



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

May 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

There was little change to New Brunswick’s labour market between April and May of 2016. During this time, employment in the province fell by a marginal amount while the unemployment rate crept up to 9.9%. Compared to last month, the population and labour force size remained unchanged, resulting in no improvements to the participation rate or employment rate.

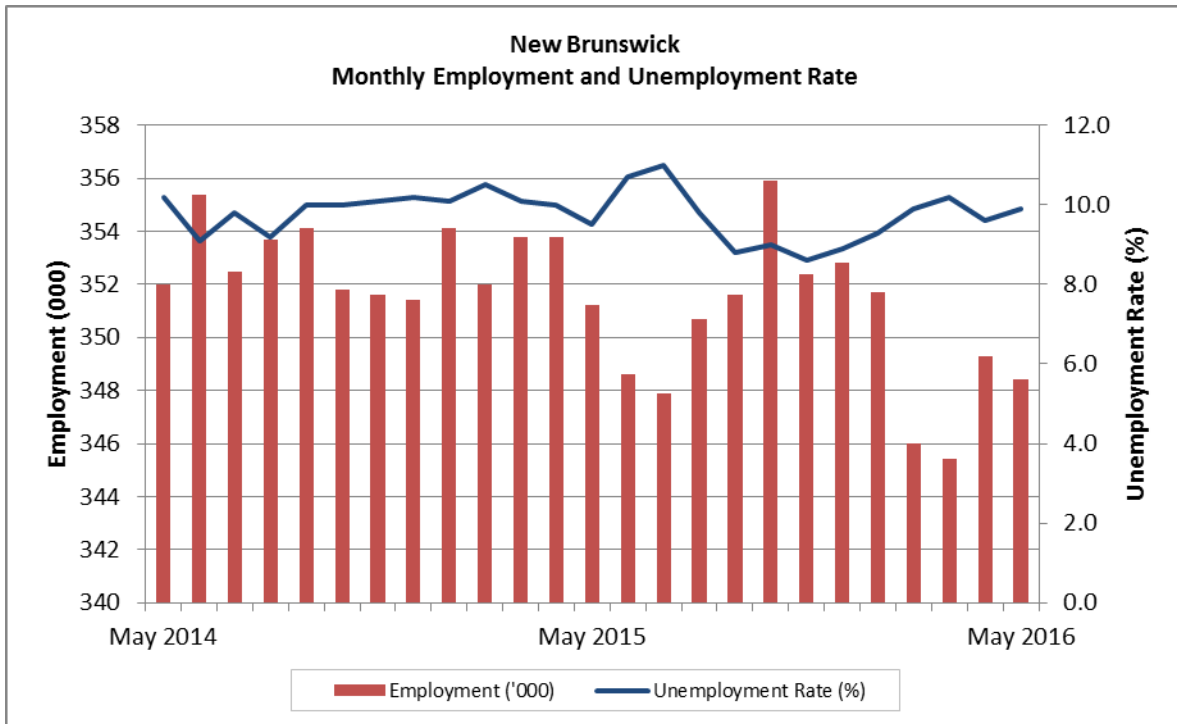
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	623.5	623.4	622.0	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.2
Labour Force ('000)	386.7	386.6	388.0	0.1	0.0	-1.3	-0.3
Employment ('000)	348.4	349.3	351.2	-0.9	-0.3	-2.8	-0.8
Full-Time ('000)	295.7	294.8	296.3	0.9	0.3	-0.6	-0.2
Part-Time ('000)	52.7	54.5	54.9	-1.8	-3.3	-2.2	-4.0
Unemployment ('000)	38.3	37.3	36.9	1.0	2.7	1.4	3.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.9	9.6	9.5	0.3	-	0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	62.0	62.0	62.4	0.0	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.9	56.0	56.5	-0.1	-	-0.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

When examining year-over-year developments, New Brunswick’s labour market exhibits a more negative trend. Compared to May 2015, employment was down by 2,800. The majority of these year-over-year employment declines were concentrated in part-time positions. Meanwhile, similar to the employment level, the province’s labour force contracted by 2,700 between May 2015 and May 2016, pushing the unemployment rate up by 0.4 percentage points. With fewer jobs and weak population growth, both the participation and employment rates deteriorated on a year-over-year basis in May.



Employment opportunities have been particularly weak among New Brunswick’s youth population, those aged 15 to 24. Specifically, the youth employment level has declined by 5,000 since May 2015. As of May 2016, the province’s youth unemployment rate was up to a staggering 20.2%, which was the highest among all provinces. In contrast, employment increased within the province’s older cohort, those aged 55 and over. For these older workers, employment grew by 3,900 on a year-over-year basis in May 2016, while the unemployment rate for this segment fell to 9.4%.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	9.9	9.6	9.5	0.3	0.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	8.3	8.6	8.3	-0.3	0.0
Men - 25 years and over	10.7	10.9	10.6	-0.2	0.1
Women - 25 years and over	5.7	6.1	5.9	-0.4	-0.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	20.2	16.8	16.8	3.4	3.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	26.4	21.1	23.0	5.3	3.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.8	11.8	9.2	2.0	4.6

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 4,400 on a year-over-year basis in May 2016. **Accommodation and food services** (-5,300); **Educational services** (-3,700); and **Business, building and other support services** (-3,300) were the industries which accounted for the majority of the sector's employment losses. Fewer student enrollments have likely led to the employment decline in **Educational services**. For example, the provincial government announced in the 2016 budget that the number of school teachers would be reduced this year<sup>1</sup>. An aging population coupled with low birthrates and an exodus of the province's youth has hampered overall population growth. Additionally, the provincial government remains under fiscal restraint, which has limited public spending. With a lack of public and private investments, economic growth has been soft in New Brunswick.

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** inched up by 1,100 on a year-over-year basis in May; however, the results were mixed within this group of industries. Compared to May 2015, employment in **Manufacturing** (-800) has trended downward. Yet, market conditions continue to be favorable towards this industry with the US economy gaining steam and the Canadian dollar hovering near a decade-low.

**Agriculture** (1,200) and **Construction** (1,000) accounted for the majority of the employment gains within the **Goods-producing sector**. The province's **Agricultural** industry is likely benefiting from increased demand due to the same aforementioned factors that are contributing to the positive environment for manufacturing. And in addition to the thriving trade market in the US, emerging markets in Asia for New Brunswick grown foods have also been a boon to the industry.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	348.4	349.3	351.2	-0.9	-0.3	-2.8	-0.8
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	73.7	71.6	72.1	2.1	2.9	1.6	2.2
Agriculture	5.3	4.6	4.1	0.7	15.2	1.2	29.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.7	10.4	9.7	-0.7	-6.7	0.0	0.0
Utilities	3.7	3.3	3.5	0.4	12.1	0.2	5.7
Construction	24.9	24.0	23.9	0.9	3.7	1.0	4.2
Manufacturing	30.1	29.3	30.9	0.8	2.7	-0.8	-2.6
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	274.7	277.7	279.1	-3.0	-1.1	-4.4	-1.6
Trade	54.5	55.9	55.5	-1.4	-2.5	-1.0	-1.8
Transportation and warehousing	20.7	19.9	18.5	0.8	4.0	2.2	11.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.1	17.3	14.0	-1.2	-6.9	2.1	15.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.6	15.7	16.2	-0.1	-0.6	-0.6	-3.7
Business, building and other support services	16.3	15.0	19.6	1.3	8.7	-3.3	-16.8
Educational services	24.7	25.3	28.4	-0.6	-2.4	-3.7	-13.0
Health care and social assistance	53.1	53.3	50.9	-0.2	-0.4	2.2	4.3
Information, culture and recreation	13.7	12.4	10.9	1.3	10.5	2.8	25.7
Accommodation and food services	21.5	23.9	26.8	-2.4	-10.0	-5.3	-19.8
Other services	15.7	15.4	15.0	0.3	1.9	0.7	4.7
Public administration	22.9	23.6	23.3	-0.7	-3.0	-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 4% in **Campbellton-Miramichi** on a year-over-year basis in May. Compared to May 2015 the unemployment rate has dropped by 0.4 percentage points to 18% in May 2016.

Employment also declined by 2% in the **Moncton-Richibucto** region since last year; but it remains as one of the most lively labour markets in the province. Indeed, with an employment level of nearly 100,300, this region holds one-third of the province's employed population. Furthermore, at 9.5% in May 2016, the Moncton-Richibucto unemployment rate is well below the provincial average.

Compared to May 2015, employment was down by less than 1% in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** region. The unemployment rate has also worsened over the past twelve months, increasing by 0.5 percentage points to 9.6% in May. Looking at the longer term trend, total employment in Saint John-St. Stephen's remains below pre-recession levels. Most recently, the region was negatively impacted by the Potash Corp. mine closure earlier this year.

The **Fredericton-Oromocto** labour market has begun to slow down after outperforming its neighbouring regions in terms of employment growth for most of 2015 and early 2016. Compared to May 2015, the number of people employed decreased by slightly over 2% in Fredericton-Oromocto. During this same period, the unemployment rate has increased by 1.8 percentage points to 10.8% in May 2016.

Employment was up by 4% in **Edmundston-Woodstock** on a year-over-year basis in May, making this region the lone bright spot for the province. The unemployment rate was also greatly improved compared to May 2015, declining by 3.5 percentage points to 6.9% in May 2016. Nevertheless, Edmundston-Woodstock is the smallest of New Brunswick's economic regions and thus the employment gains were not enough to offset the losses from the other regions.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2016 ('000)	May 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2016 (%)	May 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	342.3	347.1	-1.4	11.0	11.1	-0.1
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	56.3	58.7	-4.1	18.0	17.6	0.4
Moncton-Richibucto	102.6	104.8	-2.1	9.5	10.3	-0.8
Saint John-St. Stephen	81.2	81.4	-0.2	9.6	9.1	0.5
Fredericton-Oromocto	64.5	66.1	-2.4	10.8	9.0	1.8
Edmundston-Woodstock	37.6	36.1	4.2	6.9	10.4	-3.5

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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**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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