



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

March 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

From a quarterly perspective, employment in New Brunswick grew by 4,200 in the first quarter of 2019. Despite such a healthy increase, the unemployment rate actually increased, rising from 7.9% to 8.2%, as 5,600 workers entered the labour force during the same period. The latter owes mainly to a considerable increase in the participation rate, since the population was essentially unchanged.

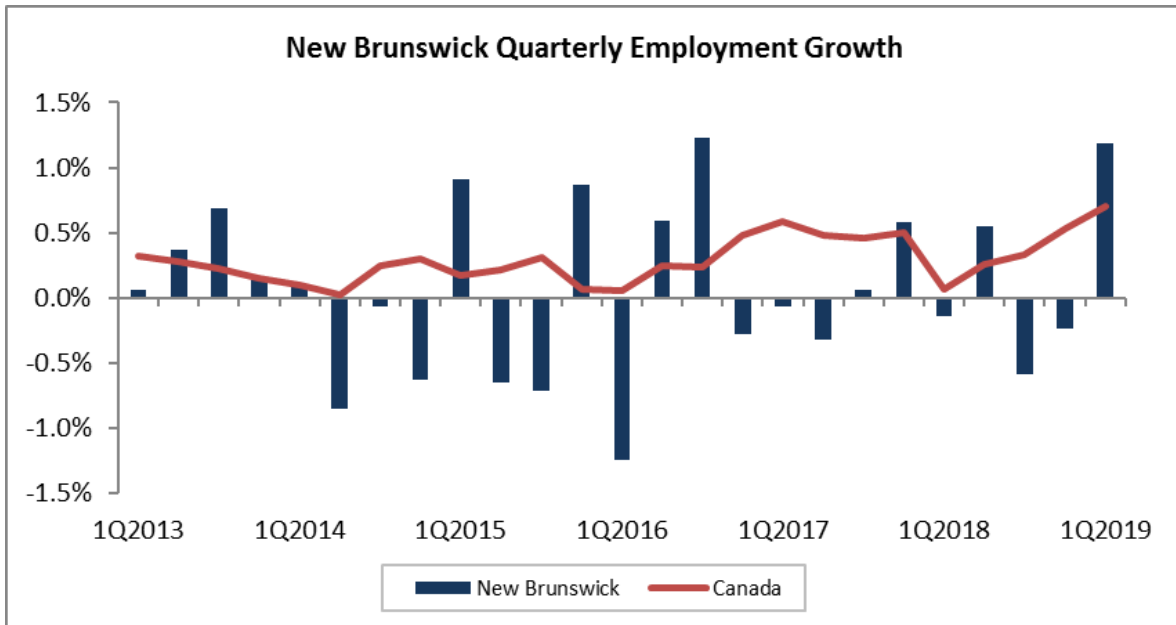
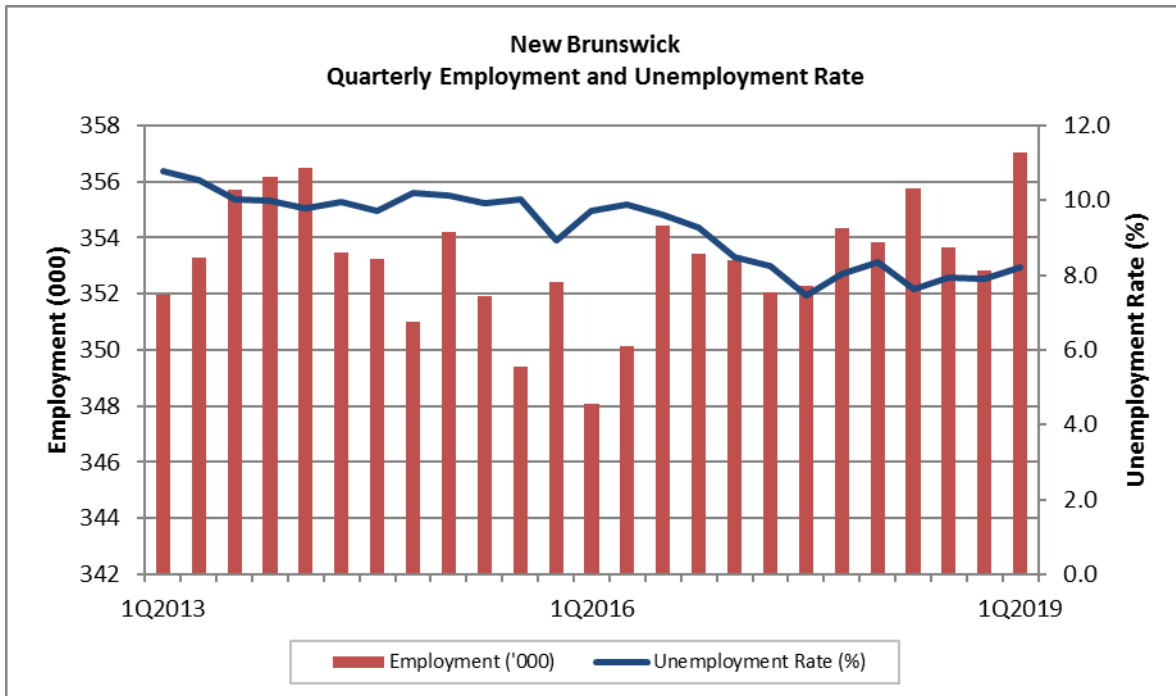
New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2019	2018	2018	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	629.0	628.3	626.2	0.7	0.1	2.8	0.4
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	388.8	383.2	386.0	5.6	1.5	2.8	0.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	357.0	352.8	353.8	4.2	1.2	3.2	0.9
Full-Time ('000)	304.2	301.3	303.4	2.9	1.0	0.8	0.3
Part-Time ('000)	52.9	51.5	50.5	1.4	2.7	2.4	4.8
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	31.8	30.3	32.2	1.5	5.0	-0.4	-1.2
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.2	7.9	8.3	0.3	-	-0.1	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	61.8	61.0	61.6	0.8	-	0.2	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	56.8	56.2	56.5	0.6	-	0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The story surrounding the New Brunswick labour market is not quite as optimistic when assessed on an annual basis. Compared to the first quarter of last year, the level of employment has grown by a more modest (but still respectful) 3,200. Unfortunately, the majority of these gains were in part-time positions. The 2,800 increase in the labour force was the reflection of a matching increase in the size of the working age population.



## New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	Quarterly	Yearly
	2019 (%)	2018 (%)	2018 (%)	Variation (% points)	Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.2	7.9	8.3	0.3	-0.1
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.5	7.3	7.3	0.1	0.2
Men - 25 years and over	8.4	8.0	8.9	0.4	-0.5
Women - 25 years and over	6.5	6.6	5.6	-0.1	0.9
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.4	11.5	14.9	0.9	-2.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.5	14.5	18.4	-0.1	-3.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.1	8.4	11.0	1.8	-0.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The biggest change in the unemployment rate between the first quarter of this year and the last quarter of 2018 took place among women in their youth, rising from 8.4% to 10.1%. The unemployment rate for younger men, meanwhile, remained unchanged from the previous quarter.

On an annual basis, the unemployment rate was little changed among those 25 and over. For youth, however, the unemployment rate shrank considerably between the first quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of this year. The decline was especially pronounced among men (-3.9 percentage points), although still noticeable for women (-0.9 of a percentage point).

## 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 2019	Q1 2018	number	%	Q1 2019	Q1 2018	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	71.2	69.2	2.0	2.9%	1,930.1	1,922.5	7.6	0.4%
Labour Force ('000)	42.8	41.4	1.4	3.4%	1,160.2	1,153.0	7.2	0.6%
Employment ('000)	37.5	34.8	2.7	7.8%	1,050.9	1,029.4	21.5	2.1%
Full-Time ('000)	29.4	28.3	1.1	3.9%	865.3	850.4	14.9	1.8%
Part-Time ('000)	8.1	6.5	1.6	24.6%	185.6	179.0	6.6	3.7%
Unemployment ('000)	5.3	6.6	-1.3	-19.7%	109.2	123.6	-14.4	-11.7%
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.4	16.0	-3.6	-	9.4	10.7	-1.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	60.0	59.9	0.1	-	60.1	60.0	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	52.6	50.3	2.3	-	54.4	53.5	0.9	-

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.

In the first quarter (Q1) of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic provinces was 2 million. The Indigenous population living off reserve accounted for 3.6% of that, or 71,200 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces reached 37,500, representing an increase of 2700 (7.8%) from a year earlier (Q1 2018). The increase was in full-time positions (+1,100 or +3.9%) and especially in part-time positions (+1,600 or 24.6%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 12.4% in Q1 2019, down 3.6 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was also relatively stable at 9.4% (-1.3pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among Indigenous people increased to 60% (+0.1pp), at par with the participation rate for the non-Indigenous population at 60.1% (+0.1pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population increased year-over-year to 52.6% (+2.3pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population reached 54.4% (+0.9%), compared to a year earlier.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The New Brunswick labour market showed improvement in both the **Goods-producing** and **Services-producing** sectors in the first quarter of the year. The 1,300 jobs that were added to the **Goods-producing** sector were the result of an 1,800 expansion in **Manufacturing** and a 1,500 increase in the **Construction** industry. Weighing against those gains were losses in **Agriculture** and **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**, which both lost 1,000 jobs respectively.

The quarterly rise in employment in the **Services-producing** sector were spread across a variety of industries. Job gains were registered in seven of the eleven sub-industries, with the largest contribution coming from **Public administration** (+1,500). The level of employment grew by 900, for instance, in both **Information, culture and recreation** as well as **Other services**. The only instances where labour market conditions worsened during the past quarter was in **Accommodation and food services** and **Trade**, both of which registered some fairly significant job losses. Employment in Business, building and other support services (-0.5) and Health care and social assistance (-0.4) also declined.

On an annual basis, the **Services-producing sector** was responsible for all the employment gains during the past four quarters. In fact, the 3,200 rise in employment during this period matches exactly the industry-wide increase. Digging deeper, the story is not quite as upbeat, as job gains were confined to only a few industries, such as **Information, culture and recreation** (+3,000) and **Public administration** (+2,700). One encouraging development within the services sector over the past year is that job losses were also confined to only a small subset of industries. The number of persons employed in **Trade** fell by 2,600, which is somewhat curious given the already-noted surge in Information, culture and recreation. Those two industries often move in the same direction. The 1,200 jobs that were lost in **Health care and social assistance** certainly runs contrary to the recent trend of healthy job gains over the past few years. There is no reason to expect any sustained period of job losses moving forward, however, given the mounting pressures on health care services and delivery. It is possible that the recent slowdown in job gains could be related to a shortage of labour. There recent rise in the vacancy rate for health care workers does suggest that employers in the industry are having difficulty finding skilled workers.

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	1st Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	357.0	352.9	353.8	4.2	1.2	3.2	0.9
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	73.7	72.5	73.8	1.3	1.7	-0.1	-0.1
Agriculture	5.6	6.5	5.2	-1.0	-14.8	0.3	6.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.4	10.4	8.1	-1.0	-9.3	1.3	15.6
Utilities	3.2	3.3	3.0	0.0	-1.0	0.2	6.6
Construction	24.0	22.5	24.6	1.5	6.5	-0.6	-2.3
Manufacturing	31.6	29.7	32.8	1.8	6.2	-1.2	-3.8
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	283.3	280.4	280.1	2.9	1.0	3.2	1.2
Trade	52.3	53.1	54.9	-0.8	-1.4	-2.6	-4.7
Transportation and warehousing	19.0	18.3	17.8	0.7	3.6	1.2	6.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.3	15.7	16.3	0.6	3.8	0.1	0.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.8	15.6	16.2	0.2	1.5	-0.4	-2.7
Business, building and other support services	15.6	16.0	15.5	-0.5	-2.9	0.0	0.2
Educational services	27.3	26.5	26.3	0.8	2.9	1.0	3.8
Health care and social assistance	59.9	60.3	61.1	-0.4	-0.6	-1.2	-1.9
Information, culture and recreation	13.3	12.4	10.3	0.9	7.5	3.0	29.0
Accommodation and food services	22.7	23.8	23.5	-1.1	-4.5	-0.8	-3.4
Other services	15.0	14.1	14.7	0.9	6.4	0.3	1.8
Public administration	26.1	24.5	23.3	1.5	6.3	2.7	11.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour market developments at the regional level were mostly negative across the economic regions (ERs), as employment fell in four of the five regions. One could argue that the minimal decline in **Moncton-Richibucto** ER does not qualify as anything meaningful given its much larger employment base. The sole driver of employment growth over the past year turns out to be the **Saint John-St. Stephen** region.

Labour market conditions in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER deteriorated further during the past year. Compared to the first quarter of 2018, employment diminished by 2,700, lifting the unemployment rate to 16.6% from an already-elevated 14.4%.

There was very little change in overall labour market conditions in the **Moncton-Richibucto** ER during the past year. While there was only limited movement in the level of employment in the past four quarters, the labour force shrank considerably in the economic region, lifting the unemployment rate by 0.4 of a percentage point to 8.7%.

In contrast to the other regions in the province, the **Saint John- St. Stephen** ER showed significant improvement since the first quarter of last year. At 86,400, the number of persons employed in the first quarter of this year was around 10,700 higher than it was a year earlier.

The overall picture of the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER's labour market is somewhat mixed. Employment diminished by 1,800 and the unemployment rate fell by 1.4 percentage points. Admittedly, at 8.0% in the first quarter of this year, the latter is still second lowest in the province. The reduction in the labour force exceeded the drop in employment.

The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER's labour market lost 1,800 jobs over the past year. An even greater number of workers, meanwhile, left the labour force altogether and stopped searching for work during the same period. As a result, the rate of unemployment edged down by 0.3 of a percentage point since the first quarter of last year, settling at 8.2% in the quarter. Some of the region's largest employers have ties to the forest sector, including Twin

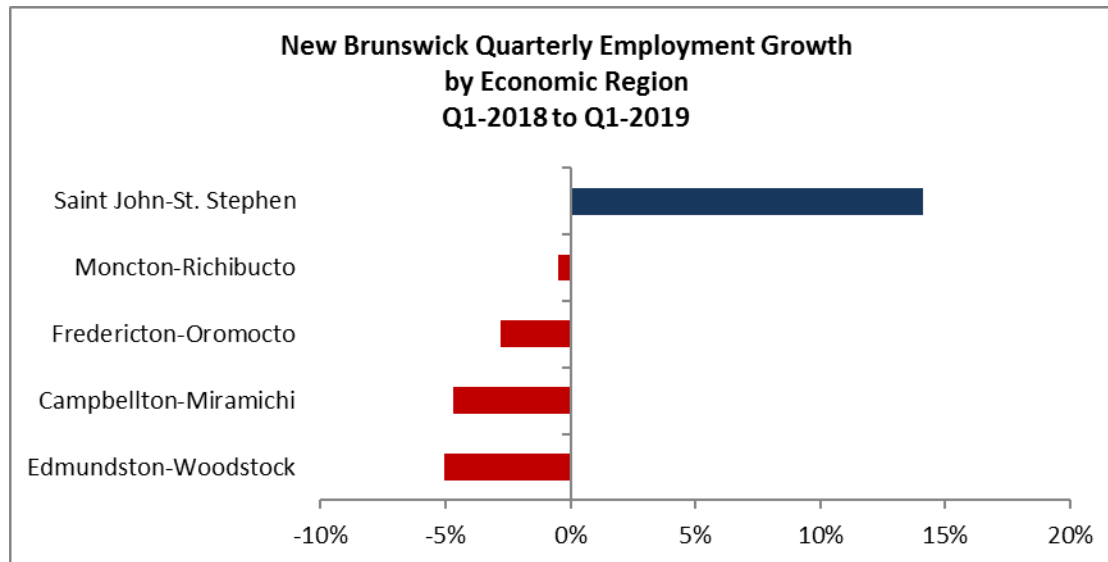
Rivers Paper Company with its Edmundston pulp mill. Exporters of softwood lumber are currently paying either 9% or 20% duties on lumber shipments to their biggest trading partner, the United States.

**New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2019 ('000)	1st Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2019 (%)	1st Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	343.8	339.8	1.2	9.4	9.6	-0.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	54.8	57.5	-4.7	16.6	14.4	2.2
Moncton-Richibucto	105.7	106.2	-0.5	8.7	8.3	0.4
Saint John-St. Stephen	86.4	75.7	14.1	6.6	7.8	-1.2
Fredericton-Oromocto	63.0	64.8	-2.8	8.0	9.4	-1.4
Edmundston-Woodstock	33.8	35.6	-5.1	8.2	8.5	-0.3

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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