

# Overview of Social & Economic Trends

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*Building strong, healthy communities together*

# 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) 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**

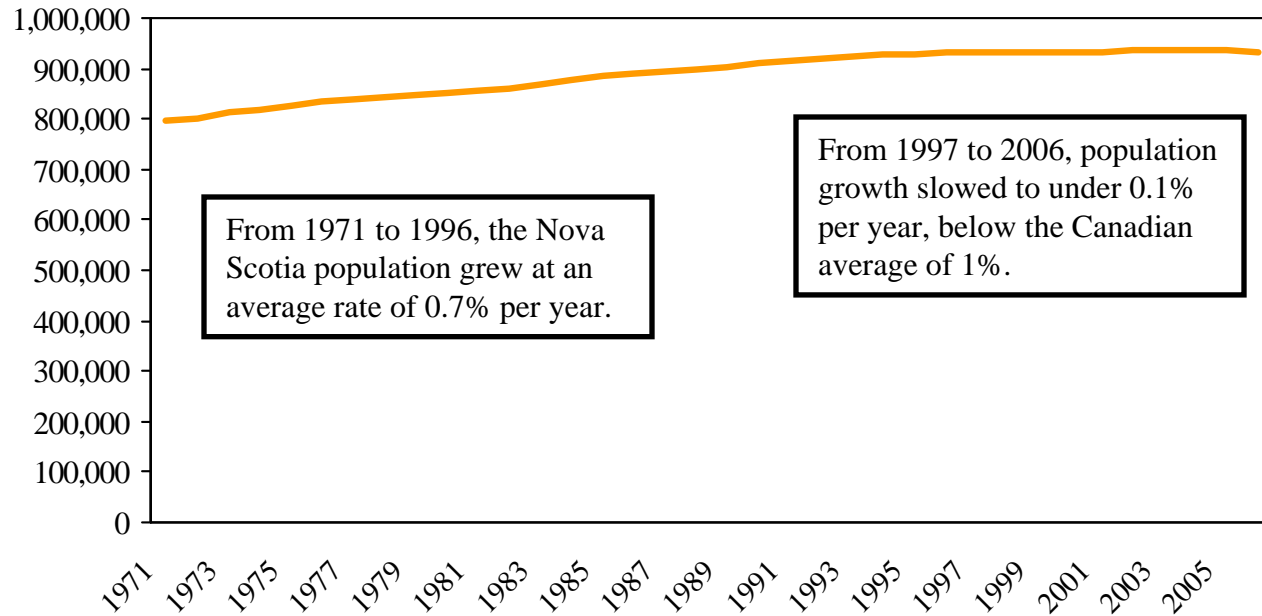
## Population Trends

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- **Nova Scotian population 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**

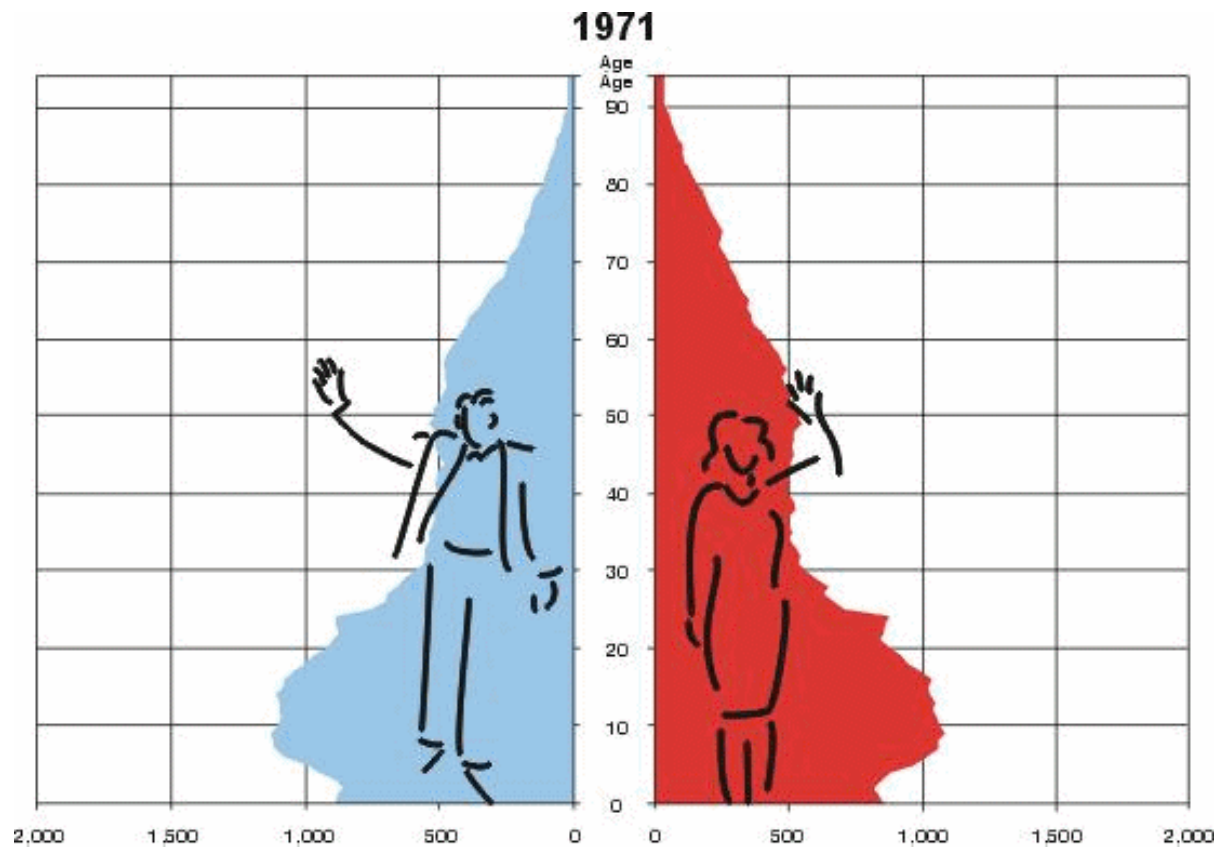
# Population Trends – Slow growth

## Nova Scotia Population 1971 - 2006



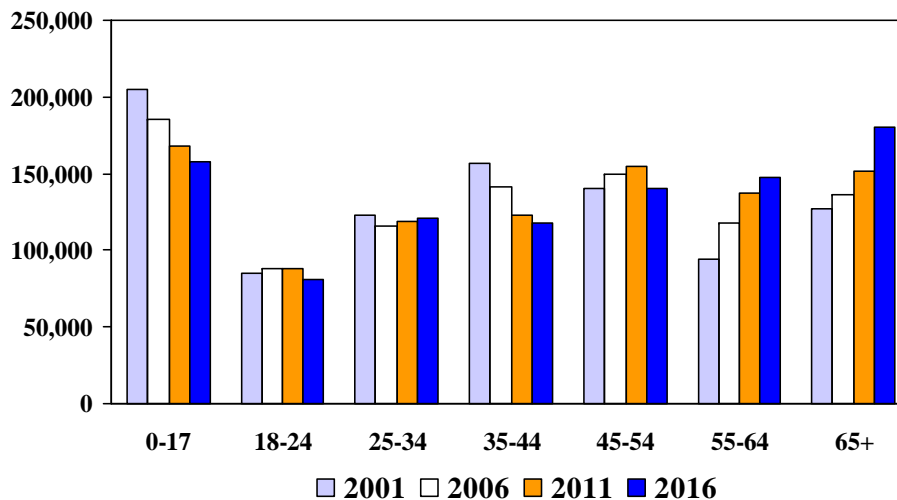
# Population Trends – Aging

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



# Population Trends – Aging

Nova Scotia's Changing Demographic Profile

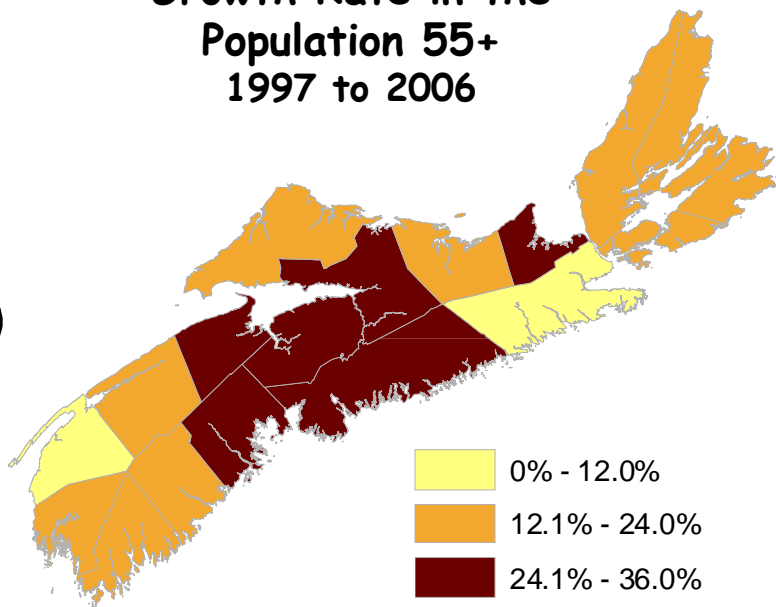


- By 2016, projections indicate that over one third of Nova Scotians will be 55 or older.
- The median age in Nova Scotia in 2006 was 42 years, up from 33 in 1991.
- Faced with challenges in health, employment, income and housing, an aging population puts increasing pressure on DCS programs.

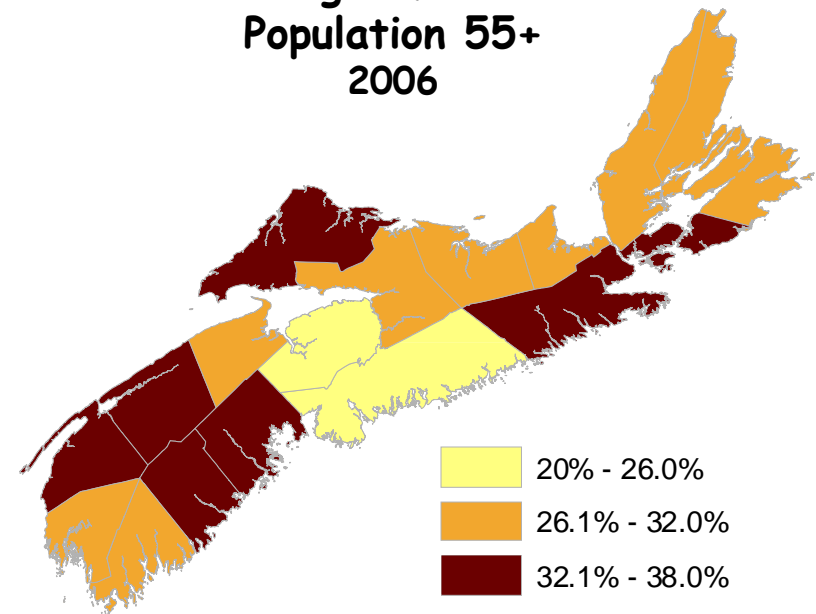
# Population Trends – Aging

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

**Growth Rate in the  
Population 55+  
1997 to 2006**

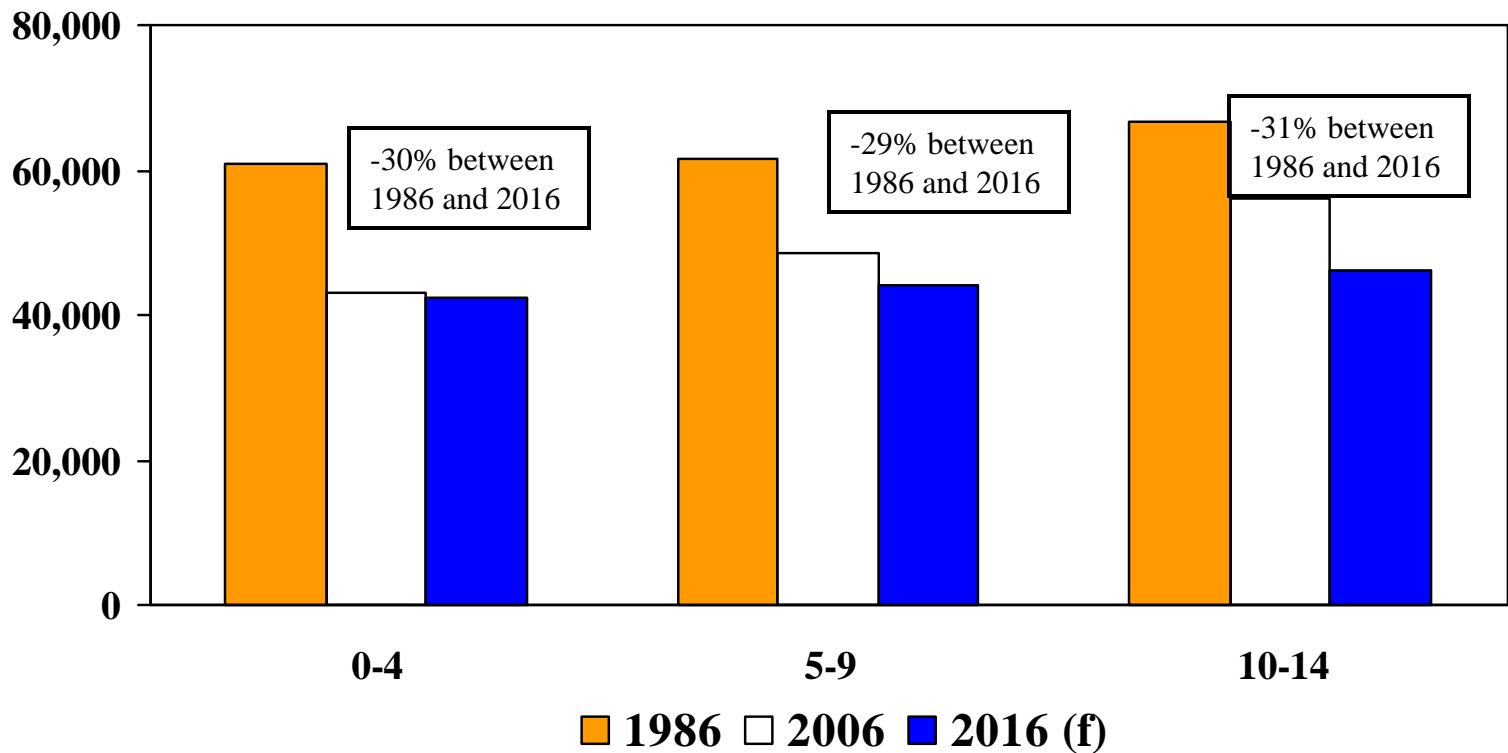


**Percentage of the Total  
Population 55+  
2006**



# Population Trends – Decline in young

## Population under 15 Nova Scotia, 1986-2016



# Population Trends

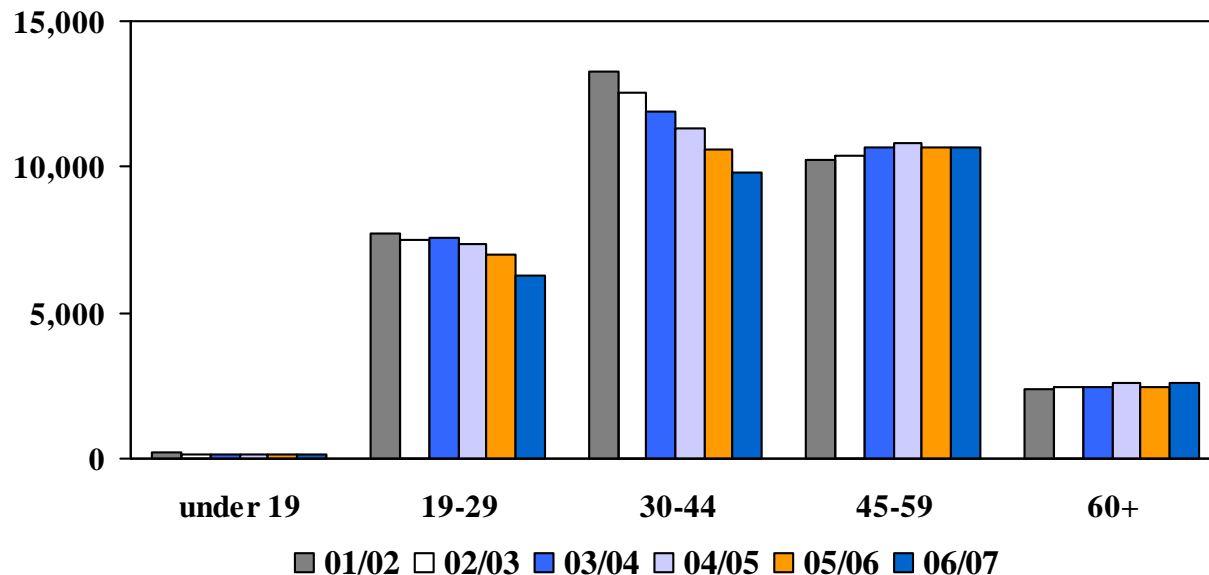
## Young Adults with Low-Levels of Education

- **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%

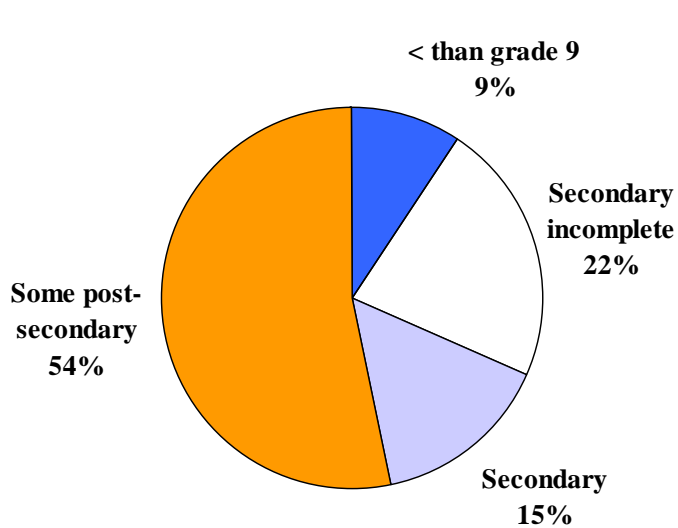
# Population Trends – Aging IA Caseload

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

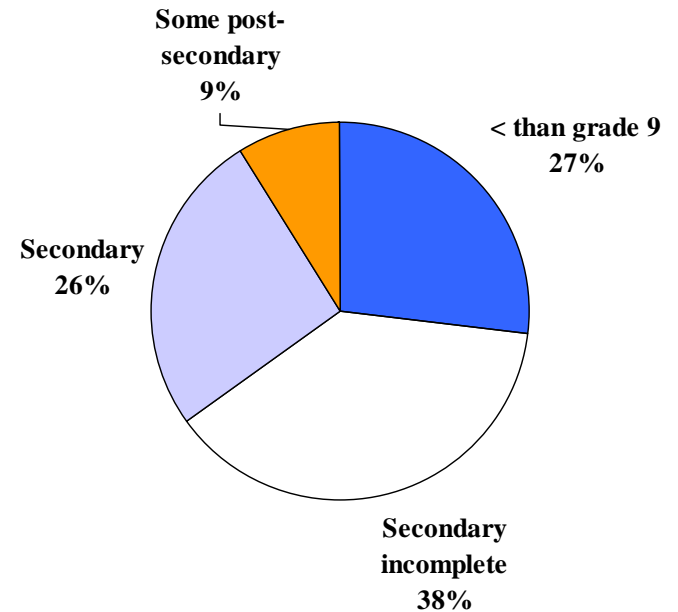


- As with the population, the average age of the DCS income assistance caseload is rising.
- A very small portion - less than 1% of the caseload - is under 19 years old.

# Population Trends - Education



Highest Educational Attainment (20+)  
Nova Scotia, 2001



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

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

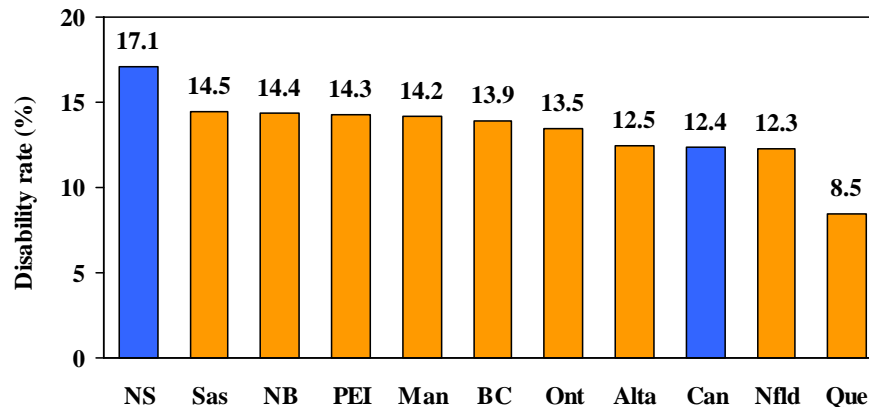
# Population Trends - Literacy

- **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.**

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

# Population Trends - Disability

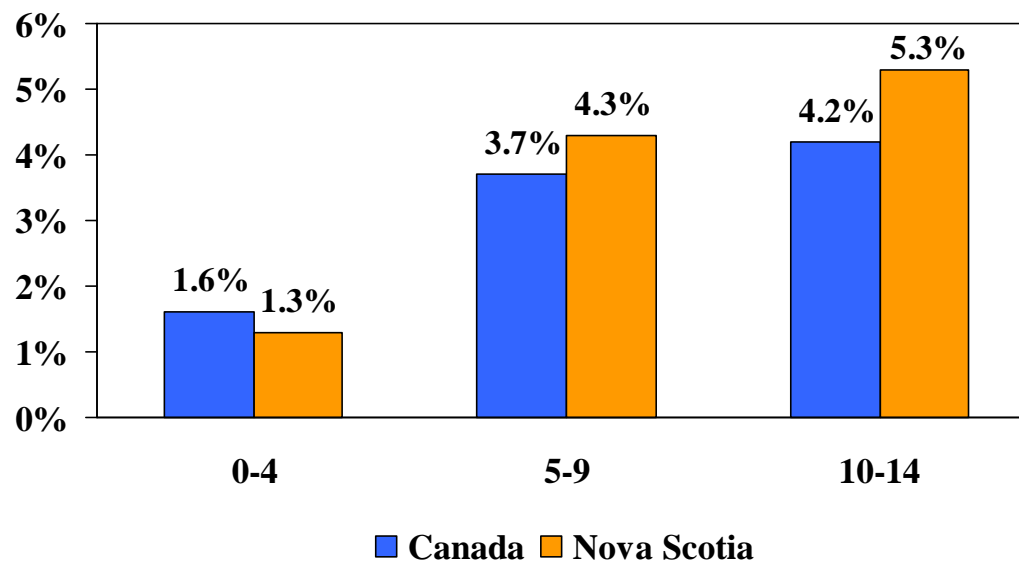
Disability Rate (%), Canada and the Provinces  
15 years+, 2001



- 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

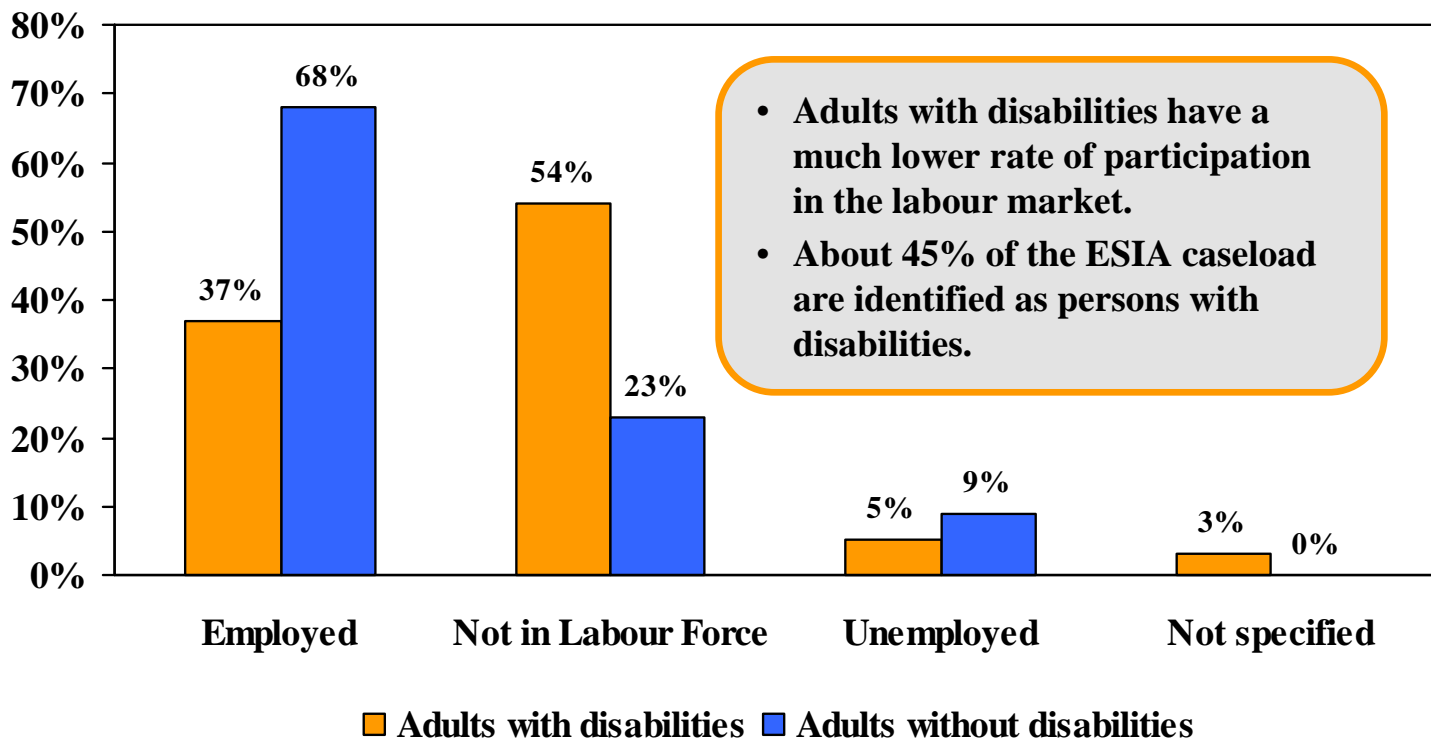
Disability Rate (%), for Children under 15  
Canada and Nova Scotia, 2001



- 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.

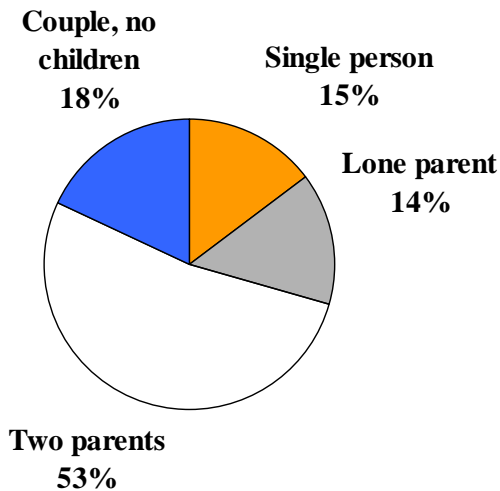
# Disability and Employment

## Labour Force Activity for Adults with Disabilities, Nova Scotia 2001

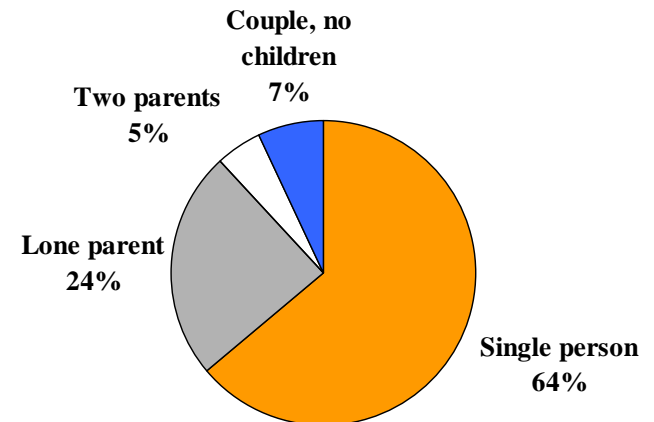


# Population Trends - Families

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



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



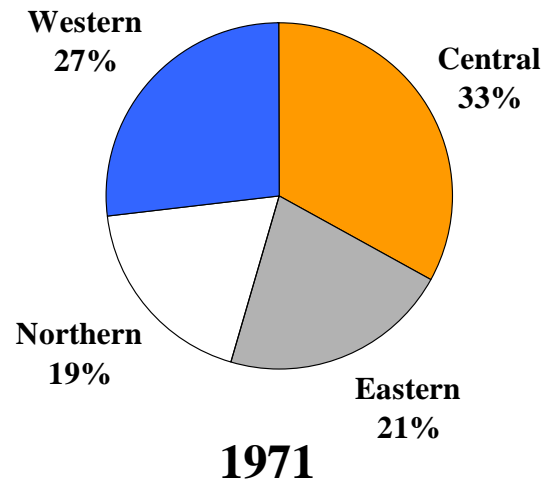
- **Single, unattached individuals account for 15% of the population, but 64% of the income assistance caseload.**
- **Just under one quarter of the caseload is lone-parent households, with the majority of these being single mothers (94%).**

## Population Trends – Regional Shifts

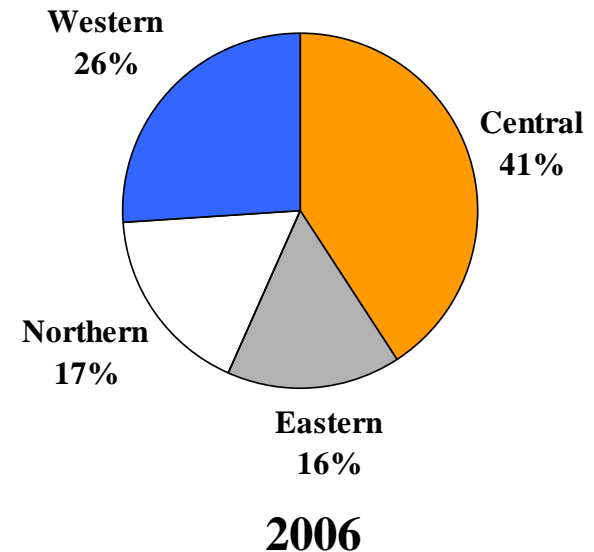
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- **As people move to urban centres for work and services, the rate of population decline in rural areas of the province is increasing**
- **There is a net migration of young people aged 18-24 to HRM**
- **Only the five counties in closest proximity to HRM experienced population growth between 2001 and 2006**

# Population trends – Regional Shifts



**Nova Scotia Population  
by Region  
1971 and 2006**

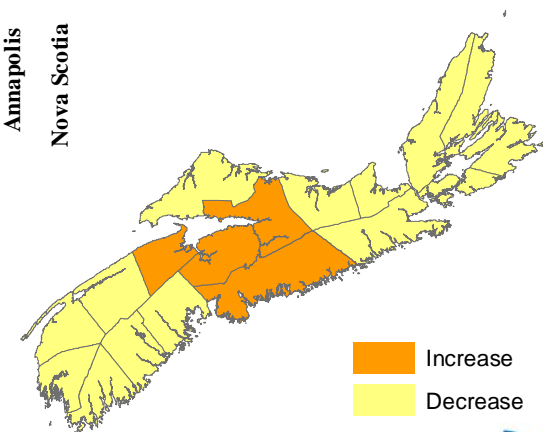
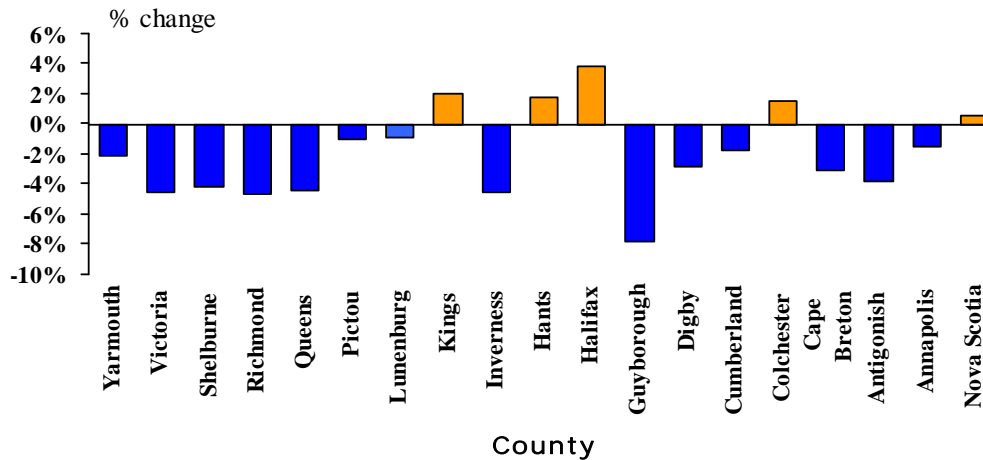


- While the Nova Scotian population increased by almost 20% between 1971 and 2006, the population of the central region (HRM) grew by close to 50%.
- The central region now holds 41% of the province's population.

# Population Trends – Regional Shifts

## Population Growth Nova Scotia by County, 2001 - 2006

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

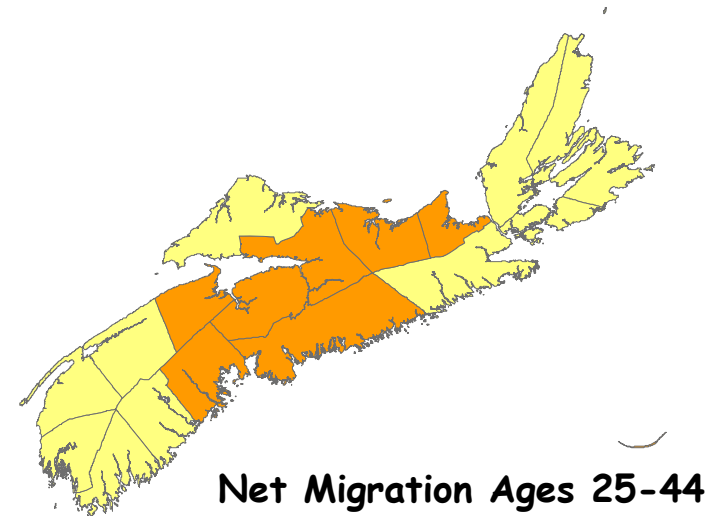
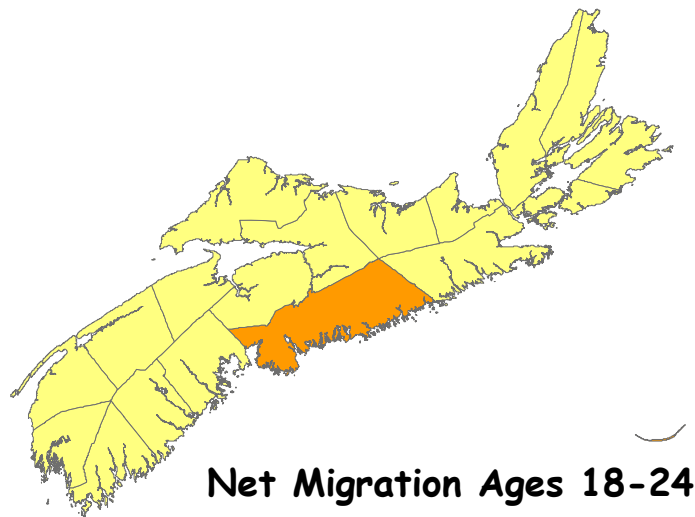


■ Increase  
■ Decrease

# Population Trends – Regional Shifts

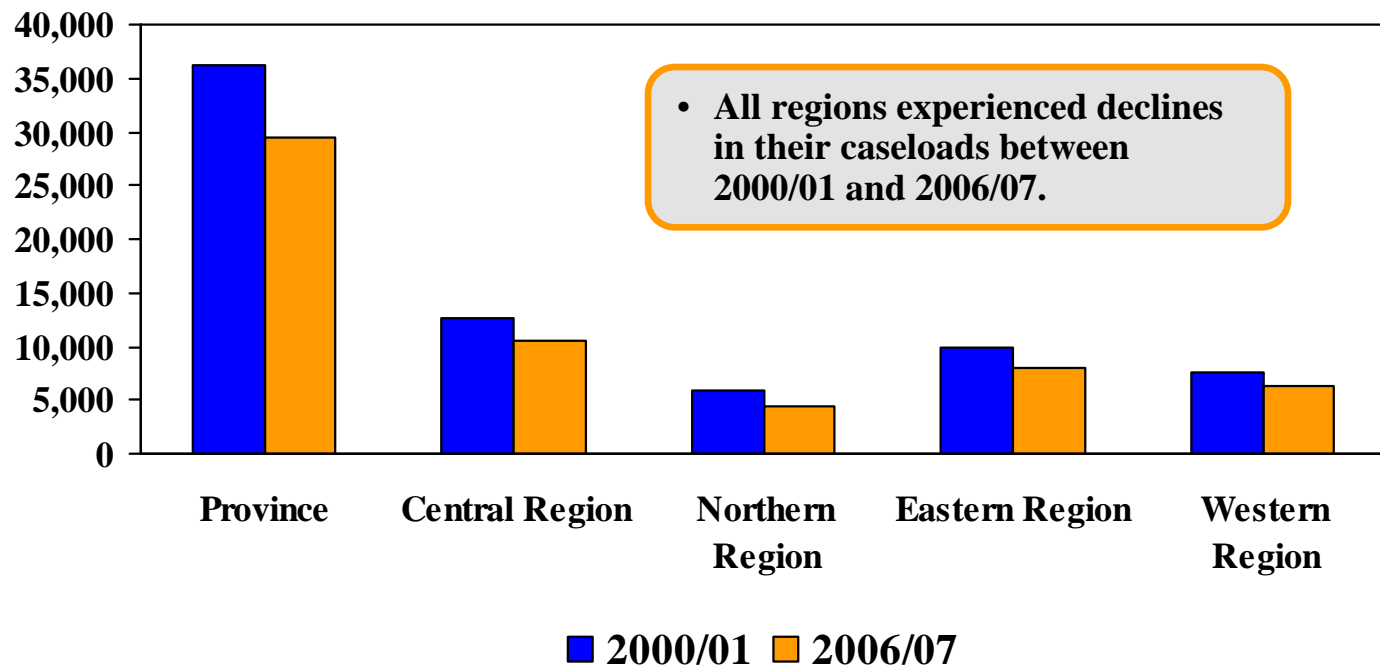
## Intra-provincial Net Migration Ages 18 years to 44 years, 1996 to 2005

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



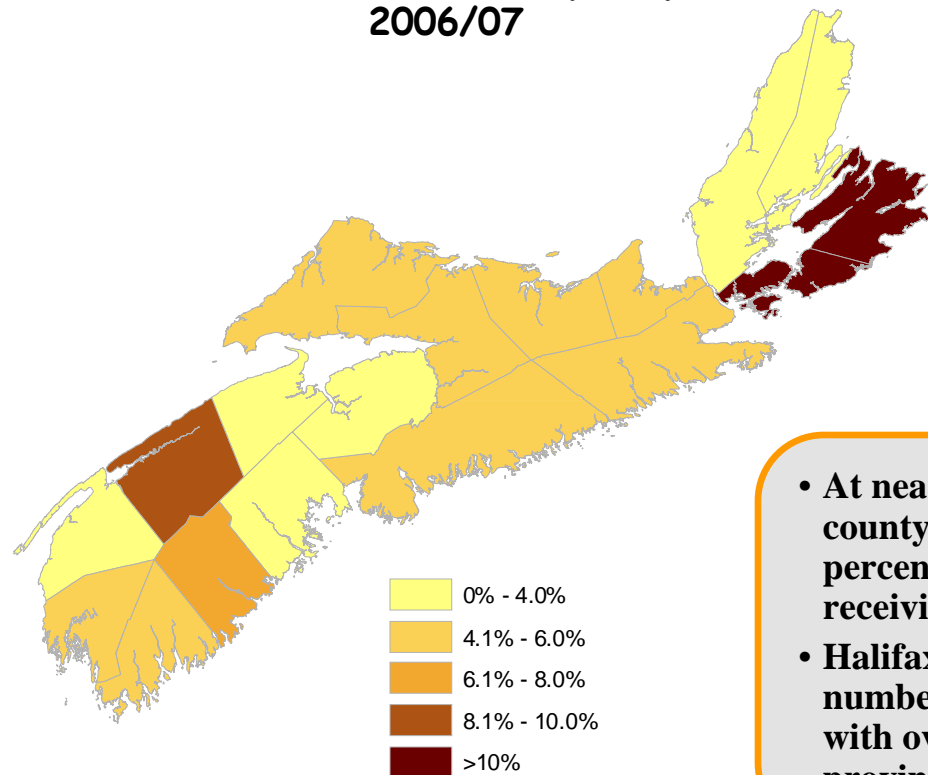
## Regional Trends and DCS

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



# 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).

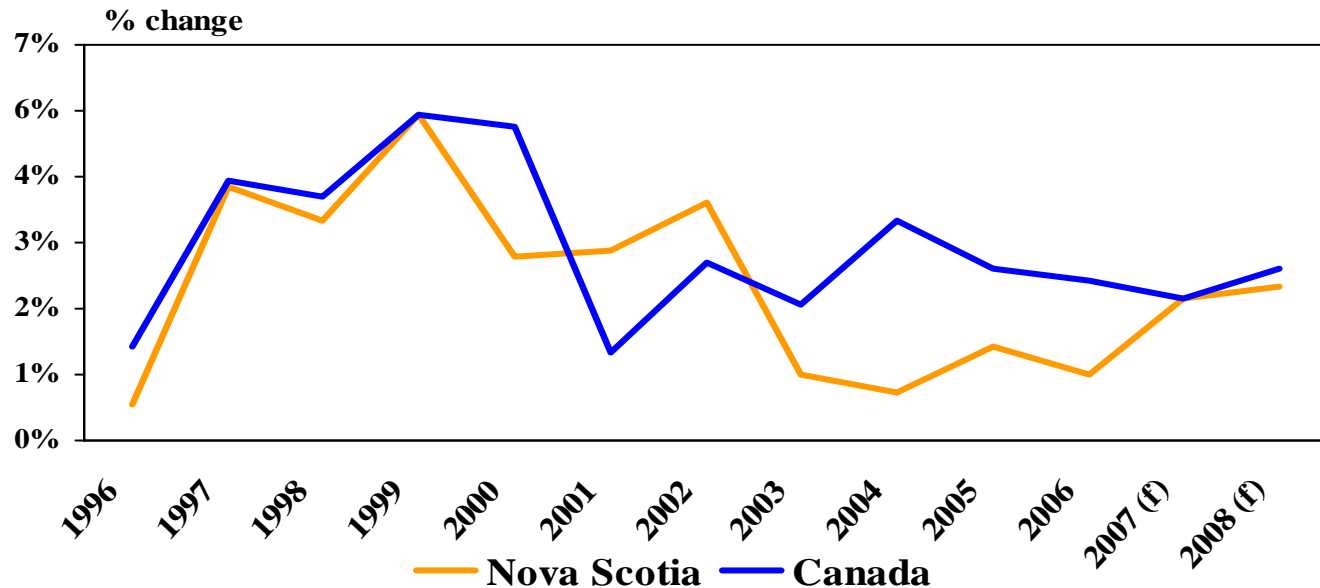
## Economic & Employment Trends

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- **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

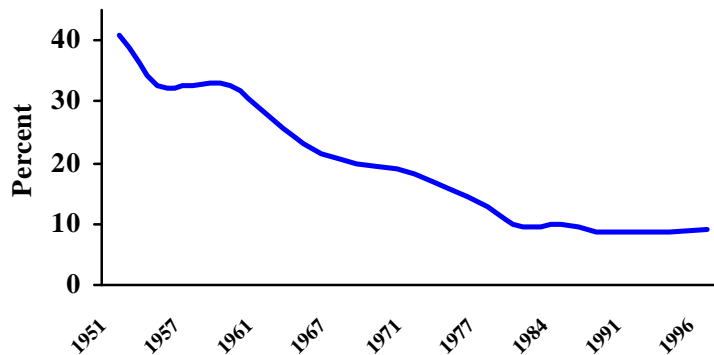
## Economic Growth Canada and Nova Scotia, 1996 to 2008



- 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

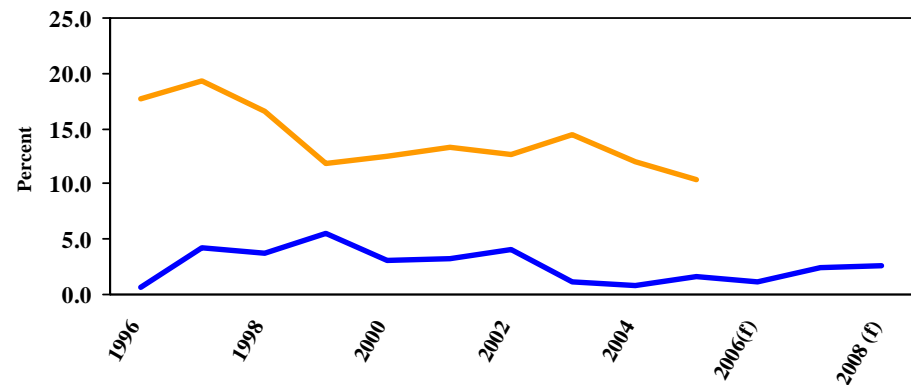
**Income Poverty Rate for Households in Canada, 1951-1996**



Source: Sarlo, Chris, "Measuring Poverty in Canada", July 2001.

- 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**

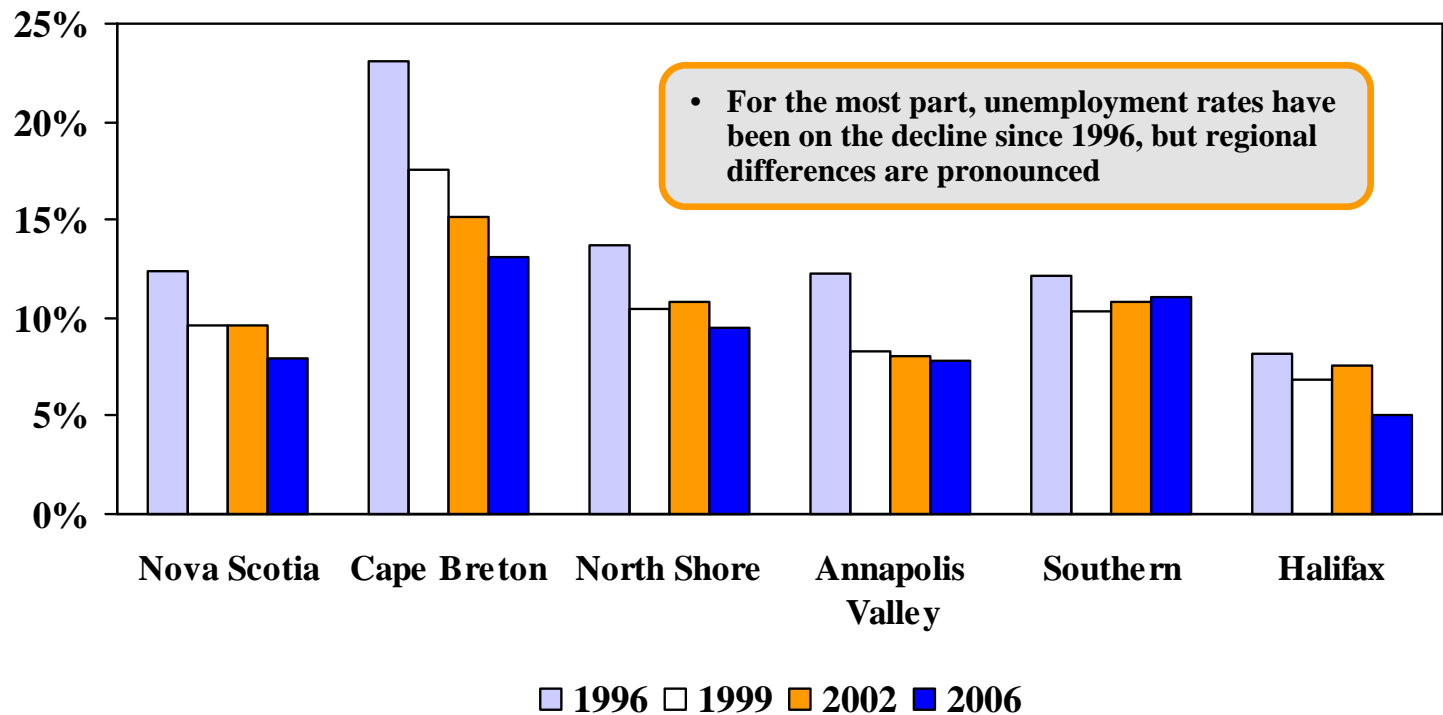


- The incidence of child poverty in Nova Scotia appears to mirror changes in economic growth. When the economy is strong, child poverty rates tend to decline, and vice versa.

— Economic growth — Incidence of child poverty

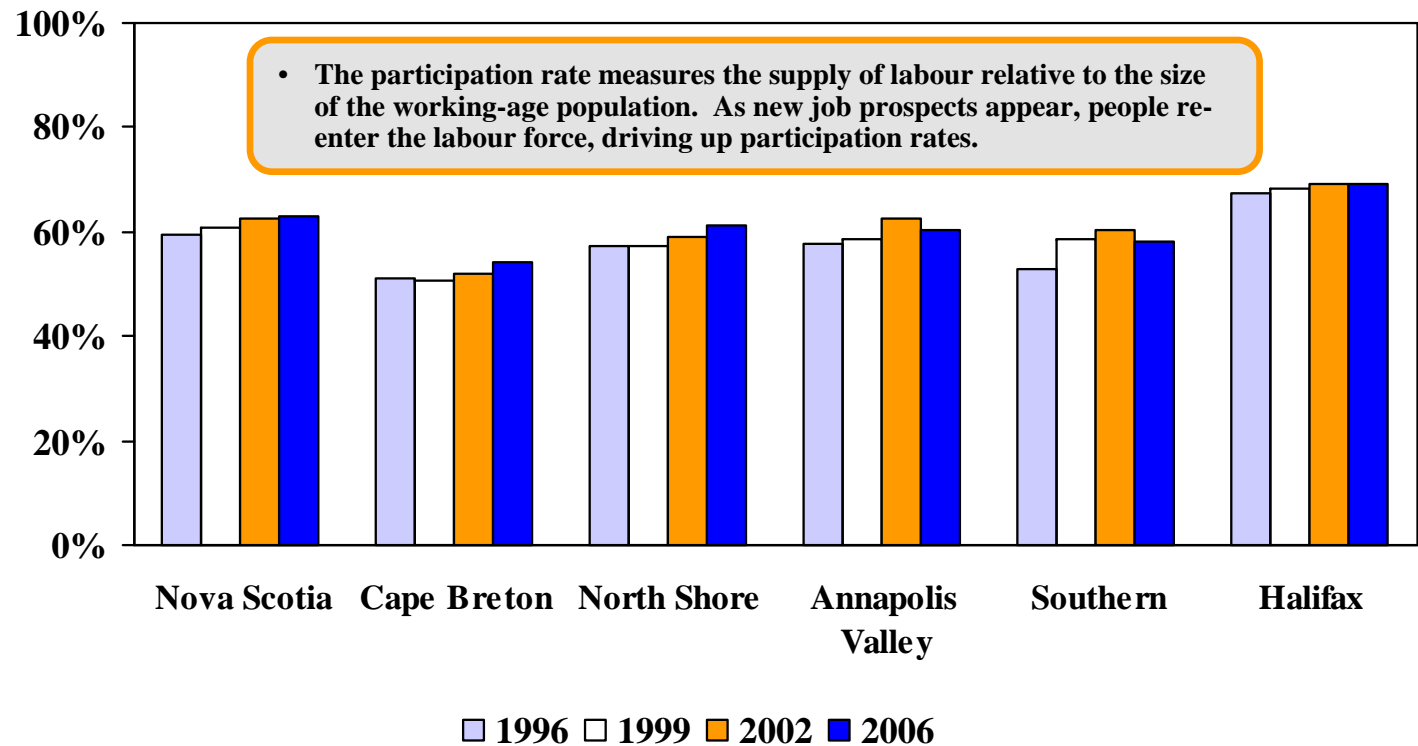
# Employment Trends

## Unemployment Rates by Economic Region Nova Scotia, 1996 to 2006



# Economic & Employment Trends

## Percentage of Population Active in the Labour Force Nova Scotia Economic Regions, 1996 to 2006



## Income Trends

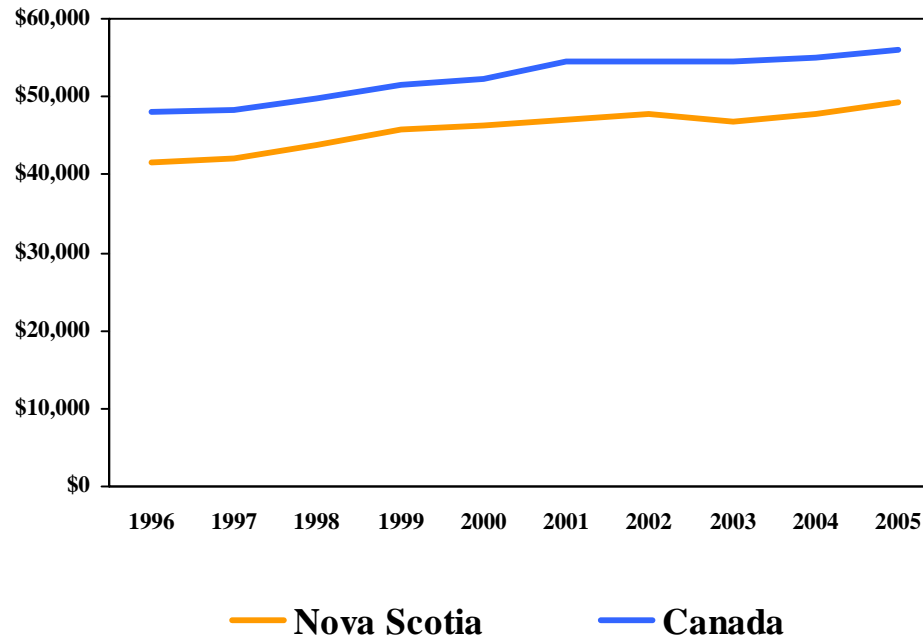
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- **Household incomes in Nova Scotia are below the Canadian average, but higher than the three other Atlantic provinces**
- **Urban household incomes are comparable to the Canadian average, but the gap between rural and urban incomes is larger than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

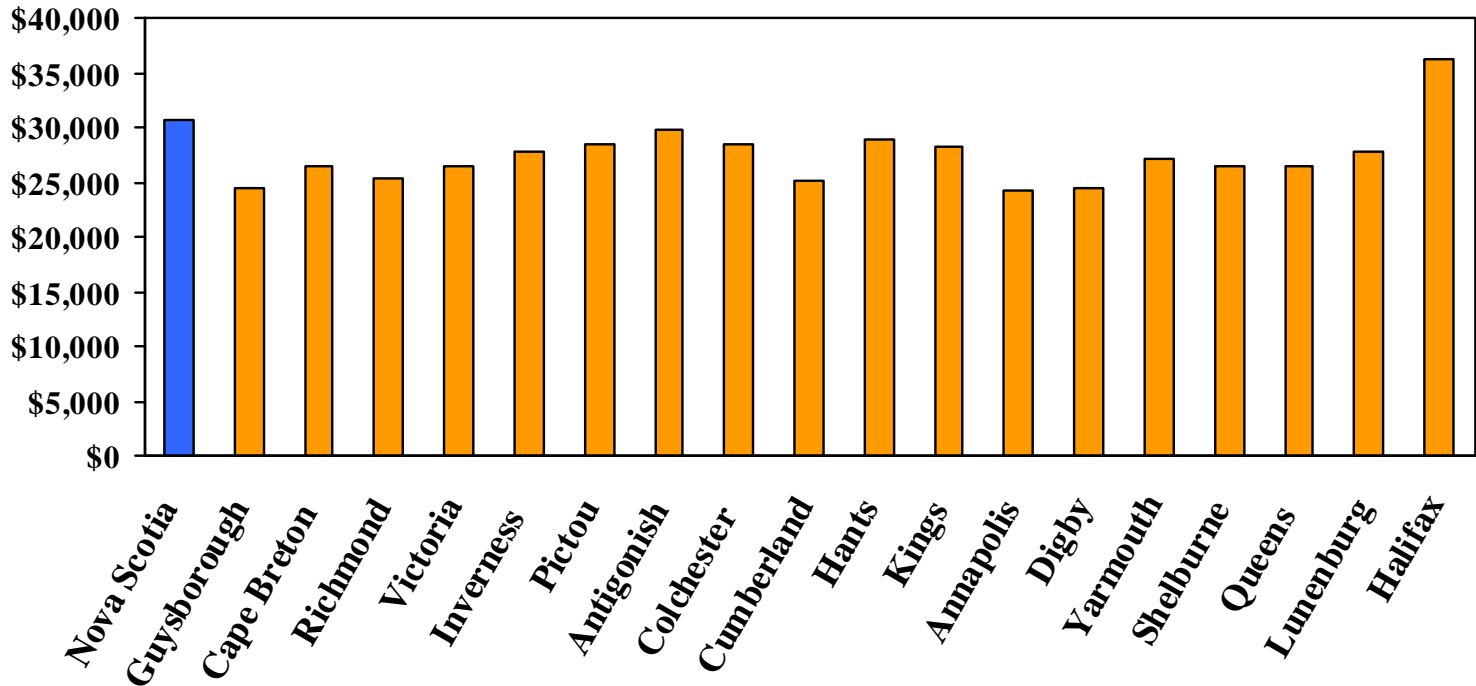
Nova Scotia and Canada, 1996 to 2005



- 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

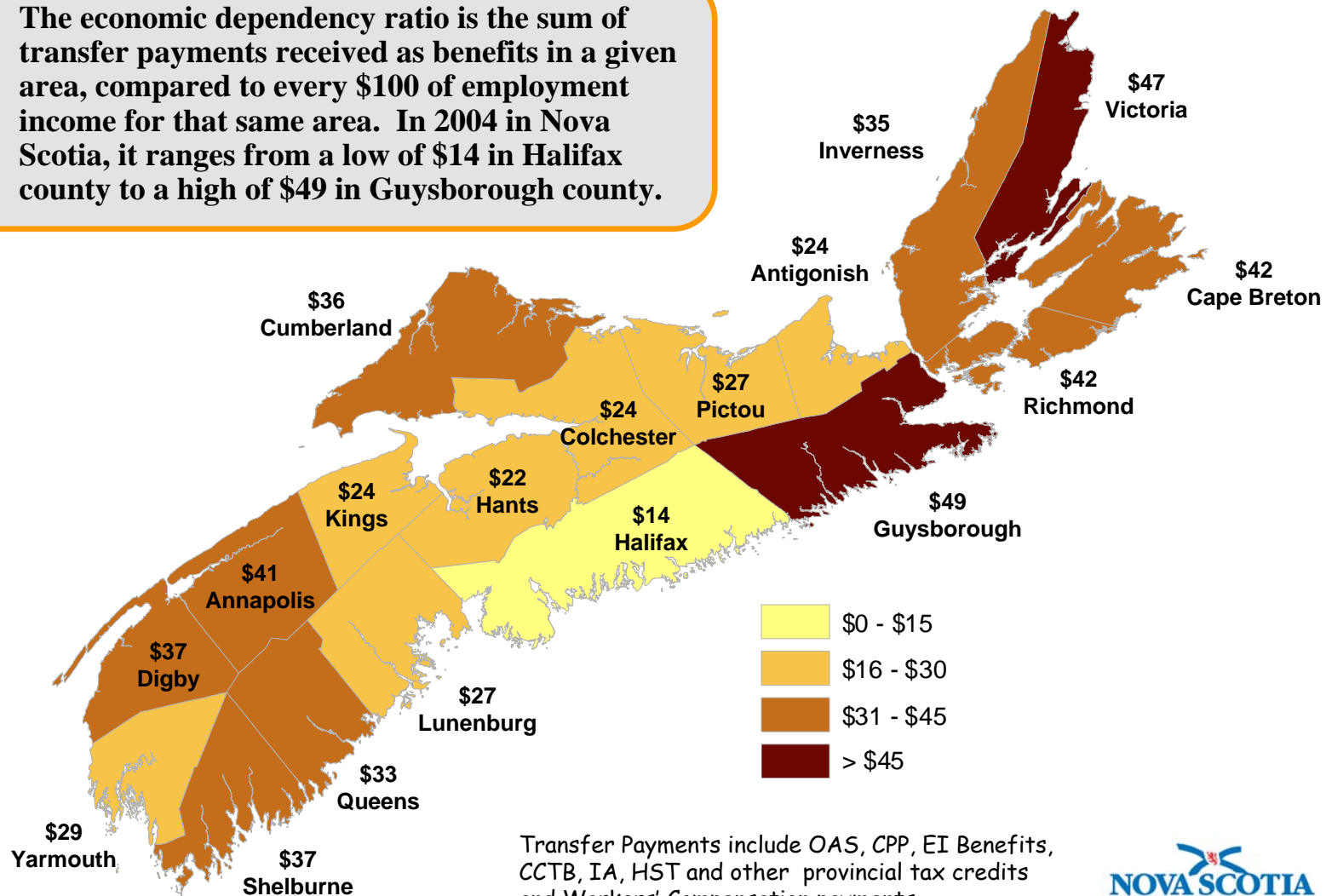
**Female/Male Earnings Ratios (%), Nova Scotia  
Full Year, Full Time Workers, by Selected Characteristics**

Selected characteristics	2005
<b>All age groups</b>	70.1%
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 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

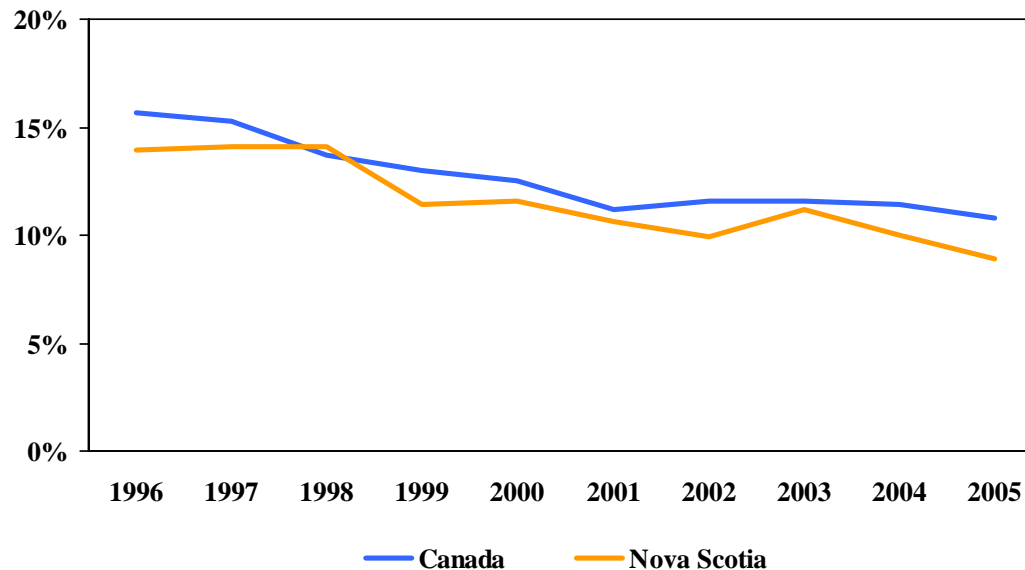
# Income Trends - Transfer Payments

- 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.



# Income Trends - LICO

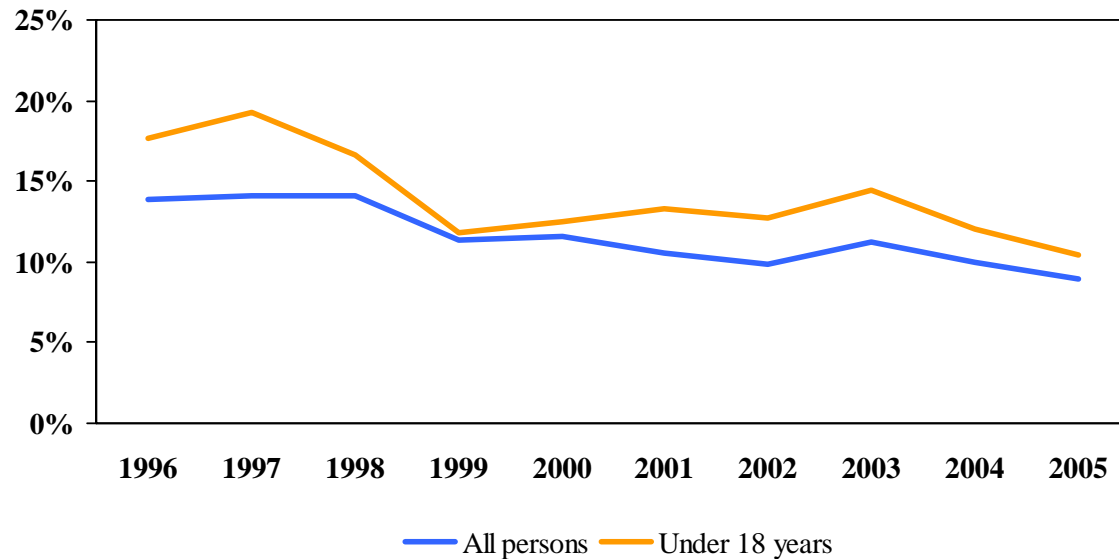
Prevalence of Low-Income After-Tax  
Nova Scotia and Canada, 1996 to 2005



- 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.

# Income Trends - LICO

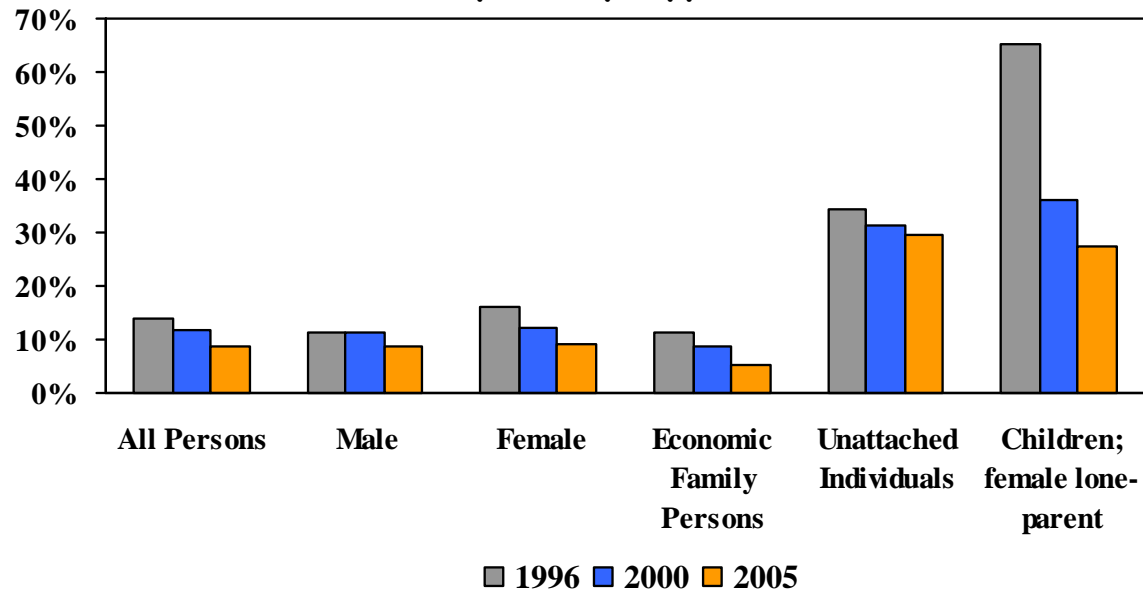
**Prevalence of Low-Income After-Tax  
Nova Scotia, 1996 to 2005**



- 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.

# 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.

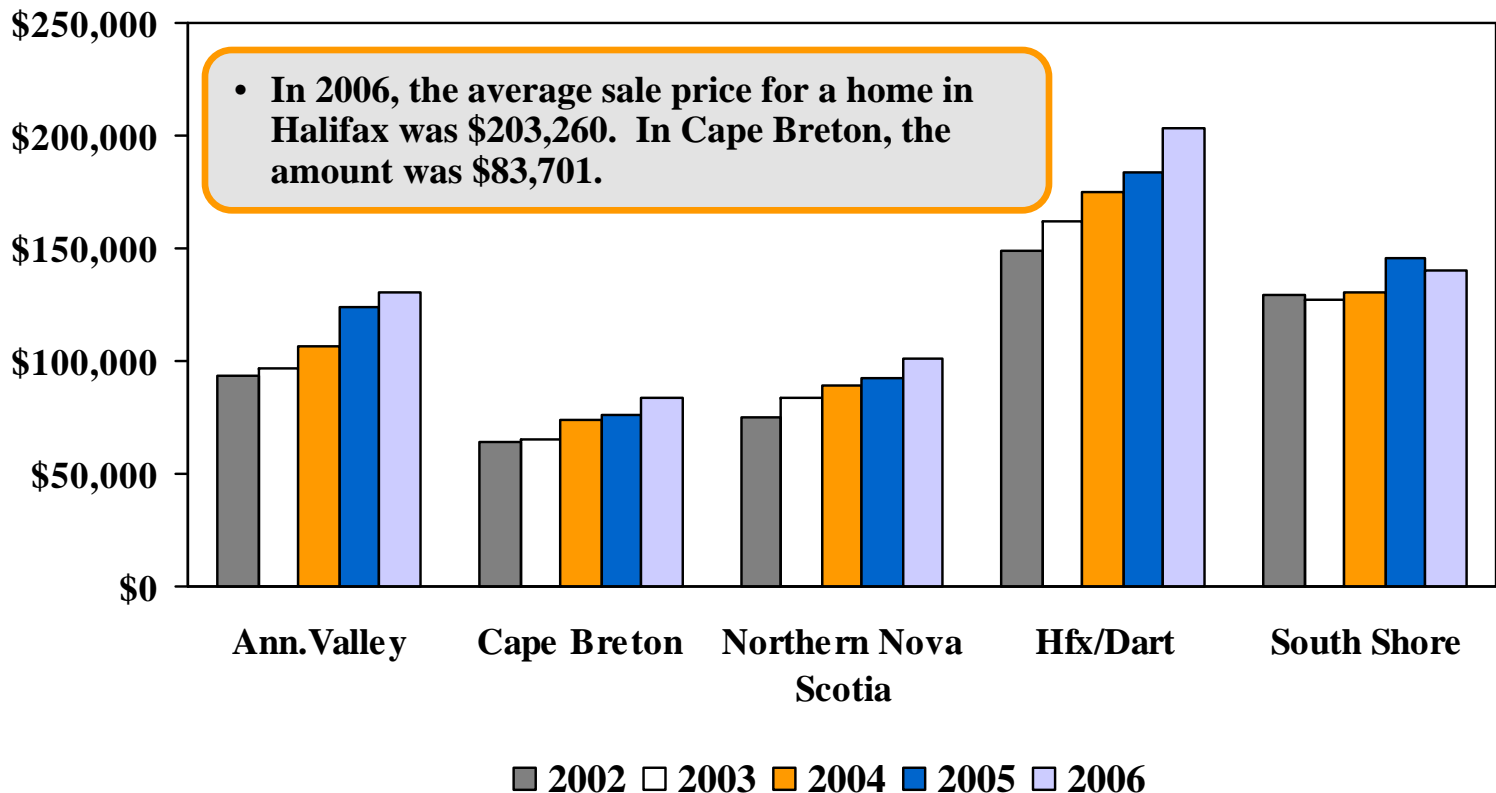
## Housing

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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**

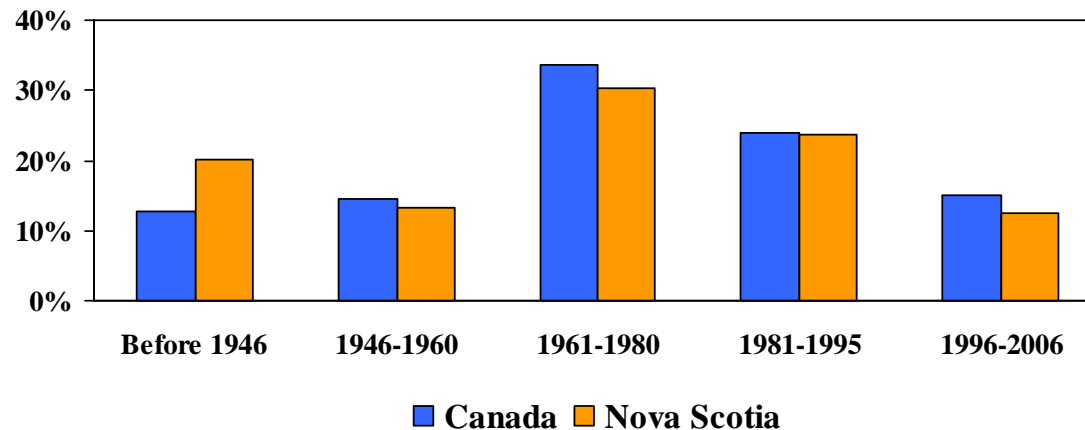
# Housing – Average Sale Price (MLS)

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



# Housing - Age

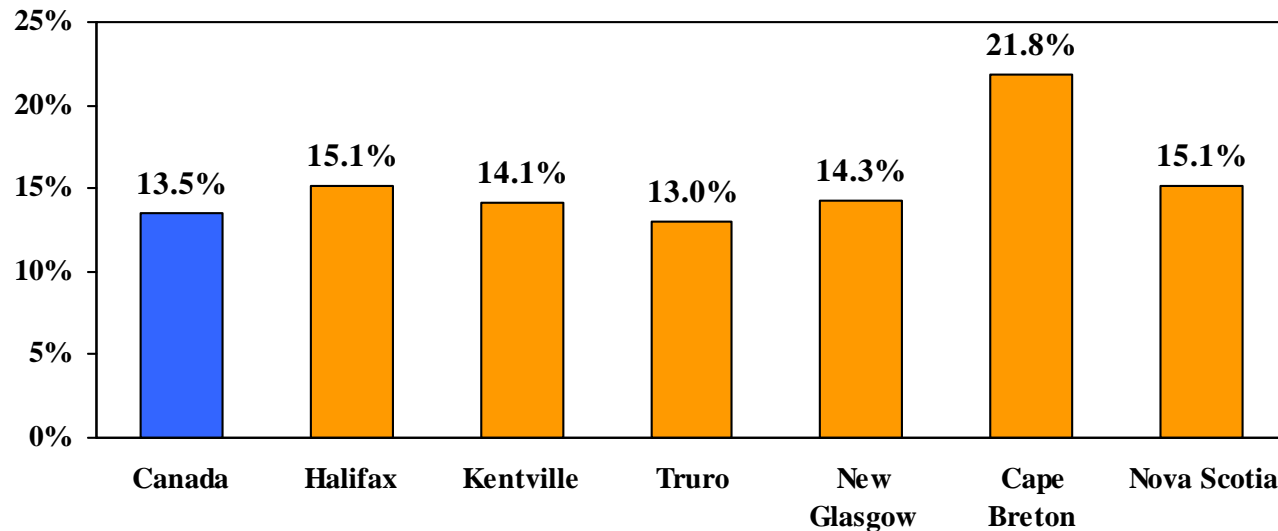
## Period of Construction for Occupied Private Dwellings Nova Scotia and Canada, 2006



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

# Housing – Core Need

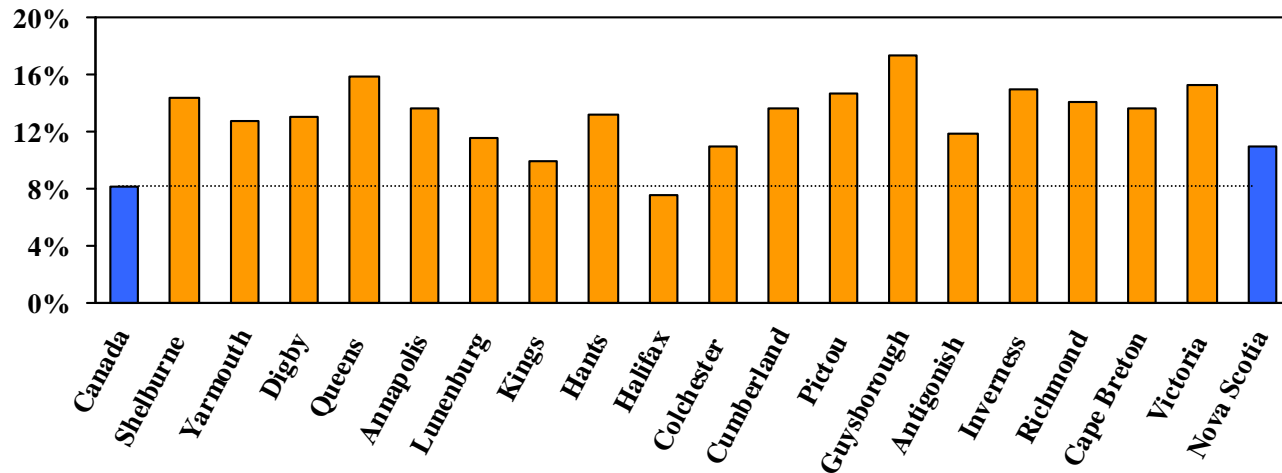
Number of Households in Core Housing Need  
Nova Scotia, Selected Communities, 2001



- 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.

# 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.

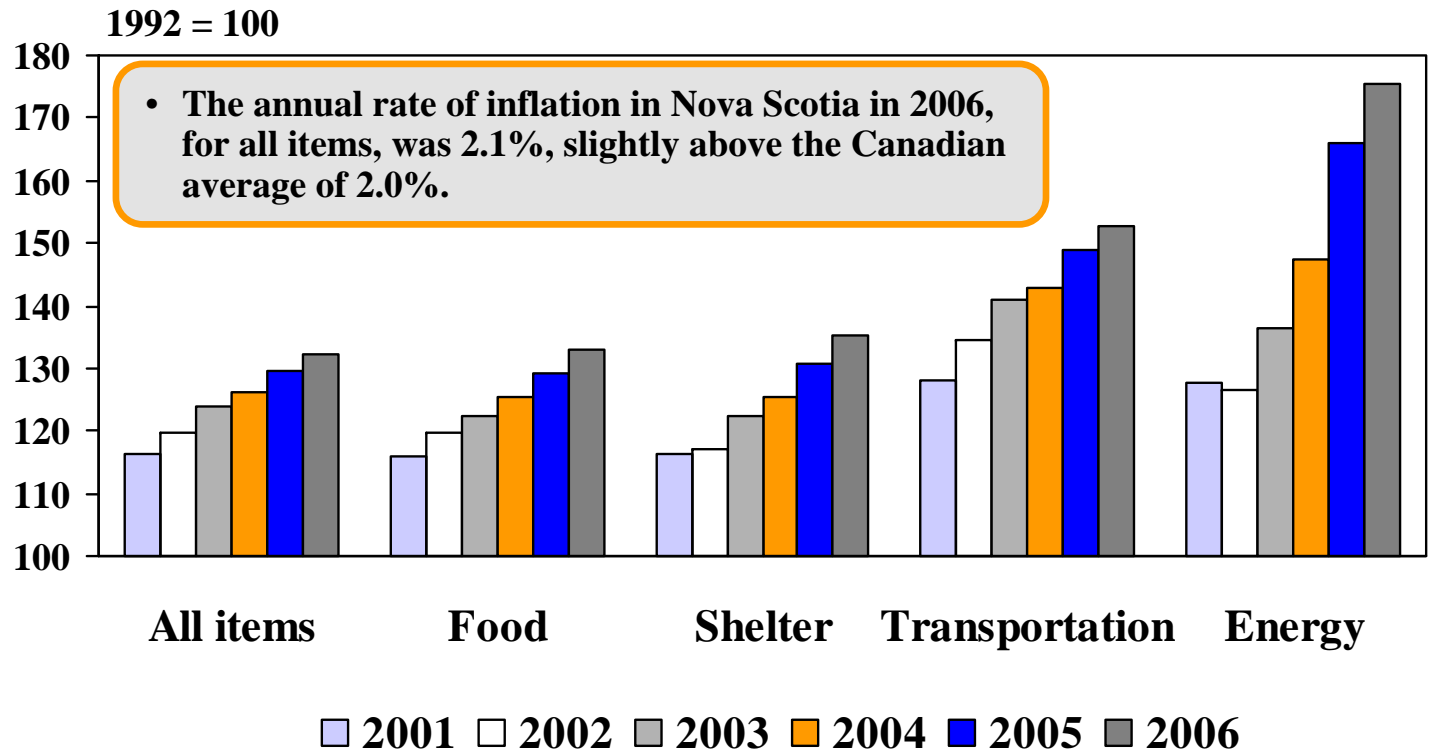
## Price Trends

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- **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**

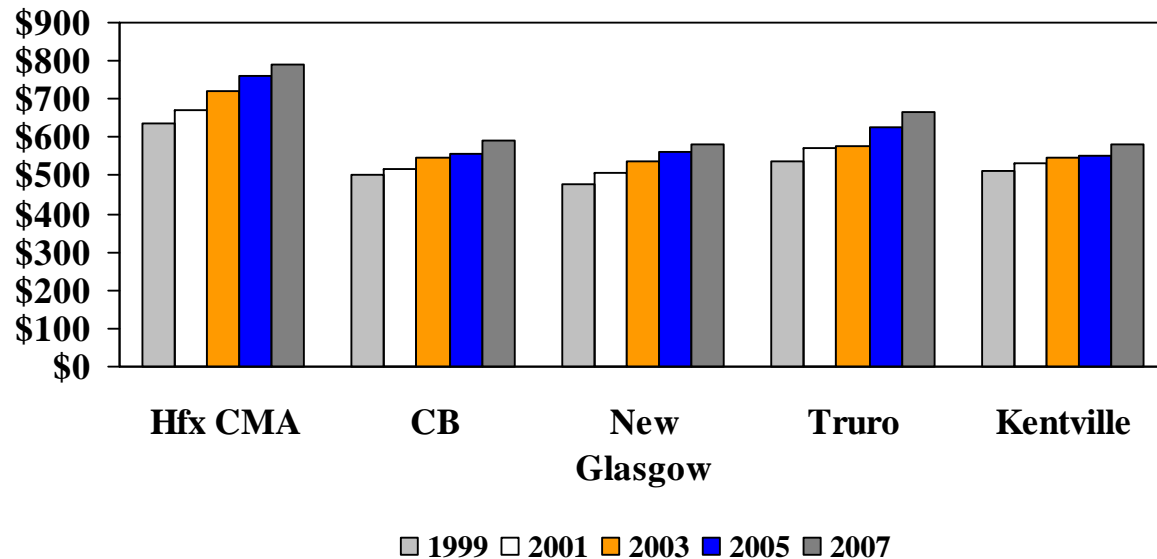
# Price Trends

## Cost of Living - Selected Nova Scotia Indicators 2001 - 2006



# Price Trends

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



- Average rental prices are increasing across the province.

## Additional Resources

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1. **Human Resources And Skills Development Canada** – *About the Local Labour Market.*

[www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/gateways/topics/ns0-ala.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/gateways/topics/ns0-ala.shtml)

1. **Nova Scotia Department of Finance** – Multiple publications:

[www.gov.ns.ca/finance/publish/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/publish/)

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/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm>

4. **Nova Scotia Community Counts:**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/communitycounts/default.asp>

5. **Target Nova Scotia:** <http://www.targetnovascotia.com/>