



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

June 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

The 1,100 increase in employment in the second quarter, even if supported by a rise in part-time work, is encouraging since it follows a 4,200 gain in the previous quarter. Altogether, the number of New Brunswickers holding a job has risen by more than five thousand during the first half of the year. The rise in employment during the second quarter, coupled with 1,000 fewer active participants in the labour force, helped lower the unemployment rate by half a percentage point to 7.5% in the quarter.

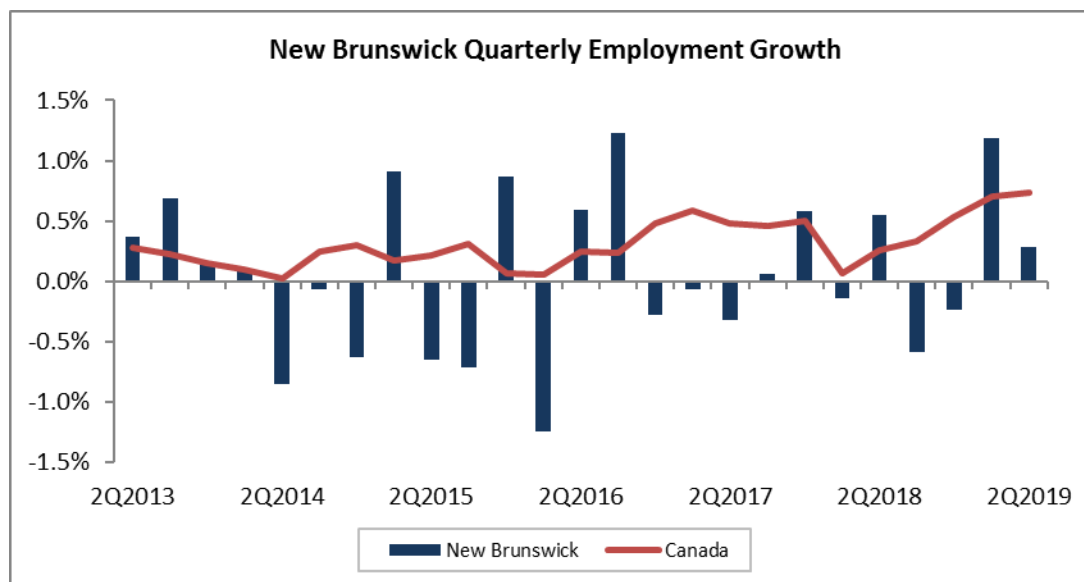
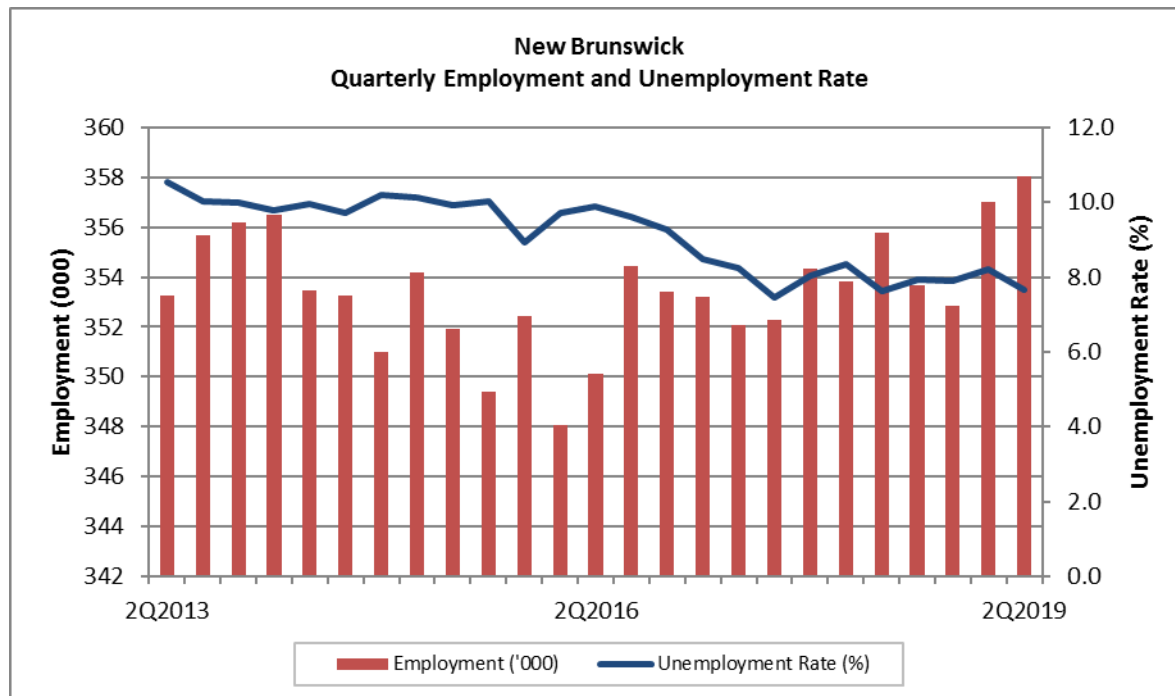
New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data | 2nd Quarter 2019 | 1st Quarter 2019 | 2nd Quarter 2018 | Quarterly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 630.4 | 629.0 | 627.2 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 3.2 | 0.5 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 387.8 | 388.8 | 385.3 | -1.0 | -0.3 | 2.5 | 0.6 |
| Employment ('000) | 358.1 | 357.0 | 355.8 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 0.6 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 303.1 | 304.2 | 305.1 | -1.1 | -0.4 | -2.0 | -0.7 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 54.9 | 52.9 | 50.6 | 2.0 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 8.5 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 29.7 | 31.8 | 29.5 | -2.1 | -6.6 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 7.7 | 8.2 | 7.6 | -0.5 | - | 0.1 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 61.5 | 61.8 | 61.4 | -0.3 | - | 0.1 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 56.8 | 56.8 | 56.7 | 0.0 | - | 0.1 | - |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

On a year-over-year basis, outcomes were generally positive, with sizeable increases in both the labour force and employment. Despite an unchanged participation rate, the labour force grew by 2,500 due to a healthy 3,200-person increase in the working age population. More generally, the participation rate has been relatively flat for the last couple of years, after trending downwards for close to a decade. The only unfavourable development was a drop in the number of full-time jobs (-2,000), which was masked by a relatively strong increase in part-time work.



Compared to the first quarter of 2019, the unemployment rate was down across all age categories in the second quarter. The factors contributing to these declines, however, were different for each group. Youth (aged 15 to 24 years) experienced a slight uptick in employment and fewer active participants in the labour force. On the other hand, for those aged between 25 and 54 years (i.e. the prime working years), the unemployment rate fell only because a decline in employment was coupled with an even bigger drop-off in the labour force - i.e. for all the wrong reasons. Conversely, the level of employment among the senior population (those aged 55 years and over) grew by 1,500 while the number of active labour market participants grew by a more modest 1,000.

On an annual basis, it was the senior age group that experienced the most significant improvements in overall labour market conditions, as suggested by the strong increases in both the number of seniors employed (+3,900) and the number of active participants in the labour force (+5,433). While the unemployment rates for youth and

prime aged workers were down, the determining factor in each cases were the exodus of nearly 3,000 people from the labour force.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | 2nd Quarter | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | Quarterly | Yearly |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 2019 (%) | 2019 (%) | 2018 (%) | Variation (% points) | Variation (% points) |
| Total | 7.7 | 8.2 | 7.6 | -0.5 | 0.0 |
| 25 years and over | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | -0.4 | 0.1 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.1 | -0.2 | 0.1 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 5.8 | 6.5 | 5.8 | -0.8 | 0.0 |
| 15 to 24 years | 11.6 | 12.4 | 12.0 | -0.8 | -0.4 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 15.3 | 14.5 | 15.4 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 7.3 | 10.1 | 8.3 | -2.8 | -1.0 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In the second quarter (Q2) of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic Provinces was approximately 2 million. The Indigenous population living off reserve accounted for 3.6% of that, or 71,700 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces reached 37,500, representing a decrease of 3,100 (-7.6%) from a year earlier (Q2 2018). The decrease was in full-time positions (-4,100 or -12.0%) that was partially offset by an increase in part-time positions (+900 or +14.1%).

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

| 3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data | Indigenous | | Yearly variation (Indigenous) | | Non-Indigenous | | Yearly variation (non-Indigenous) | |
|---|------------|---------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| | Q2 2019 | Q2 2018 | number | % | Q2 2019 | Q2 2018 | number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 71.7 | 69.6 | 2.1 | 3.0% | 1,933.0 | 1,924.5 | 8.5 | 0.4% |
| Labour Force ('000) | 43.5 | 47.1 | -3.6 | -7.6% | 1,201.0 | 1,187.7 | 13.3 | 1.1% |
| Employment ('000) | 37.5 | 40.6 | -3.1 | -7.6% | 1,103.6 | 1,081.7 | 21.9 | 2.0% |
| Full-Time ('000) | 30.1 | 34.2 | -4.1 | -12.0% | 924.3 | 910.6 | 13.7 | 1.5% |
| Part-Time ('000) | 7.3 | 6.4 | 0.9 | 14.1% | 179.2 | 171.1 | 8.1 | 4.7% |
| Unemployment ('000) | 6.0 | 6.5 | -0.5 | -7.7% | 97.4 | 106.0 | -8.6 | -8.1% |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 13.8 | 13.7 | 0.1 | - | 8.1 | 8.9 | -0.8 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 60.7 | 67.6 | -6.9 | - | 62.1 | 61.7 | 0.4 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 52.3 | 58.3 | -6.0 | - | 57.1 | 56.2 | 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.

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 13.8% in Q2 2019, up 0.1 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate decreased to 8.1% (-0.8pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among Indigenous people decreased significantly to 60.7% (-6.9pp), while the participation rate for the non-Indigenous population increased marginally to 62.1% (+0.4pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population decreased year-over-year to 52.3% (-6.0pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population reached 57.1% (+0.9%), compared to a year earlier.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment growth between the first two quarters of the year was driven by a 1,500 gain in the **goods-producing sector**, which was enough to offset a modest decline in the number of **services-producing sector** jobs (-500). Gains in the former were driven by the addition of 1,200 jobs in **construction** and 1,000 jobs in **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**, offsetting small declines elsewhere. Among Services-producing industries, though sizeable gains were registered in **professional, scientific and technical services** (+1,600) and **wholesale and retail trade** (+1,300), this was not enough to offset job losses across the majority of remaining industries.

On an annual basis, job gains were distributed fairly evenly across both goods-producing (+1,300) and services-producing (+1,000) sectors. **Construction** was once again the job creation leader within the **goods-producing sector**, while **agriculture** and **manufacturing** both registered small declines. Within the **services-producing sector**, job growth was led by **information, culture and recreation** (+1,200), **health care and social assistance** (+900) and **professional, scientific and technical services** (+600). Job gains in Health care and social assistance bring the level of employment more in-line with recent peaks, though on average has been relatively flat over the past year. This represents a significant departure from the remarkable pace between the first quarters of 2017 and 2018, categorized by a remarkable 5,000 gain. Given the mounting pressures on health care services and delivery, it's possible that the recent slowdown in job gains could be related to difficulties in attracting labour across various health care occupations. Services sector job losses were most pronounced in **accommodation and food services** (-1,000), **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (-900) and **business, building and other support services** (-500).

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | 2nd Quarter | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | Quarterly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|------|------------------|-------|
| | 2019 | 2019 | 2018 | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 358.1 | 357.0 | 355.8 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 0.6 |
| Goods-producing sector | 75.3 | 73.7 | 74.0 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| Agriculture | 5.4 | 5.6 | 6.2 | -0.1 | -2.4 | -0.7 | -11.9 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 10.4 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 1.0 | 10.6 | 0.9 | 9.9 |
| Utilities | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 0.0 | -1.0 | 0.1 | 3.2 |
| Construction | 25.2 | 24.0 | 24.0 | 1.2 | 5.1 | 1.2 | 5.0 |
| Manufacturing | 30.9 | 31.6 | 31.2 | -0.6 | -2.0 | -0.3 | -0.9 |
| Services-producing sector | 282.8 | 283.3 | 281.8 | -0.5 | -0.2 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| Trade | 53.6 | 52.3 | 53.1 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 0.9 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 18.1 | 19.0 | 17.8 | -0.9 | -4.7 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 16.1 | 16.3 | 17.0 | -0.2 | -1.4 | -0.9 | -5.5 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 17.4 | 15.8 | 16.8 | 1.6 | 10.1 | 0.6 | 3.6 |
| Business, building and other support services | 16.4 | 15.6 | 16.9 | 0.8 | 5.4 | -0.5 | -3.0 |
| Educational services | 26.1 | 27.3 | 26.5 | -1.2 | -4.4 | -0.4 | -1.4 |
| Health care and social assistance | 60.7 | 59.9 | 59.8 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 13.0 | 13.3 | 11.8 | -0.3 | -2.3 | 1.2 | 10.5 |
| Accommodation and food services | 21.9 | 22.7 | 22.8 | -0.8 | -3.7 | -1.0 | -4.2 |
| Other services | 14.5 | 15.0 | 14.7 | -0.5 | -3.6 | -0.2 | -1.6 |
| Public administration | 25.0 | 26.1 | 24.5 | -1.1 | -4.1 | 0.5 | 2.0 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour market conditions moved in some very separate directions at the regional level over the past year. For instance, whereas some strong improvements were on display in the **Moncton-Richibucto** and **Saint John-St. Stephen** Economic Regions (ERs), labour market conditions observed elsewhere were either little changed or noticeably worse.

The most severe deterioration over the past year occurred in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER, as the number of people employed fell by 4,000, the majority of which were full-time workers. A comparable number of people exited the labour force over this period, which is why the unemployment rate remained essentially unchanged at 11.1%.

Conversely, the **Moncton-Richibucto** ER experienced an increase in both the number of jobs (+3,300) and the number of active participants in the labour force (+3,800) over the past year. Job gains were restricted to part-time employment, though, meaning that the number of full-time jobs actually declined noticeably.

The **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER also showed significant improvement since the second quarter of last year. At 85,800, the number of persons employed in the second quarter of this year was around 6,500 higher than it was a year earlier, while a solid 4.2 percentage point increase in the participation rate translated into an additional 6,300 people into the labour force.

In the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER, the labour force (-2,600) and the number of jobs (-2,800) contracted to a similar degree, resulting in little change to the unemployment rate. The latter was the result of a sizeable drop in the participation rate (-2.9 percentage points), as the working-aged population actually grew over this time period. Notably, job losses were concentrated in the services-producing sector where the level of employment diminished in every industry except transportation and warehousing.

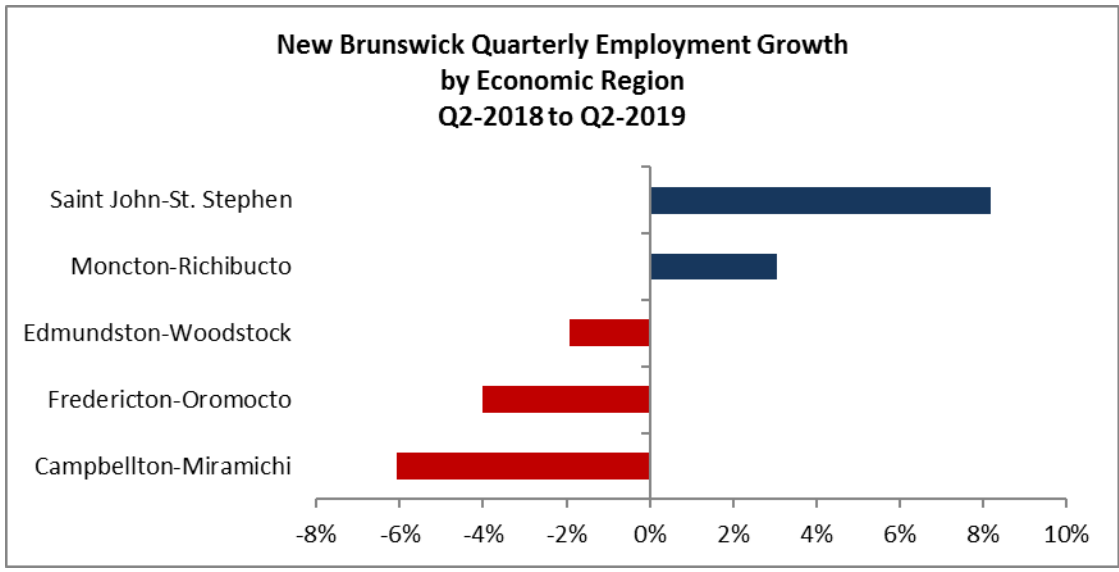
Labour market conditions were relatively little changed in the **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER over the past year. There were 700 fewer people employed compared to the second quarter of 2018, reflecting a drop in full-time employment, which offset an increase in the number of part-time positions. There were also 600 fewer people in the labour force, due to a lower participation rate.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| 3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 2nd Quarter 2019 ('000) | 2nd Quarter 2018 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | 2nd Quarter 2019 (%) | 2nd Quarter 2018 (%) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
| New Brunswick | 361.2 | 358.8 | 0.7 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 0.0 |
| Economic Regions | | | | | | |
| Campbellton-Miramichi | 61.8 | 65.8 | -6.1 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 0.0 |
| Moncton-Richibucto | 110.9 | 107.6 | 3.1 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 0.2 |
| Saint John-St. Stephen | 85.8 | 79.3 | 8.2 | 6.4 | 7.0 | -0.6 |
| Fredericton-Oromocto | 67.2 | 70.0 | -4.0 | 7.1 | 6.5 | 0.6 |
| Edmundston-Woodstock | 35.5 | 36.2 | -1.9 | 7.6 | 6.9 | 0.7 |

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