



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

April 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

New Brunswick's employment level showed signs of rebounding in April 2016, increasing by 3,900 or 1.1% on a month-over-month basis. During this same period, the unemployment rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points, falling to 9.6%. The month-over-month decline in unemployment rate was a result of a smaller unemployed population in April 2016 compared to March 2016, while the labour force actually increased by 1,800 over this period.

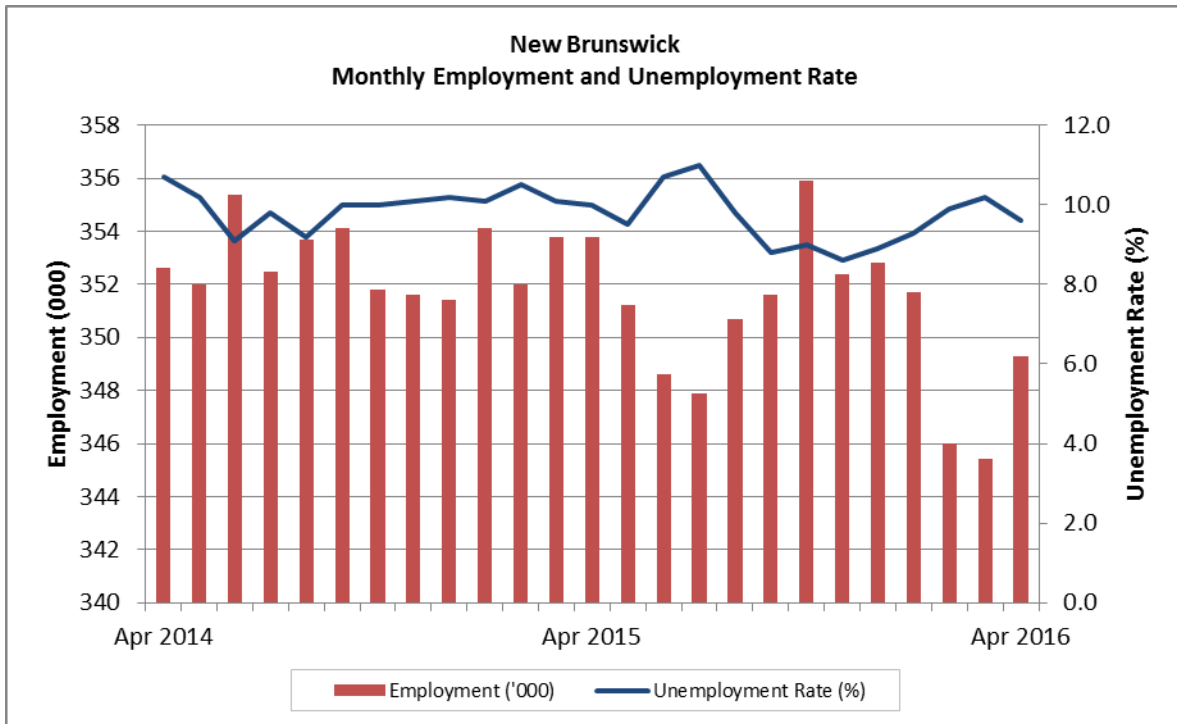
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	623.4	623.1	622.3	0.3	0.0	1.1	0.2
Labour Force ('000)	386.6	384.8	392.9	1.8	0.5	-6.3	-1.6
Employment ('000)	349.3	345.4	353.8	3.9	1.1	-4.5	-1.3
Full-Time ('000)	294.8	293.6	300.5	1.2	0.4	-5.7	-1.9
Part-Time ('000)	54.5	51.8	53.3	2.7	5.2	1.2	2.3
Unemployment ('000)	37.3	39.4	39.1	-2.1	-5.3	-1.8	-4.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.6	10.2	10.0	-0.6	-	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.0	61.8	63.1	0.2	-	-1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.0	55.4	56.9	0.6	-	-0.9	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

April's employment increase was the first in New Brunswick during 2016 and follows four consecutive months of declines. Nevertheless, the provincial employment level remains below the level recorded during the same period last year. Compared to April 2015, provincial employment is down by 4,500 or 1.3%. The participation rate and the employment rate have also worsened by nearly one percentage point during this same time.



Most of the year-over-year employment losses were a result of fewer youth working in the province. Compared to April 2015, employment for people age 15-24 was down by 8.2%. Nonetheless, the youth unemployment rate has improved over the last twelve months, declining by 0.5 percentage points in April 2016. The declining youth unemployment rate can be attributed to the sharp decline in the unemployed population for this age segment, an indication that some youth have grown frustrated and withdrew from their job searches. At 16.8%, the youth unemployment rate in New Brunswick is the second highest in the country, slightly lower than that of PEI.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	9.6	10.2	10.0	-0.6	-0.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	8.6	9.0	8.7	-0.4	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	10.9	11.5	10.5	-0.6	0.4
Women - 25 years and over	6.1	6.2	6.8	-0.1	-0.7
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.8	19.0	17.3	-2.2	-0.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	21.1	22.9	21.9	-1.8	-0.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.8	14.9	12.3	-3.1	-0.5

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Services-producing sector** has been the main weak spot in the provincial labour market over the past year, with employment in this sector declining by 3,700 on a year-over-year basis in April 2016. **Business, building and other support services** (-4,800), **Educational services** (-2,900), and **Professional, scientific and technical services** (-1,500) were the industries which accounted for most of the sector's employment losses. With a lack of private and public investments, overall economic growth has been tepid in the province. Furthermore, sluggish population growth is also hampering New Brunswick and limiting government coffers. In fact, the provincial government announced in the 2016 budget that the number of school teachers will be reduced by 50 this year<sup>1</sup>, as fewer enrollments weigh on the **Educational services** industry.

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** was also down on a year-over-year basis, falling by 800 in April. Compared to April 2015, employment in **Manufacturing** (-1,500) has declined by nearly 5%. Nevertheless, market conditions continue to be favorable towards the manufacturing industry as the Canadian dollar remains low and the US economy continues to gain momentum.

The **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry** (+500) is showing signs of trending up, with employment growing slightly on a year-over-year basis. This industry has undergone a number of opposing events over the past twelve months. For instance, the reopening of the Caribou mine has been a boon to metal mining, but the closure of Potash Corp.'s Penobsquis and Picadilly mines have taken a toll on non-metallic mining. Meanwhile, there has been little development in terms of the province's gas resources since the provincial government instituted a ban on hydraulic fracking in December 2014.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	349.3	345.4	353.8	3.9	1.1	-4.5	-1.3
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	71.6	71.0	72.4	0.6	0.8	-0.8	-1.1
Agriculture	4.6	4.2	3.9	0.4	9.5	0.7	17.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.4	10.3	9.9	0.1	1.0	0.5	5.1
Utilities	3.3	3.6	3.5	-0.3	-8.3	-0.2	-5.7
Construction	24.0	23.3	24.3	0.7	3.0	-0.3	-1.2
Manufacturing	29.3	29.7	30.8	-0.4	-1.3	-1.5	-4.9
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	277.7	274.4	281.4	3.3	1.2	-3.7	-1.3
Trade	55.9	54.8	55.9	1.1	2.0	0.0	0.0
Transportation and warehousing	19.9	20.0	19.3	-0.1	-0.5	0.6	3.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.3	15.3	14.5	2.0	13.1	2.8	19.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.7	15.9	17.2	-0.2	-1.3	-1.5	-8.7
Business, building and other support services	15.0	16.9	19.8	-1.9	-11.2	-4.8	-24.2
Educational services	25.3	25.4	28.2	-0.1	-0.4	-2.9	-10.3
Health care and social assistance	53.3	53.0	51.1	0.3	0.6	2.2	4.3
Information, culture and recreation	12.4	11.6	11.4	0.8	6.9	1.0	8.8
Accommodation and food services	23.9	22.3	24.7	1.6	7.2	-0.8	-3.2
Other services	15.4	15.8	15.2	-0.4	-2.5	0.2	1.3
Public administration	23.6	23.3	24.0	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

<sup>1</sup> Roger Melanson unveils list of civil service cuts, mergers; CBC; February 2, 2016

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment declined by 3% in **Campbellton-Miramichi** on a year-over-year basis in April. Compared to April 2015 the unemployment rate has dropped by 0.6 percentage points to 19% in April 2016.

Employment also declined by 3% in the **Moncton-Richibucto** region since last year; however, this is one of the most vibrant labour markets in the province. Indeed, with an employment level of 100,100, this region holds the largest share (30%) of the province's workforce. Furthermore, at 9.7% in April 2016, the Moncton-Richibucto unemployment rate is well below the provincial average.

Compared to April 2015, employment was down by 1% in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** region. The unemployment rate has also worsened over the past twelve months, increasing by 0.7 percentage points to 10% in April. This region has struggled with job creation for the past two years and was heavily impacted by the Potash Corp. mine closure. Looking at the longer term trend, Saint John-St. Stephen's employment level remains below pre-recession levels.

The **Fredericton-Oromocto** labour market is showing signs of slowing down after outperforming its neighbouring regions in terms of employment growth for most of 2015 and early 2016. Compared to April 2015, the number of people employed decreased by over 2% in Fredericton-Oromocto. During this same period, the unemployment rate has increased by 1.5 percentage points, to 10.4% in April 2016.

Employment was down by just under 1% in **Edmundston-Woodstock** on a year-over-year basis in April. However, the unemployment rate was much improved compared to April 2015, declining by three percentage points to 8.6% in April 2016. Although the unemployed population diminished significantly on a year-over-year basis in April 2016, it coincided with a similar drop in the labour force size, indicating that some job seekers likely withdrew from searches, or left the region to seek employment elsewhere.

**New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Apr 2016 ('000)	Apr 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Apr 2016 (%)	Apr 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	334.7	341.4	-2.0	11.5	11.6	-0.1
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	54.4	56.1	-3.0	19.0	19.6	-0.6
Moncton-Richibucto	100.1	103.2	-3.0	9.7	10.2	-0.5
Saint John-St. Stephen	79.8	80.6	-1.0	10.0	9.3	0.7
Fredericton-Oromocto	64.2	65.6	-2.1	10.4	8.9	1.5
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.2	35.9	0.8	8.6	11.6	-3.0

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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