



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

1st Quarter 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 6,000 on a quarter-over-quarter basis in New Brunswick during the first quarter of 2016, with the majority of job losses coming from full-time positions. During the same period, the unemployed population increased by 3,500, while the labour force size diminished by 2,500. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2015, the unemployment rate has risen by a full percentage point, coming in at 9.8% in the first quarter of 2016.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

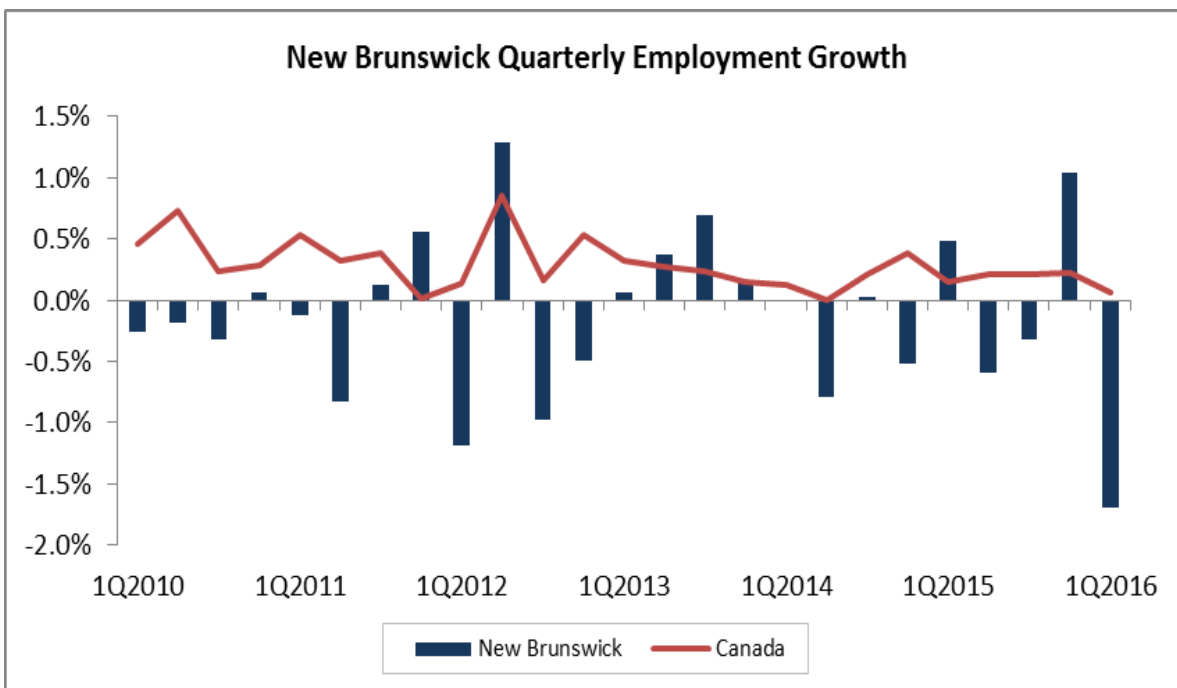
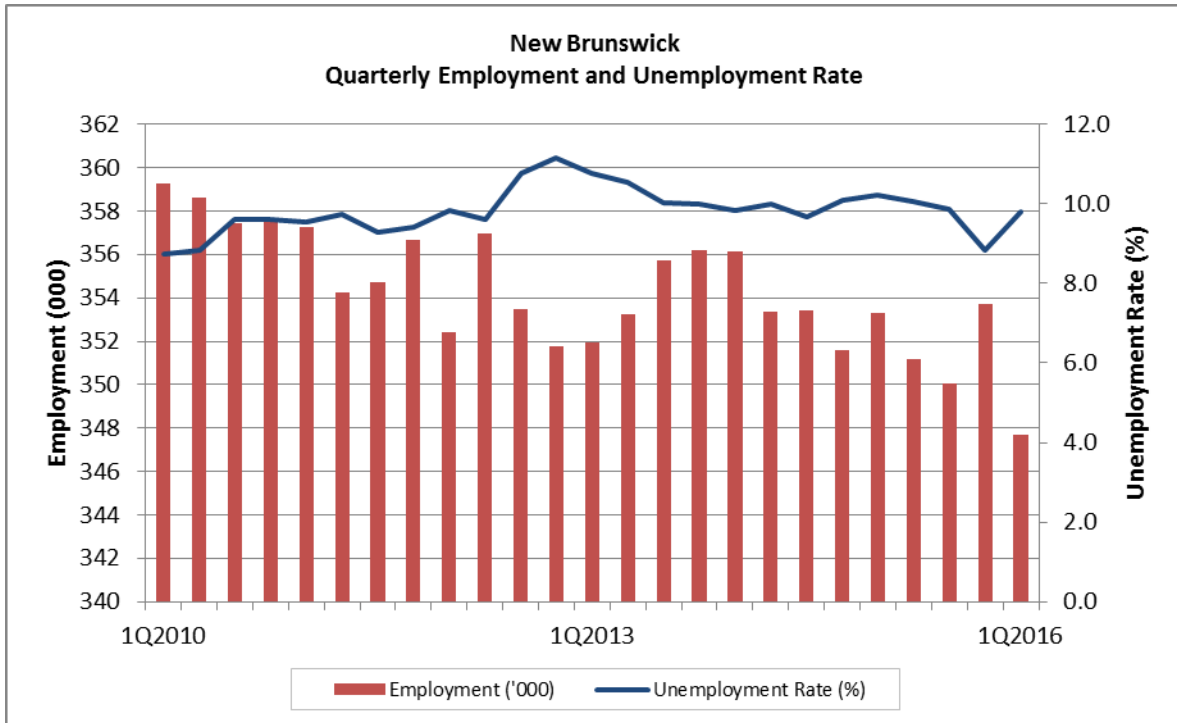
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation			Yearly Variation		
				Number	%		Number	%	
Population 15+ ('000)	622.6	621.9	622.1	0.8	0.1		0.5	0.1	
Labour Force ('000)	385.4	387.9	393.5	-2.5	-0.7		-8.1	-2.1	
Employment ('000)	347.7	353.7	353.3	-6.0	-1.7		-5.6	-1.6	
Full-Time ('000)	294.3	300.1	297.7	-5.7	-1.9		-3.4	-1.1	
Part-Time ('000)	53.4	53.6	55.6	-0.3	-0.5		-2.2	-4.0	
Unemployment ('000)	37.7	34.2	40.2	3.5	10.2		-2.5	-6.1	
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.8	8.8	10.2	1.0	-		-0.4	-	
Participation Rate (%)	61.9	62.4	63.2	-0.5	-		-1.3	-	
Employment Rate (%)	55.8	56.9	56.8	-1.0	-		-1.0	-	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The province's labour market performance has been soft starting out in 2016, posting three consecutive months of employment declines to begin the year. In actuality, employment has been trending downward since 2014, with this trend escalating over the past twelve months. Indeed, compared to the first quarter of 2015, employment is down by 5,600. During this same period, both the participation rate and employment rate has weakened in the province. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate was 0.4 percentage points lower this quarter compared to the first quarter of 2015, but the improvement was mainly the result of fewer people participating

in the labour force this year. New Brunswick’s labour force was down by 8,100 on a year-over-year basis in the first quarter of 2016.



The bulk of the year-over-year employment losses were concentrated among the province’s youth population. Compared to the first quarter of 2015, employment for people age 15-24 was down by 8.5%. The youth unemployment rate has also worsened since last year, increasing slightly to 17.6% as of the first quarter in 2016. In contrast to the youth segment, employment has increased slightly on a year-over-year basis for the province’s

older workers. The unemployment rate for those aged 55 and over has also improved compared to last year, falling to 10.3% in the first quarter of 2016.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	2015 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	9.8	8.8	10.2	1.0	-0.4
25 years and over	8.6	7.7	9.0	0.9	-0.4
Men - 25 years and over	11.2	9.6	11.0	1.6	0.2
Women - 25 years and over	5.8	5.7	6.9	0.1	-1.1
15 to 24 years	17.6	15.9	17.4	1.7	0.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.3	20.1	22.1	1.1	-0.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.8	11.2	12.5	2.7	1.3

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

In the first quarter of 2016, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.97 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.4% of that, or 66,500 people. Employment among the Indigenous population stood at 31,700 representing a decline of 4,100 (-11.5%) from a year earlier. Full-time positions accounted for the decline (-4,100 or -13.9%), but this was partially off-set by an increase in part-time positions (+100 or +1.6%).

In the first quarter of 2016 the unemployment rate among the Indigenous population increased significantly from the first quarter of 2015 to 23.9%, an 8.1 percentage point increase, while that of the non-Indigenous population stayed the same at 11.5%. The participation rate among the Indigenous population declined by 2.8 percentage points year-over-year to 62.5%. For the non-Indigenous population the participation rate fell slightly by 0.8 percentage points to 60.4%. The employment rate for the Indigenous population dropped by 7.4 percentage points to 47.6%. The employment rate for the non-Indigenous population declined slightly by 0.7 percentage points to 53.5%, compared to a year earlier.

Atlantic Canada - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People						
Not Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter 2016		1st Quarter 2015	Yearly Variation		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Number	%	
Population 15 + ('000)	66.5	1,908.3	65.0	1.5	2.3%	
Labour Force ('000)	41.6	1,152.8	42.5	-0.9	-2.1%	
Employment ('000)	31.7	1,020.1	35.8	-4.1	-11.5%	
Full-Time ('000)	25.4	837.5	29.5	-4.1	-13.9%	
Part-Time ('000)	6.3	182.6	6.2	0.1	1.6%	
Unemployment ('000)	9.9	132.7	6.7	3.2	47.8%	
Unemployment Rate (%)	23.9	11.5	15.8	8.1	-	
Participation Rate (%)	62.5	60.4	65.3	-2.8	-	
Employment Rate (%)	47.6	53.5	55.0	-7.4	-	

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** has remained fairly steady over the past year, increasing modestly on a year-over-year basis in the first quarter. Gains in the **Construction industry** (+600) helped offset the employment losses in **Manufacturing** (-500); however, employment in the former industry remains near a five-year low point. Indeed, the **Construction industry** employment level was 26% lower in the first quarter of 2016 as compared to the same period in 2011. A lack of public and private investments has limited the number of major projects that are being undertaken in the province over the last several years.

Meanwhile, employment was nearly stagnant on a year-over-year basis in the **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry** (+200). Compared to last year, this industry has undergone a number of opposing events which have had an impact on the provincial economy. For instance, the reopening of the Caribou mine earlier last year has boosted metal mining; however, the closure of Potash Corp.'s Penobsquis and Picadilly mines have been a detriment to non-metallic mining.

The **Services-producing sector** has been the main weakspot in the provincial labour market over the past year, with employment in this sector declining by 6,200 on a year-over-year basis in the first quarter. **Business, building and other support services** (-3,300), **Educational services** (-2,800), and **Professional, scientific and technical services** (-2,400) were the industries which accounted for most of the sector's employment losses. One bright spot within the sector was the **Transportation and warehousing industry** (+1,900). This industry is most likely benefiting from the softer Canadian dollar, relative to the US dollar. With US buying power remaining strong in Canada, New Brunswick-made goods are more likely to be purchased south of the border. As the province's exports move at a high volume, it is likely helping to create employment opportunities in transportation and warehousing.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	347.7	353.7	353.3	-6.0	-1.7	-5.6	-1.6
Goods-producing sector	73.2	74.4	72.6	-1.2	-1.7	0.6	0.8
Agriculture	4.2	4.2	3.9	0.0	-0.8	0.2	5.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.7	11.4	10.5	-0.7	-6.1	0.2	1.9
Utilities	3.4	3.6	3.4	-0.2	-5.5	0.0	1.0
Construction	25.4	25.8	24.7	-0.4	-1.6	0.6	2.6
Manufacturing	29.5	29.5	30.0	0.0	0.1	-0.5	-1.8
Services-producing sector	274.5	279.3	280.7	-4.8	-1.7	-6.2	-2.2
Trade	55.1	56.1	55.7	-1.1	-1.9	-0.6	-1.1
Transportation and warehousing	19.7	20.6	17.8	-0.9	-4.5	1.9	10.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	15.5	15.0	14.9	0.5	3.6	0.6	4.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.2	15.5	17.6	-0.4	-2.4	-2.4	-13.8
Business, building and other support services	17.3	17.9	20.6	-0.5	-3.0	-3.3	-15.9
Educational services	25.1	26.5	27.8	-1.4	-5.3	-2.8	-9.9
Health care and social assistance	52.5	53.1	51.1	-0.6	-1.1	1.4	2.8
Information, culture and recreation	11.6	11.7	11.5	-0.2	-1.4	0.1	0.6
Accommodation and food services	23.2	23.7	24.0	-0.5	-2.2	-0.8	-3.2
Other services	16.0	15.6	15.5	0.5	3.0	0.5	3.4
Public administration	23.3	23.6	24.2	-0.3	-1.1	-0.9	-3.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment was nearly flat, but declined slightly in **Campbellton-Miramichi** on a year-over-year basis in the first quarter. The re-opening of Trevali's Caribou Mine, located near Bathurst, has helped stabilize the local economy over the past year. As of late last year, work continued to ramp up at the mine site with plans to eventually hit full production¹. Compared to the first quarter of 2015, the unemployment rate has dropped by nearly two percentage points to 18.6% in the first quarter of 2016.

Employment has declined by 3% in the **Moncton-Richibucto** region since last year; however, this remains one of the more favorable regions in the province to seek employment. Indeed, with an employment level of 100,400 in the first quarter, this region accounts for one-third of New Brunswick's total employment share. Moreover, at 9.1% in the first quarter of 2016, the Moncton-Richibucto unemployment rate is the lowest among all economic regions in New Brunswick.

Compared to the first quarter of 2015, employment was down by 1% in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** region. The unemployment rate also inched up on a year-over-year basis, increasing by 0.3 percentage points to 10.1% in the first quarter. The region's economy has been negatively impacted by a slowdown in oil and gas activities, as well as the recent mine closure in St. Stephen.

After a relatively strong performance during 2015, the **Fredericton-Oromocto** labour market began to show signs of slowing down during the first quarter of 2016. Compared to the first quarter of 2015, the employment level in Fredericton-Oromocto has fallen by 1%. During this same period, the unemployment rate weakened significantly, rising by 1.1 percentage points to 10.1% in the first quarter.

Employment was down by nearly 3% in **Edmundston-Woodstock** on a year-over-year basis in the first quarter. However, the unemployment rate was drastically improved compared to the first quarter of 2015, declining by 2.2 percentage points to 9.5% in the first quarter of 2016. Nevertheless, the year-over-year contraction to the unemployed population recorded in the first quarter of 2016 corresponded with a similar drop in the labour force size, suggesting that many job seekers likely left the region for more favorable conditions elsewhere.

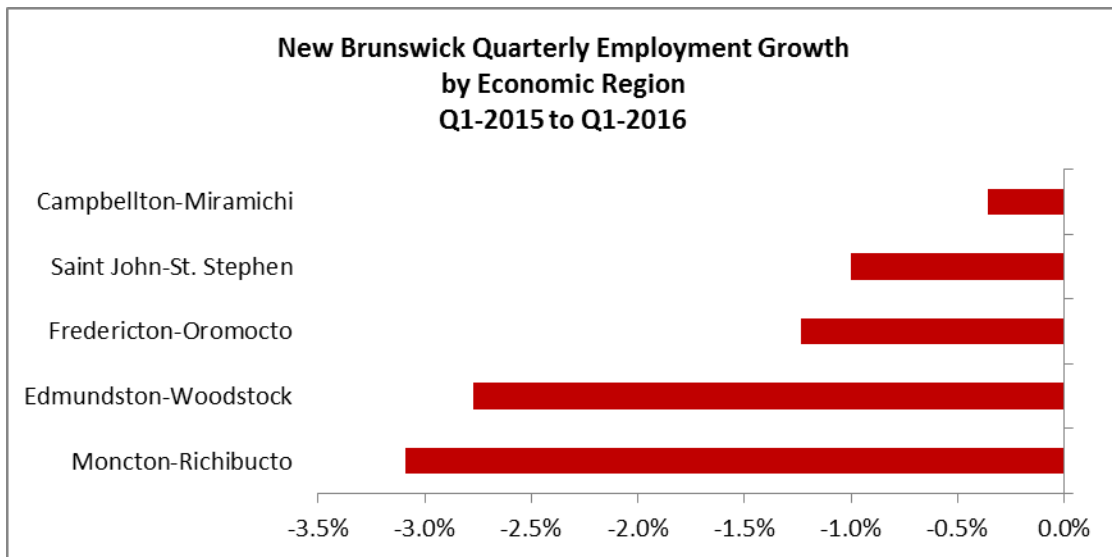
New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2016 ('000)	1st Quarter 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2016 (%)	1st Quarter 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	333.9	340.1	-1.8	11.3	11.5	-0.2
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	55.3	55.5	-0.4	18.6	20.3	-1.7
Moncton-Richibucto	100.4	103.6	-3.1	9.1	9.0	0.1
Saint John-St. Stephen	79.1	79.9	-1.0	10.1	9.8	0.3
Fredericton-Oromocto	64.1	64.9	-1.2	10.1	9.0	1.1
Edmundston-Woodstock	35.1	36.1	-2.8	9.5	11.7	-2.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

¹ <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

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