Overview of Social & Economic Trends

Building strong, healthy communities together
Objectives

• Provide an overview on what’s happening in the external environment

• Relate this information to DCS and its programs

• Get feedback regarding your information needs

• More information and detail is available. Please contact Tim Cyr (cyrtm@gov.ns.ca; 424-7565) to discuss any additional information needs.
Topics

- Scan of the departmental operating environment
- Population Trends
- Economic & Employment Trends
- Income Trends
- Housing Trends
- Price Trends
Population Trends

- Nova Scotian population growing at less than 0.1% per year

- Aging population with increasing life expectancy; steady decline in population under 15

- High incidence of disability

- Migration from rural Nova Scotia to urban centres, particularly for youth aged 18-24
Population Trends – Slow growth

From 1971 to 1996, the Nova Scotia population grew at an average rate of 0.7% per year. From 1997 to 2006, population growth slowed to under 0.1% per year, below the Canadian average of 1%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-213-XIB, “Annual Demographic Statistics”
Population Trends – Aging

Age Pyramid of the Population of Nova Scotia,
July 1, 1971 to 2006

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-213-XIB, “Annual Demographic Statistics”
Population Trends – Aging

• By 2016, projections indicate that over one third of Nova Scotians will be 55 or older.

• The median age in Nova Scotia in 2006 was 42 years, up from 33 in 1991.

• Faced with challenges in health, employment, income and housing, an aging population puts increasing pressure on DCS programs.

Population Trends – Aging

- Regionally, population aging trends are exacerbated by migration patterns within the province.

Growth Rate in the Population 55+ 1997 to 2006

Percentage of the Total Population 55+ 2006

Population Trends – Decline in young Population under 15
Nova Scotia, 1986-2016

-30% between 1986 and 2016
-29% between 1986 and 2016
-31% between 1986 and 2016

Population Trends
Young Adults with Low-Levels of Education

• **YALLE** (Young-Adults with Low-Levels of Education) face multiple challenges including: high unemployment, poor opportunities for career advancement and a greater risk of requiring social assistance.

• In 06/07, approximately 5,000 youth aged 20 to 24 required some support from income assistance. Two-thirds of the individuals from this group have not completed high-school and are considered YALLE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Indicators</th>
<th>NS</th>
<th>Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of 20-24 year olds not in education and without high school graduation</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YALLE population</td>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>226,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of 20-24 year olds not in education and without high school, by gender:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate for YALLE individuals</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population Trends – Aging IA Caseload

Income Assistance Caseload by Age
Nova Scotia, by Fiscal Year

- As with the population, the average age of the DCS income assistance caseload is rising.
- A very small portion - less than 1% of the caseload - is under 19 years old.

Source: Department Of Community Services, ESIA Data, 2000 – 2005.
Population Trends - Education

Highest Educational Attainment (20+)
Nova Scotia, 2001

- < than grade 9: 9%
- Secondary: 15%
- Some post-secondary: 54%
- Secondary incomplete: 22%

Highest Educational Attainment
IA Caseload (20+), 2006/07

- < than grade 9: 27%
- Secondary: 26%
- Some post-secondary: 9%
- Secondary incomplete: 38%

In comparison to the overall population, ESIA clients have lower levels of education.

### Population Trends - Literacy

- Literacy skills are essential for labour market participation, and are a precursor to an individual’s long-term health and well-being.
- Differences in reading performance are the result of several factors, including: socioeconomic status; quality of care and stimulation provided to children during infancy and pre-school; and opportunities for learning during elementary and secondary school years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Average reading score</th>
<th>Score adjusted for socioeconomic status of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfoundland and Labrador</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nova Scotia has the highest level of self-identified disability in Canada (17.1% vs. the Canadian average of 12.4%).

As the population ages, the incidence of disability will likely increase.

Statistics Canada reports that people whose disability limits their ability to work are among the most persistent low-income groups.

Population Trends - Disability

Disability Rate (%), for Children under 15
Canada and Nova Scotia, 2001

- The incidence of disability in children under the age of four is lower in Nova Scotia than the rest of Canada (1.3% vs. 1.6%).
- For all other age groups, the reverse is true.

Disability and Employment


- Adults with disabilities have a much lower rate of participation in the labour market.
- About 45% of the ESIA caseload are identified as persons with disabilities.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue #89-587-XIE, “Education, employment and income of adults with and without disabilities”.
Population Trends - Families

Distribution of the Nova Scotia Population by Household Type, March 2001

- Couple, no children: 18%
- Single person: 15%
- Two parents: 53%

Distribution of the Income Assistance Caseload by Household Type, 2006/07

- Couple, no children: 7%
- Two parents: 5%
- Lone parent: 24%
- Single person: 64%

- Single, unattached individuals account for 15% of the population, but 64% of the income assistance caseload.
- Just under one quarter of the caseload is lone-parent households, with the majority of these being single mothers (94%).

Source: Department Of Community Services, ESIA Data, 2000 – 2007.
Population Trends – Regional Shifts

• As people move to urban centres for work and services, the rate of population decline in rural areas of the province is increasing

• There is a net migration of young people aged 18-24 to HRM

• Only the five counties in closest proximity to HRM experienced population growth between 2001 and 2006
While the Nova Scotian population increased by almost 20% between 1971 and 2006, the population of the central region (HRM) grew by close to 50%.

The central region now holds 41% of the province’s population.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-213-XPB, “Annual Demographic Statistics”
Population Trends – Regional Shifts

Population Growth
Nova Scotia by County, 2001-2006

- Only those counties surrounding HRM experienced population growth between 2001 and 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-213-XPB, “Annual Demographic Statistics”
Population Trends – Regional Shifts

Intra-provincial Net Migration
Ages 18 years to 44 years, 1996 to 2005

• In the search for job prospects, the central counties of the province are attractive to people aged 44 and under.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-213-XPB, “Annual Demographic Statistics”
Regional Trends and DCS

Average Monthly Income Assistance Caseload
Nova Scotia by Region, 2000/01 and 2006/07

- All regions experienced declines in their caseloads between 2000/01 and 2006/07.

Source: Department Of Community Services, ESIA Data, 2000 – 2005.
Regional Trends – Income Assistance

Average Monthly Beneficiaries of Income Assistance as a Percent of County Population
2006/07

- At nearly 12%, Richmond county has the highest percentage of its population receiving income assistance.
- Halifax county has the greatest number of ESIA beneficiaries with over 17,000 (36% of the provincial total).

Source: Department Of Community Services, ESIA Data, 2000 – 2007.
Economic & Employment Trends

- Forecasts predict moderate annual economic growth in Nova Scotia in excess of 2% for 2007 and 2008, in line with the Canadian average.

- Provincial unemployment rate forecast to level off at 7.9% in 2008, the lowest rate in the past 25 years.

- Data suggests that a major benefit of sustained economic growth is a decline in the number of people living in low-income situations.
Economic Outlook for Nova Scotia

Economic Growth
Canada and Nova Scotia, 1996 to 2008

- Although economic growth in Nova Scotia has recently lagged behind the Canadian average, it is forecast to closely track the Canadian average in 2007 and 2008.

Economic Growth and Poverty

During the period of unprecedented economic growth from 1951 to 1996, poverty rates in Canada fell dramatically.

The incidence of child poverty in Nova Scotia appears to mirror changes in economic growth. When the economy is strong, child poverty rates tend to decline, and vice versa.

Employment Trends

Unemployment Rates by Economic Region
Nova Scotia, 1996 to 2006

For the most part, unemployment rates have been on the decline since 1996, but regional differences are pronounced.

Economic & Employment Trends

Percentage of Population Active in the Labour Force

- The participation rate measures the supply of labour relative to the size of the working-age population. As new job prospects appear, people re-enter the labour force, driving up participation rates.

Income Trends

- Household incomes in Nova Scotia are below the Canadian average, but higher than the three other Atlantic provinces.

- Urban household incomes are comparable to the Canadian average, but the gap between rural and urban incomes is larger than other provinces.

- In 2005, women who worked full-time, year-round earned about 70 cents to every dollar earned by men working full-time, year-round.
After-tax incomes in both Canada and Nova Scotia have been trending upward since 1996. The median after tax income in Nova Scotia for families with two or more persons increased by 18% between 1996 and 2005, from $41,700 to $49,400.

Income Trends

Average Income per Tax Filer
Nova Scotia by County, 2005

# Income Trends and Gender

**Female/Male Earnings Ratios (%), Nova Scotia**

Full Year, Full Time Workers, by Selected Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected characteristics</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All age groups</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 24</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All marital statuses</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other marital status</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All education levels</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some secondary</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary complete</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some postsecondary</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary certificate/diploma</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University degree</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In 2005, women who worked full-time, year-round earned over 70 cents to every dollar earned by men working full-time, year-round.
- Earnings by women were lower than their male counterparts’ regardless of age, marital status or level of education

Income Trends – Transfer Payments

- The economic dependency ratio is the sum of transfer payments received as benefits in a given area, compared to every $100 of employment income for that same area. In 2004 in Nova Scotia, it ranges from a low of $14 in Halifax county to a high of $49 in Guysborough county.


Transfer Payments include OAS, CPP, EI Benefits, CCTB, IA, HST and other provincial tax credits and Workers’ Compensation payments.
Since 1999, Nova Scotia has been outperforming the Canadian average in terms of prevalence of low-income within the population. In 2005, 8.9% of the Nova Scotian population fell under the LICO (after-tax) compared to 10.8 for Canada as a whole.

For children under 18, the prevalence in Nova Scotia was 10.4% compared to 11.7% for Canada as a whole.

Source: Statistics Canada, Income in Canada 2005, Catalogue No. 13F0022XCB.
The prevalence of low-income (after-tax) in Nova Scotia, based on the low-income cut-off, reached the lowest point of the past decade in 2005. 8.9% of the NS population fell under the LICO in 2005, down from 10.0% in 2004.

Encouragingly, the number of children under 18 living in low-income families continues to decline, falling from 12% in 2004 to 10.4% in 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Income in Canada 2005, Catalogue No. 13F0022XCB.
Income Trends - LICO

Prevalence of Low-Income After-Tax
Nova Scotia, by Family Type, 1996 - 2005

- Unattached individuals, who make up over 60% of the ESIA caseload, experience a much higher incidence of low-income – 29.6%.
- In 2005, 27.5% of children in single-mother families fell under the LICO, down from 65.3% in 1996.

Source: Statistics Canada, Income in Canada 2005, Catalogue No. 13F0022XCB.
Housing

- Older housing stock in Nova Scotia with increasing sales price
- Greater need for major repair work on Nova Scotia homes than in the rest of Canada
- Regional differences in percentage of the population that own versus rent their home
In 2006, the average sale price for a home in Halifax was $203,260. In Cape Breton, the amount was $83,701.

Source: CMHC, Multiple Listing Services (MLS), 2004
Housing - Age

Period of Construction for Occupied Private Dwellings
Nova Scotia and Canada, 2006

- Homes in Nova Scotia are generally older than in the rest of Canada, and subsequently are in greater need of repairs.

Housing – Core Need

Number of Households in Core Housing Need
Nova Scotia, Selected Communities, 2001

- Households are considered to be in ‘core housing need’ if they do not, or could not, access affordable/adequate/suitable housing.
- Nationally, 13.5% of households are in core need. At 15.1%, Nova Scotia sits above the Canadian average.

Source: CMHC Special Core Housing Need Run (revised). Based on 2001 Census data.
Housing - Repairs

Occupied Private Dwellings in Need of Major Repairs
Canada and Nova Scotia by County, 2001

- At 10.9%, more Nova Scotian homes are in need of major repairs than the Canadian average of 8.2%.
- Except for Halifax, this is true for each county in the province.

Price Trends

• Overall, the rate of inflation in Nova Scotia was 2.1% in 2006

• Energy and transportation costs are outpacing those for food and shelter

• Rents in five communities show increasing costs for shelter
The annual rate of inflation in Nova Scotia in 2006, for all items, was 2.1%, slightly above the Canadian average of 2.0%.

Source: Statistics Canada, The Consumer Price Index, Catalogue No. 62-001-XPB, Table 5A
Price Trends

Average Rent for a 2-Bedroom Apartment
Selected Communities, 1999-2007

- Average rental prices are increasing across the province.

Additional Resources

1. Human Resources And Skills Development Canada – About the Local Labour Market:
   www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/gateways/topics/ns0-ala.shtml

2. Nova Scotia Department of Finance – Multiple publications:
   www.gov.ns.ca/finance/publish/

3. Statistics Canada:
   www.statcan.ca
   Census Results:
   http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census/index.cfm
   Community Profiles:
   http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm

4. Nova Scotia Community Counts:
   http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/communitycounts/default.asp