



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

August 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 grew by 2,400 in New Brunswick between July and August 2015, halting the previous three consecutive month decline. Part-time work increased by 4,500 in the province on a month-over-month basis; however, these gains were mainly offset by a drop in full-time positions. With the unemployed population declining sharply since July, the unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage points in August. Compared to the same period last year, employment was down by 3,000 in August, or -0.9%.

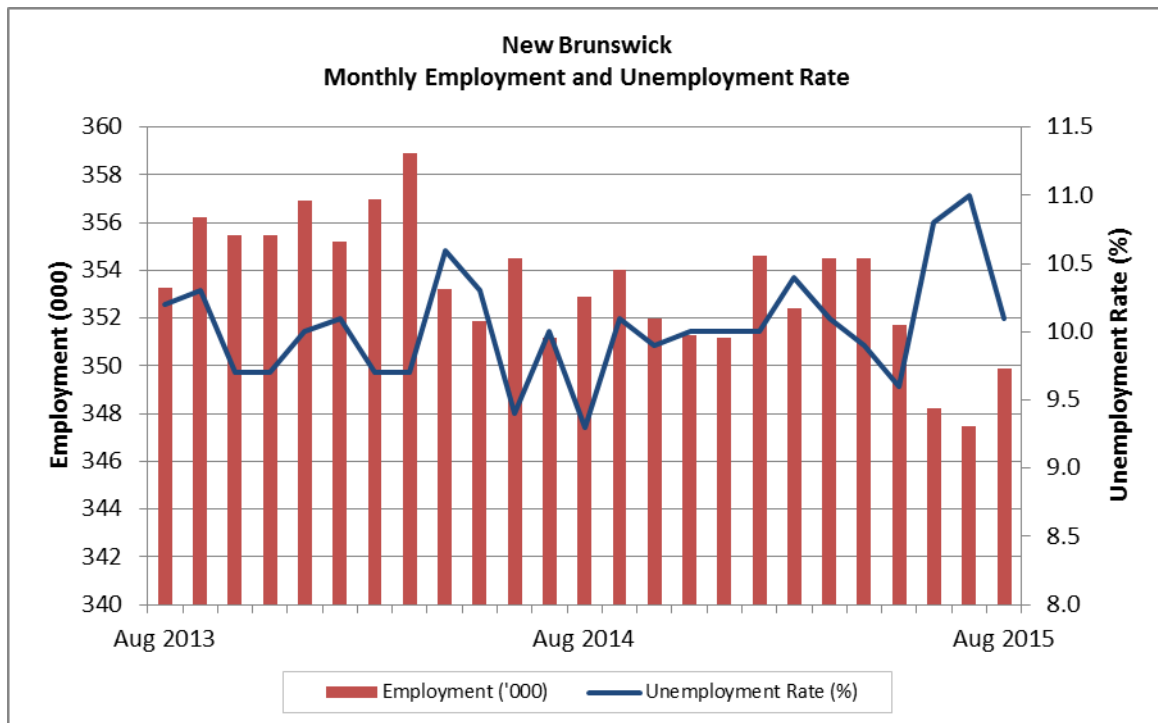
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	621.8	621.9	621.4	-0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1
Labour Force ('000)	389.3	390.4	388.9	-1.1	-0.3	0.4	0.1
Employment ('000)	349.9	347.5	352.9	2.4	0.7	-3.0	-0.9
Full-Time ('000)	295.6	297.7	296.3	-2.1	-0.7	-0.7	-0.2
Part-Time ('000)	54.3	49.8	56.6	4.5	9.0	-2.3	-4.1
Unemployment ('000)	39.4	42.9	36.0	-3.5	-8.2	3.4	9.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.1	11.0	9.3	-0.9	-	0.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.6	62.8	62.6	-0.2	-	0.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.3	55.9	56.8	0.4	-	-0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The provincial unemployment rate was 10.1% in August 2015, nearly a full percentage point higher than it was last year. There were more people looking for work compared to last August, with the unemployed population growing by 3.4% on a year-over-year basis. During this same period, the labour force size has remained fairly consistent.



The 15-24 age group experienced a slight improvement to their labour force characteristics in August 2015 after struggling through most of the summer. There were more youth in the labour market during August 2015 than there were in the previous month, but fewer unemployed, which pushed the youth unemployment rate down to 17.4%. Compared to the same period last year, the youth unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage points higher in August 2015; however, the youth employment level has risen by 500 during this same time. The year-over-year youth employment gains were a result of more young men finding work, while females aged 15-24 experienced an employment decline of 1,200 compared to August 2014. The unemployment rate for young women was up by 3.6 percentage points to 12.8% on a year-over-year basis.

**New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	10.1	11.0	9.3	-0.9	0.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	8.9	9.7	8.0	-0.8	0.9
Men - 25 years and over	10.8	11.9	9.7	-1.1	1.1
Women - 25 years and over	6.9	7.3	6.3	-0.4	0.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	17.4	19.3	17.1	-1.9	0.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.7	22.5	24.4	-0.8	-2.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.8	15.7	9.2	-2.9	3.6

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The declining level of employment in New Brunswick over the past year is mostly due to a drop in **Goods-producing sector** jobs, which fell by -2,200 between August 2014 and August 2015. Specifically, this sector has been held down by a deteriorating **Construction industry** where employment fell by -2,400 on a year-over-year basis. The long-term trend for construction is even less favorable; compared to the same period four years ago,

construction employment is down by -5,300 or 15.5%. Fiscal restraint has restricted public spending within the province in recent years while private investments have also been limited. Nevertheless, there are some signs that could indicate a bounce back for this industry going forward. The 2015-2016 provincial government capital budget calls for nearly \$600 million in infrastructure spending over the next four years, which is expected to create up to 1,750 jobs per year.<sup>1</sup>

Employment was also down in the **Services-producing sector** on a year-over-year basis, albeit the decline was marginal. Overall, results were mixed within the services sector as a significant increase in **Transportation and warehousing** employment was offset by large declines in the **Professional, scientific and technical services** industry, and the **Business, building and other support services** industry. Employment in the **Transportation and warehousing** industry increased by 3,500 or 23.2% on a year-over-year basis in August 2015. There are a number of factors which could be contributing to the industry's success. In particular, a declining Canadian dollar and a strengthening US economy has helped boost New Brunswick's manufacturing employment this year, which has likely helped to produce more jobs in Transportation and warehousing as these goods are stored and shipped in and out of the province.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	349.9	347.5	352.9	2.4	0.7	-3.0	-0.9
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	73.4	70.7	75.6	2.7	3.8	-2.2	-2.9
Agriculture	4.4	4.5	4.6	-0.1	-2.2	-0.2	-4.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.9	9.8	11.1	1.1	11.2	-0.2	-1.8
Utilities	3.4	3.5	3.7	-0.1	-2.9	-0.3	-8.1
Construction	24.7	23.3	27.1	1.4	6.0	-2.4	-8.9
Manufacturing	30.0	29.6	29.1	0.4	1.4	0.9	3.1
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	276.5	276.8	277.3	-0.3	-0.1	-0.8	-0.3
Trade	54.4	54.0	56.1	0.4	0.7	-1.7	-3.0
Transportation and warehousing	18.6	19.2	15.1	-0.6	-3.1	3.5	23.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	14.4	14.0	14.7	0.4	2.9	-0.3	-2.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	16.1	17.0	18.6	-0.9	-5.3	-2.5	-13.4
Business, building and other support services	17.9	17.8	20.4	0.1	0.6	-2.5	-12.3
Educational services	27.5	28.2	26.4	-0.7	-2.5	1.1	4.2
Health care and social assistance	51.5	52.3	51.1	-0.8	-1.5	0.4	0.8
Information, culture and recreation	11.5	11.4	10.9	0.1	0.9	0.6	5.5
Accommodation and food services	25.3	25.4	24.0	-0.1	-0.4	1.3	5.4
Other services	15.3	14.7	17.2	0.6	4.1	-1.9	-11.0
Public administration	23.9	22.9	22.8	1.0	4.4	1.1	4.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The **Fredericton-Oromocto** labour market has far out-performed the other four sub-regions in New Brunswick over the past year. Compared to August 2014, employment increased by 2,600 or 4.1% in Fredericton-Oromocto. The region is primarily supported by a large **Trade industry** and a strong public service base, but has recently benefited from robust employment gains in **Health care and social assistance**, as well as **Transportation and warehousing**.

The biggest employment drop among New Brunswick's five regions occurred in **Campbellton-Miramichi**, where there were 2,600 fewer positions compared to last year. Despite the re-opening of Trevali's Caribou Mine, job

<sup>1</sup> Government of New Brunswick, Department of Finance, 2015-2016 Capital Budget; December 2014

creation remains a challenge in this region as evidenced by the 13.7% unemployment rate. Although the regional unemployment rate remains the highest in the province, it did show a slight improvement since last year.

In **Saint John-St. Stephen**, employment was also down 2,000 on a year-over-year basis. Most of the region's job losses since last year can be attributed to declines in **Health Care and Social Assistance**, as well as a decline in the **Educational services** industry. On the positive side, employment in **Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas** has improved since last year. This is likely due to the re-opening of PotashCorp's Picadilly mine, located near Sussex, which continues to ramp up production levels.

Employment was down by -1,600 or 4.2% in **Edmundston-Woodstock** on a year-over-year basis in August. The long-term trend for the region shows that employment has been declining since 2012. The regional unemployment rate has risen by nearly two percentage point since last year, coming in at 9.8% in August 2015.

**Moncton-Richibucto** also recorded a decline of -1,600 to its employment level, but this represents only a small share of total employment. There was a notable contraction in the region's **Professional, scientific and technical services industry**, and to its **Construction industry**. On the bright side, despite a 1.3 percentage point increase to the unemployment rate since last year, Moncton-Richibucto had the lowest unemployment rate in the province at 8.8% in August 2015.

**New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Aug 2015 ('000)	Aug 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Aug 2015 (%)	Aug 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	362.3	367.3	-1.4	10.1	9.0	1.1
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	64.2	66.8	-3.9	13.7	13.1	0.6
Moncton-Richibucto	109.2	110.8	-1.4	8.8	7.5	1.3
Saint John-St. Stephen	86.1	88.1	-2.3	9.4	8.1	1.3
Fredericton-Oromocto	65.8	63.2	4.1	9.5	8.5	1.0
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.9	38.5	-4.2	9.8	8.1	1.7

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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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