



# Nova Scotia Labour Market Brief ~June 2010~

This brief is based on Statistics Canada Data – Labour Force Survey

## Labour Market Data (Seasonally Adjusted)

### NOVA SCOTIA (June 2010)

Labour Force ('000): 502.0  
(May '10 =501.1)

Employment ('000): 457.7  
(May '10 =457.3)

Unemployment('000): 44.3  
(May '10 =43.8)

Unemployment Rate: 8.8%  
(May '10 =8.7%)

Participation Rate: 64.7%  
(May '10 =64.6%)

### ALL PROVINCES (June 2010)

	EMP. ('000)	UNEMP. RATE
NL:	218.8	14.7%
PE:	71.0	12.3%
NS:	457.7	8.8%
NB:	361.6	9.3%
PQ:	3,939.7	7.8%
ON:	6,693.6	8.3%
MB:	620.7	5.3%
SK:	528.1	5.5%
AB:	1,999.8	6.7%
BC:	2,298.9	7.8%
CAN:	17,189.8	7.9%

The **LABOUR MARKET BRIEF** is a publication of the Labour Market & Social Development Branch, Service Canada – Atlantic Region.

## Employment increases modestly in NS

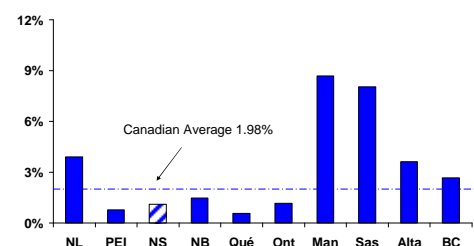
The provincial labour market improved slightly in June, with the labour force increasing by 900 on a seasonally adjusted basis and employment rising by 400. Gains in full-time employment (3,500) were significantly offset by losses in part-time jobs from May to June. Since the labour force increased by a larger amount than employment, the level of unemployment rose by 500 on a monthly basis, and the unemployment rate increased slightly from 8.7 percent in May to 8.8 percent in June.

## Aboriginal working age population

Since 2007, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) has collected data on the working age Aboriginal population (aged 15 and over) in Nova Scotia. According to the LFS, the province's working aged Aboriginal population stood at 8,500 in 2009 and accounted for just over 1 percent of the province's overall working age population.

Nationally, the Aboriginal working age population accounts for just under 2 percent of Canada's total population aged 15 +. Newfoundland and Labrador and the western provinces had above average Aboriginal population shares.

Share of Aboriginal Working Age Population, 2009

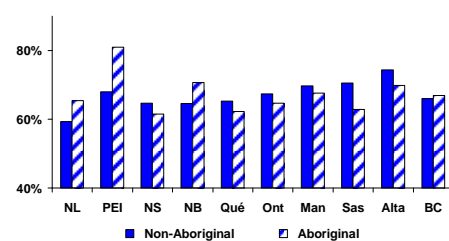


Source: LFS

## Aboriginal participation rate lowest in NS

Nationally, the Aboriginal labour force participation rate was 66.2 percent in 2009. The rate was marginally below that for the Non-Aboriginal population (67.3 percent). Among the provinces, the Aboriginal participation rate was lowest in Nova Scotia and highest in PEI. Similar to the Non-Aboriginal population, female participation rates are less than their male counterparts.

Labour Force Participation Rates, Non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal Population 2009

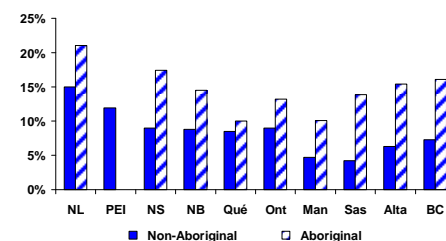


Source: LFS

## Unemployment Rates higher for Aboriginal population

While the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal participation rates are quite similar, there are significant differences between their unemployment rates. In Nova Scotia, the unemployment rate for the Aboriginal population was 17.4 percent in 2009 compared with 9 percent for Non-Aboriginals. The gap was highest in Saskatchewan and lowest in Québec. (Due to sample size, the Aboriginal unemployment rate for PEI is not available).

Unemployment Rates, Non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal Population 2009

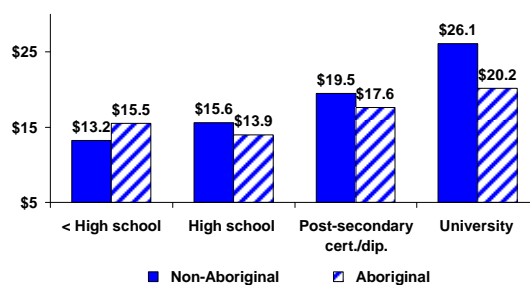


Source: LFS

### Average hourly wage lower for Aboriginal population

In 2009, the average hourly wage for employed Aboriginals in Nova Scotia was \$16.65, or \$3.4 less than their Non-Aboriginal counterparts. Nationally, the gap in hourly earnings was \$2.4 ( \$22.1 vs. \$19.7). Interestingly, both nationally and in Nova Scotia the average hourly wage was higher for Aboriginals with less than high school than for Non-Aboriginals with this level of schooling. The wage differential for university graduates was above the national average in Nova Scotia. The average hourly wage for Aboriginals with a university degree in Nova Scotia was 77 percent of their Non-Aboriginal counterparts; whereas, nationally Aboriginals' average hourly wage was 93 percent of their Non-Aboriginal counterparts (\$29.11 vs. \$27.09).

Average Hourly Wage, Non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal Population 2009, Nova Scotia



Source: LFS

### Economic Region Highlights – June 2010

The labour market in Cape Breton expanded from June 2009 to June 2010. The labour force increased by 2,500 on a year-over-year basis. Employment increased by 2,200 over the same period, reflecting a large increase in full-time work (1,800) and a small increase in part-time work. With the increase in the labour force being only marginally greater than the rise in employment, the level of unemployment changed little from June 2009 to June 2010, while the unemployment rate remained stable.

Economic Region Data Three month Moving Averages (ending June 2010)										
Economic Region	Cape Breton		Northern		Valley		Southern		Halifax	
Year	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Labour Force (000)	64.1	66.6	80.0	78.9	62.6	61.9	64.4	64.3	232.1	233.9
Employed (000)	54.0	56.2	70.3	72.3	57.7	56.1	57.1	56.5	217.5	219.8
Full Time	44.6	46.4	58.1	58.8	47.5	44.4	46.7	43.9	179.2	182.4
Part Time	9.5	9.8	12.2	13.5	10.2	11.7	10.4	12.6	38.3	37.4
Unemployed (000)	10.1	10.5	9.7	6.6	5	5.8	7.8	7.8	14.6	14.1
Participation Rate (%)	55.7	58.3	60.9	60.0	61.6	60.6	62.3	62.4	72.4	72.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	15.8	15.8	12.1	8.4	8.0	9.4	11.3	12.1	6.3	6.0

Employment increased noticeably (2,000) in Northern Nova Scotia on a year-over-year basis. Part-time employment accounted for the majority of the job gains (1,300). The labour force decreased by 1,100 over this period. With employment increasing and the labour force decreasing, the level of unemployment declined significantly (3,100) which resulted in the unemployment rate declining by 3.7 percentage points from June 2009 and now stands at 8.4 percent.

The labour market in the Valley Region continued to deteriorate on a year-over-year basis in June. Employment contracted significantly (1,600), with the decrease in employment reflecting a large decline in full-time work (3,100) being partially offset by an increase in part-time work of 1,500. The labour force in the Valley decreased by 700 in June 2010 compared with the same month last year. With the decrease in employment being larger than the decline in the labour force, the level of unemployment increased. The unemployment rate edged up from 8.0 percent in June 2009 to 9.4 percent this year.

Employment decreased by 600 in Southern Nova Scotia from June 2009 to June 2010, reflecting a large decrease in full-time work (2,800) being largely offset by an increase in part-time work. With employment decreasing at a faster rate than the labour force, both the level of unemployment and the unemployment rate rose comparing June 2010 with June of last year. The unemployment rate increased on a year-over-year basis, rising from 11.3 percent to 12.1 percent this month.

The labour market in Halifax expanded in June 2010 compared with the same month last year. Employment increased by 2,300 on a year-over-year basis. The increase in full-time work (3,200) was partially offset by a small decline in part-time work. The labour force expanded by 1,800 during the same period. With labour force growth being outpaced by employment growth, the level of unemployment decreased by 500 on a year-over-year basis, and consequently, the unemployment rate declined from 6.3 percent to 6 percent this month.

#### Comments/Questions?

Michael Rushe (902) 426-6606  
[michael.rushe@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:michael.rushe@servicecanada.gc.ca)



For other labour market information visit our website:  
[www.labourmarketinformation.ca](http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca)