



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

March 2018



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 (-1,200) in the first quarter of 2018, compared to the previous quarter, with the change distributed almost evenly between full-time and part-time work. The unemployment rate rose from 8.0% to 8.4% during the same period, as the job losses were coupled with a small increase in the size of the labour force.

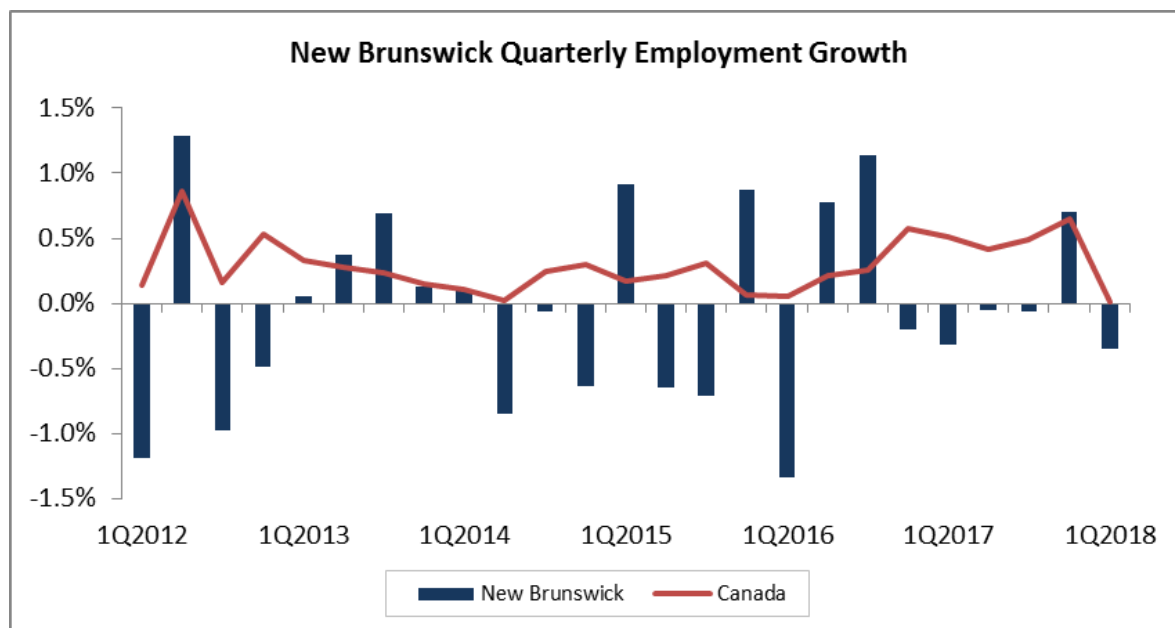
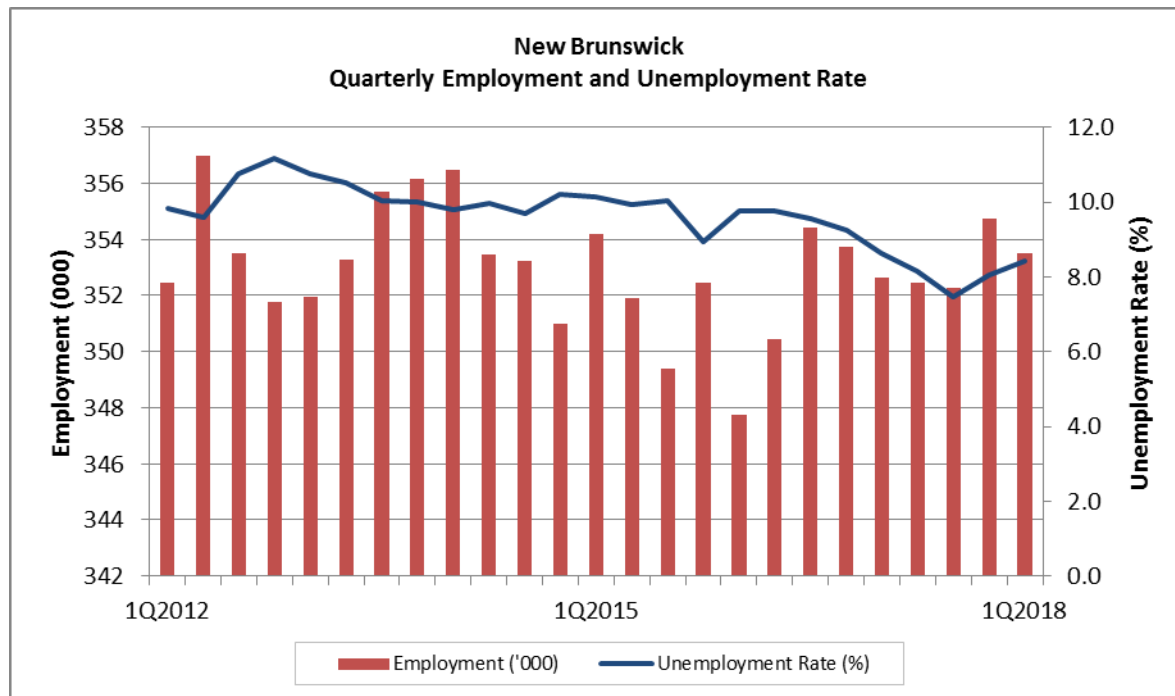
New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2017	1st Quarter 2017	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	626.2	625.5	624.0	0.7	0.1	2.2	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	386.0	385.7	385.9	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Employment ('000)	353.5	354.7	352.6	-1.2	-0.3	0.9	0.3
Full-Time ('000)	303.0	303.5	301.4	-0.5	-0.2	1.6	0.5
Part-Time ('000)	50.5	51.2	51.2	-0.7	-1.4	-0.7	-1.4
Unemployment ('000)	32.5	31.0	33.3	1.5	4.8	-0.8	-2.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.4	8.0	8.6	0.4	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.6	61.7	61.8	-0.1	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.4	56.7	56.5	-0.3	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

On a year-over-year basis, the level of employment increased by 900. As a result, the unemployment rate edged down slightly compared to the first quarter of 2017. Despite an increase in the overall working age population (+2,200), the labour force remained relatively flat over the twelve month period, as the participation rate fell modestly. The latter has remained on a gradual downward trend since the beginning of 2009 and, at 61.6% in the first quarter, was at its lowest level in almost 18 years.



The quarter-over-quarter decline in employment was focused entirely among those over the age of 55 (-2,700). The level of employment rose slightly among the prime age (25 to 54 years) cohort, but was broadly unchanged among the youth (15 to 24 years) category.

More generally, the sharp quarterly decline among older workers is a clear departure from the steady longer-term upward trend. The synchronized quarter-over-quarter decline in the labour force was triggered by a sharp 1.2 percentage point reduction in the participation rate (steepest decline in almost 23 years). The number of seniors in the working age population rose by 1,500 in the first quarter, adding to the 1,400 increase in the fourth quarter of 2017.

After falling sharply earlier in 2017, the youth unemployment rate has rebounded considerably in each of the past two quarters, rising from 12.1% in the third quarter of 2017 to 15.2% in the first quarter of this year. The driving factor was an influx of nearly 4,000 youth back into the labour force over the past two quarters, as the youth participation rate rebounded by 5.3 percentage points over the same period.

Looking past the volatility, labour market conditions exhibited relatively little change among youth on a year-over-year basis. The relatively modest 900 increase in employment was offset by a slightly bigger rebound in the labour force, resulting in a modest increase in the youth unemployment rate. The most significant year-over-year changes in labour market conditions occurred amongst the older cohort, where the unemployment rate fell by 1.3 percentage points since the first quarter of 2017. The catalyst behind the decline, however, was a falling participation rate, as 2,100 older workers stopped looking for work.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly	Yearly
	2018 (%)	2017 (%)	2017 (%)	Variation (% points)	Variation (% points)
Total	8.4	8.0	8.6	0.4	-0.2
25 years and over	7.3	7.2	7.6	0.1	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	8.9	8.6	9.6	0.3	-0.7
Women - 25 years and over	5.7	5.8	5.6	-0.1	0.1
15 to 24 years	15.2	13.3	14.9	2.0	0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.9	15.2	17.9	3.7	1.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.0	11.4	11.9	-0.4	-0.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In the first quarter (Q1) of 2018, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.99million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.5% of that, or 69,200 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces reached 34,800, representing an increase of 2000 (6.1%) from a year earlier (Q1 2017). The increase was in both full-time positions (+1,500 or +5.6%) and part-time positions (+500 or 8.3%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 16% in Q1 2018, representing an increase of 2.2 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was also relatively stable at 10.7% (-0.5pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among Indigenous people increased to 59.9% (+3.4pp) while the participation rate for the non-Indigenous population stood at 60 % (-0.2pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population increased year-over-year to 50.3% (+1.6pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population remained unchanged at 53.5%, compared to a year earlier.

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q1 2018	Q1 2017	number	%	Q1 2018	Q1 2017	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	69.2	67.3	1.9	2.8%	1,922.5	1,915.2	7.3	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	41.4	38.1	3.3	8.7%	1,153.0	1,153.8	-0.8	-0.1%
Employment ('000)	34.8	32.8	2.0	6.1%	1,029.4	1,024.9	4.5	0.4%
Full-Time ('000)	28.3	26.8	1.5	5.6%	850.4	838.4	12.0	1.4%
Part-Time ('000)	6.5	6.0	0.5	8.3%	179.0	186.5	-7.5	-4.0%
Unemployment ('000)	6.6	5.3	1.3	24.5%	123.6	128.9	-5.3	-4.1%
Unemployment Rate (%)	16.0	13.8	2.2	-	10.7	11.2	-0.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.9	56.5	3.4	-	60.0	60.2	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.3	48.7	1.6	-	53.5	53.5	0.0	-

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

The quarter-over-quarter job losses were driven entirely by weaker employment in the **Services-producing sector** (-1,300). In particular, sizeable declines were registered in **Business, building and other support services** (-2,000) and **Accommodation and food services** (-1,700). Otherwise, employment gains were mostly limited to **Health care and social assistance** (+1,700) and **Public Administration** (+1,100).

Employment in the **Goods-producing sector** was broadly unchanged on a quarter-over-quarter basis in the first quarter of 2018. Higher employment in **Agriculture** (+700) was generally offset by a decline in **Construction** (-500). There was little change in the remaining goods-producing industries.

The moderate year-over-year gain in overall employment was distributed almost evenly between Goods-producing and Services-producing industries. The rise in the Goods-producing sector was due entirely to a strong 2,900 increase in **Manufacturing** employment, which was sufficient to offset declines in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (-1,100), **Utilities** (-1,000) and **Agriculture** (-600). The recent strength in manufacturing is encouraging, especially given the elevated uncertainty surrounding trade at the moment. The level of employment in the sector has not been this high since 2008, shortly before the onset of the financial crisis.

The year-over-year job gain in the **Services-producing sector** was limited mostly to a single industry. The level of employment in **Health care and social assistance** surged by 5,000 since the first quarter of 2017, bringing the cumulative increase over the past decade to around 10,000. More generally, employment in this industry has been trending upwards for some time, due to the growing demand for health and social services associated with the aging of the population.

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2018	2017	2017	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	353.5	354.7	352.6	-1.2	-0.3	0.9	0.2
Goods-producing sector	73.8	73.6	73.3	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.7
Agriculture	5.2	4.5	5.8	0.7	14.8	-0.6	-10.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	8.0	8.3	9.1	-0.2	-2.8	-1.1	-12.0
Utilities	3.0	2.9	4.0	0.1	4.6	-1.0	-24.8
Construction	24.6	25.2	24.3	-0.5	-2.1	0.3	1.2
Manufacturing	32.8	32.8	29.9	0.0	0.1	2.9	9.7
Services-producing sector	279.7	281.1	279.3	-1.3	-0.5	0.4	0.1
Trade	55.1	55.4	57.2	-0.4	-0.7	-2.1	-3.7
Transportation and warehousing	17.8	18.5	16.9	-0.7	-4.0	0.9	5.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.1	16.4	17.5	-0.4	-2.2	-1.4	-8.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	16.2	14.9	15.8	1.3	8.7	0.4	2.5
Business, building and other support services	15.4	17.4	15.2	-2.0	-11.5	0.3	1.8
Educational services	26.3	26.3	26.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	1.3
Health care and social assistance	61.2	59.5	56.2	1.7	2.8	5.0	8.9
Information, culture and recreation	10.4	10.5	11.7	-0.1	-1.3	-1.3	-11.1
Accommodation and food services	23.6	25.3	23.1	-1.7	-6.7	0.4	1.9
Other services	14.7	14.9	15.9	-0.2	-1.3	-1.2	-7.4
Public administration	23.1	22.0	23.9	1.1	5.0	-0.9	-3.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to the first quarter of last year, employment has risen by 2,100 in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** economic region, which was enough to lower the unemployment rate by 2.8 percentage points to 14.4%. After several years of deterioration, the improved labour market conditions are certainly encouraging.

The **Moncton-Richibucto** economic region added 7,200 jobs to the New Brunswick labour market since the first quarter of 2017. Those job gains were accompanied by an influx of entrants into the labour market, which helped moderate the decline in the unemployment rate. At 8.3% in the first quarter, the unemployment ranked second-lowest in the province. Otherwise, the majority of the job gains were concentrated in **Health care and social assistance**.

Labour market conditions deteriorated considerably in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** economic region over the past year. Compared to the first quarter of last year, 8,300 fewer people were employed in the first quarter. Nearly as many people stopped searching for work over the course of the same twelve-month period, which helped limit the unemployment rate increase to 0.7 percentage points, good for second-lowest among all regions in the province.

The 1,000 job losses in the **Fredericton-Oromocto** economic region since the first quarter of 2017 was accompanied by a rapid decline in the rate of participation, which contributed to the 2.5 percentage point rise in the unemployment rate. At 9.4% in the first quarter, the unemployment rate ranked second-highest to the Campbellton-Miramichi economic region. More generally, the recent decline in the labour force is simply the most recent swing in what has been a period of extreme volatility.

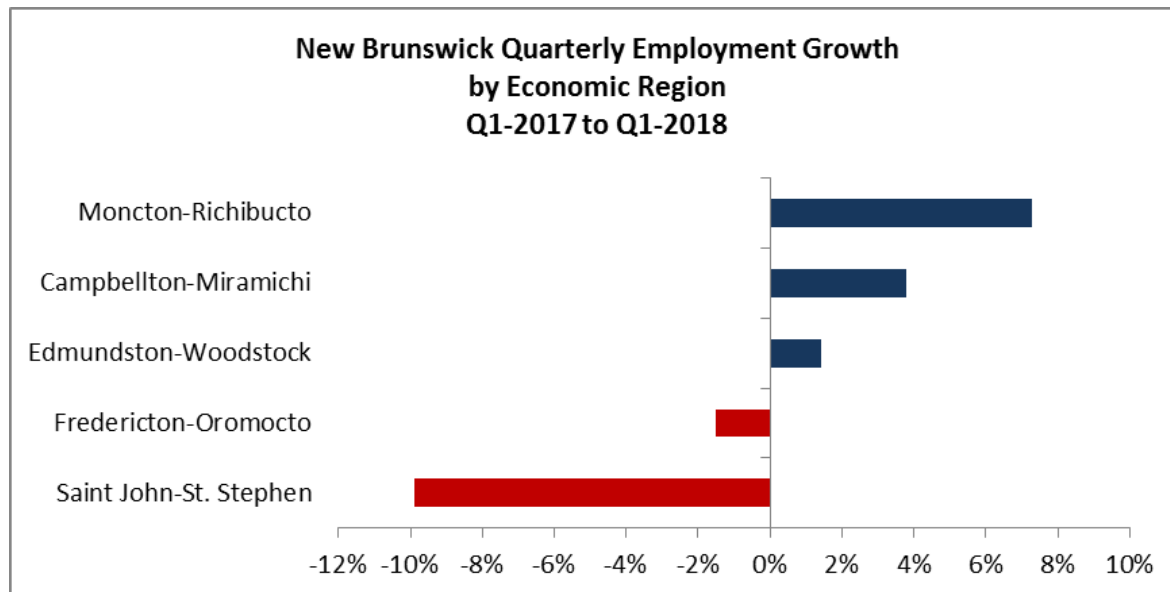
The **Edmundston-Woodstock** economic region added 400 jobs to the labour market on a year-over-year basis. The latter was accompanied with larger increase in the size of the labour force. As a result, the unemployment rate edged up slightly, settling at 8.5% in the first quarter of the year.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2018 ('000)	1st Quarter 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2018 (%)	1st Quarter 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	339.8	339.3	0.1	9.6	9.8	-0.2
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	57.5	55.4	3.8	14.4	17.2	-2.8
Moncton-Richibucto	106.2	99.0	7.3	8.3	9.8	-1.5
Saint John-St. Stephen	75.7	84.0	-9.9	7.8	7.1	0.7
Fredericton-Oromocto	64.8	65.8	-1.5	9.4	6.9	2.5
Edmundston-Woodstock	35.6	35.1	1.4	8.5	8.4	0.1

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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