



**Labour Market Profile  
of Youth in New Brunswick  
May 2024**



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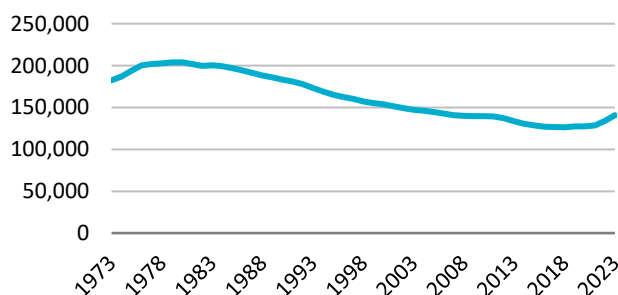
## Population<sup>1</sup>

As of July 1, 2023, there were an estimated 140,752 New Brunswick residents aged 15 to 29 years. This total was up 5.2% year-over-year, and up 11.4% relative to five years prior (2018). This growth has been the result of 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.

These gains have represented a significant departure from historical trends. Leading up to this shift, the province's youth population had declined in thirty-five consecutive years (between 1984 and 2018), a trend largely attributable to decades of high levels of youth out-migration, coupled with declining fertility rates.

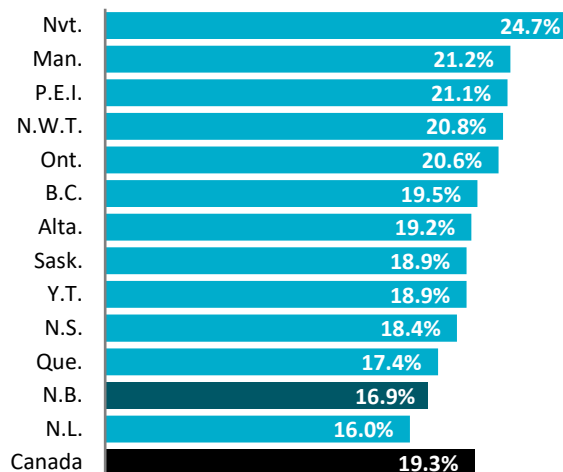
### Population Aged 15 to 29 – New Brunswick



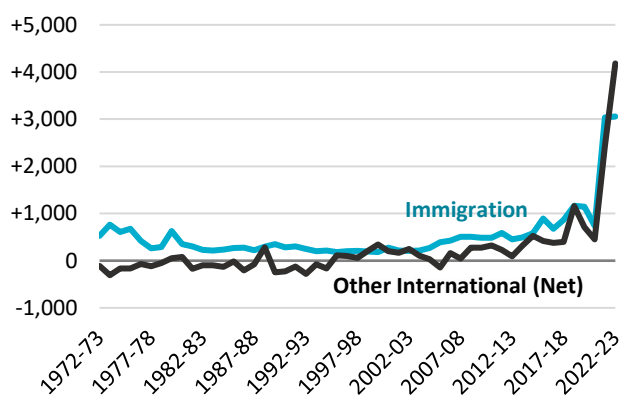
Despite the recent growth, New Brunswick's youth population remains 31.0% (63,158) below its peak value of 203,910 in 1980. At that time, youth accounted for 28.9% of the total population, while today, they account for only 16.9%.

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.

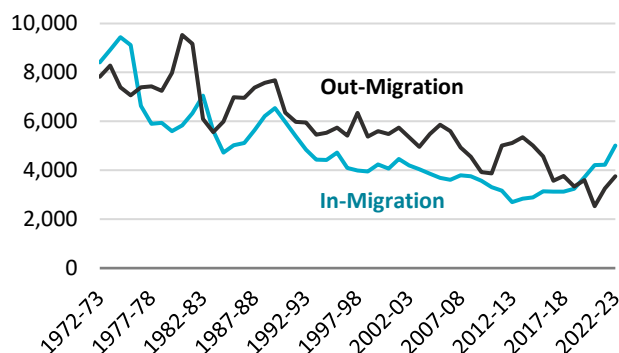
### Share of Total Population Accounted for by the Population Aged 15 to 29 – July 2023



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

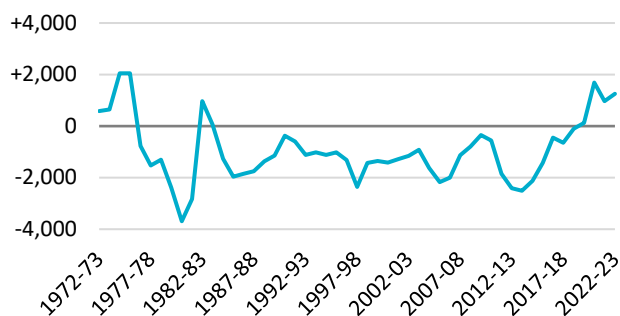


### Interprovincial Migration Among the Population Aged 15 to 29 – New Brunswick

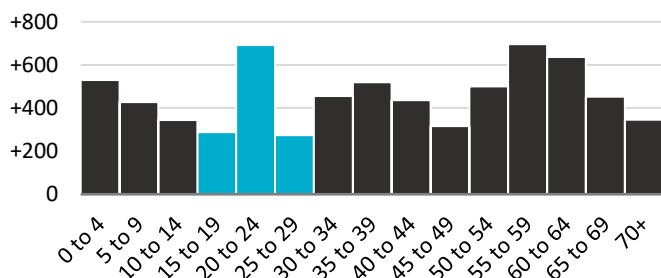


<sup>1</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Estimates (Tables 17-10-0005, 17-10-0014 and 17-10-0015).

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



### Net Interprovincial Migration by Age - New Brunswick – July 2022 to July 2023



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

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Male</b>			
International (Net)	+756	+2,934	+3,797
Interprovincial (Net)	+932	+435	+715
In-Migrants	2,208	2,075	2,530
Out-Migrants	1,276	1,640	1,815
<b>Female</b>			
International (Net)	+435	+2,539	+3,442
Interprovincial (Net)	+753	+527	+539
In-Migrants	2,008	2,150	2,478
Out-Migrants	1,255	1,623	1,939

In general, the effects of population aging have been most pronounced in rural regions of province, with these areas having experienced decades of high levels of youth out-migration and relatively low immigration levels. As a result, 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.

### Share of Total Population Accounted for Population Aged 15 to 29 by Region – July 2023

	Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 29
<b>Southern N.B.</b>	
Greater Moncton	19.1%
Greater Saint John	17.4%
Greater Fredericton	20.6%
Other Southern N.B.	14.8%
<b>Northern N.B.</b>	
Greater Bathurst	14.3%
Greater Miramichi	15.2%
Greater Edmundston	14.7%
Greater Campbellton	14.5%
Other Northern N.B.	14.1%

## Education<sup>2</sup>

As of 2022-2023 (24-month average), an estimated 95.8% of New Brunswickers aged 20 to 29 had at least a high school diploma<sup>3</sup>. This represented the third highest rate for this age range among the provinces.

### Percentage of the Population Aged 20 to 29 With at Least a High School Diploma – 2022-2023 (24-Month Averages)

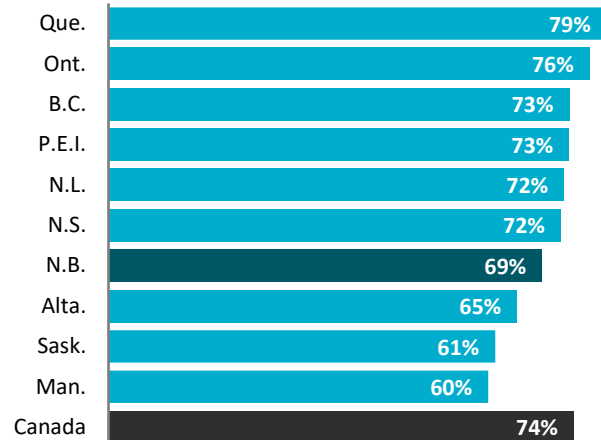


### Percentage of the Population Aged 20 to 29 With at Least a High School Diploma by Age Group and Sex – 2022-2023 (24-Month Averages)

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

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 2022-2023, 68.7% of New Brunswickers aged 25 to 29 had completed some form of post-secondary education, compared to 73.7% at a national level. 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.

### Percentage of the Population Aged 25 to 29 with Post-Secondary Credentials – 2022-2023 (24-Month Averages)



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 2022-2023, only 61.3% of New Brunswick males aged 25 to 29 years (68.2% nationally) had completed some form of post-secondary education, compared to 76.4% of females in this age range (79.5% nationally).

### Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree Among the Population Aged 25 to 29 by Sex – 2022-2023 (24-Month Averages)

	Male	Female	Total
<b>N.B.</b>			
No Post-Secondary Credentials	39%	24%	31%
Post-Secondary Certificate/Diploma	40%	39%	39%
Degree	22%	38%	29%
<b>Canada</b>			
No Post-Secondary Credentials	32%	21%	26%
Post-Secondary Certificate/Diploma	33%	32%	32%
Degree	35%	48%	41%

<sup>2</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File) and 2021 Census of Population.

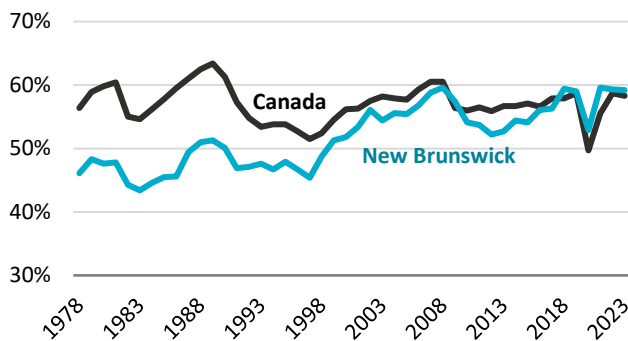
<sup>3</sup> i.e., a high school diploma (or equivalency certificate) and/or a post-secondary education.

## Labour Force Characteristics

### Overview<sup>4</sup>

Between January and December 2023, an average of 59.2% of New Brunswickers aged 15 to 24 years were employed, compared to 58.3% 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

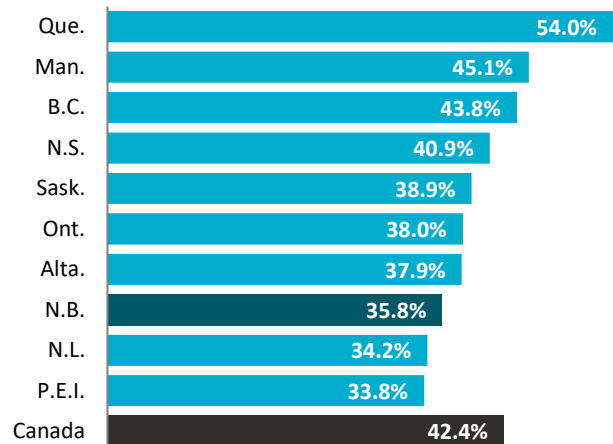


New Brunswick's youth employment rate is helped by the relatively high percentage of youth in the province who are not enrolled in any form of post-secondary education (and thus are more likely to be working). When the population is separated into students and non-students, employment rates among New Brunswick youth compare less favourably to the rest of Canada.

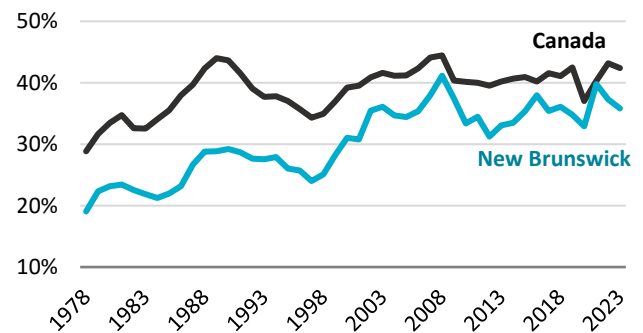
### Students<sup>5</sup>

In 2023, an average of 35.8% of New Brunswick students aged 15 to 24 years were employed during the school months (Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec). This represented the third lowest percentage among the provinces and was well below the national rate of 42.4%.

### Employment Rate Among Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – 2023 (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)



### Employment Rate Among Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)



Both within New Brunswick and across Canada, male students were significantly less likely to be employed than female students.

### Employment Rate Among Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – 2023 (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)

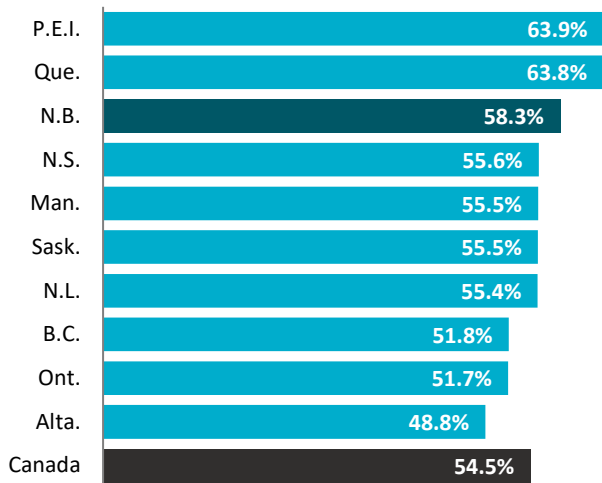
	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	28.1%	36.0%	<b>32.1%</b>
20 to 24 years	38.7%	50.8%	<b>45.1%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	33.8%	38.7%	<b>36.3%</b>
20 to 24 years	47.8%	56.9%	<b>52.7%</b>

<sup>4</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Tables 14-10-0017 and 14-10-0021).

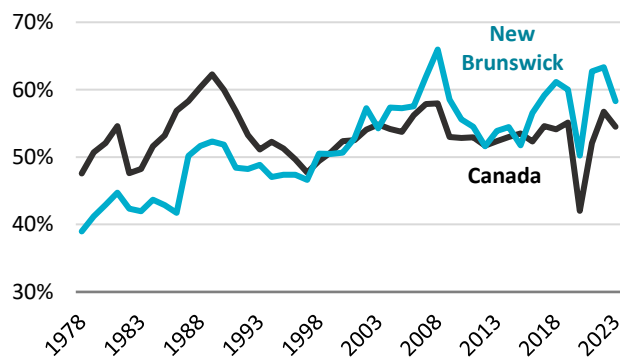
<sup>5</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Tables 14-10-0081, 14-10-0021 and 14-10-0286).

While students in New Brunswick had a relatively low employment rate during the school months, this was not the case during the summer. Between May and August 2023, an average of 58.3% of New Brunswick students aged 15 to 24 years worked during their summer break, compared to 54.5% nationally.

**Employment Rate Among Full-Time Students Aged 15 to 24 During Summer Months – 2023 (May-Aug)**



**Employment Rate Among Full-Time Students Aged 15 to 24 During Summer Months (May-Aug)**



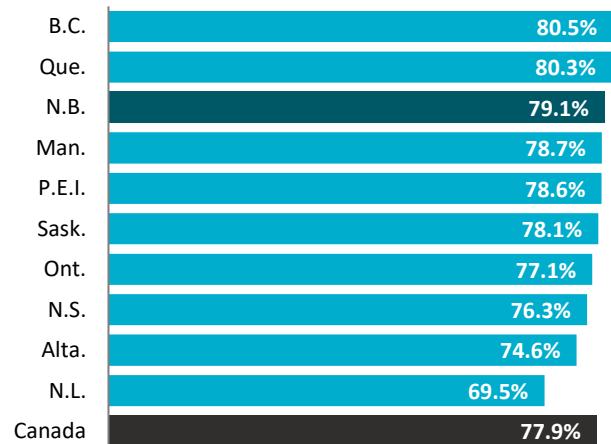
**Employment Rate Among Full-Time Students Aged 15 to 24 During Summer Months – 2023 (May-Aug)**

	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	48.7%	52.0%	<b>50.5%</b>
20 to 24 years	74.5%	85.7%	<b>80.3%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	45.1%	47.4%	<b>46.2%</b>
20 to 24 years	67.4%	69.5%	<b>68.5%</b>

**Non-Students<sup>6</sup>**

During the school months of 2023 (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec), an average of 79.1% of non-students aged 15 to 24 years in New Brunswick were employed. This represented the third highest rate among the provinces.

**Employment Rate Among Non-Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – 2023 (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)**



The province’s employment rate among non-students aged 15 to 24 with post-secondary credentials was particularly high, exceeding the national rate for this group by 4.0 percentage points (91.6% versus 87.6%).

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

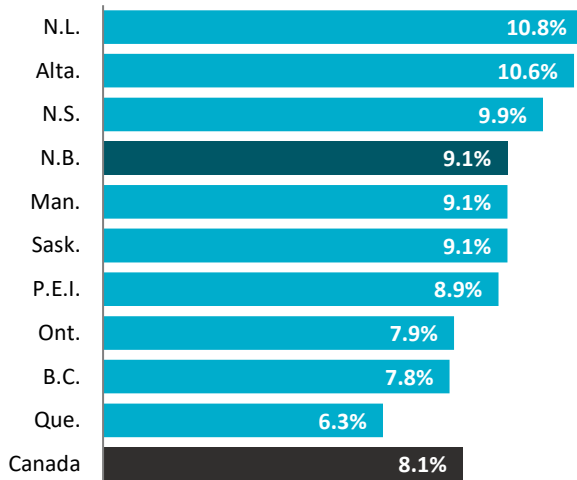
**Employment Rate Among Non-Students Aged 15 to 24 During School Months – 2023 (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)**

	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
No PSE Credentials	65.5%	73.9%	<b>68.7%</b>
PSE Credentials	91.8%	91.4%	<b>91.6%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
No PSE Credentials	71.9%	69.4%	<b>70.9%</b>
PSE Credentials	87.0%	88.2%	<b>87.6%</b>

**NEET Rate<sup>7</sup>**

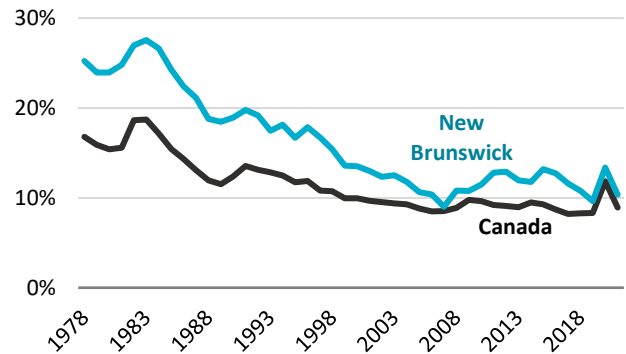
Due to the relatively large size of the province’s non-student youth population, combined with the relatively low employment rate among students, New Brunswick consistently has one of the highest proportions of students who were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) in Canada.

**Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Not in Education, Employment or Training During School Months – 2023 (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)**



While New Brunswick’s NEET rate remains relatively high, it has been trending downwards in recent years, with its 2023 value (9.1%) representing a sixteen year low.

**Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Not in Education, Employment or Training During School Months (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)**



**Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Not in Education, Employment or Training During School Months – 2023 (Jan-Apr, Sep-Dec)**

	Male	Female	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	6.6%	4.7%	<b>5.7%</b>
20 to 24 years	15.8%	8.8%	<b>12.4%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	5.7%	3.7%	<b>4.7%</b>
20 to 24 years	12.1%	9.8%	<b>11.0%</b>

<sup>7</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Table 14-10-0021).



## Wages<sup>8</sup>

According to Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey, in 2023 the median hourly wage rate among New Brunswick employees aged 15 to 24 years was \$17.00. While this trailed the national median of \$18.00, this trend was not unique to youth, with New Brunswickers generally earning less than those in the Central and Western provinces across all age groups.

### *Average and Median Hourly Wage Among the Population Aged 15 to 24 by Sex – 2023*

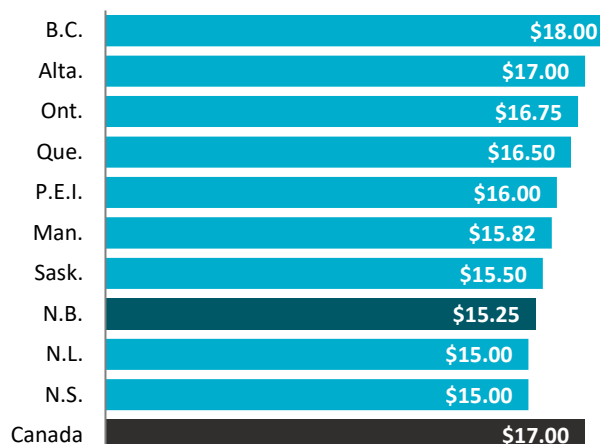
	Males	Females	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
Average Hourly Wage	\$18.97	\$18.75	<b>\$18.86</b>
Median Hourly Wage	\$17.00	\$16.75	<b>\$17.00</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
Average Hourly Wage	\$20.63	\$19.56	<b>\$20.11</b>
Median Hourly Wage	\$18.00	\$17.50	<b>\$18.00</b>

Both within New Brunswick and across Canada, youth generally earn significantly less than older workers. This is primarily a reflection of youth having considerably lower levels of education and experience, and as a result, being much more likely to work in low-paying jobs. In 2023, 47% of New Brunswickers aged 15 to 19, and 13% of those aged 20 to 24 were working in minimum wage jobs (compared to 3% of those aged 25 to 54). 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.

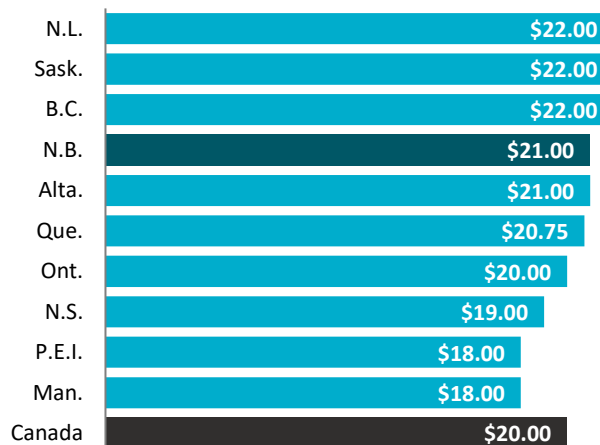
### *Percentage of Employees Aged 15 to 24 Earning Minimum Wage by Sex – 2023*

	Males	Females	Total
<b>New Brunswick</b>			
15 to 19 years	49%	45%	<b>47%</b>
20 to 24 years	14%	12%	<b>13%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
15 to 19 years	39%	44%	<b>42%</b>
20 to 24 years	13%	15%	<b>14%</b>

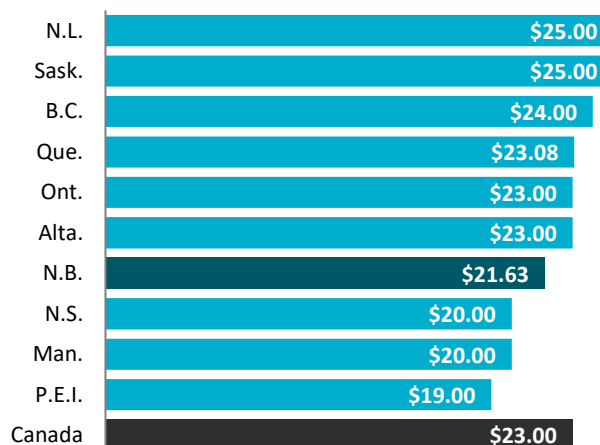
### *Median Hourly Wage Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 with a High School Diploma or Less – 2023*



### *Median Hourly Wage Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 with a Post-Secondary Diploma or Certificate – 2023*



### *Median Hourly Wage Among Youth Aged 15 to 24 with a University Degree – 2023*



<sup>8</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Public Use Microdata File and Table 14-10-0340).

## Employment Insurance (EI)<sup>9</sup>

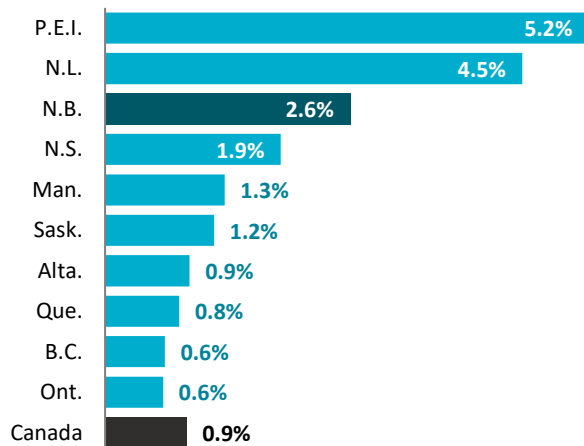
In 2023, an average of 2,310 New Brunswickers aged 15 to 24 received employment insurance regular benefits in a typical month (ranging from 1,350 to 3,610 throughout the year). This represented approximately 2.6% of the province’s youth population – the third highest proportion among the ten provinces.

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

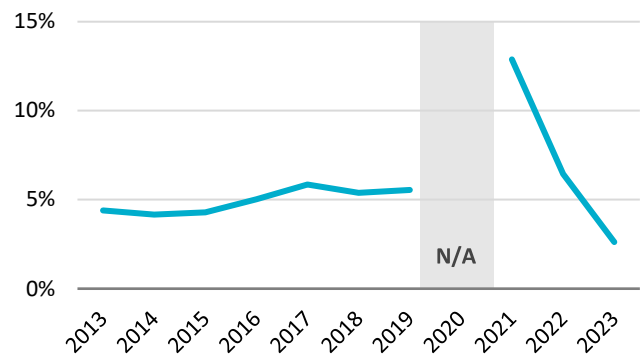
Usage of the EI program is most common in rural parts of the province, where these conditions are most prominent.

### Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Receiving EI Regular Benefits – 2023 (12-Month Average)



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

### Percentage of Population Aged 15 to 24 Receiving EI Regular Benefits – New Brunswick (12-Month Averages)



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>10</sup>
- A number of temporary changes to the EI program expiring on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (which had been resulting in higher levels of EI recipients than usual)
- The province experiencing lower than usual levels of unemployment (resulting in a greater number of hours of work being required to qualify for benefits)

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

	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2023
Fredericton-Moncton-Saint John	665	700
Madawaska-Charlotte	630	665
Restigouche-Albert	490	560

Among the province’s youth population, EI usage was significantly higher among males. In an average month, 72% of youth who received EI regular benefits were male.

<sup>9</sup> Sources(s): Statistics Canada, Employment Insurance Statistics (Table 14-10-0011) and Labour Force Survey (Table 14-10-0327).

<sup>10</sup> The “New Brunswick Employment Insurance Connect Program” offered eligible individuals the opportunity to continue to receive regular EI benefits for the duration of their claim while attending an approved training program, before being phased out as a standalone program in June 2022.

## 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.