



Labour Market Bulletin

New Brunswick

September 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 improved substantially between the second (Q2) and third (Q3) quarters of 2022. The number of employed grew by 1,600, thanks to a large expansion in the number of full-time positions (+5,700). Even more people joined the labour force over this period (+3,600), thanks to a sizeable increase to the working population (+5,300), and this resulted in a small increase to the unemployment rate. However, at 7.1%, it is now 2.2 percentage points lower than it was a year ago.

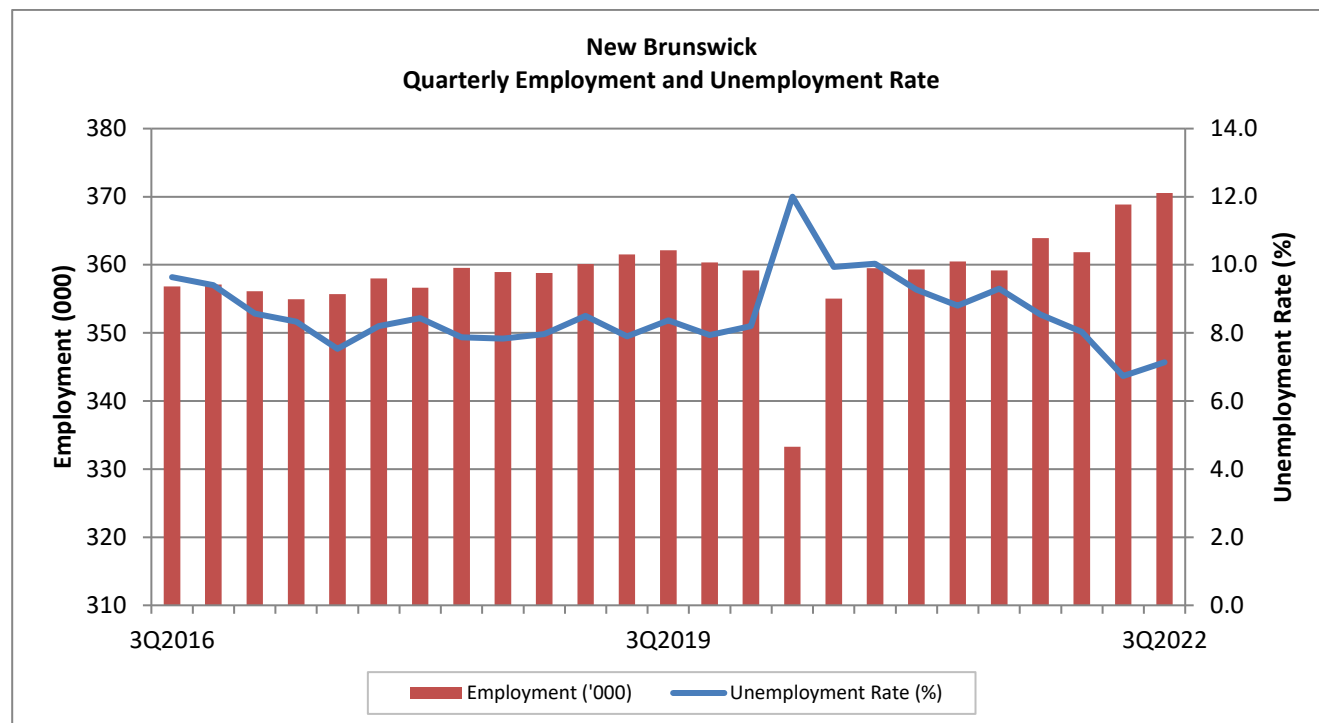
New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2022	2nd Quarter 2022	3rd Quarter 2021	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	666.5	661.2	651.2	5.3	0.8	15.3	2.3
Labour Force ('000)	399.1	395.5	395.9	3.6	0.9	3.2	0.8
Employment ('000)	370.5	368.9	359.2	1.6	0.4	11.3	3.1
Full-Time ('000)	322.3	316.6	304.6	5.7	1.8	17.7	5.8
Part-Time ('000)	48.3	52.2	54.5	-3.9	-7.5	-6.2	-11.4
Unemployment ('000)	28.6	26.6	36.8	2.0	7.5	-8.2	-22.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.1	6.7	9.3	0.4	-	-2.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	59.9	59.8	60.8	0.1	-	-0.9	-
Employment Rate (%)	55.6	55.8	55.1	-0.2	-	0.5	-

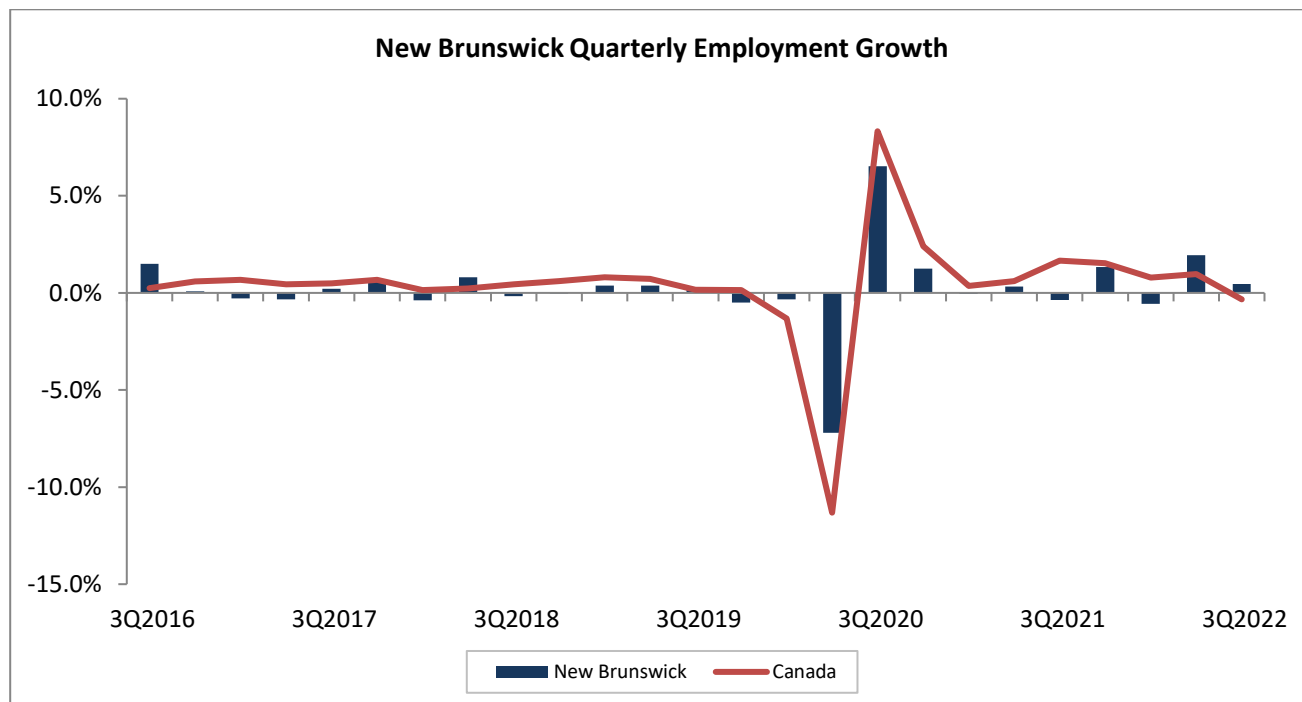
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Job gains in Q3 were spread among youth (aged 24 years and under) and prime aged workers (aged 25 to 54 years). The former added 1,800 jobs over this period, thanks largely to a gain in female youth employment (+1,300). At the same time, 2,900 youth entered the labour force, leading to a 1.5 percentage point jump in the total unemployment rate. Breaking the rate down by sex, males were more likely to be unemployed in Q3, sitting at 12.9%, compared to 8.6% for females.



The prime aged workers group added 1,400 jobs over this period thanks to a significant increase in the number of full-time positions (+5,300). Again, though, the number of labour force entrants (+2,900) surpassed this amount, leading to a small gain in the unemployment rate (+0.6 percentage points).



In contrast to these other age grouping, labour market outcomes for seniors were quite negative in Q3. Compared to Q2, 1,500 jobs were lost, due to declines in both full-time and part-time employment. At the same time, the labour force contracted by an even greater amount (-2,100) thanks to a drop in the participation rate. The net effect was a 0.5 percentage point drop in the unemployment rate.

New Brunswick Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter 2022 %	2nd Quarter 2022 %	3rd Quarter 2021 %	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	7.1	6.7	9.3	0.4	-2.2
25 years and over	6.6	6.3	8.8	0.2	-2.2
Men - 25 years and over	7.4	7.4	10.1	0.0	-2.7
Women - 25 years and over	5.7	5.2	7.4	0.5	-1.8
15 to 24 years	10.8	9.2	12.3	1.5	-1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.9	9.2	13.9	3.6	-1.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.6	9.0	10.7	-0.4	-2.1

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment gains in Q3 were concentrated in the **services-producing sector**, which grew by 2,600. This marked the second straight improvement and the sector now employs 4,500 more than it did a year before. The **goods-producing sector**, on the other hand, shed 900 jobs, after improving during the previous three quarters.

The **construction** industry was the main source of job losses among goods-producing industries, shedding 1,300 jobs. The only other industry among this group to decline was **forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas** (-200). The other three goods-producing industries improved, but by very little. **Manufacturing** led the way, adding 400 jobs, followed by **agriculture** and **utilities**, which added 100 apiece.

Among services-producing industries, the largest gains were observed in **health care and social assistance** (+2,200) and **wholesale and retail trade** (+1,800), while three other industries added fewer than 1,000 jobs apiece: **information, culture and recreation** (+900), **public administration** (+800) and **other services** (+600). **Educational services** (-1,900) led all services-producing industries in the job losses category, followed by **business, building and other support services** (-1,500), **accommodation and food services** (-300), and **professional, scientific and technical services** (-100). **Transportation and warehousing** and **finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing** were unchanged.

New Brunswick Quarterly Employed Labour Force, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2022	2nd Quarter 2022	3rd Quarter 2021	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	370.5	368.9	359.2	1.7	0.5	11.4	3.2
Goods-producing sector	76.5	77.4	69.6	-0.9	-1.2	6.9	9.9
Agriculture	6.6	6.5	5.5	0.1	1.0	1.1	20.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	7.6	7.8	8.8	-0.2	-2.6	-1.1	-12.9
Utilities	4.7	4.6	4.1	0.1	1.4	0.6	15.6
Construction	28.3	29.6	23.5	-1.3	-4.3	4.9	20.7
Manufacturing	29.3	28.9	27.9	0.4	1.5	1.4	5.1
Services-producing sector	294.0	291.4	289.5	2.6	0.9	4.5	1.5
Trade	56.3	54.4	57.1	1.8	3.4	-0.8	-1.5
Transportation and warehousing	18.2	18.2	19.2	0.0	-0.2	-1.1	-5.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	16.0	16.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	-6.1
Professional, scientific and technical	21.6	21.6	17.3	-0.1	-0.3	4.2	24.4
Business, building and other support services	12.3	13.8	14.1	-1.5	-10.9	-1.8	-13.0
Educational services	31.8	33.7	27.9	-1.9	-5.6	3.9	13.9
Health care and social assistance	59.5	57.3	59.3	2.2	3.8	0.1	0.2

Information, culture and recreation	11.0	10.1	10.2	0.9	8.6	0.7	7.2
Accommodation and food services	21.2	21.5	20.9	-0.3	-1.5	0.3	1.6
Other services	14.3	13.6	14.8	0.6	4.6	-0.6	-3.8
Public administration	32.1	31.3	31.6	0.8	2.6	0.5	1.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Job losses in Q3 were contained to the Moncton-Richibucto Economic Region (ER). Compared to the year before, the labour markets of the other four regions were mostly improved. However, all shed part-time jobs, even while seeing their overall employment levels increase.

The **Campbellton-Miramichi** region led all ERs in terms of employment growth, in Q3, adding 6,100 jobs over last year's tally. An impressive 7,900 full-time jobs were added, offsetting a loss of 1,800 part-time positions. The labour force expanded by 4,400 over the same time period, thanks to increases to both the working-aged population and to the rate of participation. The net result of these changes was a 3.1 percentage point drop in the unemployment rate, which now stands at 9.8%.

The **Moncton-Richibucto** ER shed 2,900 jobs since Q3 of 2021, thanks to losses in both full-time and part-time positions. At the same time, the labour force participation rate fell by 4.5 percentage points, causing 4,700 to exit the labour force even as the population expanded significantly. The ER's unemployment rate stands at 6.0%, which is 1.2 percentage points lower than last year's rate.

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the **Saint John-St. Stephen** ER expanded by 2,600 as a sizeable gain in full-time positions (+4,900) offset a decline in the number of part-time jobs (-2,200). Thanks to an increase in the working population, the labour force also expanded (1,300), though by less than employment, contributing to a 1.6 percentage point decline in the unemployment rate (from 8.5% to 6.9%).

Aside from a moderate decline in the number of part-time jobs, labour market outcomes were fairly positive in the **Fredericton-Oromocto** ER in Q3. Employment improved by 5,500, thanks to an additional 7,100 full-time positions, while the labour force expanded by 3,900. The net result of these changes was a 2.4 percentage point drop in the unemployment rate, which now sits at 5.6%.

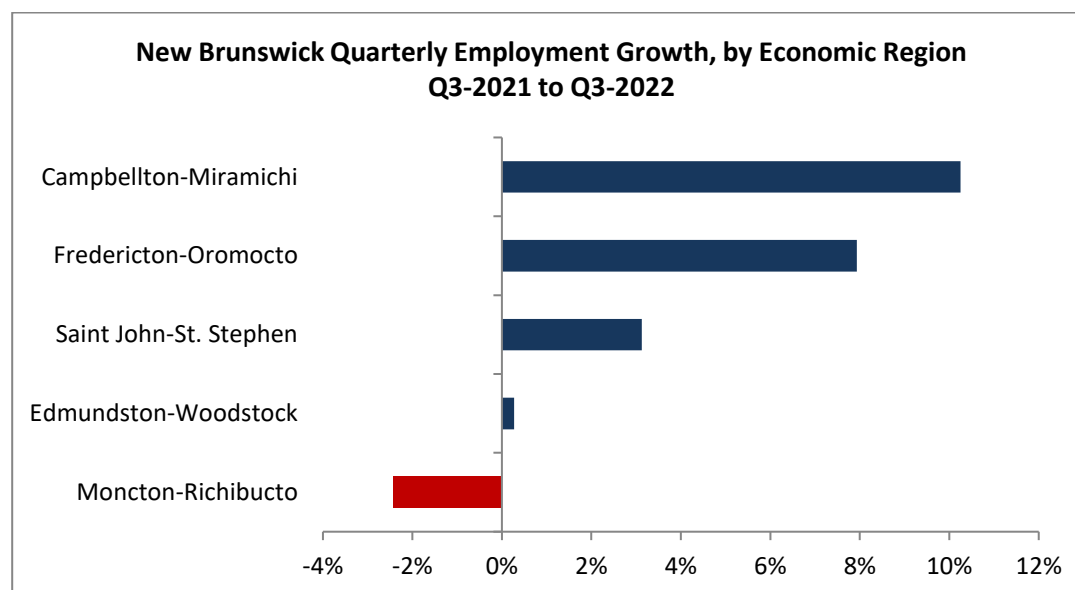
The **Edmundston-Woodstock** ER was relatively unchanged in Q3, compared to the same quarter one year ago. Only 100 jobs were added, as full-time gains and part-time losses nearly evened out. At the same time, the labour force fell by 300, which is fairly inconsequential. The region's unemployment rate dropped to 5.2%, during the same period and is now the lowest in the province.

New Brunswick Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2022 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2022 (%)	3rd Quarter 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% Points)
New Brunswick	379.6	368.2	3.1	6.7	8.5	-1.8
Economic Regions						
Campbellton-Miramichi	65.6	59.5	10.3	9.8	12.9	-3.1
Moncton-Richibucto	116.6	119.5	-2.4	6.0	7.2	-1.2
Saint John-St. Stephen	85.8	83.2	3.1	6.9	8.5	-1.6
Fredericton-Oromocto	74.8	69.3	7.9	5.6	8.0	-2.4
Edmundston-Woodstock	36.8	36.7	0.3	5.2	6.2	-1.0

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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