



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

## November 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 experienced mixed outcomes in November. On the positive side, the province's workforce expanded (+1,000) for the third consecutive month as a gain in the number of full-time jobs (+1,300) more than offset a decline in part-time positions. Moreover, with this latest increase, the province surpassed its pre-pandemic (February 2020) employment. On the other hand, the labour force contracted by 1,200 people due to a drop in the rate of participation. The combined effect of these outcomes was a drop in the unemployment rate, from 9.1% to 8.5%.

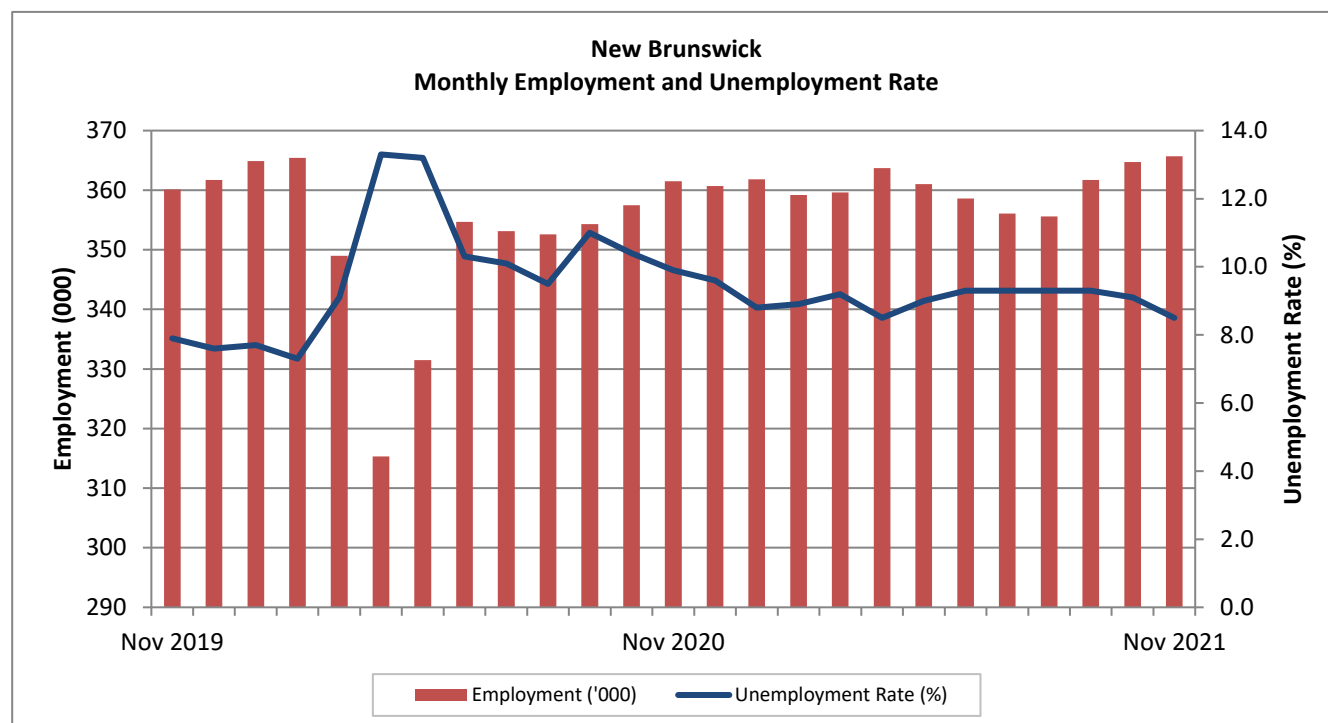
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Nov 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	653.9	653.1	648.0	0.8	0.1	5.9	0.9
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	399.9	401.1	401.1	-1.2	-0.3	-1.2	-0.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	365.7	364.7	361.5	1.0	0.3	4.2	1.2
Full-Time ('000)	312.0	310.7	307.9	1.3	0.4	4.1	1.3
Part-Time ('000)	53.7	54.0	53.6	-0.3	-0.6	0.1	0.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	34.1	36.4	39.6	-2.3	-6.3	-5.5	-13.9
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.5	9.1	9.9	-0.6	-	-1.4	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	61.2	61.4	61.9	-0.2	-	-0.7	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	55.9	55.8	55.8	0.1	-	0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment gains in November were concentrated among older workers (aged 55 years and over) who, after adding 2,600 jobs, have now recovered nearly all (99.4%) jobs lost since February 2020. Youth (aged 24 and under), on the other hand, shed 1,300 jobs and remain the furthest from full recovery. In fact, the unemployment rate for this group jumped by three full percentage points, to 16.3%, in November. There was little change (-300) among prime aged workers (25 to 54 years).



Youth job losses were concentrated among males, who shed 1,200 of the 1,300 total among this age group for the month of November. As a result, the unemployment rate for male youth shot up 5.0 percentage points, to 16.3%. This brings it in-line with the unemployment rate for young females, which sits at 16.4%. Neither group saw major additions to their pool of available labour, with small increases of 200 and 300 for males and females, respectively.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Nov 2021 %	Oct 2021 %	Nov 2020 %	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.5	9.1	9.9	-0.6	-1.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.3	8.4	8.4	-1.1	-1.1
Men - 25 years and over	8.4	9.5	10.8	-1.1	-2.4
Women - 25 years and over	6.0	7.2	5.8	-1.2	0.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.3	13.3	19.0	3.0	-2.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.3	11.3	18.1	5.0	-1.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	16.4	15.4	19.6	1.0	-3.2

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job gains for the month of November were due to improvements in **goods-producing sector** (+2,800) industries, which more than offset **services-producing sector** losses (-1,700). Overall, the former has performed better for much of 2021.

**Manufacturing** (+1,300) led all industries in the goods-producing sector, registering its third month-over-month gain in a row. This industry is likely benefiting from strong demand for wood and seafood products. **Construction** also improved (+700), along with **agriculture** (+600) and **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (+500). **Utilities** was the only industry in this sector to register a decline (-200) in November.

Losses in the services-producing sector were headlined by **wholesale and retail trade** (-1,700). **Information, culture and recreation** (-800) and **health care and social assistance** (-700) also saw noticeable declines, with the latter perhaps at least partially due to the Government of New Brunswick's recent decision to institute a vaccination mandate for all government employees. With that being said, employment in **public administration** (+100) and **education** (+100) were little changed. No industry in the services-producing sector grew by more than 400 jobs (**professional, scientific and technical services**) in November.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Nov 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	365.7	364.7	361.5	1.0	0.3	4.2	1.2
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	76.6	73.8	72.0	2.8	3.8	4.6	6.4
Agriculture	6.4	5.8	3.9	0.6	10.3	2.5	64.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.5	9.0	9.9	0.5	5.6	-0.4	-4.0
Utilities	4.0	4.2	3.8	-0.2	-4.8	0.2	5.3
Construction	26.8	26.1	23.1	0.7	2.7	3.7	16.0
Manufacturing	30.0	28.7	31.3	1.3	4.5	-1.3	-4.2
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	289.2	290.9	289.5	-1.7	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1
Trade	55.6	57.5	55.7	-1.9	-3.3	-0.1	-0.2
Transportation and warehousing	18.4	18.7	17.9	-0.3	-1.6	0.5	2.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.5	17.4	16.5	0.1	0.6	1.0	6.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	18.6	18.2	19.3	0.4	2.2	-0.7	-3.6
Business, building and other support services	15.1	15.0	16.1	0.1	0.7	-1.0	-6.2
Educational services	30.6	30.5	28.3	0.1	0.3	2.3	8.1
Health care and social assistance	56.2	56.9	60.7	-0.7	-1.2	-4.5	-7.4
Information, culture and recreation	8.3	9.1	9.4	-0.8	-8.8	-1.1	-11.7
Accommodation and food services	21.8	20.7	20.9	1.1	5.3	0.9	4.3
Other services	14.8	15.0	14.8	-0.2	-1.3	0.0	0.0
Public administration	32.1	32.0	29.9	0.1	0.3	2.2	7.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

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

Employment fell by 6,100 on a year-over-year basis, in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER, marking the fifth 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 (-7,300) 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 (-3,100).

The **Moncton-Richibucto** ER added 5,900 jobs on a year-over-year basis, the majority of which (5,300) were full-time positions. A significant number of people also entered the labour force in October (+4,600), but the unemployment rate still fell slightly, to 7.4%. The labour force and workforce in the Moncton-Richibucto ER have expanded by 7,400 and 6,100, respectively, since February 2020 (just prior to the pandemic) and this region represents an economic bright spot in a province that continues to recover.

The **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER also saw its labour market improve somewhat, though by less than its southern neighbours. Employment grew by 700 compared to November of 2020, while the labour force was relatively unchanged (-100). Altogether, this led to a slight decline in the region's unemployment rate – from 9.1% to 8.1%.

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 4,300 in November thanks to increases in both full-time and part-time work. The labour force also expanded (+3,500), though not by as much as the workforce, causing the unemployment rate to fall from 7.0% to 5.6%.

The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER added 1,000 jobs in November, with a bump in full-time positions (1,300) offsetting a small decline (-300) in part-time work. The unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage points, to a provincial low of 4.1%, 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		
	Nov 2021 ('000)	Nov 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Nov 2021 (%)	Nov 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	366.1	360.4	1.6	7.7	8.9	-1.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	59.0	65.1	-9.4	12.1	12.5	-0.4
Moncton-Richibucto	115.8	109.9	5.4	7.4	8.8	-1.4
Saint John-St. Stephen	82.1	81.4	0.9	8.1	9.1	-1.0
Fredericton-Oromocto	72.3	68.0	6.3	5.6	7.0	-1.4
Edmundston-Woodstock	37.0	36.0	2.8	4.1	5.0	-0.9

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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