



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

December 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

In New Brunswick, employment fell by 1,000 in the fourth quarter of 2018, as part-time work diminished by 1,300. Despite the job losses, the number of people counted as unemployed actually *fell* slightly, as well over a thousand people left the labour force in the quarter. In short, the rate of participation among the working age population, which has been declining gradually for almost a decade, declined further in the fourth quarter, settling at 61.0%.

The overall decline in employment between the third and fourth quarters of 2018 could not erase the relatively strong performance earlier in the year. Accordingly, for 2018 as a whole, New Brunswick employment grew by 1,400 compared to 2017.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

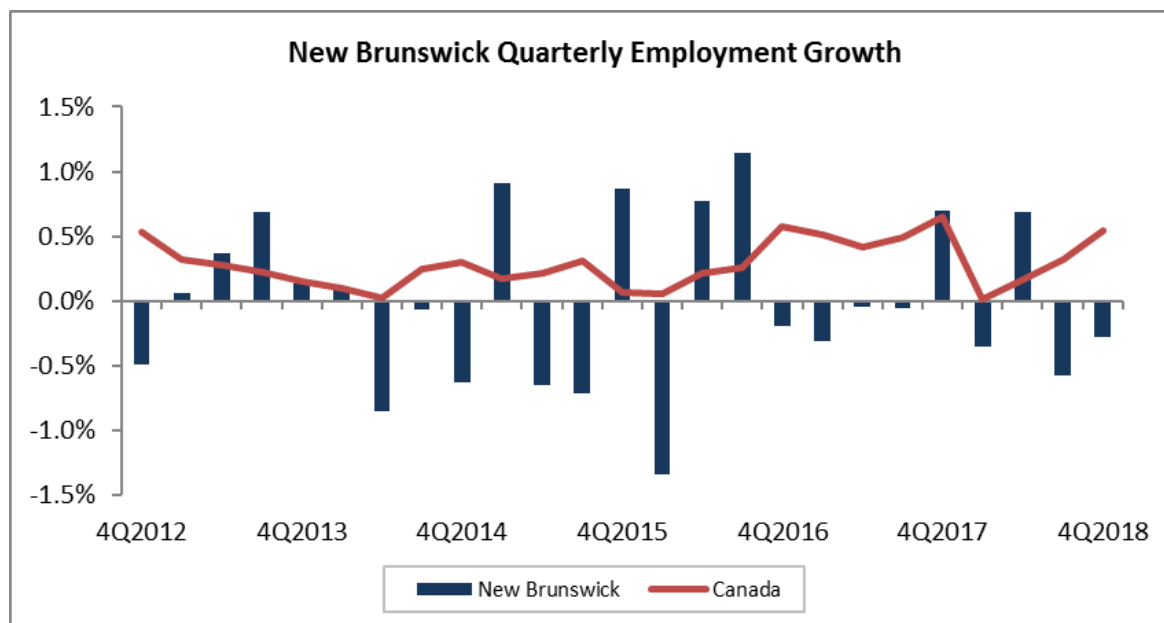
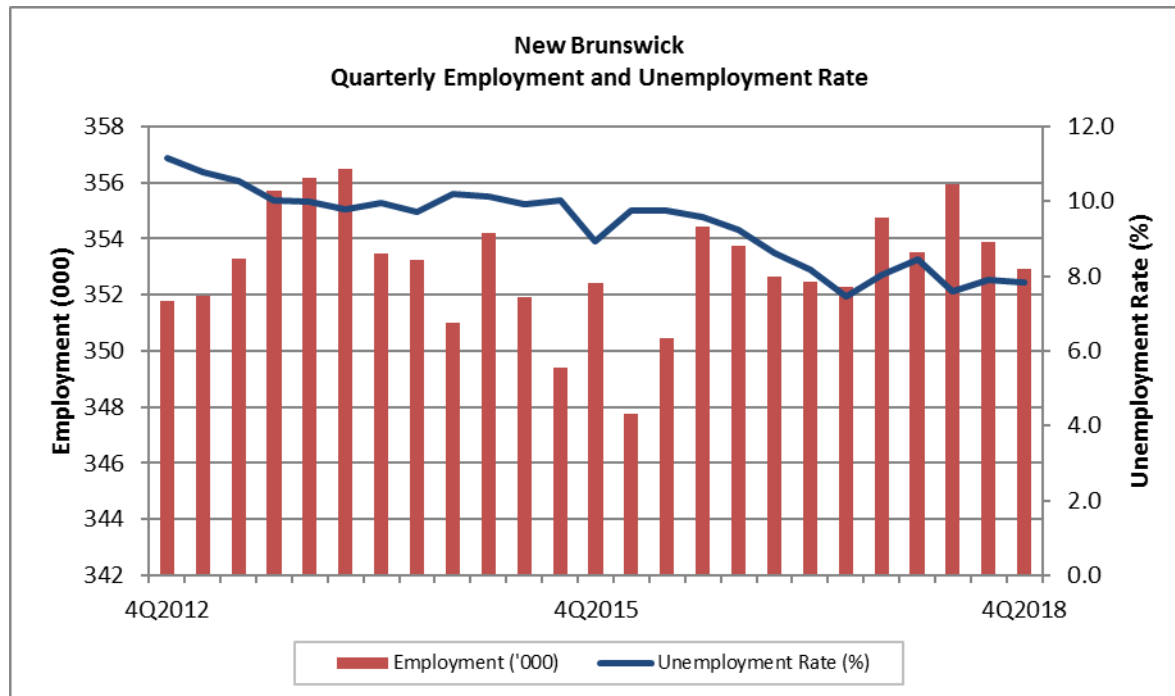
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2018	3rd Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2017	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	628.3	627.8	625.5	0.5	0.1	2.8	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	383.1	384.4	385.7	-1.3	-0.3	-2.6	-0.7
Employment ('000)	352.9	353.9	354.7	-1.0	-0.3	-1.8	-0.5
Full-Time ('000)	301.4	301.1	303.5	0.3	0.1	-2.1	-0.7
Part-Time ('000)	51.5	52.8	51.2	-1.3	-2.5	0.3	0.6
Unemployment ('000)	30.2	30.4	31.0	-0.2	-0.7	-0.8	-2.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	7.9	8.0	-0.1	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.0	61.2	61.7	-0.2	-	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.2	56.4	56.7	-0.2	-	-0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Since the fourth quarter of 2017, employment has diminished by 1,800 due to a drop in full-time work. The unemployment rate diminished only slightly, resulting from a 2,600 decline in the size of the labour force. The latter appears even more pronounced once we consider that the working age population actually grew by 2,800

between the fourth quarter of 2017 and the fourth quarter of 2018. The participation rate declined by 0.7 of a percentage point during the same period. Interestingly, the rate of participation only fell for men (-1.6 percentage points), whereas it was broadly unchanged among women.



Labour market conditions among youth workers appear to have improved somewhat over the past twelve months (four quarters). This can be illustrated by the youth unemployment rate, which has fallen from 13.3% in the fourth quarter of 2017 to 11.6% in the fourth quarter of 2018. The youth unemployment rate fell by 2.0 percentage points for men and 1.0 percentage point for women. It should be noted, however, that at 8.6% in the fourth quarter of 2018, the youth unemployment rate for women was considerably lower than the 14.6% youth unemployment rate for men.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
	2018 (%)	2018 (%)	2017 (%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.8	7.9	8.0	-0.1	-0.2
25 years and over	7.3	7.1	7.2	0.2	0.0
Men - 25 years and over	8.0	8.3	8.6	-0.3	-0.6
Women - 25 years and over	6.6	5.8	5.8	0.8	0.8
15 to 24 years	11.6	13.2	13.3	-1.6	-1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.6	16.6	15.2	-2.0	-0.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.6	9.6	11.4	-1.0	-2.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared to the first quarter of 2017, job gains across the province have been more or less limited to youth workers, as employment has grown by 1,600 among this particular group. Digging deeper, these job gains have been limited only to young women (+1,600) during this period; youth employment for males was unchanged. Looking at a longer time horizon, youth employment levels for both men and women remain in line with their respective long-run averages.

Labour market conditions deteriorated somewhat for those above the age of 55 in the past year. The level of employment among older workers declined by nearly 2,000 between the final quarters of 2017 and 2018. When taken in proper context, this decline is not quite as discouraging, since it follows a gain of more than 4,000 between the last quarters of 2016 and 2017. Still, over a longer horizon, the pace of job gains among older workers in the province has diminished gradually over the past few years, especially when compared to earlier in the decade.

In the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2018, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was around 2 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 3.5% of that, or 70,700 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic Provinces was 41,200, representing an increase of 6,000 (+17.0%) from a year earlier (Q4 2017). The increase was mostly driven by full-time positions (+4,200 or +14.6%). Part-time positions also saw a moderate increase (+1,900 or +29.7%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 12.3% in Q4 2018, representing a decrease of -3.9 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was 7.7% (-1.2pp). Between Q4 2017 and Q4 2018, the participation rate of Indigenous people increased to 66.4% (+5.4pp) while among non-Indigenous population, it was 60.3% (-0.7pp). The employment rate of Indigenous people increased year-over-year to 58.2% (+7.1pp); for the non-Indigenous population, it increased to 55.7% (+0.1pp).

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q4 2018	Q4 2017	number	%	Q4 2018	Q4 2017	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	70.7	68.8	1.9	2.8%	1,928.3	1,921.1	7.2	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	47.0	42.0	5.0	11.9%	1,163.7	1,172.7	-9.0	-0.8%
Employment ('000)	41.2	35.2	6.0	17.0%	1,074.0	1,068.1	5.9	0.6%
Full-Time ('000)	32.9	28.7	4.2	14.6%	894.7	889.4	5.3	0.6%
Part-Time ('000)	8.3	6.4	1.9	29.7%	179.2	178.7	0.5	0.3%
Unemployment ('000)	5.8	6.8	-1.0	-14.7%	89.8	104.6	-14.8	-14.1%
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.3	16.2	-3.9	-	7.7	8.9	-1.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.4	61.0	5.4	-	60.3	61.0	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	58.2	51.1	7.1	-	55.7	55.6	0.1	-

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 decline in employment between the third and fourth quarters of 2018 was concentrated within the **Services-producing sector** (-1,400), which was weighed down particularly by sharp losses in **Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (-1,900), **Public administration** (-1,200) and **Other services** (-700). Job growth was recorded in the overall **Goods-producing sector** (+400), but nonetheless held back by a decline in **Manufacturing** (-800) employment.

On a year-over-year basis, job losses in both the Goods and Services-producing sectors contributed to an overall employment decline of 1,800. While much of this was attributable to losses within the **Goods-producing sector**, conditions across these industries were very mixed, with positive developments in **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (+2,100) and **Agriculture** (+2,000) unable to offset more pronounced job losses in **Manufacturing** (-3,000) and **Construction** (-2,700). The latter decline likely reflects a winding-down of public works investment and the completion of major projects like the \$100M Avenir Centre in Moncton. Manufacturing employment was somewhat elevated towards the end of 2017, so recent losses are more a reflection of a return to normal.

Job losses were less pronounced within the **Services-producing sector** (-600), where there was a clear divergence between public and private sector job growth. On the one hand, over 3,500 jobs were added between **Public administration, Health care and social assistance** and **Education**, which are all primarily functions of government. In contrast, with the exception of **Information, culture and recreation** (+1,900), job growth across private sector industries was mainly negative, with **Trade** (-2,400) drawing the most significant losses despite 20 Cannabis NB outlets coming online in October 2018.

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2018	3rd Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2017	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	352.9	353.9	354.7	-1.0	-0.3	-1.8	-0.5
Goods-producing sector	72.4	72.0	73.6	0.4	0.6	-1.2	-1.6
Agriculture	6.5	5.8	4.5	0.7	12.0	2.0	45.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.4	10.0	8.3	0.3	3.3	2.1	25.4
Utilities	3.3	3.1	2.9	0.2	5.4	0.4	12.6
Construction	22.5	22.5	25.2	0.0	0.0	-2.7	-10.6
Manufacturing	29.8	30.5	32.8	-0.8	-2.5	-3.0	-9.2
Services-producing sector	280.5	281.9	281.1	-1.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.2
Trade	53.1	52.9	55.4	0.2	0.3	-2.4	-4.3
Transportation and warehousing	18.3	18.5	18.5	-0.2	-1.3	-0.2	-1.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	15.9	17.7	16.4	-1.9	-10.5	-0.6	-3.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.5	15.9	14.9	-0.4	-2.7	0.6	3.8
Business, building and other support services	16.1	16.3	17.4	-0.2	-1.4	-1.4	-7.8
Educational services	26.5	25.9	26.3	0.6	2.4	0.2	0.9
Health care and social assistance	60.5	59.6	59.5	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.6
Information, culture and recreation	12.4	10.8	10.5	1.6	14.8	1.9	18.0
Accommodation and food services	23.8	23.8	25.3	0.0	0.0	-1.5	-5.9
Other services	14.1	14.7	14.9	-0.7	-4.5	-0.8	-5.6
Public administration	24.5	25.7	22.0	-1.2	-4.7	2.5	11.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour market conditions across New Brunswick's economic regions (ERs) were mainly negative during fourth quarter of 2018, with only **Saint John-St. Stephen** showing signs of improvement. Losses were fairly pronounced in the province's two other largest ERs (**Moncton-Richibucto** and **Fredericton-Oromocto**), with little change elsewhere.

Labour market conditions were fairly stable within the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER over the past year, with only 100 jobs added. An additional 400 people entered the labour force over this period, despite fewer people in the working population, which resulted in a slight increase to the unemployment rate. Notwithstanding this most recent quarter's small increase to the labour force, the region continues to boast the lowest participation rate (54.1%) in the province.

Following a strong start to 2018, the **Moncton-Richibucto** ER's labour market struggled for the second consecutive quarter to end the year, with 2,100 jobs lost in the fourth quarter on a year-over-year basis. Much of these losses were concentrated within Trade (-4,000) which, until recently, has been one of the key drivers of growth within this region. Perhaps more concerning, however, is the steep decline (2.3 percentage points) in the participation rate, following the exit of 3,100 people from the labour force.

The **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER was the only region to show significant improvement in the fourth quarter of 2018, with sizeable increases in both employment (+5,100) and the labour force (+5,600). Not only has the region seen consistent improvement (+3.7 percentage points) in its participation rate over the past year, but job seekers are finding jobs. This is particularly evident within the Services-producing sector, where over 6,000 jobs were created over the past year, mainly within the public sphere (Public administration, Health care and social assistance and Education).

Labour market outcomes within the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER were the worst in the province during the fourth quarter of 2018, as the region saw massive withdrawal from the labour force (-3,700) and even greater job losses (-4,100). The latter were wide-spread, with significant declines observed within several industries. The region’s participation rate also edged down by nearly four percentage points over the past year and at 57.6% is the lowest on record for the Fredericton-Oromocto ER.

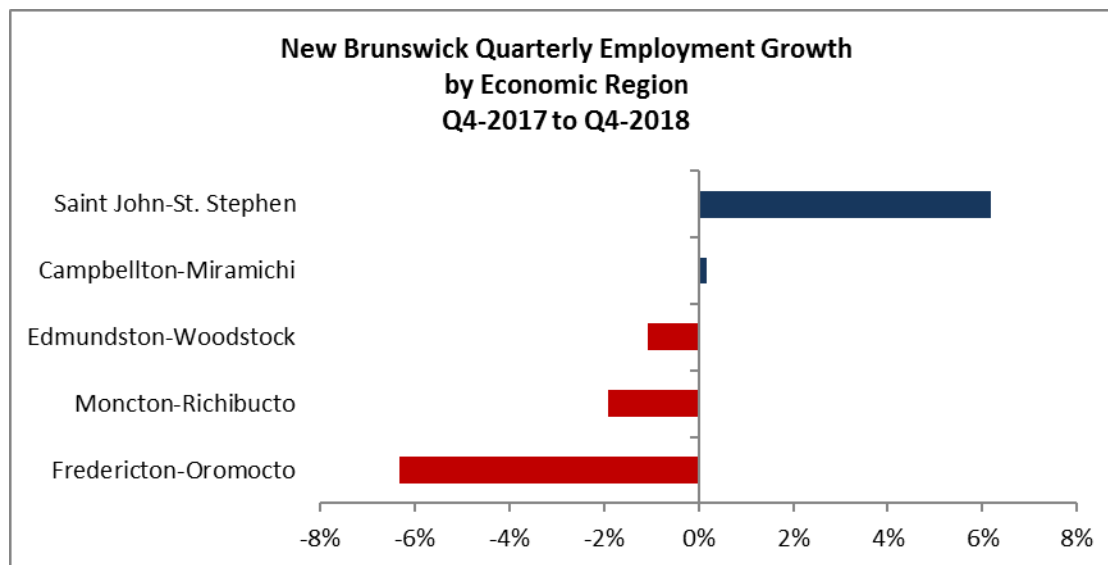
The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER’s labour market deteriorated somewhat over the past year, with 400 fewer people employed. An even greater number left the workforce, leading to a 1.1 percentage point decline in the unemployment rate which, at 5.4%, is tied (with Moncton-Richibucto) for the lowest across ERs. This region is probably most susceptible to the duties that were placed on softwood lumber earlier this year. Some of this region’s largest employers have ties to the forest sector, including Twin Rivers Paper Company with its Edmundston pulp mill.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2018 ('000)	4th Quarter 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	4th Quarter 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	352.7	354.2	-0.4	7.3	7.3	0.0
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	60.0	59.9	0.2	12.7	12.3	0.4
Moncton-Richibucto	107.9	110.0	-1.9	5.4	6.1	-0.7
Saint John-St. Stephen	87.5	82.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	0.0
Fredericton-Oromocto	60.6	64.7	-6.3	7.2	6.2	1.0
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.7	37.1	-1.1	5.4	6.5	-1.1

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact the LMI team at:

http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2019, all rights reserved