



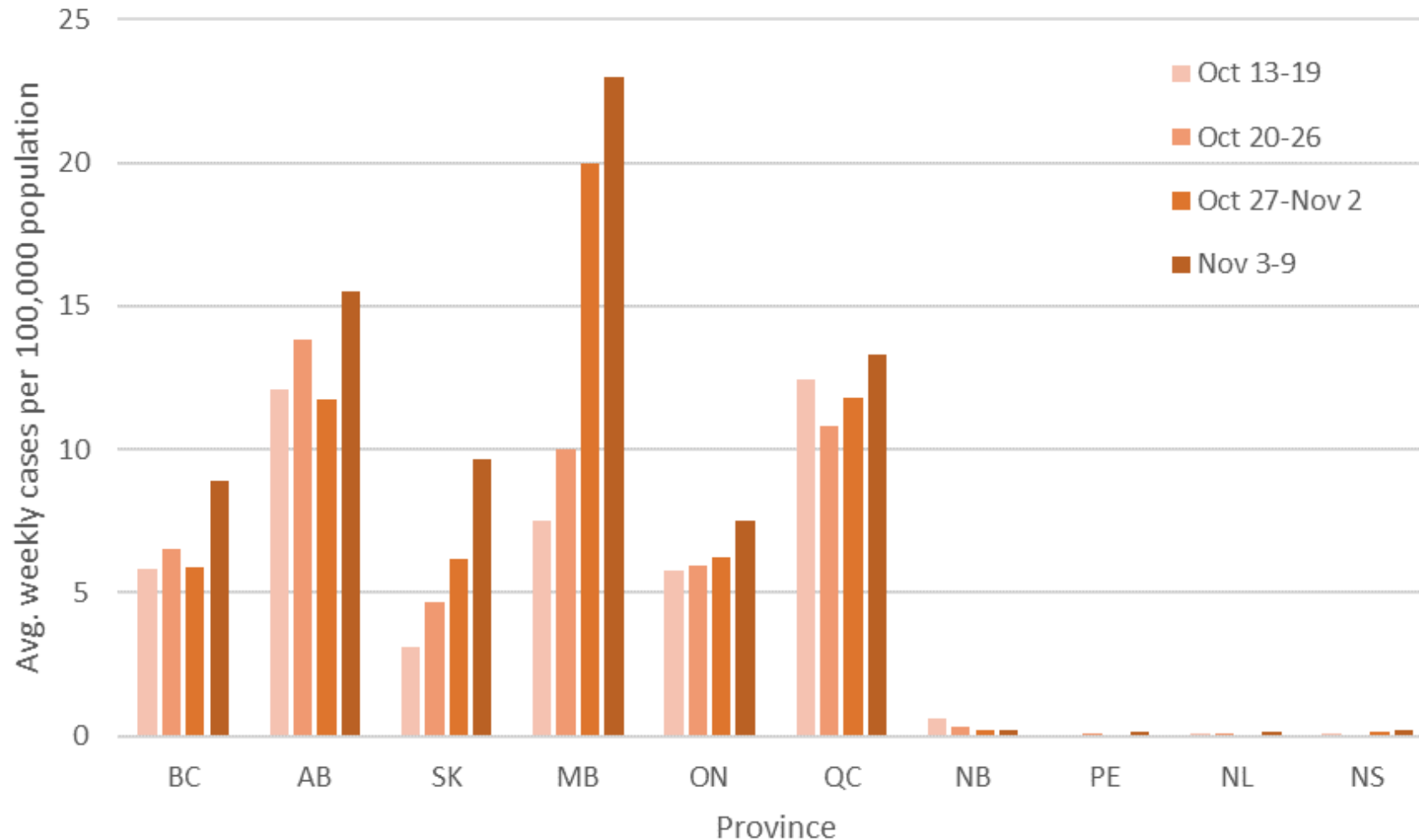
# COVID-19 presentation for Regional Enterprise Networks

November 13, 2020

# COVID-19 Today

- ▶ Our knowledge on the virus is growing but still much we don't know (e.g., length of immunity)
- ▶ Many European countries, the United States, and some Canadian provinces have recent upticks in new cases
- ▶ Some provinces and European countries are using strong restrictions to sharply reduce cases (e.g. Manitoba has gone to a Wave 1 style lockdown)
- ▶ Canada at a cross-roads as modelling is not optimistic if provinces don't take action

# Average weekly number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Province



- During this 4 week period:
  - Manitoba reported the highest rate at 23 average weekly cases per 100,000 population
  - Quebec reported the highest average weekly number of cases at 1139
  - Nova Scotia's highest average weekly number of cases was 2

Data Sources:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>
- Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly

# The national projections are not very optimistic if some provinces do not take action immediately

**Nationally**, long-range forecasting indicates a stronger response is needed to slow the spread of COVID-10

## 1 INCREASE

If we **increase** our current rate of contacts by 20%, the epidemic is forecast to resurge faster and stronger

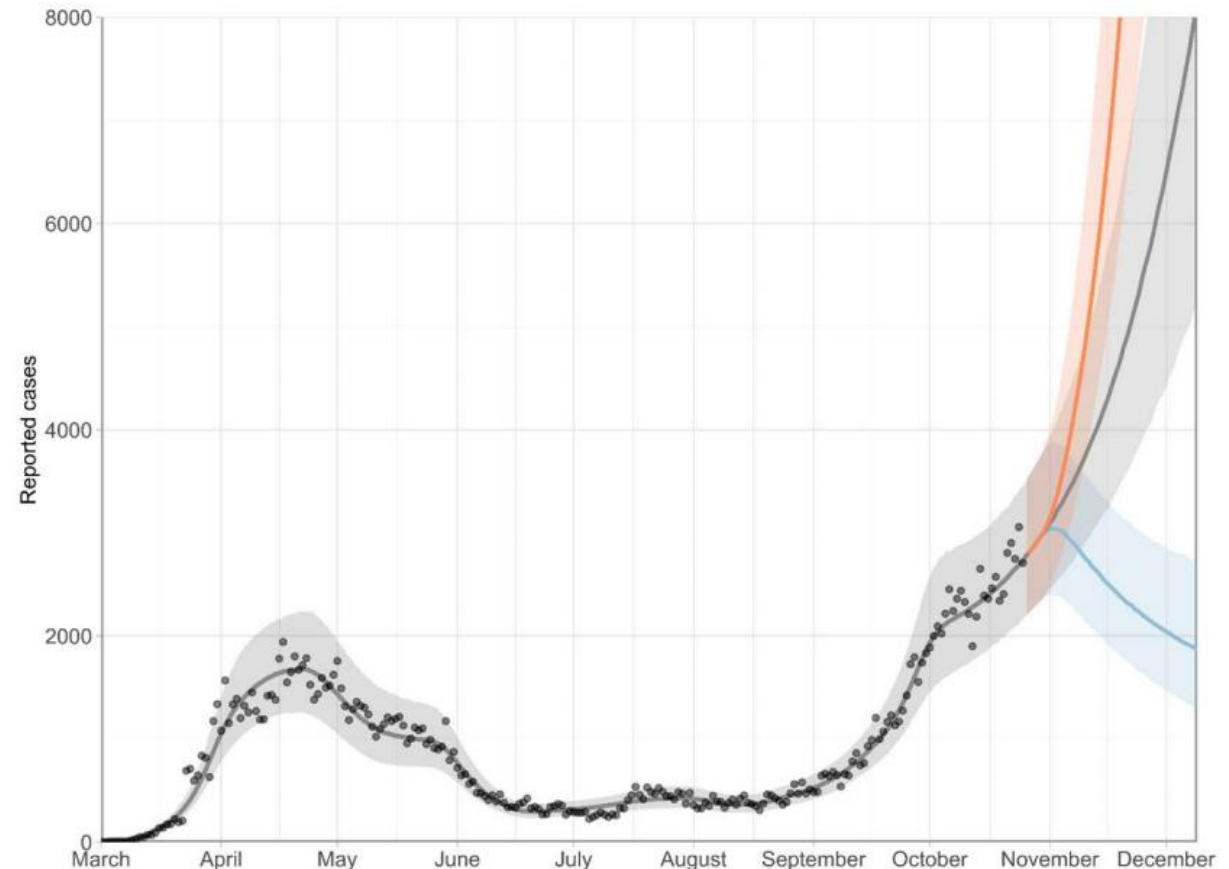
## 2 MAINTAIN

If we **maintain** our current rate of contacts, the epidemic is forecast to resurge

## 3 DECREASE

If we **decrease** our current rate of contacts by 25%, the epidemic is forecast to come under control in most locations

Projected daily new cases in Canada under different contact rates, with 95% CI (PHAC – as of October 30)



# Why no large resurgence yet in Nova Scotia?

- ▶ Testing and contact tracing
- ▶ Atlantic Bubble
- ▶ Compliance with public health measures
- ▶ Other factors, such rural population



# Current epidemiology in Nova Scotia

- ▶ Cluster of positive cases in Clayton Park area of Halifax
- ▶ Previous clusters in Central zone and Northern Nova Scotia are resolved
- ▶ Recent cluster origins are travel related (both essential and non-essential travel)
- ▶ Shows critical importance of self-isolation after travelling and following gathering limit & physically distancing measures
- ▶ New rules for self-isolation after travelling began Nov. 9
- ▶ Nova Scotia is at a tipping point

# Travel

- ▶ The Atlantic Bubble is working to keep COVID-19 levels low
  - ▶ More than 80% of Atlantic Canadians feel safe travelling in their province, by far highest in Canada
- ▶ Other provinces and countries having sharp increases in cases.
- ▶ People who travel are our main COVID-19 spreaders
- ▶ Self-isolation is vital. An infected traveler who self-isolates will not spread the virus and becomes only one case. A traveler who doesn't isolate becomes the first case in a potential outbreak



## Rapid testing

- ▶ Health Canada has approved some rapid antigen tests
- ▶ These tests are undergoing evaluation out in the field
- ▶ They are not as sensitive as our current lab tests and may not be as accurate
- ▶ Will likely need repeated testing of individual to have confidence in diagnosis
- ▶ Test performance needs to be evaluated in real-world conditions



## Future state

- ▶ Determined by epidemiology in the province
- ▶ The core health measures likely to remain in place for extent of pandemic (physical distancing, hand hygiene, gathering limits, self-isolation for travelers, masking)
- ▶ All of us have an important part to play in reducing COVID-19 in the province by following public health measures
- ▶ Current forecasts show pandemic will continue at least until spring 2021
- ▶ Potential for re-introduction of stronger restrictions if cases continue to climb

# Returning to restrictions

- ▶ Prepared to tighten restrictions if needed
- ▶ Stop outbreaks quickly with targeted approach
- ▶ Restrictions based on:
  - ▶ Geography not province-wide
  - ▶ Certain sectors
  - ▶ High-risk populations
- ▶ Avoid major impacts on all Nova Scotians, economy
- ▶ Need to move quickly

# Good Public Health = Long Term Population & Economic Growth

“Good public health in Nova Scotia is good for the economy and for population growth.”



“That’s because people fearful of infections won’t show up to work or spend money in shops if the virus is spreading wildly in their communities.”

Harvard Gazette, Nov. 10, 2020



# Impact of Implementing Measures



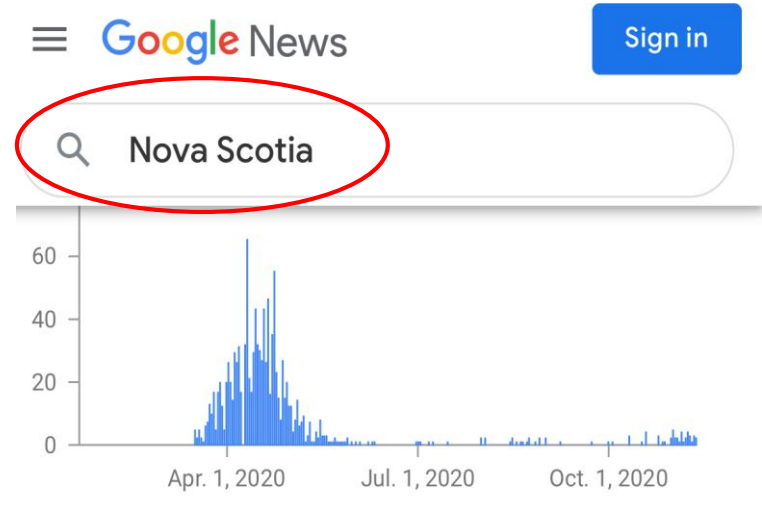
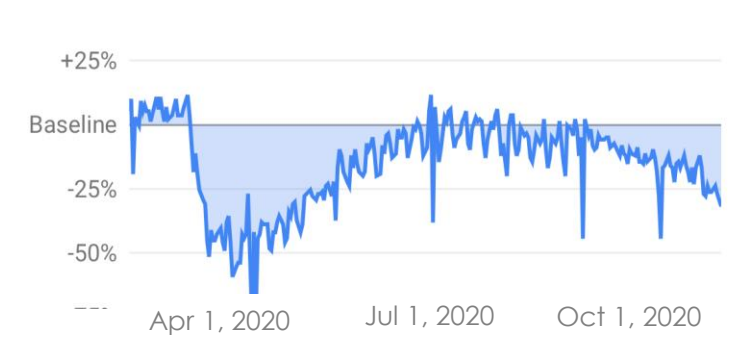
Each day shows new cases reported since the previous day  
Updated 2 days ago • Source: [JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data](#)

## Mobility changes over time

Manitoba

See how communities are moving around differently due to COVID-19

**Retail and recreation** Grocery and pharmacy Pa



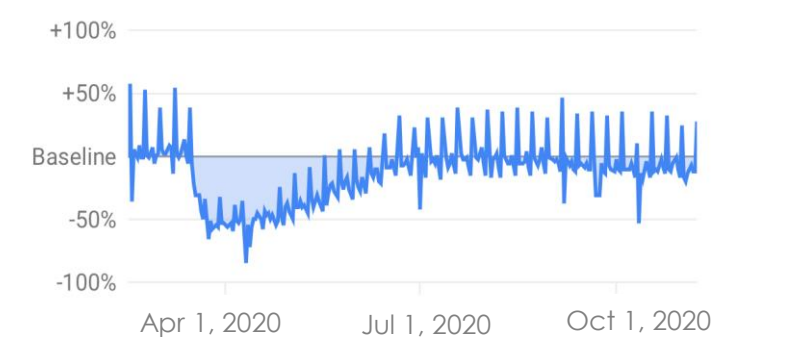
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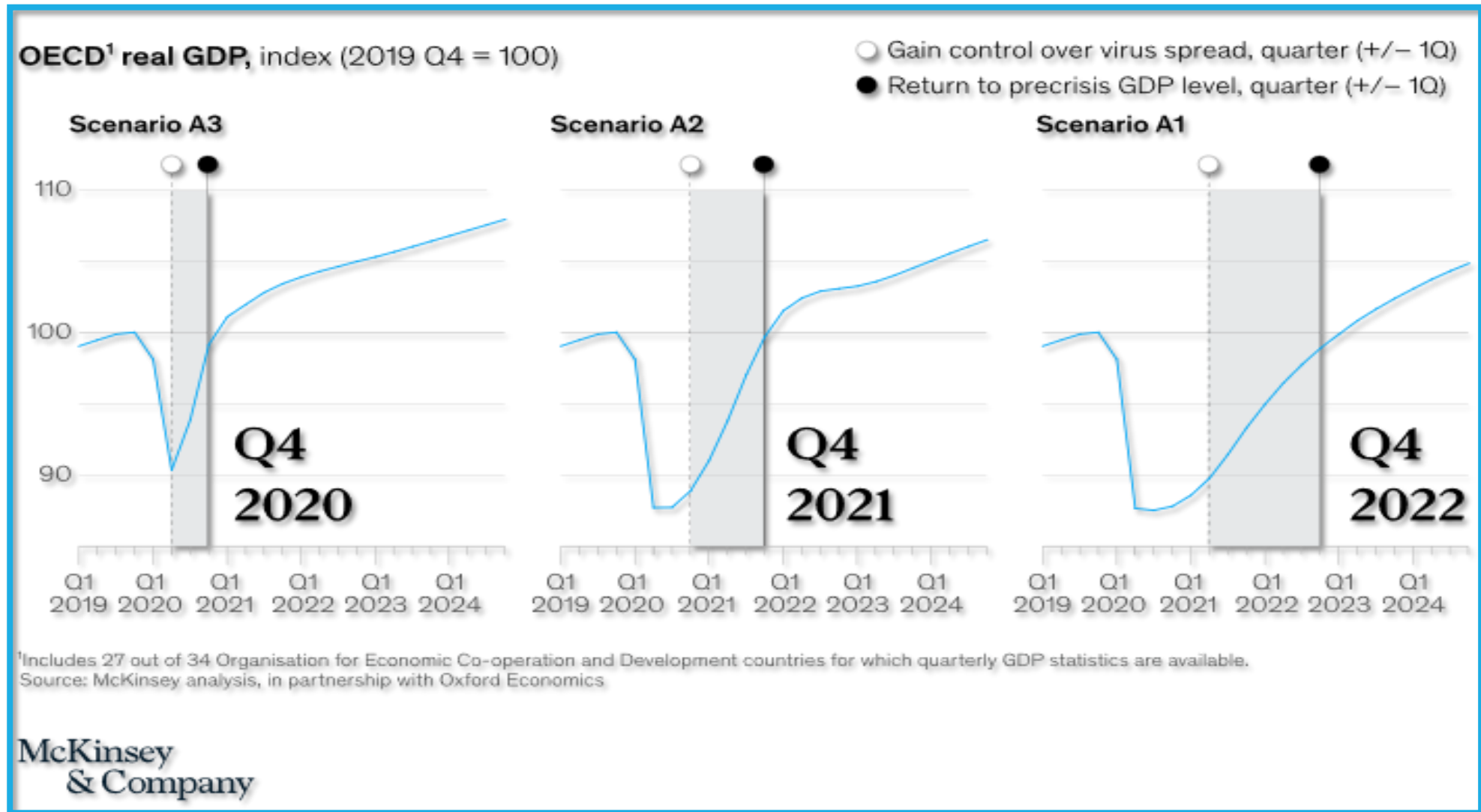
Nova Scotia

See how communities are moving around differently due to COVID-19

**Retail and recreation** Grocery and pharmacy Bus/t

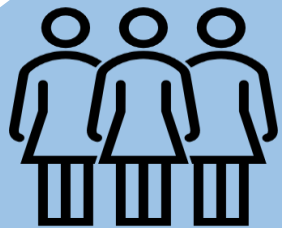


# Speed of Implementing Measures Matters



# What are we seeing economically?

14



**POPULATION**  
fastest growing  
among all provinces  
in the quarter  
(0.24% growth)

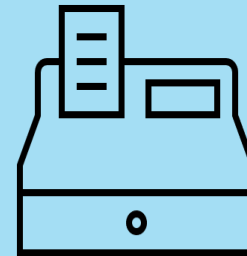
+2,308 (April 1, 2020-July 1, 2020)



**JOBS**  
80% of lost jobs  
recovered as of  
Sept. 2020

But  
“...recovery  
will continue  
to be uneven  
across sectors”

APEC Oct 29,  
2020



**BUSINESS  
OPENINGS**  
active businesses  
increased by 792  
since May  
(33% of peak loss)



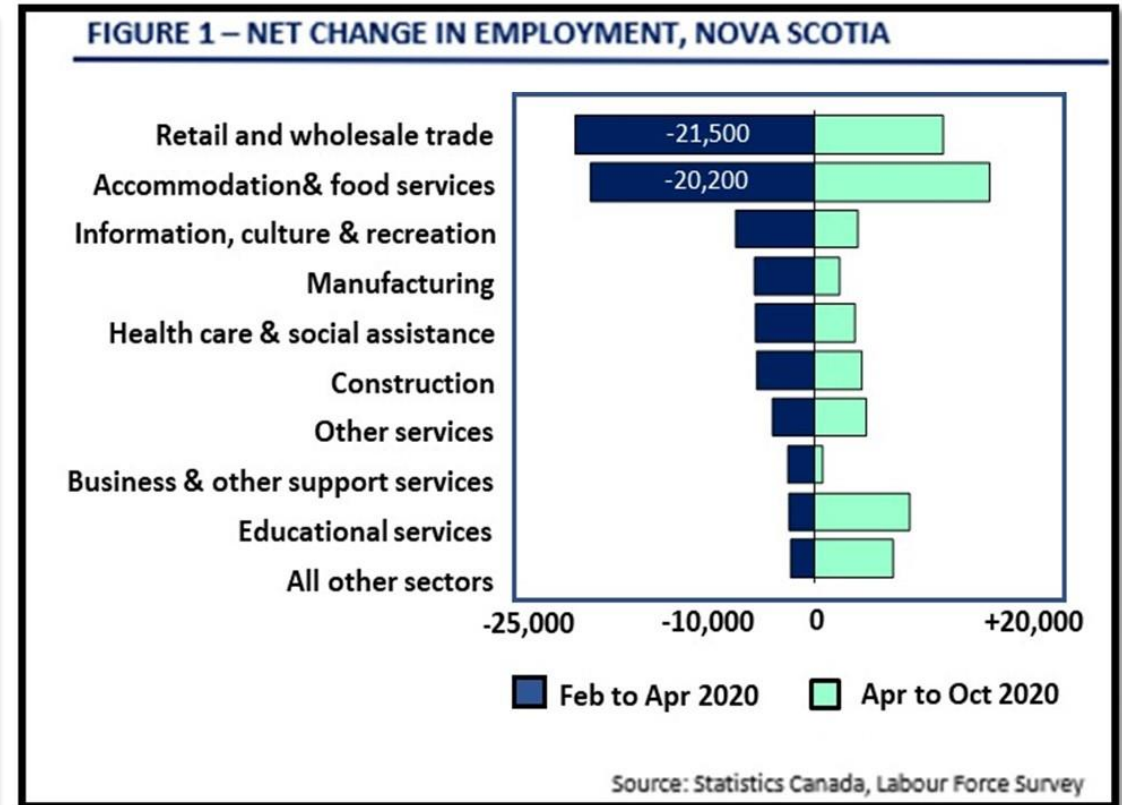
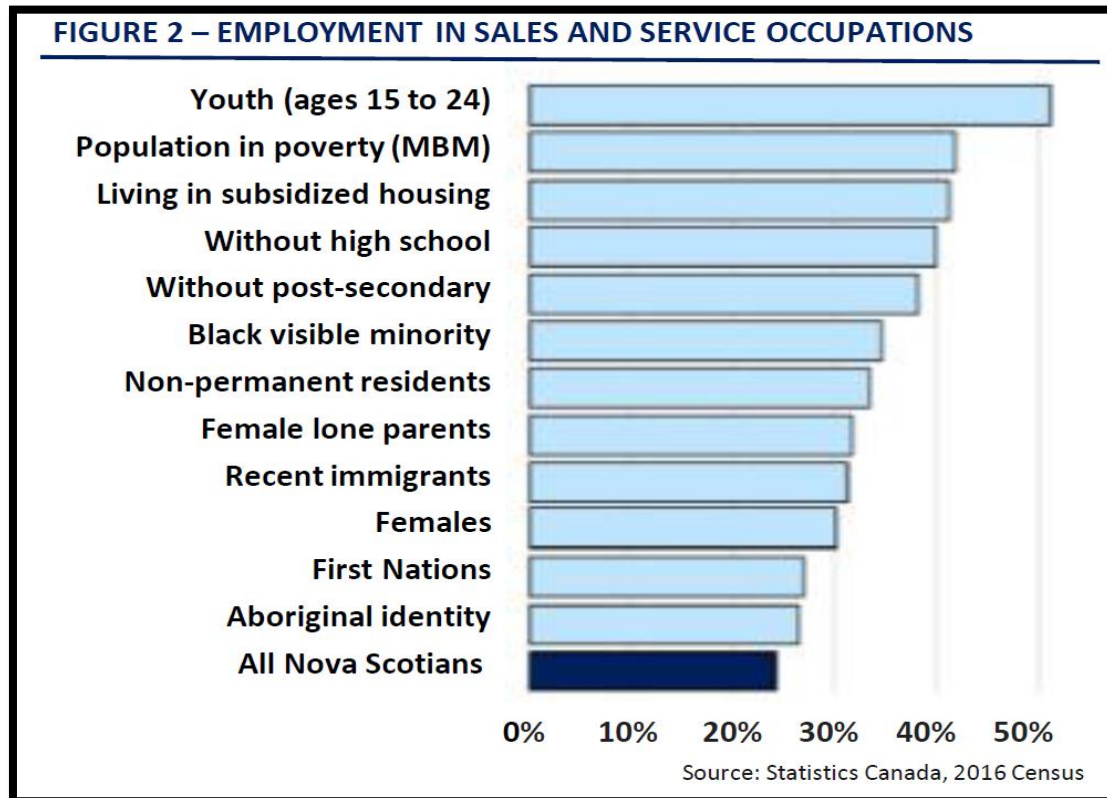
**EXPORTS**  
in Sept. 2019  
just 0.9% below  
Sept. 2020 levels

*May 2020 year-over-year: -42.5%*  
*July 2020 year-over-year: -8.8%*



# Some Impacts

- ▶ Government: \$852.9M deficit (one of highest in our history)
  - ▶ Revenues drop \$532.1M with expenditures up \$470.3 M
- ▶ Employment:







# Recovery/restoring growth How? Lifestyle migration

An emerging social phenomenon made increasingly possible by the changing nature of work, technology, cloud-based computing, economic, demographic & structural changes, and material conditions.

- ▶ A search/quest for a better way of life
- ▶ Voluntary and optional
- ▶ Migrants goal: seek quality of place for quality of life

Mobility,  
travel, &  
permanent  
migration are  
entangled

# LIFESTYLE MIGRATION

Compared to  
economic migration  
(production-  
based)/also see  
labour migration

*People  
focused*

*Consumption  
based*

*Economy  
focused*

Authentic experiences  
and safe adventures  
that allow them to  
interact with local  
culture

Relocation for quality of  
life rather than in search  
of work, better  
economic  
opportunities, safety or  
security

# Staying informed

- ▶ Stay informed about changes:
  - ▶ [novascotia.ca/coronavirus](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus)
  - ▶ Email [NSEconomy@novascotia.ca](mailto:NSEconomy@novascotia.ca) if you have questions
  - ▶ Email [COVID19INFO@novascotia.ca](mailto:COVID19INFO@novascotia.ca) to be added to distribution for stakeholder updates

Note: the data and information contained in this presentation is accurate as of November 13, 2020. Its accuracy is subject to change as new guidelines and data emerges.

# COVID Alert App

- ▶ More than 5 million downloads across Canada.
- ▶ Uses Bluetooth to communicate. No personal information collected/shared/tracked.
- ▶ COVID-positive individual is provided with a one-time key to enter in app.
- ▶ App users whose phone comes into close contact (within two metres/six feet for at least 15 minutes) of the infected person's phone is notified.
- ▶ App directs person to more information about what to do next.