



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

January 2016



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 1,100 on a month-over-month basis in New Brunswick during January, with gains in part-time employment not enough to offset the losses to full-time work. Compared to last month, the unemployed population grew by 1,400, which pushed the unemployment rate up to 9.3% in January 2016. Following modest improvements to the provincial labour market in late 2015, employment has regressed to start the New Year, with January's job losses more than eliminating the gains recorded in the fourth quarter of last year.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

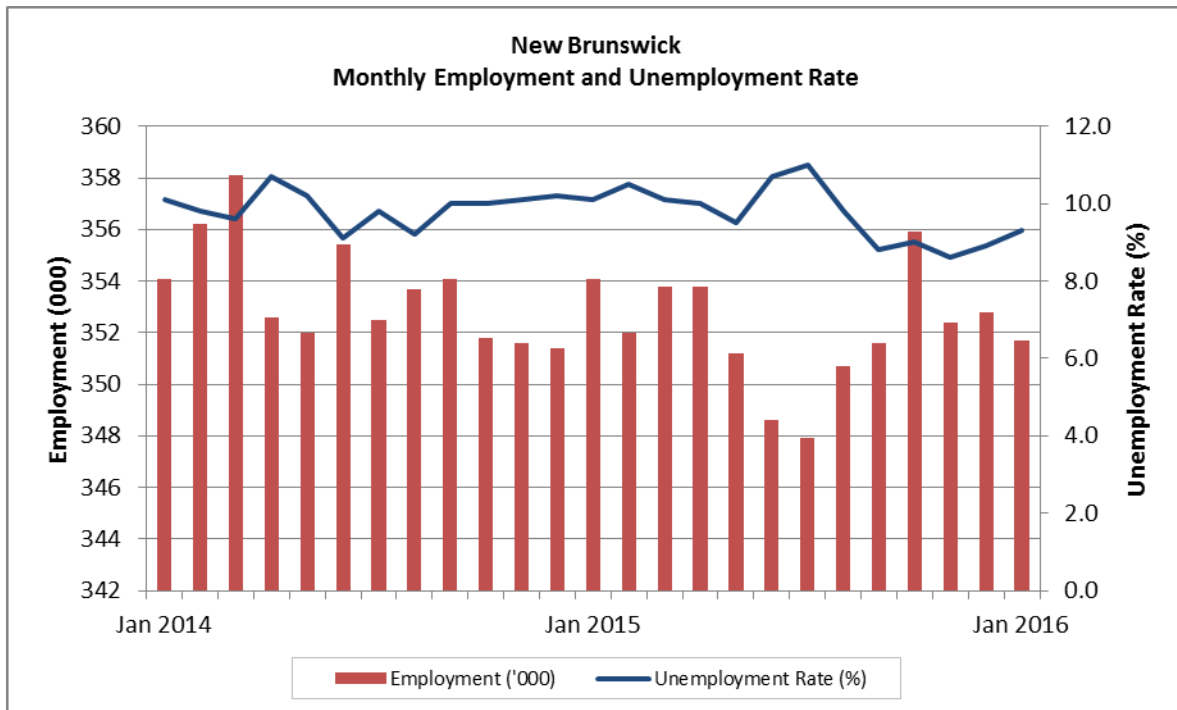
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Jan 2016	Dec 2015	Jan 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	622.2	621.9	622.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0
Labour Force ('000)	387.5	387.3	393.8	0.2	0.1	-6.3	-1.6
Employment ('000)	351.7	352.8	354.1	-1.1	-0.3	-2.4	-0.7
Full-Time ('000)	296.7	301.3	298.7	-4.6	-1.5	-2.0	-0.7
Part-Time ('000)	55.0	51.5	55.4	3.5	6.8	-0.4	-0.7
Unemployment ('000)	35.9	34.5	39.7	1.4	4.1	-3.8	-9.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.3	8.9	10.1	0.4	-	-0.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.3	62.3	63.3	0.0	-	-1.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.5	56.7	56.9	-0.2	-	-0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Aside from the brief upswing during the fourth quarter of 2015, employment in New Brunswick has been on a general decline since early 2014, with this trend continuing over the past twelve months. Indeed, compared to the same period last year, employment was down by 2,400 in January 2016. Over this same period, both the participation rate and employment rate has worsened in the province. Although the unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage points lower this January as compared to last year, the improvement was chiefly the result of fewer

people participating in the labour force this year. New Brunswick’s labour force declined by 6,300 on a year-over-year basis in January 2016.



Most of the year-over-year employment losses were concentrated among the youth population. Compared to January 2015, employment for people age 15-24 was down by 3%. Nonetheless, the youth unemployment rate is little changed from last year, declining by 0.1 percentage points in January 2016. The declining youth unemployment rate was a result of fewer young people participating in the labour force, a sign that the province continues to struggle with keeping its youth engaged in the provincial labour market. At 16.8%, the youth unemployment rate in New Brunswick is the second highest in the country, trailing only Newfoundland and Labrador.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Jan 2016	Dec 2015	Jan 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	9.3	8.9	10.1	0.4	-0.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	8.0	7.6	9.0	0.4	-1.0
Men - 25 years and over	10.4	9.4	11.2	1.0	-0.8
Women - 25 years and over	5.5	5.8	6.6	-0.3	-1.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.8	17.2	16.9	-0.4	-0.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.4	21.6	22.1	-2.2	-2.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.1	12.2	11.6	1.9	2.5

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Services-producing sector** was primarily responsible for pulling down New Brunswick's labour market on a year-over-year basis, shedding 4,600 positions in January 2016. **Professional, scientific and technical services** (-3,400), **Educational services** (-3,200) and **Business, building and other support services** (-1,900) all posted notable employment declines since last year. With private and public investment remaining limited in the province, it is having an adverse effect on job creation. The lone bright spot in this sector was the **Transportation and warehousing industry** (+2,700), which is likely benefiting from the depreciating Canadian dollar. With US buying power increasing in Canada, New Brunswick-made goods are becoming more attractive south of the border. The Transportation and warehousing industry stands to benefit from increased activity in exports, as the province's manufacturers rely on this industry to get their goods to market.

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** was up by 2,200 compared to January 2015, led by gains in **Construction** (+1,000) and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (+800). The year-over-year improvement in construction was a positive sign for an industry that has struggled since 2011. And while the construction industry has shown recent signs of a potential rebound, employment remains down by 13% compared to the same period three years ago. Similarly, there is cause for caution when analyzing the recent employment improvement in Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas. Compared to last year, this industry has benefited from the reopening of the Caribou Mine near Bathurst and the Picadilly potash mine near Sussex. However, a sudden announcement in late January by Potash Corp revealed that the company will move to shutter the Picadilly mine, eventually resulting in over 400 layoffs<sup>1</sup>.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Jan 2016	Dec 2015	Jan 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	351.7	352.8	354.1	-1.1	-0.3	-2.4	-0.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	75.2	75.8	73.0	-0.6	-0.8	2.2	3.0
Agriculture	4.0	4.4	4.0	-0.4	-9.1	0.0	0.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11.2	11.2	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.8	7.7
Utilities	3.3	3.7	3.6	-0.4	-10.8	-0.3	-8.3
Construction	26.3	26.6	25.3	-0.3	-1.1	1.0	4.0
Manufacturing	30.3	30.0	29.7	0.3	1.0	0.6	2.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	276.5	277.0	281.1	-0.5	-0.2	-4.6	-1.6
Trade	56.2	54.8	56.4	1.4	2.6	-0.2	-0.4
Transportation and warehousing	20.0	20.5	17.3	-0.5	-2.4	2.7	15.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	15.5	15.4	14.6	0.1	0.6	0.9	6.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	14.3	14.6	17.7	-0.3	-2.1	-3.4	-19.2
Business, building and other support services	18.0	17.8	19.9	0.2	1.1	-1.9	-9.5
Educational services	24.9	26.1	28.1	-1.2	-4.6	-3.2	-11.4
Health care and social assistance	52.5	52.7	51.6	-0.2	-0.4	0.9	1.7
Information, culture and recreation	11.5	11.8	11.6	-0.3	-2.5	-0.1	-0.9
Accommodation and food services	24.1	24.0	23.6	0.1	0.4	0.5	2.1
Other services	16.2	15.0	15.8	1.2	8.0	0.4	2.5
Public administration	23.2	24.3	24.4	-1.1	-4.5	-1.2	-4.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/potash-picadilly-mine-suspended-1.3409831>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment is up over 5% on a year-over-year basis in **Campbellton-Miramichi**. The re-opening of Trevali's Caribou Mine, located near Bathurst, has helped to propel 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 production<sup>2</sup>. Compared to January 2015, the unemployment rate has dropped by over three percentage points to 14.9% in Campbellton-Miramichi.

Employment declined by over 2% in the **Moncton-Richibucto** region since last year; however, this region remains as one of the most active labour market in the province. At 7.5%, the Moncton-Richibucto unemployment rate has improved since last January, and the rate rests well below the provincial average. The drop in this year's employment level can be traced to the Health care and social assistance industry, where employment declined by over 20% on a year-over-year basis in January.

Since last year employment has declined by 2,200 in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** region as a result of fewer Service sector jobs. On a positive note, employment was up in the Goods-producing sector with the re-opening of PotashCorp's Picadilly mine helping to push year-over-year employment growth in the **Forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas** industry. Nevertheless, these results could be short lived as PotashCorp's has since announced they will close the Picadilly mine.

**Fredericton-Oromocto** has experienced steady employment growth over the past year, with the number of people employed increasing by nearly 2% in January. Over the past twelve months growth has been driven by job gains in **Accommodation and food services** as well as **Health care and social assistance**. The Fredericton-Oromocto labour market continues to outperform its counterparts in New Brunswick, producing the lowest unemployment rate and the highest participation and employment rates in the province during January 2016.

Employment was relatively stable in **Edmundston-Woodstock** on a year-over-year basis in January 2016. The unemployment rate was much improved this year at 8.5% compared to the same month last year when it was 11.3%. Nonetheless, employment in this region remains below pre-recession levels.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2016 ('000)	Jan 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Jan 2016 (%)	Jan 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	344.7	345.3	-0.2	9.1	10.3	-1.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	60.4	57.4	5.2	14.9	18.4	-3.5
Moncton-Richibucto	101.9	104.4	-2.4	7.5	7.8	-0.3
Saint John-St. Stephen	80.5	82.7	-2.7	8.1	8.3	-0.2
Fredericton-Oromocto	66.4	65.3	1.7	7.3	8.2	-0.9
Edmundston-Woodstock	35.6	35.5	0.3	8.5	11.3	-2.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

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

**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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