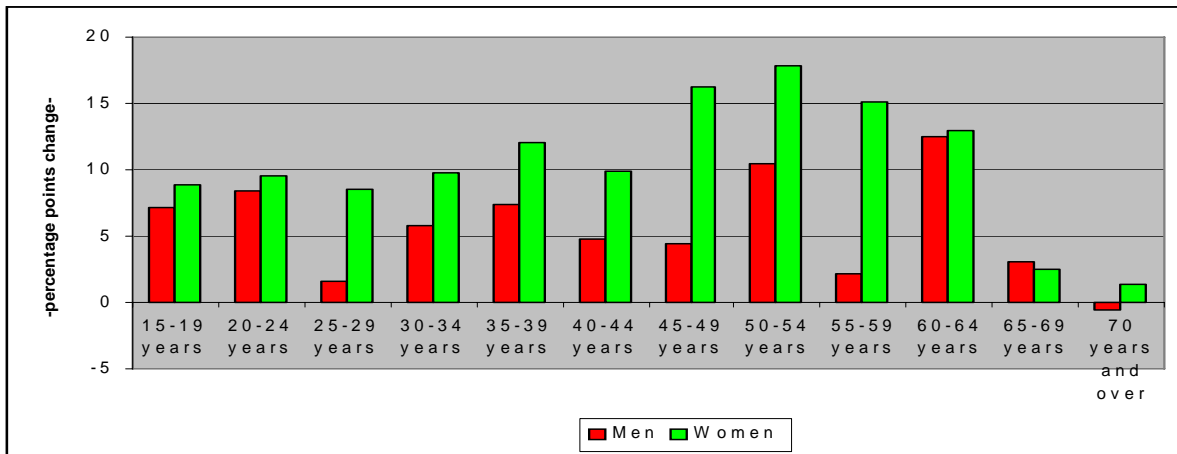
In 2004, Nova Scotia's employment rate of 58.3% represented a 6.3 percentage point increase over 1995. During this ten-year period, the employment rate of males increased 4.0 percentage points to 62.8%, while the employment rate of females increased 8.5 percentage points to 54.2%. Thus, the gap between men and women was narrowed from 13.1 percentage points in 1995 to 8.6 percentage points in 2005.

Employment Rate, by Sex, Nova Scotia, 1995 to 2004



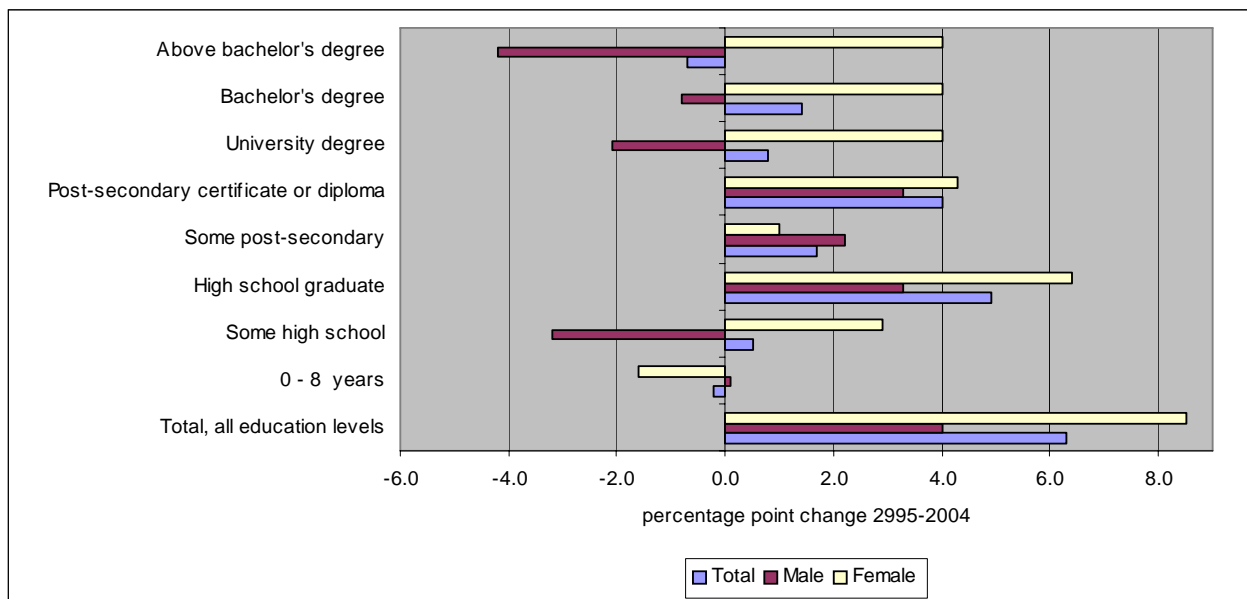
This more pronounced growth in the province's female employment rate was apparent across all ages. The most significant growth in the employment rate of women was, however, in the 45-59 year age group. Many changes have occurred in Canadian society that have facilitated women's increased presence in the workforce. These changes include enhanced parental leave and higher levels of representation in many university degree programs.

Employment Rate, by Age Groups, Percentage Points Change, Nova Scotia, 1995 to 2004



From 1995 to 2004, the employment rate has shown a marked improvement with increased levels of education. There was a 6.4 percentage point increase in the employment rate of women that graduated from high school, a 4.3 percentage point increase in those with post-secondary education and a 4.0 percentage point increase in those with a university degree. There was a 3.3 percentage point increase in the employment rate of men who completed high school and, as well, 3.3 percentage point increase in those with post-secondary education.

Employment Rate, by Level of Education, Nova Scotia, 1995 to 2004



Compared to the percentage point increase in the employment rate at the provincial level from 1995 to 2004, the province's Southern and North Shore exhibited a greater increase in the employment rate than the province as a whole, increasing 8.6 percentage points and 7.5 percentage points respectively. The Cape Breton region experienced the lowest percentage point change in its employment rate of all of the province's regions at 2.9 percentage points.

Employment Rate, Percentage Point Change, by Economic Region, Nova Scotia 1995 to 2004

	Percentage Point Change <u>1995 to 2004</u>
Nova Scotia	6.3
Region:	
Cape Breton	2.9
North Shore	7.5
Annapolis Valley	6.2
Southern	8.6
Halifax	4.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2004, CD-ROM No. 71F0004-XCB

Key Employment Indicators

September 9, 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)
(July-September 2005 will be released November 30, 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 and salaries increased 5.0% in Nova Scotia during January to June 2005 as compared to January to June 2004 reaching \$6,898.3 million and during the same period rose 4.5% in Canada to \$290,747.4 million.

Total Wages & Salaries, Nova Scotia

(\$millions - Actual)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	Jan-June <u>2005</u>
Total Wages & Salaries	11,508.3	11,947.3	12,539.6	12,997.2	13,368.9	6,898.3

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)
(July 2005 will be released September 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%. In June 2005 Nova Scotia's average weekly earnings (industrial aggregate) increased 4.4% over June 2004 to \$642.13 compared to a 3.6% increase in Canada to \$735.79. The June 2005 average weekly earnings in Nova Scotia were 87.3% 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>	June <u>2005p</u>
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	574.14	590.68	597.08	611.93	642.13

^r - revised data

^p - preliminary data

Employment Insurance

(July 2005 will be released September 27, 2005)

There were 30,840 beneficiaries (seasonally adjusted) in Nova Scotia that received regular Employment Insurance benefits in June 2005. This figure was 2.3% higher than last month and represented an increase of 5.1% over June 2004. Nationwide there were 521,610 beneficiaries, an increase of 1.7% over last month and a decline of 3.7% from June 2004. Compared to June 2004, change in the number of beneficiaries ranged from -26.1% in Alberta to +11.7% in Prince Edward Island.

Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular EI Benefits

(Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>June 2005p</u>	<u>% Change June 2004 - June 2005</u>
Canada	521,610	-3.7
Newfoundland & Labrador	38,400	1.8
Prince Edward Island	8,770	11.7
Nova Scotia	30,840	5.1
New Brunswick	35,700	5.8
Quebec	182,050	0.4
Ontario	131,680	-3.6
Manitoba	12,430	-7.9
Saskatchewan	10,780	-13.8
Alberta	21,690	-26.1
British Columbia	49,880	-13.8
Yukon	940	0.0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	750 380	-9.6 5.6

Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the fifteenth day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

Public Sector Employment - Nova Scotia

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

(3rd Quarter 2005 will be released November 29, 2005)

	<u>2000*</u>	<u>2001*</u>	<u>2002*</u>	<u>2003*</u>	<u>2004*</u>	Apr- June <u>2005**</u>	% Change 2 nd Q 2004- <u>2nd Q 2005</u>
Federal Government (includes military)	22,592	22,709	23,146	23,480	23,396	23,875	2.0
Military	10,814	10,391	10,526	10,599		11,023	2.8
					10,696		
Provincial General	11,615	11,303	11,108	11,288	11,082	11,592	4.7
Universities & Colleges	8,877	8,280	7,986	7,388	7,636	7,936	7.4
Health & Social Services Institution	27,501	28,155	29,070	30,324	27,738	29,217	4.0
Local General Government	9,212	9,490	10,228	11,031	11,068	10,073	-12.6
School Boards	16,933	16,468	15,797	16,375	16,127	16,315	-4.3
Total Government	96,731	96,404	97,334	99,885	97,046	99,008	0.5
Government Business Enterprises	6,825	6,396	6,479	6,738	7,011	7,307	4.1
Federal GBE	4,050	3,738	3,809	4,022	4,246	4,503	5.6
Provincial GBE	2,290	2,172	2,183	2,229	2,277	2,315	2.1
Local GBE	485	486	486	487	487	489	0.2
Total Public Sector	103,556	102,800	103,812	106,623	104,056	106,316	0.7

* 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.