



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

December 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 was up by 4,000 in New Brunswick during the fourth quarter of 2015, representing an increase of slightly over 1% compared to the third quarter. Most of the employment gains were a result of an increase in full-time work; however, there were also more part-time positions in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter. With employment rising and the labour force contracting slightly, the unemployment rate was pushed down on a quarter-over-quarter basis, averaging 8.9% during the fourth quarter of 2015 versus 10% during the previous quarter.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

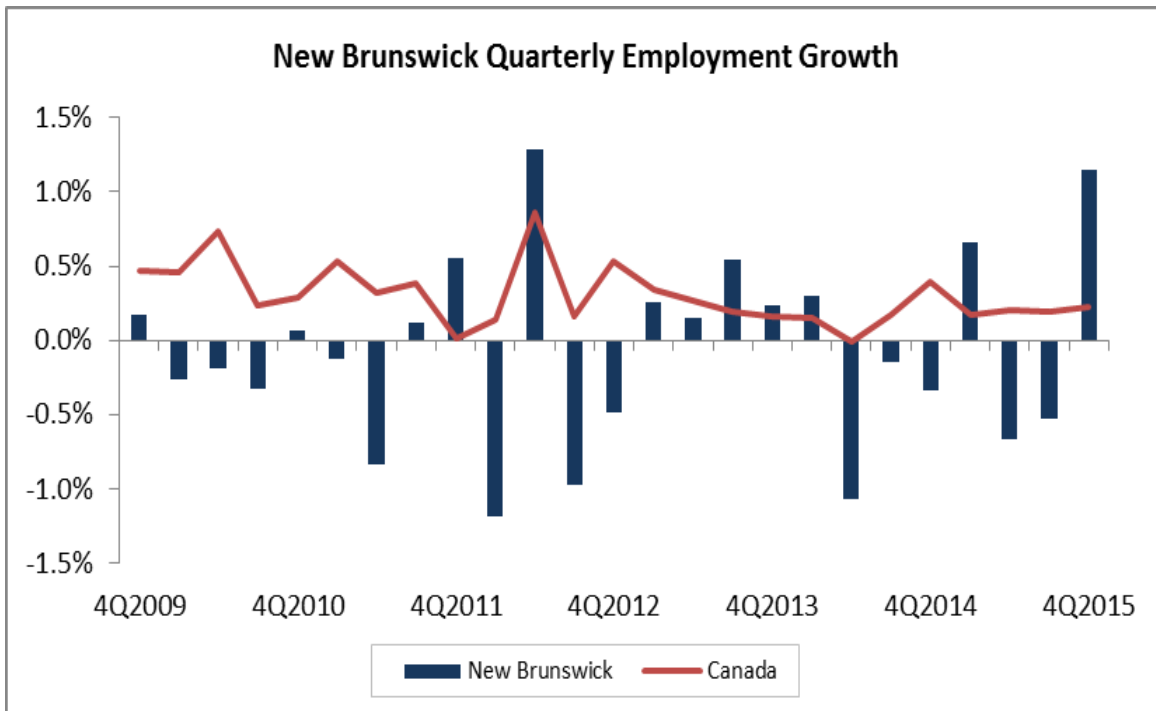
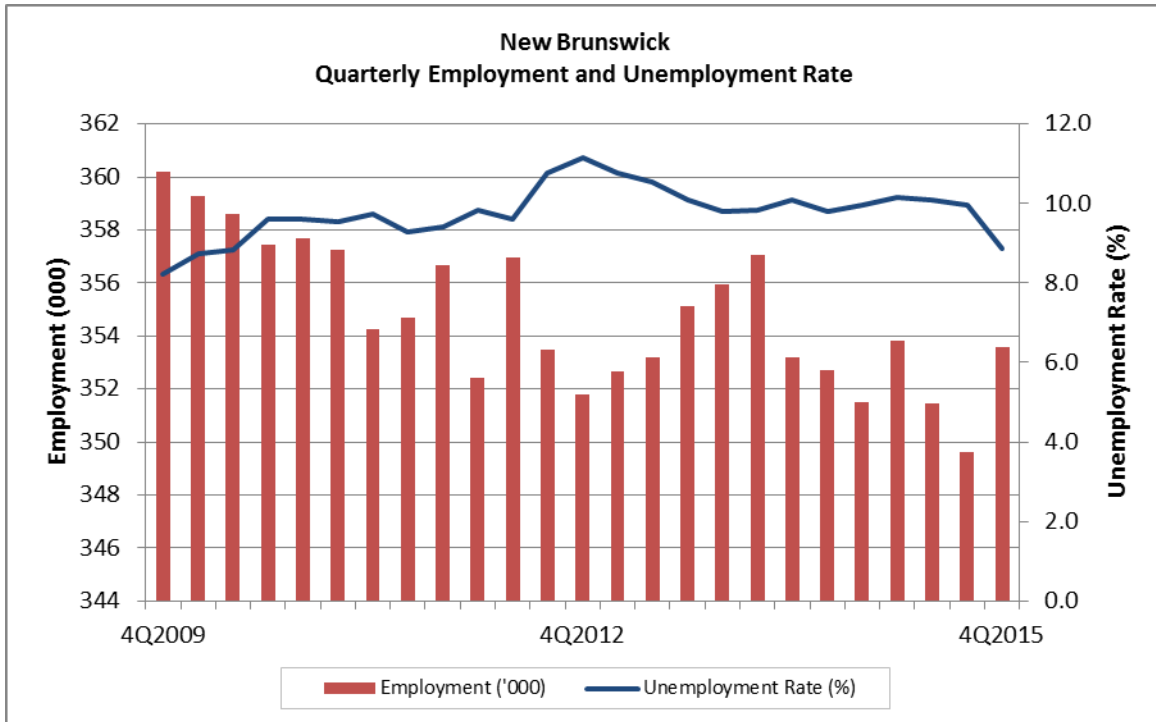
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	621.9	621.8	621.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Labour Force ('000)	388.0	388.3	390.4	-0.4	-0.1	-2.4	-0.6
Employment ('000)	353.6	349.6	351.5	4.0	1.1	2.1	0.6
Full-Time ('000)	299.8	296.9	295.6	3.0	1.0	4.3	1.4
Part-Time ('000)	53.7	52.7	55.9	1.0	1.8	-2.2	-4.0
Unemployment ('000)	34.4	38.8	38.9	-4.4	-11.3	-4.5	-11.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.9	10.0	10.0	-1.1	-	-1.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.4	62.5	62.8	-0.1	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.9	56.2	56.5	0.6	-	0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared to the same period last year, employment was up by 2,100 in the fourth quarter of 2015. The year-over-year gains were a positive sign for the New Brunswick economy, which has experienced negative employment growth since 2013. Over the past year labour market conditions have started to trend upward, with the number of unemployed in the fourth quarter of 2015 dropping by 12% compared to the same period of 2014. Nevertheless, New Brunswick's struggle to grow its labour force persisted this year, as evidenced by a

nearly 1% decline in the labour force between the fourth quarter of 2014 and 2015. With tepid population growth also hampering the province, the employment rate was little changed on a year-over-year basis in the fourth quarter of 2015, remaining near a decade low at 56.9%.



Most of the year-over-year employment gains were a result of an increase in employment for New Brunswick's older workers aged 55+. Compared to the same period in 2014, employment for older workers was up by nearly

3% in the fourth quarter of 2015. In contrast to the improving labour market indicators among the older age segment, the province's youth population observed a slight year-over-year employment decline in the fourth quarter. Nonetheless, the youth unemployment rate is down considerably from last year, dropping nearly two percentage points to 16% in the fourth quarter of 2015. The declining youth unemployment rate was a result of a smaller unemployed population within the age 15-24 segment this year as compared to last year, while the labour force also contracted by a similar amount during the same period. With the number of youth in the employed and unemployed categories both falling on a year-over-year basis, it is fair to speculate whether some of these youth simply moved on and withdrew from job searches in the province.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2015 (%)	2015 (%)	2014 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.9	10.0	10.0	-1.1	-1.1
25 years and over	7.8	8.6	8.7	-0.8	-0.9
Men - 25 years and over	9.7	10.8	10.4	-1.1	-0.7
Women - 25 years and over	5.7	6.2	6.8	-0.5	-1.1
15 to 24 years	16.0	18.7	17.8	-2.7	-1.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	20.2	23.2	22.6	-3.0	-2.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.2	13.5	13.2	-2.3	-2.0

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Services-producing sector** was responsible for driving the job growth which was observed between the fourth quarters of 2014 and 2015, with employment in this sector increasing by just over 1% during this time frame. A substantial increase in **Transportation and warehousing** employment over the past year has helped buoy the services sector. With several factors contributing to the industry's success, employment in the **Transportation and warehousing** industry increased by 25% on a year-over-year basis. In particular, a declining Canadian dollar and a strengthening US economy has positively impacted the province's manufacturing operations; these benefits have likely trickled down to produce more jobs in transportation and warehousing as New Brunswick-made goods are shipped to market.

Similarly, New Brunswick's **Accommodation and Food services** industry also appears to be experiencing benefits from a declining loonie and improved economy south of the border. With Canadian currency losing ground relative to the US dollar this year, New Brunswick is being viewed as a more attractive tourist destination for Americans who would see their money go further in the province¹. Furthermore, New Brunswickers and other Canadians may be more interested in exploring the province as a vacation destination as international vacation spots become more expensive with the falling Canadian dollar. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2014, employment in the province's **Accommodation and Food services** industry was up by 9% during the fourth quarter of 2015.

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** fell by -1,100 on a year-over-year basis in the fourth quarter of 2015. There are no real bright spots in this sector in terms of labour market performance over the past year, but the **Construction industry** in particular stands out as an area of weakness. Indeed, employment in the

¹ <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/weak-dollar-has-canadians-opting-for-domestic-vacations-1.3178150>

Construction industry fell by slightly over 2% on a year-over-year basis in the fourth quarter. A longer-term trend for construction employment further displays the industry's struggles; compared to the same period from 2013, employment is down by 18% in this industry. Over the past few years private and public investments have been limited in the province, producing negative conditions for growth in the construction industry. New Brunswick continues to experience slow population growth, leading to an expected reduction in the number of housing starts this year.²

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	353.6	349.6	351.5	4.0	1.1	2.1	0.6
Goods-producing sector	74.1	71.7	75.2	2.4	3.4	-1.1	-1.5
Agriculture	4.2	4.3	4.5	-0.1	-3.1	-0.3	-7.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.4	10.7	11.8	0.7	6.9	-0.3	-2.8
Utilities	3.6	3.5	3.5	0.1	3.8	0.1	3.8
Construction	25.6	23.9	26.1	1.7	7.1	-0.6	-2.2
Manufacturing	29.4	29.4	29.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Services-producing sector	279.5	277.9	276.3	1.6	0.6	3.2	1.1
Trade	56.2	55.1	55.2	1.1	2.1	1.0	1.8
Transportation and warehousing	20.6	19.2	16.5	1.3	6.9	4.1	24.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	14.9	14.3	14.8	0.6	4.2	0.1	0.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.5	16.5	18.2	-0.9	-5.7	-2.6	-14.5
Business, building and other support services	17.8	17.8	20.6	0.0	0.0	-2.8	-13.4
Educational services	26.6	27.6	26.8	-1.0	-3.6	-0.3	-1.0
Health care and social assistance	53.1	52.3	51.0	0.9	1.7	2.2	4.3
Information, culture and recreation	11.8	11.9	11.1	-0.1	-0.8	0.7	6.0
Accommodation and food services	23.7	24.5	21.8	-0.8	-3.1	2.0	9.0
Other services	15.6	15.3	16.4	0.3	2.2	-0.8	-5.1
Public administration	23.6	23.4	23.8	0.1	0.6	-0.3	-1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment is up over 4% on a year-over-year basis in **Campbellton-Miramichi**. The re-opening of Trevali's Caribou Mine, located near Bathurst, has helped provide a boost for the local economy. As of December 2015, work continued to ramp up at the mine site with plans to eventually hit full production³. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2014, the unemployment rate has dropped by over three percentage points to 13% in Campbellton-Miramichi.

There was a slight employment decline in the **Moncton-Richibucto** region since last year; however, this drop represented less than a 1% share of total employment in the province's largest economic region. At just under 7%, the Moncton-Richibucto unemployment rate remains one of the best in the province and was improved over last year. Moncton-Richibucto also had a higher employment rate compared to the provincial average, although it did slip just below 60% during the fourth quarter of 2015.

Since last year employment has declined by 2,300 in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** region, but a similar drop in the unemployed population helped lower the region's unemployment rate to 7% in the fourth quarter of 2015. Most

² CMHC, Housing Market Outlook – Atlantic Region; 2015

³ <http://www.northernminer.com/news/site-visit-trevali-nears-full-production-at-caribou-mine/1003730030/>

of the employment losses can be attributed to a decline in Service sector jobs, where employment fell by nearly 6% on a year-over-year basis in the fourth quarter of 2015. On a positive note, employment was up in the Goods-producing sector, no doubt aided by the re-opening of PotashCorp’s Picadilly mine which has helped propel employment growth in the **Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas** industry.

Fredericton-Oromocto has experienced steady employment growth through this year, with the number of people employed increasing by over 2% on a year-over-year basis in the fourth quarter. Over the past year, growth has been driven by job gains in **Transportation and warehousing** as well as **Health care and social assistance**. Compared to the last quarter of 2014, the region’s unemployment rate was down by half a percentage point to 6.8% in the fourth quarter of 2015.

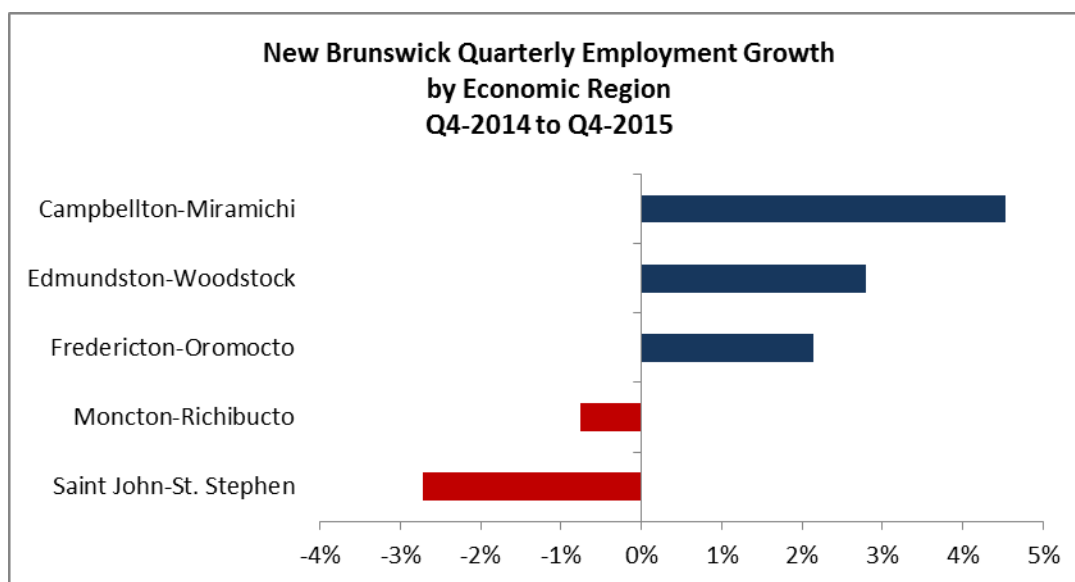
Employment was also up on a year-over-year basis in **Edmundston-Woodstock**. Likewise, the unemployment rate was much better this year at 7.5% compared to the same period last year when it was 9.6%. In fact, the unemployment rate in the Edmundston-Woodstock region is at its lowest point in nearly a decade; however, employment remains below pre-recession levels.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2015 ('000)	4th Quarter 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2015 (%)	4th Quarter 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	352.0	350.1	0.5	8.1	9.4	-1.3
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	62.2	59.5	4.5	13.0	16.7	-3.7
Moncton-Richibucto	104.0	104.8	-0.8	6.9	7.7	-0.8
Saint John-St. Stephen	82.0	84.3	-2.7	7.0	7.5	-0.5
Fredericton-Oromocto	67.0	65.6	2.1	6.8	7.3	-0.5
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.8	35.8	2.8	7.5	9.6	-2.1

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.

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

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