



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

November 2015



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of New Brunswick, including the regions of Campbellton—Miramichi, Edmundston—Woodstock, Fredericton—Oromocto, Moncton—Richibucto and Saint John—St. Stephen.

OVERVIEW

Employment in New Brunswick decreased by 3,000 on a month-over-month basis in November 2015, erasing some of the job gains that occurred between July and October. All of the monthly job losses can be attributed to a drop in part-time positions, while full-time work inched up by 1,200. The unemployed population also declined since last month, moving the unemployment rate down by 0.3 percentage points on a month-over-month basis. But with fewer people employed or looking for jobs compared to last month, the employment rate was down to 56.7% in November.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

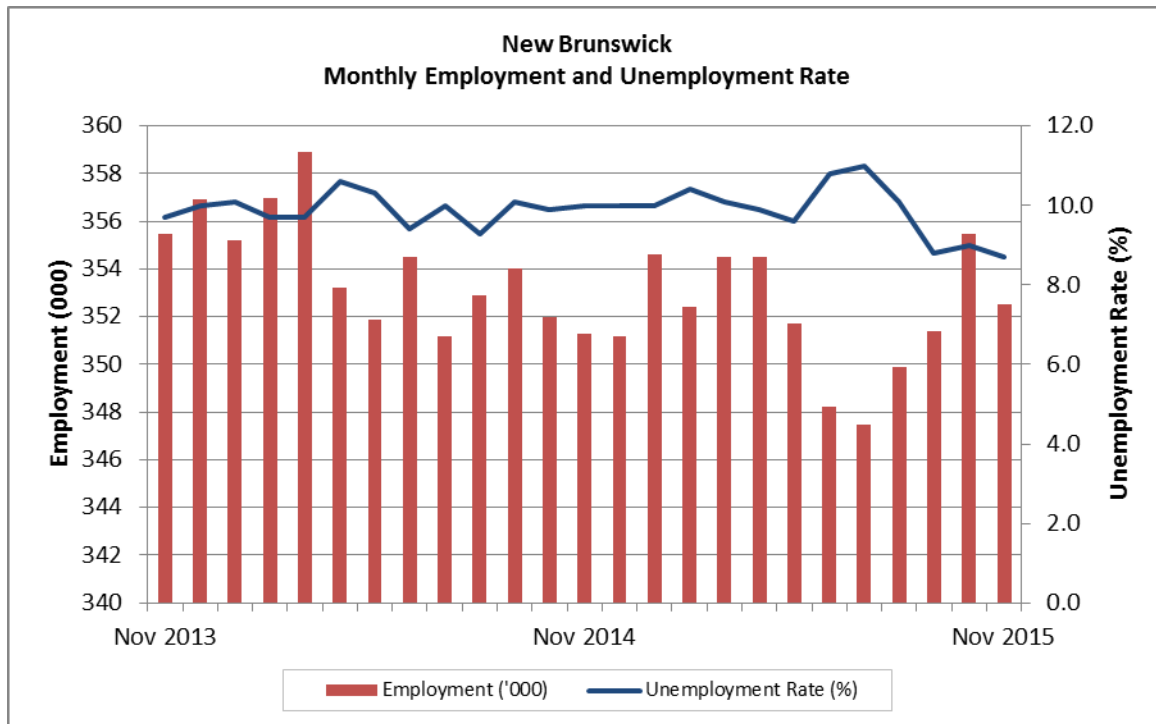
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	621.8	621.9	621.6	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0
Labour Force ('000)	385.8	390.9	390.5	-5.1	-1.3	-4.7	-1.2
Employment ('000)	352.5	355.5	351.3	-3.0	-0.8	1.2	0.3
Full-Time ('000)	299.7	298.5	295.1	1.2	0.4	4.6	1.6
Part-Time ('000)	52.7	57.0	56.2	-4.3	-7.5	-3.5	-6.2
Unemployment ('000)	33.4	35.3	39.2	-1.9	-5.4	-5.8	-14.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.7	9.0	10.0	-0.3	-	-1.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.0	62.9	62.8	-0.9	-	-0.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.7	57.2	56.5	-0.5	-	0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey—CANSIM Table 282-0087

New Brunswick's employment level is up by 1,200 compared to November 2014. There were also far less people looking for work in November 2015 compared to the same period last year, pushing the unemployment rate down to 8.7%. Nonetheless, it's possible that some people have grown discouraged with their job searches and withdrew from the labour force, which would explain why the labour force has declined significantly since last year despite a slight growth in the overall population. In particular, New Brunswick's youth population, those

aged 15-24, have struggled in the labour market this year compared to other age segments. The youth demographic accounted for most of the year-over-year declines in the labour force and the unemployed population.



Most of the year-over-year employment growth was concentrated among workers aged 55 and over, while employment for the province’s youth declined slightly. There were 1,500 more young men employed in November 2015 compared to the previous year; however, this was offset by an 1,800 dip in employment among women aged 15-24. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate for males aged 15-24 was drastically higher in November 2015 at 16% compared to their female counterparts at 10.3%. Meanwhile, the core working age group, those 25-54, have experienced relatively flat job growth over the past year.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.7	9.0	10.0	-0.3	-1.3
25 years and over	8.0	7.7	8.7	0.3	-0.7
Men - 25 years and over	9.9	9.7	10.7	0.2	-0.8
Women - 25 years and over	5.9	5.5	6.6	0.4	-0.7
15 to 24 years	13.3	17.4	18.0	-4.1	-4.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.0	23.0	22.9	-7.0	-6.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.3	11.1	13.2	-0.8	-2.9

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

All of New Brunswick's employment gains over the past 12 months have come from an increase to the **Services-producing sector** (+1,500). Specifically, the **Transportation and warehousing** industry (+4,300) and the **Health care and social assistance** industry (+2,900) have created the most jobs in the province since November 2014. The expansion of the Health care industry is likely linked to New Brunswick's growing elderly population, which is one of the most rapidly aging populations in Canada. Health care agencies are facing more pressure with a higher proportion of the population reaching the senior citizen category than ever before; this demographic typically requires more services compared to their younger cohorts.

The **Goods-producing sector** (-300) continues to be a drag on the provincial economy. Nearly all of the industries within the **Goods-producing sector** posted year-over-year employment losses in November 2015, with the lone bright spot coming from the **Construction** industry. Following several months of negative job growth in New Brunswick's **Construction** industry, employment finally inched up in November. Compared to last year, employment in the **Construction** industry was up by 2.4%. Overall the industry has suffered from a lack of public and private investments since 2013, but the recent increase in the employment level for this industry may signal that some companies are ramping up for 2016 when a number of major projects are expected to come online. Some construction companies may also be staffing up to replace employees that are nearing retirement. Indeed, the number of retirements in the industry is expected to exceed the amount of new entrants over the next several years¹.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	352.5	355.5	351.3	-3.0	-0.8	1.2	0.3
Goods-producing sector	73.7	72.8	74.0	0.9	1.2	-0.3	-0.4
Agriculture	3.9	4.2	4.3	-0.3	-7.1	-0.4	-9.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.3	11.8	11.7	-0.5	-4.2	-0.4	-3.4
Utilities	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.9
Construction	26.0	24.1	25.4	1.9	7.9	0.6	2.4
Manufacturing	28.9	29.2	29.1	-0.3	-1.0	-0.2	-0.7
Services-producing sector	278.8	282.7	277.3	-3.9	-1.4	1.5	0.5
Trade	56.0	57.8	56.2	-1.8	-3.1	-0.2	-0.4
Transportation and warehousing	20.7	20.5	16.4	0.2	1.0	4.3	26.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	14.9	14.5	14.7	0.4	2.8	0.2	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.6	16.4	18.1	-0.8	-4.9	-2.5	-13.8
Business, building and other support services	18.0	17.7	20.5	0.3	1.7	-2.5	-12.2
Educational services	26.3	27.2	27.0	-0.9	-3.3	-0.7	-2.6
Health care and social assistance	53.8	52.9	50.9	0.9	1.7	2.9	5.7
Information, culture and recreation	11.1	12.4	11.1	-1.3	-10.5	0.0	0.0
Accommodation and food services	23.7	23.5	21.8	0.2	0.9	1.9	8.7
Other services	15.9	15.9	16.2	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-1.9
Public administration	22.7	23.8	24.2	-1.1	-4.6	-1.5	-6.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

¹ Build Force Canada; Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward: New Brunswick; May 2015
https://www.constructionforecasts.ca/sites/forecast/files/highlights/2015/en/2015_NB_Constr_Maint_Looking_Forward.pdf

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased by 1.1% on a year-over-year basis in **Campbellton-Miramichi**. Although job growth has been slow in the region this year, the re-opening of Trevali's Caribou Mine has helped provide a boost for the local economy. Compared to November 2014, the unemployment rate has dropped by three percentage points to 11.6% in November 2015.

There was a decline of 700 in **Moncton-Richibucto's** employment level since last November; however, this drop represents less than a 1% share of total employment in what is New Brunswick's largest economic region. Moncton-Richibucto has the lowest unemployment rate in the province at 6.5%, which represents an improvement of nearly a full percentage point compared to last year.

The unemployment rate has also fallen considerably in **Saint John-St. Stephen** at 6.6% in November 2015 compared to 7.8% in November 2014. Since last year, employment has declined by 2,000 in the region, but a similar sized decline in the unemployed population helped lower the unemployment rate. Most of the employment losses can be attributed to a decline in Service sector jobs, where employment fell by nearly 8% on a year-over-year basis in November 2015. On the bright side, employment was up in the Goods-producing sector due in large part to the **Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas** industry, where the re-opening of PotashCorp's Picadilly mine has helped propel job growth.

Fredericton-Oromocto has experienced steady employment growth this year, with the number of people employed increasing by 2.5% on a year-over-year basis. Over the past year, growth has been driven by job gains in **Health care and social assistance**, as well as **Transportation and warehousing**. Nevertheless, the region's unemployment rate was barely below the provincial average at 7.1%, as there are still a high volume of people looking for jobs.

Employment was also up on a year-over-year basis in **Edmundston-Woodstock**. The unemployment rate was down from 9% last year to 7.5% this year with fewer people looking for work this fall. In fact, the unemployment rate in the Edmundston-Woodstock region is at its lowest point since 2008; however, the long-term trend for employment is also negative.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2015 ('000)	Nov 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Nov 2015 (%)	Nov 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	355.8	355.4	0.1	7.7	8.9	-1.2
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	63.3	62.6	1.1	11.6	14.6	-3.0
Moncton-Richibucto	105.8	106.5	-0.7	6.5	7.4	-0.9
Saint John-St. Stephen	83.3	85.3	-2.3	6.6	7.8	-1.2
Fredericton-Oromocto	66.4	64.8	2.5	7.1	6.8	0.3
Edmundston-Woodstock	37.0	36.3	1.9	7.5	9.0	-1.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact the LMI team at:

NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2015, all rights reserved