



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

November 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

For the third consecutive month, employment grew significantly in New Brunswick, bringing total job gains during this time to 9,000. The 4,200 increase in November was driven in large part by a healthy 3,400 gain in full-time work and brings the level of employment in the province within 2% of its pre-pandemic benchmark in February. More generally, the recent job numbers have been relatively encouraging and suggest that labour market conditions are returning closer to normal.

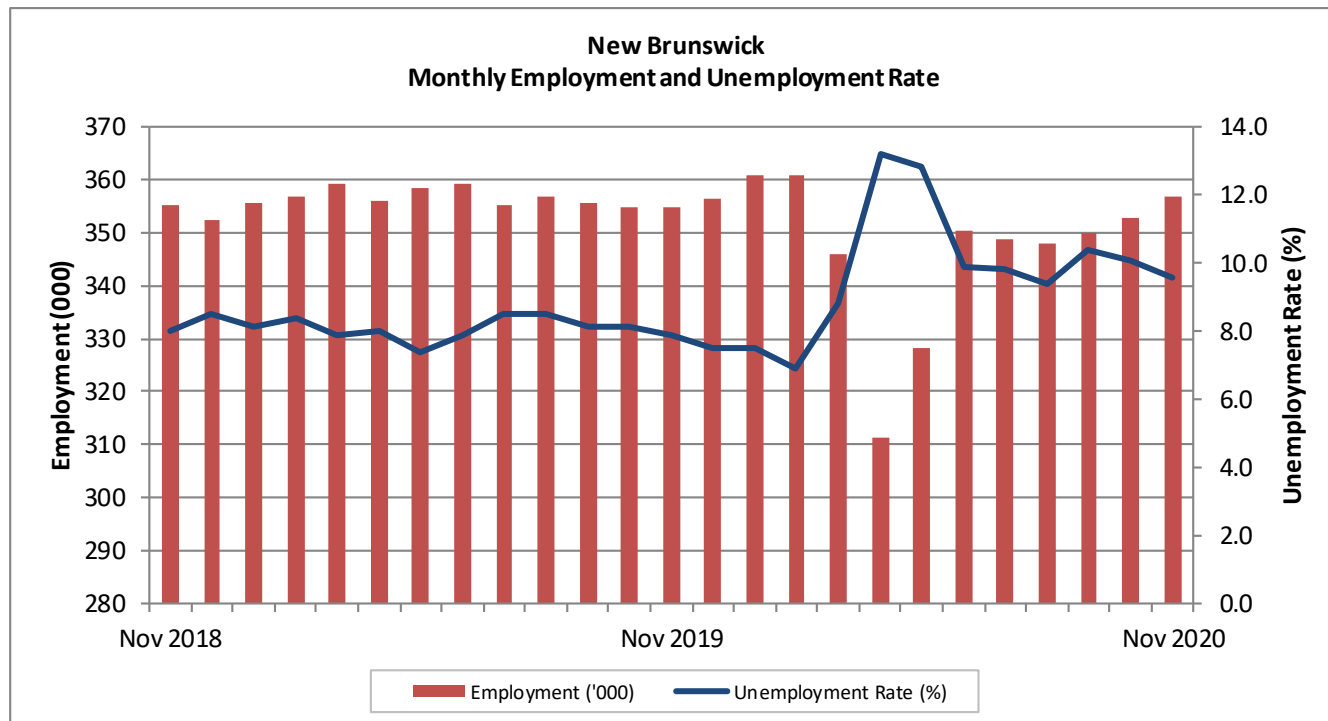
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	638.1	637.9	634.1	0.2	0.0	4.0	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	394.5	392.3	385.0	2.2	0.6	9.5	2.5
Employment ('000)	356.9	352.7	354.8	4.2	1.2	2.1	0.6
Full-Time ('000)	304.3	300.9	302.0	3.4	1.1	2.3	0.8
Part-Time ('000)	52.6	51.7	52.8	0.9	1.7	-0.2	-0.4
Unemployment ('000)	37.7	39.6	30.3	-1.9	-4.8	7.4	24.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.6	10.1	7.9	-0.5	-	1.7	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.8	61.5	60.7	0.3	-	1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.9	55.3	56.0	0.6	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The unemployment rate diminished from 10.1% to 9.6%, with its decline being moderated by an increase in the labour force. Despite being up by nearly two percentage points from a year earlier, the unemployment rate in November was down significantly from its peak of 13.2% in April, when all non-essential businesses were forced to close.



Among those aged 25 and over, the unemployment rate declined by a little less than half a percentage point, to 8.0% in November. The unemployment rate among this age group declined slightly for men and remained unchanged for women. Nevertheless, at 10.3%, the unemployment rate among men for this age group is nearly twice as high as it is for women.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2020 %	Oct 2020 %	Nov 2019 %	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	9.6	10.1	7.9	-0.5	1.7
25 years and over	8.0	8.3	7.0	-0.3	1.0
Men - 25 years and over	10.3	10.9	8.5	-0.6	1.8
Women - 25 years and over	5.5	5.5	5.5	0.0	0.0
15 to 24 years	19.1	20.8	13.1	-1.7	6.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.3	23.0	14.1	-3.7	5.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	18.9	18.3	11.8	0.6	7.1

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

Overall, the recovery in labour market conditions from the COVID-19 pandemic has been much more tempered among youth workers than its been for the rest of the working age population. After growing significantly the month before, the unemployment rate among youth workers (aged 15 to 24 years) declined from 20.8% in October to 19.1% in November, leaving it easily twice as high as the rate of unemployment for those aged 25 and above.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job gains in November were driven almost exclusively by a healthy increase in the **services-producing sector**, extending the pattern that's been evident through most of the recovery. Since labour market conditions began to recover during the summer, job gains have been much stronger within services-producing industries.

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** edged up by 400 in November, a notable slowdown from a rare healthy increase the month before, when employment grew by 1,900. After supporting the bulk of job gains in the goods-producing sector in October, employment in the **construction** industry declined by 1,800 in November, more than reversing the 1,500 increase the month before. Similarly, a 1,300 increase in the **manufacturing** industry in November broadly offset a 1,400 decline in October. Employment grew by close to a thousand in **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**, after remaining relatively unchanged the month before.

As mentioned earlier, labour market conditions in the **services-producing sector** strengthened noticeably in November, with employment increasing by 3,700, adding to a modest increase in October. Job gains among services-producing industries were strongest in **health care and social assistance** (+2,500) in November, easily offsetting the slight decline the month before and surpassing its pre-pandemic benchmark in February. More generally, the health care and social assistance industry was impacted relatively modestly, especially compared to industries like **trade, accommodation and food services**, and **information, culture and recreation**, where employment remains well below February levels. Following a small increase in November, employment in **information, culture and recreation** remains nearly 19% below pre-pandemic levels. **Accommodation and food services**, where employment has been a little faster to recovery, by comparison, remains 7% below its pre-pandemic benchmark. In contrast, labour market conditions have strengthened the most in industries like **professional, scientific and technical services**, where employment now remains 16% above its level in February.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	356.9	352.7	354.8	4.2	1.2	2.1	0.6
Goods-producing sector	71.2	70.8	72.9	0.4	0.6	-1.7	-2.3
Agriculture	4.5	4.7	5.6	-0.2	-4.3	-1.1	-19.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.8	8.9	9.4	0.9	10.1	0.4	4.3
Utilities	3.7	3.5	3.6	0.2	5.7	0.1	2.8
Construction	22.8	24.6	24.0	-1.8	-7.3	-1.2	-5.0
Manufacturing	30.4	29.1	30.3	1.3	4.5	0.1	0.3
Services-producing sector	285.6	281.9	281.9	3.7	1.3	3.7	1.3
Trade	55.3	57.0	51.7	-1.7	-3.0	3.6	7.0

Transportation and warehousing	17.2	16.9	18.8	0.3	1.8	-1.6	-8.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.8	15.7	16.7	1.1	7.0	0.1	0.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	18.8	18.8	16.8	0.0	0.0	2.0	11.9
Business, building and other support services	15.4	14.9	16.8	0.5	3.4	-1.4	-8.3
Educational services	28.4	28.9	27.6	-0.5	-1.7	0.8	2.9
Health care and social assistance	60.0	57.5	59.8	2.5	4.3	0.2	0.3
Information, culture and recreation	10.0	9.9	11.8	0.1	1.0	-1.8	-15.3
Accommodation and food services	20.1	19.8	20.3	0.3	1.5	-0.2	-1.0
Other services	14.2	13.8	14.6	0.4	2.9	-0.4	-2.7
Public administration	29.5	28.6	26.9	0.9	3.1	2.6	9.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In New Brunswick, the improvement in labour market conditions between November of 2019 and November of this year has been confined almost exclusively to the northeastern part of the province. Otherwise, outside of the **Moncton-Richibucto** economic region (ER), where employment was relatively unchanged during this period, job losses in the remaining parts of the province were noticeable.

Labour market conditions strengthened noticeably in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER since November of last year, as revealed by the 6,200 increase in employment during the same period. However, this represents a slowdown in employment growth from October, when year-over-year job gains stood at around 8,800, which suggests that labour market conditions may have moderated somewhat between October and November.

Since having worsened this spring, labour market conditions in the **Moncton-Richibucto** ER recovered in the months that followed. As of November, the level of employment has returned to the same level it occupied a year earlier. A surge in the labour force, however, lifted the unemployment rate by 1.2 pp to 8.7%, which is almost exactly in line with the average at the provincial level.

In the **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER, labour conditions deteriorated the most in the province since November of 2019, as the level of employment there fell from 86,500 to 80,800 during the same period. At 8.8% last month, the unemployment rate stood around 1.2 percentage points higher than at the same time last year.

Labour market conditions in the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER appeared to have recovered significantly over the past few months. In October, employment was down by 2,700 from the same period a year earlier. In November, the year-over-year decline in employment stood at 1,700. This represents a significant improvement from October, when the year-over-year decline stood at around 2,700. The unemployment rate, at 6.6% in November, is up by 1.4 percentage points from a year earlier. In October, the unemployment rate stood 2.2 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

In the **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER, labour market conditions have recovered in recent months, as the level of employment is within 1,300 of where it stood in November of last year. The unemployment rate, meanwhile, is 1.3 percentage points lower than it was a year earlier.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2020 ('000)	Nov 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Nov 2020 (%)	Nov 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
New Brunswick	356.8	359.5	-0.8	8.6	6.8	1.8
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	63.3	57.2	10.7	12.3	11.3	1.0
Moncton-Richibucto	109.7	109.8	-0.1	8.7	5.4	3.3
Saint John-St. Stephen	80.8	86.5	-6.6	8.8	7.6	1.2
Fredericton-Oromocto	67.7	69.4	-2.4	6.6	5.2	1.4
Edmundston-Woodstock	35.3	36.6	-3.6	4.9	5.2	-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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