

# Overview of Social & Economic Trends

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*Building strong, healthy communities together*

A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide. It features a blue grid background. At the top is a small black square with a white line graph. Below it is a larger white line graph with an orange arrow pointing upwards. Further down is a pie chart with four segments in green, black, yellow, and purple. At the bottom are stylized orange numbers '0/031K' and a percentage sign.

## Objectives

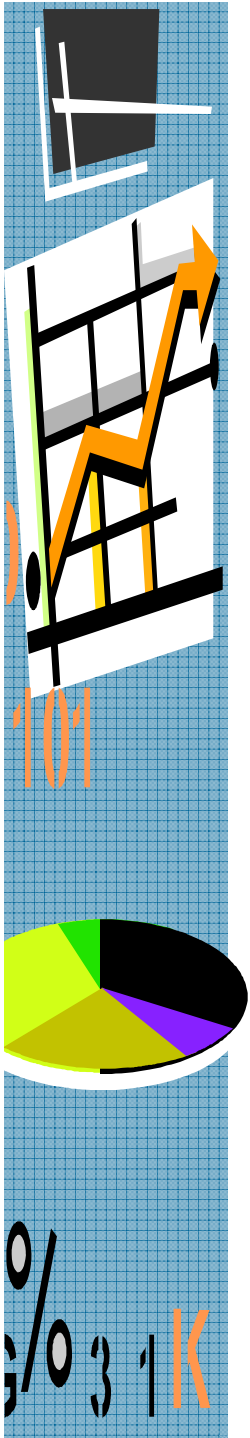
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- Provide an overview on what's happening in the external environment
- Relate this information to DCS and its programs
- Get feedback regarding your information needs
- More information and detail is available. Please contact Tim Cyr ([cyrtn@gov.ns.ca](mailto:cyrtn@gov.ns.ca); 424-7565) or Evan MacDonald ([macdonev@gov.ns.ca](mailto:macdonev@gov.ns.ca); 722-1314) to discuss any additional information needs.

## Topics

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



## Population Trends

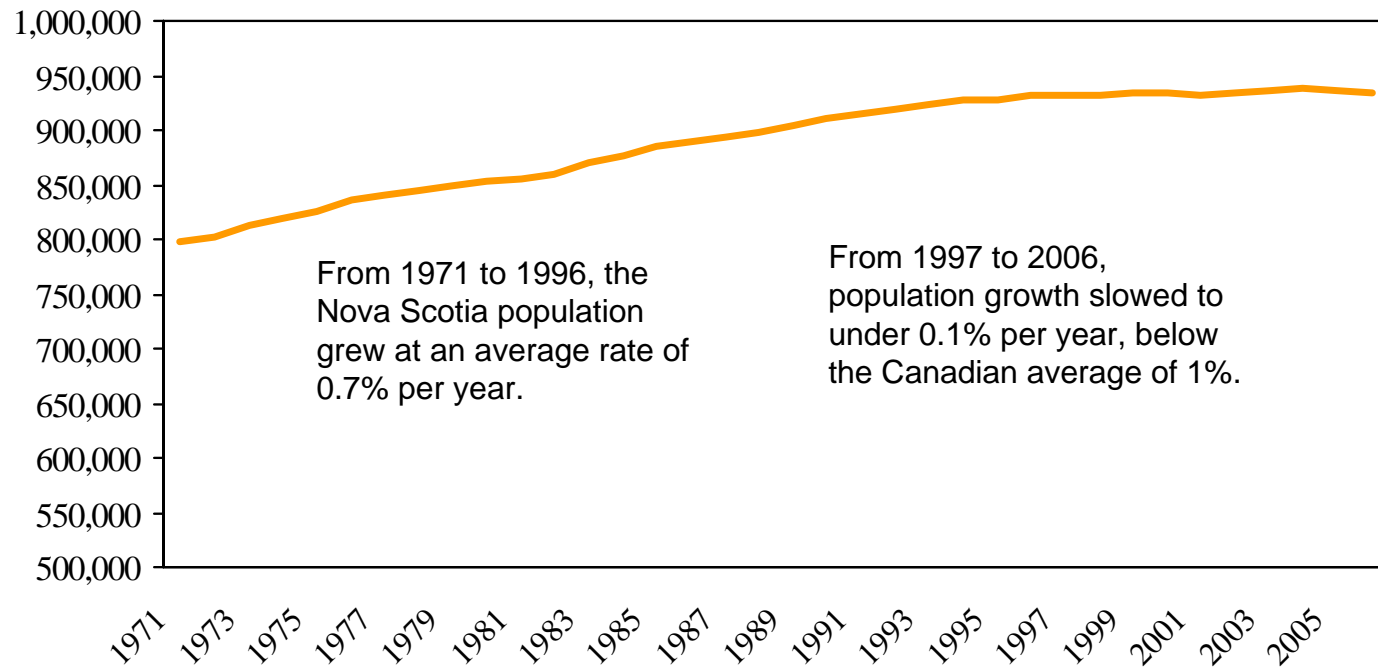
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- Nova Scotian population increased by .6% between 2001 and 2006 but projections show a decrease
- Aging population with increasing life expectancy; steady decline in population under 15
- High incidence of disability
- Migration from rural Nova Scotia to urban centres, particularly for youth aged 18-24

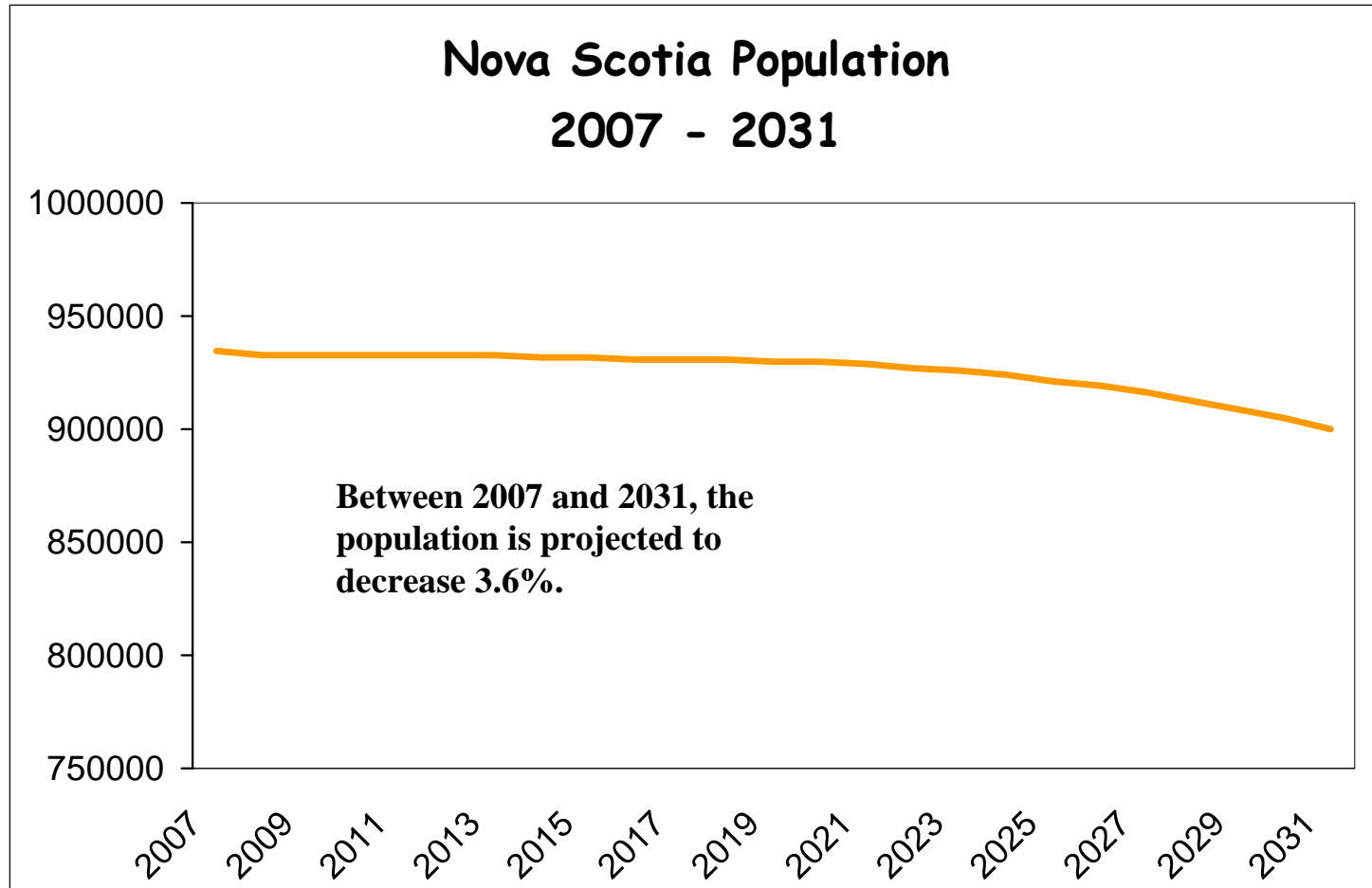


## Population Trends – Slow growth

### Nova Scotia Population 1971 - 2006



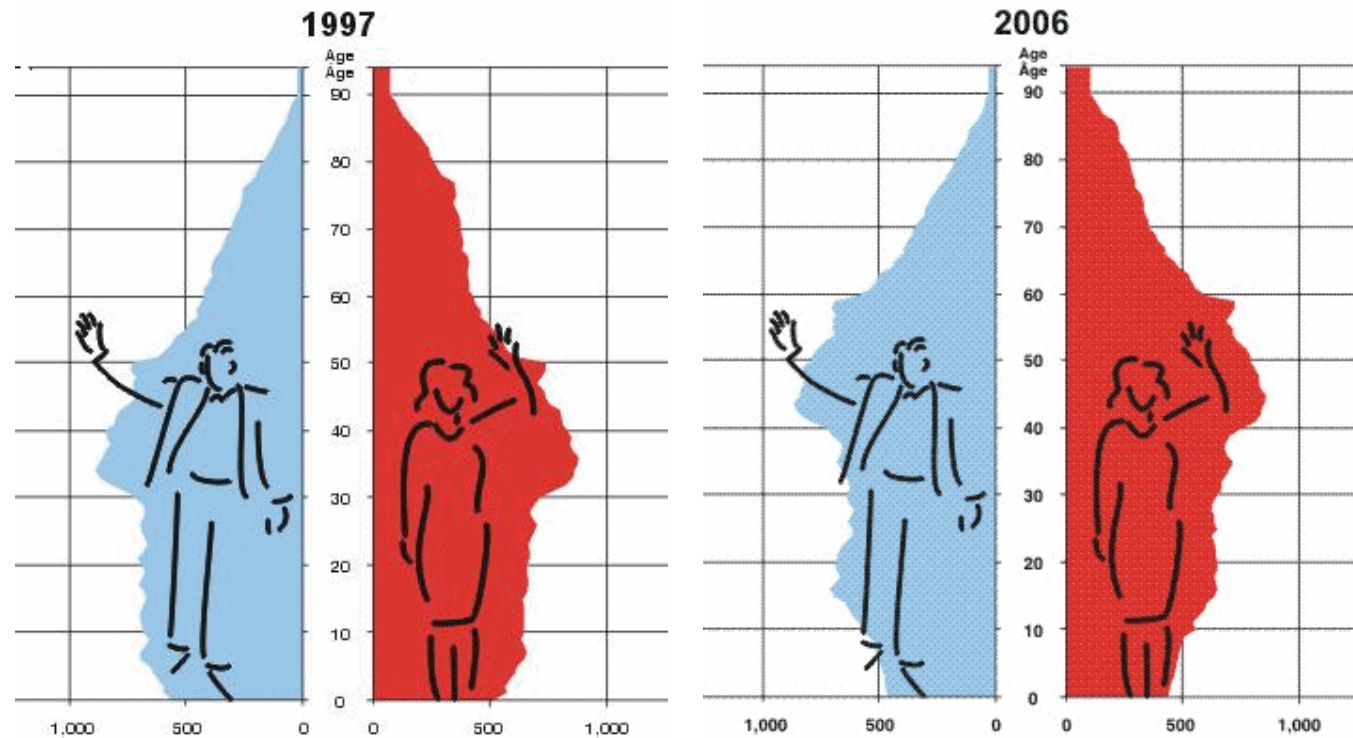
## Population Trends – Slow growth



Source: Nova Scotia Department of Finance, November 2007

# Population Trends – Aging

## Age Pyramids of the Population of Nova Scotia

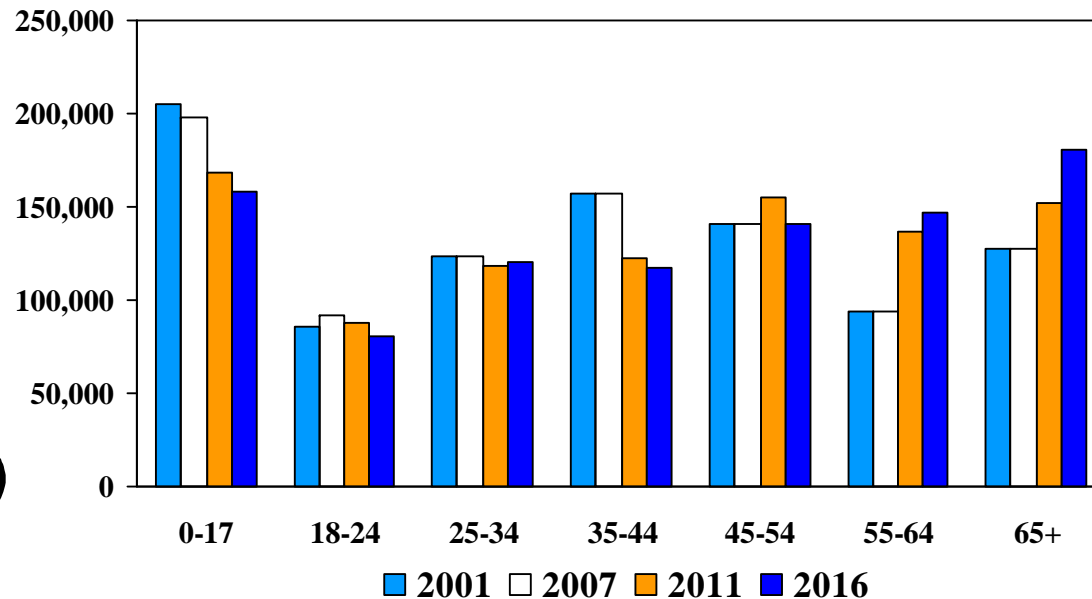


- The baby boom generation is represented by the widest area of the pyramid.
- The proportion of the Nova Scotia population 40 years and over continues to increase.
- The median age in Nova Scotia was 36.0 years in 1997 and increased to 41 years in 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-213-XIB, "Annual Demographic Statistics", Nova Scotia Statistical Reviews 2007 & 1998.

# Population Trends – Aging

Nova Scotia's Changing Demographic Profile

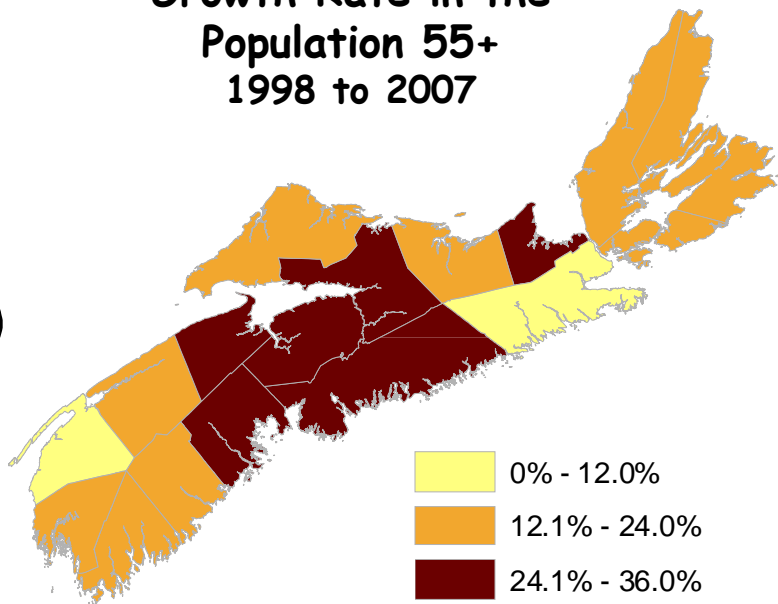


- The median age in Nova Scotia in 2007 was 41.5 years, up from 33 in 1991.
- By 2016, projections indicate that over one third of Nova Scotians will be 55 or older.
- Faced with challenges in health, employment, income and housing, an aging population puts increasing pressure on DCS programs.

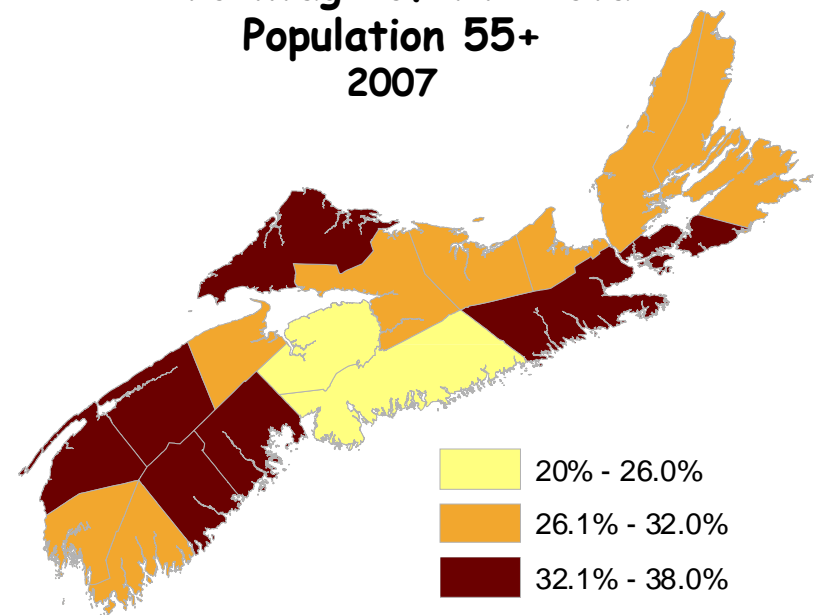
# Population Trends – Aging

- 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**

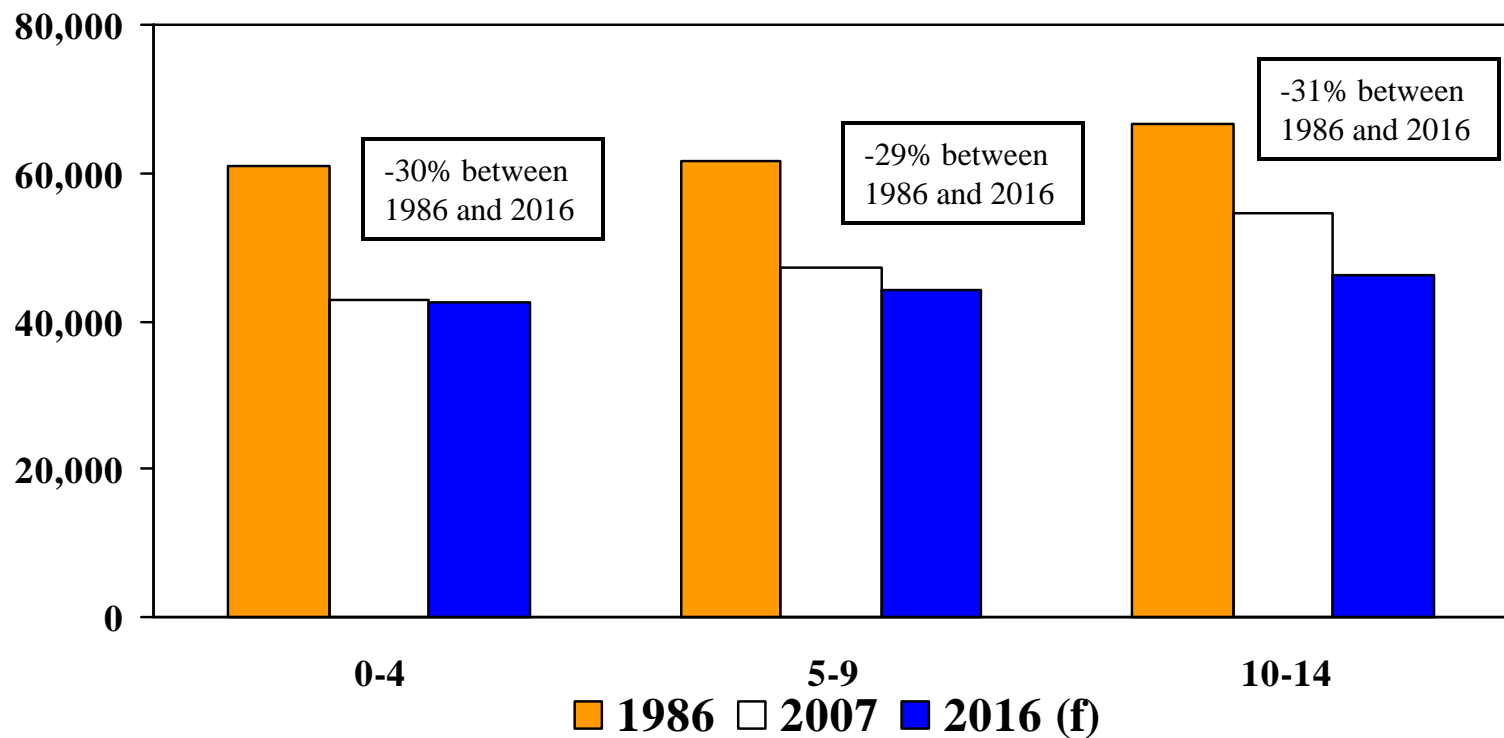


Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-520-XPB, "Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories 2000-2026"



## Population Trends – Decline in young

**Population under 15  
Nova Scotia, 1986-2016**



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-520-XPB, "Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories 2000-2026", Nova Scotia Statistical Review 2007

# Population Trends

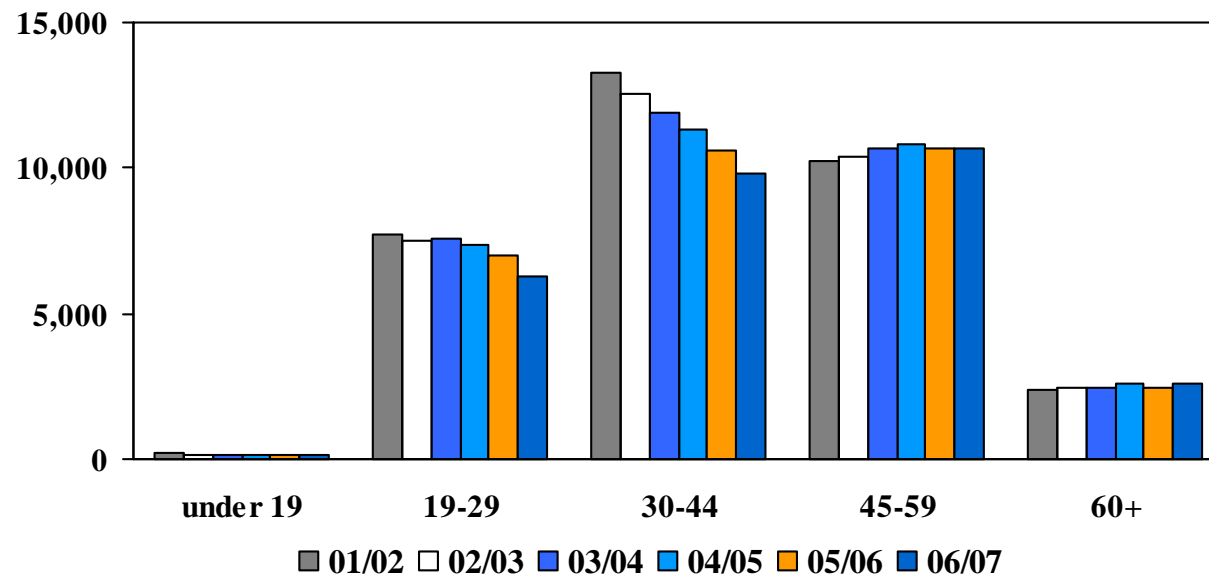
## Young Adults with Low-Levels of Education

- **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.

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

# Population Trends – Aging IA Caseload

**Income Assistance Caseload by Age  
Nova Scotia, by Fiscal Year**

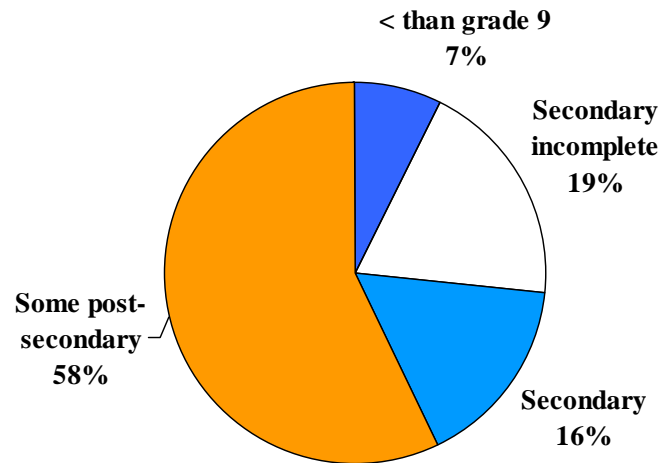


- As with the population, the average age of the DCS income assistance caseload is rising.
- A very small portion - less than 1% of the caseload - is under 19 years old.

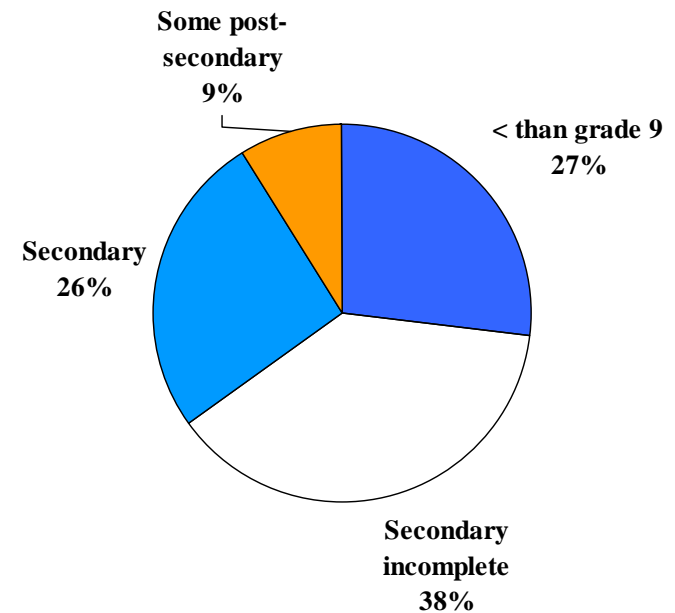
Source: Department Of Community Services, ESIA Data, 2000 – 2005.



## Population Trends – Education \*



**Highest Educational Attainment (20+)  
Nova Scotia, 2006**

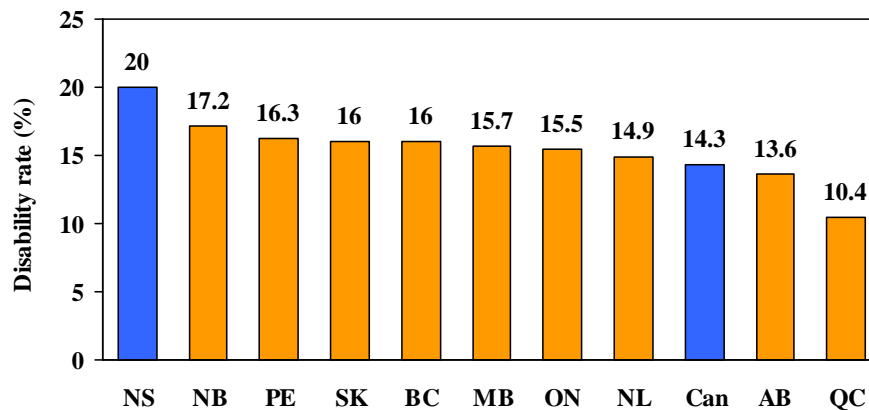


**Highest Educational Attainment  
IA Caseload (20+), 2006/07**

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

# Population Trends - Disability

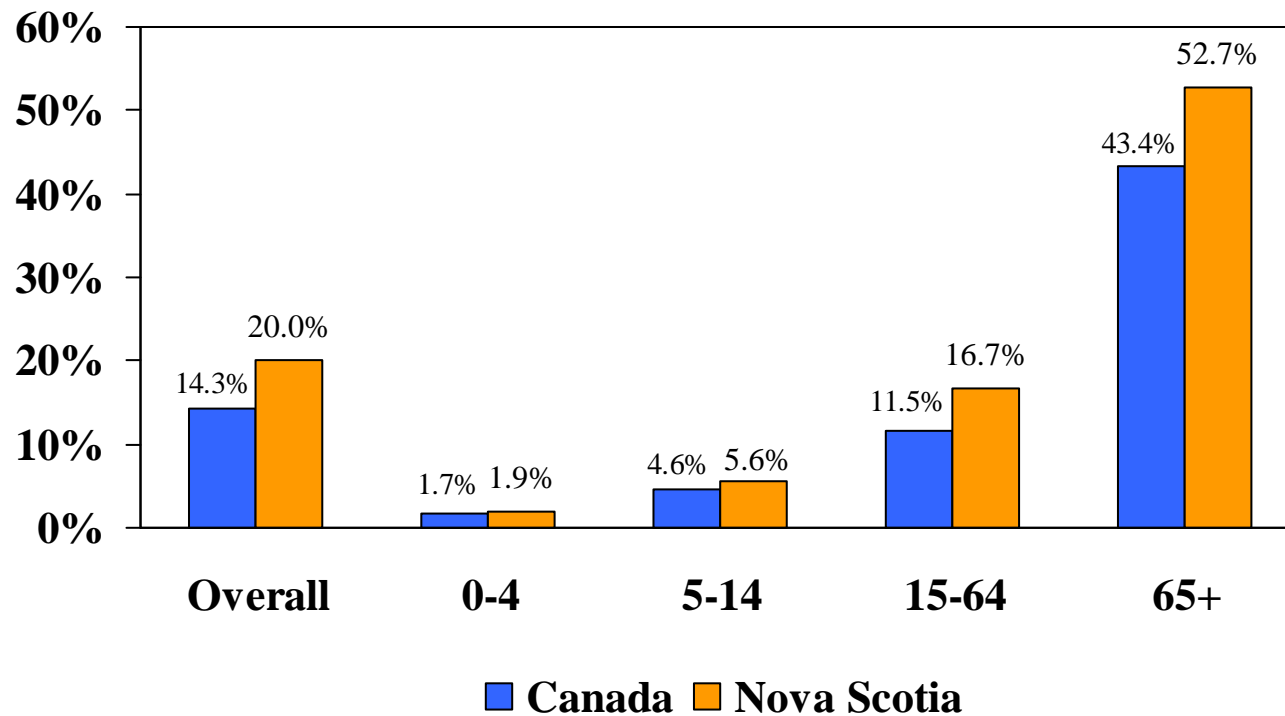
Disability Rate (%), Canada and the Provinces, 2006



- 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**

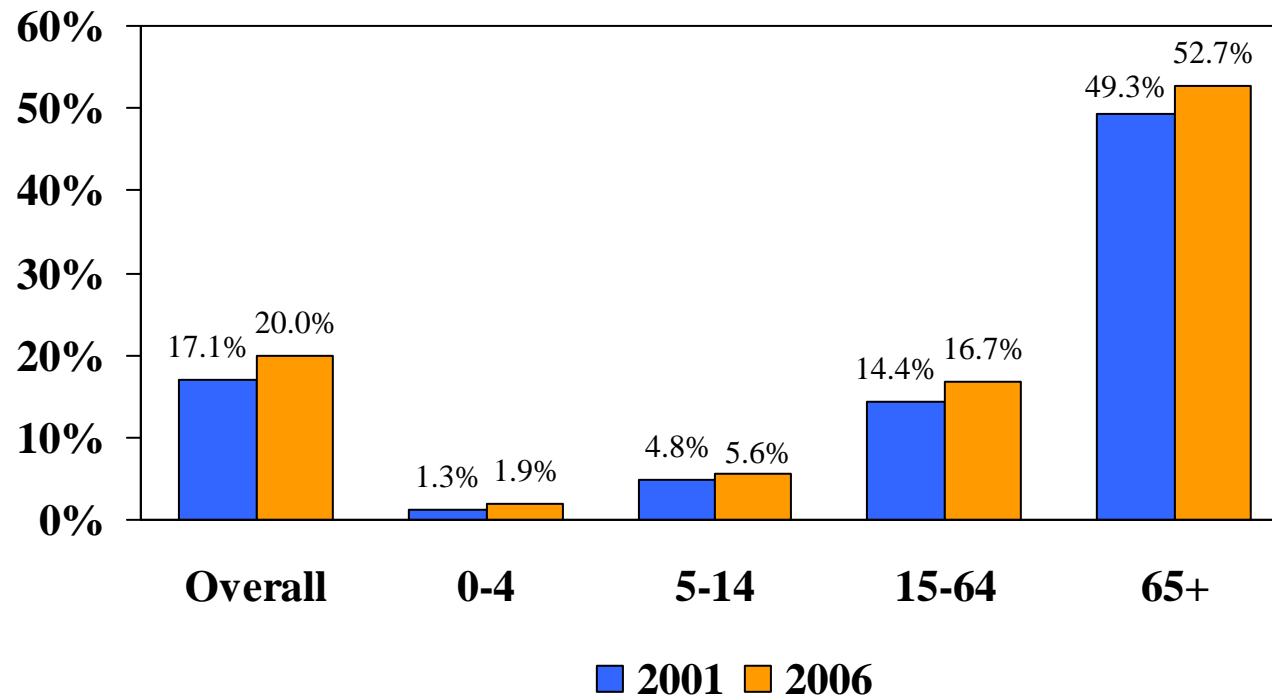


**The incidence of disability for all age groups in Nova Scotia is higher than the Canadian average.**

Source: Statistics Canada, "The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey", 89-628-XWE.

## Population Trends - Disability

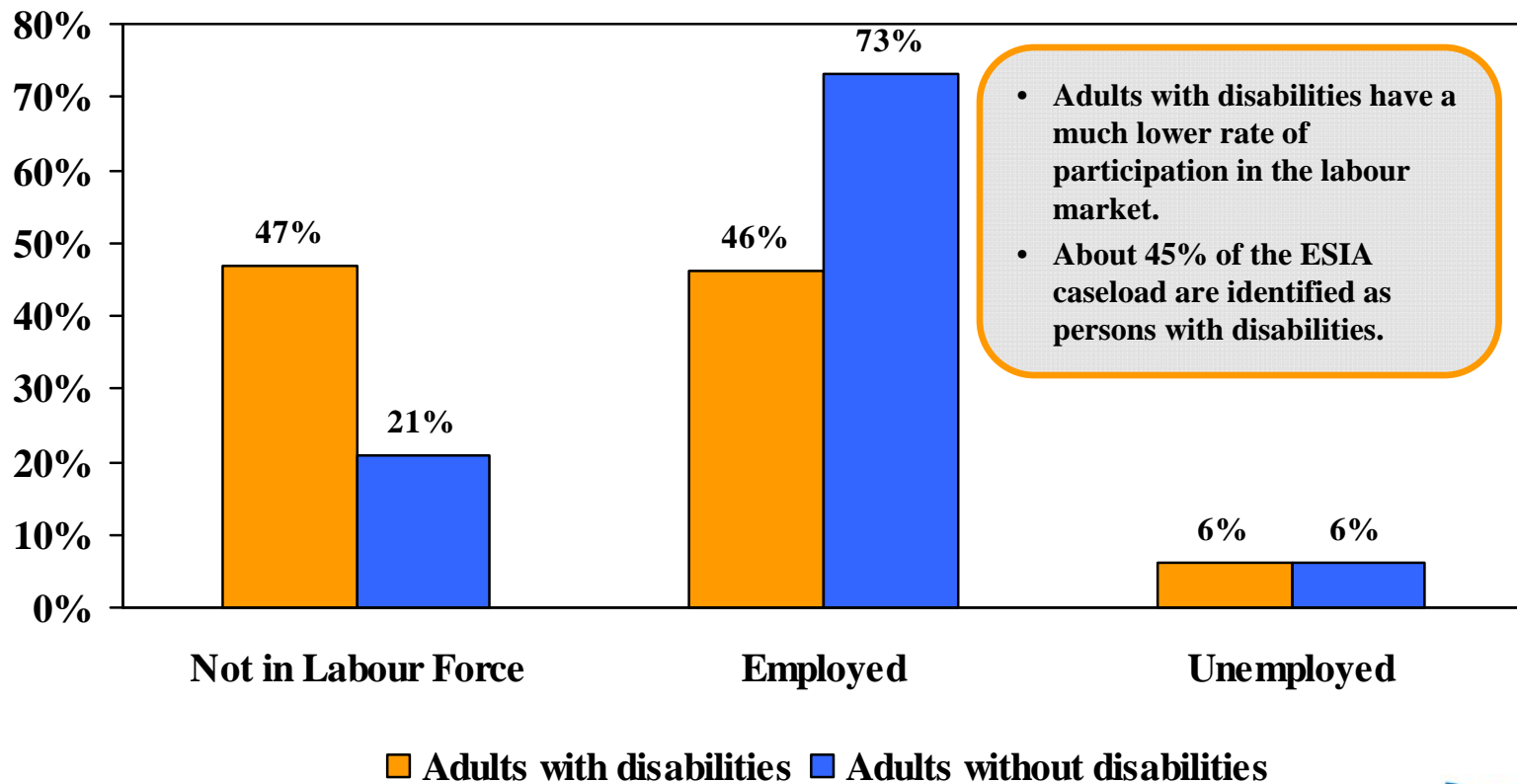
**Disability Rate (%) by Age, Nova Scotia  
2001 and 2006**



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

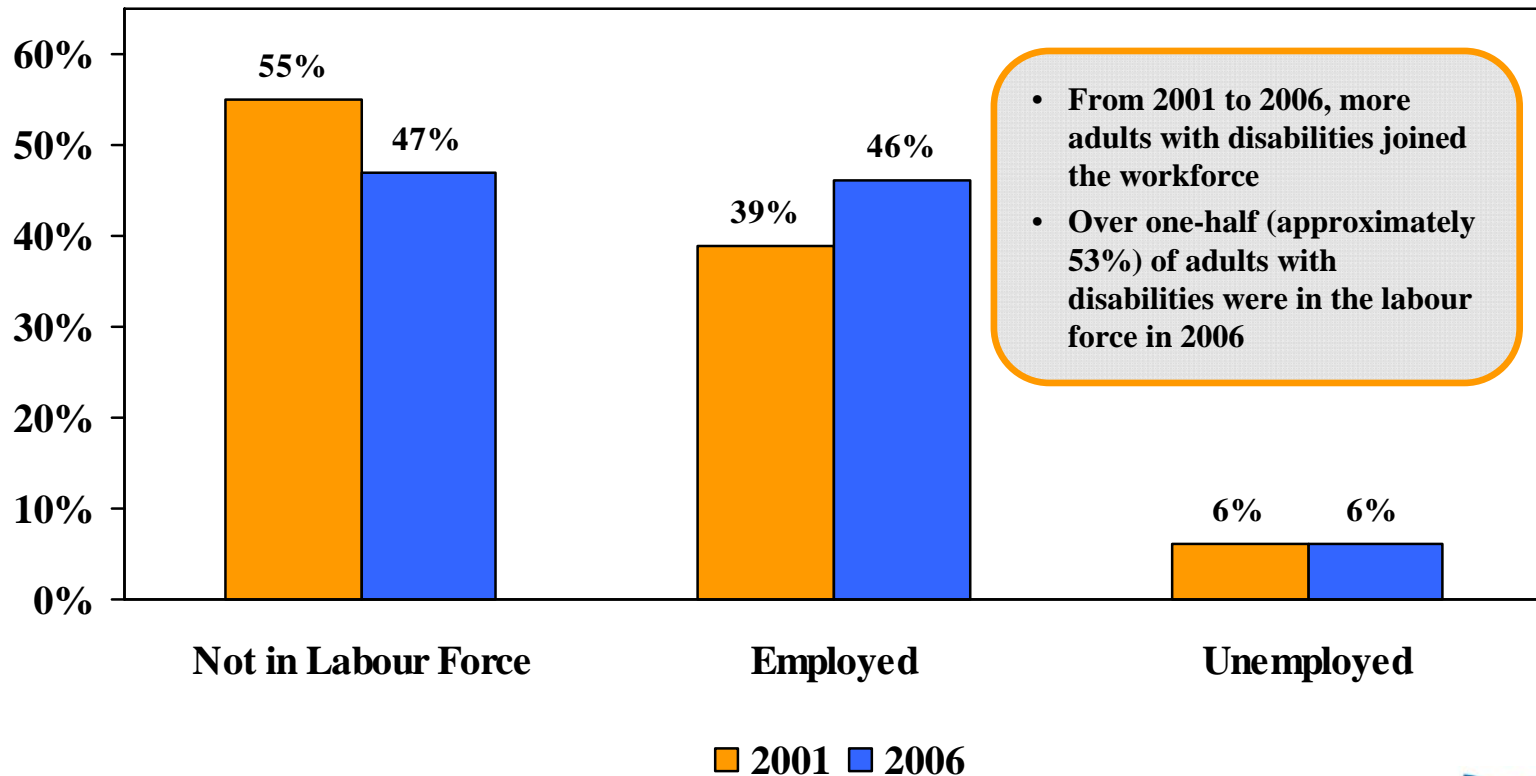
# Disability and Employment

## Labour Force Status for Adults With and Without Disabilities, Nova Scotia 2006



## Disability and Employment

### Labour Force Status for Adults With Disabilities, Nova Scotia 2001 and 2006

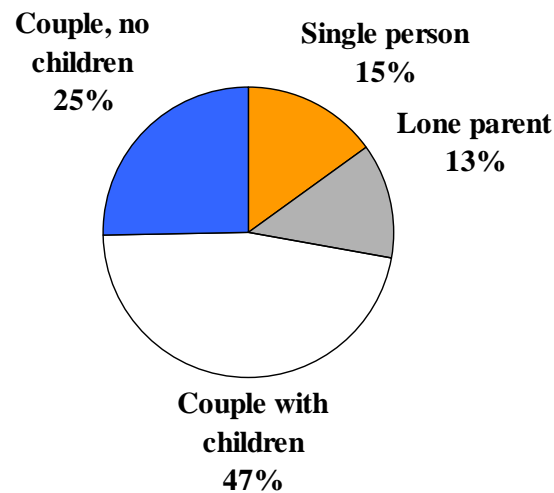


Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 89-628-XWE2008008

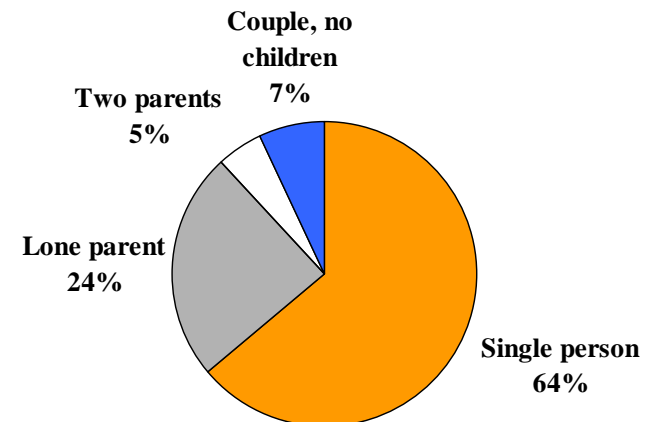


# Population Trends - Families

Distribution of the Nova Scotia Population by Household Type, 2006



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



- 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

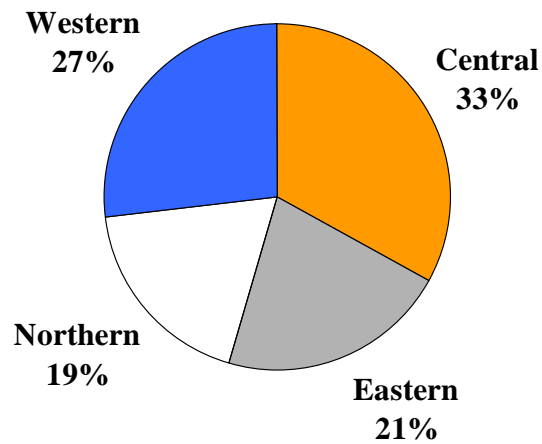
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- **As people move to urban centres for work and services, the rate of population decline in rural areas of the province is increasing**
- **There is a net migration of young people aged 18-24 to HRM**
- **Five counties experienced population growth between 2002 and 2007, but the overall provincial population slightly decreased.**



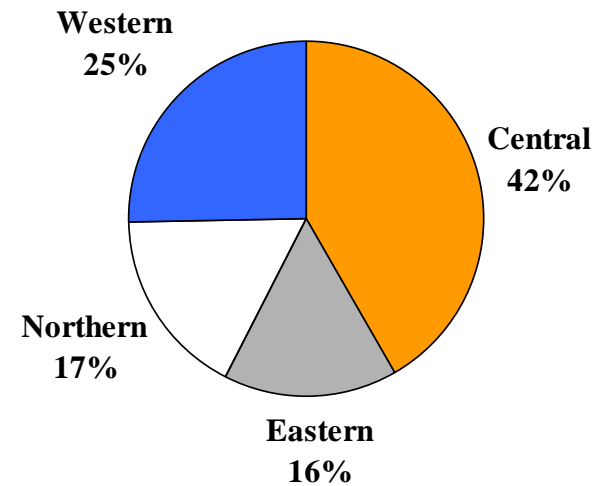
## Population trends – Regional Shifts

### Nova Scotia Population by Region 1971 and 2007



Population = 797,291

**1971**



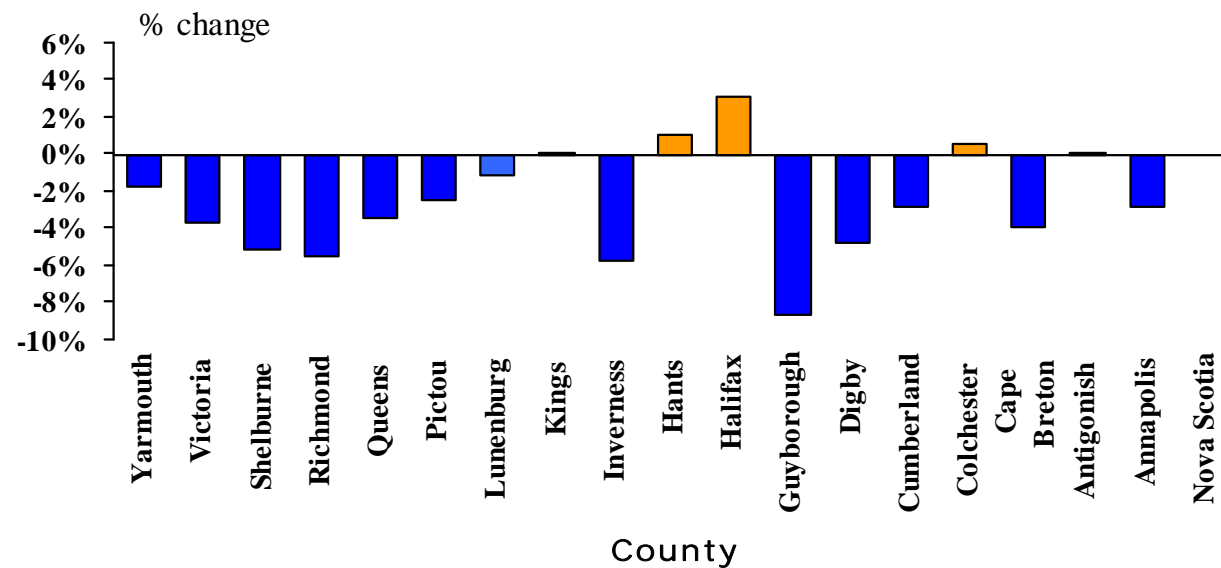
Population = 934,147

**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.

# Population Trends – Regional Shifts

## Population Growth Nova Scotia by County, 2002-2007

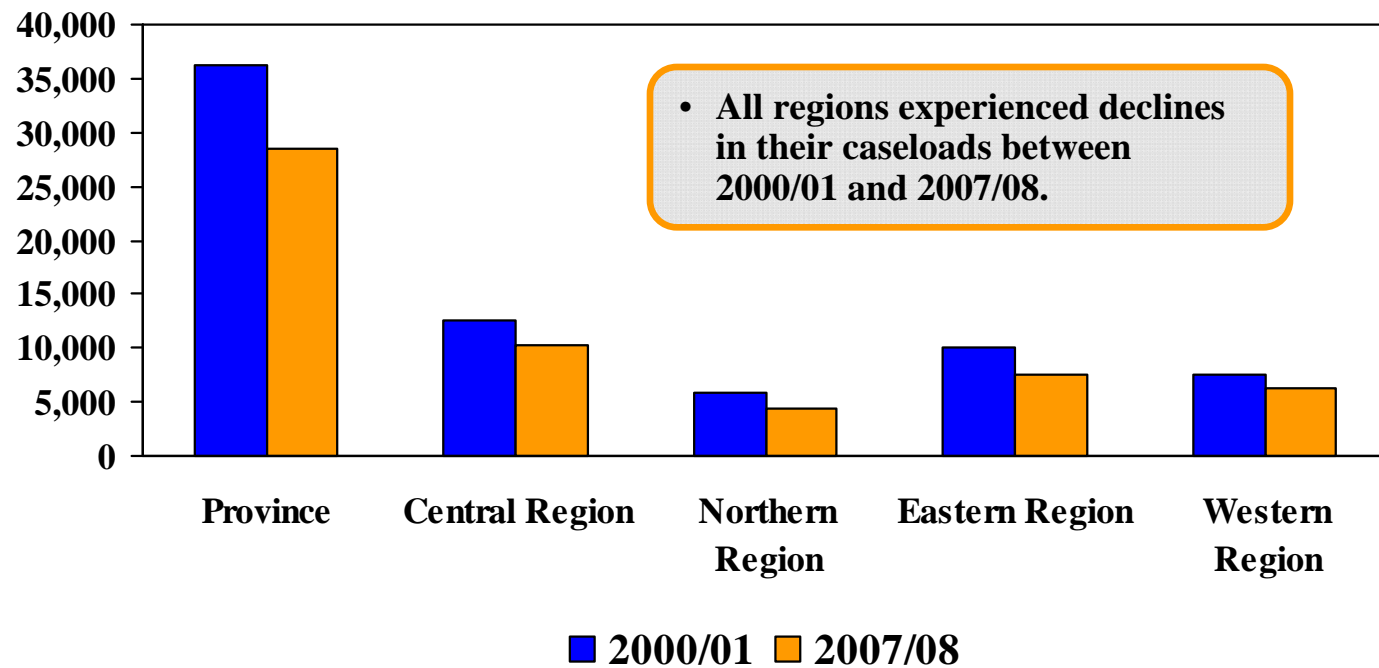


- Five of the 18 counties experienced population growth between 2002 and 2007, including Halifax at 3.1%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 91-214-XPB, "Annual Demographic Estimates 2002 - 2007"

## Regional Trends and DCS

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

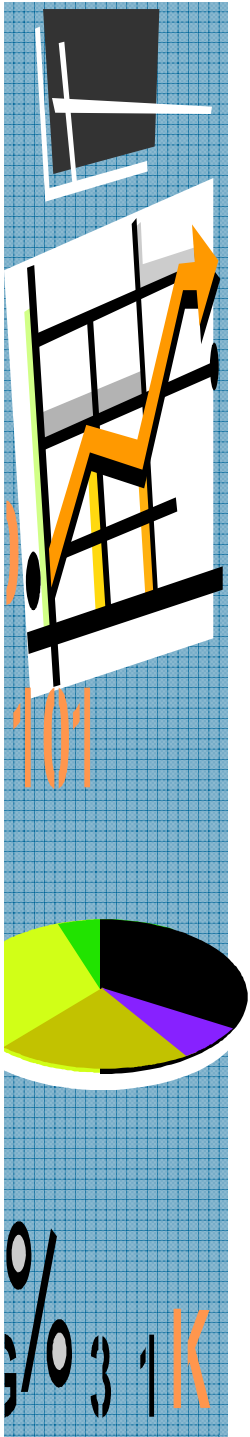


Source: Department Of Community Services, ESIA Data, 2000 – 2005.

## Economic & Employment Trends

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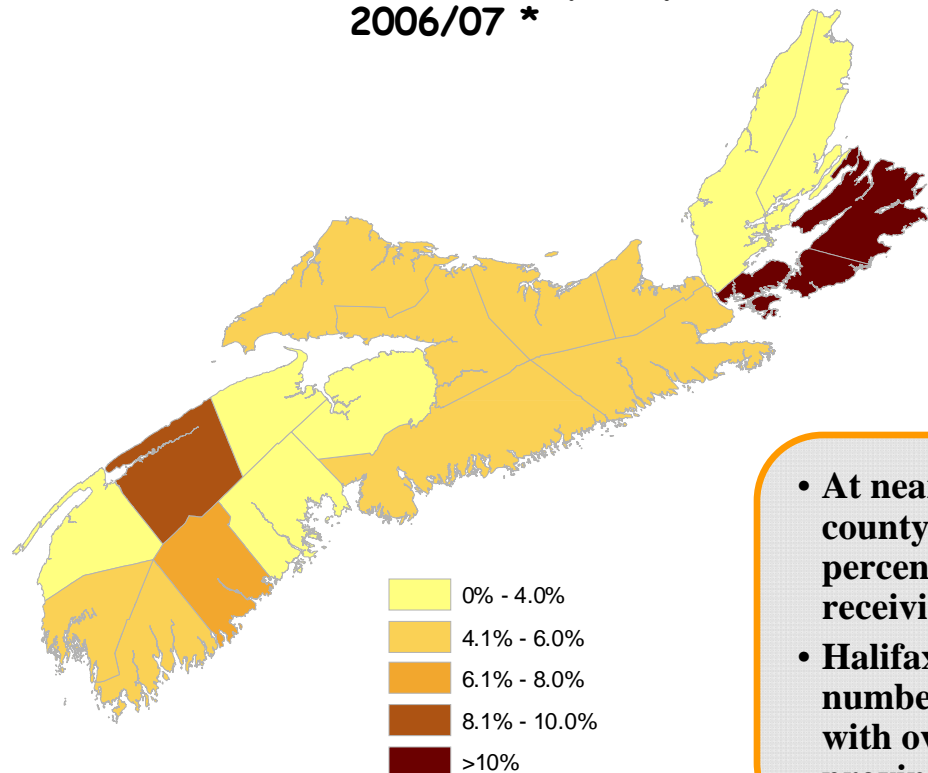
- **Forecasts predict moderate annual economic growth in Nova Scotia of just under 2% for 2008 and 2009, in line with the Canadian average**
- **Provincial unemployment rate forecast to be 7.1% in 2008, the lowest rate in the past 25 years**
- **Data suggests that a major benefit of sustained economic growth is a decline in the number of people living in low-income situations**



TD Economics, "Provincial Forecast Update," April 16, 2008.

## Regional Trends – Income Assistance

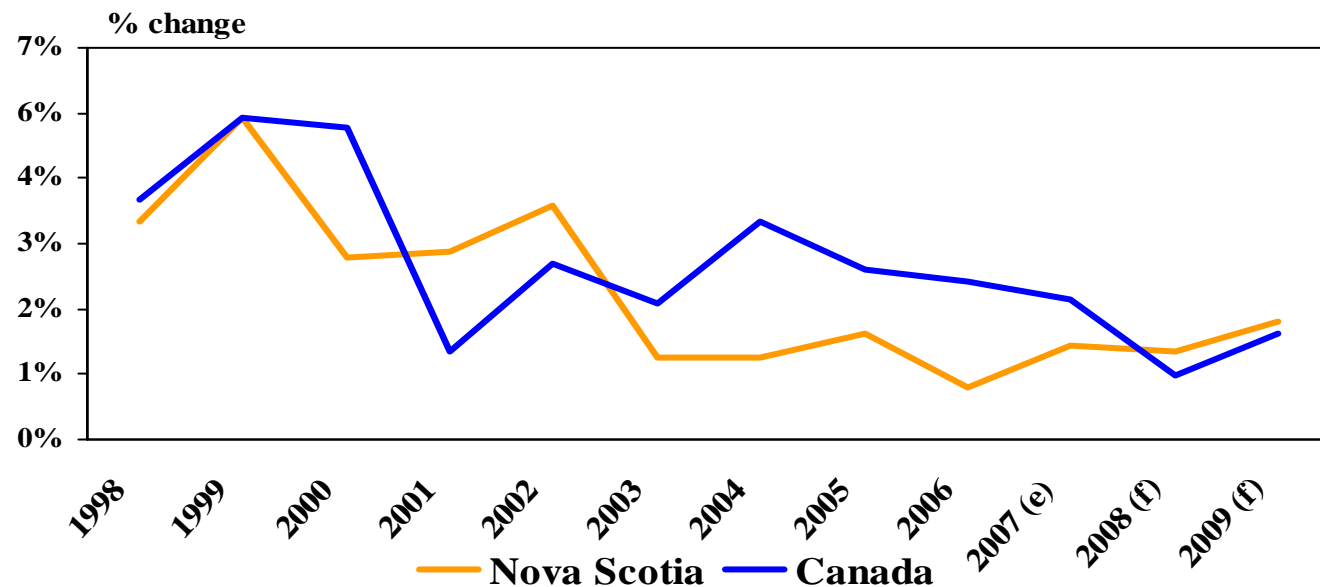
**Average Monthly Beneficiaries of Income Assistance  
as a Percent of County Population  
2006/07 \***



- 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).

# Economic Outlook for Nova Scotia

## Economic Growth Canada and Nova Scotia, 1998 to 2009



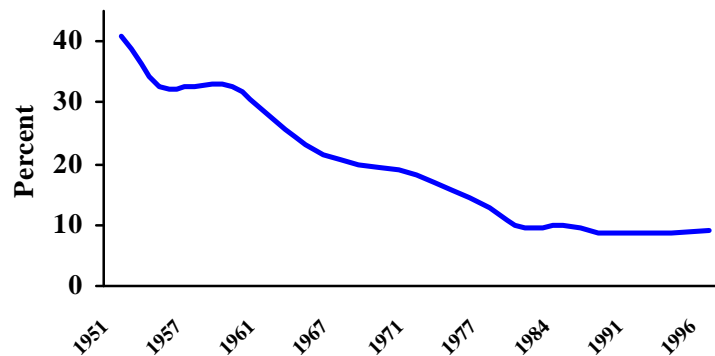
- Although economic growth in Nova Scotia has recently lagged behind the Canadian average, it is forecast to closely track the Canadian average in 2008 and 2009.

Source: Statistics Canada, "Provincial Economic Accounts Annual Estimates", 13-213-PPB, TD Economics, "Provincial Forecast Update", April 2008



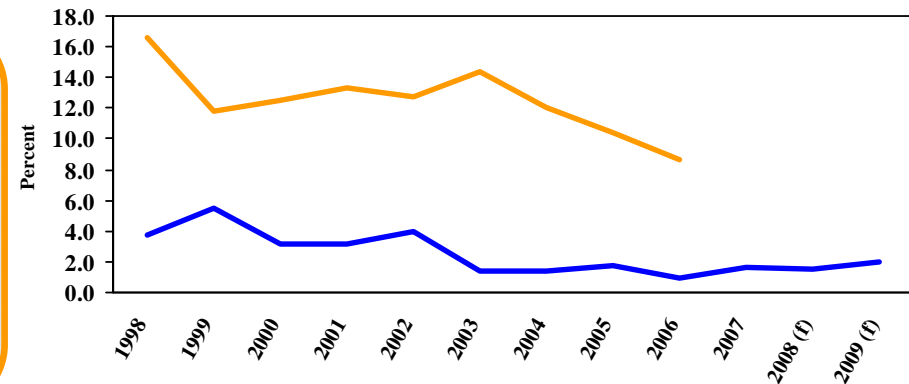
# Economic Growth and Poverty

Income Poverty Rate for Households in  
Canada, 1951-1996



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

Economic Fluctuations and the  
Incidence of Child Poverty

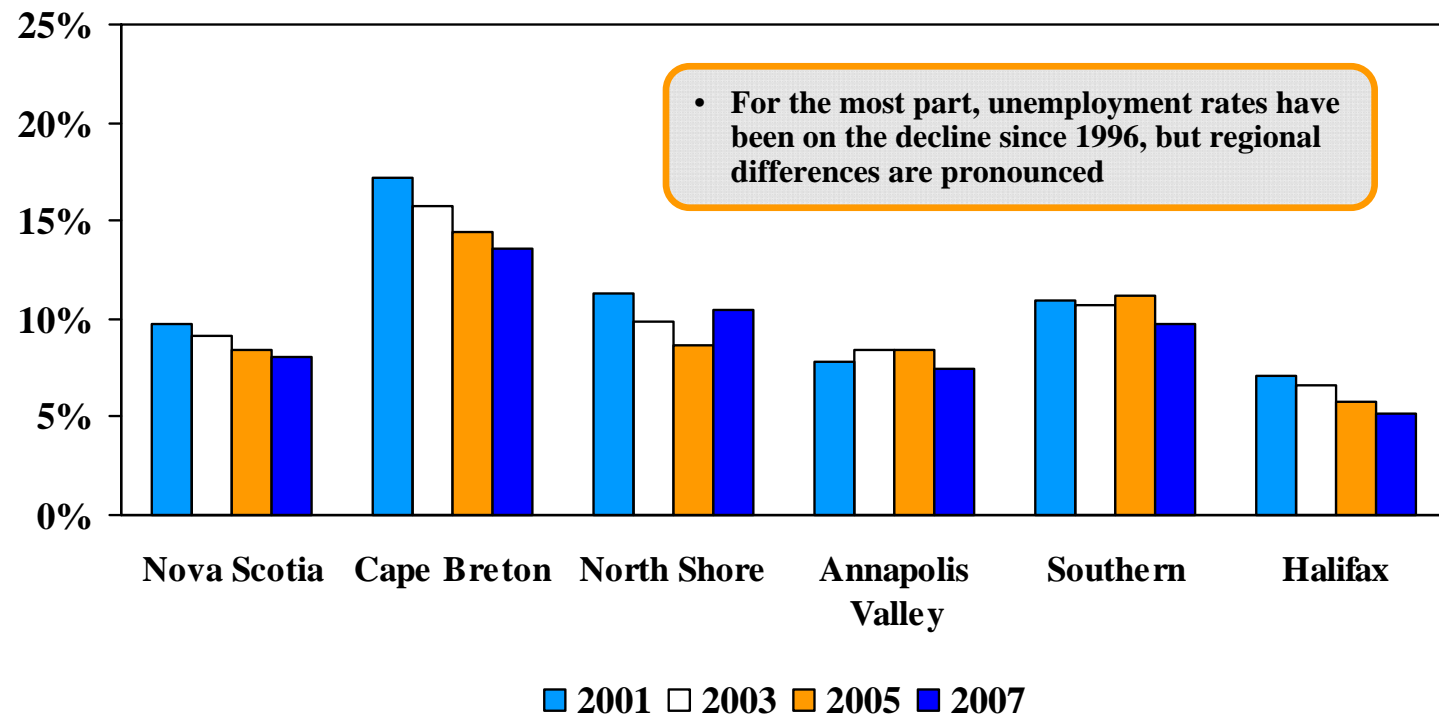


— Economic growth — Incidence of child poverty

- 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

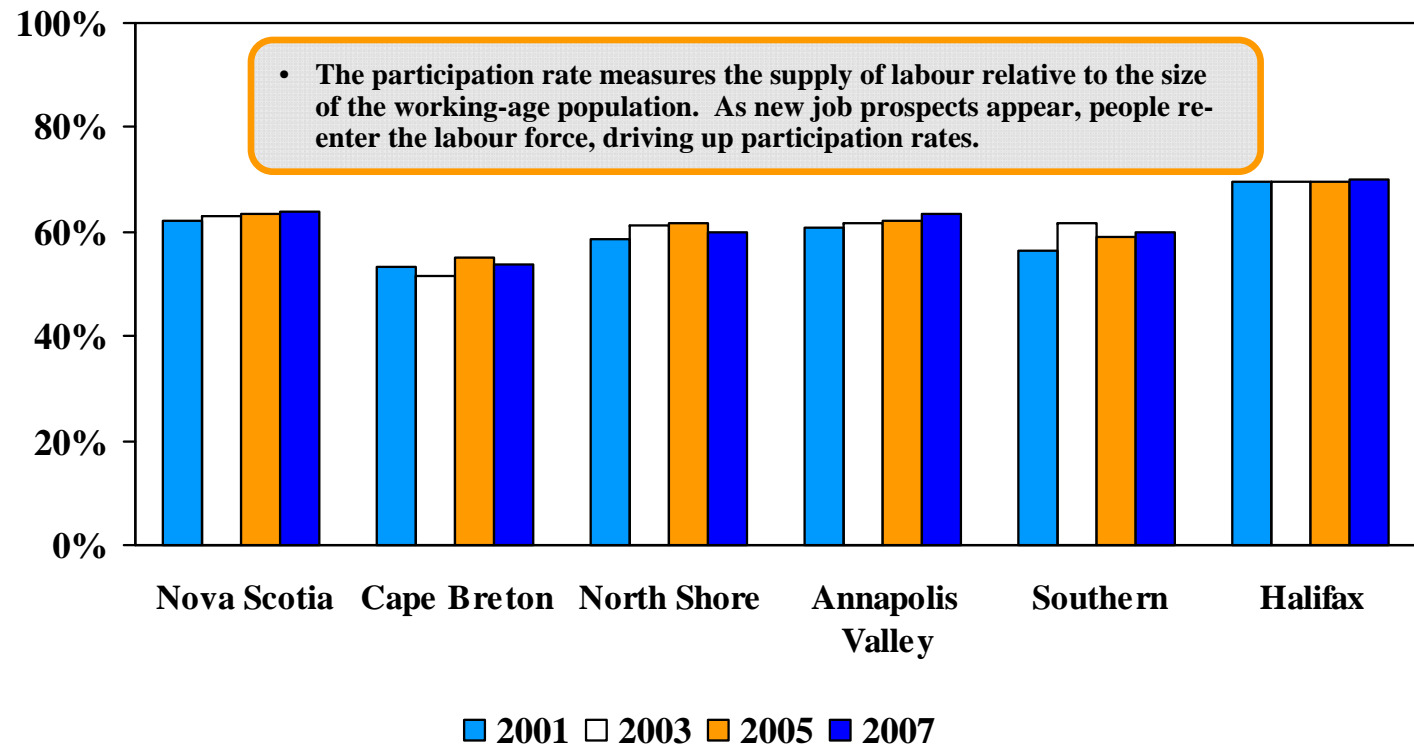


Source: Nova Scotia Department of Finance, "Labour Force Data, Historical 1998 to 2007"



# Economic & Employment Trends

**Percentage of Population Active in the Labour Force  
Nova Scotia Economic Regions, 2001 - 2007**



Source: Nova Scotia Department of Finance, "Labour Force Data, Historical 1998 to 2007"

## Income Trends

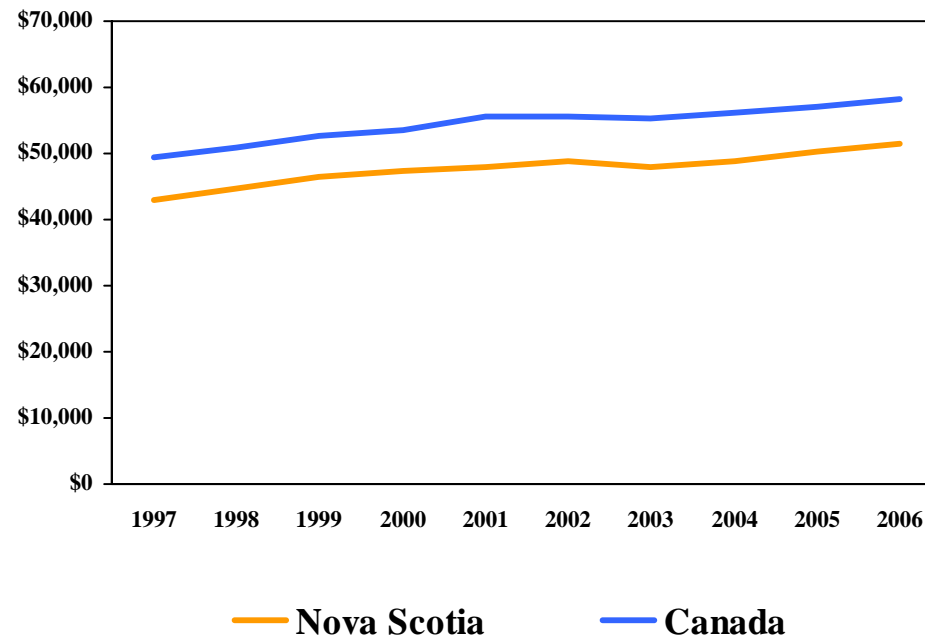
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- **Household incomes in Nova Scotia are below the Canadian average, but higher than the three other Atlantic provinces**
- **Urban household incomes in Nova Scotia are comparable to the Canadian average, but the gap between rural and urban incomes 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.**

# Income Trends

## Median After-Tax Family Income

Nova Scotia and Canada, 1997 to 2006

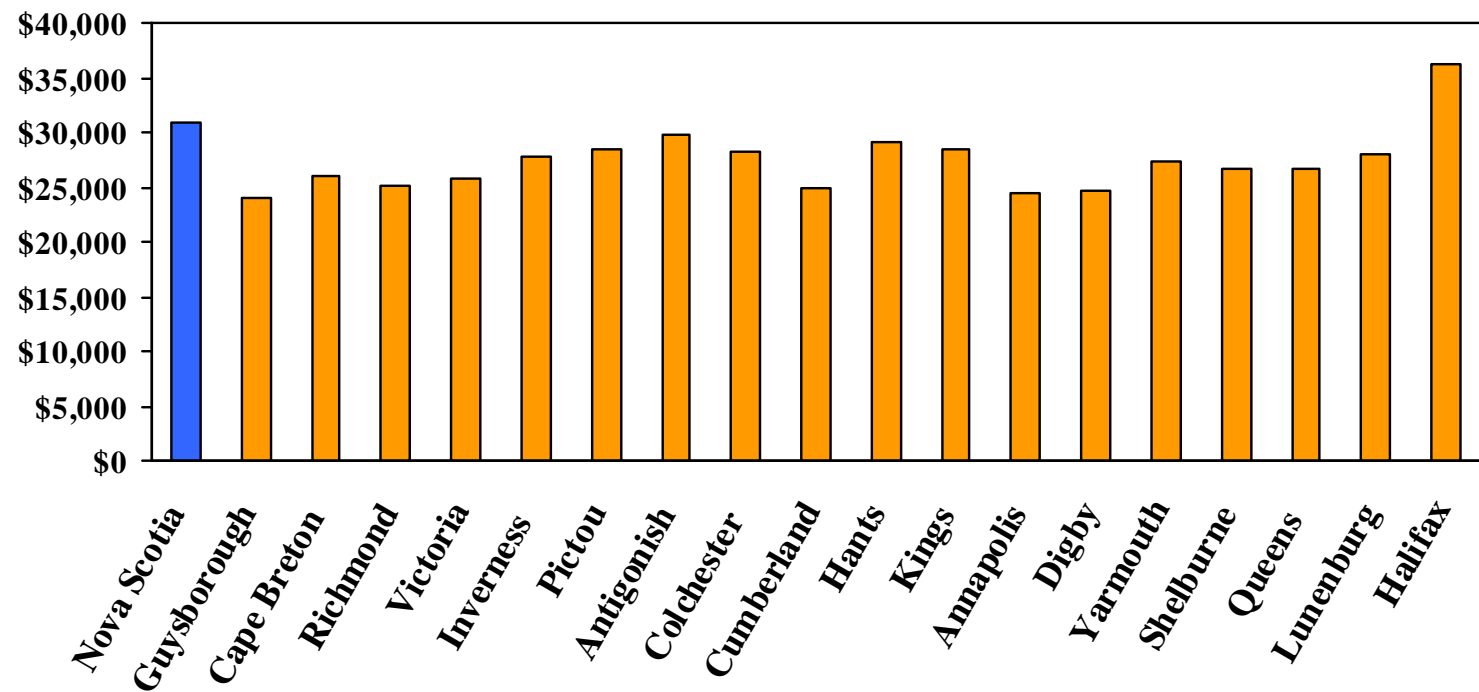


- After-tax incomes in both Canada and Nova Scotia have been trending upward since 1996. In 2006, the median after-tax family income in Canada was 13% more than the median after-tax family income in Nova Scotia ( \$51,600).

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 75-202-X, "Income in Canada 2006".

## Income Trends

**Average Income per Tax Filer  
Nova Scotia by County, 2005**



Source: Canada Revenue Agency, Annual Locality Code Statistics Tables, 2007 Edition (2005 tax year)

# Income Trends and Gender

**Female/Male Earnings Ratios (%), Nova Scotia  
Full Year, Full Time Workers, by Selected Characteristics**

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

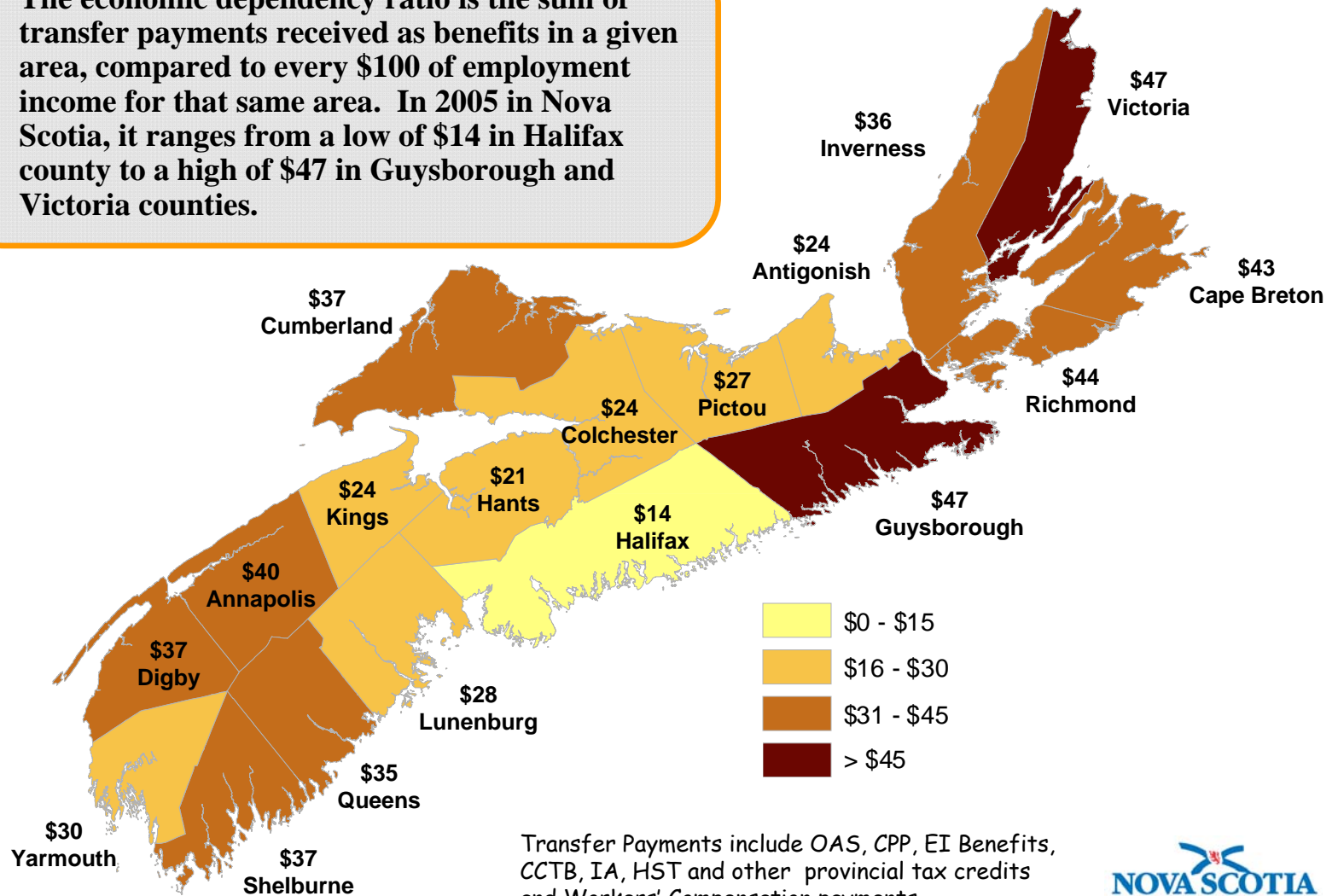
- In 2005, women who worked full-time, year-round earned about 70 cents to every dollar earned by men working full-time, year-round.
- Earnings by women were lower than their male counterparts' regardless of age, marital status or level of education

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Finance, "Nova Scotia Statistical Review 2006".



## 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.

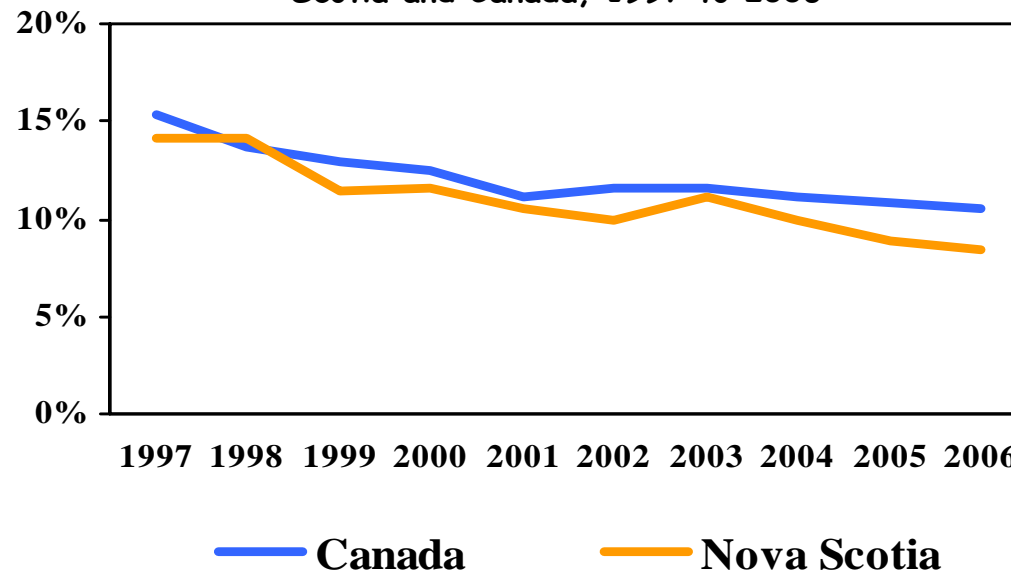


Source: Nova Scotia Department of Finance, "Nova Scotia Statistical Review 2007".



## Income Trends - LICO

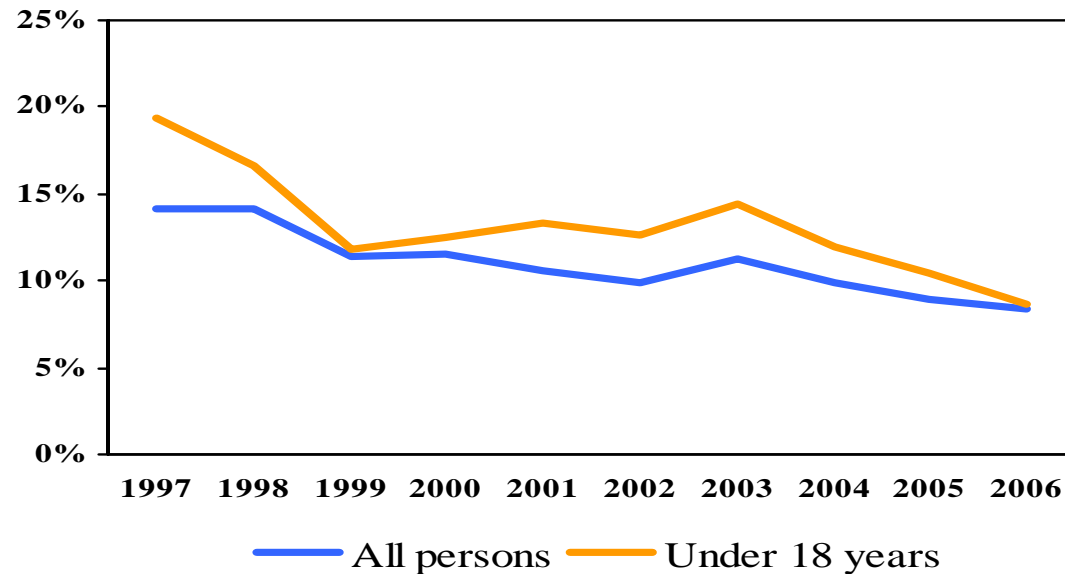
Prevalence of low-income (after tax) Nova Scotia and Canada, 1997 to 2006



- 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

## Income Trends - LICO

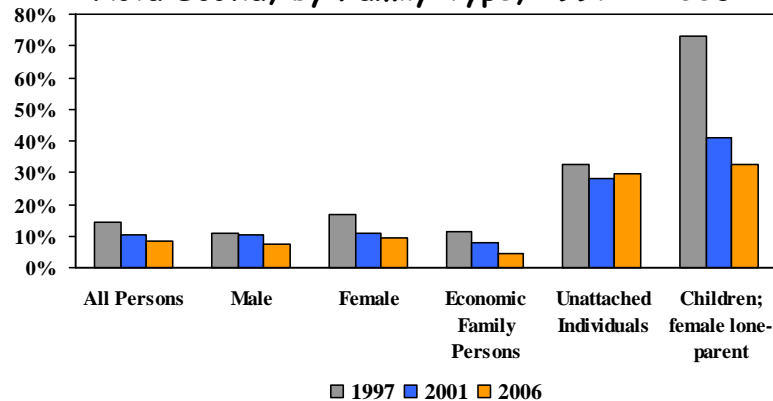
Prevalence of low-income (after-tax)  
Nova Scotia, 1997 to 2006



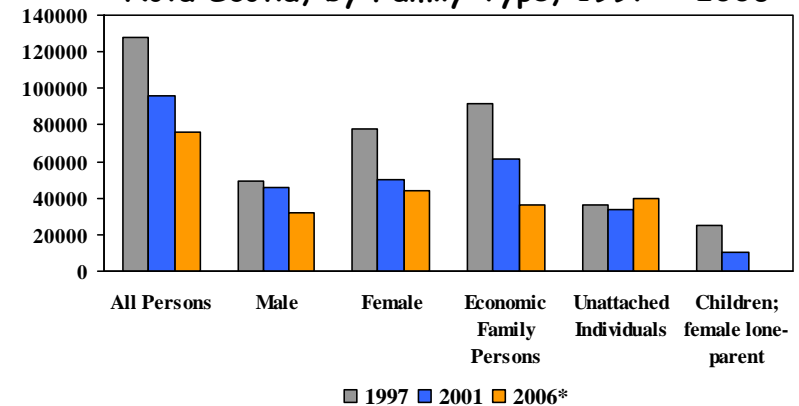
- In 2006, the most recent year for which data is available, 76,000 Nova Scotians, or 8.4% of the population, were living in low-income situations (LICO; after-tax). This represents the lowest incidence of low-income of the past decade, and is down from 8.9% in 2005.
- Encouragingly, the number of children under 18 living in low-income families continues to decline, falling from 19,000 in 2005 to 16,000 in 2006.

## Income Trends - LICO

**Prevalence of Low-Income After-Tax  
Nova Scotia, by Family Type, 1997 - 2006**



**Persons in Low-Income After-Tax  
Nova Scotia, by Family Type, 1997 - 2006**

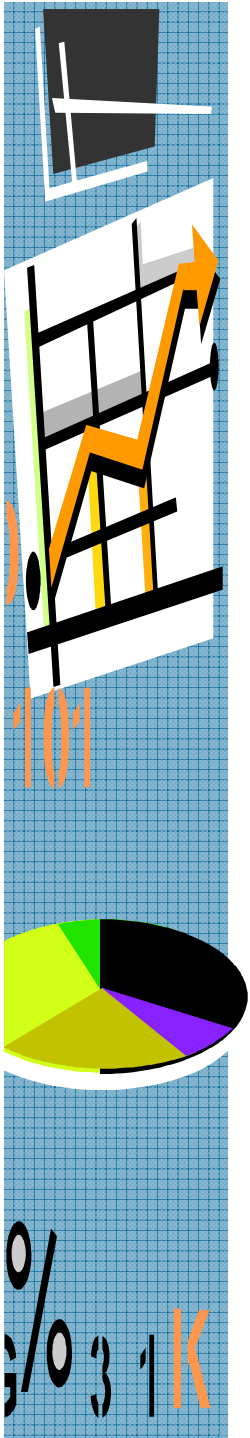


- Unattached individuals, who make up over 60% of the ESIA caseload, experience a higher incidence of low-income – 29.4%.
- In 2006, 32.4% of children in single-mother families fell under the LICO, down from 73.0% in 1997.

## Housing

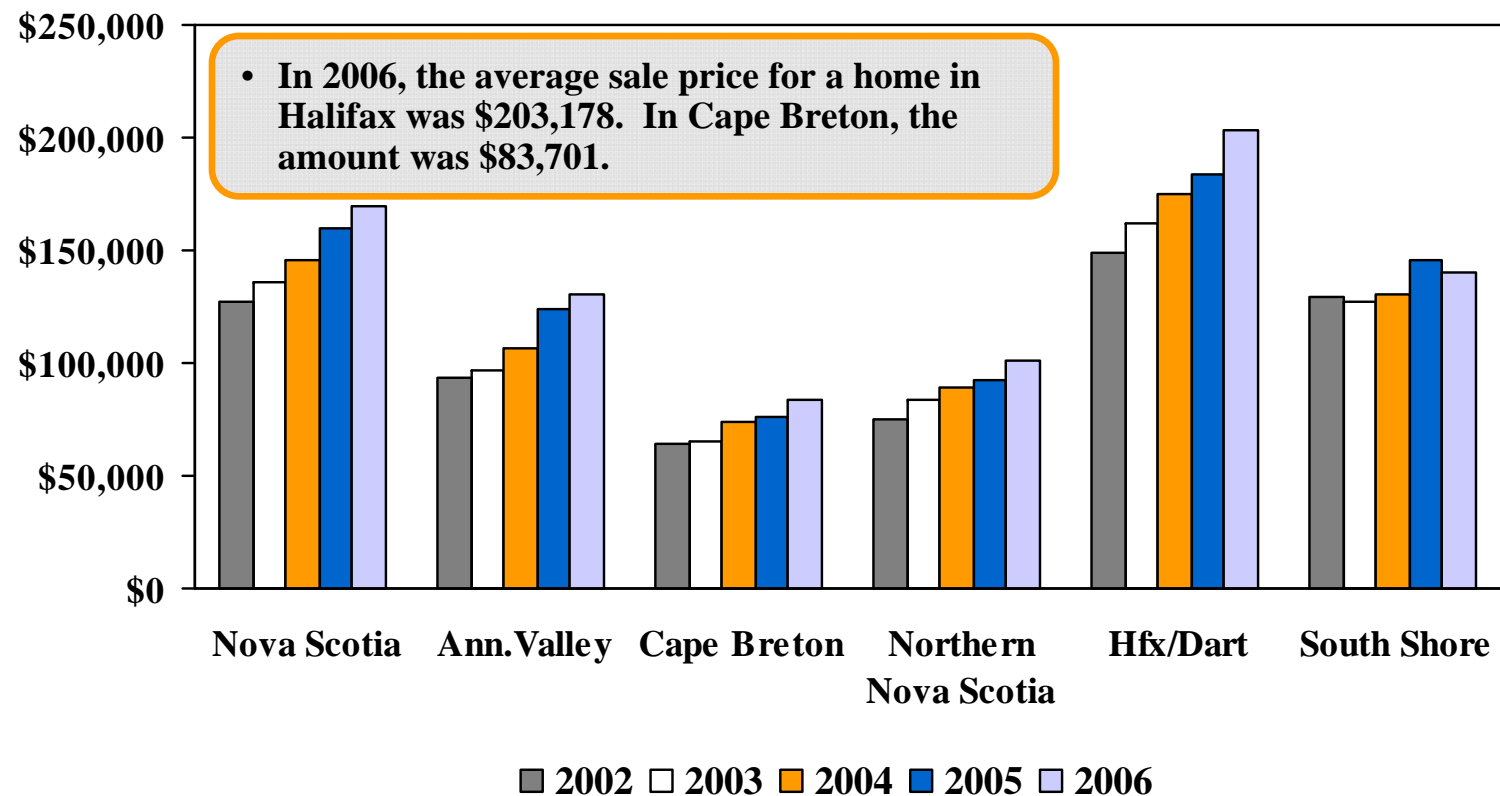
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- **Older housing stock in Nova Scotia with increasing sales price**
- **Greater need for major repair work on Nova Scotia homes than in the rest of Canada**
- **Regional differences in percentage of the population that own versus rent their home**



## Housing – Average Sale Price (MLS)

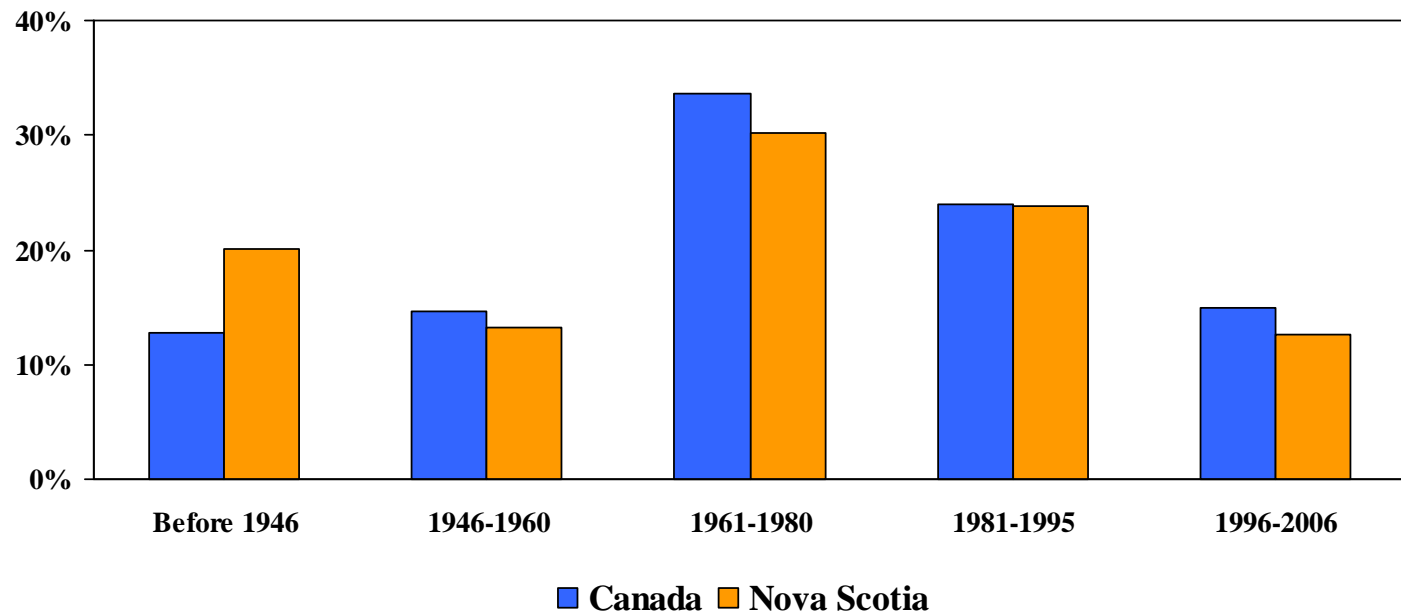
**Average MLS Prices - Selected Regions of Nova Scotia, 2002 to 2006**



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



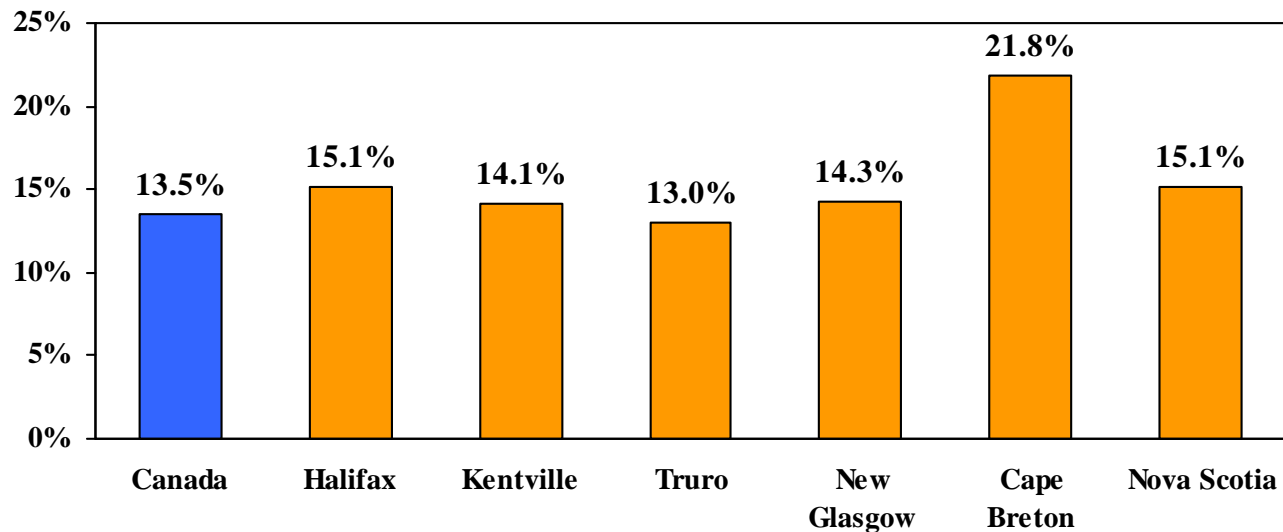
- Homes in Nova Scotia are generally older than in the rest of Canada, and subsequently are in greater need of repairs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2006.



## Housing – Core Need

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

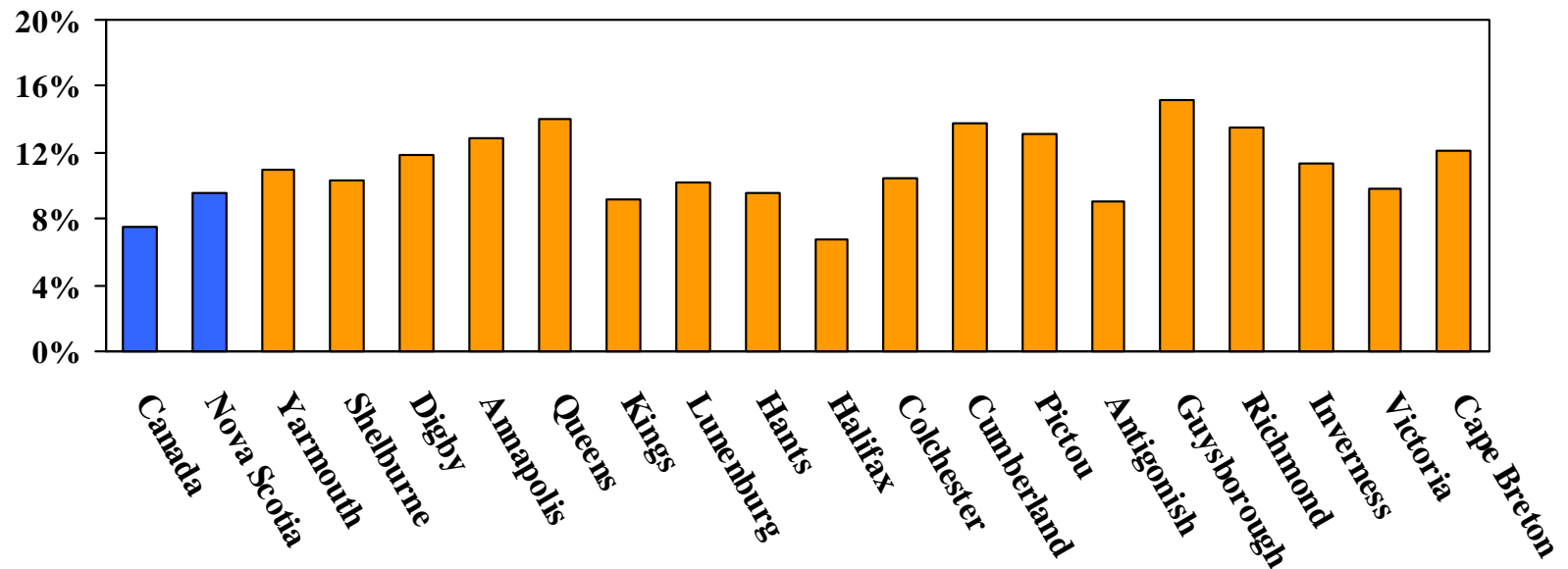


- Households are considered to be in 'core housing need' if they do not, or could not, access affordable/adequate/suitable housing.
- Nationally, 13.5% of households are in core need. At 15.1%, Nova Scotia sits above the Canadian average.

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



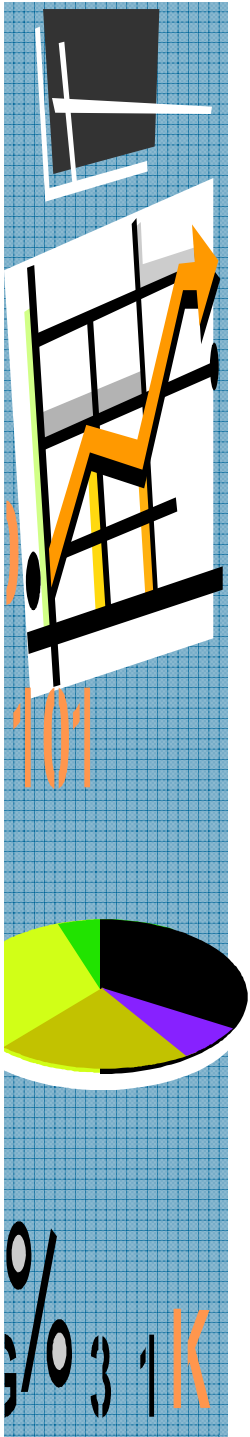
- At 9.5%, more Nova Scotian homes are in need of major repairs than the Canadian average of 7.5%.
- Except for Halifax, this is true for every county in the province.

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

## Price Trends

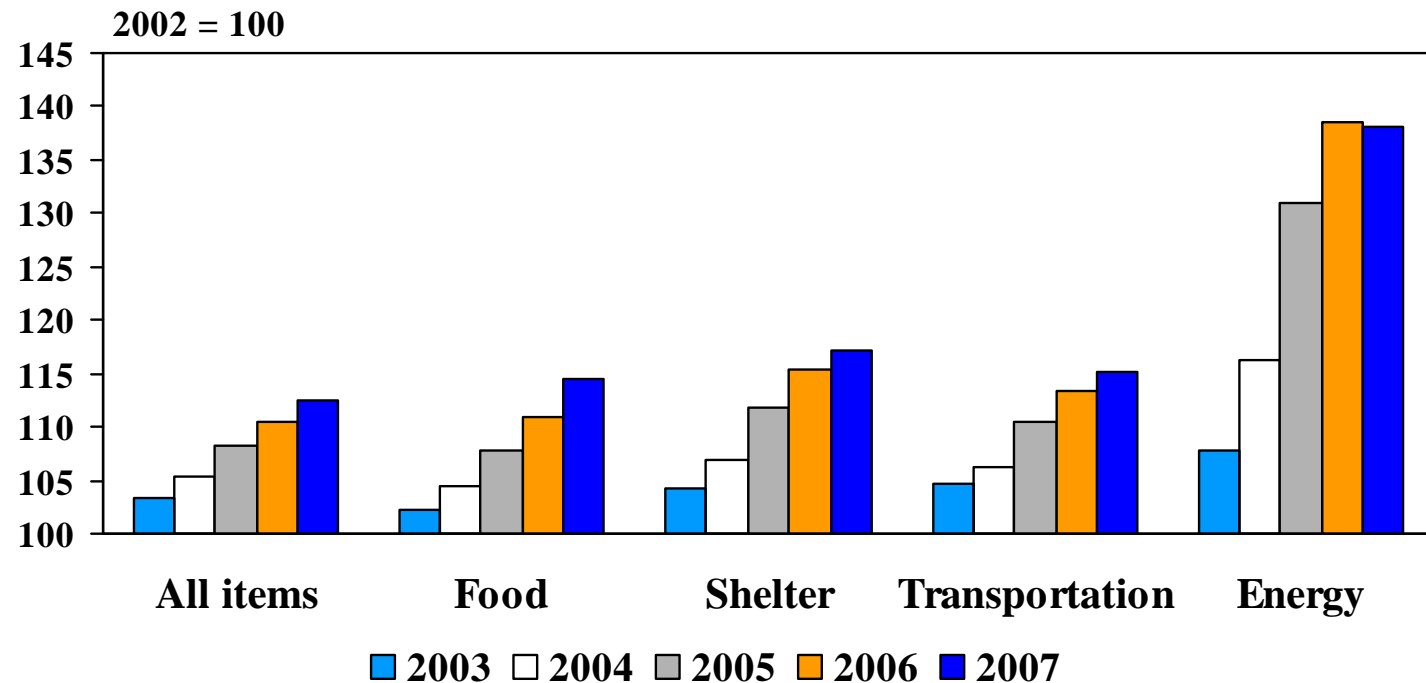
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- Overall, the rate of inflation in Nova Scotia was 1.9% in 2007
- Energy and transportation costs are outpacing those for food and shelter
- Overall provincial increase in costs for shelter



## Price Trends

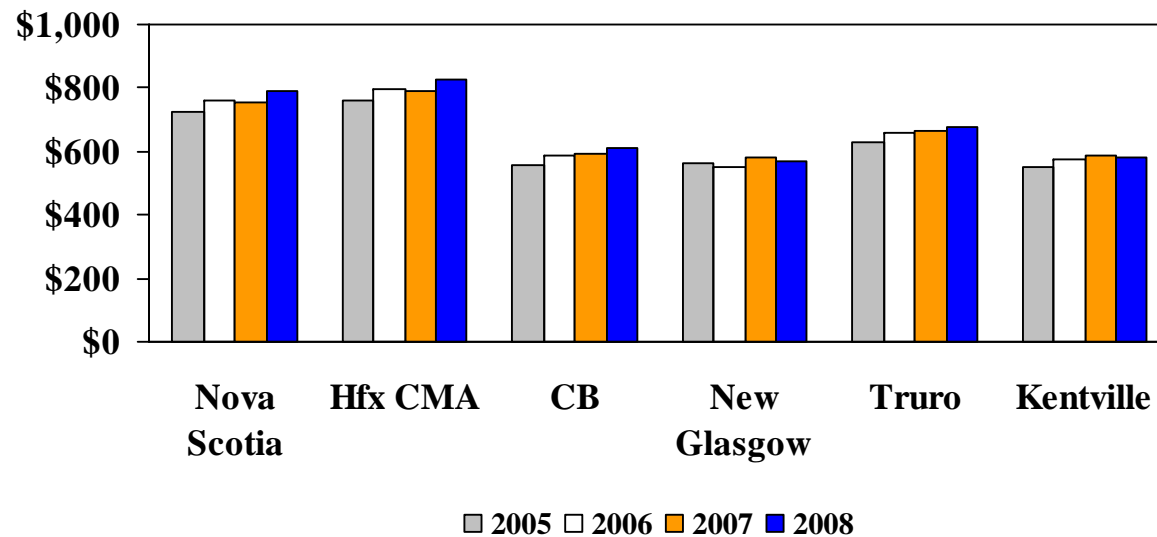
Consumer Price index - Selected Nova Scotia Indicators  
2003 - 2007



- 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.



## Additional Resources

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1. **Nova Scotia Department of Finance** – Multiple publications:  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/en/home/publications/>

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

Census Results:

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census/index.cfm>

Community Profiles:

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/>

4. **Nova Scotia Community Counts:**  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/communitycounts/default.asp>
5. **Target Nova Scotia:** <http://www.targetnovascotia.com/>