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) or Evan MacDonald (macdonev@gov.ns.ca; 722-1314) 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 increased by .6% between 2001 and 2006 but projections show a decrease

- 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

**Nova Scotia Population**

**1971 - 2006**

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%.
Population Trends – Slow growth

Nova Scotia Population
2007 - 2031

Between 2007 and 2031, the population is projected to decrease 3.6%.

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Finance, November 2007
Population Trends – Aging

Age Pyramids of the Population of Nova Scotia

- The baby boom generation is represented by the widest area of the pyramid.
- The proportion of the Nova Scotia population 40 years and over continues to increase.
- The median age in Nova Scotia was 36.0 years in 1997 and increased to 41 years in 2006.

Population Trends – Aging

• The median age in Nova Scotia in 2007 was 41.5 years, up from 33 in 1991.

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

• 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+
1998 to 2007

Percentage of the Total Population 55+
2007

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, 2006

- Some post-secondary: 58%
- Secondary: 16%
- Secondary incomplete: 19%
- < than grade 9: 7%

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

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

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

Population Trends - Disability

Nova Scotia has the highest level of self-identified disability in Canada.

The disability rate in Nova Scotia increased from 17.1% in 2001 to 20% in 2006.

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 (%), by Age
Canada and Nova Scotia, 2006

The incidence of disability for all age groups in Nova Scotia is higher than the Canadian average.

The incidence of disability for all age groups in Nova Scotia increased between 2001 and 2006.

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 89-628-XWE2008008
Disability and Employment


- From 2001 to 2006, more adults with disabilities joined the workforce
- Over one-half (approximately 53%) of adults with disabilities were in the labour force in 2006

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 89-628-XWE2008008
Population Trends - Families

Distribution of the Nova Scotia Population by Household Type, 2006

- Couple, no children: 25%
- Single person: 47%
- Couple with children: 15%
- Lone parent: 13%

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%).

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

• Five counties experienced population growth between 2002 and 2007, but the overall provincial population slightly decreased.
Population trends – Regional Shifts

Nova Scotia Population by Region
1971 and 2007

- Western: 27% in 1971 (Population = 797,291) vs. 25% in 2007 (Population = 934,147)
- Northern: 19% in 1971 vs. 16% in 2007
- Eastern: 21% in 1971 vs. 17% in 2007
- Central: 33% in 1971 vs. 42% in 2007

- While the Nova Scotian population increased by almost 20% between 1971 and 2007, the population of the central region (HRM) grew by close to 50%.
- The central region now holds 42% of the province’s population.

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

Population Growth
Nova Scotia by County, 2002-2007

-10%
-8%
-6%
-4%
-2%
0%
2%
4%
6%

% change

Yarmouth
Victoria
Shelburne
Richmond
Queens
Pictou
Lunenburg
Kings
Inverness
Hants
Halifax
Guyborough
Digby
Cumberland
Colchester
Cape
Breton
Antigonish
Annapolis
Nova Scotia

• Five of the 18 counties experienced population growth between 2002 and 2007, including Halifax at 3.1%.

Regional Trends and DCS

Average Monthly Income Assistance Caseload
Nova Scotia by Region, 2000/01 and 2007/08

- All regions experienced declines in their caseloads between 2000/01 and 2007/08.

Source: Department Of Community Services, ESIA Data, 2000 – 2005.
Economic & Employment Trends

• Forecasts predict moderate annual economic growth in Nova Scotia of just under 2% for 2008 and 2009, in line with the Canadian average

• Provincial unemployment rate forecast to be 7.1% 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

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. * *Information reflects most recent data
Economic Outlook for Nova Scotia

Economic Growth
Canada and Nova Scotia, 1998 to 2009

• Although economic growth in Nova Scotia has recently lagged behind the Canadian average, it is forecast to closely track the Canadian average in 2008 and 2009.

Economic Growth and Poverty

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

Although the exact relationship continues to be researched, 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, 2001 - 2007

- 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 in Nova Scotia 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. In 2006, the median after-tax family income in Canada was 13% more than the median after-tax family income in Nova Scotia ($51,600).

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>All age groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 24</td>
<td>70.7%</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>72.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All marital statuses</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>
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<tr>
<td>All education levels</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some secondary</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary complete</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
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<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 about 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 2005 in Nova Scotia, it ranges from a low of $14 in Halifax county to a high of $47 in Guysborough and Victoria counties.

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 2006, 8.4% of the Nova Scotia population fell under the LICO (after-tax) compared to 10.5% for Canada as a whole.

For children under 18, the prevalence in Nova Scotia was 8.7% compared to 11.3% for Canada as a whole.
In 2006, the most recent year for which data is available, 76,000 Nova Scotians, or 8.4% of the population, were living in low-income situations (LICO; after-tax). This represents the lowest incidence of low-income of the past decade, and is down from 8.9% in 2005.

Encouragingly, the number of children under 18 living in low-income families continues to decline, falling from 19,000 in 2005 to 16,000 in 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, Income in Canada 2006, Catalogue No. 13F0022XCB
Income Trends - LICO

- Unattached individuals, who make up over 60% of the ESIA caseload, experience a higher incidence of low-income – 29.4%.
- In 2006, 32.4% of children in single-mother families fell under the LICO, down from 73.0% in 1997.

Source: Statistics Canada, Income in Canada 2006, Catalogue No. 13F0022XCB.

*Children; female lone-parent family data is too unreliable to be published
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
Housing – Average Sale Price (MLS)

Average MLS Prices - Selected Regions of Nova Scotia, 2002 to 2006

- In 2006, the average sale price for a home in Halifax was $203,178. In Cape Breton, the amount was $83,701.

Source: CMHC, Multiple Listing Services (MLS) 2004; CMHC Canadian Housing Observer 2006
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, 2006

- At 9.5%, more Nova Scotian homes are in need of major repairs than the Canadian average of 7.5%.
- Except for Halifax, this is true for every county in the province.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2001; Community Services Housing data
Price Trends

- Overall, the rate of inflation in Nova Scotia was 1.9% in 2007
- Energy and transportation costs are outpacing those for food and shelter
- Overall provincial increase in costs for shelter
Price Trends

The annual rate of inflation in Nova Scotia in 2007, for all items, was 1.9%, slightly lower than the Canadian average of 2.2%.

Price Trends

Average Rent for a 2-Bedroom Apartment, Nova Scotia and Selected Communities, 2005 - 2008

- Average rental prices are increasing across the province.

Source: CMHC, Rental Market Reports, 2006-2008
Additional Resources


2. **Statistics Canada**: [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)
   
   
