

Employment Grows and the Unemployment Rate Declines

The number **employed** refers to the number of persons who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 16, 2006), did any work at all for pay or in self-employment or without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice; or, were absent from their job or business, with or without pay, for the entire week because of a vacation, an illness, a labour dispute at their place of work, or any other reasons.

Industry refers to the general nature of the business carried out in the establishment where the person worked.

- New Brunswick employment reached an estimated 344,800 in 2006, up from 325,300 in 2001. Over the five years, total employment increased at an annual average rate of 1.2%. This was below the national rate which averaged 1.7% annually.
- Of the 20 industry sectors, the most significant job growth in the province (industries registering employment gains of more than 2,500 over the 2001-2006 period) came from construction (+3,500), administrative and support services (+3,500), retail trade (+2,900) and healthcare and social assistance (+2,800). Employment declines were evident in manufacturing (-3,200), agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (-700) and utilities (-300).
- In 2006, unemployment rates in the Atlantic provinces all exceeded the national average of 6.6%. New Brunswick's unemployment rate stood at 10.0%, below the rates for Newfoundland and Labrador (18.6%) and Prince Edward Island (11.1%), and also below its 2001 rate of 12.5%.

