



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick



September 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 declined by 1,900 in New Brunswick between the second and third quarters of 2015, with all of the job losses coming from part-time positions. The province's labour market appeared to make some strides towards rebounding, with employment inching up on a month-over-month basis in September for the third consecutive month; but there is still a long way to go. Compared to the third quarter of 2014, employment is down by 3,100. Furthermore, the employment rate tumbled again in the third quarter, falling to its lowest quarterly average in nearly 15 years.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

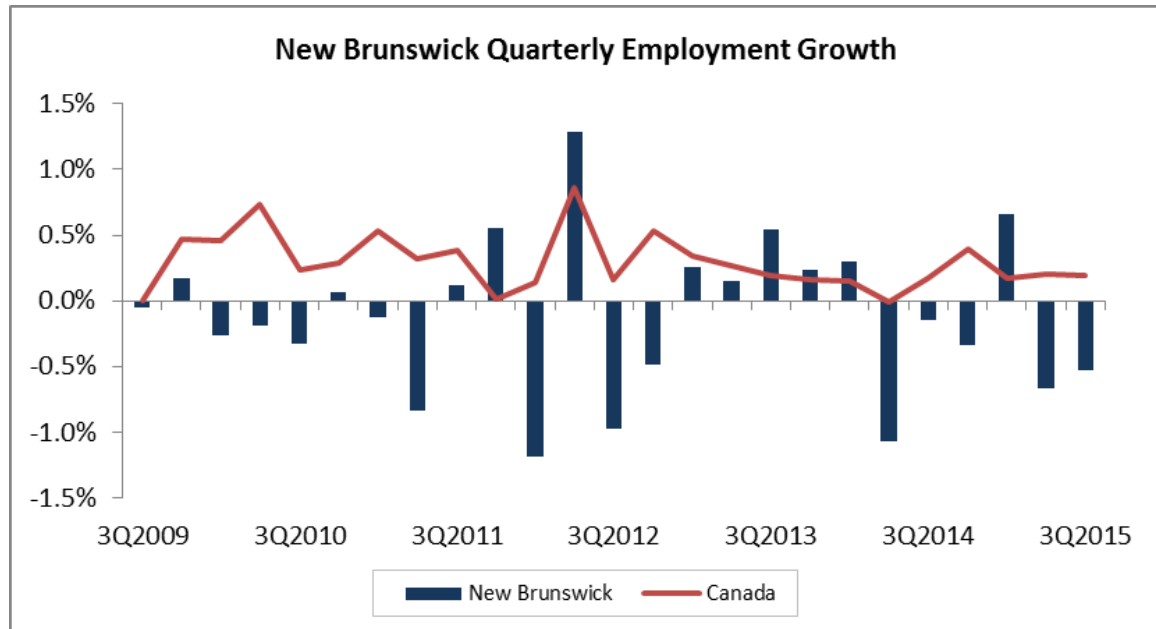
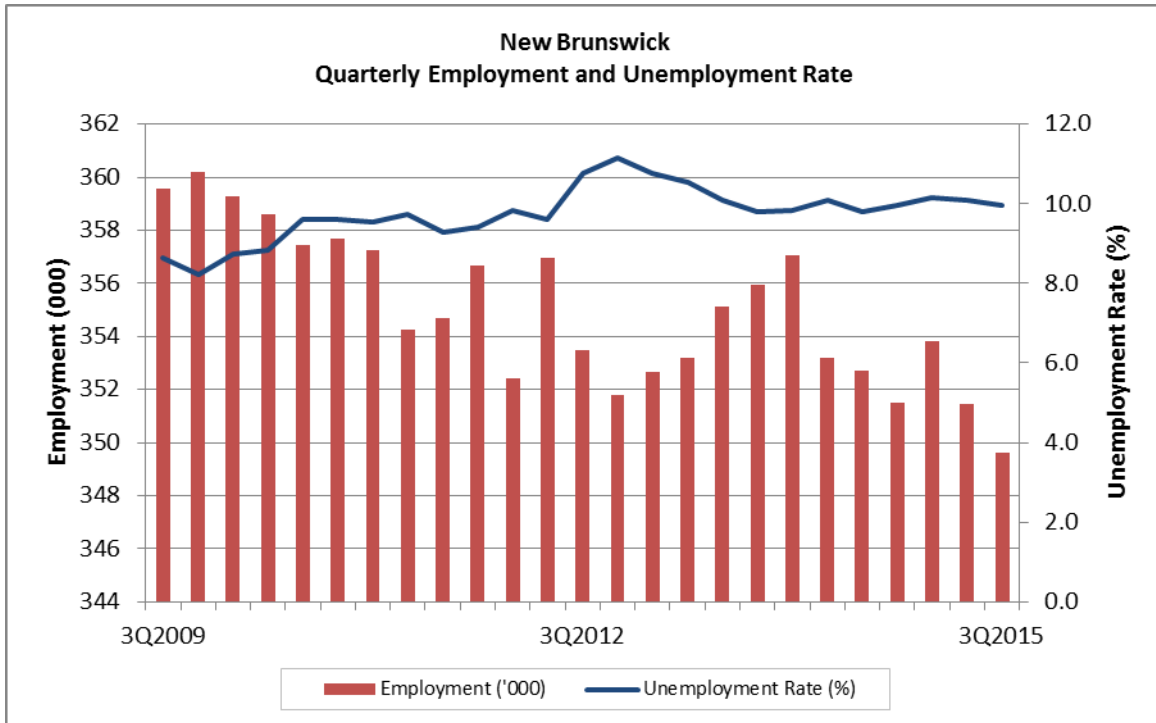
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2015	2015	2014	Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	621.8	622.1	621.5	-0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1
Labour Force ('000)	388.3	391.0	390.8	-2.7	-0.7	-2.5	-0.6
Employment ('000)	349.6	351.5	352.7	-1.9	-0.5	-3.1	-0.9
Full-Time ('000)	296.9	296.6	296.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1
Part-Time ('000)	52.7	54.8	56.2	-2.1	-3.8	-3.4	-6.1
Unemployment ('000)	38.8	39.5	38.2	-0.8	-1.9	0.6	1.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.0	10.1	9.8	-0.1	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.5	62.8	62.9	-0.4	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.2	56.5	56.7	-0.3	-	-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% during the third quarter of 2015, a slight improvement over the previous quarter, but 0.2 percentage points higher than the same period last year. There were fewer people in the labour force compared to the third quarter of 2014, but there were slightly more people looking for jobs during this period, resulting in the higher unemployment rate. The participation rate has also worsened since

last year, indicating that some people may have grown frustrated with their job searches and withdrew from the labour market.



Employment declined more sharply among the youth population aged 15 to 24 compared to those age 25 and over, falling by 2% and 0.7% respectively. Workers aged 55+ fared better than their younger counterparts in New Brunswick in terms of employment growth during the third quarter of 2015. Compared to the same period last year, employment grew by 1,200 for the age 55 and over demographic. The labor force size also increased by 2,300 among the older works on a year-over-year basis, while contracting for all other age groups. The age 55

and over group also experienced an influx to its unemployed population, pushing the unemployment rate for this segment to 9.9% during the third quarter of 2015, an increase of 1.1 percentage points since last year.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2015 (%)	2015 (%)	2014 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	10.0	10.1	9.8	-0.1	0.2
25 years and over	8.6	8.8	8.3	-0.2	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	10.8	10.7	9.9	0.1	0.8
Women - 25 years and over	6.2	6.7	6.6	-0.5	-0.4
15 to 24 years	18.7	18.5	18.6	0.2	0.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	23.2	22.7	25.9	0.5	-2.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.5	13.9	10.9	-0.5	2.6

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

New Brunswick's poor labour market performance can mainly be attributed to a struggling **Goods-producing sector**, where employment fell by -3,400 between the third quarters of 2014 and 2015. Drilling deeper, the sector's lacklustre employment numbers are rooted in the **Construction industry**, where employment also fell by -3,400 on a quarterly year-over-year basis. The long-term trend for construction is even less favorable; compared to the same period five years ago, employment is down by -6,100 or 18%. Over the past five years both private and public investments have been limited in the province, producing negative conditions for growth in the construction industry. The province has also struggled with population growth, leading to a reduction in the number of housing starts this year.¹

Results were mixed within the **Services-producing Sector**, with employment being relatively flat over the past year. A significant increase in **Transportation and warehousing** employment was mostly 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 3,600 or 23% on a quarterly year-over-year basis. There are several factors likely contributing to the industry's success. Specifically, a declining Canadian dollar and a strengthening US economy has helped boost New Brunswick's manufacturing industry; these benefits have likely trickled down to produce more jobs in Transportation and warehousing as New Brunswick-made goods are shipped to market.

¹ CMHC, Housing Market Outlook – Atlantic Region; 2015

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2015	2nd Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	349.6	351.5	352.7	-1.9	-0.5	-3.1	-0.9
Goods-producing sector	71.7	72.0	75.1	-0.3	-0.5	-3.4	-4.5
Agriculture	4.3	3.9	4.2	0.4	9.3	0.1	2.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.7	10.0	11.6	0.7	7.0	-0.9	-7.8
Utilities	3.5	3.4	3.8	0.1	1.9	-0.3	-7.1
Construction	23.9	23.8	27.3	0.0	0.1	-3.4	-12.6
Manufacturing	29.4	30.8	28.2	-1.4	-4.6	1.1	4.0
Services-producing sector	277.9	279.5	277.6	-1.6	-0.6	0.3	0.1
Trade	55.1	55.5	56.2	-0.4	-0.7	-1.2	-2.1
Transportation and warehousing	19.2	18.6	15.6	0.6	3.2	3.6	23.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	14.3	14.4	14.4	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	16.5	16.6	18.5	-0.2	-1.0	-2.0	-10.8
Business, building and other support services	17.8	19.8	20.0	-2.0	-10.1	-2.1	-10.7
Educational services	27.6	28.4	26.2	-0.8	-2.9	1.4	5.4
Health care and social assistance	52.3	51.0	51.7	1.2	2.4	0.6	1.1
Information, culture and recreation	11.9	11.3	10.8	0.6	5.0	1.1	10.2
Accommodation and food services	24.5	25.2	24.4	-0.7	-2.6	0.1	0.4
Other services	15.3	15.1	16.8	0.1	0.9	-1.6	-9.3
Public administration	23.4	23.4	23.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	1.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The biggest employment drop among New Brunswick's five regions occurred in **Campbellton-Miramichi**, where the employment level declined by 3,000 compared to the third quarter of last year. Despite the re-opening of Trevali's Caribou Mine, job creation remains a challenge in this region as evidenced by the 12.6% unemployment rate. Although the regional unemployment rate remains the highest in the province, it did show a slight improvement since last year.

Moncton-Richibucto also recorded a decline of 1,700 to its employment level, but this represents only a small share of total employment in the region. 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 0.5 percentage point increase to the unemployment rate since last year, Moncton-Richibucto had the lowest unemployment rate in the province at 8.0% during the third quarter of 2015.

In **Saint John-St. Stephen**, employment was down by 1,600 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.

The **Fredericton-Oromocto** labour market has greatly out-performed the other four sub-regions in New Brunswick over the past year. Compared to the third quarter of 2014, employment increased by 3,000 or 4.7% in Fredericton-Oromocto. The region is supported by a large **Trade industry** and a sturdy public service base, but has also benefited from strong employment gains in **Health care and social assistance**, as well as **Transportation and warehousing**.

Employment was down by 500 or -4.5% in **Edmundston-Woodstock** on a quarterly year-over-year basis. The long-term trend for the region shows that employment has been declining over the past five years. The regional

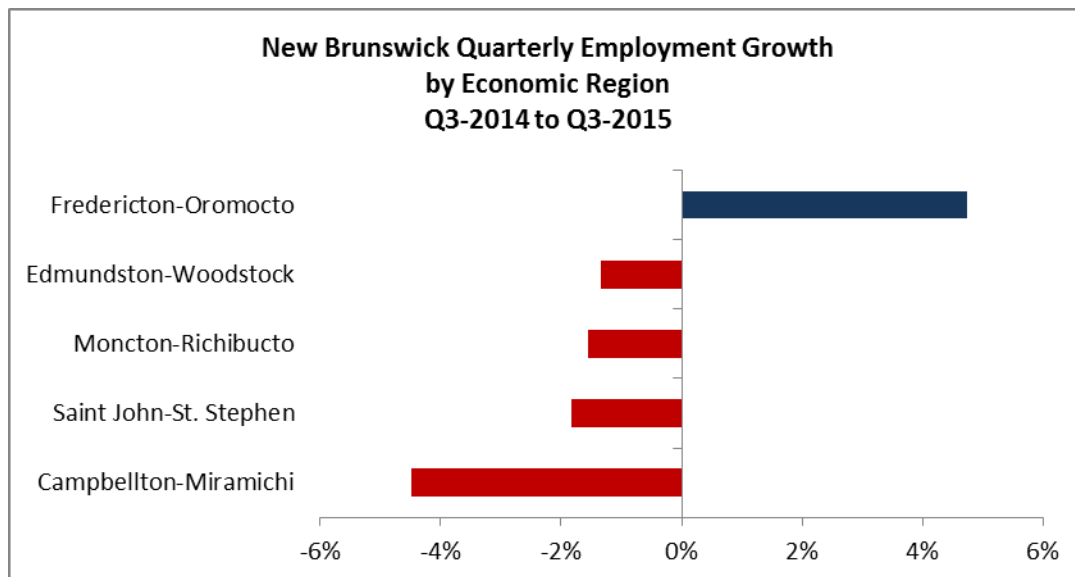
unemployment rate was relatively steady since last year, however, declining by 0.1 percentage points between the third quarters of 2014 and 2015.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2015 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2015 (%)	3rd Quarter 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	360.4	364.1	-1.0	9.3	9.0	0.3
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	63.8	66.8	-4.5	12.6	12.9	-0.3
Moncton-Richibucto	108.0	109.7	-1.5	8.0	7.5	0.5
Saint John-St. Stephen	85.6	87.2	-1.8	8.9	8.3	0.6
Fredericton-Oromocto	66.3	63.3	4.7	8.7	8.1	0.6
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.6	37.1	-1.3	9.0	9.1	-0.1

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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