



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

November 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 1,700 monthly increase in employment in November was not quite enough to offset the 1,800 decline a month earlier. That said, the jobs gains in November were driven by a rise in full-time work. Another important development in the labour market is the return of 4,600 workers back into the labour force. Recall that around 4,500 people stopped searching for work in October and left the labour force. Indeed, the 0.7 percentage point increase in the participation rate essentially cancels out the decline a month before.

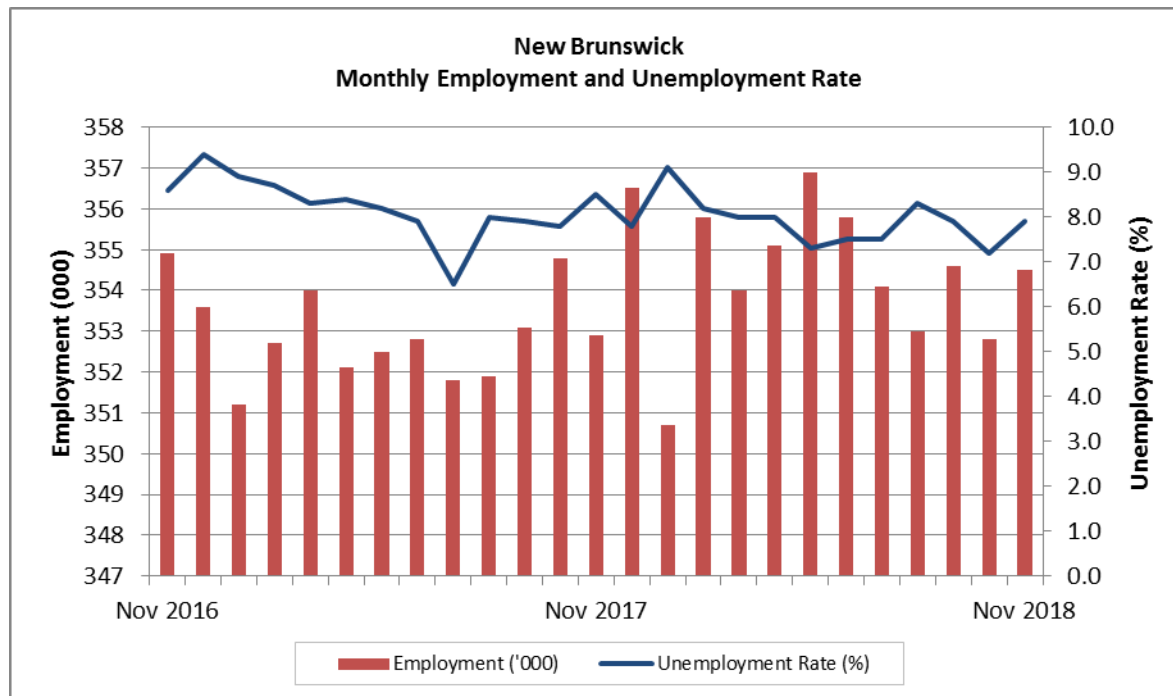
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	628.3	628.1	625.5	0.2	0.0	2.8	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	385.0	380.4	385.7	4.6	1.2	-0.7	-0.2
Employment ('000)	354.5	352.8	352.9	1.7	0.5	1.6	0.5
Full-Time ('000)	303.1	300.8	303.1	2.3	0.8	0.0	0.0
Part-Time ('000)	51.3	52.0	49.8	-0.7	-1.3	1.5	3.0
Unemployment ('000)	30.6	27.5	32.8	3.1	11.3	-2.2	-6.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.9	7.2	8.5	0.7	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.3	60.6	61.7	0.7	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.4	56.2	56.4	0.2	-	0.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The release of the November Labour Force Survey (LFS) figures means we now have information for nearly all of 2018, giving us a fairly complete picture of how labour market conditions have unfolded in 2018. Through the first eleven months of the year, the level of employment was 1,600 higher, on average, than the same period in 2017. Most of the job gains during this time, meanwhile, were in full-time work.



The monthly increase in employment in November was mostly limited to those in the 25 to 54 (prime age) category. By contrast, there was around 1,500 fewer older workers (55 years and over) employed in November than in the month before. During this same period, youth (15 to 24) employment rose by 800, extending the upward trend that began around the middle of 2017. It is somewhat noteworthy that most of the youth job gains during this time have been among females; male youth employment has been basically flat over the past year and a half.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.9	7.2	8.5	0.7	-0.6
25 years and over	7.3	6.8	7.6	0.5	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	8.1	7.5	8.9	0.6	-0.8
Women - 25 years and over	6.5	6.1	6.2	0.4	0.3
15 to 24 years	11.9	9.9	14.0	2.0	-2.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.1	12.5	15.3	3.6	0.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.6	7.3	13.1	0.3	-5.5

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

The recent strength in labour market conditions among younger women is reflected in the sharp decline in the rates of unemployment. Since November of 2017, the jobless rate for women between the ages of 15 and 24 has been nearly cut in half, falling from 13.1% to 7.6%. In contrast, the unemployment rate among men of the same age has actually risen slightly, settling at 16.1% in November.

The rate of unemployment among older workers has risen by 0.7 of a percentage point since November of last year, which was fairly similar for both sexes. Unlike the younger age cohort, where there is such a large discrepancy in the unemployment rates of men and women, older workers experience roughly the same rate of unemployment regardless of their sex.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The **Goods-producing sector** (+1,400) drove the majority of the monthly job gains in November, with noticeable increases in **Manufacturing** (+600) and **Agriculture** (+400). This suggests that employers in these two export-oriented industries might be feeling more confident about hiring decisions in light of the new trade agreement (in principle) that came into effect last month. Outside of these two industries, employment was broadly unchanged in all the remaining goods-producing industries.

Employment was relatively unchanged in the **Services-producing** sector between October and November. However, employment was anything but flat at the sub-sectoral level, with fairly big swings observed in both directions. Job gains were registered in **Other services** (+700), **Accommodation and food services** (+600), **Trade** (+600), and **Information, culture and recreation** (+500). Going in the opposite direction, employment fell quite sharply in **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** (-1,200) and **Public administration** (-800).

On a year-over-year basis, the 1,500 rise in employment at the provincial level was a reflection of a 1,500 increase within the **Services-producing** sector. Broken down, we find that most of the services-related job gains over the past twelve months have been in **Information, culture and recreation** (+2,000), **Public administration** (+1,900), and **Health care and social assistance** (+1,900). Otherwise, employment levels diminished in **Trade** (-1,600), **Business, building and other support services** (-1,100), **Accommodation and food services** (-1,000) and **Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** (-900). Employment was basically unchanged over the past year in the **Educational services** sector, which is a continuation of the recent trend. Indeed, employment in the sector has hovered in the same range for close to three years.

While employment in the Goods-producing sector was broadly unchanged on a year-over-year basis in November, labour market conditions were mixed at the sub-sectoral level. Industries such as **Agriculture** (+2,300) and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (+2,000) observed some significant job gains. When expressed in percentage terms, they translate into growth rates of 50% and 24%, respectively. In sharp contrast, job losses of roughly the same magnitude were registered in the **Construction** (-2,500) and **Manufacturing** (-2,200) industries, shedding a combined 4,700 jobs between the two.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	354.5	352.8	352.9	1.7	0.5	1.6	0.5
Goods-producing sector	73.2	71.8	73.0	1.4	1.9	0.2	0.3
Agriculture	6.9	6.5	4.6	0.4	6.2	2.3	50.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.4	10.4	8.4	0.0	0.0	2.0	23.8
Utilities	3.4	3.2	2.9	0.2	6.2	0.5	17.2
Construction	22.4	22.2	24.9	0.2	0.9	-2.5	-10.0
Manufacturing	30.1	29.5	32.3	0.6	2.0	-2.2	-6.8
Services-producing sector	281.3	281.0	279.8	0.3	0.1	1.5	0.5
Trade	53.4	52.8	55.0	0.6	1.1	-1.6	-2.9
Transportation and warehousing	18.4	18.0	18.7	0.4	2.2	-0.3	-1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	15.6	16.8	16.5	-1.2	-7.1	-0.9	-5.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.3	15.6	14.3	-0.3	-1.9	1.0	7.0
Business, building and other support services	16.3	16.3	17.4	0.0	0.0	-1.1	-6.3
Educational services	26.3	26.4	26.0	-0.1	-0.4	0.3	1.2
Health care and social assistance	61.0	61.2	59.1	-0.2	-0.3	1.9	3.2
Information, culture and recreation	12.7	12.2	10.7	0.5	4.1	2.0	18.7
Accommodation and food services	24.1	23.5	25.1	0.6	2.6	-1.0	-4.0
Other services	14.2	13.5	14.9	0.7	5.2	-0.7	-4.7
Public administration	24.0	24.8	22.1	-0.8	-3.2	1.9	8.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour market conditions in New Brunswick were rather mixed when broken down by economic region in November. While the Saint John-St. Stephen and Campbellton-Miramichi Economic regions (ER) each registered some meaningful employment gains since November of last year, Fredericton-Oromocto and Moncton-Richibucto ERs both registered job losses that essentially offset all of the gains elsewhere.

The 1,900 gain in employment in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER is encouraging given some of the challenges facing the region's economy over the past several months. Among others, these include the anti-dumping and countervailing duties imposed earlier this year on shipments of softwood lumber destined to the United States. More than any other ER, Campbellton-Miramichi is made up of several small communities who depend significantly on income that is generated by forestry activity. All of that said, the employment gains over the past twelve months have lowered the unemployment rate from 11.4% in November of last year to 10.8%, leaving it a little more in line with the other economic regions.

Labour market conditions have deteriorated somewhat in the **Moncton-Richibucto** ER over the past year. The number of people employed in the region declined by 2,400 since November of 2017. An even bigger number of workers left the labour force during the same period, which is why the unemployment rate fell slightly. At 5.5%, the rate of unemployment exceeds only that of the **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER and in general, labour market conditions are still relatively good.

Based on the employment figure alone, labour market conditions appear to have strengthened the most over the past year in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** economic region. The 4,400 rise in employment over this period led all regions and is one of the main reasons why employment didn't decline at the provincial level. The overall picture is even more encouraging once we consider that close to 4,000 workers re-entered the labour force since November of last year. Overall, there appears to be enough construction activity in the works, such as the Saint John water treatment project, to keep supporting labour market conditions in the region.

The 3,000 decline in employment in the **Fredericton-Oromocto** economic region follows what had otherwise been a period of healthy job gains between 2015 and 2017, in which the region boasted arguably the healthiest labour market in the province. The unemployment rate has fallen by a little over a percentage point since November of last year, settling at 6.8%.

Lastly, employment has remained pretty much unchanged in the **Edmundston-Woodstock** region over the past year. The unemployment rate, which has been on a steady decline for some time, fell by 1.4 percentage points to 4.7% in November, the lowest in the province. This was mostly due to a drop in the participation rate, which resulted in a further reduction in the size of the labour force. This is nothing new, however. While other economic regions in the province are beginning to experience a shrinking labour force, the Edmundston-Woodstock ER has seen a steady decline for the better part of a decade. The region's relatively high dependency on the forest industry does pose somewhat of a risk, if softwood lumber producers begin feeling the impacts of anti-dumping and countervailing duties that were imposed earlier in the year. In particular, after reaching record-highs this summer, prices for softwood lumber have retreated significantly.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2018 ('000)	Nov 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Nov 2018 (%)	Nov 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	357.2	356.7	0.1	6.8	7.0	-0.2
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	63.4	61.5	3.1	10.8	11.4	-0.6
Moncton-Richibucto	107.4	109.8	-2.2	5.5	6.1	-0.6
Saint John-St. Stephen	87.6	83.2	5.3	6.1	6.5	-0.4
Fredericton-Oromocto	62.1	65.1	-4.6	6.8	5.7	1.1
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.9	37.1	-0.5	4.7	6.1	-1.4

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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