



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

February 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

After deteriorating for two consecutive months, there were some positive developments for New Brunswick's labour market in February. The total number of jobs increased by 1,200, thanks to a 2,100 gain in full-time employment. However, 1,200 people also left the labour force, despite an increase in the working population. This is the fourth consecutive month in which the labour force participation rate decreased and now sits at 59.6% - the lowest mark since May 2020. The unemployment rate fell 0.6 percentage points, to 7.9%, though this was just as much due to a drop in participation as it was employment gains.

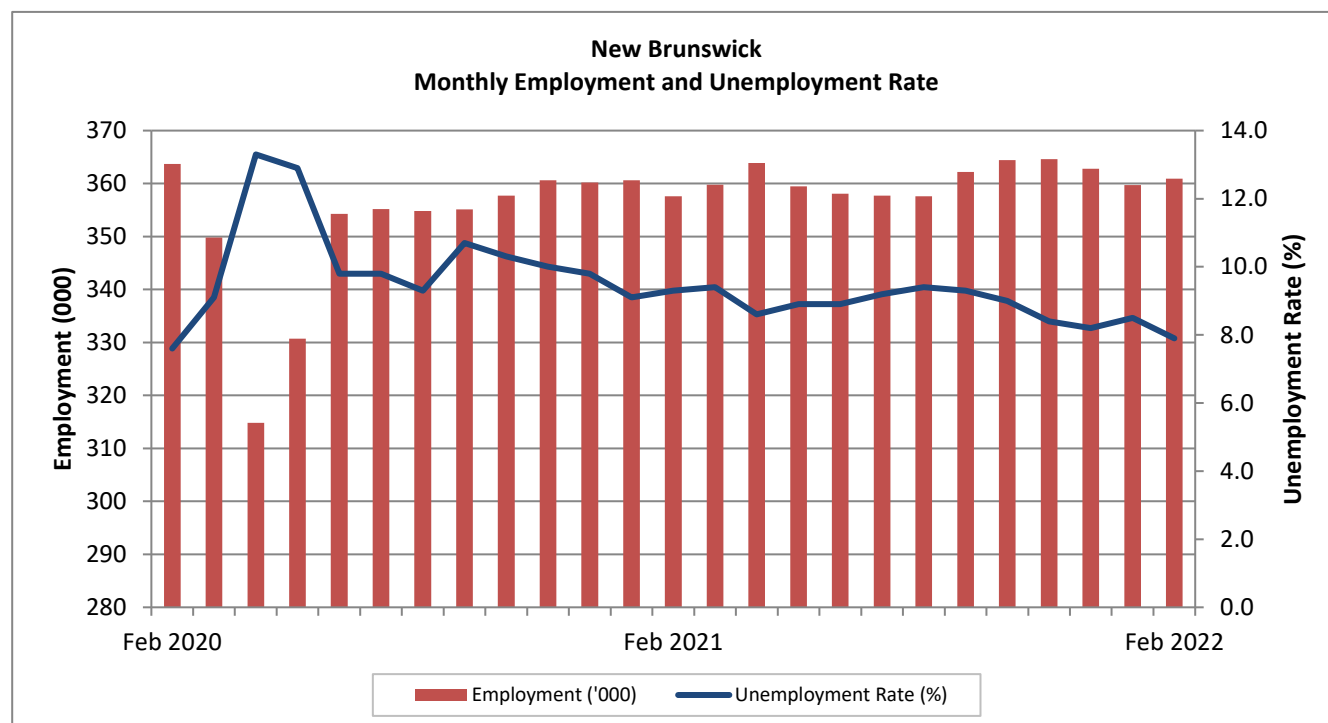
New Brunswick Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb 2022	Jan 2022	Feb 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	657.7	656.2	648.4	1.5	0.2	9.3	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	391.9	393.1	394.3	-1.2	-0.3	-2.4	-0.6
Employment ('000)	360.9	359.7	357.6	1.2	0.3	3.3	0.9
Full-Time ('000)	309.5	307.4	301.0	2.1	0.7	8.5	2.8
Part-Time ('000)	51.3	52.3	56.6	-1.0	-1.9	-5.3	-9.4
Unemployment ('000)	31.1	33.4	36.7	-2.3	-6.9	-5.6	-15.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.9	8.5	9.3	-0.6	-	-1.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.6	59.9	60.8	-0.3	-	-1.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	54.9	54.8	55.2	0.1	-	-0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Job gains in February were concentrated among youth (aged 24 years and under) and seniors (aged 55 years and older). Youth employment increased by 2,100, which is a very positive development considering that this group shed a combined 5,700 jobs over the prior three months. On the other hand, 700 youth stopped looking for work, marking the third straight decline in labour force participation. These changes are reflected in a lower unemployment rate (14.6%) for the group as a whole.



Females accounted for the bulk of youth job gains (+1,700). However, 600 among this group also stopped looking for work and the combined result was a steep drop in the unemployment rate (from 19.2% to 11.5%). Young males shared a similar experience, though the changes were smaller in scale, with employment increasing by 500 and the labour force falling by 100. As a result, the unemployment rate for this group fell by only 2.2 percentage points.

New Brunswick Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2022 %	Jan 2022 %	Feb 2021 %	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	7.9	8.5	9.3	-0.6	-1.4
25 years and over	6.9	6.7	8.6	0.2	-1.7
Men - 25 years and over	7.5	6.4	10.9	1.1	-3.4
Women - 25 years and over	6.2	7.0	6.3	-0.8	-0.1
15 to 24 years	14.6	19.6	13.2	-5.0	1.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.9	20.1	13.9	-2.2	4.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.5	19.2	12.5	-7.7	-1.0

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

The outcome for seniors was more positive all-round. Not only did this group add 1,900 jobs (most of which were full-time), they also added 2,400 to their labour force ranks. Prime-aged workers (aged 25 to 54 years) experienced the complete opposite outcome, with an equal number (2,800) of job and labour force losses.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment gains in February were concentrated in the **services-producing sector** (+2,700), which is a positive development following four straight months of decline. However, this reverses only a small portion of the 9,600 jobs lost over this period. The **goods-producing sector**, on the other hand, shed 1,500 jobs, on a year-over-year basis.

Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-1,600) accounted for the bulk of job losses among goods-producing industries, which is surprising given that the industry continues to report strong sales performance. The remaining job losses (-500) were located among **manufacturing** companies. On the positive side of the ledger, **agriculture** and **construction** added 300 jobs apiece, while **utilities** employment remained unchanged.

Gains in the services-producing sector were led by **information, culture and recreation** (+1,300), which marks the first increase in five months, and can be explained by an easing of restrictions among high-contact businesses following a bump in Covid-19 cases. The public sector as a whole also performed well in February, led by **health care and social assistance** (+1,000), with **educational services** and **public administration** adding 600 and 500 jobs, respectively. On the negative side, **wholesale and retail trade** shed 1,300 jobs, marking the third time in four months that losses have exceeded 1,000. **Accommodation and food services** (-500) and **business, building and other support services** (-400) were the only other two industries to see employment declines.

New Brunswick Monthly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb 2022	Jan 2022	Feb 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	360.9	359.7	357.6	1.2	0.3	3.3	0.9
Goods-producing sector	75.8	77.3	68.0	-1.5	-1.9	7.8	11.5
Agriculture	7.4	7.1	4.5	0.3	4.2	2.9	64.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	7.3	8.9	9.2	-1.6	-18.0	-1.9	-20.7
Utilities	4.7	4.7	3.4	0.0	0.0	1.3	38.2
Construction	27.6	27.3	22.1	0.3	1.1	5.5	24.9
Manufacturing	28.8	29.3	28.9	-0.5	-1.7	-0.1	-0.3
Services-producing sector	285.1	282.4	289.6	2.7	1.0	-4.5	-1.6
Trade	53.5	54.8	56.9	-1.3	-2.4	-3.4	-6.0
Transportation and warehousing	18.5	18.3	18.8	0.2	1.1	-0.3	-1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.9	16.8	17.4	0.1	0.6	-0.5	-2.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	20.8	20.3	17.8	0.5	2.5	3.0	16.9
Business, building and other support services	15.7	16.1	15.7	-0.4	-2.5	0.0	0.0
Educational services	31.2	30.6	28.4	0.6	2.0	2.8	9.9
Health care and social assistance	56.8	55.8	60.4	1.0	1.8	-3.6	-6.0
Information, culture and recreation	9.3	8.0	10.1	1.3	16.3	-0.8	-7.9

Accommodation and food services	18.6	19.1	20.4	-0.5	-2.6	-1.8	-8.8
Other services	12.7	12.0	15.0	0.7	5.8	-2.3	-15.3
Public administration	31.1	30.6	28.8	0.5	1.6	2.3	8.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Job losses in February were confined to the province's northernmost Economic Region (ER) of **Campbellton-Miramichi**. The other four regions' labour markets were mostly improved, when compared with conditions one year ago, with the exception of the **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER, where outcomes were mixed.

Employment fell by 6,300 on a year-over-year basis in the **Campbellton-Miramichi** ER, marking the eighth straight month of job losses. Moreover, the bulk of job losses occurred in full-time employment (-5,600). The labour force contracted by an even greater amount (-6,700) 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 3,200 jobs on a year-over-year basis, as an increase in the number of full-time positions (+4,700) more than offset a decline in part-time jobs (-1,500). The unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points, to 8.4%, as fewer people joined the labour force over this period (+1,400). Interestingly, the labour force participation rate actually fell somewhat, but was offset by a large jump in the working population (+3,600).

The **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER added a miniscule 100 jobs since February of last year, while also shedding 2,900 from its labour force. This occurred despite a 1,600 increase in the working population, and can be explained by a substantial drop in the rate of participation (from 62.2% to 59.6%). While the unemployment rate fell to 8.3%, this was entirely due to these negative forces.

The **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER saw the second-largest employment spike in February, as the number of jobs expanded by 3,100. Full-time and part-time work moved in opposite directions, though, with the first growing by 5,300 and the latter falling by 2,200. The labour force also expanded, though by fewer people (+1,400), causing the unemployment rate to fall from 7.0% to a provincial low of 4.6%.

The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER added 1,800 jobs in February, with a bump in full-time positions (3,000) offsetting a decline (-1,200) 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		
	Feb 2022 ('000)	Feb 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Feb 2022 (%)	Feb 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
New Brunswick	350.9	349.1	0.5	8.5	10.1	-1.6
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	54.1	60.4	-10.4	14.4	13.5	0.9
Moncton-Richibucto	109.1	105.9	3.0	8.4	10.0	-1.6
Saint John-St. Stephen	80.8	80.7	0.1	8.3	11.4	-3.1
Fredericton-Oromocto	72.6	69.5	4.5	4.6	7.0	-2.4
Edmundston-Woodstock	34.4	32.6	5.5	7.0	7.1	-0.1

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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