

Nova Scotia Labour Market September 2005



Labour Force Survey - Nova Scotia

(October will be released November 4, 2005)

HIGHLIGHTS - LFS Release September 2005

On a seasonally adjusted basis the provincial employment level in September 2005 decreased by 5,800 persons over August 2005 to 440,500 employees. The size of the labour force was virtually unchanged and the number of unemployed persons increased 16.1 per cent when compared to the previous month. As a result, the monthly unemployment rate increased 1.2 percentage points to 8.4 per cent. When compared to September 2004, the employment level decreased 0.9 per cent while the unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percentage points. The participation rate was unchanged since last month at 63.2 per cent in September 2005, and decreased 1.0 percentage points from September 2004.

Based on unadjusted three month moving averages, the unemployment rate decreased in three of the five regions in the province since September 2004. The unemployment rate decreased 2.5 percentage points in the Cape Breton region, 2.3 percentage points in the North Shore region and 0.7 percentage points in the Halifax region, while it increased 2.1 percentage points in the Southern region and was unchanged 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 5.2 per cent in September 2005, a decrease of 0.5 percentage points from September 2004. In September 2005, the Halifax CMA rate stood as the lowest rate east of Winnipeg.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 71-001

**RATES of EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT and PARTICIPATION,
CENSUS DIVISIONS, NOVA SCOTIA, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004**

The following two-year average estimates for Nova Scotia at the Census Division level have been published by Statistics Canada covering 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. These estimates are based on 2001 Census geographic boundaries. Note that the CV with this new sample is not ready yet. The intention is to have the CV with the 2005 update.

**Rates of Employment, Unemployment & Participation (1), Census Divisions, Nova Scotia
-Two-Year Average Estimates, 2002/2003 and 2004/2004**

County	Employment Rates		Unemployment Rates		Participation Rates	
	2002 & 2003 (%)	2003 & 2004 (%)	2002 & 2003 (%)	2003 & 2004 (%)	2002 & 2003 (%)	2003 & 2004 (%)
Annapolis	50.1	50.5	8.9	9.4	55.5	55.7
Antigonish & Pictou	53.5	56.3	11.4	9.9	60.4	62.5
Cape Breton	42.3	42.0	15.7	16.4	50.1	50.3
Colchester	57.5	56.0	7.8	8.7	62.4	61.3
Cumberland	50.2	55.0	10.4	10.0	56.0	61.1
Digby	52.1	52.6	12.2	10.1	59.4	58.5
Guysborough, Inverness, Richmond & Victoria	47.4	48.1	15.7	14.8	56.3	56.4
Halifax	64.4	65.4	7.1	6.3	69.3	69.9
Hants	59.7	61.0	8.1	7.7	64.9	66.1
Kings	57.5	57.7	8.1	8.9	62.5	63.3
Lunenburg	57.3	57.8	9.1	9.4	63.0	63.8
Queens	46.0	49.3	10.0	10.2	51.1	54.9
Shelburne	54.1	51.8	14.4	15.9	63.2	61.6
Yarmouth	53.8	55.1	11.2	10.3	60.6	61.4

(1) Data is based on 2001 Census boundaries

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Division, Special Tabulation released August 2005

Key Employment Indicators

October 7, 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 per cent in Nova Scotia reaching \$13,368.9 million and rose 4.0 per cent in Canada to \$563,149.2 million. Total wages and salaries increased 5.0 per cent 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 per cent 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)
(August 2005 will be released October 27, 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 July 2005 Nova Scotia's average weekly earnings (industrial aggregate) increased 3.5 per cent over July 2004 to \$633.75 compared to a 3.3 per cent increase in Canada to \$727.32. The July 2005 average weekly earnings in Nova Scotia were 87.1 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>	July <u>2005^p</u>
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	574.14	590.68	597.08	611.93	633.75

^r - revised data

^p - preliminary data

Employment Insurance

(August 2005 will be released October 25, 2005)

There were 29,920 beneficiaries (seasonally adjusted) in Nova Scotia that received regular Employment Insurance benefits in July 2005. This figure was 2.0 per cent lower than last month and represented an increase of 0.9 per cent over July 2004. Nationwide there were 490,950 beneficiaries, a decrease of 5.9 per cent over last month and a decline of 8.0 per cent from July 2004. Compared to July 2004, change in the number of beneficiaries ranged from -32.3 per cent in Alberta to +7.1 per cent in Prince Edward Island.

Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular EI Benefits

(Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>July 2005p</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>July 2004 -</u> <u>July 2005</u>
Canada	490,950	-8.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	37,910	4.6
Prince Edward Island	8,340	7.1
Nova Scotia	29,920	0.9
New Brunswick	34,750	0.8
Quebec	169,210	0.3
Ontario	116,000	-14.8
Manitoba	11,370	-12.3
Saskatchewan	10,610	-11.7
Alberta	19,870	-32.3
British Columbia	47,640	-16.6
Yukon	950	3.3
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	750 360	-8.5 -2.7

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.