



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

June 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

Despite significant reductions in May and June, New Brunswick’s labour market added 900 jobs during the second quarter of 2021, thanks to a strong increase in April. Nearly 3,000 full-time positions were added during the quarter, which more than offset the loss of part-time work. The unemployment rate remained essentially unchanged, however, as a matching number of persons entered the labour force.

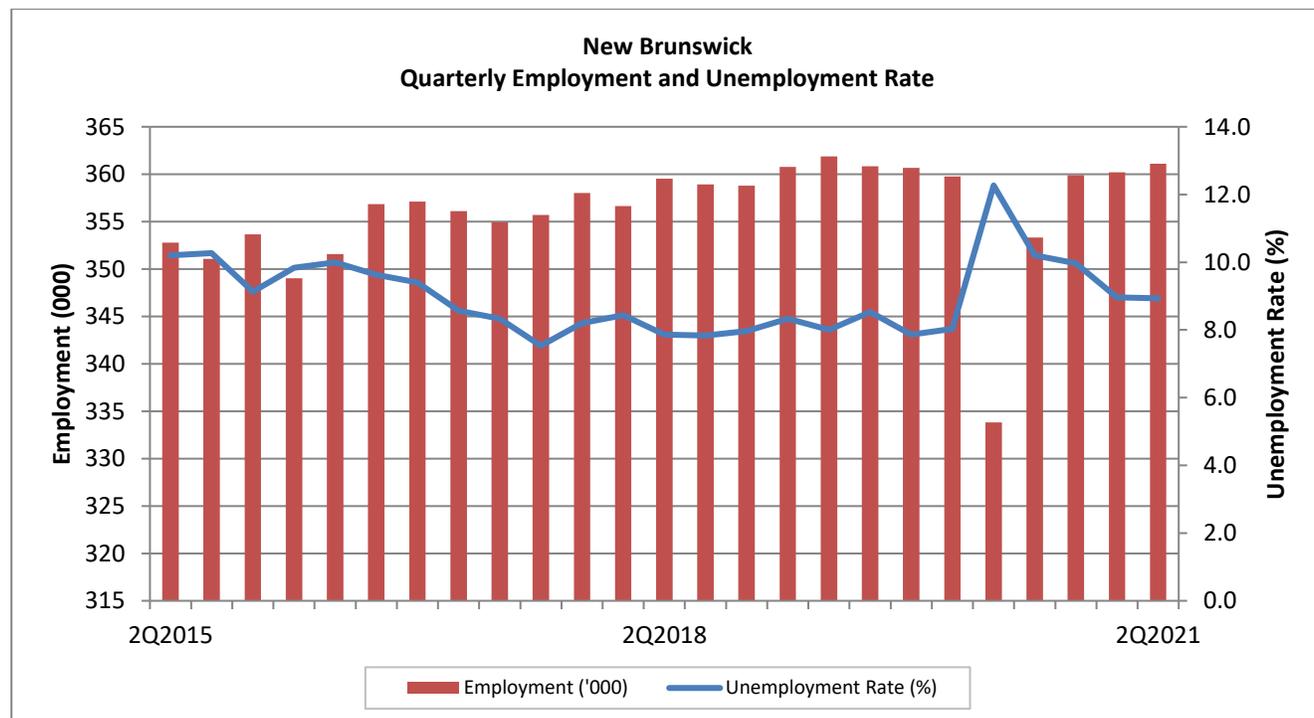
New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

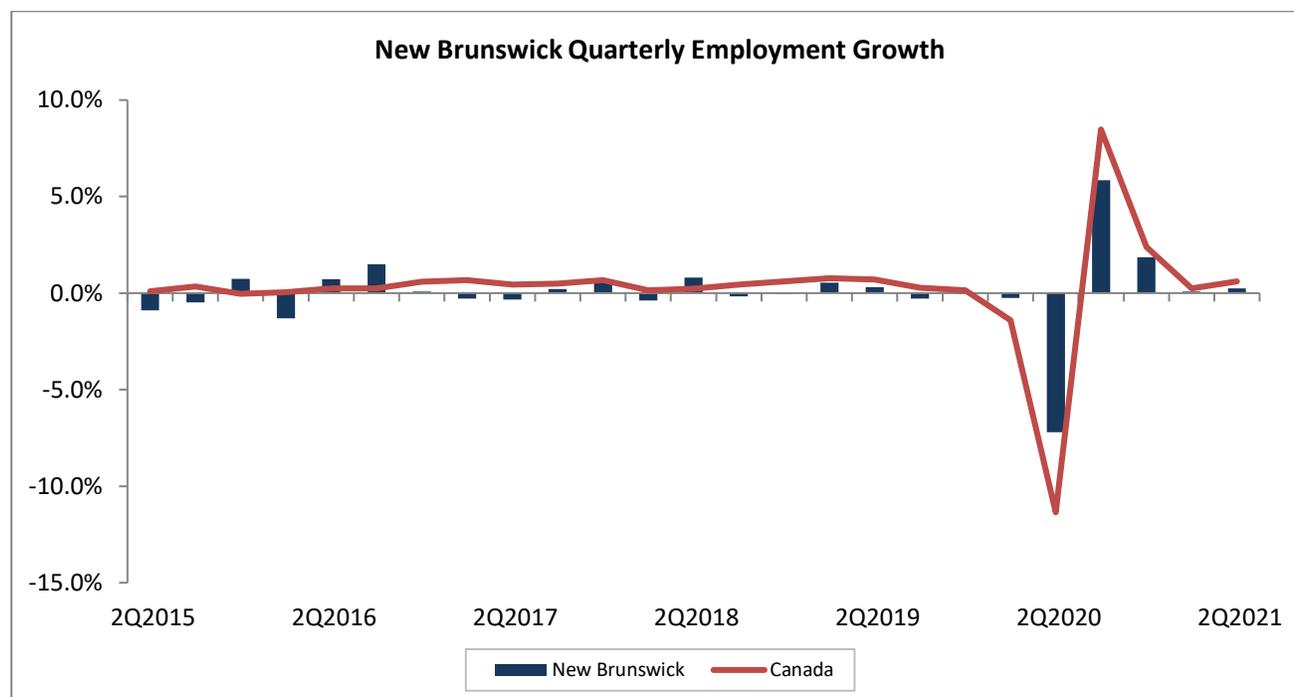
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	2nd Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	649.3	648.5	646.5	0.8	0.1	2.8	0.4
Labour Force ('000)	396.6	395.6	380.3	1.0	0.3	16.3	4.3
Employment ('000)	361.1	360.2	333.8	0.9	0.2	27.3	8.2
Full-Time ('000)	304.3	301.4	287.0	2.9	1.0	17.3	6.0
Part-Time ('000)	56.8	58.8	46.9	-2.0	-3.4	9.9	21.1
Unemployment ('000)	35.5	35.4	46.5	0.1	0.3	-11.0	-23.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.9	9.0	12.3	-0.1	-	-3.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.1	61.0	58.8	0.1	-	2.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.6	55.5	51.6	0.1	-	4.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Labour market conditions have drastically improved compared to the second quarter of 2020, which was essentially at the height of the pandemic. Employment is up by 27,000 relative to the second quarter of last year, whereas the number of active participants in the working age population is up by around 16,000. On balance, at 8.9%, the unemployment rate is 3.3 percentage points (p.p.) lower than it was a year ago.





Employment gains in the second quarter were somewhat uneven across all age categories. The core working age group (ages 25 to 54 years) actually shed 1,500 jobs compared the first quarter of 2021, which contributed to a 1.1 p.p. increase to the unemployment rate. On the bright side, youth (ages 15 to 24 years) employment grew by close to a thousand during the same period. The youth unemployment rate, meanwhile, fell by 4.4 p.p. between the first and second quarters of the year, though this was as much a function of fewer youth belonging to the labour force.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	2nd Quarter 2021 %	1st Quarter 2021 %	2nd Quarter 2020 %	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	8.9	9.0	12.3	-0.1	-3.4
25 years and over	8.8	8.0	10.5	0.8	-1.7
Men - 25 years and over	10.4	9.4	11.3	1.0	-0.9
Women - 25 years and over	7.0	6.6	9.8	0.4	-2.8
15 to 24 years	10.1	14.4	23.2	-4.3	-13.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.7	15.0	24.2	-2.3	-11.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.4	13.8	22.2	-6.4	-14.8

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The improvement to overall employment during the second quarter of this year is entirely the result of an increase in the **services-producing** sector (+1,100), which offset a minimal decline in **goods-producing** industries. As it stands, employment remains 8,900 below pre-pandemic levels in the goods-producing sector and 2,100 *above* in the services-producing sector.

While **manufacturing** (-1,000) was the only industry in the goods-producing sector to exhibit job losses during the second quarter, the magnitude of the decline was too large to offset the modest gains elsewhere in the sector. Aside from a moderate increase of 400 in **agriculture**, employment was essentially unchanged in all remaining goods-producing industries in Q2, 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 both domestically and south of the border.

Most of the gains in the **services-producing** sector in Q2 were confined to the public sector, which has been part of a broader trend throughout the entire recovery. More specifically, job gains were most significant in **health care and social assistance** (+2,000) and **public administration** (+1,500), which were among the industries least impacted by the pandemic, partly because many positions were either classified as being essential or involved tasks that were much more conducive to telework. Otherwise, any remaining gains in the sector were fairly negligible. Job losses among services-producing industries in the second quarter were most significant in **professional, scientific and technical services** (-1,200).

On a year-over-year basis, the **services-producing** sector is faring much better than it did in Q2 of 2020, having added 26,000 jobs to the labour market. A lot of these gains were concentrated in industries that were most severely impacted by the various lockdowns last spring, including **accommodation and food services** (+4,400), **trade** (+3,500) and **transportation and warehousing** (3,000). Conversely, employment levels in **information, culture and recreation**, among the hardest-hit industries during the pandemic, remains only slightly above last year's level.

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	2nd Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	361.1	360.2	333.9	0.9	0.2	27.2	8.1
Goods-producing sector	69.6	69.7	68.4	-0.1	-0.1	1.2	1.8
Agriculture	5.1	4.7	5.1	0.4	8.5	0.0	0.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.3	9.1	10.0	0.2	2.2	-0.7	-7.0
Utilities	3.9	3.6	3.6	0.3	8.3	0.3	8.3
Construction	22.3	22.2	22.6	0.1	0.5	-0.3	-1.3
Manufacturing	29.1	30.1	27.0	-1.0	-3.3	2.1	7.8
Services-producing sector	291.5	290.4	265.5	1.1	0.4	26.0	9.8
Trade	56.0	56.1	52.5	-0.1	-0.2	3.5	6.7
Transportation and warehousing	19.3	19.2	16.3	0.1	0.5	3.0	18.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.9	17.7	16.1	0.2	1.1	1.8	11.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	17.1	18.3	16.7	-1.2	-6.6	0.4	2.4

Business, building and other support services	15.4	16.0	14.3	-0.6	-3.8	1.1	7.7
Educational services	27.8	28.3	26.0	-0.5	-1.8	1.8	6.9
Health care and social assistance	62.3	60.3	58.3	2.0	3.3	4.0	6.9
Information, culture and recreation	10.1	10.1	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.8	8.6
Accommodation and food services	21.1	21.2	16.7	-0.1	-0.5	4.4	26.3
Other services	14.7	15.0	12.3	-0.3	-2.0	2.4	19.5
Public administration	29.9	28.4	26.9	1.5	5.3	3.0	11.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to the second quarter of last year, when many businesses were shutdown or operating at reduced capacity due to the pandemic, employment levels are up significantly in nearly all Economic Regions (ER). The lone exception is the Edmundston-Woodstock ER, where employment is down noticeably.

Labour market conditions in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER have recovered considerably since the second quarter of last year, as the level of employment has risen by 5,100 during the past twelve months, lowering the unemployment rate from a provincial high of 17.2% to 13.0%. The magnitude of the job gains during the past year have been impressive given that the Campbellton-Miramichi ER is the second smallest economic region in the province.

The level of employment has risen by 9,100 in the **Moncton-Richibucto** ER since the second quarter of last year, though new entrants into the labour force (+7,400) have limited the decline to the region's unemployment rate to 1.8 p.p. The rate now stands at 8.8%, which is still 2.0 p.p. higher than it was in February 2020, just before pandemic-related lockdowns were put in place.

The labour market in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER has also strengthened considerably over the past year, as reflected by the 6,400 increase in employment, which lowered the rate of unemployment to 8.1% in Q2, down from 12.2% a year earlier.

Job gains over the past year have been strong in the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER, with employment rising by more than 8,700 since the second quarter of last year. The 3.4 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.

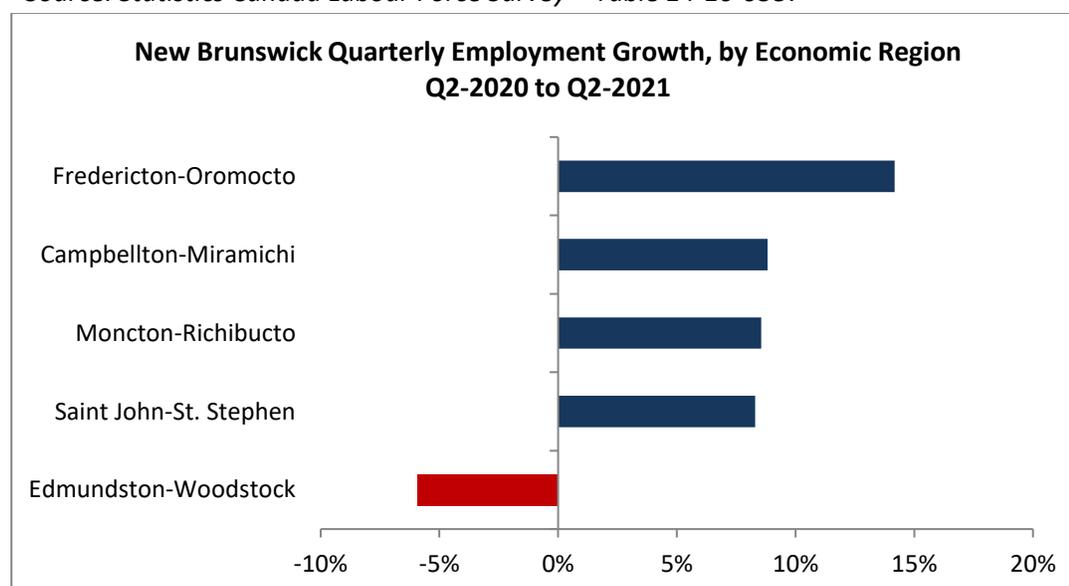
As mentioned earlier, employment in the **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER remains around 2,000 lower than it was during the second quarter of last year. Nearly 4,000 persons decided to enter the labour force and search for work, however, which explains why the jobless rate has actually declined despite the reduction in employment. At 7.2%, the unemployment rate was the lowest among all economic regions in the province in the second quarter.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	2nd Quarter 2021 ('000)	2nd Quarter 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	2nd Quarter 2021 (%)	2nd Quarter 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
New Brunswick	365.4	338.3	8.0	9.3	12.5	-3.2
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	62.9	57.8	8.8	13.0	17.2	-4.2
Moncton-Richibucto	115.5	106.4	8.6	8.8	10.7	-1.9
Saint John-St. Stephen	83.5	77.1	8.3	8.1	12.2	-4.1
Fredericton-Oromocto	70.1	61.4	14.2	8.6	12.0	-3.4
Edmundston-Woodstock	33.4	35.5	-5.9	7.2	11.3	-4.1

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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