



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

### September 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

Employment conditions in New Brunswick took a step back during the period of 2021 covering July to September, following three straight quarters of improvement. The number of jobs fell by 3,300, due to both full-time (-1,400) and part-time (-1,900) losses. The labour force also contracted (-2,100) thanks to a 0.5 percentage point drop in the participation rate. Altogether, these changes had the effect of raising the unemployment rate by a modest 0.4 percentage points.

Despite the quarter-over-quarter contractions, conditions are much improved from a year ago when there were 4,500 fewer people working. The labour force also expanded over this same period, though by a much more modest amount (+1,200).

**New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics**

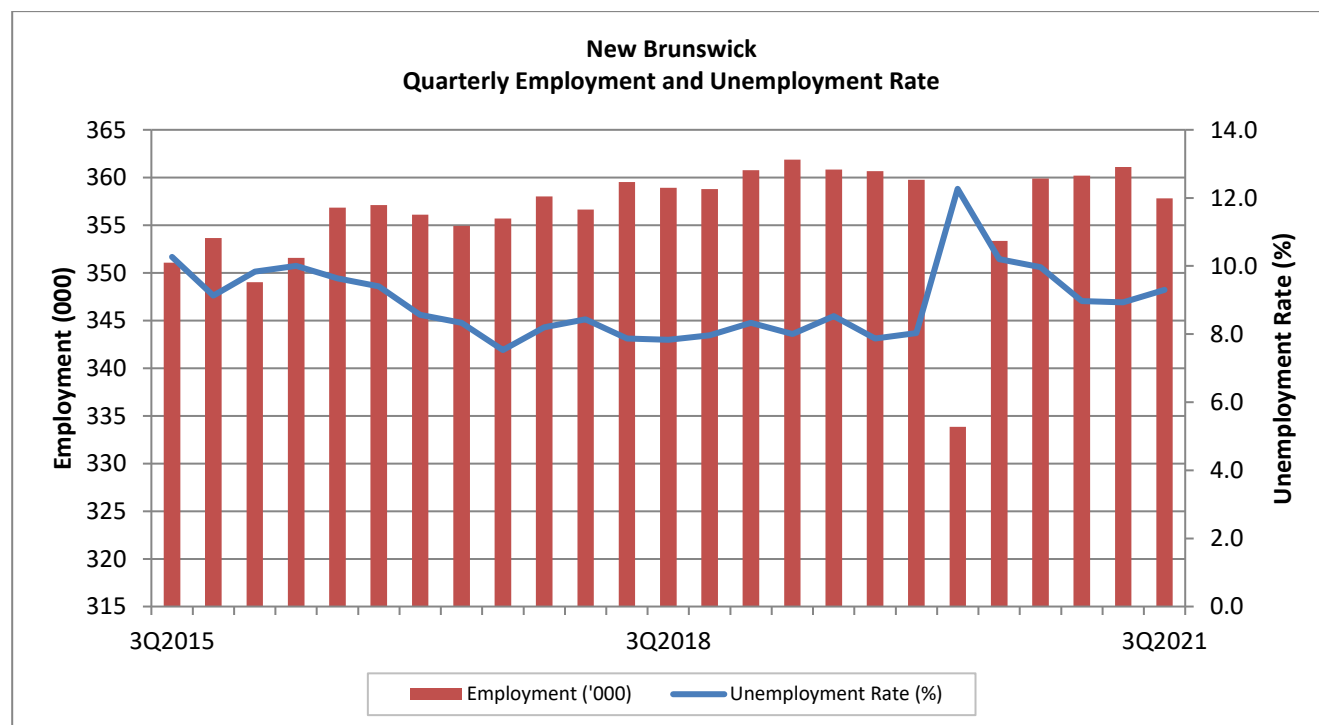
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	651.2	649.3	647.3	1.9	0.3	3.9	0.6
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	394.6	396.6	393.3	-2.0	-0.5	1.3	0.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	357.8	361.1	353.3	-3.3	-0.9	4.5	1.3
Full-Time ('000)	302.9	304.3	298.1	-1.4	-0.5	4.8	1.6
Part-Time ('000)	54.8	56.8	55.2	-2.0	-3.5	-0.4	-0.7
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	36.8	35.5	40.0	1.3	3.7	-3.2	-8.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	9.3	8.9	10.2	0.4	-	-0.9	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	60.6	61.1	60.8	-0.5	-	-0.2	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	55.0	55.6	54.6	-0.6	-	0.4	-

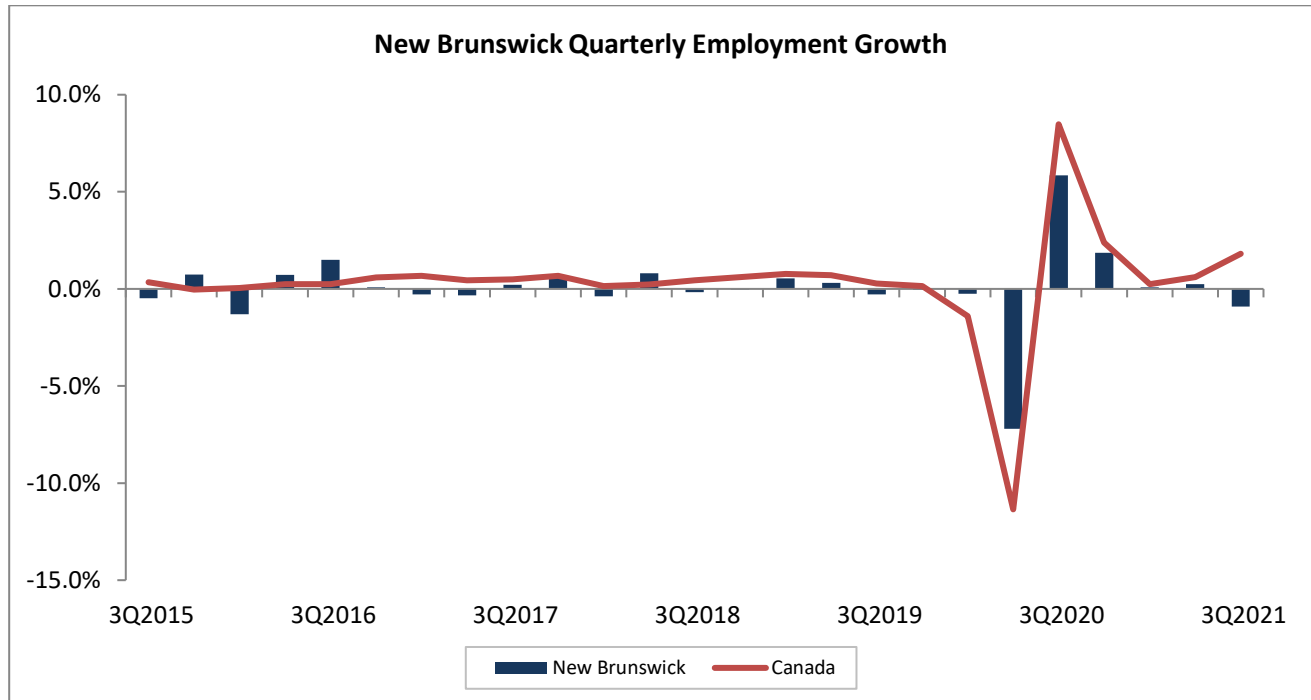
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Job losses in the third quarter were concentrated among youth (15 to 24 years; -2,900) and older workers (55 years and older; -2,300), the two age groups that continue to lag their pre-recession employment levels. Youth, in particular, have been struggling over the past several months and have shed 2,000 jobs since April. This group has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic but was showing signs of recovery earlier in the year.

On the other hand, employment within the core working age population (ages 25 to 54 years) increased (+1,900) over last quarter thanks to a surge in full-time positions. The unemployment rate for this group fell by 0.7 percentage points, from 8.3% to 7.6%.





Not only were the only job gains in the third quarter concentrated among core-aged workers, it was males in this age group, specifically, who carried the improvement. Among those aged 25 to 54 years of age, males added 2,100 jobs while females shed 300 positions.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter 2021 %	2nd Quarter 2021 %	3rd Quarter 2020 %	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	9.3	8.9	10.2	0.4	-0.9
<b>25 years and over</b>	8.9	8.8	9.1	0.1	-0.2
Men - 25 years and over	10.5	10.4	11.8	0.1	-1.3
Women - 25 years and over	7.3	7.0	6.1	0.3	1.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	11.8	10.1	17.2	1.7	-5.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.3	12.7	19.7	1.6	-5.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.4	7.4	14.3	2.0	-4.9

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In contrast to the past three quarters, job losses during the period spanning July to September were concentrated in the **services-producing sector** (-2,700). While losses in the **goods-producing sector** were more modest (-700) the sector has been in decline for six consecutive quarters.

Job losses in the goods-producing sector were concentrated in **manufacturing** (-1,300) and **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (-500). The former has struggled of late and has shed nearly 2,500 jobs in the past year alone. On a more positive note, **construction** has shown signs of rebounding, recording job growth of 900 during the third quarter. **Agriculture** and **utilities** were relatively unchanged, notching just over 100 new jobs apiece.

Losses in the services-producing sector were surprisingly led by **health care and social assistance**, which shed 3,000 jobs despite a higher demand for health care services in recent months, due to the pandemic. **Business, building and other support services** (-1,500), **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** (-900), **transportation and warehousing** (-200) and **other services** (-100) also shed jobs but the declines were much less severe. Offsetting these losses to some degree were employment gains in **public administration** (+2,000) and **trade** (+1,100). With continued weakness in much of the private sector, the public administration industry has been a key driver of labour market activity, with employment in the third quarter of 2021 up by nearly 3,500 from levels a year ago.

**New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry**

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2021	2nd Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	357.8	361.1	353.3	-3.3	-0.9	4.5	1.3
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	69.0	69.6	72.6	-0.6	-0.9	-3.6	-5.0
Agriculture	5.2	5.1	4.5	0.1	2.0	0.7	15.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	8.7	9.3	9.7	-0.6	-6.5	-1.0	-10.3
Utilities	4.0	3.9	3.6	0.1	2.6	0.4	11.1
Construction	23.1	22.3	24.6	0.8	3.6	-1.5	-6.1
Manufacturing	27.8	29.1	30.3	-1.3	-4.5	-2.5	-8.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	288.8	291.5	280.7	-2.7	-0.9	8.1	2.9
Trade	57.1	56.0	56.6	1.1	2.0	0.5	0.9
Transportation and warehousing	19.0	19.3	16.8	-0.3	-1.6	2.2	13.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.0	17.9	15.7	-0.9	-5.0	1.3	8.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	17.1	17.1	17.6	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-2.8
Business, building and other support services	13.9	15.4	13.8	-1.5	-9.7	0.1	0.7
Educational services	27.6	27.8	27.9	-0.2	-0.7	-0.3	-1.1
Health care and social assistance	59.2	62.3	59.3	-3.1	-5.0	-0.1	-0.2

Information, culture and recreation	10.3	10.1	9.6	0.2	2.0	0.7	7.3
Accommodation and food services	21.2	21.1	21.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5
Other services	14.6	14.7	13.8	-0.1	-0.7	0.8	5.8
Public administration	31.9	29.9	28.5	2.0	6.7	3.4	11.9

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Job losses in the third quarter of 2021 were concentrated in the province's two northernmost Economic Regions (ERs), Campbellton-Miramichi and Edmundston-Woodstock. Compared to last year, employment in these two regions alone fell by nearly 5,000. However, impressive gains in Moncton-Richibucto, as well as positive outcomes in the two other ERs were enough to offset these losses.

The bulk of the province's job losses were concentrated in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER, where employment fell by 3,800 (-5.8%). The labour force also contracted significantly (-4,900), causing the unemployment rate to actually fall somewhat, to 12.6% (still the highest rate in the province). 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 last year.

**Moncton- Richibucto**, on the other hand, added 7,400 jobs on a year-over-year basis, thanks to a gain in full-time employment (+6,600). Somewhat fewer people entered the labour force (+6,700), causing the region's unemployment rate to fall slightly to 7.4%. The workforce in the Moncton- Richibucto ER has expanded by nearly 13,000 since the first quarter of 2021.

Year-over-year job gains in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER (+1,300) were relatively modest, by comparison, but nevertheless represent an improvement. Fewer people joined the labour force over this period, causing the region's unemployment rate to fall from 9.5% to 8.5%, roughly middle-of-the-pack.

While not as significant as in Moncton-Richibucto, employment gains in **Fredericton-Oromocto** represented another bright spot. Job growth of 2,700 was accompanied by the addition of 2,300 to the labour force, while the unemployment rate fell by 0.8 percentage points, to 8.3%. Most importantly, most of the new jobs were in full-time work (+2,100).

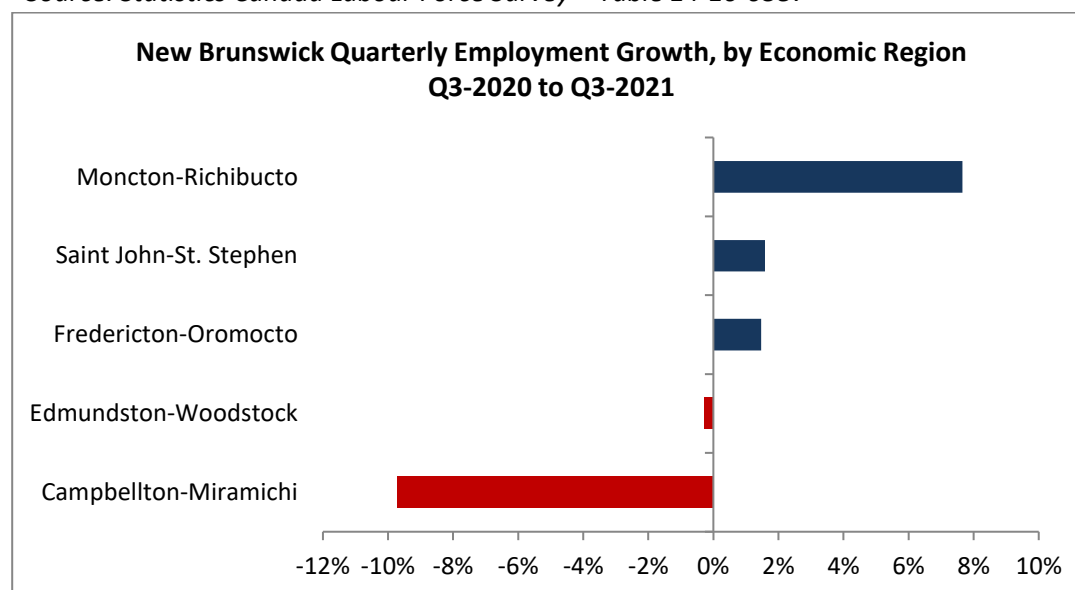
The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER shed 1,200 jobs over the past year, with a small gain in part-time work being completely offset by a decline of 1,300 in full-time employment. While the unemployment rate fell by 2.1 percentage points, to 6.6% (now the lowest in the province), this was the result of a sizeable number of people (2,300) exiting the labour force.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2021 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2021 (%)	3rd Quarter 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	368.2	363.9	1.2	8.5	9.2	-0.7
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	59.5	65.9	-9.7	12.9	12.7	0.2
Moncton-Richibucto	119.5	111.0	7.7	7.2	8.0	-0.8
Saint John-St. Stephen	83.2	81.9	1.6	8.5	9.2	-0.7
Fredericton-Oromocto	69.3	68.3	1.5	8.0	8.4	-0.4
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.7	36.8	-0.3	6.2	7.5	-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.

**Prepared by:** Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at:

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