



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

August 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

The level of employment fell by 1,100 in New Brunswick on a month-over-month basis in August, marking the third consecutive monthly decline. Since its high mark for the year, employment has fallen by 4,000. Otherwise, a 2,000 rise in the labour force helped contribute to a rise in the number of unemployed in August, which lifted the unemployment rate to 8.3%, from 7.5%.

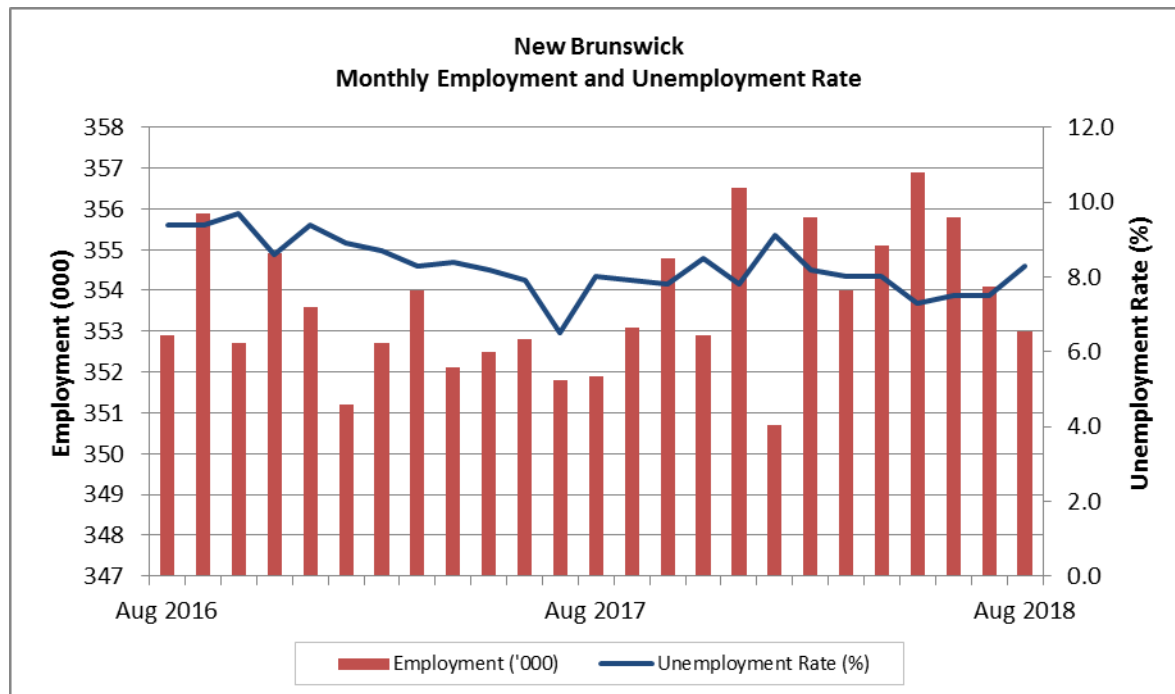
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Aug 2018	July 2018	Aug 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	627.8	627.6	625.0	0.2	0.0	2.8	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	385.1	383.1	382.3	2.0	0.5	2.8	0.7
Employment ('000)	353.0	354.1	351.9	-1.1	-0.3	1.1	0.3
Full-Time ('000)	300.0	301.7	299.4	-1.7	-0.6	0.6	0.2
Part-Time ('000)	53.1	52.4	52.5	0.7	1.3	0.6	1.1
Unemployment ('000)	32.1	28.9	30.4	3.2	11.1	1.7	5.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	7.5	8.0	0.8	-	0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.3	61.0	61.2	0.3	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.2	56.4	56.3	-0.2	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

Despite the monthly decline, the level of employment in August still remained around 1,100 higher than a year earlier. The 2,800 rise in the labour force over the prior twelve months matched the increase in the working age population during this same period. Indeed, the participation rate was essentially unchanged between August of 2017 and August of this year.



The month-over-month decline in the level of employment was spread across youth (aged 15 to 24 years) and prime age (25 to 54 years) workers and, taken together, this was enough to offset a sizeable increase in the number of older (55 years and over) workers employed.

Despite two consecutive months of decline, labour market conditions among youth remained more positive than they were a year earlier, though not enough to offset the considerable year-over-year decline among prime age (25 to 54 years) workers. In the meantime, the number of older workers continued to climb over the same time period.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Aug 2018	July 2018	Aug 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.3	7.5	8.0	0.8	0.3
25 years and over	7.4	6.8	7.1	0.6	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	8.7	8.3	9.2	0.4	-0.5
Women - 25 years and over	6.1	5.2	4.8	0.9	1.3
15 to 24 years	14.2	12.3	13.4	1.9	0.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.3	16.1	17.2	0.2	-0.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.8	8.1	9.7	3.7	2.1

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

A significant year-over-year increase in the youth rate of participation limited growth in the unemployment rate, which jumped to 14.2% in August 2018, from 13.4% a year earlier. This could suggest that the improved labour market prospects have prompted many previously-discouraged younger workers to return to the labour force and search for work.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The monthly decline in employment in August was split relatively evenly between the Goods-producing and Services-producing sectors. The developments over the past twelve months reveal that the rise in employment was a little more pronounced in the **Goods-producing sector**, which added 800 jobs to the provincial economy. The **Services-producing sector** saw very little change in the total number of jobs.

A breakdown of labour market developments for the **Goods-producing sector** over the past year shows that gains were concentrated entirely in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+2,300)** and **Agriculture (+800)**. These served to offset a decline of 2,000 in the **Construction** industry. Minimal declines were also registered in **Manufacturing** and **Utilities**, together amounting to 500 fewer jobs in the broader sector.

Labour market conditions in the **Services-producing sector** were rather mixed, even though there was almost no change in employment in the year leading up to August. On the more encouraging side, gains were registered in **Health care and social assistance (+1,800)**, **Public administration (+1,300)**, **Transportation and warehousing (+1,200)** and **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+1,200)**. In essence, the main drag to employment in the broader sector was **Trade**, as the number of people working in the industry fell by 3,200. Otherwise, the only noticeable employment losses were in **Business, building and other support services (-1,800)**, **Other services (-800)** and **Educational services (-400)**.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Aug 2018	July 2018	Aug 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	353.0	354.1	351.9	-1.1	-0.3	1.1	0.3
Goods-producing sector	71.7	72.2	70.9	-0.5	-0.7	0.8	1.1
Agriculture	5.7	6.2	4.7	-0.5	-8.1	1.0	21.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.9	9.6	7.6	0.3	3.1	2.3	30.3
Utilities	3.0	3.1	3.2	-0.1	-3.2	-0.2	-6.3
Construction	22.5	21.7	24.5	0.8	3.7	-2.0	-8.2
Manufacturing	30.6	31.6	30.9	-1.0	-3.2	-0.3	-1.0
Services-producing sector	281.3	281.9	281.1	-0.6	-0.2	0.2	0.1
Trade	52.8	53.0	56.0	-0.2	-0.4	-3.2	-5.7
Transportation and warehousing	18.6	18.6	17.4	0.0	0.0	1.2	6.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.7	17.5	16.5	0.2	1.1	1.2	7.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	16.2	16.4	15.8	-0.2	-1.2	0.4	2.5
Business, building and other support services	15.9	17.2	17.7	-1.3	-7.6	-1.8	-10.2
Educational services	25.4	25.3	25.8	0.1	0.4	-0.4	-1.6
Health care and social assistance	60.4	58.5	58.6	1.9	3.2	1.8	3.1
Information, culture and recreation	10.9	10.5	11.0	0.4	3.8	-0.1	-0.9
Accommodation and food services	24.2	23.9	23.7	0.3	1.3	0.5	2.1
Other services	14.2	15.2	15.0	-1.0	-6.6	-0.8	-5.3
Public administration	24.9	25.8	23.6	-0.9	-3.5	1.3	5.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Despite the relatively small headline increase in overall employment in the province over the past year, job gains were recorded across the majority of all Economic regions (ER). The strongest increase was registered in the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER, where 3,700 more people were employed in August compared to twelve months earlier. The increase in employment was accompanied by an even larger expansion in the size of the labour force. It does not appear that formerly discouraged workers were coaxed back into the labour force because of

strong labour market conditions. This is confirmed by the participation rate, which showed little changed in the twelve month period.

Labour market conditions in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER strengthened somewhat over the past year, as shown by moderate increase in employment over this time. A slightly larger expansion in the number of active participants in the working age population managed to lift the unemployment rate to a provincial-high of 11.1% in August, from 10.7% twelve months prior.

The level of employment in the **Moncton-Richibucto** ER was essentially unchanged from a year earlier in August. A modest increase in the labour force helped raise the unemployment rate to 6.4% in May, from 6.0% exactly a year before.

As already mentioned, the strongest increase was registered in the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER, where 3,700 more people were employed in August compared to twelve months earlier. The increase in employment was accompanied by an even larger expansion in the size of the labour force. It does not appear that formerly discouraged workers were coaxed back into the labour force because of strong labour market conditions. This is confirmed by the participation rate, which showed little changed in the twelve month period.

A modest job gain was registered in the **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER since August of 2017. The unemployment rate, meanwhile, shrank by 1.5 percentage points during the same period, due largely to a significant reduction in the size of the labour force. At 4.8% in August, the unemployment rate is well below the provincial average of 7.3% and is also at its lowest level in some time.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Aug 2018 ('000)	Aug 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Aug 2018 (%)	Aug 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	366.0	365.4	0.2	7.3	7.0	0.3
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	66.5	65.9	0.9	11.1	10.7	0.4
Moncton-Richibucto	109.0	108.8	0.2	6.4	6.0	0.4
Saint John-St. Stephen	83.2	87.3	-4.7	7.3	6.8	0.5
Fredericton-Oromocto	69.5	65.8	5.6	6.6	5.3	1.3
Edmundston-Woodstock	37.8	37.5	0.8	4.8	6.3	-1.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293

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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