



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

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 2,100 on a year-over-year basis in New Brunswick during 2015, with slight gains in full-time employment not enough to offset losses to part-time work. Compared to last year, the unemployed population decreased slightly, which helped push the unemployment rate down to 9.8% in 2015. This slight decline from last year's unemployment rate was not the result of improved labour market conditions in 2015. Rather, New Brunswick's employment rate declined on a year-over-year basis in 2015, as did the participation rate with 2,800 exiting the labour force between 2014-2015.

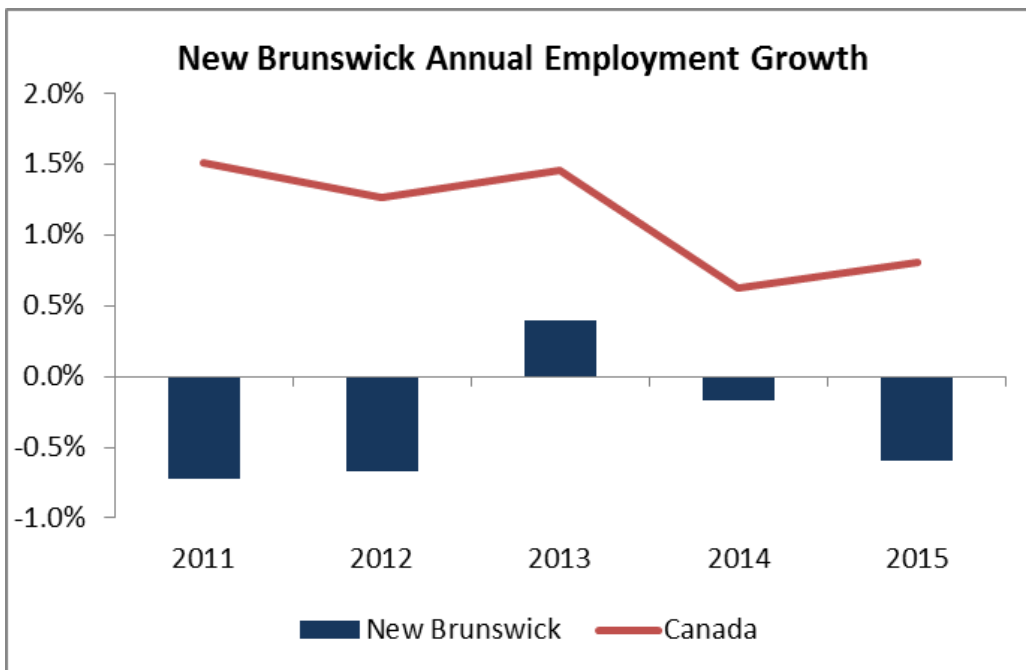
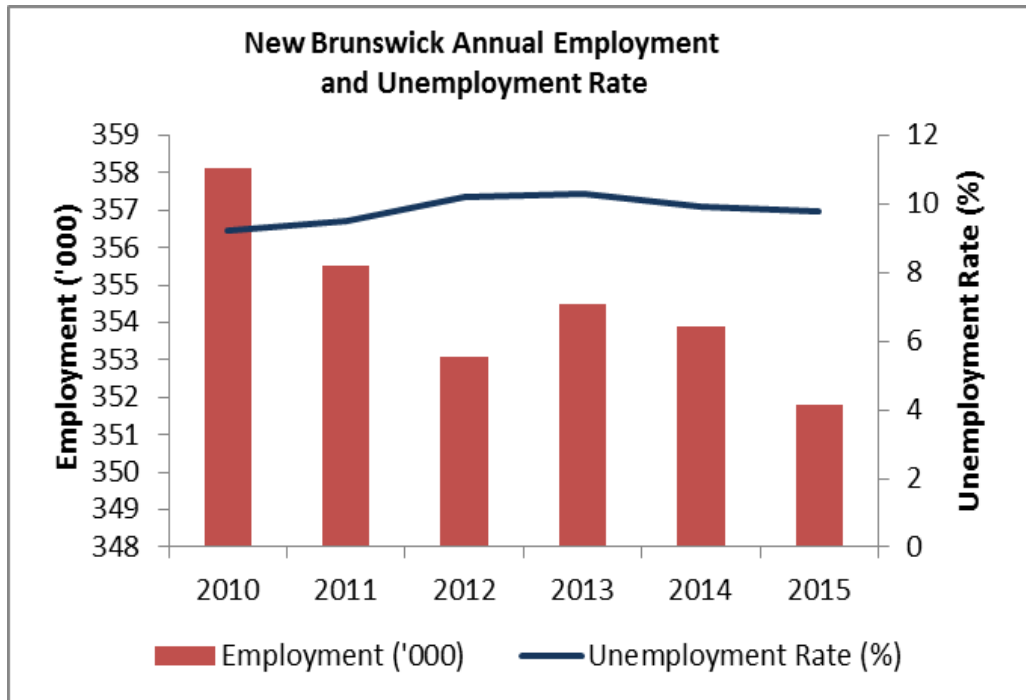
New Brunswick Annual Labour Force Statistics

Annual Labour Force Survey Estimates	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	622	621.7	622.4	0.3	0.0%	-0.7	-0.1%
Labour Force ('000)	390.2	393	395.2	-2.8	-0.7%	-2.2	-0.6%
Employment ('000)	351.8	353.9	354.5	-2.1	-0.6%	-0.6	-0.2%
Full-Time ('000)	297.9	297.6	297	0.3	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
Part-Time ('000)	53.9	56.3	57.5	-2.4	-4.3%	-1.2	-2.1%
Unemployment ('000)	38.4	39.1	40.6	-0.7	-1.8%	-1.5	-3.7%
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.8	9.9	10.3	-0.1	-	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.7	63.2	63.5	-0.5	-	-0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.6	56.9	57	-0.3	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002

Aside from a small glimpse of a rebound in 2013, employment in New Brunswick has been on a general decline since the 2009 economic downturn. More recently, the provincial employment level has posted declines in consecutive years. Compared to 2013, employment was down by 2,700 or 0.8% in 2015. Over this same period, both the participation rate and employment rate has worsened, while the labour force declined by 5,000.



The bulk of the year-over-year employment losses were concentrated among the province’s youth population. Compared to 2014, employment for people age 15-24 was down by 3%. Meanwhile, the youth unemployment rate is little changed from last year, declining by 0.1 percentage points in 2015. The declining youth unemployment rate was a result of fewer young people participating in the labour force, a signal that the

province continues to grapple with retaining its young people. At 17.6%, the youth unemployment rate in New Brunswick is the highest in the country.

In contrast to the youth segment, older workers (those aged 55+) experienced much fairer labour market conditions in 2015 compared to 2014. In 2015, employment for the age 55+ segment grew by 1,100 or 1.4% on a year-over-year basis, with the unemployment rate holding steady at 10%.

New Brunswick Annual Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Annual Labour Force Survey Estimates	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015	2013 to 2014
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	10.3	9.9	9.8	0.4	0.1
25 years and over	9.1	8.7	8.6	0.4	0.1
Men - 25 years and over	11.2	10.3	10.6	0.9	-0.3
Women - 25 years and over	6.8	7	6.4	-0.2	0.6
15 to 24 years	17.6	17.5	17.8	0.1	-0.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.3	22.1	22.4	-0.8	-0.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.6	12.5	12.8	1.1	-0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Goods-producing sector** has been the main drag on the province's labour market over the past year. Compared to 2014, total **Goods-producing sector** employment fell by 3,500 or 4.6% in 2015. Pulling down this sector was the combined **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry**, which shed -1,300 positions since last year. But more so, employment was down in the **Construction** industry, which has historically been one of the major sources of employment within the province, declining by 3,600 or 12.8% on a year-over-year basis in 2015. In fact **Construction** has been on the decline over the past few years, as private and public investments have been limited in the province, producing negative conditions for growth in this industry. New Brunswick also continues to experience slow population growth, hampering the number of housing starts in 2015.¹

The lone bright spot in the **Goods-producing sector** in 2015 was the **Manufacturing** industry. Compared to 2014, employment was up by 1,800 or 6.4% in **Manufacturing**, driven by a strengthening US economy and a weakening Canadian dollar. Indeed, with both employment and the economy growing south of the border it has sparked the American housing market, which in turn has boosted wood-product manufacturing in New Brunswick. With the Canadian dollar trending near a decade low relative to the US currency, a number of manufacturers are benefiting from increased demand for New Brunswick-made goods.

The **Services-producing sector** posted positive year-over-year job growth in 2015, with employment increasing by 1,400 or 0.5% during this time frame. A substantial employment increase in the **Transportation and warehousing** industry has occurred over the past year, which helped offset small losses to a number of other service-based industries. With several factors contributing to the industry's success, employment in the **Transportation and warehousing** industry increased by 18% on a year-over-year basis. In particular, this industry has likely experienced a trickle-down from the same positive conditions impacted manufacturing operations. With **Manufacturing** ramping up around New Brunswick, it has the ability to produce more jobs in **Transportation and warehousing** as more products are shipped to market.

¹ CMHC, Housing Market Outlook – Atlantic Region; 2015

New Brunswick Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Employment ('000)	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	351.8	353.9	354.5	-2.1	-0.6%	-0.6	-0.2%
Goods-producing sector	72.7	76.2	77.8	-3.5	-4.6%	-1.6	-2.1%
Agriculture	4.1	4.1	4.6	0.0	0.0%	-0.5	-10.9%
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.7	12	12.5	-1.3	-10.8%	-0.5	-4.0%
Utilities	3.5	3.9	3.6	-0.4	-10.3%	0.3	8.3%
Construction	24.6	28.2	28.8	-3.6	-12.8%	-0.6	-2.1%
Manufacturing	29.8	28	28.2	1.8	6.4%	-0.2	-0.7%
Services-producing sector	279.1	277.7	276.8	1.4	0.5%	0.9	0.3%
Trade	55.5	57.2	57.4	-1.7	-3.0%	-0.2	-0.3%
Transportation and warehousing	19.2	16.3	17.9	2.9	17.8%	-1.6	-8.9%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	14.6	14.9	15.4	-0.3	-2.0%	-0.5	-3.2%
Professional, scientific and technical services	16.6	17.4	15	-0.8	-4.6%	2.4	16.0%
Business, building and other support services	18.8	19.6	17.5	-0.8	-4.1%	2.1	12.0%
Educational services	27.4	25.6	25.3	1.8	7.0%	0.3	1.2%
Health care and social assistance	51.9	52.1	54.3	-0.2	-0.4%	-2.2	-4.1%
Information, culture and recreation	11.7	11	11.9	0.7	6.4%	-0.9	-7.6%
Accommodation and food services	24.3	24.1	23.8	0.2	0.8%	0.3	1.3%
Other services	15.4	16.9	16.2	-1.5	-8.9%	0.7	4.3%
Public administration	23.7	22.5	22.1	1.2	5.3%	0.4	1.8%

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0008

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment was relatively stable in **Campbellton-Miramichi** on a year-over-year basis in 2015. The re-opening of Trevali's Caribou Mine, located near Bathurst, has helped to stabilize the local economy since last year. As of late 2015, work continued to ramp up at the mine site with plans to eventually hit full production². Compared to 2014, the unemployment rate has dropped by two percentage points to 15.7% in 2015.

Employment declined by nearly 2% in the **Moncton-Richibucto** region since last year; however, this region remains as one of the most active labour markets in the province. At 8.5% in 2015, the Moncton-Richibucto unemployment rate has inched up since 2014, but it remains below the provincial average. Unlike the province's other four economic regions, Moncton-Richibucto had a higher employment level in 2015 than it did before the 2009 recession.

Since last year employment has declined by just over 3% in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** region as a result of fewer **Services-producing** sector jobs. The unemployment rate also worsened in the region, increasing by 0.4 percentage points on a year-over-year basis to 8.6% in 2015. On a positive note, employment was steady in the **Goods-producing** sector with the re-opening of PotashCorp's Picadilly mine helping to bolster the local economy. Nevertheless, these results could be short lived as PotashCorp's has since announced they will close the Picadilly mine.

² <http://www.northernminer.com/news/site-visit-trevali-nears-full-production-at-caribou-mine/1003730030/>

Fredericton-Oromocto has experienced impressive employment growth over the past year in comparison to its neighbouring regions. Compared to 2014, the number of people employed increased by over 2% in Fredericton-Oromocto, driven by **Services-producing sector** job creation. The region has the lowest unemployment rate and the highest participation and employment rates in the province during 2015.

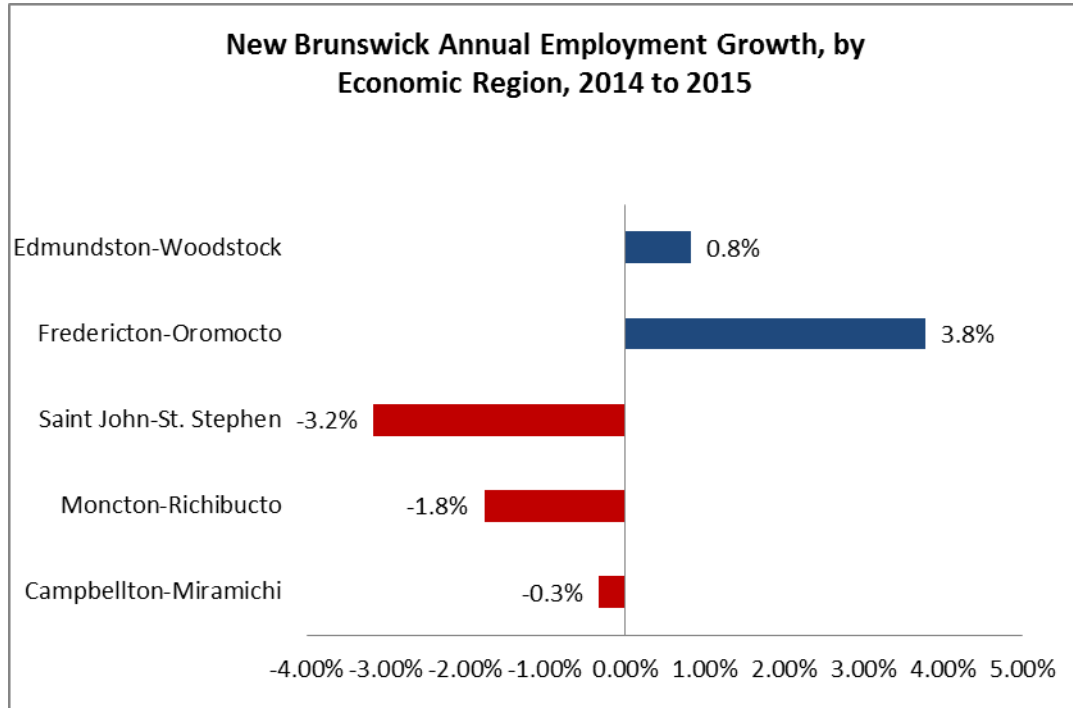
Employment was little changed in **Edmundston-Woodstock** on a year-over-year basis in 2015. The unemployment rate was also quite stable over the past year, declining slightly to 9.6% in 2015. Despite the very modest improvements to these labour market indicators, employment in this region remains below pre-recession levels.

New Brunswick Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Employment ('000)	2015	2014	2013	2014 to 2015		2013 to 2014	
				Number	%	Number	%
New Brunswick	351.8	353.9	354.5	-2.1	-0.6%	-0.6	-0.2%
Economic Regions							
Campbellton-Miramichi	61	61.2	63.3	-0.2	-0.3%	-2.1	-3.3%
Moncton-Richibucto	105.7	107.6	104.5	-1.9	-1.8%	3.1	3.0%
Saint John-St. Stephen	82.7	85.4	83.9	-2.7	-3.2%	1.5	1.8%
Fredericton-Oromocto	65.9	63.5	66.1	2.4	3.8%	-2.6	-3.9%
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.5	36.2	36.8	0.3	0.8%	-0.6	-1.6%

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0123



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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