



**Labour Market Profile  
of Youth in New Brunswick  
March 2023**



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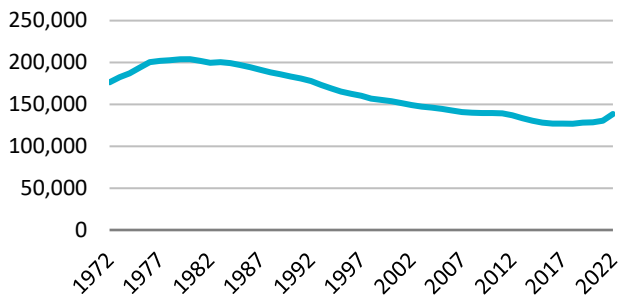
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# Population

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

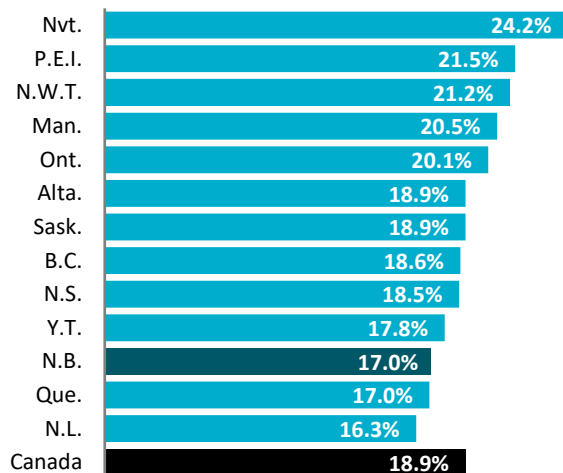
Over the past several decades, New Brunswick’s youth population has shrunk dramatically. This decline has been the result of decades of high levels of youth out-migration, coupled with fertility rates that, after peaking in the late-1950s, declined significantly throughout the 1960s and 1970s and have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

### Population Aged 15 to 29 – New Brunswick



As of July 1, 2022, there were an estimated 138,365 New Brunswick residents aged 15 to 29 years. This total was down 30.7% relative to 1982. During this same time, the percentage of the total population that fell into this age category declined from 28.2% to 17.0%.

### Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 29 Years – 2022

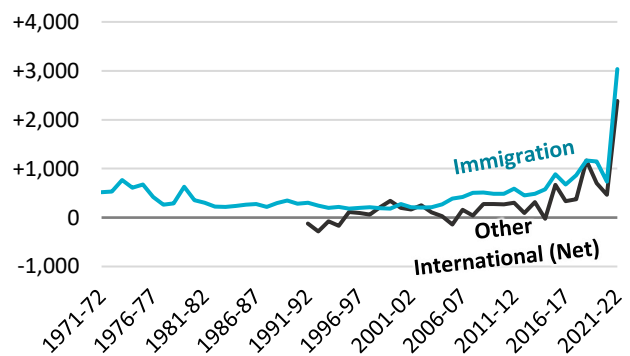


However, following thirty-five consecutive years of losses, New Brunswick has seen its population aged 15 to 29 years grow over the past four years. This swing has been due to a number of factors, including:

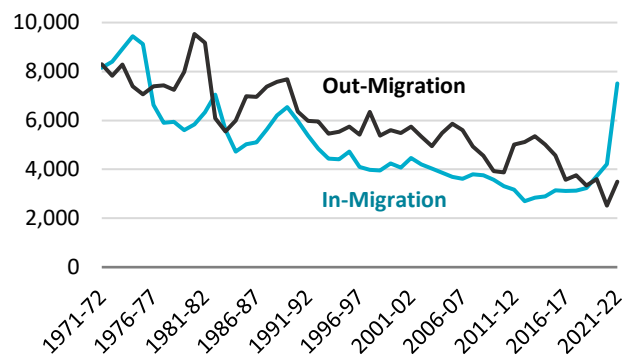
- Increased immigration levels.
- An increase in the number of international students studying in the province.
- Increased migration from other provinces.
- Decreased out-migration to other provinces.

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

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

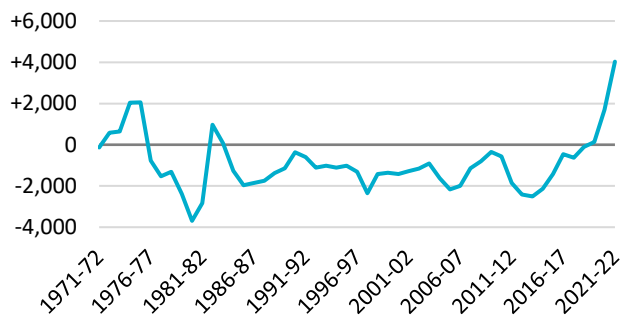


### Interprovincial Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 – New Brunswick

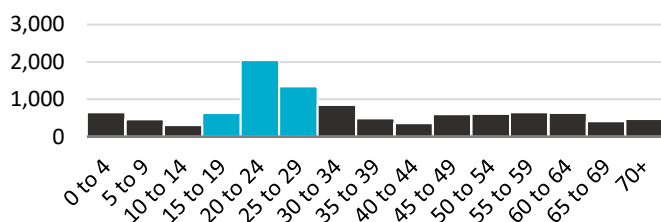


<sup>1</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Estimates (Tables 17-10-0005, 17-10-0014 and 17-10-0015).

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



### Net Interprovincial Migration by Age - New Brunswick – July 2021 to July 2022



### Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 by Sex – New Brunswick – July 2019 to July 2022

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
<b>Male</b>			
International (Net)	+997	+770	+2,950
Interprovincial (Net)	+70	+940	+2,216
In-Migrants	1,896	2,209	3,968
Out-Migrants	1,826	1,269	1,752
<b>Female</b>			
International (Net)	+847	+431	+2,470
Interprovincial (Net)	+53	+755	+1,812
In-Migrants	1,824	2,002	3,549
Out-Migrants	1,771	1,247	1,737

### Sub-Provincial<sup>2</sup>

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 a relatively large youth population compared to many other parts of the province, Greater Saint John’s youth population was relatively small compared to most comparably sized urban centres across Canada.

### Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 29 by Region – New Brunswick – July 2022

	Percentage
<b>Southern N.B.</b>	
Greater Moncton	19.0%
Greater Saint John	17.8%
Greater Fredericton	20.5%
Other Southern N.B.	15.2%
<b>Northern N.B.</b>	
Greater Bathurst	14.4%
Greater Miramichi	15.7%
Greater Edmundston	14.6%
Greater Campbellton	15.1%
Other Northern N.B.	14.5%

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 historically 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 offset these losses.

<sup>2</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Estimates (Tables 17-10-0135, 17-10-0136, 17-10-0137 and 17-10-0138).

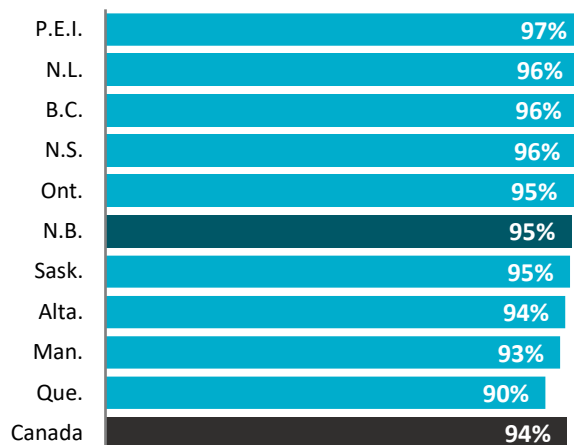
**Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 by Region – N.B. – July 2019 to July 2022**

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
<b>Greater Moncton</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	+245	+162	+144
Interprovincial (Net)	+120	+784	+1,593
International (Net)	+623	+637	+2,310
<b>Greater Saint John</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	-14	-7	+4
Interprovincial (Net)	-98	+238	+581
International (Net)	+326	+120	+553
<b>Greater Fredericton</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	+299	+312	+310
Interprovincial (Net)	-27	+187	+547
International (Net)	+385	-49	+1,064
<b>Other Southern N.B.</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	-155	-168	-167
Interprovincial (Net)	+169	+262	+693
International (Net)	+162	+197	+514
<b>Greater Bathurst</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	-12	-37	-38
Interprovincial (Net)	-11	+24	+63
International (Net)	+101	+54	+147
<b>Greater Miramichi</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	+4	-17	-13
Interprovincial (Net)	+7	+13	+35
International (Net)	+42	-11	+68
<b>Greater Edmundston</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	-20	-1	+2
Interprovincial (Net)	-4	-1	+28
International (Net)	+62	+40	+180
<b>Greater Campbellton</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	-27	-24	-22
Interprovincial (Net)	-14	+54	+120
International (Net)	+43	+19	+94
<b>Other Northern N.B.</b>			
Intraprovincial (Net)	-320	-220	-220
Interprovincial (Net)	-19	+134	+368
International (Net)	+100	+194	+490

**Education<sup>3</sup>**

As of 2022, 94.9% of New Brunswickers aged 20 to 24 had at least a high school diploma<sup>4</sup>. This represented the sixth highest rate for this age range among the provinces.

**Percentage of the Population Aged 20 to 24 With at Least a High School Diploma – 2022**



**Percentage of the Population Aged 20 to 29 With at Least a High School Diploma by Age Group and Sex – 2022**

Age Group	N.B.		Canada	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
20 to 24	94%	95%	93%	96%
25 to 29	95%	96%	94%	97%

New Brunswick’s high school completion rate among youth compared favourably among many sub-populations. At the time of the 2021 Census, among the Indigenous population aged 20 to 29 living in the province, 77.5% of those living on reserve, and 90.5% of those living off reserve, had completed high school; at a national level these percentages were 55.7% and 80.5% respectively.

<sup>3</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File) and 2021 Census of Population.

<sup>4</sup> i.e., a high school diploma and/or a postsecondary education.

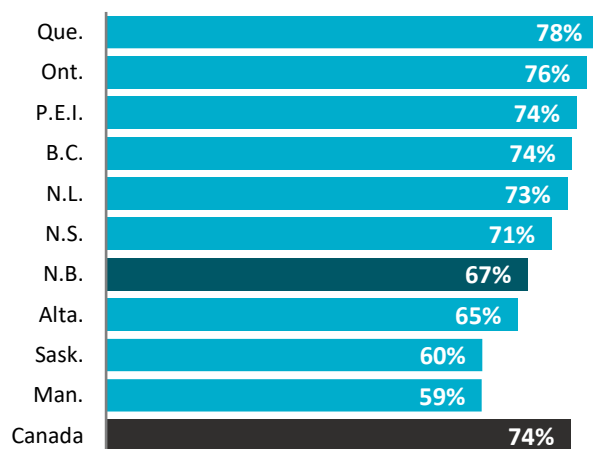
**High School Completion Rate Among the Indigenous Population Aged 20 to 29 by Age Group and Gender – N.B. and Canada – May 2021**

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>On Reserve</b>				
20 to 24 years	72%	79%	53%	60%
25 to 29 years	79%	80%	52%	58%
<b>Off Reserve</b>				
20 to 24 years	87%	94%	78%	82%
25 to 29 years	89%	93%	78%	83%

Despite having a high proportion of youth who have completed high school, relatively few young New Brunswickers have completed a post-secondary education compared to other parts of the country. As of 2022, 66.7% 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 2022, only 57.6% of New Brunswick males aged 25 to 29 years (68.0% nationally) had completed some form of post-secondary education, compared to 76.2% of females in this age range (79.4% nationally).

**Post-Secondary Education Completion Rate Among the Population Aged 25 to 29 – 2022**



Relative to a 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
<b>N.B.</b>			
No Post-Secondary Credentials	42%	24%	<b>33%</b>
Post-Secondary Certificate/Diploma	37%	44%	<b>41%</b>
Degree	20%	32%	<b>26%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
No Post-Secondary Credentials	32%	21%	<b>26%</b>
Post-Secondary Certificate/Diploma	33%	31%	<b>32%</b>
Degree	35%	48%	<b>41%</b>

At the time of the 2021 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 – May 2021**

	N.B.	Canada
On Reserve	32%	22%
Off Reserve	58%	46%

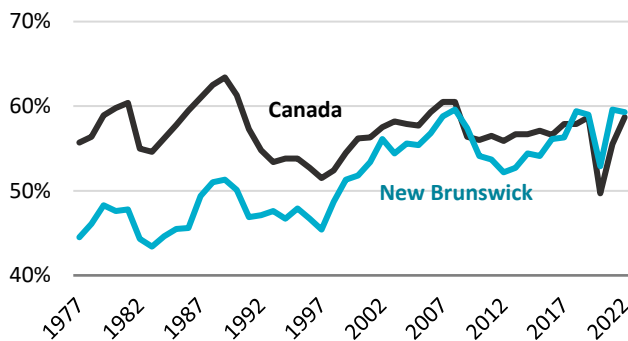
Among Indigenous individuals that pursue a post-secondary education, pursuing a university degree was relatively uncommon.

## Labour Force Characteristics

### Overview<sup>5</sup>

Between January and December 2022, an average of 59.3% of New Brunswickers aged 15 to 24 years were employed, compared to 58.7% at a national level. While historically, New Brunswick's youth employment has generally trailed the national rate, this has not been the case over the past several years.

#### Employment Rate Among Youth Aged 15 to 24



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 are more likely to be working). Throughout 2022, only 55% of New Brunswickers aged 15 to 24 years were enrolled in school (81% 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 – 2022

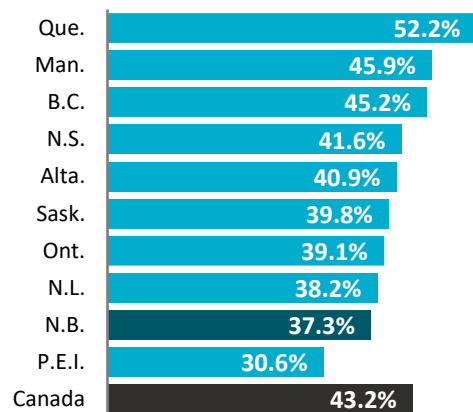
	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	81%	81%	<b>81%</b>
20 to 24 years	23%	41%	<b>31%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	82%	88%	<b>84%</b>
20 to 24 years	38%	51%	<b>45%</b>

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

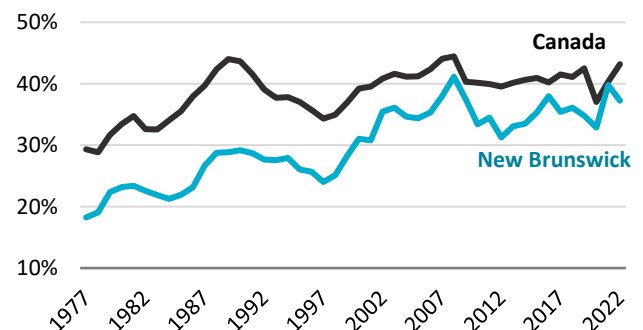
### Students<sup>6</sup>

Throughout 2022, an average of 37.3% of New Brunswick students aged 15 to 24 years were employed at any given time, compared to 43.2% at a national level. It's worth noting that the province's student employment rate increased dramatically in the fall, following the phasing out of the NB-EI Connect Program<sup>7</sup> as a stand-alone program (33.1% employment rate between January to April compared to 41.3% between September to December).

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



#### Employment Rate Among Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months



<sup>5</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Tables 14-10-0017 and 14-10-0021).

<sup>6</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Tables 14-10-0081, 14-10-0021 and 14-10-0286).

<sup>7</sup> The "New Brunswick Employment Insurance Connect Program" offers eligible individuals the opportunity to continue to receive regular EI benefits for the duration of their claim while attending an approved training program.

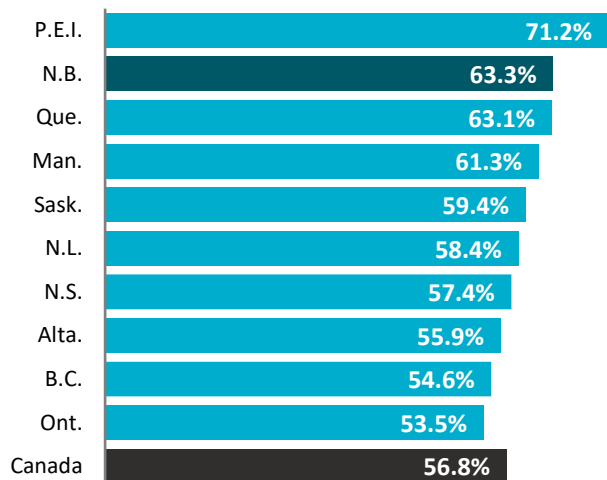
New Brunswick's student employment rate compared especially unfavourably among individuals aged 20 to 24 years.

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

	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	32.9%	37.2%	<b>35.0%</b>
20 to 24 years	35.3%	45.9%	<b>42.6%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	34.3%	41.1%	<b>37.7%</b>
20 to 24 years	45.4%	57.8%	<b>52.2%</b>

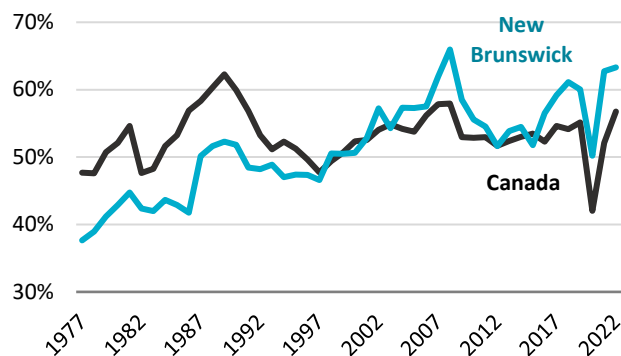
It's worth noting that, while students in New Brunswick had a relatively low employment rate during the school months, this was not the case during the summer. In 2022, 63.3% of full-time students aged 15 to 24 years in New Brunswick worked during the summer months (May to August), compared to 56.8% nationally.

### Employment Rate Among Full-Time Students Aged 15 to 24 During Summer Months – 2022



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 Months



### Employment Rate Among Full-Time Students Aged 15 to 24 During Summer Months – 2022

	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	52.6%	62.1%	<b>57.2%</b>
20 to 24 years	68.0%	79.8%	<b>75.1%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	45.8%	50.8%	<b>48.3%</b>
20 to 24 years	66.3%	73.6%	<b>70.3%</b>

### Non-Students<sup>8</sup>

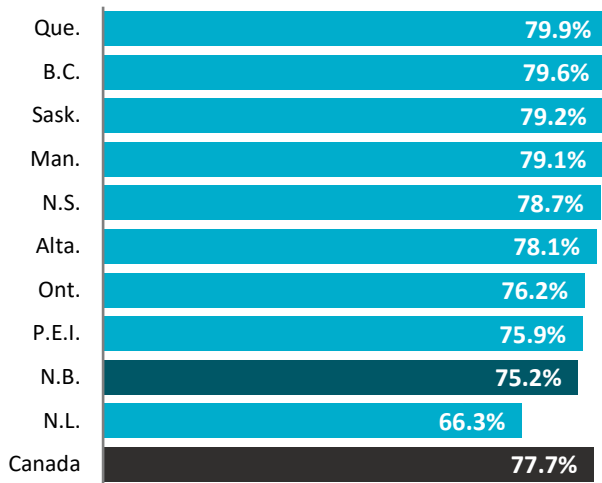
During the “school months” of 2022 (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec), an average of 75.2% of non-students aged 15 to 24 years in New Brunswick were employed. This represented the second lowest rate among the provinces.

The employment rate among young males with post-secondary credentials in the province (78.4%) was particularly low, lagging significantly behind both the national employment rate for this group (86.5%) and the employment rate of young females with post-secondary credentials in the province (88.8%).

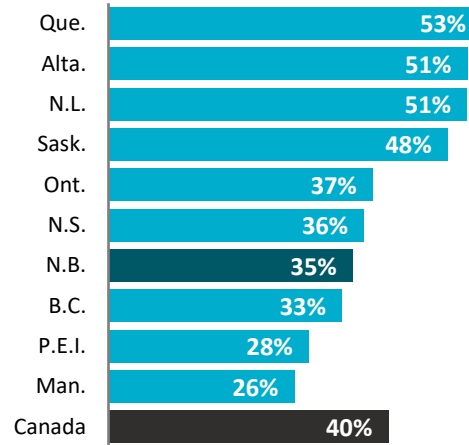
<sup>8</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Tables 14-10-0081 and 14-10-0021).



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



**Percentage of Non-Students Aged 15 to 24 Years with a University Degree Employed in a Managerial Role or in an Occupation That Typically Requires a University Degree – 2022**



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

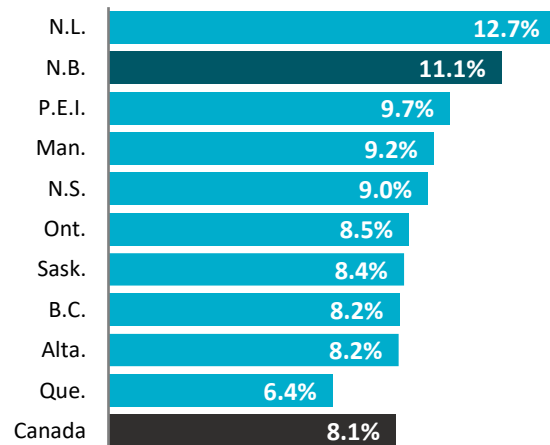
	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
No PSE Credentials	68.3%	70.5%	<b>69.2%</b>
PSE Credentials	78.4%	88.8%	<b>83.5%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
No PSE Credentials	72.1%	69.7%	<b>71.3%</b>
PSE Credentials	86.5%	87.9%	<b>87.2%</b>

Furthermore, in general, recent university graduates in New Brunswick were 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 school months of 2022, only 35% of non-students aged 15 to 24 with degrees were employed in a managerial role and/or occupations that typically require a degree. At a national level this percentage was 40%.

**NEET Rate<sup>9</sup>**

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 consistently has 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 – 2022**



<sup>9</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Table 14-10-0021).

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

	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	7.4%	5.2%	<b>6.3%</b>
20 to 24 years	19.7%	11.5%	<b>15.7%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	5.7%	3.6%	<b>4.7%</b>
20 to 24 years	12.7%	9.5%	<b>11.2%</b>

**Wages<sup>10</sup>**

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 2022 the median hourly wage rate among New Brunswick employees aged 15 to 24 years was \$15.00, compared to \$26.10 among employees aged 25 to 54 years. Nationally, the median wage among employees aged 15 to 24 years was \$17.00, compared to \$30.13 among those aged 25 to 54 years.

**Average and Median Hourly Wage Among the Population Aged 15 to 24 by Sex – 2022**

	Males	Females	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
Average Hourly Wage	\$17.21	\$16.55	<b>\$16.88</b>
Median Hourly Wage	\$15.50	\$14.90	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
Average Hourly Wage	\$19.79	\$18.55	<b>\$19.17</b>
Median Hourly Wage	\$17.50	\$16.50	<b>\$17.00</b>

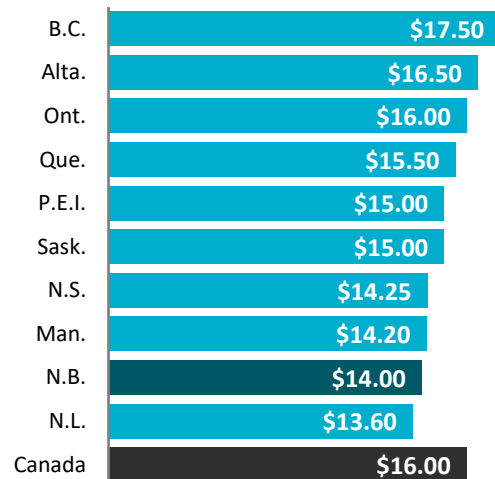
These low overall figures among young New Brunswickers (and more generally, young Canadians) were in large part a reflection of the significant portion of the youth population who were working in relatively low-skill, low-paying jobs while still attending school.

**Percentage of Employees Aged 15 to 24 Earning Minimum Wage by Sex – 2022**

	Males	Females	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	40%	45%	<b>43%</b>
20 to 24 years	9%	12%	<b>10%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	41%	47%	<b>44%</b>
20 to 24 years	12%	15%	<b>14%</b>

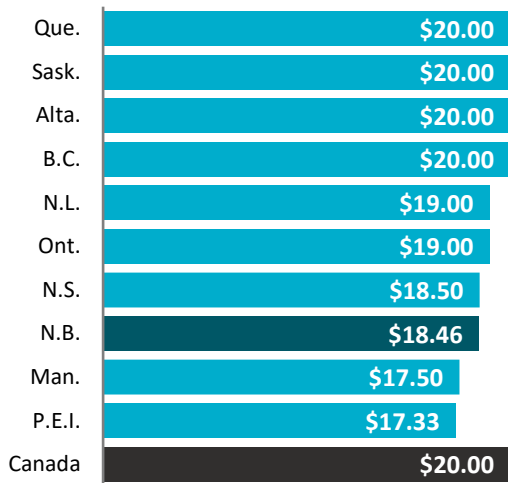
Looking at wage rates among youth by educational attainment level, it can be seen that wages were noticeably higher among those with post-secondary credentials, although were still quite low compared to the wage rates of older workers. Median hourly wage rates of youth by highest level of education can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

**Median Hourly Wage Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 with a High School Diploma or Less – 2022**

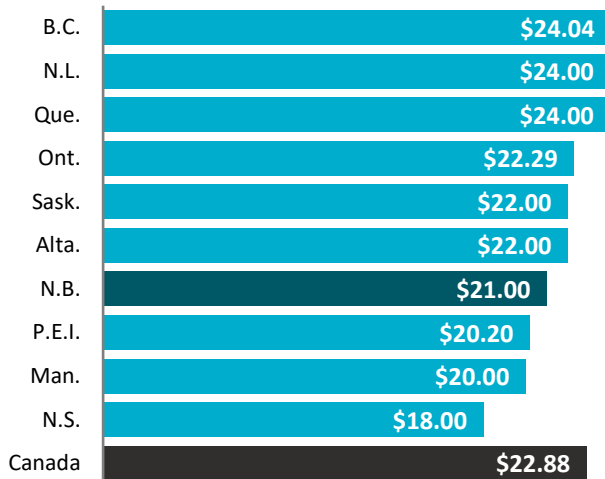


<sup>10</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Table 14-10-0340).

**Median Hourly Wage Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 with a Post-Secondary Diploma or Certificate – 2022**



**Median Hourly Wage Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 with a University Degree – 2022**



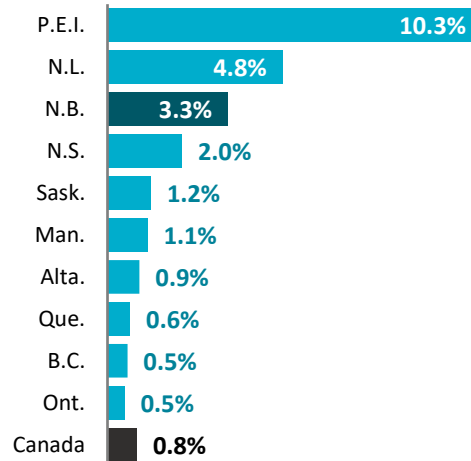
**Employment Insurance<sup>11</sup>**

In November 2022, 3,000 New Brunswickers aged 15 to 24 received employment insurance regular benefits (unadjusted for seasonality). This represented approximately 3.3% of the province’s youth population – the third highest proportion among the ten provinces.

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

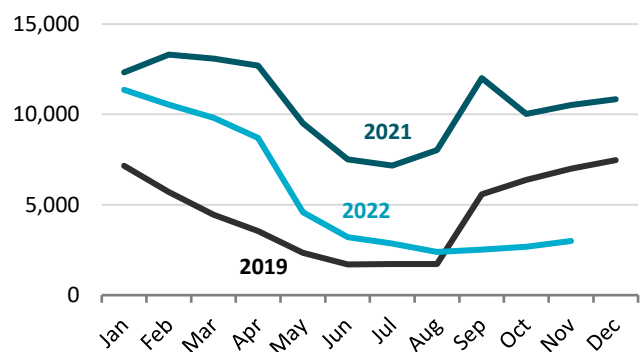
- The province’s relatively weak economic / labour market conditions
- The seasonal nature of many prominent industries in the province

**Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Receiving EI Regular Benefits – November 2022**



While the proportion of youth receiving employment insurance benefits in New Brunswick was high relative to most other provinces, it was down significantly compared to previous years.

**Employment Insurance Beneficiaries (Regular Benefits) Aged 15 to 24 by Sex – New Brunswick**



<sup>11</sup> Sources(s): Statistics Canada, Employment Insurance Statistics (Table 14-10-0011) and Annual Demographic Estimates (Tables 17-10-0135 and 17-10-0137).

The recent decrease in young beneficiaries can be primarily attributed to three factors:

- The NB-EI Connect Program being phased out as a stand-alone program<sup>12</sup>
- A number of temporary changes to the EI program expiring on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (resulting in a greater number of hours of work being required to qualify for benefits)
- The province experiencing lower than usual levels of unemployment (resulting in a greater number of hours of work being required to qualify for benefits)

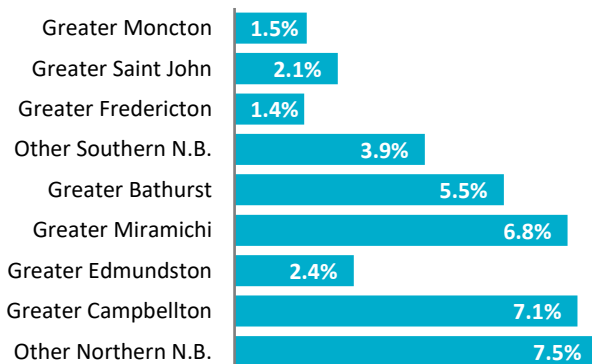
In terms of gender, EI usage was significantly higher among the province’s young male population. Of the 3,000 individuals aged 15 to 24 years who received EI regular benefits in November 2022, 1,960 were male, while only 1,040 were female. A similar breakdown was seen across most parts of the country.

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

	Nov. 2019	Nov. 2021	Nov. 2022
Fredericton-Moncton-Saint John	665	420	700
Madawaska-Charlotte	595	420	665
Restigouche-Albert	420	420	525

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.

**Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Receiving EI Regular Benefits by Region – November 2022 (Unadjusted for Seasonality)**



<sup>12</sup> The “New Brunswick Employment Insurance Connect Program” offers eligible individuals the opportunity to continue to receive regular EI benefits for the duration of their claim while attending an approved training program.

## Appendix: Glossary

**Labour Force:** refers to the working age population (15+) that is employed or unemployed.

**Employment:** refers to people who, during the reference week, did any work at all at a job or business; or had a job but were not at work due to factors such as illness, personal, family responsibilities or labour disputes.

**Full-Time Employment:** refers to people who usually work thirty or more hours per week.

**Part-Time Employment:** refers to people who usually work less than thirty hours per week.

**Unemployment:** refers to people who during the reference week were without work but had actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; or were on temporary layoff during the reference week with an expectation of recall and were available for work.

**Unemployment Rate:** represents the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

**Participation Rate:** represents the labour force as a percentage of the working age population.

**Employment Rate:** represents the employed as a percentage of the working age population.

**Industry/Sector:** The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is a comprehensive system encompassing all economic activities. Establishments (businesses) are grouped according to similarity in the production processes used to produce goods and services.