



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

October 2021



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

New Brunswick's labour market improved for the second consecutive month in October. Following the creation of 6,100 jobs in September, the workforce expanded by an additional 3,000, thanks to an increase in the number of full-time positions (+4,600). With these two increases, the province is now at 99.8% of pre-pandemic (February 2020) employment. The labour force also expanded, for the second consecutive month, by 2,300. As a result, the unemployment rate remained relatively unchanged, landing at 9.1%.

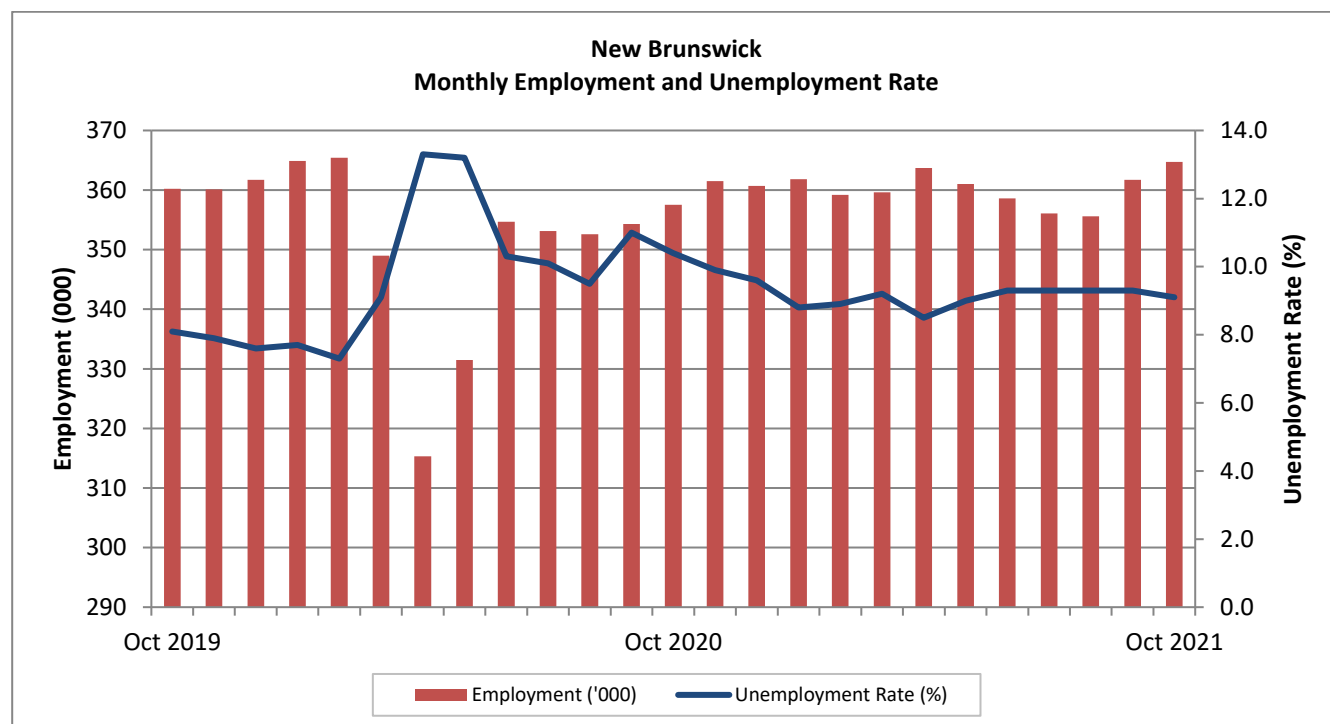
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	653.1	652.2	647.8	0.9	0.1	5.3	0.8
Labour Force ('000)	401.1	398.8	399.1	2.3	0.6	2.0	0.5
Employment ('000)	364.7	361.7	357.5	3.0	0.8	7.2	2.0
Full-Time ('000)	310.7	306.1	305.4	4.6	1.5	5.3	1.7
Part-Time ('000)	54.0	55.5	52.1	-1.5	-2.7	1.9	3.6
Unemployment ('000)	36.4	37.1	41.6	-0.7	-1.9	-5.2	-12.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.1	9.3	10.4	-0.2	-	-1.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.4	61.1	61.6	0.3	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.8	55.5	55.2	0.3	-	0.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment gains were concentrated within the prime working age group (25 to 54 years; +2,600), which has now regained all its jobs lost since February 2020. Youth (ages 15 to 24 years) are in a similar position, with 500 jobs added in October bringing the group closer to full recovery. This group was disproportionately affected by the pandemic, so this is very positive news. Oddly enough, though, this improvement occurred despite declines in the service industries (i.e. trade, accommodations and food services) that are heavily staffed by young people. No jobs were added among older workers (ages 55 years and over) and this group remains at 97% of pre-pandemic employment.



While the overall outcome for the youth cohort was positive in October, the experience was very different among males and females. The former added 700 jobs over the period and this contributed to a steep drop in the unemployment rate (from 14.9% to 11.3%). Young females, on the other hand, shed 200 jobs and saw a 4.7 percentage point increase in their rate of unemployment (from 10.7% to 15.4%).

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2021 %	Sept 2021 %	Oct 2020 %	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	9.1	9.3	10.4	-0.2	-1.3
25 years and over	8.4	8.7	8.5	-0.3	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	9.5	10.3	11.3	-0.8	-1.8
Women - 25 years and over	7.2	7.0	5.5	0.2	1.7
15 to 24 years	13.3	12.9	21.6	0.4	-8.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.3	14.9	23.4	-3.6	-12.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.4	10.7	19.5	4.7	-4.1

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job gains for the month of October were due to improvements in **goods-producing sector** (4,400) industries, which more than offset **services-producing sector** losses (-1,300). Overall, the former has performed better for much of 2021.

Construction (+2,900) led all industries in the goods-producing sector, registering the largest month-over-month gain since the start of the pandemic. This industry has benefited from elevated residential construction, in the form of both new units and renovations. **Manufacturing** also improved (+800), as did **agriculture** (+700) and **utilities** (+300). **Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** was the only industry in this sector to register a decline (-300), but the change was small and employment levels have remained relatively constant with historical levels since the outset of the pandemic. Despite an increase in construction activity, factors like fixed wood allocations and a high degree of mechanization have likely limited employment growth.

Losses in the services-producing sector were headlined by **information, culture and recreation** (-1,500) and **accommodation and food services** (-1,100). On a positive note, educational services (+1,500) improved for the third month in a row, while **professional, scientific and technical services** (+500) and **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (+500) also posted noticeable gains. Employment in **public administration** (+100) and **health care and social assistance** (+200) were both relatively unchanged for the month, but these industries could see drops, going forward, as the Government of New Brunswick recently instituted a vaccination mandate for all government employees which could lead to potential layoffs.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	364.7	361.7	357.5	3.0	0.8	7.2	2.0
Goods-producing sector	73.8	69.4	71.9	4.4	6.3	1.9	2.6
Agriculture	5.8	5.1	4.3	0.7	13.7	1.5	34.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.0	9.3	8.8	-0.3	-3.2	0.2	2.3
Utilities	4.2	3.9	3.5	0.3	7.7	0.7	20.0
Construction	26.1	23.2	25.7	2.9	12.5	0.4	1.6
Manufacturing	28.7	27.9	29.6	0.8	2.9	-0.9	-3.0
Services-producing sector	290.9	292.2	285.6	-1.3	-0.4	5.3	1.9
Trade	57.5	58.1	57.9	-0.6	-1.0	-0.4	-0.7
Transportation and warehousing	18.7	18.7	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	3.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.4	16.9	15.4	0.5	3.0	2.0	13.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	18.2	17.7	18.8	0.5	2.8	-0.6	-3.2
Business, building and other support services	15.0	15.0	15.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.7
Educational services	30.5	29.0	29.1	1.5	5.2	1.4	4.8
Health care and social assistance	56.9	56.7	58.2	0.2	0.4	-1.3	-2.2
Information, culture and recreation	9.1	10.6	9.3	-1.5	-14.2	-0.2	-2.2
Accommodation and food services	20.7	21.8	20.1	-1.1	-5.0	0.6	3.0
Other services	15.0	15.8	14.3	-0.8	-5.1	0.7	4.9
Public administration	32.0	31.9	29.5	0.1	0.3	2.5	8.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Job losses in October were contained to the province's northernmost Economic Region (ER) of Campbellton-Miramichi. The labour market improved in each of the other four regions, when compared to the same point in time, in 2020.

Employment fell by 6,200, on a year-over-year basis, in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER, marking the fourth straight month of job losses. Moreover, the bulk of job losses occurred in full-time employment. The labour force contracted by an even greater amount (-7,000) over this period, resulting in little change to the unemployment rate. This region was one of the first in the province to recover its jobs lost at the outset of the pandemic, but has generally been in decline since the fall of 2020. Job losses were fairly widespread in October but were especially pronounced in wholesale and retail trade (-2,600).

The **Moncton-Richibucto** ER added 7,100 jobs on a year-over-year basis (all full-time), more than offsetting the losses in the north of the province. A significant number of people also entered the labour force in October (+6,300), but the unemployment rate still fell slightly, to 7.4%. The workforce in the Moncton-Richibucto ER has expanded by over 8,000 since February 2020 (just prior to the pandemic) and represents an economic bright spot in a province that continues to recover.

The **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER also saw its labour market improve, with sizeable gains in both employment (+1,800) and the labour force (+1,300). Job gains were concentrated among full-time positions (+2,200), offsetting a decline in the number of part-time positions (-500). The unemployment rate declined somewhat, to 8.4%.

Employment gains in the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER, while not as significant as in Moncton-Richibucto, represented another bright spot in the province. The number of jobs in the region expanded by 2,300 in October thanks to increases in both full-time and part-time work. The labour force also expanded (+1,500), though not by as much as the workforce, causing the unemployment rate to fall from 8.2% to 7.0%.

The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER added 700 jobs in October, with a bump in full-time positions (900) offsetting a small decline (-200) in part-time work. The unemployment rate fell by 1.3 percentage points, to a provincial low of 5.1%, as the number of people entering the labour force was less than the number of newly employed.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2021 ('000)	Oct 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Oct 2021 (%)	Oct 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
New Brunswick	367.8	362.2	1.5	8.1	9.0	-0.9
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	59.8	66.0	-9.4	12.2	12.1	0.1
Moncton-Richibucto	118.2	111.1	6.4	7.4	8.3	-0.9
Saint John-St. Stephen	82.3	80.5	2.2	8.4	9.0	-0.6
Fredericton-Oromocto	70.3	68.0	3.4	7.0	8.2	-1.2
Edmundston-Woodstock	37.3	36.6	1.9	5.1	6.4	-1.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387

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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