



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

July 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 deteriorated somewhat across New Brunswick in July. The level of employment fell back by 4,800, more than offsetting the 3,000 gain in June. Making matters worse, full-time employment fell by 7,300, which reversed nearly all of the gains that occurred in May and June. A decline in the number of people looking for work helped contain the rise in the unemployment rate, which currently sits at 8.5%.

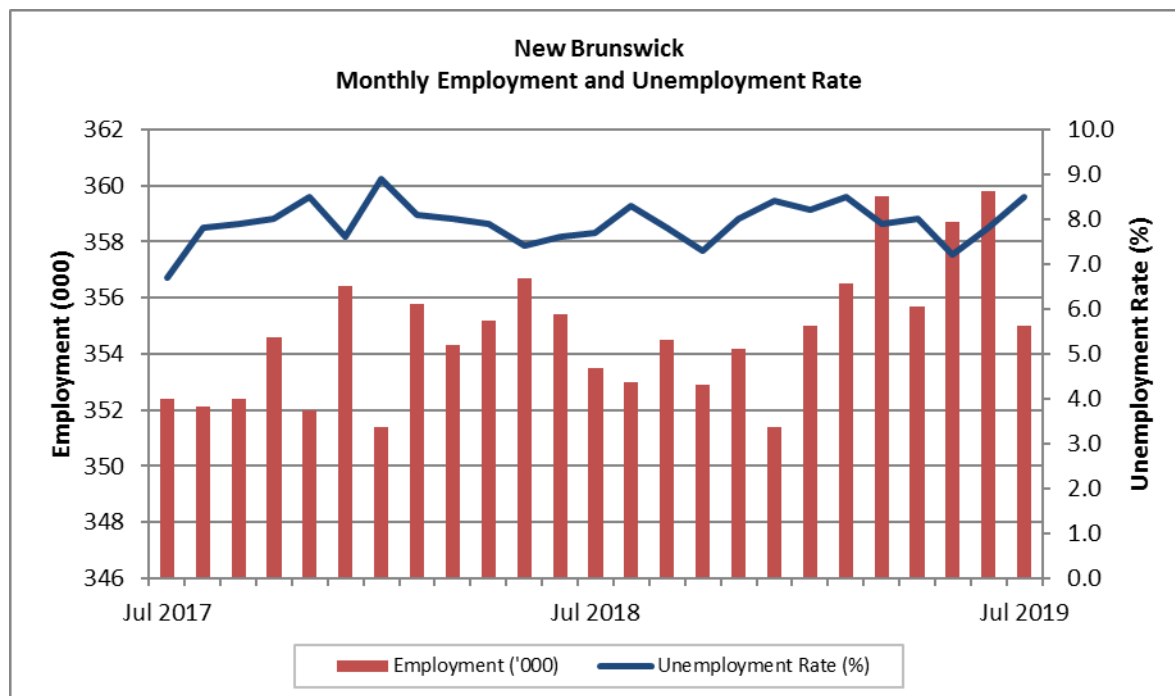
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	631.7	630.9	627.6	0.8	0.1	4.1	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	388.1	390.1	383.0	-2.0	-0.5	5.1	1.3
Employment ('000)	355.0	359.8	353.5	-4.8	-1.3	1.5	0.4
Full-Time ('000)	299.1	306.4	301.2	-7.3	-2.4	-2.1	-0.7
Part-Time ('000)	55.9	53.3	52.3	2.6	4.9	3.6	6.9
Unemployment ('000)	33.1	30.4	29.4	2.7	8.9	3.7	12.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.5	7.8	7.7	0.7	-	0.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.4	61.8	61.0	-0.4	-	0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.2	57.0	56.3	-0.8	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

With the exception of the sharp monthly decline in July, employment has rebounded noticeably through the first seven months of the year. On a year-to-date basis, the average level of employment between January and July of this year stood around 2,600 higher than it did during the same period in 2018. A comparable rebound in the size of the labour force explains why the average unemployment rate so far this year is essentially unchanged from the same period in 2018.



Although not all to the same extent, labour market conditions deteriorated for all the major age groups between June and July of this year. The core age group (aged between 25 and 54) registered a job loss of 2,700. Youth (aged 15 to 24) employment was mostly unchanged, although a rise in the number of youth looking for work lifted the unemployment rate to 14.1% in July, from 12.2% in June. Employment among seniors (aged 55 and above), meanwhile, declined by 1,900 from a record high the month before.

Labour market conditions among seniors have been strengthening for some time. Over the past year alone, employment for seniors has risen by 3,500 since July of 2018. Those in the core age group experienced a 2,300 drop in employment, while youth employment remained unchanged during the past year.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.5	7.8	7.7	0.7	0.8
25 years and over	7.6	7.1	6.9	0.5	0.7
Men - 25 years and over	9.1	8.3	8.3	0.8	0.8
Women - 25 years and over	6.1	5.8	5.4	0.3	0.7
15 to 24 years	14.1	12.2	12.5	1.9	1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.2	15.2	16.2	3.0	2.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.5	8.9	8.5	0.6	1.0

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job losses were most pronounced in services-producing industries between June and July. Broken down, the 3,800 decline in services employment was driven mainly by noticeable declines in trade (-2,200), other services (-1,200) and public administration (-1,000). Job gains were limited to a select group of industries, which include educational services (+1,100) and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+900).

The modest *month-over-month* decline in employment in the goods-producing sector was mainly a function of a 1,200 drop in manufacturing employment, which easily offset an increase of 600 in agriculture. Otherwise, employment was relatively flat in the remaining goods-producing industries.

On a *year-over-year* basis, a 3,400 increase in goods-producing employment more than erased a 1,800 decline in the services-producing sector. Aside from a strong 2,900 increase in construction, employment was little changed across remaining goods-producing industries over the past twelve months. A breakdown of the services sector, meanwhile, paints two different pictures. On the positive side, significant job gains were registered in health care and social assistance (+2,800), professional, scientific and technical services (+1,600), information, culture and recreation (+1,600) and educational services (+1,400). Moving in the other direction, employment fell sharply in accommodation and food services (-2,500), other services (-1,500), business, building and other support services (-1,500) and transportation and warehousing (-1,200).

On a *year-to-date* basis, the average level of employment between January and July of this year was 2,600 higher than it stood during the same period exactly one year earlier. The largest contributor to the overall rise in employment this year was the services-producing sector, which added 1,600 jobs to the labour market, on average, compared to the first seven months of last year. Aside from some healthy gains in information, culture and recreation (+2,000) and public administration (+1,200), employment is relatively unchanged across most of the remaining services industries compared to the first seven months of last year, including health care and social assistance, which has now shown minimal job growth for more than a year after gaining close to ten thousand jobs during the previous four years.

A breakdown of the goods-producing sector reveals that on average, the level of employment during the first seven months of the year was 1,000 higher than the same period last year. The primary contributor came courtesy of a 1,100 increase in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and oil and gas, which more than offset a decline of 800 in the manufacturing industry.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	355.0	359.8	353.5	-4.8	-1.3	1.5	0.4
Goods-producing sector	75.3	76.2	71.9	-0.9	-1.2	3.4	4.7
Agriculture	6.3	5.7	6.2	0.6	10.5	0.1	1.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.5	10.8	9.7	-0.3	-2.8	0.8	8.2
Utilities	3.6	3.4	3.1	0.2	5.9	0.5	16.1
Construction	24.7	24.8	21.8	-0.1	-0.4	2.9	13.3
Manufacturing	30.2	31.4	31.1	-1.2	-3.8	-0.9	-2.9
Services-producing sector	279.8	283.6	281.6	-3.8	-1.3	-1.8	-0.6
Trade	51.9	54.1	52.8	-2.2	-4.1	-0.9	-1.7
Transportation and warehousing	17.4	17.7	18.6	-0.3	-1.7	-1.2	-6.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.9	16.0	17.4	0.9	5.6	-0.5	-2.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	18.0	17.7	16.4	0.3	1.7	1.6	9.8
Business, building and other support services	15.4	15.9	16.9	-0.5	-3.1	-1.5	-8.9
Educational services	27.0	25.9	25.6	1.1	4.2	1.4	5.5
Health care and social assistance	61.6	61.5	58.8	0.1	0.2	2.8	4.8
Information, culture and recreation	12.2	13.1	10.6	-0.9	-6.9	1.6	15.1
Accommodation and food services	21.4	21.4	23.9	0.0	0.0	-2.5	-10.5
Other services	13.5	14.7	15.0	-1.2	-8.2	-1.5	-10.0
Public administration	24.5	25.5	25.5	-1.0	-3.9	-1.0	-3.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The job numbers at a regional level moved in all sorts of directions in July, with strong gains in one part of the province occurring alongside a big decline in the other. The only Economic region (ER) where labour market conditions have been relatively stable is the Fredericton-Oromocto ER, where employment was essentially flat.

Labour market conditions continue to deteriorate in the Campbellton-Miramichi ER. Compared to a year earlier, the level of employment in July across the economic region had fallen by 4,000. Compounding matters, almost exactly as many workers left the labour force during the same period, which explains why the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 10.3% despite such a noticeable drop in employment.

The overall pulse of the labour market in Moncton-Richibucto seems relatively healthy based on developments during the last twelve months. The level of employment has risen by nearly three thousand, which failed to keep pace with the number of entrants into the labour market during the same period. All together, the unemployment rate grew by 0.4 of a percentage point to 6.8%, which is still relatively low and in line with most other economic regions with the exception of Campbellton-Miramichi.

The 5,400 rise in employment in the Saint John-St. Stephen ER during the past year leads all regions in the province and suggests that labour market conditions have improved strongly. The other encouraging development is that almost just as many workers entered the labour market during the same period, which is the only reason the unemployment rate did not decline but was unchanged at 6.8% in July.

There has been very little change to speak of regarding labour market conditions in the Fredericton-Oromocto ER during the past year. Both the unemployment rate and the level of employment were basically unchanged in July compared to the same month in 2018.

Lastly, labour market conditions deteriorated modestly in the Edmundston-Woodstock ER over the past year. The level of employment fell by around 500, which is nevertheless noticeable when there are only a little over 36,000 employed workers in the entire economic region as a whole. A rise in the labour force during the same time means more workers in the region are now counted as unemployed. To that end, the unemployment rate rose by more than a percentage point to 6.7%, which brings it more in line with the other regions (with the exception of Campbellton-Miramichi).

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2019 ('000)	July 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2019 (%)	July 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	367.9	365.0	0.8	7.3	7.1	0.2
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	62.8	66.8	-6.0	10.3	10.3	0.0
Moncton-Richibucto	111.9	109.0	2.7	6.8	6.4	0.4
Saint John-St. Stephen	87.5	82.1	6.6	6.8	6.8	0.0
Fredericton-Oromocto	69.6	70.1	-0.7	6.3	6.4	-0.1
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.2	37.0	-2.2	6.7	5.6	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.

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

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