



**Labour Market Profile
of Youth in New Brunswick
July 2022**



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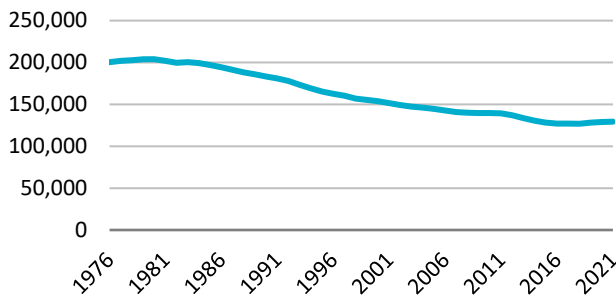
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Population

Overview¹

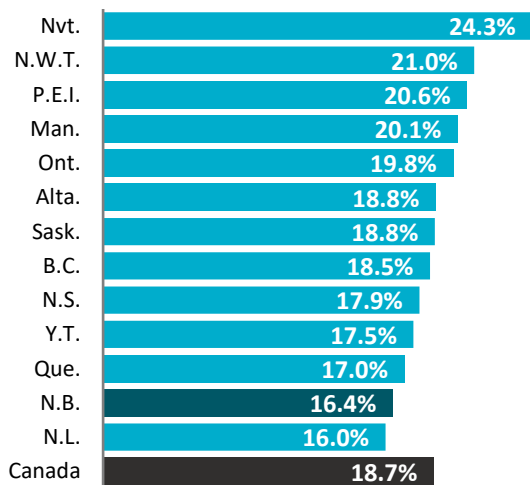
Over the past several decades, New Brunswick’s youth population has shrunk dramatically. This decline has been the result of decades of high levels of youth out-migration, coupled with fertility rates that, after peaking in the late-1950s, declined significantly throughout the 1960s and 1970s and have remained low since.

Population Aged 15 to 29 – New Brunswick



As of July 1, 2021, there were an estimated 129,250 New Brunswick residents aged 15 to 29 years. This total was down 36.0% relative to 1981. During this same time, the percentage of the total population that fell into this age category declined from 28.6% to 16.4%.

Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 29 Years – 2021

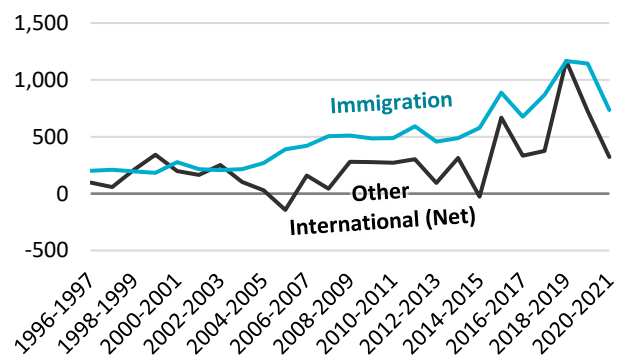


However, following thirty-five consecutive years of losses, New Brunswick has seen its population aged 15 to 29 years grow over the past three consecutive years. This swing has been due to a number of factors, including:

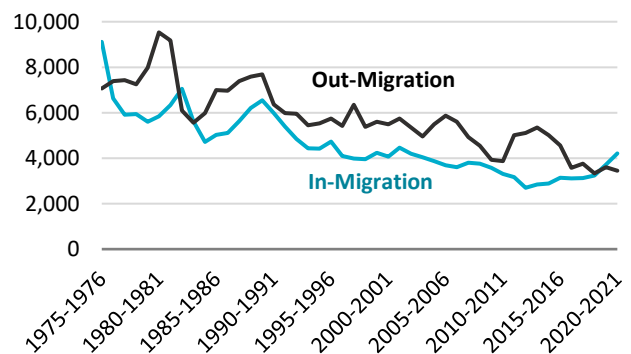
- Increased immigration levels.²
- An increase in the number of international students studying in the province.
- Increased migration from other provinces.
- Decreased out-migration to other provinces.

Going forward, the province’s youth population is expected to remain relatively stable, with some potential for slight growth, depending on how long, and to what extent, these recent trends persist.

International Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 – New Brunswick



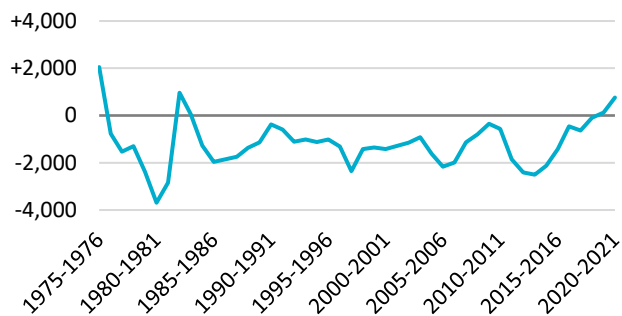
Interprovincial Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 – New Brunswick



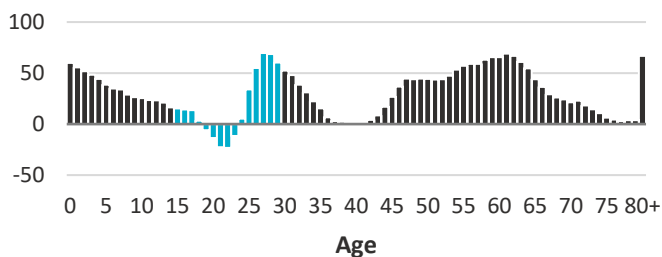
¹ Source(s): Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Estimates (Tables 17-10-0005, 17-10-0014, and 17-10-0015)

² While pandemic-related border restrictions resulted in fewer international migrants entering the province throughout much of 2020 and early-2021, following the removal of these restrictions, it is likely that international migration levels will continue their upward trajectory in 2022 and beyond.

Net Interprovincial Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 – New Brunswick



Average Annual Net Interprovincial Migration by Age – New Brunswick – July 2018 to June 2021



Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 by Sex – New Brunswick – July 2018 to June 2021

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Male			
Immigration	555	577	366
Other International (Net)	+681	+433	+308
Interprovincial (Net)	-113	+70	+402
In-Migrants	1,605	1,896	2,154
Out-Migrants	1,718	1,826	1,752
Female			
Immigration	611	568	369
Other International (Net)	+486	+293	+14
Interprovincial (Net)	+18	+53	+357
In-Migrants	1,633	1,824	2,054
Out-Migrants	1,615	1,771	1,697

Sub-Provincial³

Within New Brunswick, the province’s three major urban centres, Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John, have significantly larger youth populations than the province’s less densely populated areas, both in terms of absolutes and on a relative basis. Similar trends are seen across most parts of the country. Despite having large youth populations relative to the rest of New Brunswick, Greater Moncton and Greater Saint John’s youth populations are relatively small compared to most comparably sized urban centres across Canada (while the relative size of Fredericton’s youth population was fairly on par).

Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 29 by CMA/CA⁴ – New Brunswick – July 2021

	Percentage
Greater Moncton	17.6%
Greater Saint John	17.2%
Greater Fredericton	19.8%
Greater Bathurst	14.0%
Greater Miramichi	15.2%
Greater Edmundston	13.9%
Greater Campbellton	15.0%
Other N.B.	14.6%

The relatively small number of the youth found in more rural parts of the province is the result of years of consistent net losses in interprovincial migration and relatively low levels of immigration. While Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John have also seen a significant number of young people move away to other provinces, youth moving to these centres from other parts of the province, along with immigration, have somewhat offset these losses.

³ Source(s): Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Estimates (Tables 17-10-0135, 17-10-0136)

⁴ Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Census Agglomerations (CAs) are large urban areas (known as urban cores) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban cores. A census metropolitan area (CMA) has an urban core population of at least 100,000 and a census agglomeration (CA) has an urban core population between 10,000 and 99,999 based on the previous census. As of 2021, there were seven CMA/CAs in New Brunswick: Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, Bathurst, Campbellton, Miramichi and Edmundston.

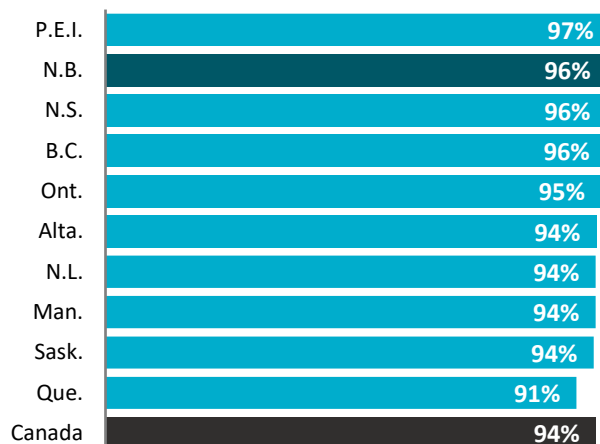
Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 by CMA/CA – N.B. – July 2018 to June 2021

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Immigration			
Greater Moncton	404	429	324
Greater Saint John	224	205	117
Greater Fredericton	292	235	142
Greater Bathurst	16	17	13
Greater Miramichi	21	21	8
Greater Edmundston	25	29	14
Greater Campbellton	5	8	9
Other N.B.	179	201	108
Other International (Net)			
Greater Moncton	+391	+197	+235
Greater Saint John	+143	+122	-6
Greater Fredericton	+220	+166	-223
Greater Bathurst	+88	+77	+33
Greater Miramichi	+11	+23	+8
Greater Edmundston	+31	+34	+16
Greater Campbellton	+27	+33	-20
Other N.B.	+256	+74	+279
Interprovincial (Net)			
Greater Moncton	+66	+120	+268
Greater Saint John	-100	-98	+6
Greater Fredericton	-148	-27	+106
Greater Bathurst	-30	-11	+6
Greater Miramichi	-11	-14	+3
Greater Edmundston	-16	-4	+3
Greater Campbellton	+2	+7	+14
Other N.B.	+142	+150	+353
Intraprovincial (Net)⁵			
Greater Moncton	+211	+245	+212
Greater Saint John	-31	-14	-17
Greater Fredericton	+301	+299	+285
Greater Bathurst	-41	-12	-13
Greater Miramichi	-31	-27	-26
Greater Edmundston	-13	-20	-17
Greater Campbellton	-24	+4	-5
Other N.B.	-372	-475	-419

Education⁶

Across Canada, youth in New Brunswick are among the most likely to have completed high school. As of 2021, 96.4% of New Brunswickers aged 20 to 24 had at least a high school diploma⁷. This represented the second highest rate for this age range among the provinces.

Percentage of the Population Aged 20 to 24 With at Least a High School Diploma – 2021



Percentage of the Population Aged 20 to 29 With at Least a High School Diploma by Age Group and Sex – 2021

Age Group	N.B.		Canada	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
20 to 24	96%	97%	92%	96%
25 to 29	96%	96%	94%	97%

New Brunswick’s high school completion rate among youth compared favourably among many sub-populations as well. At the time of the 2016 Census⁸, among the Indigenous population aged 20 to 29 living in the province, 74.2% of those living on reserve, and 89.5% of those living off reserve, had completed high school; at a national level these percentages were 46.5% and 76.0% respectively.

⁵ ‘Intraprovincial migrants’: persons who moved to a different city, town, village or community, but stayed within the same province or territory.

⁶ Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File) and 2016 Census of Population

⁷ i.e. a high school diploma and/or a postsecondary education.

⁸ More recent statistics on the educational attainment levels of the Indigenous population are scheduled to be released in late-2022 (via the 2021 Census of Population).

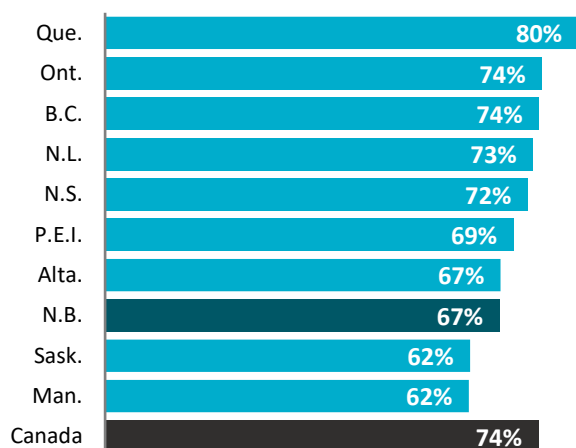
High School Completion Rate Among the Indigenous Population Aged 20 to 29 by Age Group and Sex – N.B. and Canada – 2016

	N.B.		Canada	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
On Reserve				
20 to 24 years	76%	76%	43%	48%
25 to 29 years	69%	76%	43%	52%
Off Reserve				
20 to 24 years	93%	93%	74%	78%
25 to 29 years	87%	84%	73%	79%

Despite being among the most likely to have completed high school, relatively few young New Brunswickers have completed a post-secondary education. As of 2021, 66.9% of New Brunswickers aged 25 to 29 had completed some form of post-secondary education, compared to 73.5% at a national level.

Both in New Brunswick and across Canada, young females were significantly more likely than young males to have completed a post-secondary education. As of 2021, only 59.5% of New Brunswick males aged 25 to 29 years (68.3% nationally) had completed some form of post-secondary education, compared to 74.5% of females in this age range (73.5% nationally).

Post-Secondary Education Completion Rate Among the Population Aged 25 to 29 – 2021



Relative to the national level, youth in New Brunswick were noticeably less likely to be degree holders, but more likely to hold other types of post-secondary certificates or diplomas.

Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree Among the Population Aged 25 to 29 by Sex – 2021

	Male	Female	Total
N.B.			
No Post-Secondary Credentials	40%	25%	33%
Post-Secondary Certificate/Diploma	36%	39%	38%
Degree	23%	35%	29%
Canada			
No Post-Secondary Credentials	32%	21%	26%
Post-Secondary Certificate/Diploma	34%	32%	33%
Degree	34%	47%	40%

The relatively low percentage of youth with a post-secondary education in the province, in particular at the university level, was in part a reflection of consistently high levels of out-migration.

At the time of the 2016 Census, post-secondary completion rates among the Indigenous youth population in New Brunswick compared favourably to this population at a national level.

Post-Secondary Education Completion Rate Among the Indigenous Population Aged 25 to 29 – New Brunswick and Canada – 2016

	N.B.	Canada
On Reserve	35%	24%
Off Reserve	53%	46%

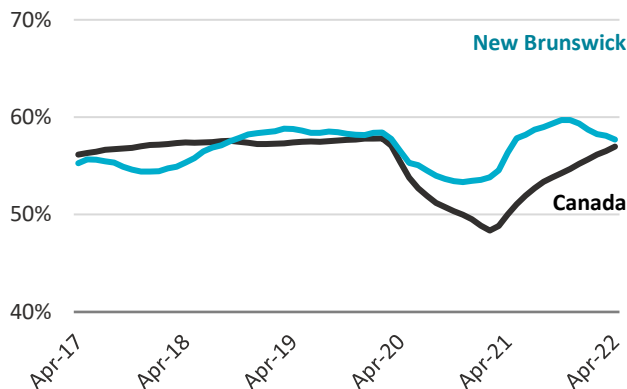
Among Indigenous individuals that pursue a post-secondary education, pursuing a university degree was relatively uncommon.

Labour Force Characteristics

Overview⁹

Between May 2021 and April 2022, an average of 57.7% of New Brunswickers aged 15 to 24 years were employed, compared to 57.0% at a national level. Over the past few years, New Brunswick's youth employment rate has consistently exceeded the national rate.

Employment Rate Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 – Twelve-Month Moving Average



New Brunswick's youth employment rate is helped by the relatively high percentage of youth in the province who are not enrolled in any form of post-secondary education (and thus were more likely to be working). Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, only 56% of New Brunswickers aged 15 to 24 years were enrolled in school (82% of those aged 15 to 19 years, and 31% of those aged 20 to 24 years). This represented the lowest percentage among the provinces.

Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 in School During School Months – 2021-2022

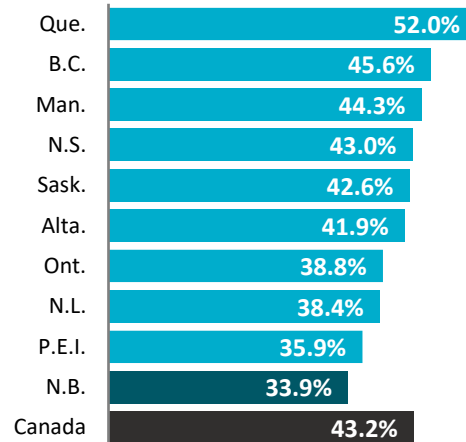
	Male	Female	Total
New Brunswick			
15 to 19 years	78%	85%	82%
20 to 24 years	23%	40%	31%
Canada			
15 to 19 years	82%	89%	86%
20 to 24 years	40%	52%	46%

When the population is separated into students and non-students, employment rates among New Brunswick youth compare less favourably to the rest of Canada.

Students¹⁰

During the 2021-2022 school year (September 2021 to April 2022), an average of 33.9% of New Brunswick students aged 15 to 24 years were employed at any given time, compared to 43.2% at a national level.

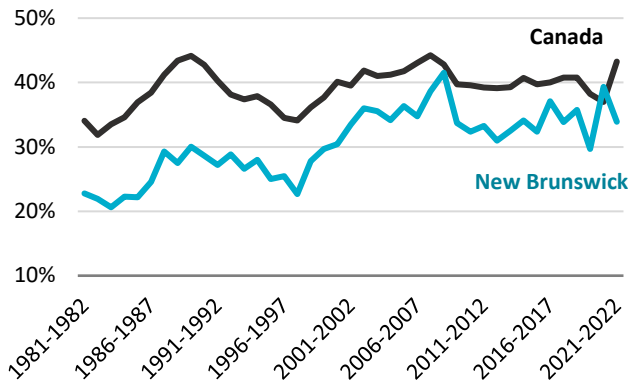
Employment Rate Among Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – 2021-2022



⁹ Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Tables 14-10-0017 and 14-10-0021).

¹⁰ Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Tables 14-10-0021 and 14-10-0286).

Employment Rate Among Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – New Brunswick and Canada



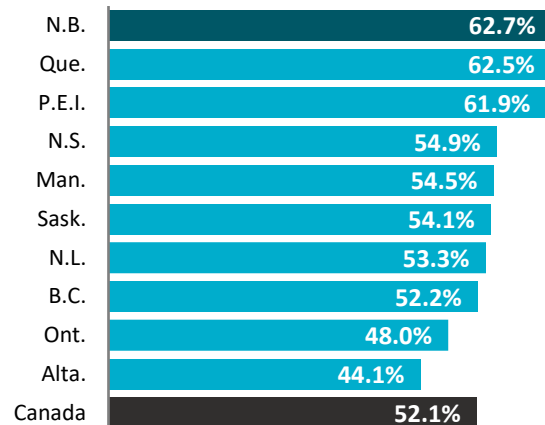
New Brunswick’s student employment rate compared especially unfavourably among males aged 20 to 24 years.

Employment Rate Among Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – 2021-2022

	Male	Female	Total
New Brunswick			
15 to 19 years	31.8%	32.4%	32.1%
20 to 24 years	26.9%	45.3%	38.2%
Canada			
15 to 19 years	33.2%	41.3%	37.4%
20 to 24 years	46.4%	57.8%	52.6%

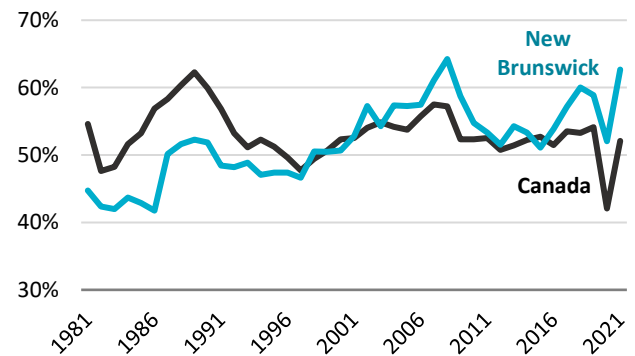
It’s worth noting that, while students in New Brunswick had a relatively low employment rate during the school months, this was not the case during the summer. In 2021, 58.9% of full-time students aged 15 to 24 years in New Brunswick worked during the summer months (May to August), compared to 52.1% nationally.

Employment Rate Among Full-Time Students Aged 15 to 24 During Summer Months – 2021



This rate has been trending upwards in recent years, after having declined for several years following the 2008/2009 recession.

Employment Rate Among Full-Time Students Aged 15 to 24 During Summer Break – N.B. and Canada



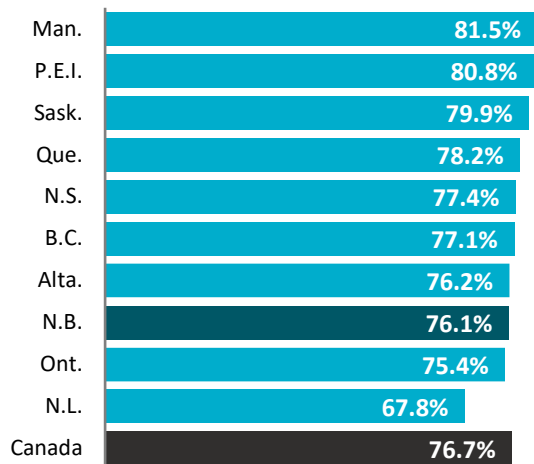
Employment Rate Among Full-Time Students Aged 15 to 24 During Summer Months – 2021

	Male	Female	Total
New Brunswick			
15 to 19 years	54.2%	67.5%	61.3%
20 to 24 years	67.7%	64.6%	66.0%
Canada			
15 to 19 years	43.0%	47.0%	45.0%
20 to 24 years	61.5%	66.3%	64.2%

Non-Students¹¹

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, an average of 76.1% of non-students aged 15 to 24 years in New Brunswick were employed. This represented the third lowest rate among the provinces.

Employment Rate Among Non-Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – 2021-2022



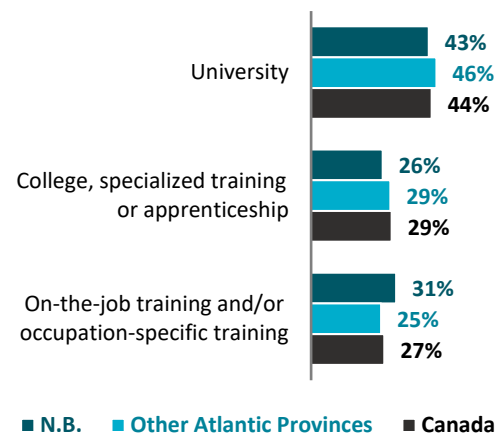
The employment rate among young males with post-secondary credentials in the province (79.8%) was particularly low, lagging significantly behind both the national employment rate for this group (85.5%) and the employment rate of young females with post-secondary credentials in the province (87.1%).

Employment Rate Among Non-Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – N.B. and Canada – 2021-2022

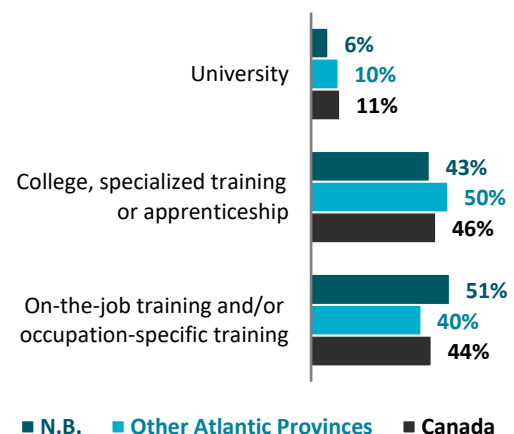
	Male	Female	Total
New Brunswick			
No PSE Credentials	69.1%	73.8%	70.9%
PSE Credentials	79.8%	87.1%	83.2%
Canada			
No PSE Credentials	70.1%	69.1%	69.7%
PSE Credentials	85.5%	87.8%	86.7%

Furthermore, in general, recent post-secondary graduates in New Brunswick were slightly more likely to be employed in a position they were overqualified for (in terms of education level), compared to in most other provinces. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, 31% of non-students aged 15 to 24 with degrees were employed in occupations that typically did not require a post-secondary education, compared to 27% nationally.

Education Level Typically Required by Occupation Among Non-Students Aged 15 to 24 Years with a University Degree – 2021-2022



Education Level Typically Required by Occupation Among Non-Students Aged 15 to 24 Years with a Post-Secondary Diploma or Certificate – 2021-2022

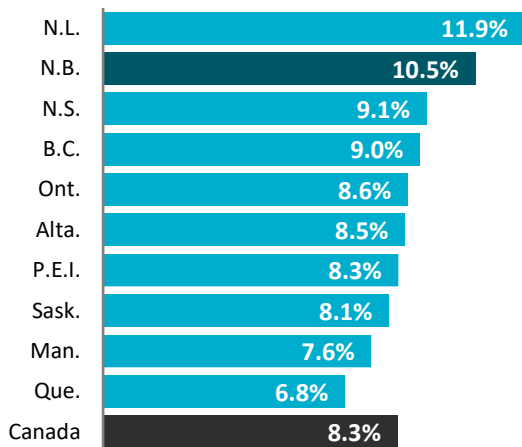


¹¹ Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Table 14-10-0021)

NEET Rate¹²

Due to the relatively large size of the province's non-student youth population, combined with the relatively low employment rate among this group, New Brunswick had one of the highest proportions of students who were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) in Canada.

Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Not in Education, Employment or Training During School Months – 2021-2022



Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Not in Education, Employment or Training During School Months – 2021-2022

	Male	Female	Total
New Brunswick			
15 to 19 years	8%	3%	5%
20 to 24 years	19%	12%	15%
Canada			
15 to 19 years	6%	3%	5%
20 to 24 years	13%	10%	12%

Wages¹³

In general, young workers earn significantly less than older workers. This is primarily a reflection of differences in experience and education levels. According to Statistic Canada's Labour Force Survey, in 2021 the median hourly wage rate among New Brunswick employees aged 15 to 24 years was \$14.00, compared to \$25.00 among employees aged 25 to 54 years. Nationally, the median wage among employees aged 15 to 24 years was \$16.00, compared to \$29.00 among those aged 25 to 54 years.

Average and Median Hourly Wage Among the Population Aged 15 to 24 by Sex – 2021

	Males	Females	Total
New Brunswick			
Average Hourly Wage	\$16.09	\$15.20	\$15.66
Median Hourly Wage	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$14.00
Canada			
Average Hourly Wage	\$18.73	\$17.71	\$18.23
Median Hourly Wage	\$16.75	\$15.75	\$16.00

These low overall figures among young Canadians were in large part a reflection of the significant portion of the youth population who were working in relatively low-skill, low-paying jobs while still attending school.

Percentage of Employees Aged 15 to 24 Earning Minimum Wage by Sex – 2021

	Males	Females	Total
New Brunswick			
15 to 19 years	35%	45%	40%
20 to 24 years	5%	9%	7%
Canada			
15 to 19 years	40%	47%	44%
20 to 24 years	11%	14%	13%

¹² Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Table 14-10-0021)

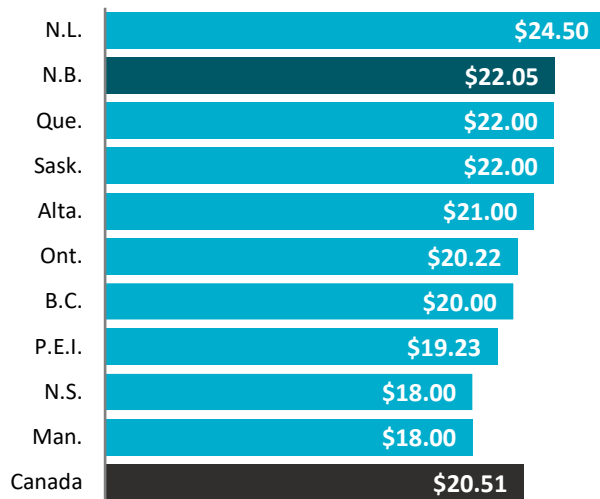
¹³ Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Table 14-10-0340)

Looking at wage rates among youth by educational attainment level, it can be seen that wages were noticeably higher among those with post-secondary credentials, although were still quite low compared to the wage rates of older workers. Median hourly wage rates of youth by highest level of education can be found in the table below.

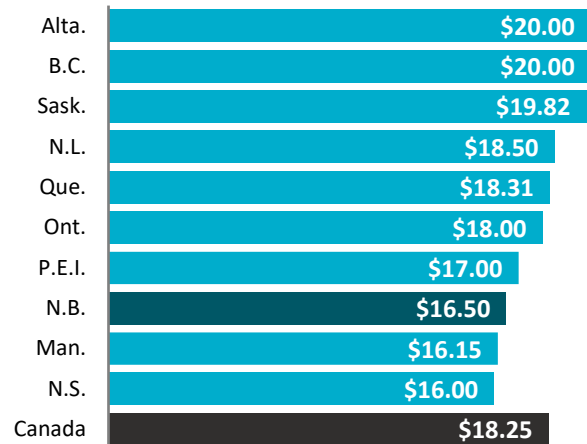
Median Hourly Wage Rate Among Employees Aged 15 to 24 by Highest Level of Education – 2021

	Male	Female
New Brunswick		
High School or Less	\$13.00	\$12.35
Post-Secondary Certificate	\$16.60	\$16.00
University Degree	\$22.00	\$22.16
Canada		
High School or Less	\$15.50	\$15.00
Post-Secondary Certificate	\$19.50	\$18.00
University Degree	\$22.00	\$20.00

Median Hourly Wage Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 with a University Degree – 2021



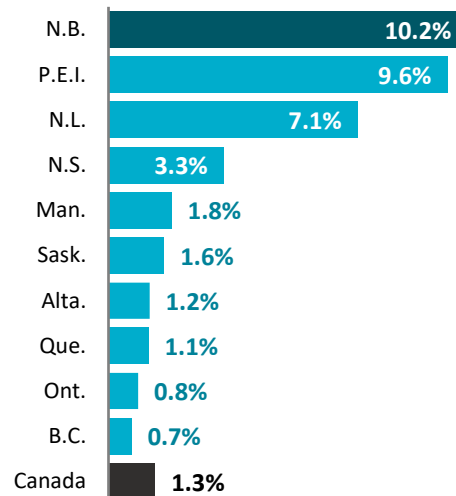
Median Hourly Wage Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 with a Post-Secondary Diploma or Certificate – 2021



Employment Insurance¹⁴

In April 2022, 10.2% of New Brunswickers aged 15 to 24 received regular employment insurance benefits (adjusted for seasonality). This represented the highest percentage among the ten provinces.

Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Receiving Regular Employment Insurance Benefits – April 2022 (Seasonally Adjusted)



¹⁴ Sources(s): Statistics Canada, Employment Insurance Statistics (Table 14-10-0011) and Labour Force Survey (Table 14-10-0287)

Some of the factors contributing to the relatively high percentage of youth that receive employment insurance in New Brunswick are:

- The province’s relatively weak economic / labour market conditions
- The seasonal nature of many prominent industries in the province, such as seafood processing, construction, natural resources (fishing, forestry and logging, etc.) and certain tourism-related industries
- The “New Brunswick Employment Insurance Connect Program” which offers eligible individuals the opportunity to continue to receive regular EI benefits for the duration of their claim while attending an approved training program.¹⁵

It’s worth noting that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of temporary changes to the Employment Insurance program were made to permit continued and easier access to EI while the economy recovers. One of these changes was the introduction of a new common national 420-hour entrance requirement to qualify for EI benefits. This change is set to expire in September 2022.

Minimum Number of Hours of Insurable Employment Required to Qualify for EI Regular Benefits by Employment Insurance Region

	April 2019	April 2022
Fredericton-Moncton-Saint John	665	420
Madawaska-Charlotte	595	420
Restigouche-Albert	455	420

A trend that has emerged since these new temporary measures were put in place has been a significant increase in the number of young female EI recipients. Between March 2021 and April 2022, the number of females aged 15 to 24 receiving regular EI benefits surpassed the number of male recipients in this age range in nine months. Prior to March 2021, this had not occurred (with records dating back to 1997).

¹⁵ Effective September 2022, the NB-EI Connect Program will be phased out as a stand-alone program, and eligibility criteria will be reverted such that a long-term labour market connection will be required for individuals to access EI benefits while in training.

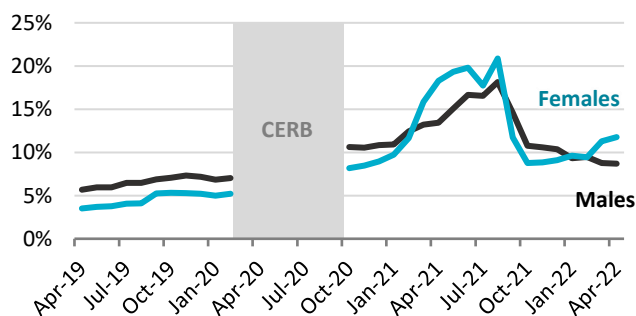
A few possible factors that could be influencing this shift include:

- Differences between males and females in terms of representation in the industries that have been most affected by the pandemic
- Differences between males and females in terms of number of individuals who qualify for benefits under the new temporary criteria that would not have qualified under the previous criteria
- Differences between males and females in terms of the number of individuals who are jobless but have exhausted their benefits

Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Receiving Regular Employment Insurance Benefits by Sex – April 2022 (Seasonally Adjusted)

	Male	Female	Total
New Brunswick	8.7%	11.8%	10.2%
Canada	1.5%	1.1%	1.3%

Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Receiving Regular Employment Insurance Benefits by Sex – New Brunswick (Seasonally Adjusted)



While the percentage of youth that receive employment insurance benefits is high relative to the national rate across all of New Brunswick, it is particularly high in northern and/or rural parts of the province.