



# Labour Market Bulletin

## New Brunswick

## January 2022



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 deteriorated for the second consecutive month, in January. The labour force shrank by 1,900 despite a working population increase (+1,300), marking the third straight month that this has occurred. The participation rate dropped from 61.3% to 59.9% since last October and is now at its lowest point since May of 2020. Moreover, employment declined by 3,100 on a month-over-month basis, with a nearly equal number of full-time and part-time jobs lost since December. Because the impact of the employment decline was stronger than the decline in labour force participation, the unemployment rate jumped by 0.3 percentage points, to 8.5%.

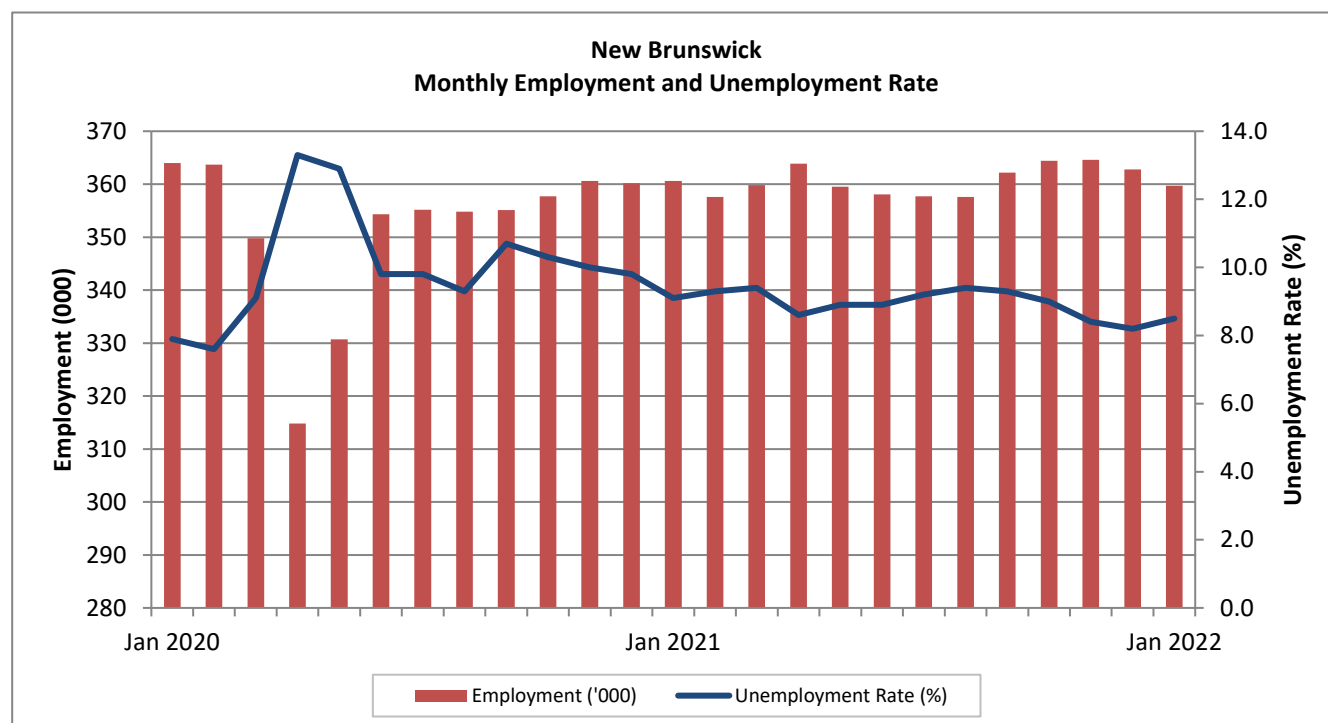
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Jan 2022	Dec 2021	Jan 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	656.2	654.9	648.4	1.3	0.2	7.8	1.2
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	393.1	395.0	396.5	-1.9	-0.5	-3.4	-0.9
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	359.7	362.8	360.6	-3.1	-0.9	-0.9	-0.2
Full-Time ('000)	307.4	308.9	300.1	-1.5	-0.5	7.3	2.4
Part-Time ('000)	52.3	53.9	60.5	-1.6	-3.0	-8.2	-13.6
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	33.4	32.2	35.9	1.2	3.7	-2.5	-7.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.5	8.2	9.1	0.3	-	-0.6	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	59.9	60.3	61.2	-0.4	-	-1.3	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	54.8	55.4	55.6	-0.6	-	-0.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Job losses were strongest among youth (aged 24 and under), as this group shed 4.6% (-2,100) of its employment. Some of this drop can be explained by a higher concentration of young people working in service industries that were impacted by the province's move to the Level 3 phase of its winter plan to manage COVID-19. These restrictions, which were put in place from January 15<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, prohibited dine-in service at restaurants, as well as non-essential retail. Fewer youth dropped out of the labour force over this period (-900), causing the unemployment rate for this group to jump from 17.1% (already elevated) to 19.6%.



Youth job losses were concentrated among females, who shed 2,000 jobs between December and January, while the drop in labour force participation was shared fairly equally. As a result, the unemployment rate for females jumped by 5.6 percentage points, to 19.2%, closing the gap with an already-elevated male unemployment rate (20.1%).

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Jan 2022 %	Dec 2021 %	Jan 2021 %	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.5	8.2	9.1	0.3	-0.6
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.7	6.7	8.1	0.0	-1.4
Men - 25 years and over	6.4	7.1	9.2	-0.7	-2.8
Women - 25 years and over	7.0	6.3	6.9	0.7	0.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	19.6	17.1	15.0	2.5	4.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	20.1	20.7	14.9	-0.6	5.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	19.2	13.6	15.0	5.6	4.2

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

Prime aged workers (25 to 54 years) also shed jobs, but the decline (-1,100) was much smaller in percentage-terms (-0.5%). Moreover, this group had a bit of a buffer from the 2,700 jobs added in December. The unemployment rate remained relatively unchanged, at 5.9%, as 1,400 people stopped looking for work over this period. The employment landscape for seniors (aged 55 years and older) remained relatively unchanged, with a slight increase to both employment (+100) and the unemployment rate (+0.3 percentage points).

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Job losses in January were concentrated in the **services-producing sector** (-5,200), which is not surprising given that the provincial government's decision to move to Level 3 of its Covid-19 management plan had an impact on some of these industries. The **goods-producing sector** actually added jobs (+2,100) over this period, continuing the upward trend started in 2021 (it added 6,100 jobs over the course of the year).

**Agriculture** (+1,000) led all goods-producing industries in job growth between December and January, though this is on a seasonally adjusted basis and that overall employment is generally low at this time of year. Three of the other four industries in this sector added jobs as well, led by **construction** (+600), and followed by **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (+300) and **manufacturing** (+200). There was no change in **utilities** employment.

Losses in the services-producing sector were headlined by **other services** (-2,900), while **public administration** (-1,600), **accommodation and food services** (-900) and **educational services** (-800) accounted for much of the remainder. Altogether, the public sector (public administration, educational services and health care and social assistance) shed 2,800 jobs, more than half of total sector losses. On a slightly positive note, wholesale and retail trade actually added jobs (+900), despite the introduction of Level 3 mandates.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Jan 2022	Dec 2021	Jan 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	359.7	362.8	360.6	-3.1	-0.9	-0.9	-0.2
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	77.3	75.2	71.2	2.1	2.8	6.1	8.6
Agriculture	7.1	6.1	5.0	1.0	16.4	2.1	42.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	8.9	8.6	8.9	0.3	3.5	0.0	0.0
Utilities	4.7	4.7	3.7	0.0	0.0	1.0	27.0
Construction	27.3	26.7	22.2	0.6	2.2	5.1	23.0
Manufacturing	29.3	29.1	31.2	0.2	0.7	-1.9	-6.1
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	282.4	287.6	289.4	-5.2	-1.8	-7.0	-2.4
Trade	54.8	53.9	56.0	0.9	1.7	-1.2	-2.1
Transportation and warehousing	18.3	18.3	18.8	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-2.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.8	17.3	17.2	-0.5	-2.9	-0.4	-2.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	20.3	19.6	18.2	0.7	3.6	2.1	11.5
Business, building and other support services	16.1	15.5	15.8	0.6	3.9	0.3	1.9
Educational services	30.6	31.4	28.5	-0.8	-2.5	2.1	7.4

Health care and social assistance	55.8	56.2	60.3	-0.4	-0.7	-4.5	-7.5
Information, culture and recreation	8.0	8.4	10.1	-0.4	-4.8	-2.1	-20.8
Accommodation and food services	19.1	20.0	21.4	-0.9	-4.5	-2.3	-10.7
Other services	12.0	14.9	14.4	-2.9	-19.5	-2.4	-16.7
Public administration	30.6	32.2	28.5	-1.6	-5.0	2.1	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 January were mostly contained to the province's northernmost Economic Region (ER) of Campbellton-Miramichi, though the Saint John-St. Stephen ER also shed some jobs. Labour markets were mostly improved in each of the other three regions, when compared to the same point in time, in 2021.

Employment fell by 6,500 on a year-over-year basis in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER, marking the seventh straight month of job losses. Moreover, the bulk of job losses occurred in full-time employment (-4,800). 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. Many of the job losses that have occurred since then have been in wholesale and retail trade, which fell by 2,300 on a year-over-year basis.

The **Moncton-Richibucto** ER added 3,300 jobs on a year-over-year basis, as an increase in the number of full-time positions (+4,200) more than offset a decline in part-time jobs (-900). The unemployment rate fell by 1.5 percentage points, to 8.4%, as fewer people joined the labour force over this period. The Moncton-Richibucto ER's workforce and labour force have expanded by 600 and 2,700, respectively, since February 2020 (just prior to the pandemic).

The **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER experienced a setback in January as 3,400 people stopped looking for work. This occurred despite the region's working population jumping by 1,400, meaning that the decline was purely the result of a drop in labour force participation. The rate of participation dropped by nearly three full percentage points, to 59.7%. Moreover, total employment dropped by 600 since last year, due to a decline in the number of full-time positions. However, because the decline in labour force participation was much deeper, the unemployment rate actually fell from 11.0% to 8.5%.

The **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER saw the largest employment spike in January, as the number of jobs expanded by 4,000 thanks to a gain in full-time employment (+4,900). The labour force also expanded, though by somewhat less (+3,100) causing the unemployment rate to fall from 6.5% to a provincial low of 5.0%.

The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER added 1,700 jobs in January, with a bump in full-time positions (2,400) offsetting a decline (-700) in part-time work. The unemployment rate remained relatively unchanged, as the number of people entering the labour force (+1,900) was consistent with the number of newly employed.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Jan 2022 ('000)	Jan 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Jan 2022 (%)	Jan 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
<b>New Brunswick</b>	355.1	353.3	0.5	8.3	9.7	-1.4
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Campbellton-Miramichi	55.4	61.9	-10.5	13.2	13.0	0.2
Moncton-Richibucto	110.3	107.0	3.1	8.4	9.9	-1.5
Saint John-St. Stephen	80.8	81.4	-0.7	8.5	11.0	-2.5
Fredericton-Oromocto	73.4	69.4	5.8	5.0	6.5	-1.5
Edmundston-Woodstock	35.3	33.6	5.1	6.1	5.9	0.2

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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