



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

October 2019



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

Labour market conditions in New Brunswick deteriorated for the second consecutive month in October, as a 1,200 decline in employment followed an even bigger 1,500 decline in September. Despite the job losses, the unemployment rate edged down from 8.3% to 8.1%, as two thousand fewer people searched for work. Nearly 5,000 workers left the labour force altogether during the past two months, which explains the even bigger 0.4 percentage point decline in the unemployment rate.

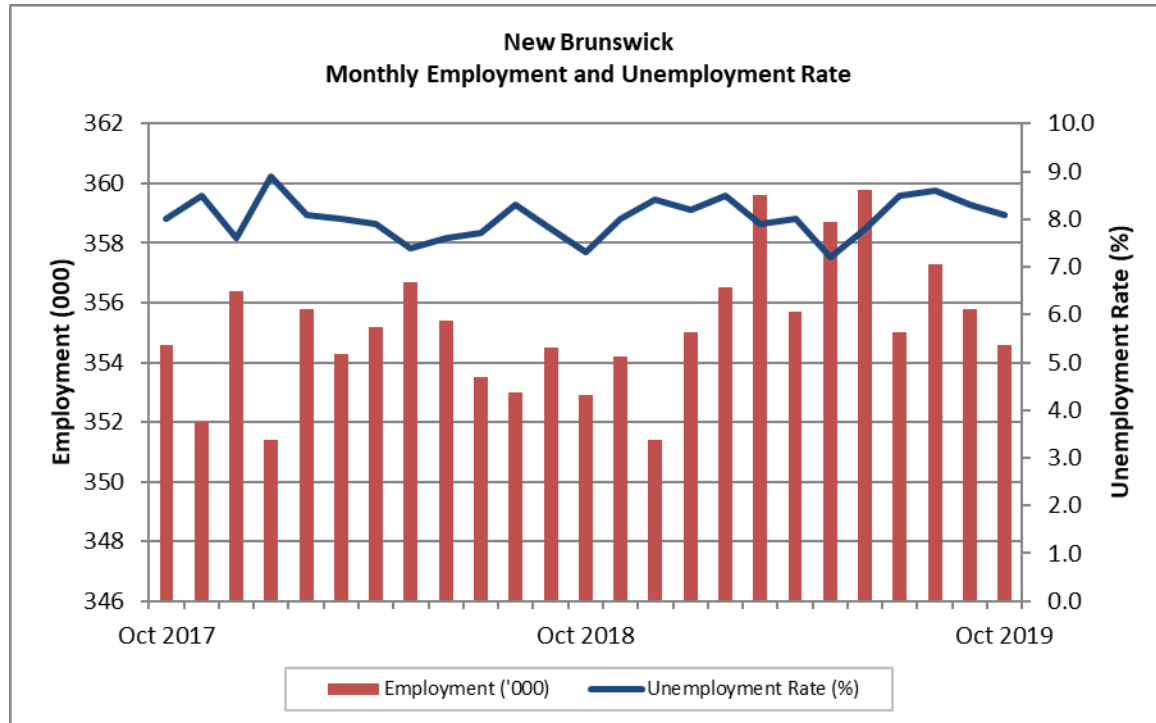
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	633.5	633.2	628.1	0.3	0.0	5.4	0.9
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	386.1	388.1	380.8	-2.0	-0.5	5.3	1.4
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	354.6	355.8	352.9	-1.2	-0.3	1.7	0.5
Full-Time ('000)	301.6	300.7	301.1	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.2
Part-Time ('000)	53.0	55.2	51.8	-2.2	-4.0	1.2	2.3
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	31.4	32.3	27.9	-0.9	-2.8	3.5	12.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.1	8.3	7.3	-0.2	-	0.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	60.9	61.3	60.6	-0.4	-	0.3	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	56.0	56.2	56.2	-0.2	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Notwithstanding the recent weakness, the level of employment is still up by 2,500 through the first ten months of the year compared to the same period in 2018. The average unemployment rate through the first ten months, however, still edged up by 0.2 of a percentage point to 8.1%, as 3,600 more persons were counted in the labour force compared to the same January-October period a year earlier.



Job losses during the past two months were spread between youth (15 to 24 years) and prime age (25 to 54 years) workers. The older cohort (aged 55 and over) registered a cumulative increase of 3,200 over the past two months, roughly two thirds of which was in full-time employment.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.1	8.3	7.3	-0.2	0.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.0	7.1	6.9	-0.1	0.1
Men - 25 years and over	8.2	8.2	7.6	0.0	0.6
Women - 25 years and over	5.6	6.0	6.2	-0.4	-0.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	15.6	15.6	9.7	0.0	5.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.5	17.8	12.5	-0.3	5.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.6	13.1	6.9	0.5	6.7

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

Youth employment has remained unchanged on a year-to-date basis through the first ten months of the year compared to the same January-October period a year earlier. This extends a longer-term trend that began in early 2012. All of the year-to-date job gains across the province during the January to October period have been concentrated among the 55 years and over cohort (+3,000), which is more or less the general pattern seen in the province since the early 2000s.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job losses were heaviest among services-producing industries in October, which is in contrast to the job losses a month earlier, which were confined exclusively to the **goods-producing sector**. Looking at the first ten months of the year, employment is up in both the **goods-producing sector** (+1,400) and the **services-producing sector** (+1,100) compared to the same period a year earlier.

The 1,200 month-over-month decline in employment across the province in October reflected a 1,500 decline in **services-producing sector** employment, that was offset by a slight increase in the **goods-producing sector**. More specifically, job losses in services-related industries were concentrated mainly in **accommodation and food services** (-1,400), **health care and social assistance** (-1,000) and **professional, scientific and technical services** (-600). Aside from some modest job gains in **public administration** and **transportation and warehousing**, there was very little change in employment in any of the remaining services industries. Otherwise, the recent weakness in **health care and social assistance** is a complete reversal of the rapid pace of job creation between 2015 and 2018, where a little over 10,000 jobs were added to the economy. Since then, employment in **health care and social assistance** has remained essentially flat with the exception of some small fluctuations.

Within the **goods-producing sector**, job gains in **manufacturing** and **agriculture** last month were essentially erased by a drop in **construction** employment. The apparent weakness in **construction**, however, should be taken in a broader context, which shows employment up comfortably through the first ten months of the year compared to the same period last year. **Construction** employment, therefore, appears set to register its first meaningful annual increase in the past five years.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2019	Sept 2019	Oct 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	354.6	355.8	353.0	-1.2	-0.3	1.6	0.5
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	73.6	73.2	72.0	0.4	0.5	1.6	2.2
Agriculture	6.4	5.7	6.6	0.7	12.3	-0.2	-3.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.3	9.2	10.4	0.1	1.1	-1.1	-10.6
Utilities	3.5	3.7	3.2	-0.2	-5.4	0.3	9.4
Construction	23.4	25.1	22.2	-1.7	-6.8	1.2	5.4
Manufacturing	30.8	29.5	29.5	1.3	4.4	1.3	4.4
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	281.1	282.6	281.0	-1.5	-0.5	0.1	0.0
Trade	50.7	50.2	52.9	0.5	1.0	-2.2	-4.2
Transportation and warehousing	18.4	17.9	18.1	0.5	2.8	0.3	1.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.2	17.2	16.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	4.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	17.0	17.6	15.7	-0.6	-3.4	1.3	8.3
Business, building and other support services	16.4	16.8	16.3	-0.4	-2.4	0.1	0.6
Educational services	27.0	27.2	26.4	-0.2	-0.7	0.6	2.3
Health care and social assistance	60.5	61.5	61.0	-1.0	-1.6	-0.5	-0.8
Information, culture and recreation	12.6	12.8	12.2	-0.2	-1.6	0.4	3.3
Accommodation and food services	20.1	21.5	23.5	-1.4	-6.5	-3.4	-14.5
Other services	14.4	13.9	13.6	0.5	3.6	0.8	5.9
Public administration	26.7	26.0	24.8	0.7	2.7	1.9	7.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour market developments have been generally encouraging at a regional level over the past year. Aside from the **Campbellton-Miramichi Economic Region (ER)**, no significant job losses were registered anywhere in the province since October of 2018. The greatest contributors to overall employment growth in the province during the past year were the **Fredericton-Oromocto ER**, which registered job gains of 5,600, and the **Saint John-St. Stephen ER**, where employment grew by 2,500.

Labour market conditions continue to deteriorate in the **Campbellton-Miramichi ER**. Compared to a year earlier, the level of employment across the ER had fallen by 5,600. This deterioration may have contributed to the exodus of potentially discouraged workers who left the labour force over the same period, which is why the unemployment rate rose so modestly. Nonetheless, at 12.2% in October, the unemployment rate in the **Campbellton-Miramichi ER** is easiest the highest among all the economic regions in the province.

In **Moncton-Richibucto**, stronger economic conditions have helped sustain relatively healthy labour market conditions in the ER, as suggested by the near-2,000 jobs during the past year. These job gains were matched by an even larger number of entrants into the labour force, which explains the *increase* in the unemployment rate since last October. Despite the modest 0.2 percentage point increase, the unemployment rate is tied for the lowest in the province at 5.8%.

The unemployment rate grew from 6.9% last October to 7.6% in October in **Saint John-St. Stephen**, even though employment grew by 2,500. Similar to some of the other economic regions in the province, the increase in employment over the past year was not able to fully absorb the influx of workers into the labour force searching for work.

Labour market conditions have strengthened considerably in the **Fredericton-Oromocto ER** over the past few months. The year-over-year employment gains have risen to 5,600 in October, up significantly from the year-over-year increase earlier in the year, where annual gains were barely positive. A smaller but nonetheless sizeable influx into the labour force since October of last year, however, helped contain the downward movement in the unemployment rate to 0.7 of a percentage point to 5.8% in October, which is tied for lowest with the **Moncton-Richibucto ER**.

Despite some modest job losses during the past year in **Edmundston-Woodstock**, close to two thousand workers joined the labour force. There were roughly 700 fewer jobs in October of this year than there was a year earlier. It was the considerably larger drop in the number of active participants in the labour force, however, which exerted the majority of the upward pressure on the unemployment rate, which soared from 4.4% in October of last year to the current 5.9%.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2019 ('000)	Oct 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Oct 2019 (%)	Oct 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	364.5	361.3	0.9	7.3	7.0	0.3
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	58.8	65.4	-10.1	12.2	11.0	1.2
Moncton-Richibucto	110.4	108.5	1.8	5.8	5.6	0.2
Saint John-St. Stephen	88.0	85.5	2.9	7.6	6.9	0.7
Fredericton-Oromocto	70.3	64.7	8.7	5.8	6.6	-0.8
Edmundston-Woodstock	37.0	37.3	-0.8	5.9	4.4	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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