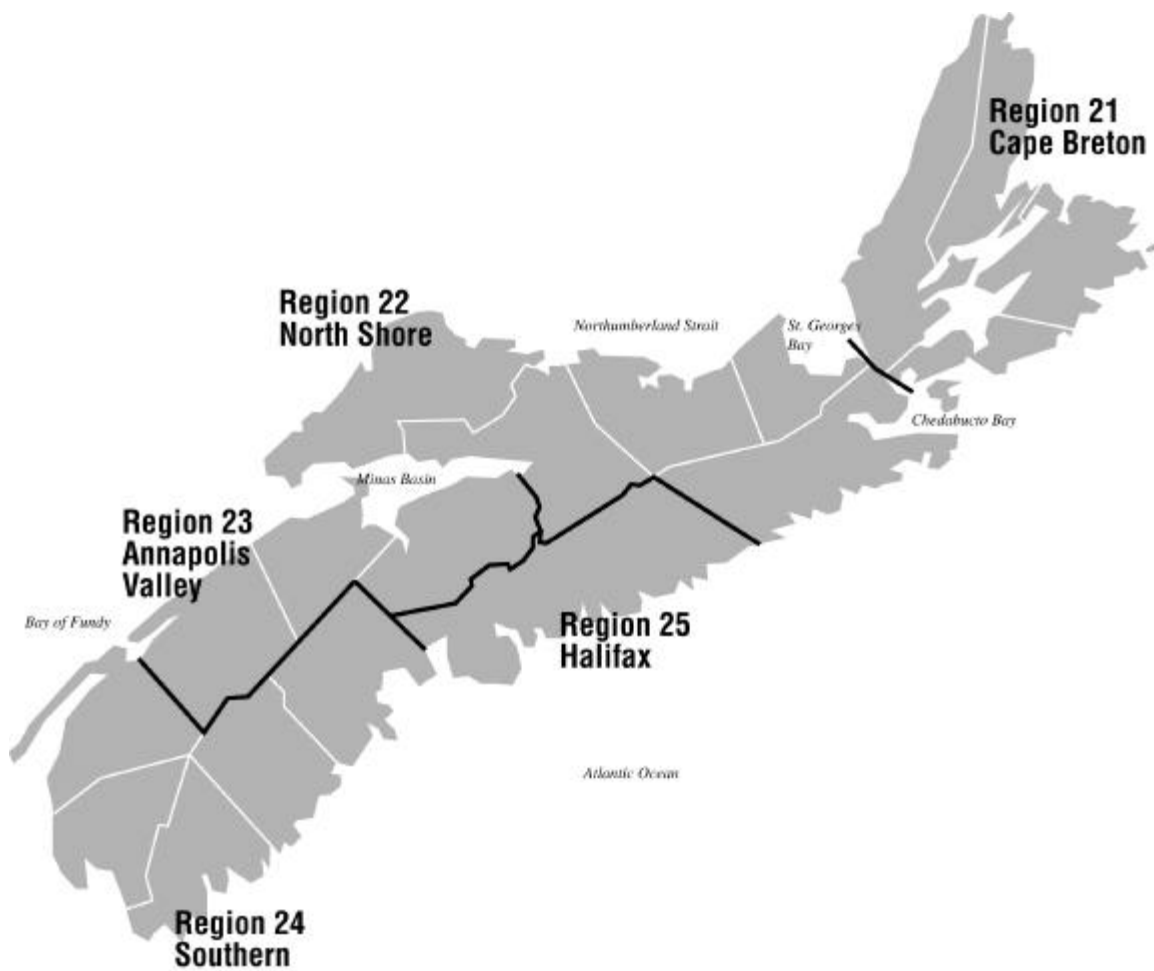


Nova Scotia Labour Market November 2005



Labour Force Survey - Nova Scotia

(December will be released January 6, 2006)

HIGHLIGHTS - LFS Release November 2005

On a seasonally adjusted basis the provincial employment level in November 2005 decreased by 2,400 persons over October 2005 to 442,800 employees. The size of the labour force decreased 0.8% and the number of unemployed persons declined 3.9 per cent when compared to the previous month. As a result, the monthly unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage points to 8.2 per cent. When compared to November 2004, the employment level decreased 0.4 per cent while the unemployment rate decreased 0.6 percentage points. The participation rate declined 0.5 percentage points since last month at 63.3 per cent in November 2005, and decreased 0.9 percentage points from November 2004.

Based on unadjusted three month moving averages, the unemployment rate decreased in three of the five regions in the province since November 2004. The unemployment rate decreased 2.4 percentage points in the North Shore region, 0.7 percentage points in the Cape Breton region and 0.4 percentage points in the Halifax region, while it increased 2.1 percentage points in the Southern region and 1.2 percentage points in the Annapolis Valley region.

On a seasonally adjusted three month moving average basis, the unemployment rate for the Halifax Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was 5.4 per cent in November 2005, a decrease of 0.5 percentage points from November 2004. In November 2005, the Halifax CMA rate stood as the lowest rate east of Quebec.

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

Important Note to Readers: Upcoming LFS Revisions

On Wednesday, January 25, 2006, there will be a revision affecting all Labour Force Survey estimates from January 1987 to December 2005.

There are three reasons for this revision:

- The revision will enable the use of improved population benchmarks in the LFS estimation process. These improved benchmarks will provide better information on the number of non-permanent residents.
- There will be changes to the data for the public and private sectors from 1987 to 1999. Currently, the data on the public and private sectors for this period are based on an old definition of the public sector. The revised data will better reflect the current public sector definition, and therefore result in a longer time series for analysis.
- The geographic coding of several small Census Agglomerations (CA) have been updated historically from 1996 urban centre boundaries to 2001 CA boundaries. This affects data from January 1987 to December 2004.

It is important to note that the change to almost all estimates will be very minor, with the exception

of the public sector series from 1987 to 1999. Rates of unemployment, employment and participation are essentially unchanged, as are all key labour market trends.

During the revision, CANSIM data for the LFS will be off-line from January 16 to January 24, 2006. To facilitate data users' access to the revised data, LFS data on CANSIM will be free from January 25 to February 10, 2006.

Special tabulations produced through the Client Services unit at the Labour Force Survey will be revised free of charge.

Minimum Wage

Each province and territory of Canada legislates its own minimum wage as part of its employment standards. Changes in these rates can be set in any month of the year. Self-employed and unpaid family workers are excluded from the legislation. Other exclusions and exceptions to the standard rate vary from province to province and can include young workers, workers with disabilities, domestic and live-in care workers, farm labour, home-based workers, tip-related wage rates, etc. It is an offence to pay employees less than the minimum wage and employees are prohibited from accepting less than the minimum wage.

Current and Forthcoming Minimum Hourly Wage Rates, Experienced Adult Workers¹ Canada, the Provinces and Territories

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Minimum Hourly Rate(2)</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Federal	Same as adult minimum age rate in each provincial and territorial jurisdiction	
Newfoundland	\$6.25	June 1, 2005
	\$6.50	January 1, 2006
	\$6.75	June 1, 2006
	\$7.00	January 1, 2007
Prince Edward Island	\$6.80	January 1, 2005
Nova Scotia	\$6.50	April 1, 2004
	\$6.80	October 1, 2005
	\$7.15	April 1, 2006
New Brunswick	\$6.30	January 1, 2005
	\$6.40	January 1, 2006
	\$6.60	January 1, 2007
Quebec	\$7.60	May 1, 2005
Ontario	\$7.45	February 1, 2005
	\$7.75	February 1, 2006
	\$8.00	February 1, 2007
Manitoba	\$7.25	April 1, 2005
Saskatchewan	\$6.65	November 1, 2002
Alberta	\$5.90	October 1, 1999
Alberta	\$7.00	September 1, 2005
British Columbia	\$8.00	November 1, 2001
Northwest Territories	\$8.25	December 18, 2003
Nunavut	\$8.50	March 3, 2003
Yukon	\$7.20	October 1, 1998

(1) The minimum wage is a basic labour standard that sets the lowest wage rate that an employer can pay to employees who are covered by labour legislation.

(2) In most jurisdictions, these rates also apply to young workers. More information is available on special rates for young workers under "Current and Forthcoming Wage Rates in Canada for Young Workers and Specific Occupations".

See HRSDC web site noted below:

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/lp/spila/minwage.shtml>

In 2004, minimum wages ranged from a high of \$8.50 in Nunavut and \$8.00 per hour in British Columbia to a low of \$5.90 in Alberta. For experienced workers in Nova Scotia from the \$6.50 per hour set in April 1, 2004, the minimum wage rate increased to \$6.80 per hour effective October 1, 2005 and at April 1, 2006 will increase to \$7.15.

Note: An additional reference, Statistics Canada's, Perspectives on Labour and Income, Fact Sheet on Minimum Wage, Vol. 6, No. 9, September 2005, Catalogue No. 75-001-XIE, provides an understanding of how to evaluate the potential impact of a change in the minimum wage legislation—who works for minimum wage and what types of jobs they hold.

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour,
web site <<http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla>>; Human Resources and Skills Development
Canada (HRSDC), web site
<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/lp/spila/minwage.shtml>

Key Employment Indicators

December 2, 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)*

From 2003 to 2004, the annual growth in total wages and salaries stood at 2.7 per cent in Nova Scotia reaching \$13,349.0 million and rose 4.0 per cent in Canada to \$563,149.2 million. Total wages and salaries increased 5.3 per cent in Nova Scotia during January to September 2005 as compared to January to September 2004 reaching \$10,490.7 million and during the same period rose 5.0 per cent in Canada to \$420,583.0 million.

Total Wages & Salaries, Nova Scotia

(\$millions - Actual)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	Jan-Sept. <u>2005</u>
Total Wages & Salaries	11,508.3	11,947.3	12,539.6	12,997.2	13,368.9	10,490.7

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)*

(October 2005 will be released December 22, 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 per cent from 2003, while the Canadian figure of \$705.68^r represented an increase of \$15.33 or 2.2 per cent. In September 2005 Nova Scotia's average weekly earnings (industrial aggregate) increased 5.1 per cent over September 2004 to \$643.76 compared to a 3.9 per cent increase in Canada to \$737.96. The August 2005 average weekly earnings in Nova Scotia were 87.2 per cent 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>	September <u>2005^P</u>
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	574.14	590.68	597.08	611.93	643.76

^r - revised data

^P - preliminary data

Employment Insurance

(October 2005 will be released December 20, 2005)

There were 29,520 beneficiaries (seasonally adjusted) in Nova Scotia that received regular Employment Insurance benefits in September 2005. This figure was 1.9 per cent lower than last month and represented a decline of 2.9 per cent over September 2004. Nationwide there were 513,020 beneficiaries, a decrease of 3.0 per cent over last month and a decline of 4.1 per cent from September 2004. Compared to September 2004, change in the number of beneficiaries in September 2005 ranged from -27.2 per cent in Alberta to +2.9 per cent in New Brunswick.

Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular EI Benefits

(Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>September 2005^p</u>	<u>% Change September 2004 - September 2005</u>
Canada	513,020	-4.1
Newfoundland & Labrador	38,700	1.3
Prince Edward Island	8,620	2.5
Nova Scotia	29,520	-2.9
New Brunswick	35,350	2.9
Quebec	175,700	-1.5
Ontario	132,960	1.2
Manitoba	12,070	-8.4
Saskatchewan	10,730	-9.0
Alberta	20,810	-27.2
British Columbia	47,690	-17.0
Yukon	900	-2.2
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	800 390	1.3 2.6

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)

(Data for 3rd quarter 2005 released November 29, 2005)

	<u>2000*</u>	<u>2001*</u>	<u>2002*</u>	<u>2003*</u>	<u>2004*</u>	July- Sept <u>2005**</u>	% Change 3 rd Q 2004- <u>3rd Q 2005</u>
Federal Government (includes military)	22,592	22,709	23,146	23,480	23,396	23,784	0.9
Military	10,814	10,391	10,526	10,599	10,696	10,650	0.6
Provincial General	11,615	11,303	11,108	11,288	11,082	11,364	0.6
Universities & Colleges	8,877	8,280	7,986	7,388	7,636	7,184	7.2
Health & Social Services Institution	27,501	28,155	29,070	30,324	27,738	30,452	13.4
Local General Government	9,212	9,490	10,228	11,031	11,068	10,494	-9.3
School Boards	16,933	16,468	15,797	16,375	16,127	12,356	-3.1
Total Government	96,731	96,404	97,334	99,885	97,046	95,634	3.1
Government Business Enterprises	6,825	6,396	6,479	6,738	7,011	7,430	4.1
Federal GBE	4,050	3,738	3,809	4,022	4,246	4,623	5.6
Provincial GBE	2,290	2,172	2,183	2,229	2,277	2,317	2.1
Local GBE	485	486	486	487	487	490	0.2
Total Public Sector	103,556	102,800	103,812	106,623	104,056	103,064	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.