



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

March 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 between the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2021 and the first quarter (Q1) of 2022. Most notably, the labour force contracted by 4,400 people, despite a 3,600 increase to the working population. The root cause was a decline in the rate of participation (from 60.8% to 59.8%). At the same time, there were 2,100 fewer people employed in Q1, due to a drop in part-time employment. However, the unemployment rate actually declined over this period because the drop in labour force participation was more pronounced.

The bulk of these setbacks were experienced during the first two months of the year, though, and the labour market appeared to be turning a corner in March. On a month-to-month basis, New Brunswick added 3,500 to the ranks of its labour force, while the workforce expanded by 4,100.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

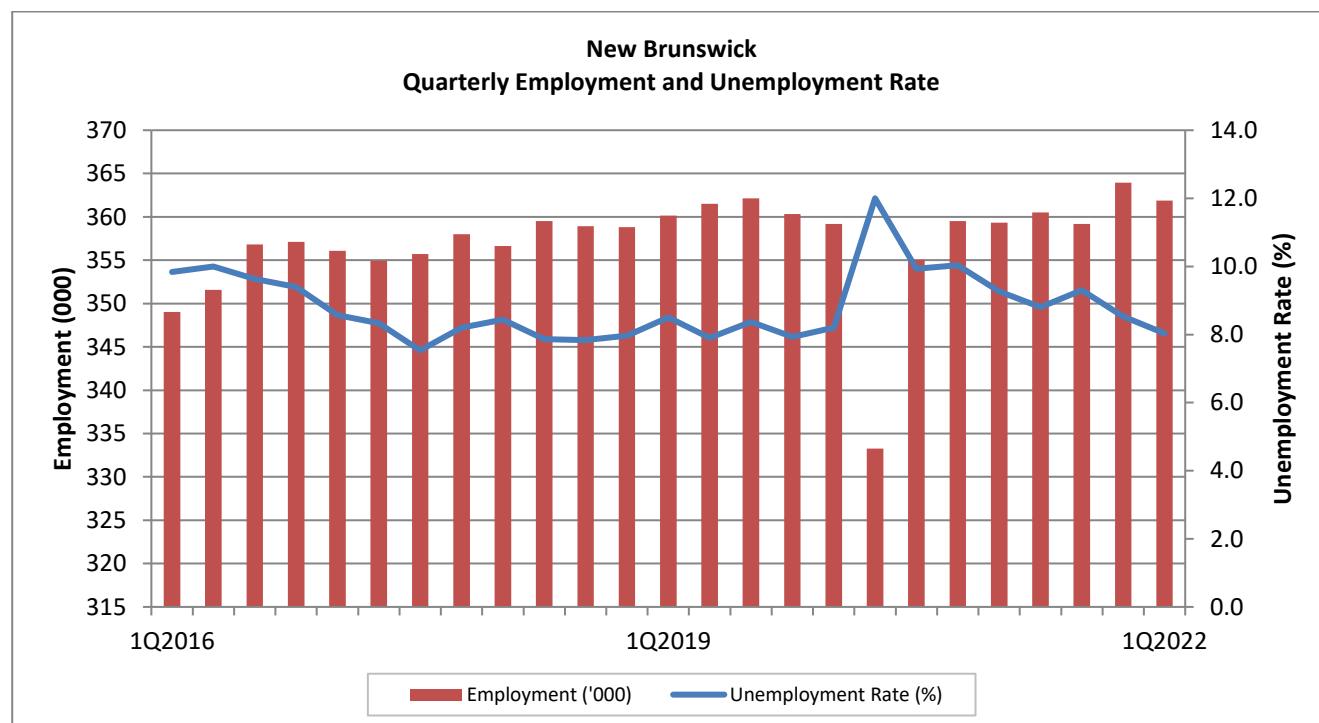
Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2022	4th Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	657.5	654.0	648.5	3.5	0.5	9.0	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	393.5	397.9	395.9	-4.4	-1.1	-2.4	-0.6
Employment ('000)	361.9	363.9	359.3	-2.0	-0.5	2.6	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	310.1	309.7	300.5	0.4	0.1	9.6	3.2
Part-Time ('000)	51.7	54.2	58.8	-2.5	-4.6	-7.1	-12.1
Unemployment ('000)	31.6	33.9	36.6	-2.3	-6.8	-5.0	-13.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	8.5	9.3	-0.5	-	-1.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.8	60.8	61.1	-1.0	-	-1.3	-

Employment Rate (%)	55.0	55.7	55.4	-0.7	-	-0.4	-
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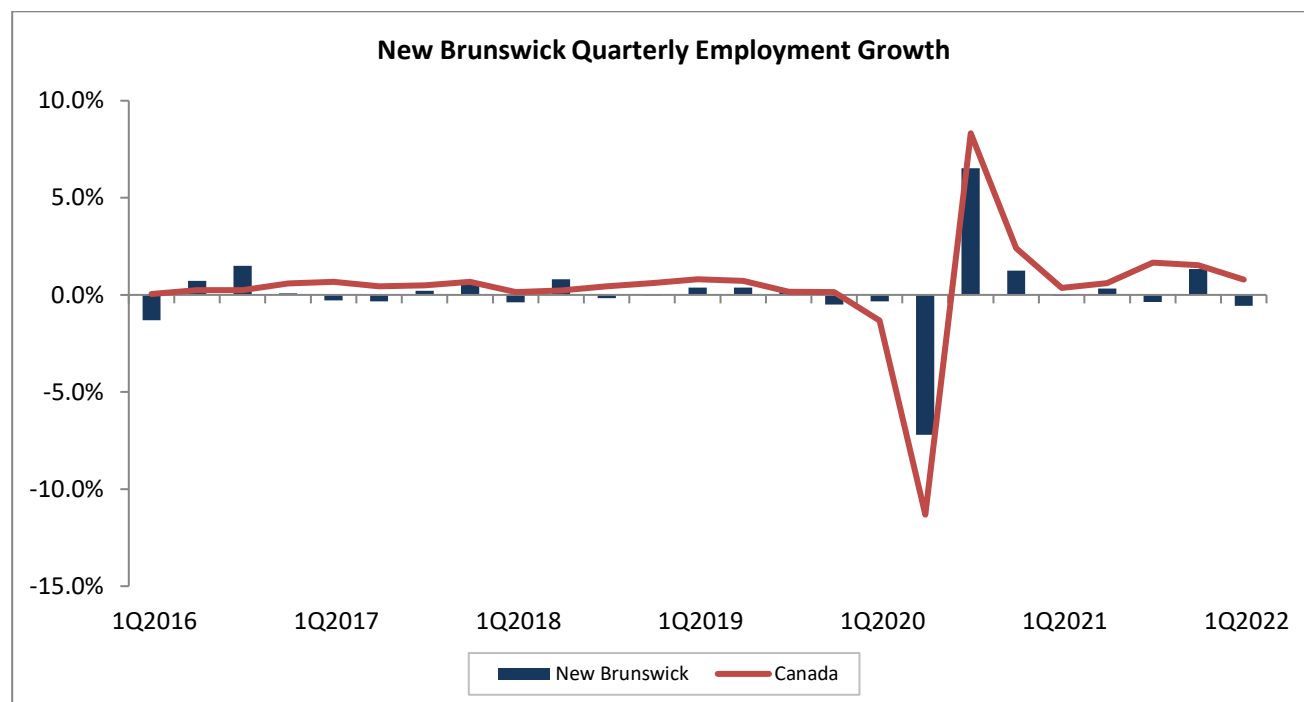
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Job losses in Q1 were concentrated among youth (aged 24 years and under) and prime aged workers (aged 25 to 54 years). The youth age group shed 1,600 jobs as a steep drop in the number of part-time positions (-3,400) offset an increase in full-time jobs (+1,800). This group also saw 2,300 people exit the labour force, while its unemployment rate shot up to 17.4% (from 15.0% the previous quarter). Declines this quarter were spread fairly evenly across males and females.



The experience for prime aged workers was much of the same, though the drop in employment for this group (-1,200) was attributed to a loss in full-time positions (-1,600). While the unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points, to 6.2%, this was due to the fact that this group’s labour force contracted by 2,500. The participation rate for prime aged workers remains well above that over other groups and – at 87.3% - is within the range of 87%-88% that’s been typical in recent history.



There was little change to the labour market situation of seniors (aged 55 years and older) in Q1. The labour force expanded by 400 thanks to the addition of 1,500 people to the group's working population, while growth in employment (+700) was also mild. The unemployment rate has been trending downward, on a quarter-over-quarter basis and now sits at 8.7%.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter 2022 %	4th Quarter 2021 %	1st Quarter 2021 %	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	8.0	8.5	9.3	-0.5	-1.3
25 years and over	7.0	7.5	8.3	-0.5	-1.3
Men - 25 years and over	7.6	8.2	9.9	-0.6	-2.3
Women - 25 years and over	6.4	6.6	6.6	-0.2	-0.2
15 to 24 years	14.3	15.0	14.7	-0.7	-0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.7	16.0	15.6	0.7	1.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.1	14.1	13.7	-2.0	-1.6

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment gains in Q1 were concentrated in the **goods-producing sector**, which built on an improvement during the previous quarter (+5,100) by adding another 2,200 jobs. On the other hand, the **services-producing sector** shed 4,200 jobs and was responsible for the province's overall contraction.

Construction (+1,900) led all industries in the goods-producing sector, registering its fourth consecutive quarter-over-quarter improvement. This industry is clearly still benefiting from strong residential construction activity. **Agriculture** (+1,100) and **utilities** (+400) also experienced growth, while **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (-1,100) and **manufacturing** (-100) shed jobs.

Among services-producing industries, over half of all job losses (2,500) were located in **other services (except public administration)**. **Wholesale and retail trade** (-1,900) and **accommodation and food services** (-1,400) also shed over one thousand jobs apiece, while remaining losses were spread over several industries. Professional, scientific and technical services was a bright spot, building on the previous quarter's gains by adding an additional 2,100 jobs.

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2022	4th Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2021	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	361.9	363.9	359.3	-2.0	-0.5	2.6	0.7
Goods-producing sector	76.9	74.7	69.5	2.2	2.9	7.4	10.6
Agriculture	7.2	6.1	4.7	1.1	18.0	2.5	53.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	7.8	8.9	9.1	-1.1	-12.4	-1.3	-14.3
Utilities	4.7	4.3	3.6	0.4	9.3	1.1	30.6
Construction	28.1	26.2	22.2	1.9	7.3	5.9	26.6
Manufacturing	29.1	29.2	29.8	-0.1	-0.3	-0.7	-2.3
Services-producing sector	285.0	289.2	289.9	-4.2	-1.5	-4.9	-1.7
Trade	53.7	55.6	56.2	-1.9	-3.4	-2.5	-4.4
Transportation and warehousing	18.4	18.5	18.9	-0.1	-0.5	-0.5	-2.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.8	17.5	17.5	-0.7	-4.0	-0.7	-4.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	20.8	18.7	18.1	2.1	11.2	2.7	14.9
Business, building and other support services	15.7	15.1	15.9	0.6	4.0	-0.2	-1.3
Educational services	31.1	30.9	28.2	0.2	0.6	2.9	10.3
Health care and social assistance	56.4	56.5	60.4	-0.1	-0.2	-4.0	-6.6
Information, culture and recreation	9.1	8.7	10.0	0.4	4.6	-0.9	-9.0
Accommodation and food services	19.4	20.8	21.0	-1.4	-6.7	-1.6	-7.6
Other services	12.4	14.9	14.8	-2.5	-16.8	-2.4	-16.2
Public administration	31.1	31.9	28.8	-0.8	-2.5	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 Q1 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 2021.

Employment fell by 5,700 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 (-6,300) 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.

The **Moncton-Richibucto** ER added 3,300 jobs on a year-over-year basis, as an increase in the number of full-time positions (+5,500) offset part-time job losses (-2,200). Fewer people entered the labour force in Q1 (+700), resulting in a 2.3 percentage point drop in the unemployment rate, which now sits at 8.3%.

The **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER's labour market performance was somewhat mixed in Q1. On the one hand, employment grew by 700 as an increase in full-time jobs (2,000) offset a decline in part-time positions (-1,300). At the same time, though, the labour force contracted by 1,800, despite an increase in the region's working population. This explains why the unemployment rate fell abruptly from 11.5% to 8.8%.

The **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER was more clearly improved, adding 4,200 full-time positions in Q1 and 2,100 jobs overall. The labour force also expanded, though by not as much (+800), resulting in a drop in the unemployment rate. At 5.8%, the region's rate sits well below the provincial average (8.0%).

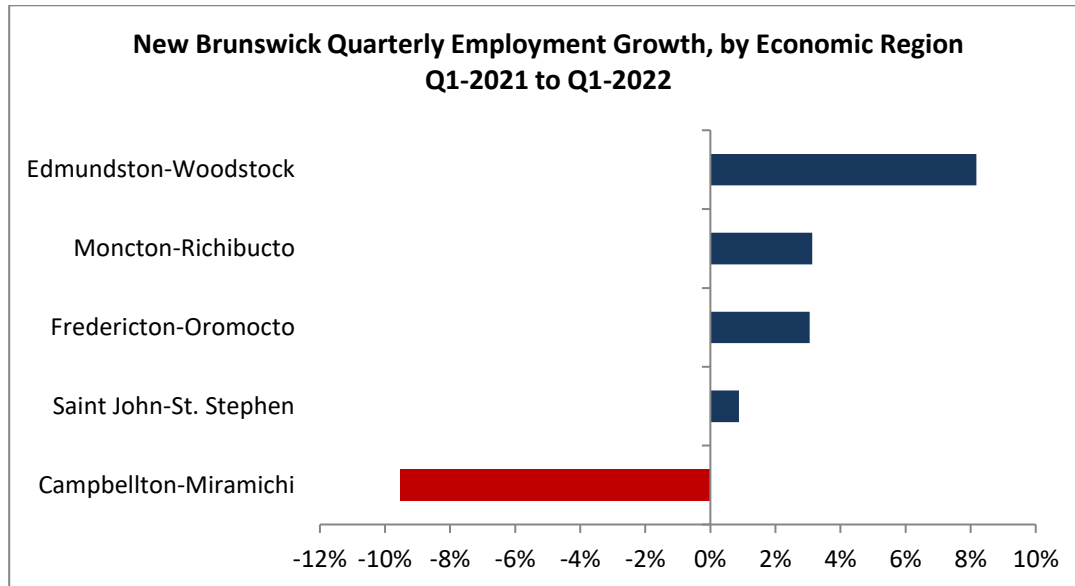
The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER added 2,600 jobs in Q1, with a bump in full-time positions (3,800) offsetting a decline (-1,100) in part-time work. The region's labour force also expanded, by 2,400, while the unemployment rate dropped 1.1 percentage points, to 7.3%.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2022 ('000)	1st Quarter 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2022 (%)	1st Quarter 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (%)
New Brunswick	349.0	345.9	0.9	8.9	10.7	-1.8
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	54.0	59.7	-9.5	14.8	14.3	0.5
Moncton-Richibucto	108.8	105.5	3.1	8.3	10.6	-2.3
Saint John-St. Stephen	80.8	80.1	0.9	8.8	11.5	-2.7
Fredericton-Oromocto	70.9	68.8	3.1	5.8	7.5	-1.7
Edmundston-Woodstock	34.4	31.8	8.2	7.3	8.4	-1.1

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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http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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