



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

September 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 in the third quarter, as employment fell by 2,100, the majority of which was in full-time work. Furthermore, a rise in the labour force helped lift the number of unemployed workers by 3,300, raising the unemployment rate by 0.8 percentage points to 8.5% in the third quarter.

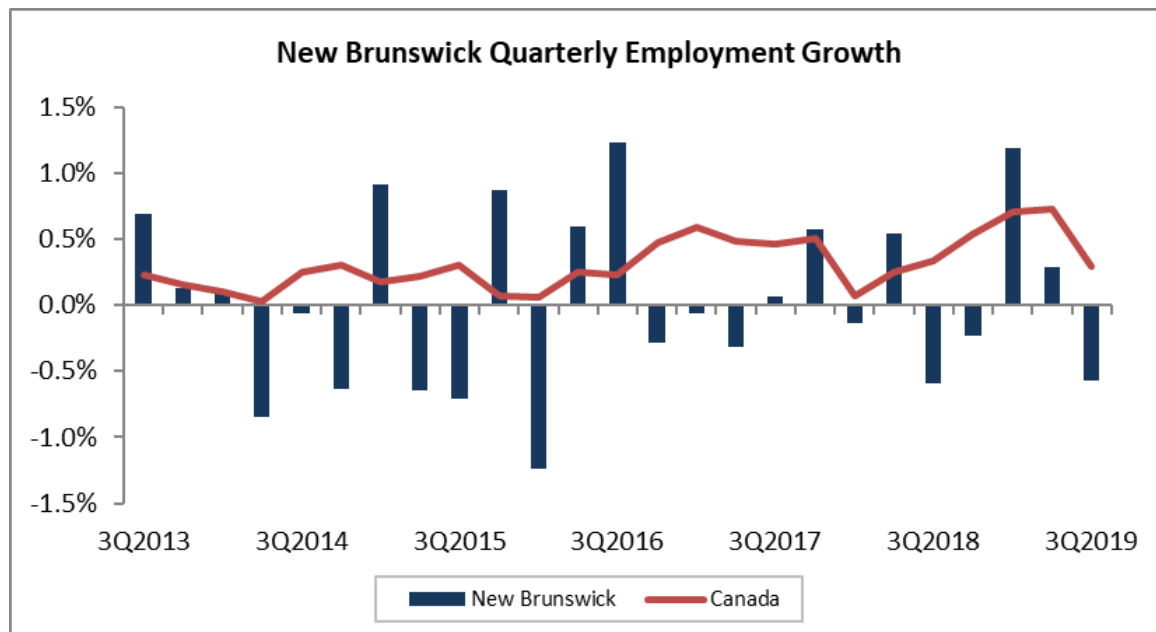
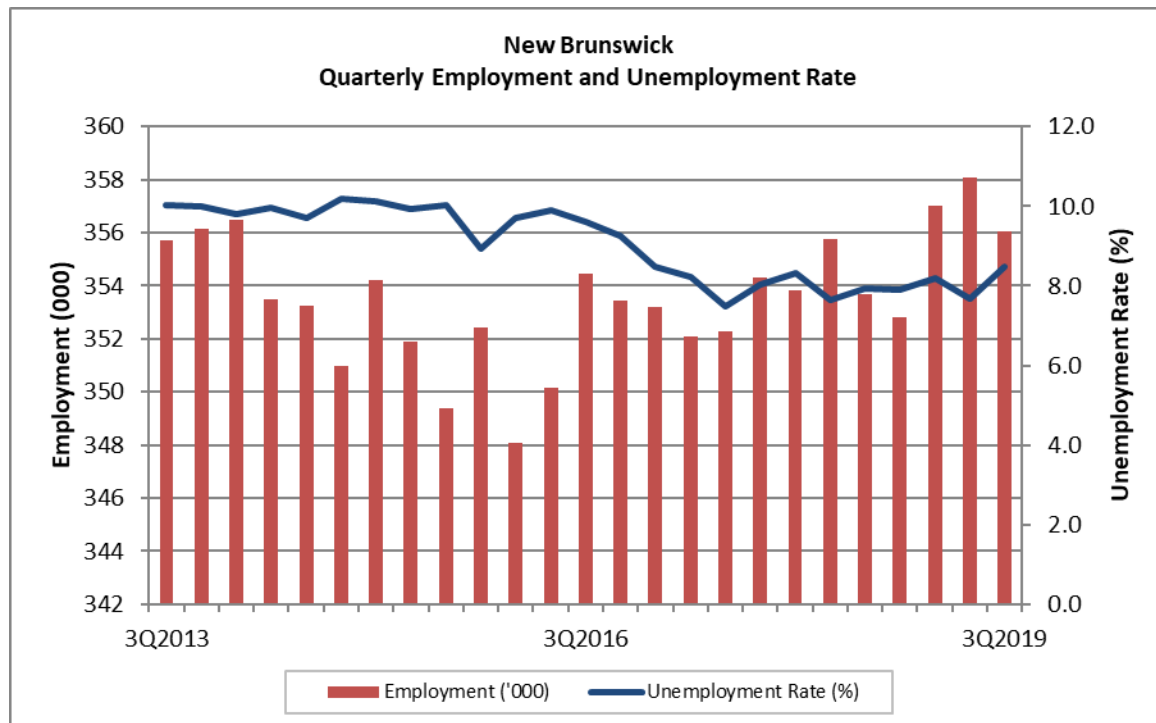
New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	632.4	630.4	627.8	2.0	0.3	4.6	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	389.0	387.8	384.2	1.2	0.3	4.8	1.2
Employment ('000)	356.0	358.1	353.7	-2.1	-0.6	2.3	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	301.2	303.1	301.0	-1.9	-0.6	0.2	0.1
Part-Time ('000)	54.9	54.9	52.6	0.0	0.0	2.3	4.4
Unemployment ('000)	33.0	29.7	30.5	3.3	11.1	2.5	8.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.5	7.7	7.9	0.8	-	0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.5	61.5	61.2	0.0	-	0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.3	56.8	56.3	-0.5	-	0.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Despite this most recent decline, the level of employment still remains around 2,300 higher than it was during the same quarter last year. While the participation rate edged up by 0.3 of a percentage point, it was the surge in the size of the working age population that drove most of the 4,800 expansion in the labour force since the third quarter of last year. The latter increased at more than twice the pace of the job gains, causing the unemployment rate to *increase* to 8.5%, from 7.9% a year earlier. Nonetheless, the rate of unemployment has been relatively stable for close to two years and, as it stands, remains around a full percentage point below its longer-term trend.



On a quarterly basis, labour market conditions deteriorated somewhat for youth (aged 15 to 24 years) and prime age (25 to 54 years) workers in the third quarter of the year, but were relatively unchanged for those in the older age group (55 years and above).

Looking past the usual volatility that occurs from a quarter to the next, youth employment has exhibited very minimal change since the beginning of 2012. The trend was much of the same over the past year, with essentially no change in youth employment since the third quarter of last year. Nearly all of the overall job gains since then have been limited to older workers (+2,100), extending a broader trend that began around the early 2000s.

Older workers also made up the majority of entrants into the labour force during the past year. Although a pick-up in the participation rate for older workers contributed to the growing number of participants in the labour force over the past four quarters, the 6,000 increase in the actual number of seniors in the working age population was a far bigger driver.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly	Yearly
	2019 (%)	2019 (%)	2018 (%)	Variation (% points)	Variation (% points)
Total	8.5	7.7	7.9	0.8	0.5
25 years and over	7.5	7.0	7.1	0.4	0.4
Men - 25 years and over	8.8	8.2	8.3	0.6	0.5
Women - 25 years and over	6.1	5.8	5.9	0.3	0.2
15 to 24 years	14.6	11.6	13.0	3.0	1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.7	15.3	16.5	2.3	1.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.2	7.3	9.3	3.8	1.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

In the third quarter of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in the Atlantic provinces was approximately 2 million. The Indigenous population living off reserve accounted for about 3.6% of that, or 72,300 people. Employment among Indigenous people in the Atlantic provinces reached 41,400, which was down 400 (-1.0%) from a year earlier (Q3 2018). The decrease was concentrated solely in part-time positions, while the number of full-time positions was unchanged.

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 12.0% in Q3 2019, down 1.8 percentage points (pp) from the previous year. For the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate decreased to 8.0% (-0.4pp). Year-over-year, the participation rate among Indigenous people decreased significantly to 65.2% (-3.8pp), while the participation rate for the non-Indigenous population remained unchanged at 62.6% (+0.1pp). The employment rate of the Indigenous population decreased year-over-year to 57.3% (-2.2pp), and the employment rate amongst the non-Indigenous population reached 57.6% (+0.3%).

Atlantic - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q3 2019	Q3 2018	number	%	Q3 2019	Q3 2018	number	%
Population 15+ ('000)	72.3	70.3	2.0	2.8%	1,938.0	1,926.4	11.6	0.6%
Labour Force ('000)	47.1	48.5	-1.4	-2.9%	1,214.0	1,204.6	9.4	0.8%
Employment ('000)	41.4	41.8	-0.4	-1.0%	1,116.5	1,103.9	12.6	1.1%
Full-Time ('000)	35.1	35.1	0.0	0.0%	948.8	940.1	8.7	0.9%
Part-Time ('000)	6.4	6.7	-0.3	-4.5%	167.7	163.8	3.9	2.4%
Unemployment ('000)	5.7	6.7	-1.0	-14.9%	97.6	100.7	-3.1	-3.1%
Unemployment Rate (%)	12.0	13.8	-1.8	-	8.0	8.4	-0.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.2	69.0	-3.8	-	62.6	62.5	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.3	59.5	-2.2	-	57.6	57.3	0.3	-

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

Job losses were concentrated mainly across a handful of services-producing industries between the second and third quarter of the year. The 1,600 decline in employment in the **services-producing sector** was driven mainly by a sharp drop in **trade** (-2,500). Otherwise, outside of a decline in **other services** (-900) and **business, building and other support services** (-500), job losses were minimal. Job gains were registered in **finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** (+1,100), **educational services** (1,000) and **health care and social assistance** (+500).

The modest quarter-over-quarter job loss in the **goods-producing sector** (-400) was essentially the result of gains in **agriculture** and **utilities** being more than offset by slightly larger declines in **manufacturing** and **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**.

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the **goods-producing sector** grew by 2,900, which was only partially offset by a modest decline of 500 jobs in the **services-producing sector**. Goods-producing sector job gains, however, were confined almost entirely to the 2,600 increase in the **construction** industry. Otherwise, employment failed to register any noticeable change in any of the remaining sub-industries.

Though there was little change in employment in the **services-producing sector** since the third quarter of last year, a closer inspection of the figures reveal meaningful swings in both directions at the sub-sectoral level. For instance, significant job gains were registered in **professional, scientific and technical services** (+1,900), **information, culture and recreation** (+1,800), **health care and social assistance** (+1,500), and **educational services** (+1,100). Conversely, job losses were registered in **accommodation and food services** (-2,100), **wholesale and retail trade** (-1,700), and **other services** (-1,100).

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2019	2019	2018	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	356.0	358.1	353.7	-2.0	-0.6	2.4	0.7
Goods-producing sector	74.8	75.3	71.9	-0.4	-0.6	2.9	4.0
Agriculture	6.0	5.4	5.9	0.6	10.4	0.1	2.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.9	10.4	10.1	-0.5	-4.5	-0.2	-1.7
Utilities	3.6	3.2	3.1	0.4	13.5	0.5	16.0
Construction	25.2	25.2	22.5	-0.1	-0.3	2.6	11.7
Manufacturing	30.1	30.9	30.3	-0.8	-2.6	-0.2	-0.7
Services-producing sector	281.2	282.8	281.7	-1.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2
Trade	51.1	53.6	52.8	-2.5	-4.7	-1.7	-3.3
Transportation and warehousing	17.7	18.1	18.5	-0.4	-2.0	-0.8	-4.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.2	16.1	17.6	1.1	6.6	-0.4	-2.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	17.8	17.4	15.9	0.4	2.5	1.9	11.9
Business, building and other support services	15.9	16.4	16.2	-0.5	-3.0	-0.3	-1.9
Educational services	27.1	26.1	26.0	1.0	4.0	1.1	4.4
Health care and social assistance	61.3	60.7	59.8	0.5	0.9	1.5	2.5
Information, culture and recreation	12.8	13.0	10.9	-0.3	-2.0	1.8	16.8
Accommodation and food services	21.6	21.9	23.7	-0.3	-1.2	-2.1	-9.0
Other services	13.6	14.5	14.7	-0.9	-6.0	-1.1	-7.3
Public administration	25.1	25.0	25.5	0.1	0.5	-0.4	-1.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour market developments varied from one economic region to the next since the third quarter of last year, with both meaningful job gains in some parts of the province and significant losses in other parts. The greatest contributors to overall employment growth in the province during the past year are the **Fredericton-Oromocto Economic Region (ER)** and the **Saint John-St. Stephen ER**, with 4,200 and 3,600 additional jobs, respectively, over the course of a year. Employment collapsed by 6,500 in **Campbellton-Miramichi ER** during the same period, which translates into a near 10% decline in percentage terms.

Labour market conditions continue to deteriorate in the **Campbellton-Miramichi ER**. Compared to a year earlier, the level of employment in the third quarter across the economic region had fallen by 6,500. This could have likely contributed to the large number of potentially discouraged workers who left the labour force during the same time, which is the only plausible explanation as to why the unemployment rate didn't rise more than half a percentage point. Nonetheless, at 11.8% in the third quarter, the unemployment rate in the **Campbellton-Miramichi ER** is well above that of any other economic region in the province.

By comparison, the overall pulse of the labour market in the **Moncton-Richibucto ER** is considerably more encouraging. During the past year, the level of employment has risen by 2,400 and was matched by an equal number of workers that entered the labour force in search of work. This accounts for the fact that the unemployment rate was unchanged in the third quarter and currently sits at 6.4%, lowest among all economic regions except Fredericton-Oromocto.

The 3,600 rise in employment in the **Saint John-St. Stephen ER** during the past year is among the strongest gains in all regions in the province and suggests that labour market conditions have improved strongly during this period. This is made even more evident by the fact that even more workers decided to enter the labour force, presumably in order to take advantage of the better job prospects. The upward spike in the labour force is the only reason the unemployment rate actually *rose* in the third quarter, reaching 7.9%, up a full percentage point from the same period last year.

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 4,200 in the third quarter, up significantly from the year-over-year increase earlier in the year, where annual gains were barely positive. A nearly-equivalent rise in the labour force since Q3 of last year helped contain the downward movement in the unemployment rate to 0.7 of a percentage point to 6.2% in the third quarter of this year, which is lowest among all other economic regions.

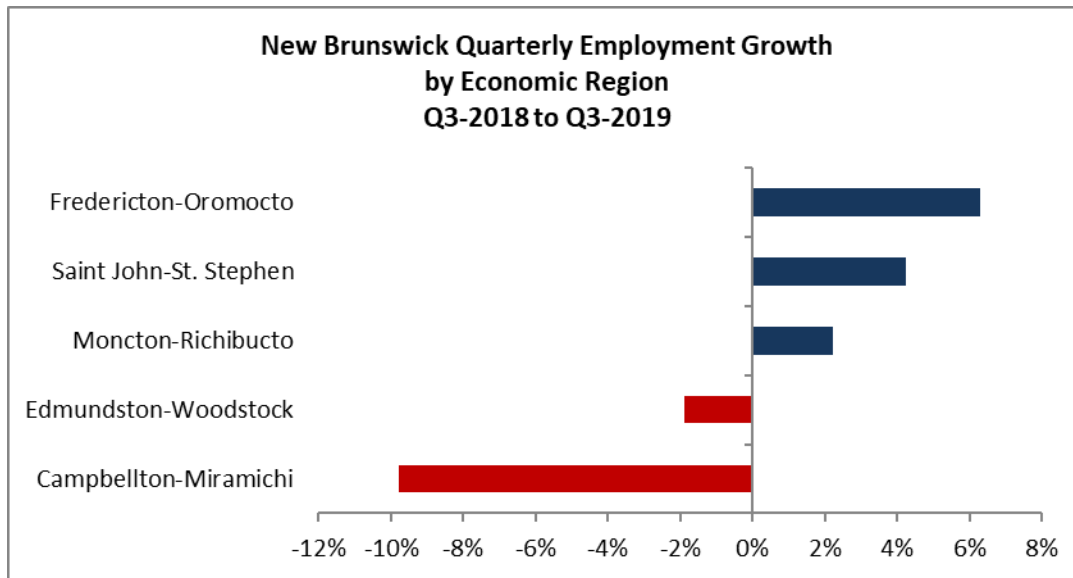
Lastly, labour market conditions deteriorated slightly in the **Edmundston-Woodstock ER** over the past year. There were roughly 800 fewer jobs in the third quarter of this year than there was a year earlier. A much larger drop in the number of active participants in the labour force, however, helped exert significant upward pressure on the unemployment rate, which soared from 4.8% in the third quarter of last year to 6.6% this past quarter.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2019 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2019 (%)	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
New Brunswick	366.8	363.9	0.8	7.7	7.4	0.3
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	60.0	66.5	-9.8	11.8	11.3	0.5
Moncton-Richibucto	110.8	108.4	2.2	6.4	6.4	0.0
Saint John-St. Stephen	88.4	84.8	4.2	7.9	6.9	1.0
Fredericton-Oromocto	70.8	66.6	6.3	6.2	6.9	-0.7
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.8	37.5	-1.9	6.6	4.8	1.8

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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