



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

February 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 was down by 5,700 on a month-over-month basis in New Brunswick during February, with losses occurring to both full-time and part-time work. Meanwhile, the unemployed population continued to grow, increasing by 2,000 since last month. The unemployment rate also weakened in February, inching up to 9.9%.

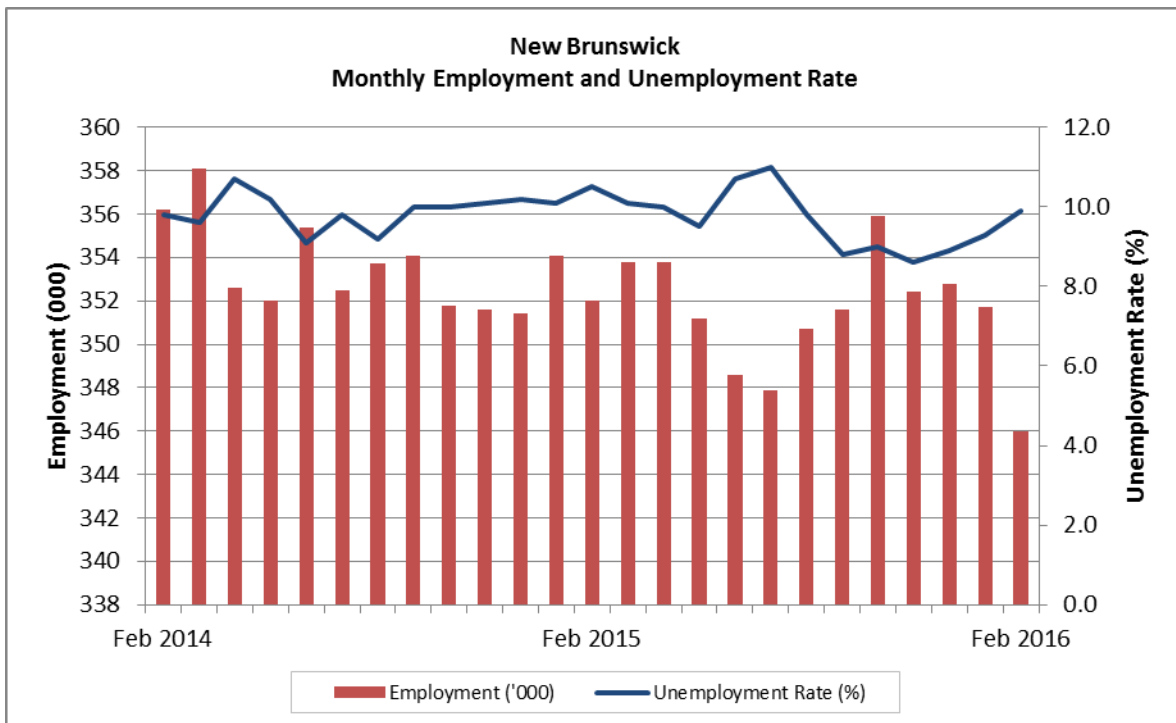
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	622.6	622.2	622.1	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.1
Labour Force ('000)	383.9	387.5	393.2	-3.6	-0.9	-9.3	-2.4
Employment ('000)	346.0	351.7	352.0	-5.7	-1.6	-6.0	-1.7
Full-Time ('000)	292.7	296.7	296.6	-4.0	-1.3	-3.9	-1.3
Part-Time ('000)	53.3	55.0	55.5	-1.7	-3.1	-2.2	-4.0
Unemployment ('000)	37.9	35.9	41.2	2.0	5.6	-3.3	-8.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.9	9.3	10.5	0.6	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.7	62.3	63.2	-0.6	-	-1.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.6	56.5	56.6	-0.9	-	-1.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

New Brunswick's labour market has struggled in 2016, posting consecutive months of decline to start the year. In fact, employment has been on a general decline since 2014, with this trend intensifying over the past year. Indeed, compared to February 2015, employment was down by 6,000. Over this same period, both the participation rate and employment rate has deteriorated in the province. And although the unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage points lower this February as compared to last year, the improvement was primarily the result of fewer people participating in the labour force this year. New Brunswick's labour force was down by 9,300 on a year-over-year basis in February 2016.



The majority of the year-over-year employment losses were concentrated among the province’s youth population. Compared to February 2015, employment for people age 15-24 was down by 9%. Nevertheless, the youth unemployment rate has improved since last year, declining by 1.5 percentage points in February 2016. The declining youth unemployment rate was due to nearly 6,000 fewer young people participating in the labour force this year, an indication that many people within this segment have grown frustrated and withdrew from their job search efforts. At 16.9%, the youth unemployment rate in New Brunswick is the highest in the country, coming in at more than two percentage points above PEI’s rate, which was the second highest.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	9.9	9.3	10.5	0.6	-0.6
<b>25 years and over</b>	8.8	8.0	9.2	0.8	-0.4
Men - 25 years and over	11.7	10.4	10.7	1.3	1.0
Women - 25 years and over	5.8	5.5	7.5	0.3	-1.7
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.9	16.8	18.4	0.1	-1.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.5	19.4	22.9	2.1	-1.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.5	14.1	13.7	-1.6	-1.2

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Services-producing sector** has been the main drag on the provincial labour market over the past year, with employment in this sector declining by 6,700 on a year-over-year basis in February 2016. **Business, building and other support services** (-4,300) **Professional, scientific and technical services** (-2,500), and **Educational services** (-2,400) were the industries which accounted for most of the services-producing sector job losses. One positive spot within the sector was the **Transportation and warehousing industry** (+1,400). This industry is most likely advancing off the impact of the depreciating Canadian dollar. With US buying power swelling in Canada, New Brunswick-made goods are becoming more attractive south of the border. With demand for the province's exports at a higher level, it is helping to create employment opportunities in transportation and warehousing.

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** has remained steady over the past year, despite the overall struggles in the provincial labour market. Led by gains in the **Construction industry** (+2,000), overall **Goods-producing sector** employment was up by a year-over-year 1% in February. The improvement to the province's **Construction industry** was an encouraging sign for an industry that has struggled for the past several years. Meanwhile, employment was flat over the past year in the **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry**. Compared to last year, this industry has undergone a number of contrasting events. Specifically, the reopening of the Caribou mine earlier last year has been a boon to metal mining; however, the closure of Potash Corp.'s Penobsquis and Picadilly mines have taken a toll on non-metallic mining.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	346.0	351.7	352.0	-5.7	-1.6	-6.0	-1.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	73.4	75.2	72.7	-1.8	-2.4	0.7	1.0
Agriculture	4.3	4.0	3.8	0.3	7.5	0.5	13.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.6	11.2	10.6	-0.6	-5.4	0.0	0.0
Utilities	3.4	3.3	3.3	0.1	3.0	0.1	3.0
Construction	26.5	26.3	24.5	0.2	0.8	2.0	8.2
Manufacturing	28.5	30.3	30.5	-1.8	-5.9	-2.0	-6.6
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	272.6	276.5	279.3	-3.9	-1.4	-6.7	-2.4
Trade	54.2	56.2	55.1	-2.0	-3.6	-0.9	-1.6
Transportation and warehousing	19.0	20.0	17.6	-1.0	-5.0	1.4	8.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	15.7	15.5	15.4	0.2	1.3	0.3	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.3	14.3	17.8	1.0	7.0	-2.5	-14.0
Business, building and other support services	17.1	18.0	21.4	-0.9	-5.0	-4.3	-20.1
Educational services	24.9	24.9	27.3	0.0	0.0	-2.4	-8.8
Health care and social assistance	52.1	52.5	51.0	-0.4	-0.8	1.1	2.2
Information, culture and recreation	11.6	11.5	11.2	0.1	0.9	0.4	3.6
Accommodation and food services	23.2	24.1	23.5	-0.9	-3.7	-0.3	-1.3
Other services	16.1	16.2	15.2	-0.1	-0.6	0.9	5.9
Public administration	23.5	23.2	23.9	0.3	1.3	-0.4	-1.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment was up nearly 3% in **Campbellton-Miramichi** on a year-over-year basis in February. The re-opening of Trevali's Caribou Mine, located near Bathurst, has helped to boost the local economy over the past year. As of

late 2015, work continued to ramp up at the mine site with plans to eventually hit full production<sup>1</sup>. Compared to February 2015, the unemployment rate has dropped by three percentage points to 16.5% in February 2016.

Employment declined by almost 4% in the **Moncton-Richibucto** region since last year; however, this is one of the most dynamic labour markets in the province. Indeed, with an employment level of 100,400, this region holds the largest share (30%) of the province's workforce. Furthermore, at 8.1% in February 2016, the Moncton-Richibucto unemployment rate is the lowest among all economic regions in New Brunswick.

Compared to February 2015, employment was down by 1% in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** region during February 2016. The unemployment rate has also worsened over the past twelve months, increasing by 0.2 percentage points to 9.0% in February. This region has struggled with job creation for the past two years as employment is down by over 6% compared to the same period in 2014. Looking at the longer term trend, Saint John-St. Stephen's labour market has yet to recover from the 2009 economic downturn.

**Fredericton-Oromocto** has experienced positive employment growth over the past year, which was an impressive feat considering the performance in New Brunswick's other two major urban centres. Compared to February 2015, the number of people employed increased by over 1% in Fredericton-Oromocto, driven by **Services-producing sector** job creation. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate inched up to 8.9% this February, with more people participating in the labour force this year compared to the same time last year.

Employment was down by nearly 2% in **Edmundston-Woodstock** on a year-over-year basis in February. However, the unemployment rate was much improved compared to February 2015, declining by 2.3 percentage points to 9.3% in February 2016. Although the unemployed population diminished significantly on a year-over-year basis in February 2016, it coincided with a similar drop in the labour force size, indicating that some job seekers likely gave up on their search, or left the area to seek work elsewhere.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2016 ('000)	Feb 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Feb 2016 (%)	Feb 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	338.6	341.5	-0.8	10.1	10.9	-0.8
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	57.7	56.2	2.7	16.5	19.5	-3.0
Moncton-Richibucto	100.4	104.1	-3.6	8.1	8.4	-0.3
Saint John-St. Stephen	80.0	80.8	-1.0	9.0	8.8	0.2
Fredericton-Oromocto	65.3	64.6	1.1	8.9	8.8	0.1
Edmundston-Woodstock	35.2	35.8	-1.7	9.3	11.6	-2.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

<sup>1</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.

**Prepared by:** Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at:

[NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2016, all rights reserved