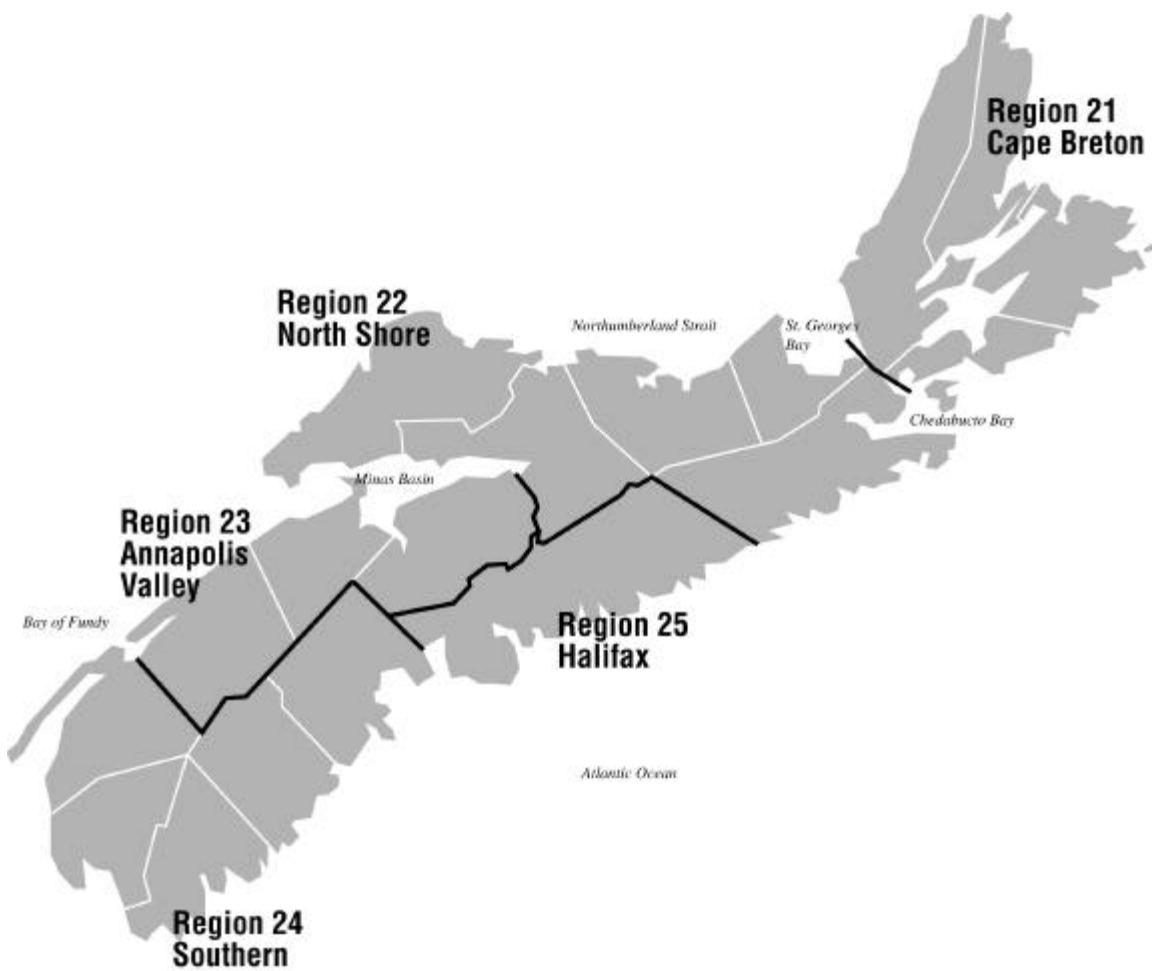


# Nova Scotia Labour Market January 2006



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## Key Employment Indicators - Highlights

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February 10, 2006

### Labour Force Survey Nova Scotia LFS Release - January 2006

(February 2006 will be released March 20, 2006)

The key message in the January 2006 release of the labour Force Survey results by Statistics Canada for Nova Scotia is the fall in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate between December 2005 and January 2006. This rate has dropped from 8.5 per cent in December to 7.8 per cent, a drop of 0.7 percentage points. The only other provinces to have this large drop of 0.7 percentage points for their seasonally unemployment rates are New Brunswick and Alberta.

The drop in the unemployment rate is the result of an increase in employment coupled with a decline in the labour force. The seasonally adjusted employment level increased by 0.3 per cent or 1,500 new jobs to 442,800, while the labour force dropped by 0.4 per cent or 1,900 workers to 480,400 causing the number of unemployed workers (seasonally adjusted) to fall by 8.3 per cent. The only other province during the same period to see such a large percentage fall in their unemployment level was Alberta at 17.9 per cent.

Comparing January of 2006 to January 2005, the seasonally adjusted employment level has a decline by 0.5 per cent while the labour force had a decline of 1.4 per cent. The net results are an unemployment rate below last year's level with an unemployment rate of 7.8 per cent in January 2006 compared to 8.6 per cent for January 2005.

A review of employment by industry shows that employment growth over the January 2006 to January 2005 period was concentrated in the Trade (Retail & Wholesale), Health, Business Support Services and Public Administration. In terms of employment growth by location, all the gains in employment occurred in the Northern Shore region and the Cape Breton region over the January 2006 to January 2005 period.

Note: On January 25, 2006, Statistics Canada released revisions affecting all *Labour Force Survey (LFS)* estimates from January 1976 to December 2005 (both monthly and annual series). These revisions will be reflected in the January 2006 *Employment Situation and Labour Market* reports produced by Economics & Statistics Division, Nova Scotia Department of Finance; however, users are cautioned that past issues of these reports will not be revised to reflect these revisions. The Division's annual *Labour Force Data, Historical, 1996-2005* (based on the revised series released January 25, 2006) will also be posted to our web site shortly.

For further explanation on Statistics Canada's revisions and an overview of the effect of these changes on the estimates, please refer to Statistics Canada, *Improvements in 2006 to the LFS*, Catalogue No. 71F0031XIE, free at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/services/>.

Statistics Canada's release of the revised historical data are now available on CANSIM, and will also be available on their annual CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review*, Catalogue No. 71F0004XCB which will be released February 20, 2006.

Source: Analysis prepared by the Economics & Statistics Division using Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Survey*, Catalogue No. 71-001; annual **Labour Force Historical Review**, Catalogue No. 71F0004XCB; and LFS Tables on CANSIM.

## Key Employment Indicators - Feature

February 10, 2006

### Notice of Labour Force Survey (LFS) Estimate Revisions – January 25, 2006

On Wednesday, January 25, 2006, Statistics Canada released revisions affecting all Labour Force Survey estimates from January 1987 to December 2005 (both monthly and annual data). Changes made to the Survey include:

1. Improved population benchmarks provide better information on the number of non-permanent residents.
2. Incorporating a current public sector definition to the 1987 to 1999 data results in a longer time series for analysis.
3. Data from January 1987 to December 1994 has been affected by updating historically from 1996 urban centre boundaries to 2001 CA boundaries.

The following tables indicate Nova Scotia's basic labour force characteristics, 2001 to 2005 previous to the January 25, 2006 revisions, the revisions released January 25, 2006 and the change between the two series (Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 282-0002):

#### Basic Labour Force Characteristics Nova Scotia – 2001 to 2005

##### Pre-Revisions of January 25, 2006

Characteristics	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	<i>(number of persons in '000)</i>				
Population	742.6	747.5	752.7	756.9	760.7
Labour Force	460.4	467.2	474.7	484.3	484.2
Employment	415.4	422.4	431.3	441.6	443.6
Full-time	341.3	342.6	348.8	358.6	360.7
Part-time	74.1	79.7	82.5	83.0	82.9
Unemployment	45.0	44.8	43.4	42.7	40.6
Not in Labour Force	282.3	280.4	278.0	272.6	276.5
Unemployment %	9.8	9.6	9.1	8.8	8.4
Participation %	62.0	62.5	63.1	64.0	63.7
Employment %	55.9	56.5	57.3	58.3	58.3

#### Basic Labour Force Characteristics Nova Scotia – 2001 to 2005

##### Revisions of January 25, 2006

Characteristics	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	<i>(number of persons in '000)</i>				
Population	742.6	747.5	752.7	757.1	760.7
Labour Force	460.0	467.7	474.6	485.0	483.9
Employment	415.2	422.9	431.2	442.2	443.1
Full-time	341.2	342.9	348.7	358.7	360.1
Part-time	74.0	80.0	82.4	83.5	82.9
Unemployment	44.8	44.8	43.4	42.8	40.8
Not in Labour Force	282.6	279.8	278.1	272.1	276.8
Unemployment %	9.7	9.6	9.1	8.8	8.4
Participation %	61.9	62.6	63.1	64.1	63.6
Employment %	55.9	56.6	57.3	58.4	58.2

#### Basic Labour Force Characteristics Nova Scotia – 2001 to 2005

##### CHANGE between Revisions and Pre-Revisions of January 25, 2006

Characteristics	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	<i>Persons (#)</i>				
Population	0	0	0	+200	0
Labour force	-400	+500	-100	+700	-300
Employment	-200	+500	-100	+600	-500
Full-time	-100	+300	-100	+100	-600
Part-time	-100	+300	-100	+500	0
Unemployment	-200	0	0	+100	+200
Not in labour force	+300	-600	+100	-500	+300
	<i>Rates (percentage points)</i>				
Unemployment rate	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Participation rate	-0.1	+0.1	0.0	+0.1	-0.1
Employment rate	-0.0	+0.1	0.0	+0.1	-0.1

## Key Employment Indicators

February 10, 2006

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

### Total Wages & Salaries

(4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2005 will be released Feb. 28, 2006)

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. During the same period, total wages and salaries rose 5.0 per cent in Canada to \$420,583.0 million.

#### Total Wages & Salaries – Nova Scotia

(\$millions – actual)	
2000	11,508.3
2001	11,947.3
2002	12,539.6
2003	12,997.2
2004	13,368.9
Jan - Sept 2005	10,490.7

Labour income estimates are based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and are released quarterly in conjunction with the National Income and Expenditure Accounts estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 13F0016XPB

### Average Weekly Earnings – Industrial Aggregate (including overtime)

(December 2005 will be released Feb. 27, 2006)

In 2004, the average earnings for all employees in Nova Scotia increased \$14.85, or 2.5 per cent, over 2003 to \$611.93<sup>r</sup> per week. In comparison, the average earnings for all employees in Canada rose \$15.33, or 2.2 per cent, to \$705.68<sup>r</sup> per week.

In November 2005, Nova Scotia's average weekly earnings increased 4.7 per cent over

November 2004 to \$643.12, while overall in Canada, the average weekly earnings increased 4.2 per cent over November 2004 to \$737.88. In November 2005, the average weekly earnings in Nova Scotia were 87.2 per cent of the Canadian average.

### Average Weekly Earnings – Industrial Aggregate (including overtime) – Nova Scotia

(NAICS-based) (\$)	
2000	562.77
2001	574.14
2002	590.68
2003	597.08
2004	611.93
November 2005 <sup>p</sup>	643.12

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

<sup>r</sup> revised

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 72-002-XPB

### Employment Insurance

(December 2005 will be released Feb. 21, 2006)

Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may from time to time, be affected by changes in the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received *Employment Insurance (EI)* 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.

In November 2005, there were 28,220 beneficiaries (seasonally adjusted) in Nova Scotia that received regular *EI* benefits. This figure was 2.1 per cent lower than last month and represented a decline of 5.0 per cent over November 2004.

Nationwide, there were 496,510 beneficiaries, a decrease of 1.4 per cent over last month and a decline of 4.2 per cent from November 2004. Compared to November 2004, the change in the number of beneficiaries ranged from -28.8 per

cent in Alberta to +5.3 per cent in the Northwest Territories in November 2005.

<b>Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Employment Insurance Benefits Canada and the Provinces</b>		
(seasonally adjusted)		
	<b>November<sup>P</sup></b> (number)	<b>Change</b> <b>November 2004</b> <b>to November 2005</b> (per cent)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>496,150</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
Newfoundland & Labrador	37,110	-0.6
Prince Edward Island	7,730	-1.3
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<b>28,220</b>	<b>-5.0</b>
New Brunswick	33,210	-3.3
Quebec	171,790	-0.9
Ontario	130,570	1.1
Manitoba	11,490	-2.6
Saskatchewan	9,490	-15.6
Alberta	19,150	-28.8
British Columbia	47,020	-15.7
Yukon	850	-6.6
Northwest Territories	790	5.3
Nunavut	390	-2.5

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 276-0005

### **Public Sector Employment – Nova Scotia**

(4th quarter 2005 will be released Feb. 27, 2006)

Data from the Statistics Canada *Public Sector FMS Reports* indicates that, in 2004, there were 104,056 public sector employees in Nova Scotia, a decrease of 2.4 per cent over 2003. In the July to September 2005 period, there were 103,064 public sector employees in the province, an increase of 3.2 per cent over the same period a year earlier.

<b>Public Sector Employment – Nova Scotia</b>			
(number)			
	<b>2004</b>	<b>July-Sept 2005</b>	<b>Change 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2004 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2005</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>97,046</b>	<b>95,634</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Federal (incl. Military)	23,396	23,784	0.9
Military	10,696	10,650	0.6
Provincial General	11,082	11,364	0.6
Universities & Colleges	7,636	7,184	7.2
Health & Social Services	27,738	30,452	13.4
Local General	11,068	10,494	-9.3
School Boards	16,127	12,356	-3.1
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>97,046</b>	<b>95,634</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Government Business	7,011	7,430	4.1
Enterprises			
Federal	4,246	4,623	5.6
Provincial	2,277	2,317	2.1
Local	487	490	0.2
<b>Total Public Sector</b>	<b>104,056</b>	<b>103,064</b>	<b>3.2</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.

Source: Statistics Canada, Public Institutions Division, *Public Sector FMS Reports*; CANSIM Tables 183-0002 and 183-0004.