



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

### May 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

The labour market recovery in New Brunswick took somewhat of a set back in May, as employment declined by 2,700, reversing close to two thirds of the 4,100 gain a month earlier. The level of employment now remains within 1.3% of pre-pandemic levels, as all but 4,400 of the 50,000 jobs that were lost last spring have been restored. The recovery is being held back by weakness in full-time employment, however, which fell by 5,200 in May.

New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

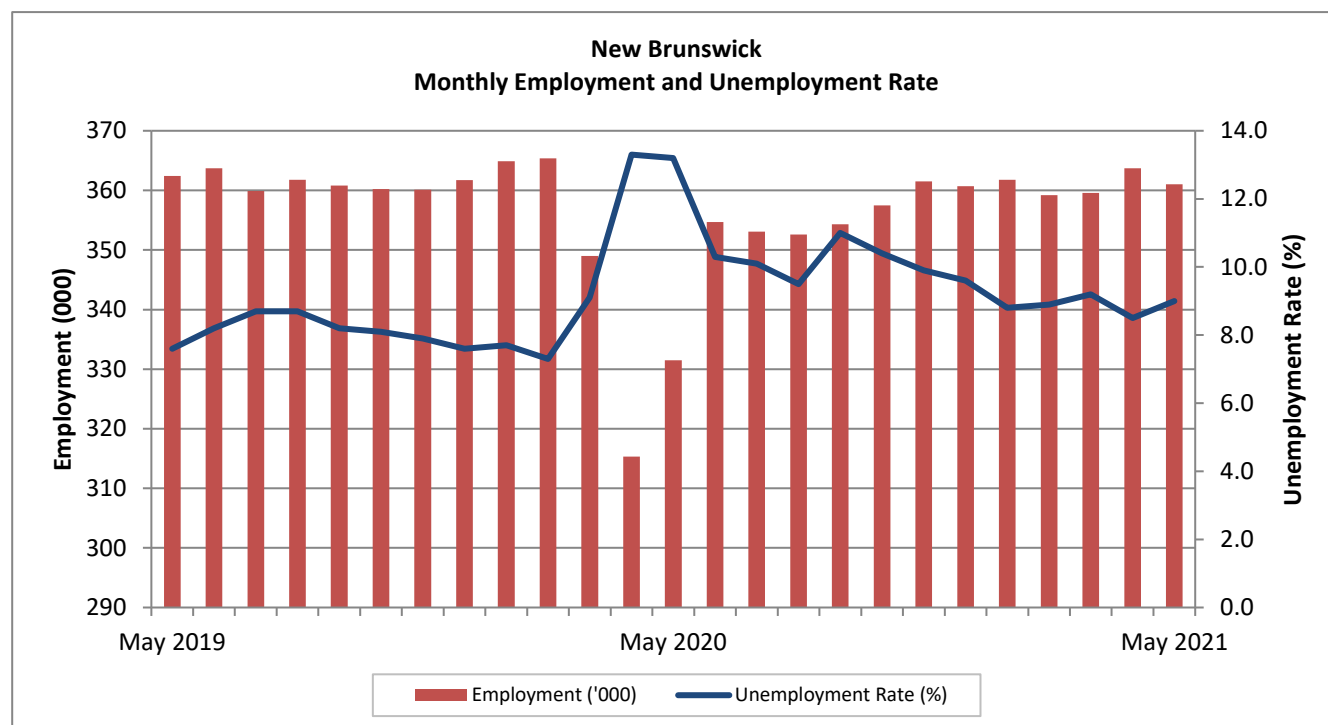
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	649.3	648.9	646.5	0.4	0.1	2.8	0.4
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	396.8	397.6	381.9	-0.8	-0.2	14.9	3.9
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	361.0	363.7	331.5	-2.7	-0.7	29.5	8.9
Full-Time ('000)	303.1	308.3	285.8	-5.2	-1.7	17.3	6.1
Part-Time ('000)	57.9	55.4	45.7	2.5	4.5	12.2	26.7
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	35.8	33.9	50.4	1.9	5.6	-14.6	-29.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	9.0	8.5	13.2	0.5	-	-4.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	61.1	61.3	59.1	-0.2	-	2.0	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	55.6	56.0	51.3	-0.4	-	4.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The unemployment rate grew from 8.5% to 9.0% in May, though the upward trajectory was contained somewhat by the reduction in the size of the labour force, as nearly a thousand fewer persons were actively searching for

work. The participation rate edged down to 61.1% during the same period, which is nevertheless significantly higher than it was during the spring of last year, when thousands of discouraged workers left the labour force.



The youth (15 to 24 years) unemployment rate grew by 0.7 of a percentage point (pp) in May, slightly exceeding the 0.5 pp increase among the 25 and over cohort. Youth were the most heavily impacted segment of the working age population during the COVID-19 pandemic, accounting for around 40% of job losses during the pandemic (despite representing a little over 10% of the employed workforce). Nevertheless, at 9.9% in May, the youth unemployment rate was only a percentage point higher than the 25 and over rate of unemployment. Furthermore, the jobless rate among the youth population was down considerably from the same month in 2020, when it stood at 27.6%.

**New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	9.0	8.5	13.2	0.5	-4.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	8.9	8.4	11.0	0.5	-2.1
Men - 25 years and over	10.3	10.0	11.4	0.3	-1.1
Women - 25 years and over	7.4	6.7	10.6	0.7	-3.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	9.9	9.2	27.6	0.7	-17.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	10.5	11.3	25.7	-0.8	-15.2

Women - 15 to 24 years	9.7	6.7	29.7	3.0	-20.0
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Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

Among youth, the unemployment rate declined from 11.3% to 10.5% among males in May. The youth unemployment rate among females, meanwhile, actually grew in May, rising from 6.7% to 9.7%.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The reduction in employment in May largely reflects the 3,100 decline in the **goods-producing sector**, which easily offset a small 400 increase in the **services-producing sector**. As it stands, employment remains 8,900 below pre-pandemic levels in the goods-producing sector and 4,500 above in the services-producing sector.

The majority of the job losses in the goods-producing sector in May occurred in **manufacturing** (-2,700) and, to a lesser extent, **agriculture**, where employment fell by 800 after a 1,300 gain the month before. Otherwise, employment was essentially unchanged in all the remaining goods-producing industries in May, including **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**, which has seen almost no change since the start of the year despite the ongoing surge in demand for lumber. Similarly, the **construction** industry has shown little improvement in hiring activity since the start of the year after a 4% reduction in 2020 as a whole. As of May, employment in the construction industry is exactly 4,000 below February 2020 levels. The level of employment in the **manufacturing** industry, meanwhile, is close to 3,000 below pre-pandemic levels after being broadly unchanged in May.

**Public administration** and **information, culture and recreation**, both of which added 700 jobs to the provincial labour market in May, were among a select group of industries in the services-producing sector who registered employment gains during the month. A month after registering a 2,200 gain, employment was relatively unchanged in **health care and social assistance** in May, leaving the level of employment around 2,300 above pre-pandemic values. **Public administration** employment, meanwhile, remains nearly 3,000 above February 2020 levels after showing only modest change in May. Employment levels in **information, culture and recreation**, among the hardest-hit industries during the pandemic, remains around 2,000 below pre-pandemic levels. Despite some ongoing travel restrictions and the recent challenges to the airline sector, the level of employment in the **accommodation and food services** industry remains only 500 below its pre-pandemic level, although job growth has stalled since the start of the year.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	361.0	363.7	331.5	-2.7	-0.7	29.5	8.9
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	68.6	71.7	67.8	-3.1	-4.3	0.8	1.2
Agriculture	5.0	5.8	4.6	-0.8	-13.8	0.4	8.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.2	9.0	10.6	0.2	2.2	-1.4	-13.2
Utilities	3.9	3.7	3.6	0.2	5.4	0.3	8.3
Construction	22.0	21.9	23.0	0.1	0.5	-1.0	-4.3

Manufacturing	28.5	31.2	25.9	-2.7	-8.7	2.6	10.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	292.4	292.0	263.7	0.4	0.1	28.7	10.9
Trade	56.1	56.0	52.7	0.1	0.2	3.4	6.5
Transportation and warehousing	19.2	19.1	15.9	0.1	0.5	3.3	20.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	18.2	17.7	15.7	0.5	2.8	2.5	15.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	17.0	17.9	16.7	-0.9	-5.0	0.3	1.8
Business, building and other support services	15.3	15.6	13.9	-0.3	-1.9	1.4	10.1
Educational services	27.5	27.6	26.0	-0.1	-0.4	1.5	5.8
Health care and social assistance	62.4	62.5	56.1	-0.1	-0.2	6.3	11.2
Information, culture and recreation	10.1	9.4	8.8	0.7	7.4	1.3	14.8
Accommodation and food services	22.1	21.7	17.7	0.4	1.8	4.4	24.9
Other services	14.2	14.8	12.3	-0.6	-4.1	1.9	15.4
Public administration	30.3	29.6	27.9	0.7	2.4	2.4	8.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to May of last year, when most parts of the province were showing signs of recovery from the pandemic, employment levels are up significantly in nearly all Economic Regions (ER). The one exception is the Edmundston-Woodstock ER, where employment is down noticeably from May of last year.

Labour market conditions in the **Campbellton-Miramichi ER** have recovered considerably since May of last year, as the level of employment has risen by 6,800 during the past twelve months, lowering the unemployment rate from a provincial-high of 18.8% to 14.4%. The job gains registered during the past year are even more pronounced when we account for the fact that the Campbellton-Miramichi ER is the second-smallest economic region in the province. When expressed in percentage terms, employment has grown by 12.5% over the past year, second to only one other region.

The level of employment has risen by 8,300 in the **Moncton-Richibucto ER** since May of last year. Despite such a significant increase in employment, the unemployment rate diminished by only 1.1 percentage points to 9.8% during the same period due to an influx of workers into the labour force. As a whole, labour market conditions in the Moncton-Richibucto ER are among the strongest in the province.

The labour market in the **Saint John-St. Stephen ER** has also strengthened considerably over the past year, as reflected by the 6,300 increase in employment, which lowered the rate of unemployment to 9.4% in May, from 12.7% a year earlier.

Job gains over the past year have been the strongest in the **Fredericton-Oromocto ER**, where employment has risen by more than 10,000 since May of last year. The 3.3 percentage point decline in the unemployment rate, while sizeable in its own right, was moderated somewhat by an influx of job seekers during the same period. At 8.4% in May, the rate of unemployment in the Fredericton-Oromocto ER ranks lowest in the province.

In the **Edmundston-Woodstock ER**, the level of employment is down by 2,000 since May of last year. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate has actually diminished (significantly) during the same period, as the decline in employment has been accompanied by an even steeper reduction in the size of the labour force. At 8.6%, the unemployment rate trails only the Fredericton-Oromocto ER for the lowest in the province.

#### New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2021 ('000)	May 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2021 (%)	May 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	355.6	326.3	9.0	10.2	13.1	-2.9
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	61.2	54.4	12.5	14.4	18.8	-4.4
Moncton-Richibucto	111.2	102.9	8.1	9.8	10.9	-1.1
Saint John-St. Stephen	81.7	75.4	8.4	9.4	12.7	-3.3
Fredericton-Oromocto	69.6	59.5	17.0	8.4	11.7	-3.3
Edmundston-Woodstock	32.0	34.0	-5.9	8.6	12.6	-4.0

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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