



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

January 2020



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 strengthened noticeably to start the year, as employment grew by 4,600 in January, adding to the 1,500 job gains a month earlier. Despite being the largest job gain in almost 9 years, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.5% in January, as more than 5,000 persons entered the labour force. The participation rate grew by almost a full percentage point, settling at 61.5% last month.

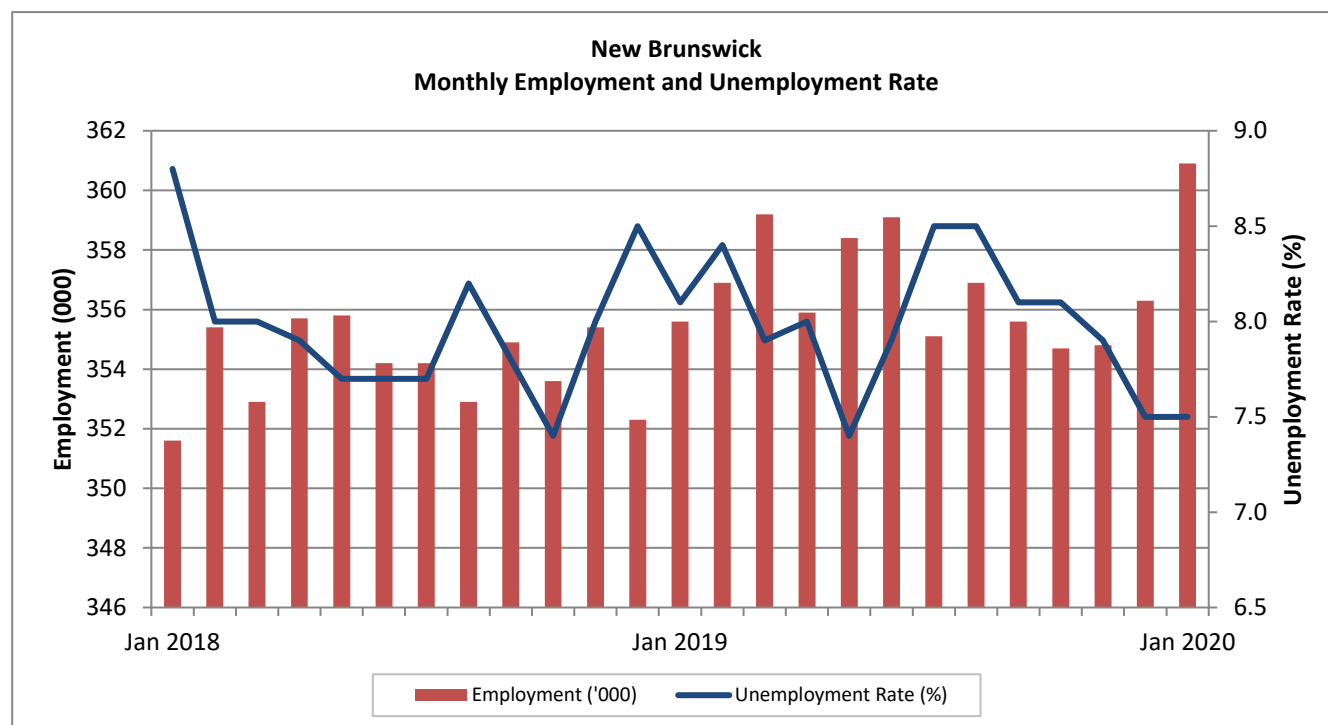
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Jan 2020	Dec 2019	Jan 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	634.6	634.4	628.9	0.2	0.0	5.7	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	390.1	385.0	387.0	5.1	1.3	3.1	0.8
Employment ('000)	360.9	356.3	355.6	4.6	1.3	5.3	1.5
Full-Time ('000)	308.6	306.8	303.8	1.8	0.6	4.8	1.6
Part-Time ('000)	52.3	49.5	51.8	2.8	5.7	0.5	1.0
Unemployment ('000)	29.2	28.7	31.4	0.5	1.7	-2.2	-7.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	7.5	8.1	0.0	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.5	60.7	61.5	0.8	-	0.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	56.9	56.2	56.5	0.7	-	0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared to a year earlier, employment in January has risen by 5,300, the majority of which being full-time work. The unemployment rate fell by 0.6 of a percentage point during the same period. The decline in the jobless rate was contained somewhat by a 3,100 increase in the labour force, which was driven by an increase in the working age population. The participation rate remained unchanged at 61.5%.



Job gains since January of last year were observed across all three major age groups. The youth (15 to 24 years) and core (25 to 54 years) working age cohorts each registered year-over-year employment gains of 1,400. The 2,600 rise in employment among older workers (55 years and older) was more pronounced, extending an upward trend that began nearly two decades ago. Conversely, employment among core aged workers has trended downwards for much of that same period. Youth employment, meanwhile, has been relatively flat for close to a decade.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Jan 2020 %	Dec 2019 %	Jan 2019 %	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	7.5	7.5	8.1	0.0	-0.6
25 years and over	7.1	6.8	7.6	0.3	-0.5
Men - 25 years and over	9.0	8.3	8.2	0.7	0.8
Women - 25 years and over	5.0	5.2	7.0	-0.2	-2.0
15 to 24 years	9.8	11.7	11.7	-1.9	-1.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.5	12.1	13.8	-0.6	-2.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.7	11.3	9.7	-3.6	-2.0

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Labour market conditions strengthened across both the **Goods-producing** and **Services-producing sectors** in January, as employment rose by 1,400 and 3,200, respectively.

- Job gains within goods-producing industries in January were concentrated mainly in **manufacturing** (+700) and **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (+500). Otherwise, the level of employment was broadly unchanged from a month earlier in the remaining goods-producing industries.
- Looking at the **services-producing sector**, job gains were focused primarily among a small subset of industries, which include **trade** (+1,500), **finance, insurance, real estate and leasing** (+700), as well as **business, building and other support services** and **transporting and warehousing**, which both added 600 new jobs to the labour market. Job losses, meanwhile, were confined mostly to **health care and social assistance** (-700) and **professional, scientific and technical services** (-500).

On a year-over-year basis, employment grew noticeably in both the **goods-producing** (+2,900) and **services-producing** (+2,400) sectors.

- Job gains in the **goods-producing sector** were particularly strong in **construction** (+1,700) and, to a lesser extent, **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (+900). The lone industry to register a decline in employment was **manufacturing**, which shed 800 jobs since January of last year.
- The year-over-year increase in **services-producing sector** employment was concentrated mainly in **trade** (2,700), although job gains were also pronounced in **business, building and other support services** (+1,500) and **professional, scientific and technical services** (+1,000). Job losses were limited mostly to **accommodation and food services** (-2,200) and **educational services** (-1,000). Employment in **health care and social assistance** in January is relatively unchanged from a year earlier.
- When viewed in the bigger context, the apparent stagnation in **health care and social assistance** employment over the past year is a clear departure from the period of rapid and sustained job gains that occurred between 2015 and 2018, and in which saw the industry add close to 10,000 jobs to the economy. While job gains in **health care and social assistance** have disappeared, job vacancies have soared consistently. The Job Vacancy and Wage Survey reveals that, at 3.1% in the third quarter of 2019, the job vacancy rate in health care and social assistance has essentially tripled since data collection began in the first quarter of 2015.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Jan 2020	Dec 2019	Jan 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	360.9	356.3	355.5	4.6	1.3	5.4	1.5
Goods-producing sector	76.7	75.3	73.8	1.4	1.9	2.9	3.9
Agriculture	6.4	6.2	5.8	0.2	3.2	0.6	10.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	10.4	9.9	9.5	0.5	5.1	0.9	9.5
Utilities	3.8	3.7	3.3	0.1	2.7	0.5	15.2
Construction	25.4	25.6	23.7	-0.2	-0.8	1.7	7.2
Manufacturing	30.7	30.0	31.5	0.7	2.3	-0.8	-2.5
Services-producing sector	284.2	281.0	281.8	3.2	1.1	2.4	0.9
Trade	54.4	52.9	51.7	1.5	2.8	2.7	5.2
Transportation and warehousing	18.6	18.0	18.9	0.6	3.3	-0.3	-1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.1	16.4	16.3	0.7	4.3	0.8	4.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	16.3	16.8	15.3	-0.5	-3.0	1.0	6.5
Business, building and other support services	17.2	16.6	15.7	0.6	3.6	1.5	9.6
Educational services	26.4	26.0	27.4	0.4	1.5	-1.0	-3.6
Health care and social assistance	59.6	60.3	60.0	-0.7	-1.2	-0.4	-0.7
Information, culture and recreation	12.4	12.1	13.1	0.3	2.5	-0.7	-5.3
Accommodation and food services	20.5	20.7	22.7	-0.2	-1.0	-2.2	-9.7
Other services	15.0	14.4	14.8	0.6	4.2	0.2	1.4
Public administration	26.7	26.7	25.9	0.0	0.0	0.8	3.1

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 all sorts of directions at the economic region (ER) level over the past year, with some parts of the province registering meaningful job gains and other parts losing work. Improved labour market conditions in ERs like **Fredericton-Oromocto** and **Moncton-Richibucto** masked some significant deteriorations in the **Campbellton-Miramichi ER** and, to a lesser extent, the **Saint John-St. Stephen ER**.

In the northeast of the province, labour market conditions deteriorated noticeably since January of last year. The level of employment in the relatively small **Campbellton-Miramichi (ER)** declined by 2,000, which is close to 13% in percentage terms. The unemployment rate, meanwhile, actually fell by more than two full percentage points during the same period, as the job gains were accompanied by an even sharper drop in the labour force. Perhaps more than any other, this region of the province struggles with a rapidly aging population, which is exerting pressure on an already shrinking labour force.

In the **Moncton-Richibucto (ER)**, where economic activity remains among the strongest in the year, the level of employment grew by 3,700. An almost-matching increase in the size of the labour force helped contain the decline in the unemployment rate which, at 6.1% in January, is close to a provincial low. More generally, entrants appear to be having relatively little difficulty integrating into the labour market and finding work.

The level of employment fell by 2,000 in the **Saint John-St. Stephen (ER)** between January of last year and January of 2020, lifting the unemployment rate by 1.3 percentage points to 7.8% during the same period. Both the labour force and the working age population were relatively unchanged during this period.

Labour market conditions strengthened considerably in the **Fredericton-Oromocto (ER)** over the past year, as employment grew by 5,900 since January of 2019. The rise in employment most likely contributed to the moderate influx of people into the labour force during the same period. The unemployment rate diminished by 0.8 percentage points, and currently sits at 6.9%. The city of Fredericton is home to a large number of stable jobs, including the majority of the Government of New Brunswick's offices. Meanwhile, the nearby 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown employs over 7,000.

Labour market conditions have been relatively stable over the past year in the **Edmundston-Woodstock (ER)**. The level of employment diminished only modestly, while the unemployment rate fell by 1.7 percentage points to 5.6%, as close to 2,000 workers entered the labour force.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2020 (‘000)	Jan 2019 (‘000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Jan 2020 (%)	Jan 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
New Brunswick	350.7	347.1	1.0	7.7	8.4	-0.7
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	55.3	57.3	-3.5	12.6	14.7	-2.1
Moncton-Richibucto	110.2	106.5	3.5	6.1	6.8	-0.7
Saint John-St. Stephen	83.4	87.4	-4.6	7.8	6.5	1.3
Fredericton-Oromocto	66.2	60.3	9.8	6.9	7.7	-0.8
Edmundston-Woodstock	35.5	35.6	-0.3	5.6	7.3	-1.7

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:

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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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