



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

December 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 significantly between the third (Q3) and fourth (Q4) quarters of 2021. The number of employed jumped by 6,900, offsetting a decline of 3,300 during the previous quarter. While part-time positions fell somewhat (-1,000), the number of full-time positions expanded by an impressive 8,000 jobs. The labour force also grew by a substantial amount (4,200) and the unemployment rate fell from 9.3% to 8.5%. Overall, there were 2,800 fewer people unemployed in Q4 than there were in Q3.

However, there were signs of a reversal of fortunes towards the end of the quarter, in December, as the number of employed fell by 1,900, following three straight months of improvement. Moreover, the labour force was dealt its largest month-over-month decline of the year (-4,900). The unemployment rate fell from 8.5% to 7.9% but this was completely the result of potential workers exiting the labour force.

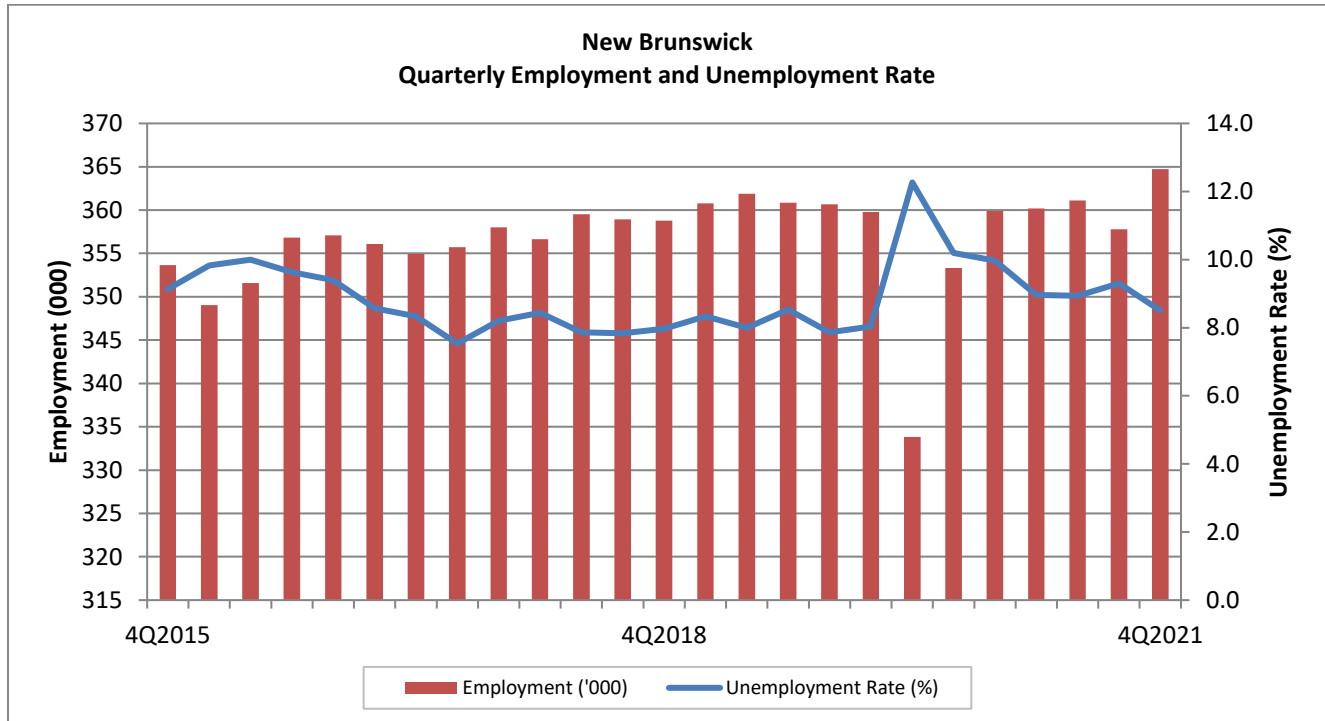
New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

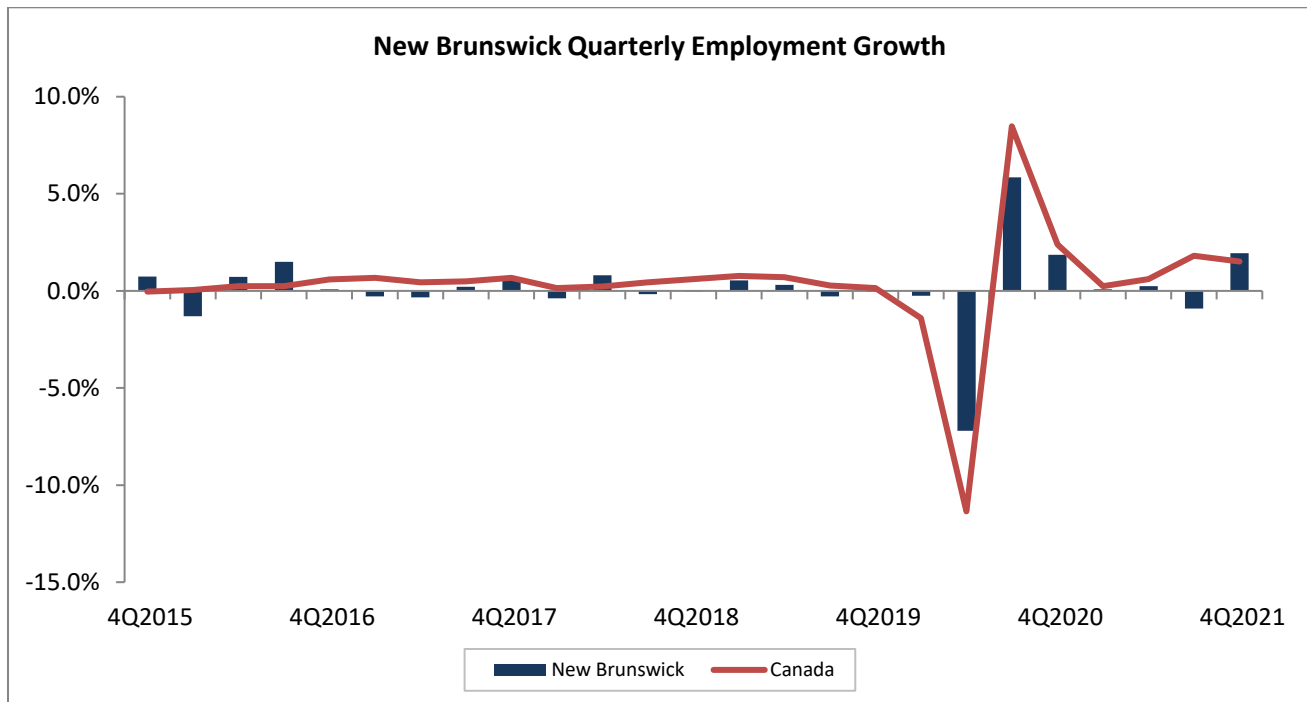
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	654.0	651.2	648.0	2.8	0.4	6.0	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	398.7	394.6	399.7	4.1	1.0	-1.0	-0.3
Employment ('000)	364.7	357.8	359.9	6.9	1.9	4.8	1.3
Full-Time ('000)	310.9	302.9	305.5	8.0	2.6	5.4	1.8
Part-Time ('000)	53.8	54.8	54.4	-1.0	-1.8	-0.6	-1.1
Unemployment ('000)	34.0	36.8	39.8	-2.8	-7.6	-5.8	-14.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.5	9.3	10.0	-0.8	-	-1.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.0	60.6	61.7	0.4	-	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.8	55.0	55.5	0.8	-	0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The biggest reason for the large overall gain in employment in Q4 was significant expansion among prime aged workers (25 to 54 years, +5,200). The labour force also expanded, though by a smaller amount (+2,600), resulting in the unemployment rate falling from 7.6% to 6.5%. While seniors (55 years and older) also added jobs (+1,800) in Q4, the increase merely reverses some of the 2,300 jobs lost during the previous quarter. While the unemployment rate for this group fell to 9.9%, this was partially a result of people exiting the labour force.





The level of employment among youth (15 to 24 years) remained flat in Q4 as a 400-job increase for males just offset a decline among females. Neither group shed full-time positions, however, as part-time job losses among the latter were solely responsible for declines to end the year. Finally, a rebound in overall labour force participation (+2,100) resulted in an increase to the unemployment rate (from 11.8% to 12.5%).

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter 2021 %	3rd Quarter 2021 %	4th Quarter 2020 %	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	8.5	9.3	10.0	-0.8	-1.5
25 years and over	7.5	8.9	8.5	-1.4	-1.0
Men - 25 years and over	8.3	10.5	10.9	-2.2	-2.6
Women - 25 years and over	6.5	7.3	6.0	-0.8	0.5
15 to 24 years	15.2	11.8	18.5	3.4	-3.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.9	14.3	19.3	1.6	-3.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	14.4	9.4	17.5	5.0	-3.1

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job gains in Q4 were much stronger in the **goods-producing sector** (+6,400) than in the **services-producing sector** (+600) and overall, the former has performed better for much of 2021.

Construction (+3,600) led all industries in the goods-producing sector, registering its third straight month-over-month improvement. This industry likely continues to benefit from strong residential construction activity. While all other goods-producing industries improved, **manufacturing** (+1,400), and **agriculture** (+900) were the other two standouts.

Gains in the services-producing sector were headlined by **educational services** (+3,100), which improved despite a return to online teaching throughout much of the province, to end the year. **Professional, scientific and technical services** (+1,700) and **business, building and other support services** (+1,300) also saw considerable improvement. On the other end of the spectrum were **health care and social assistance** (-2,700), **information, culture and recreation** (-1,700) and **wholesale and retail trade** (-1,300). In the case of health care service, the decline could be due to a few things, including heavy workload-induced career changes due to the pandemic and the Government of New Brunswick's decision, towards the end of 2021, to institute a vaccination mandate for all government employees.

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2021	3rd Quarter 2021	4th Quarter 2020	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	364.7	357.8	359.9	6.9	1.9	4.8	1.3
Goods-producing sector	75.4	69.0	71.5	6.4	9.3	3.9	5.5
Agriculture	6.1	5.2	4.1	0.9	17.3	2.0	48.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	9.1	8.7	9.3	0.4	4.6	-0.2	-2.2
Utilities	4.3	4.0	3.7	0.3	7.5	0.6	16.2
Construction	26.7	23.1	24.2	3.6	15.6	2.5	10.3
Manufacturing	29.2	27.8	30.2	1.4	5.0	-1.0	-3.3
Services-producing sector	289.4	288.8	288.4	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.3
Trade	55.8	57.1	56.9	-1.3	-2.3	-1.1	-1.9
Transportation and warehousing	18.6	19.0	18.3	-0.4	-2.1	0.3	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	17.4	17.0	16.6	0.4	2.4	0.8	4.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	18.8	17.1	18.7	1.7	9.9	0.1	0.5
Business, building and other support services	15.2	13.9	15.6	1.3	9.4	-0.4	-2.6
Educational services	30.7	27.6	28.3	3.1	11.2	2.4	8.5
Health care and social assistance	56.5	59.2	59.9	-2.7	-4.6	-3.4	-5.7
Information, culture and recreation	8.6	10.3	9.8	-1.7	-16.5	-1.2	-12.2
Accommodation and food services	20.8	21.2	20.5	-0.4	-1.9	0.3	1.5
Other services	14.9	14.6	14.4	0.3	2.1	0.5	3.5
Public administration	32.1	31.9	29.4	0.2	0.6	2.7	9.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Job losses in Q4 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 6,000 on a year-over-year basis, in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER, marking the third straight quarter of job losses. Moreover, the bulk of job losses occurred in full-time employment (-5,100). 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.

The **Moncton-Richibucto** ER added 5,600 jobs on a year-over-year basis, the majority of which (5,200) were full-time positions. A significant number of people also entered the labour force in Q4 (+4,400), but the unemployment rate still fell slightly, to 7.4%. The region's labour force and workforce have both expanded significantly since February 2020 (just prior to the pandemic).

The **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER also saw its labour market improve somewhat, though by less than its neighbours. Employment grew by 600 compared to Q4 of 2020, while the labour force declined somewhat (-400). Altogether, this led to a slight decline in the region's unemployment rate – from 8.5% to 8.2%.

Labour market improvement 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 4,000 in Q4 thanks to increases in both full-time and part-time work. The labour force also expanded (+3,200), though not by as much as the workforce, causing the unemployment rate to fall from 8.3% to 5.8%.

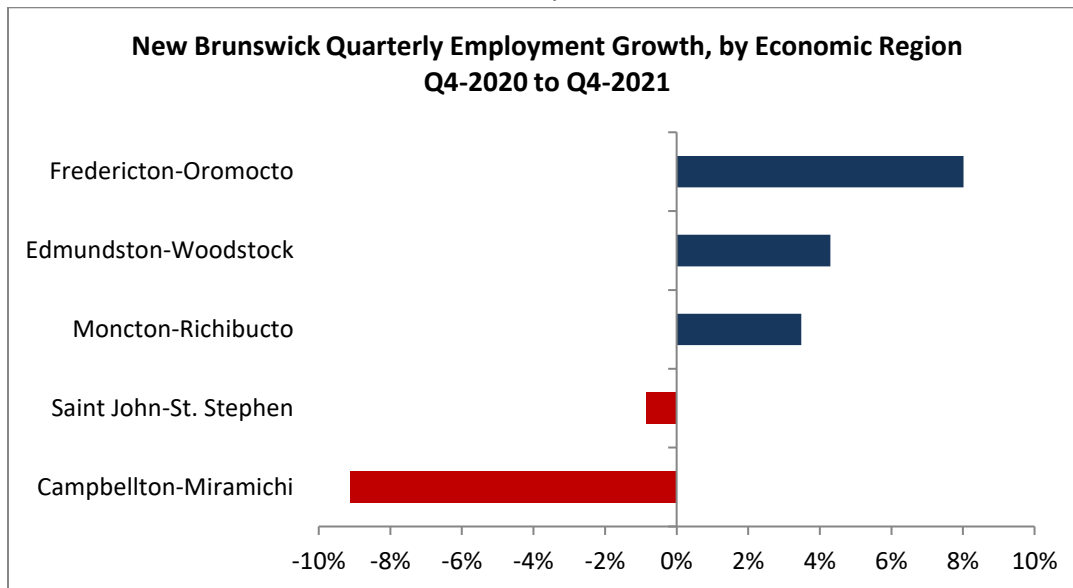
The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER added 1,100 jobs in Q4, with a bump in full-time positions (1,400) offsetting a small decline (-400) in part-time work. The unemployment rate fell by 1.0 percentage points, to a provincial low of 4.6%, as the number of people entering the labour force was less than the number of newly employed.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2021 ('000)	4th Quarter 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2021 (%)	4th Quarter 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
New Brunswick	362.5	358.1	1.2	7.6	9.0	-1.4
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	57.7	63.5	-9.1	12.3	12.5	-0.2
Moncton-Richibucto	113.0	109.2	3.5	7.5	9.0	-1.5
Saint John-St. Stephen	81.2	81.9	-0.9	8.1	9.8	-1.7
Fredericton-Oromocto	74.1	68.6	8.0	4.9	6.4	-1.5
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.4	34.9	4.3	4.5	5.4	-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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