



**Labour Market Profile of the
Indigenous Population in N.B.**
April 2023

New  Nouveau
Brunswick

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Context

All statistics in this report are based on Statistics Canada’s 2021 Census of Population. These estimates reflect self-reported responses to a number of questions regarding Indigenous identity and may differ from the administrative records collected by individual First Nations, Métis organizations and Settlements, and Inuit bodies.

It should also be noted that various terms and categories used by Statistics Canada are applied throughout this report. While these may not be reflective of the language of common use, it ensures accuracy in the representation of the data collected by Statistics Canada.

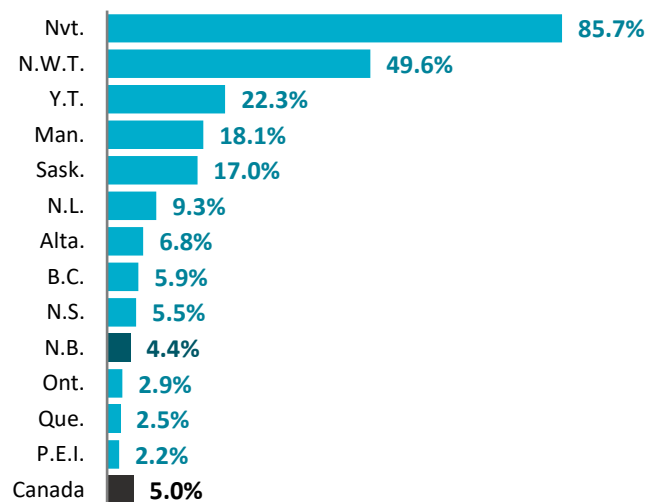
Population

Overview¹

According to the Census of Population, as of May 2021, there were 33,295 Indigenous people living in New Brunswick. This represented 4.4% of the province’s total population. The majority of Indigenous individuals in New Brunswick were First Nations people. Overall, of the 33,295 Indigenous people living in New Brunswick at the time of the Census, there were:

- 20,960 First Nations (63.0%)
- 10,170 Métis (30.5%)
- 2,165 other Indigenous individuals² (6.5%)

Proportion of Population Who Are Indigenous by Province/Territory – May 2021³



Just under half (45.9%) of Indigenous individuals in New Brunswick were recognized by the Federal Government as having Registered or Treaty status (and therefore were eligible for a number of services and benefits). Furthermore, the majority of population growth that has occurred among the Indigenous population in recent years has been among individuals without Registered or Treaty status.

Indigenous Population by Registered or Treaty Status – New Brunswick

	2016	2021	Change (%)
Registered/Treaty Status	14,305	15,285	+6.9%
Non-Status	15,075	18,015	+19.5%
Total	29,385	33,295	+13.3%

¹ Source(s): Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population (Table 98-10-0264)

² For the purposes of this document, includes individuals who responded “Inuk (Inuit)”, individuals who provided multiple responses, and persons who are not First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit), but who have Registered or Treaty status and/or Membership in a First Nation.

³ Due to a number of factors including the COVID-19 pandemic and regional forest fires that interfered with data collection, enumeration could not be completed in 63 of the 1,026 census subdivisions that are classified as First Nations communities across the country (8 in Quebec, 13 in Ontario, 10 in Manitoba, 1 in Saskatchewan, 8 in Alberta, and 23 in British Columbia).

A significant portion of the recent growth in the Indigenous population has been the result of response mobility. According to Statistics Canada:

“Response mobility” ... refers to people who once responded to the Indigenous identity questions one way on the census questionnaire, but now respond differently. Over time, respondents who had previously not identified as Indigenous have become more likely to do so. This may be related to personal reflection, social factors, or external factors such as changes to legislation or court rulings.

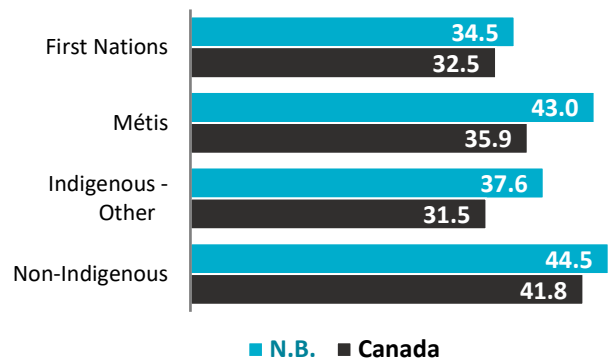
However, beyond response mobility, the Indigenous population tends to be younger and have higher birth rates than the non-Indigenous population, which has resulted in greater natural population growth as well.

Indigenous Population by Indigenous Identity, Indigenous Geography and Registered or Treaty Status – New Brunswick – May 2021

	Total	On Reserve	Off Reserve
First Nations	20,960	7,720	13,240
Registered/Treaty Status	13,555	7,565	5,990
Non-Status	7,405	160	7,250
Métis	10,170	30	10,140
Registered/Treaty Status	750	10	740
Non-Status	9,415	20	9,395
Other Indigenous	2,165	135	2,035
Registered/Treaty Status	505	25	480
Non-Status	1,665	110	1,545

As of May 2021, the average age among the First Nations population in New Brunswick was 34.5 years, compared to 43.0 years among the Métis population, and 44.5 years among the non-Indigenous population.

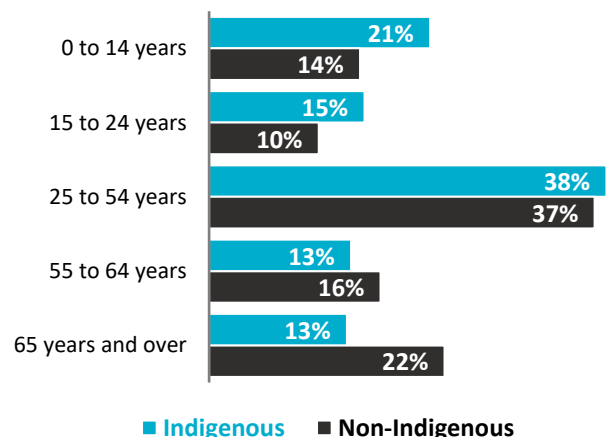
Average Age (in Years) by Indigenous Identity – May 2021



Average Age (in Years) of Indigenous Population by Indigenous Geography – May 2021



Age Structure of Population by Indigenous Identity – New Brunswick – May 2021



Sub-Provincial⁴

The majority of the Indigenous population in New Brunswick live either on reserve, in a community in close proximity to a reserve, or in one of New Brunswick's three major centres (Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John).

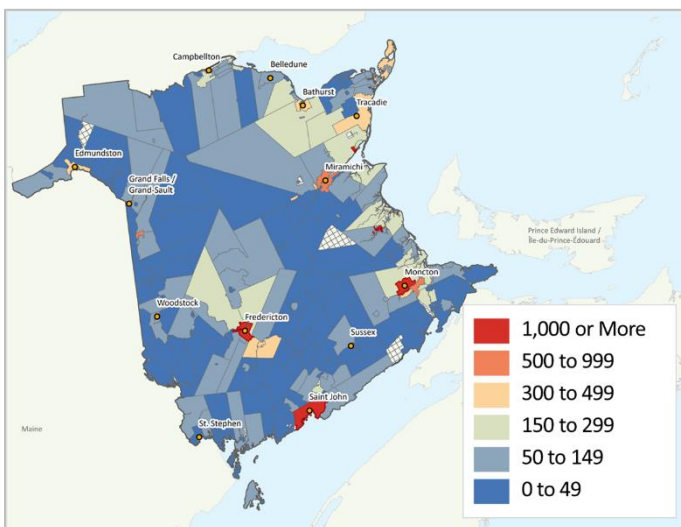
At the time of the Census, the five largest First Nation reserves in New Brunswick by Indigenous population⁵ were:

- Elsipogtog: 1,990
- Esgenôpetitj: 1,150
- Neqotkuk: 970
- Sitansisk: 895
- Bilijk: 480

On the other hand, the five largest off reserve communities in terms of Indigenous population were:

- Fredericton: 2,180
- Moncton: 2,080
- Saint John: 1,890
- Miramichi: 845
- Dieppe: 735

Indigenous Population by Census Subdivision – New Brunswick – May 2021



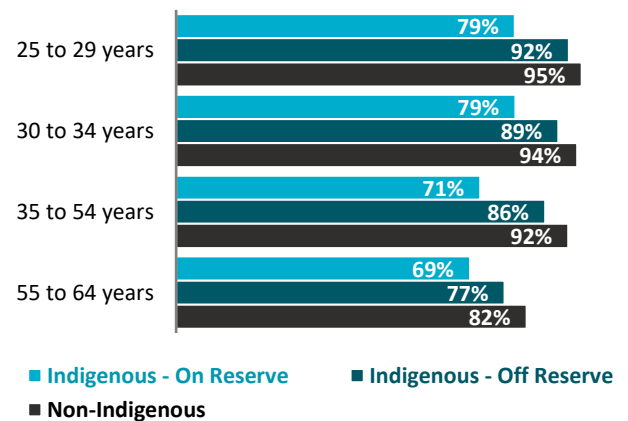
Education⁶

Both in New Brunswick and across Canada, Indigenous individuals are less likely than non-Indigenous individuals to have completed high school.

Furthermore, they are also less likely to pursue (and complete) a post-secondary education. At the time of the 2021 Census:

- 73% of the on reserve Indigenous population aged 25 to 64 years in New Brunswick had at least a high school diploma, compared to 85% of the off reserve Indigenous population and 89% of the non-Indigenous population.
- 41% of the on reserve Indigenous population aged 25 to 64 years in New Brunswick had completed some form of post-secondary education, compared to 57% of the off reserve Indigenous population and 61% of the non-Indigenous population. Indigenous individuals were particularly less likely than non-Indigenous individuals to have university degrees.

Percentage of Population With at Least a High School Diploma by Indigenous Identity and Age Group – New Brunswick – May 2021



⁴ Source(s): Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population (Table 98-10-0266)

⁵ These five communities were also home to a combined 465 non-Indigenous individuals (not included in the population estimates listed)

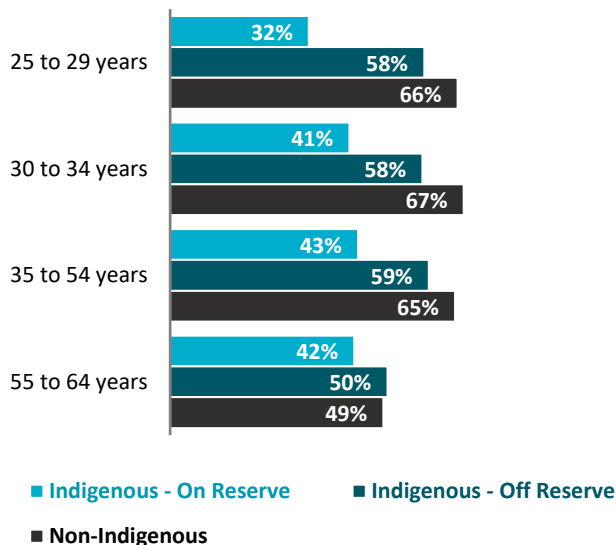
⁶ Source(s): Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population (Table 98-10-0423)

While Indigenous individuals in New Brunswick are generally less likely to have graduated high school or to have obtained post-secondary credentials than non-Indigenous individuals, their educational attainment levels compare favourably to other Indigenous individuals in many of the other provinces.

Percentage of Indigenous Population With at Least a High School Diploma by Age Group and Sex – May 2021

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
On Reserve				
25 to 29 years	79%	81%	56%	60%
30 to 34 years	78%	79%	56%	64%
35 to 54 years	66%	75%	57%	67%
55 to 64 years	65%	71%	53%	63%
Off Reserve				
25 to 29 years	89%	94%	80%	85%
30 to 34 years	88%	92%	80%	86%
35 to 54 years	84%	88%	80%	85%
55 to 64 years	72%	81%	73%	79%

Post-Secondary Education Completion Rate of Population by Indigenous Identity and Age Group – New Brunswick – May 2021



Post-Secondary Education Completion Rate of Indigenous Population by Age Group and Sex – May 2021

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
On Reserve				
25 to 29 years	26%	39%	20%	24%
30 to 34 years	35%	48%	26%	31%
35 to 54 years	39%	47%	33%	42%
55 to 64 years	40%	44%	35%	44%
Off Reserve				
25 to 29 years	52%	63%	39%	52%
30 to 34 years	50%	68%	46%	57%
35 to 54 years	54%	65%	51%	60%
55 to 64 years	46%	53%	47%	50%

Highest Level of Education Among Indigenous Population Aged 25 to 64 Years by Sex – New Brunswick – May 2021

	Men	Women	Total
On Reserve			
Less than High School	31%	24%	27%
High School	33%	31%	32%
Post-Secondary	36%	45%	41%
Apprenticeship/Trades	11%	3%	7%
Other Certificate/Diploma	21%	31%	26%
Degree	4%	11%	8%
Off Reserve			
Less than High School	18%	12%	15%
High School	31%	26%	28%
Post-Secondary	51%	62%	57%
Apprenticeship/Trades	12%	6%	9%
Other Certificate/Diploma	28%	37%	33%
Degree	11%	18%	15%

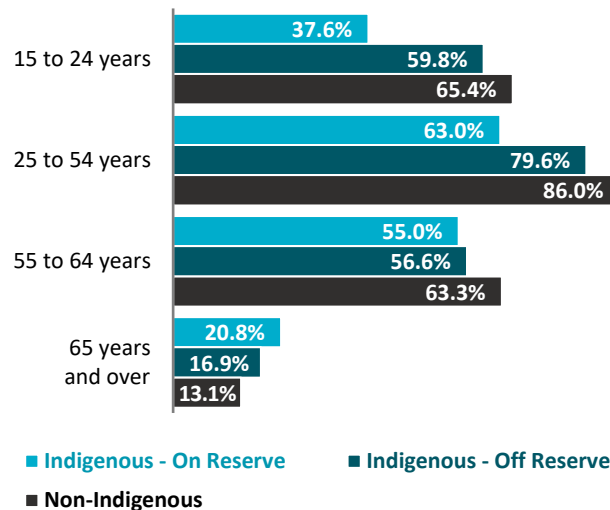
Labour Force Characteristics⁷

Labour Force Characteristics of Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Indigenous Identity – New Brunswick – May 2021

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous
	On Reserve	Off Reserve	
Population Aged 15+	5,935	20,380	621,940
Not in Labour Force	2,905	7,950	247,925
Labour Force	3,025	12,425	374,015
Employment	2,430	10,480	336,300
Unemployment	600	1,940	37,715
Participation Rate	51.0%	61.0%	60.1%
Employment Rate	40.9%	51.4%	54.1%
Unemployment Rate	19.8%	15.6%	10.1%

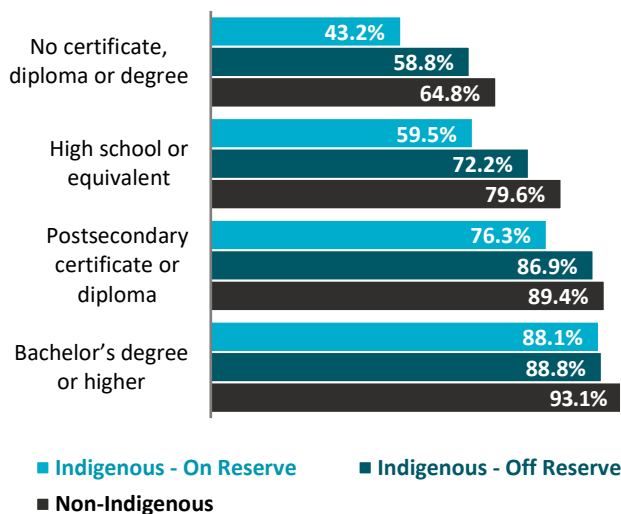
Both within New Brunswick and across Canada, Indigenous individuals are generally less likely to participate in the labour force than non-Indigenous individuals. While overall labour force participation rates between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations were similar at the time of the 2021 Census (58.7% among the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over, compared to 60.1% among the non-Indigenous population), this was primarily a product of the age structure of each of these populations (with the relatively greater proportion of seniors in the non-Indigenous population putting downward pressure on this group's overall participation rate). When participation rates by specific age groups are examined, it becomes clear that the Indigenous population trails the non-Indigenous population across most age categories.

Participation Rate of Population by Indigenous Identity and Age Group – New Brunswick – May 2021



While some of the differences in labour force participation rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals in New Brunswickers can be attributed to differences in educational attainment levels, these differences persist even when level of education is accounted for.

Participation Rate of Population Aged 25 to 54 Years by Indigenous Identity and Highest Level of Education – New Brunswick – May 2021



⁷ Source(s): Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population (Table 98-10-0423) and 2016 Census of Population (Table 98-400-X2016359)

While Indigenous individuals in New Brunswick are generally less likely to be participating in the labour force than non-Indigenous individuals, they were more likely to be participating than Indigenous individuals in many of the other provinces. At the time of the 2021 Census, the rate of participation among the Indigenous population in New Brunswick exceeded the national rate across nearly all age groups, both for the on reserve and off reserve populations (with the main exception being Indigenous individuals aged 55 years and over living off reserve).

Participation Rate of Indigenous Population by Age Group and Sex – May 2021

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
On Reserve				
15 to 24 years	40.4%	34.5%	30.0%	27.5%
25 to 54 years	62.1%	63.2%	59.8%	55.6%
55 to 64 years	54.5%	55.4%	53.1%	51.7%
65 years and over	24.2%	18.2%	21.7%	18.8%
Off Reserve				
15 to 24 years	63.2%	56.6%	55.0%	54.7%
25 to 54 years	81.4%	77.9%	80.8%	74.4%
55 to 64 years	58.2%	55.1%	63.6%	56.1%
65 years and over	21.4%	12.4%	21.0%	13.9%

Compared to the non-Indigenous population, Indigenous New Brunswickers are noticeably more likely to be employed in a number of sectors, including:

- Fishing, hunting and trapping
- Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction
- Food manufacturing
- Social assistance (e.g., day cares, youth services, etc.)
- Administrative and support services (e.g., security, cleaning, etc.)
- Public administration

On the other hand, some of the sectors that Indigenous individuals are noticeably less likely to be employed in include:

- Wholesale trade
- Professional, scientific and technical services (e.g., legal services, accounting services, IT, etc.)
- Post-secondary institutions
- Hospitals and offices of health care practitioners

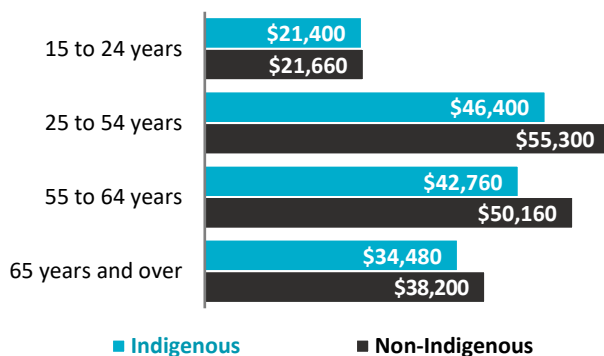
Income⁸

In 2020, the average total income of Indigenous tax-filers aged 15 years and over was \$39,840 (\$37,400 on reserve, \$40,520 off reserve), compared to \$46,160 among the non-Indigenous population. Nationally, the average total income of Indigenous tax-filers was \$44,920 (\$33,120 on reserve, \$47,200 off reserve). When comparing summary income statistics such as these, it's important to keep in mind that there are a number of factors that may be having an influence, such as:

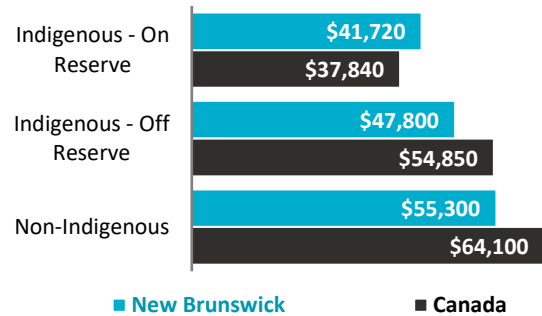
- The type of occupations and/or industries that individuals work in
- Education and experience levels
- Factors such as job tenure, part-time/full-time status, and union coverage
- Discrimination (whether it's based on sex, sexual orientation, race, age, parental status, etc.)

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic may have had an impact on these estimates. While the significant number of layoffs that occurred as a result of the pandemic had a noticeable negative impact on individuals' earnings, the substantial amount of financial support provided by the government largely cushioned these losses (to varying degrees for different groups).

Average Total Income by Indigenous Identity and Age Group – New Brunswick – 2020

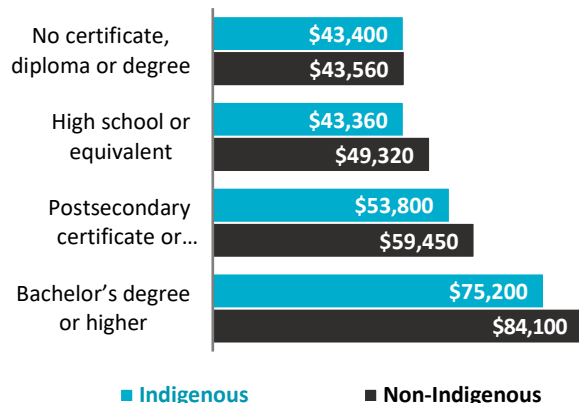


Average Total Income Among the Population Aged 25 to 54 Years by Indigenous Identity – 2020



In terms of employment income (as opposed to total income), the story was much the same. Among Indigenous tax-filers aged 15 years and over who worked full-time, full-year⁹ in 2020, average earnings were \$54,700, compared to \$63,400 among the non-Indigenous population. A graph showing how the earnings of these populations compared across education levels can be found below.

Average Employment Income Among Individuals Who Worked Full-Time, Full-Year by Indigenous Identity and Highest Level of Education – New Brunswick – 2020



⁸ Source(s): Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population (Tables 98-10-0427 and 98-10-0281)

⁹ Full year is 49 weeks and over.

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.