

October 2022



604-170 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5V5

613-233-8891
info@csls.ca

CENTRE
FOR THE
STUDY OF
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Covid-19 Labour Market Developments
in New Brunswick Compared to
Canada

Vy Tran

University of Ottawa

October 2022

CSLS Research Report 2022-05

Covid-19 Labour Market Developments in New Brunswick Compared to Canada

Abstract

The present paper attempts to broadly examine whether New Brunswick's pandemic-related responses at the provincial level were successful or not through the assessment of New Brunswick's labour force performance since the start of the pandemic until December 2021 by comparing the latter to that of Canada during the same period. To do so, this paper attempts to show as well as explain some differences between New Brunswick's and Canada's changes pertaining to the prominent labour force characteristics including the size of population and labour force, participation rate, employment at absolute values, employment rate, unemployment at absolute values, unemployment rate, and GDP growth rate based on data published by Statistics Canada. Overall, New Brunswick appear to have a better labour force performance amidst the spread of the pandemic thanks to the timely implementation of stringent public health measures throughout the studied period despite having lower counts and ratios of officially reported deaths, hospitalizations, and infections. Also, the small number of airports with schedule flights coupled with the enactment of the Atlantic bubble agreement helped keep the number and contagion of visitors and newcomers on track, thus prevented the COVID-induced disruptions of the flows of goods and services, therefore optimized the provincial consumption, trades, and employment.

Covid-19 Labour Market Developments in New Brunswick Compared to Canada

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Covid-19 Labour Market Developments in New Brunswick Compared to Canada¹

Introduction

The research paper focuses on assessing the labour market developments in New Brunswick since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020 until December of 2021 in order to understand how different policies and programs can affect the operation and recovery of the labour market in this jurisdiction. The paper will first analyse data and compare the labour market performance between Canada and New Brunswick based on annual, quarterly, and monthly data collected and made available by Statistics Canada. Second, it will attempt to explain by words some differences in labour market performance between Canada and New Brunswick during the same period based on an extensive review of pandemic-related responses taken in New Brunswick.

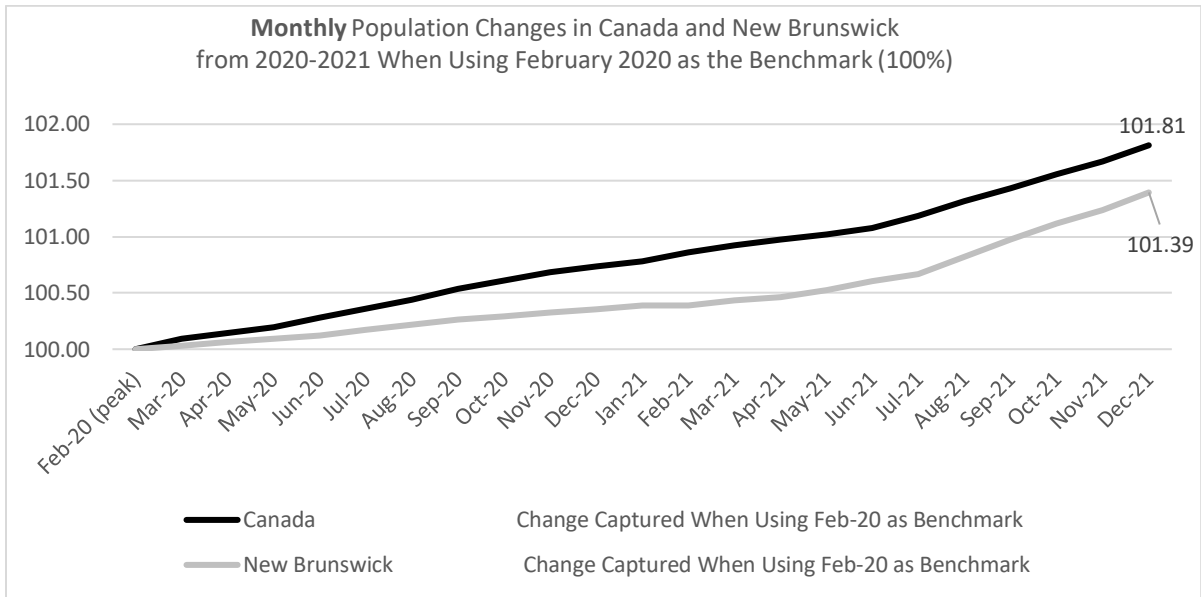
This paper attempts to assess the Covid-19 labour market situation in New Brunswick and Canada by interpreting the charts built upon the data published on the official website of Statistics Canada as well as consulting various federal and provincial government publications, news articles, and peer-reviewed papers. To capture the evolution and trends of the labour market in New Brunswick and Canada prior to and after the peak of the pandemic, February of 2020, the first quarter of 2020, and 2019 are respectively set as the benchmarks for the monthly, quarterly, and yearly changes.

¹ This study was undertaken at the Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) as part of the Directed Research Program run by the Department of Economics at the University of Ottawa. The research was supervised by CSLS Executive Director Dr. Andrew Sharpe. The author was an economics student at the University of Ottawa. Email: vtran045@uottawa.ca

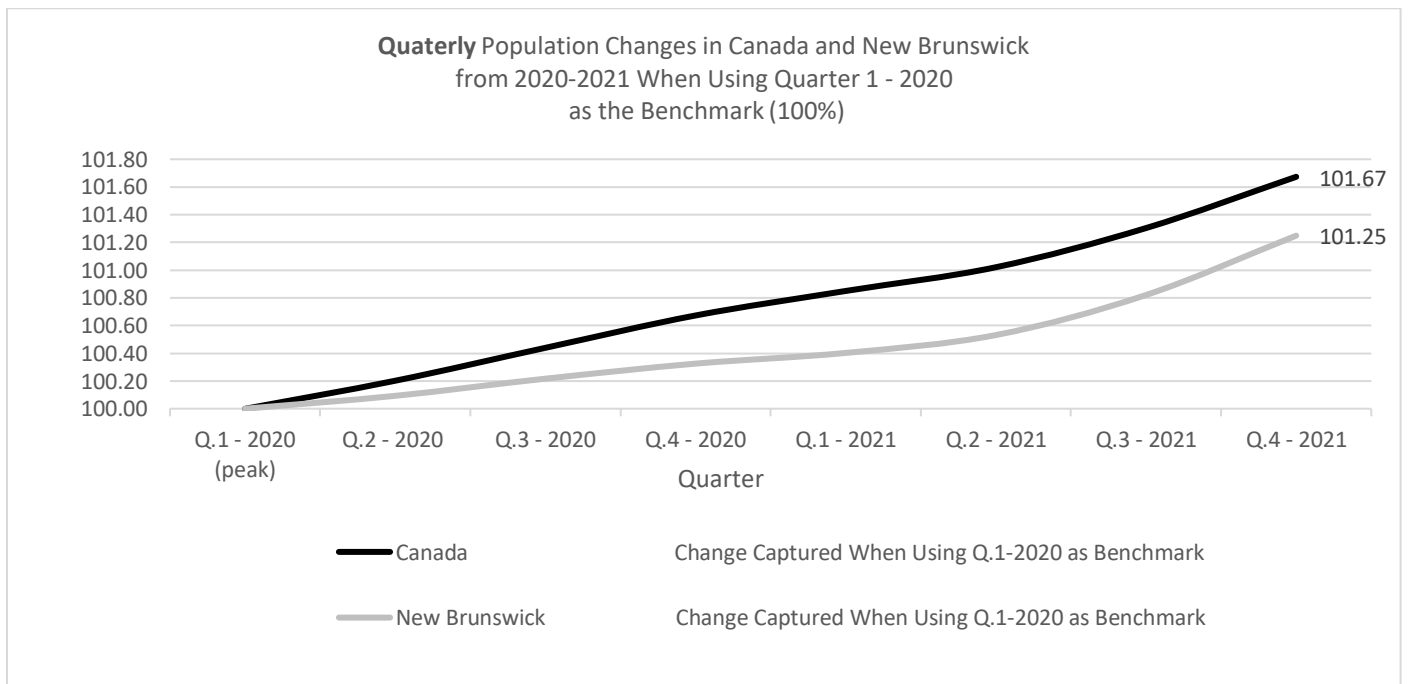
Data Analysis

Chart 1: The comparison between Canada's and New Brunswick's working-age population changes

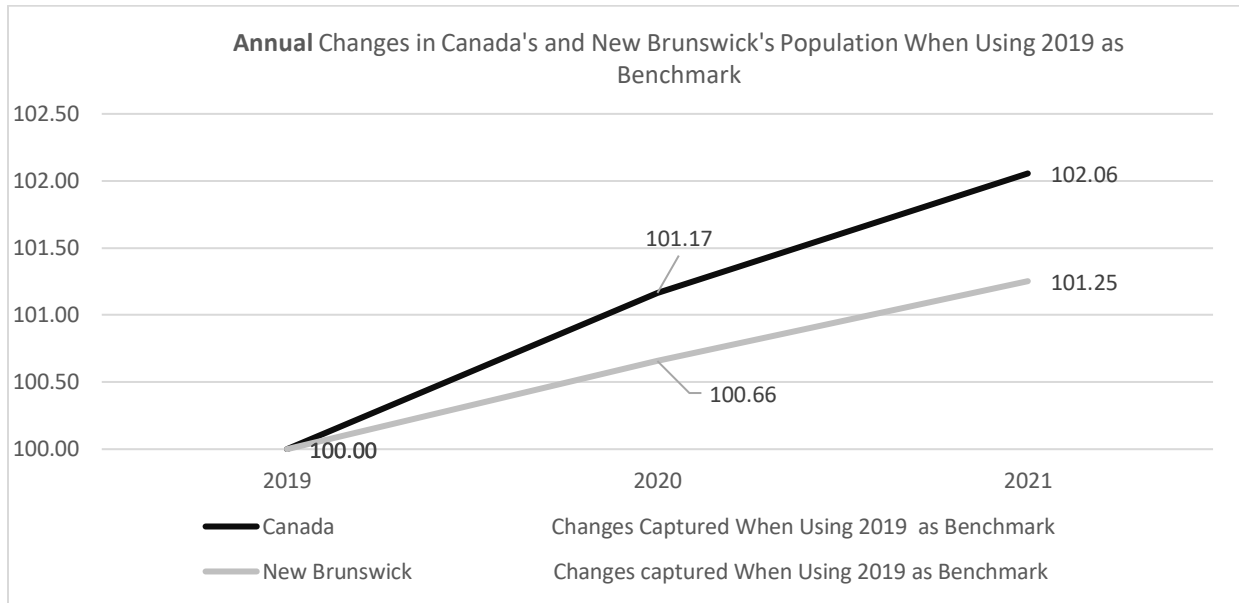
Panel A: Monthly



Panel B: Quarterly



Panel C: Yearly



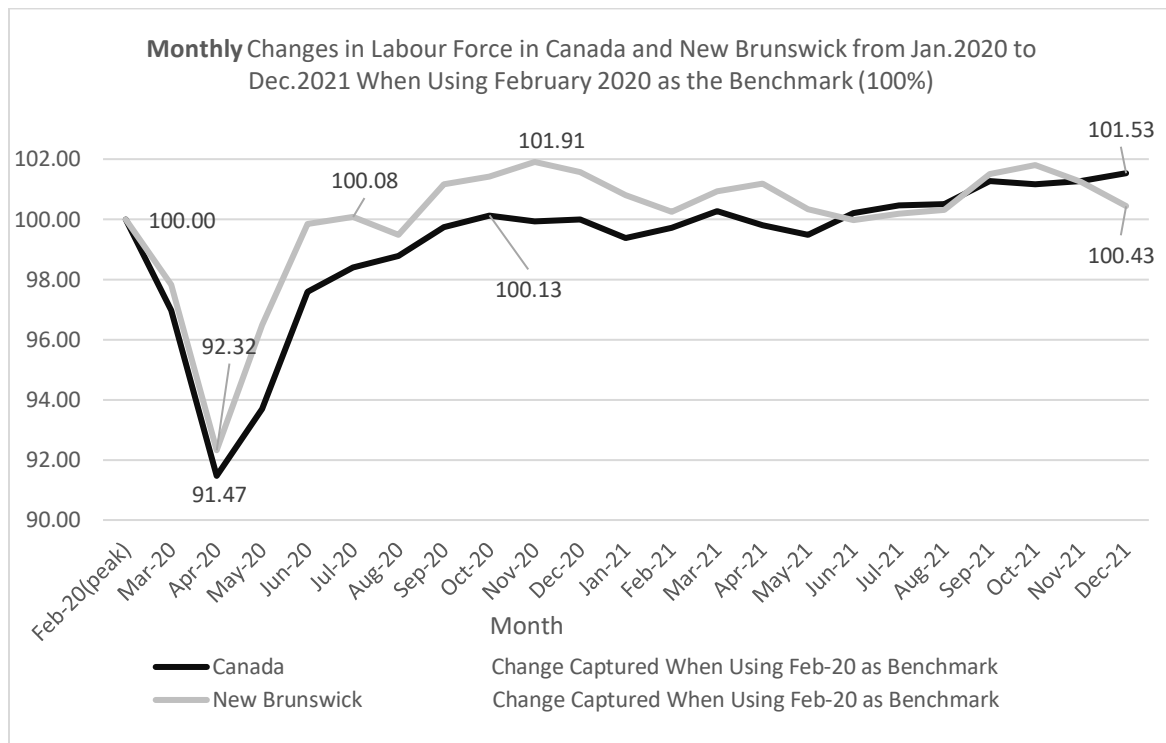
The monthly changes in population growth continuously increased for both Canada and New Brunswick from February 2020 to December 2021. In December 2021, both Canada and New Brunswick's population positively grew by 1.81 per cent and 1.39 per cent respectively compared to February 2020. However, Canada's population growth was faster than that of New Brunswick over the entire considered period. By December 2021, Canada's population grew by 0.42 percentage points faster than that of New Brunswick.

This chart also shows an increasingly positive evolution in the population of Canada and New Brunswick from the first quarter of 2020 to the last quarter of 2021. The largest increase in population was observed in the fourth quarter of 2021 for both jurisdictions: 1.67 per cent for Canada and 1.25 per cent for New Brunswick compared to quarter one of 2020. Canada's quarterly population changes were higher than that of New Brunswick over the entire considered period, by 0.42 percentage points by the last quarter of 2021.

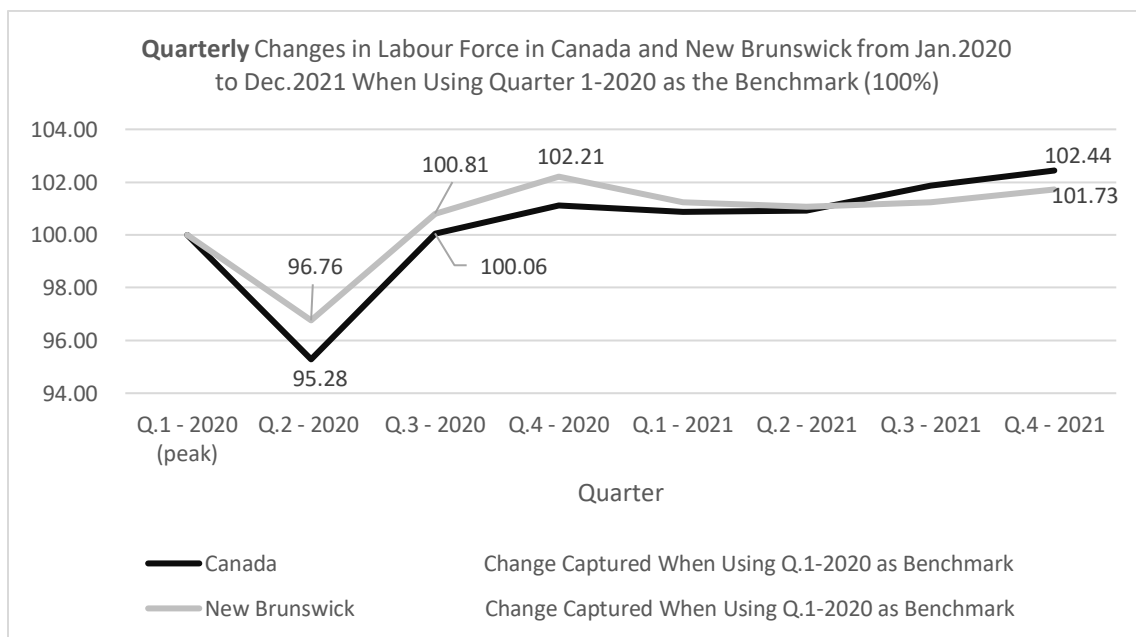
Similarly, the annual changes show that both Canada and New Brunswick saw their population continuously growing year by year from 2019 to 2021. More precisely, in 2020, the Canadian population grew by 1.17 per cent and New Brunswick, by 0.66 per cent compared to the 2019 benchmark. From 2020 to 2021, Canada's population saw a positive change of 0.89 percentage points, and New Brunswick's, 0.59 percentage points. Overall, compared to 2019, in 2021, the Canadian population grew by 2.06 per cent and that of New Brunswick, by 1.25 per cent. By 2021, Canada's population growth was 0.81 percentage point higher than New Brunswick.

Chart 2: The comparison between Canada's and New Brunswick's evolutions of labour force

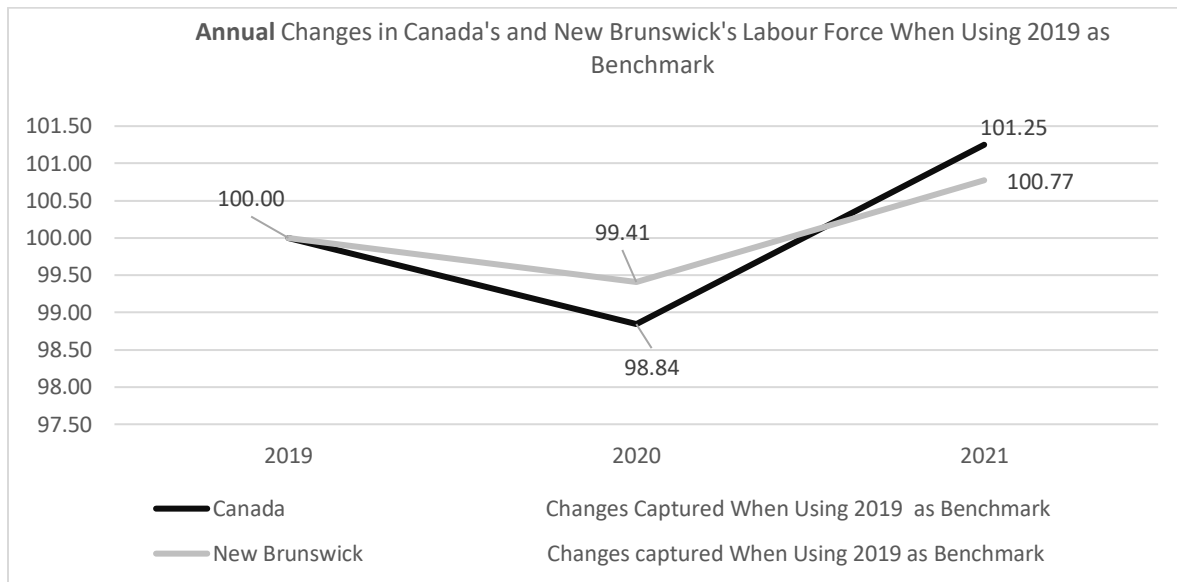
Panel A: Monthly



Panel B: Quarterly



Panel C: Yearly



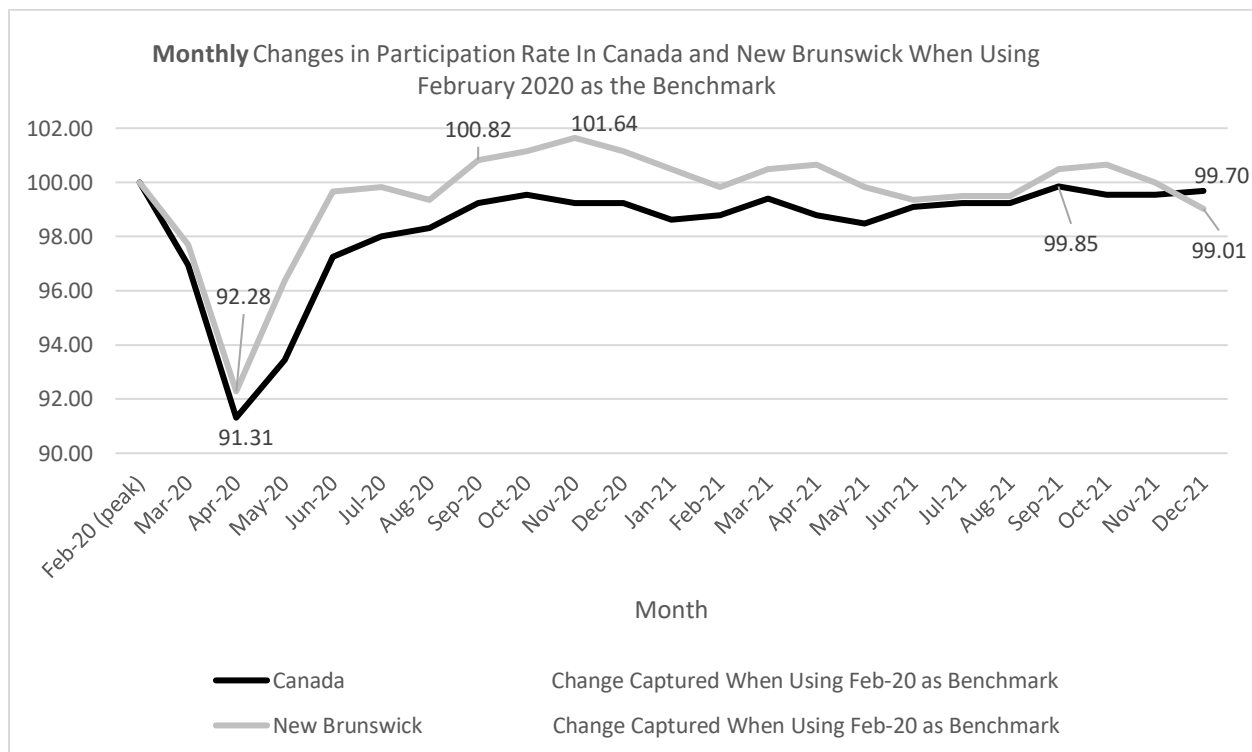
Panel A indicates that both Canada and New Brunswick saw their largest fall in the labour force in April 2020 by 8.53 per cent and 7.68 per cent respectively compared to February 2020. Canada's labour force returned to its pre-pandemic level in October 2020 and New Brunswick, in July 2020. In November 2020, New Brunswick saw an all-time high increase during the studied period, an increase by 1.91 per cent compared to February 2020. Nonetheless, after this, New Brunswick's labour force size had the tendency to return to its pre-pandemic level. Generally speaking, from February 2020 to June 2021, New Brunswick's labour force was less affected by the pandemic than Canada as a whole. From July 2021 to December 2021, Canada saw a more positive evolution in its labour force compared to New Brunswick. By December 2021, the difference between these two jurisdictions was 1.10 percentage points.

Panel B shows that the largest fall in the labour force of Canada and New Brunswick occurred in the second quarter of 2020, by 4.72 per cent and 3.24 per cent respectively. Both New Brunswick and Canada regained their original level of labour force by the third quarter of 2020. From the quarter two of 2020 to the quarter two of 2021, New Brunswick's increases in labour force were larger than Canada. In the quarter four of 2020, New Brunswick saw its biggest increase in the labour force size, which was 2.21 per cent higher than the pre-pandemic level set in the first quarter of 2020. However, New Brunswick's positive changes in labour force started declining and flattening out from the fourth quarter of 2020 to the second quarter of 2021. Once returning to the pre-pandemic level, Canada's labour force size remained relatively in the same stage from the fourth quarter of 2020 until the second quarter of 2021. In the third and fourth quarters of 2021, Canada's labour force increased faster than New Brunswick by a difference of 0.71 percentage point in the last quarter of 2021.

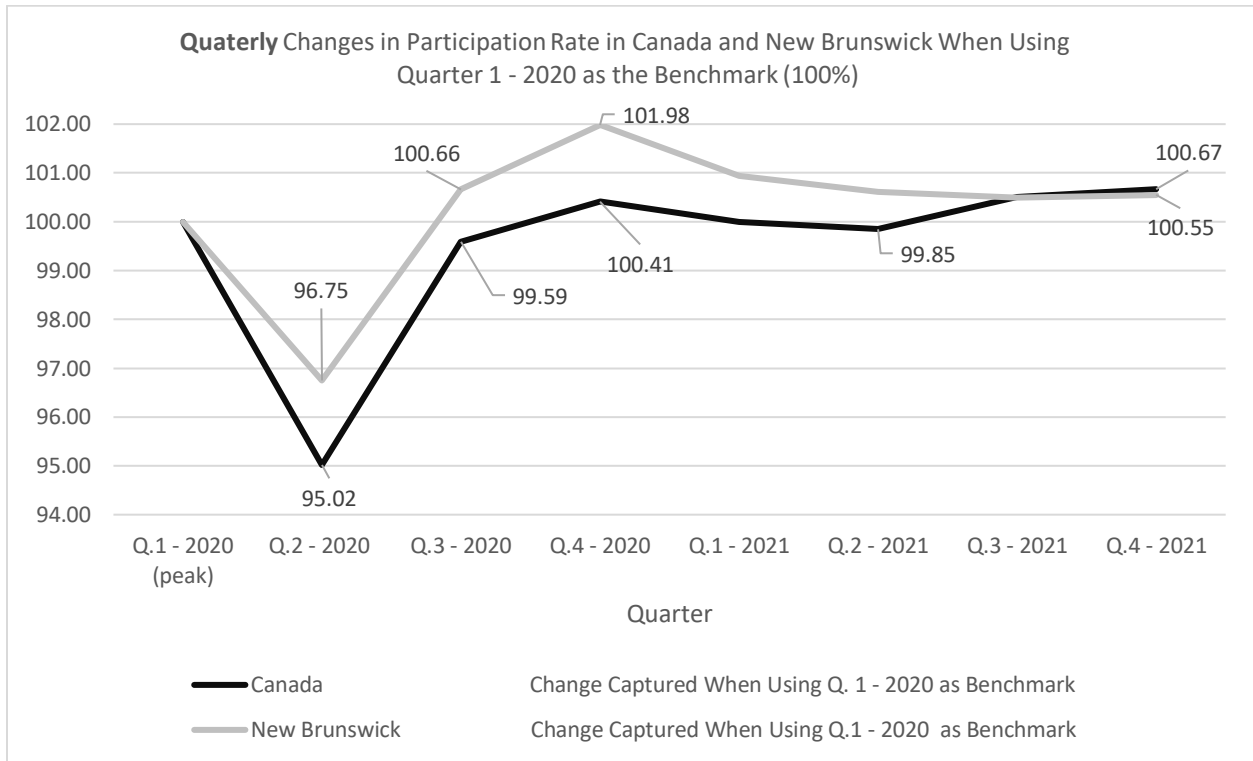
When looking at the annual picture, the biggest drop in the labour force for both Canada and New Brunswick occurred in 2020. In 2020, Canada's labour force decreased by 1.16 per cent and New Brunswick, by 0.59 per cent compared to 2019, the benchmark year. In 2021, both Canada and New Brunswick saw their labour force surpassing 2019 by 1.25 per cent and 0.77 per cent respectively. That said, Canada saw a larger decrease in labour force in 2020 and a better recovery in its labour force in 2021. In 2020, New Brunswick's labour force was less affected by the pandemic by a difference of 0.57 percentage point compared to Canada. In 2021, Canada's labour force increased faster than that of New Brunswick by 0.48 percentage point.

Chart 3: The comparison between Canada's and New Brunswick's annual participation rates

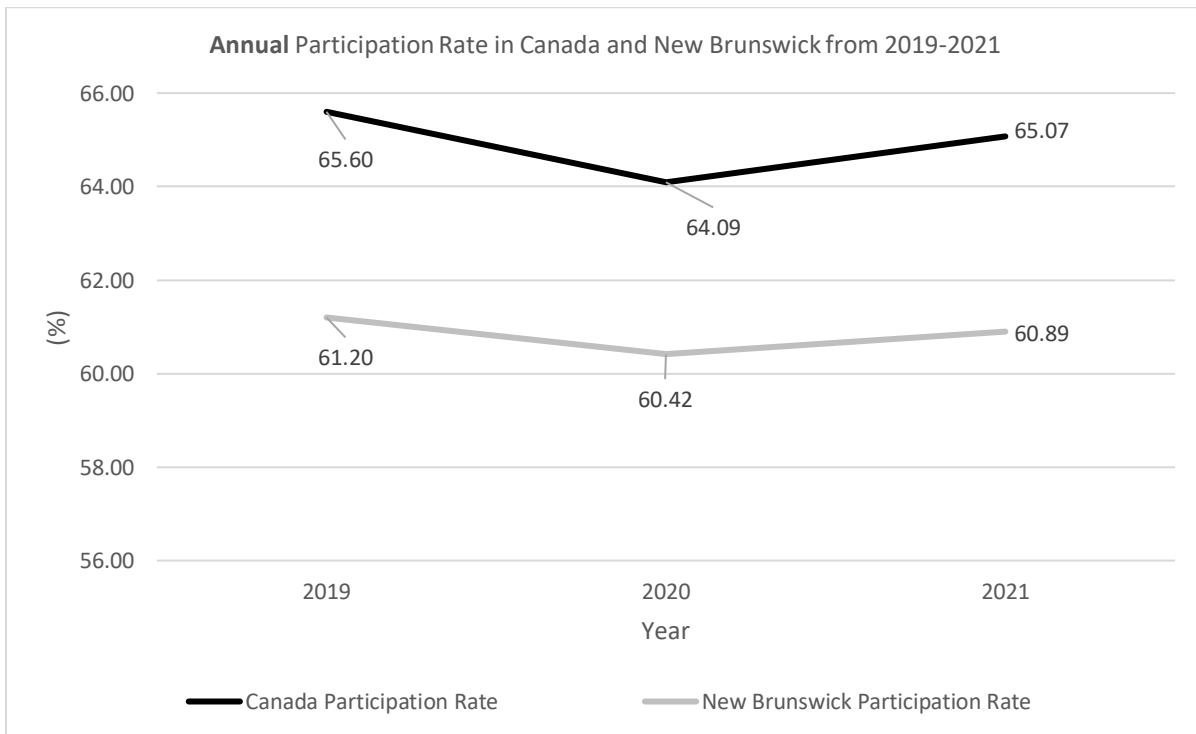
Panel A: Monthly



Panel B: Quarterly



Panel C: Yearly



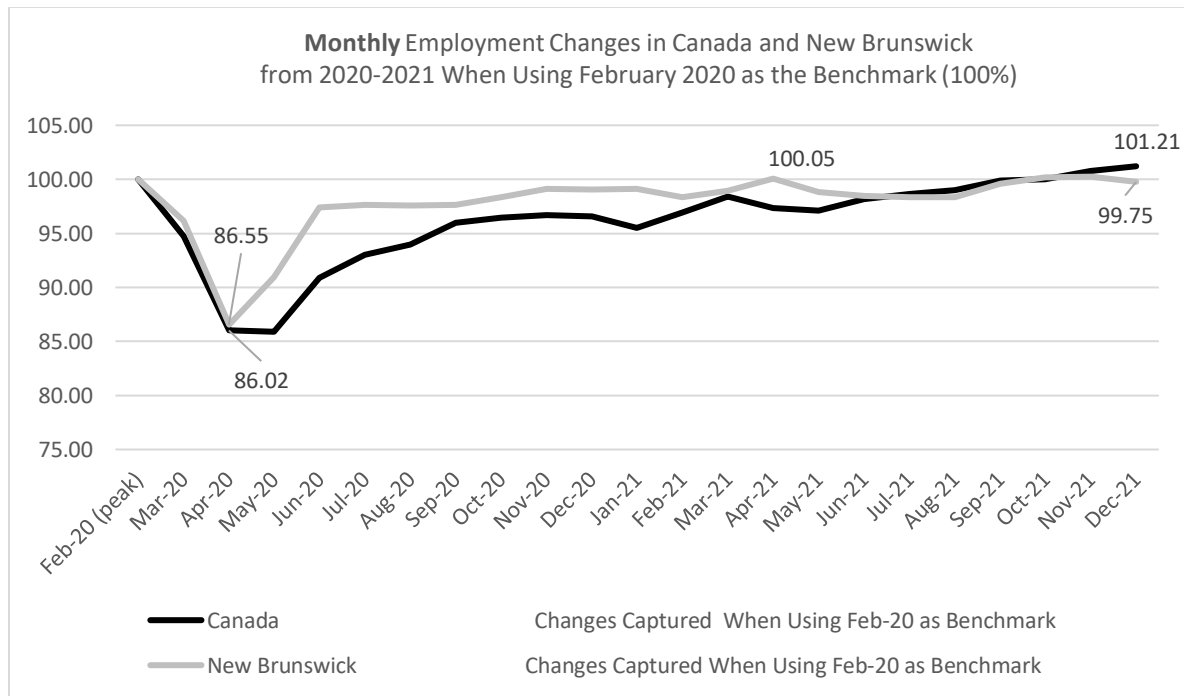
This chart shows that the participation rate in Canada and New Brunswick dropped the most in April 2020, by 8.69 per cent and 7.72 per cent respectively compared to their benchmark level set in February 2020. New Brunswick returned to its benchmark participation rate by September 2020, much more quickly than Canada whose participation rate never fully recovered over the entire studied period: Canada's largest increase in participation rate occurred in September 2021, which remained 0.15 per cent lower than the benchmark level. New Brunswick's participation rate saw its largest increase in November 2020, by 1.64 per cent compared to February 2020. Speaking of Canada as a whole, following the drop in April 2020, until November 2021, Canada's participation rate recovered slower than that of New Brunswick. In December 2021, both Canada's and New Brunswick's participation rate were 0.30 per cent and 0.99 per cent lower than their benchmark levels, which means that Canada's participation rate recovered better than that of New Brunswick in December 2021 by a difference of 0.69 percentage points.

Regarding the quarterly changes in Canada's and New Brunswick's participation rate, both jurisdictions experienced their largest drop in the second quarter of 2020 by 4.98 per cent and 3.25 per cent respectively compared to the first quarter of 2020. New Brunswick's participation rate returned and surpassed its benchmark level by 0.66 per cent in the quarter three of 2020, then reached its highest increase, by 1.98 per cent, in the fourth quarter of 2020, and finally flattened out and remained constant at a level slightly above its pre-pandemic stage, by 0.55 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2021. Canada's participation rate returned to its benchmark level between the third and fourth quarters of 2020. From the quarter four of 2020 to the quarter two of 2021, Canada's participation rate remained relatively stagnant around the benchmark level. In the fourth quarter of 2021, Canada's quarterly changes in participation rate are higher than that of New Brunswick with a 0.12-percentage-point difference. The last quarter of 2021 saw the largest increase in Canada's participation rate, a change by 0.67 per cent above its pre-pandemic level

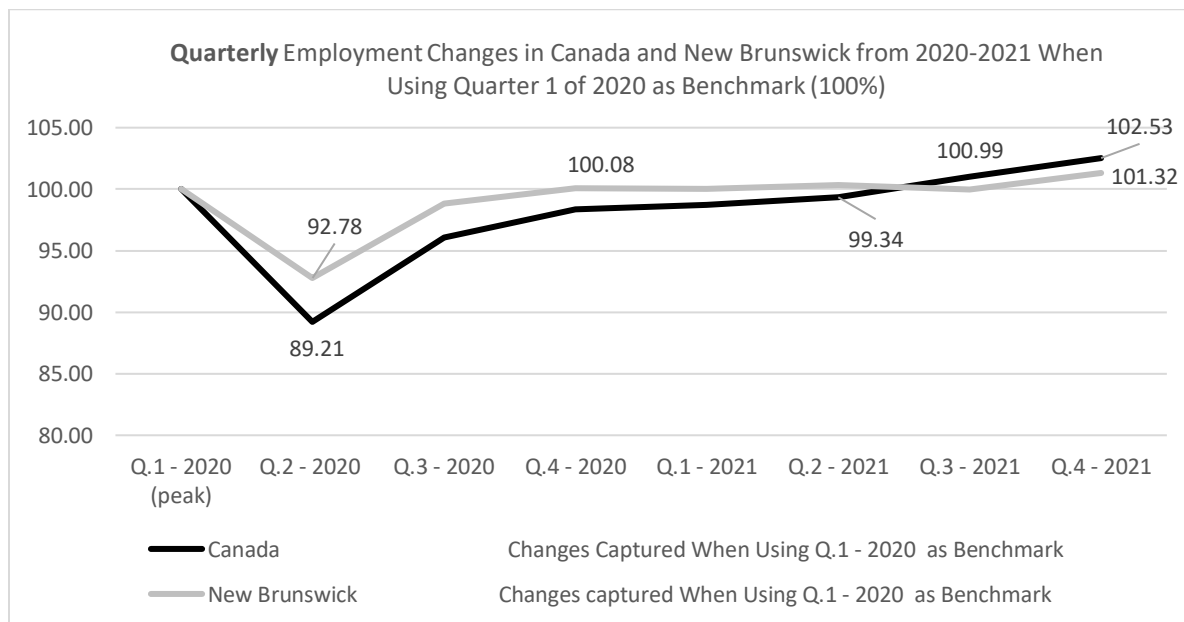
When looking at the yearly picture, in 2020, the participation rates in Canada and New Brunswick dropped by 1.51 and 0.78 percentage points respectively. That said, New Brunswick's 2020 participation rate declined less than that of Canada. Compared to 2020, in 2021, Canada saw an 0.98 percentage point increase in its participation rate, and New Brunswick, by 0.47 percentage point. Therefore, Canada's 2021 participation rate recovered faster than New Brunswick. In 2021, both Canada and New Brunswick' participation rates remained lower than the 2019 level, the pre-pandemic year, by 0.01 and 0.31 percentage point respectively.

Chart 4: The comparison between Canada's and New Brunswick's annual employment at the absolute level

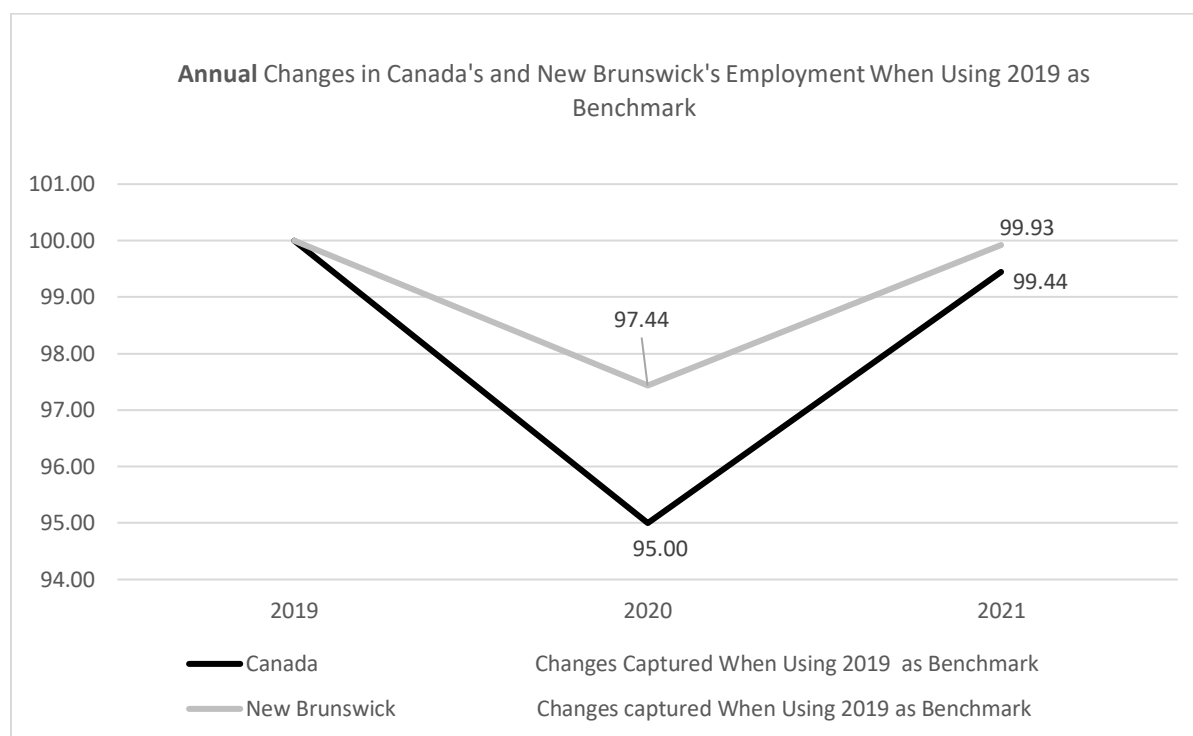
Panel A: Monthly



Panel B: Quarterly



Panel C: Yearly



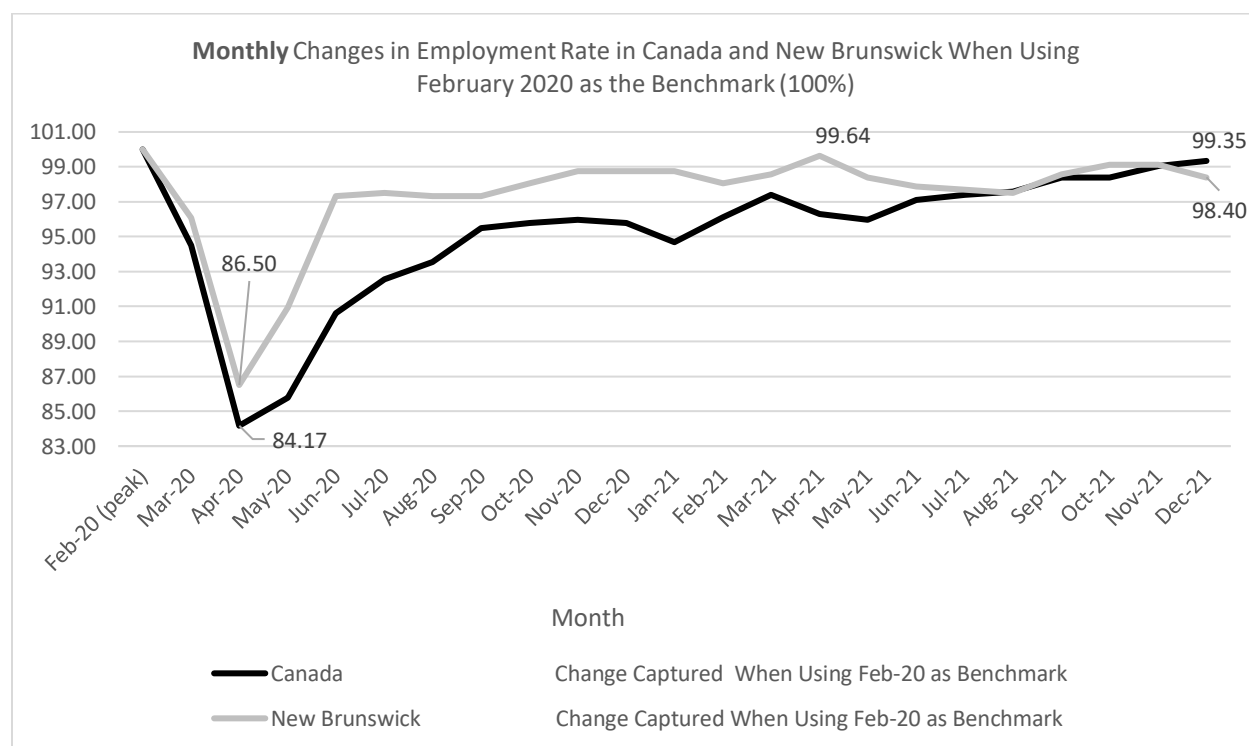
Both Canada and New Brunswick saw its worst drop in number of employments in April 2020 by 13.98 per cent and 13.45 per cent compared to the February 2020 benchmark. From May 2020 to June 2021, New Brunswick's increases in employment were higher than that of Canada and overall remained lower than the pre-pandemic level. From November 2021 to December 2021, Canada's increases in employment surpassed that of New Brunswick. In December 2021, Canada's employment level was 1.21 per cent higher than its benchmark level, and that of New Brunswick was 0.25 per cent lower than its pre-pandemic level. The percentage point difference between these two jurisdictions was 1.46 by December 2021.

This current chart shows that both Canada and New Brunswick saw their largest drop in quarterly employment in the second quarter of 2020, more precisely, by 10.79 per cent and 7.22 per cent respectively, compared to the benchmark level set at the first quarter of 2020. From quarter three of 2020 to quarter two of 2021, New Brunswick's increases in employment were higher than that of Canada. In the fourth quarter of 2020, New Brunswick's quarterly employment level was able to surpass its pre-pandemic level by 0.08 per cent. Canada was also able to return to its benchmark level of employment between the second and the third quarter of 2021. From quarter three to quarter four of 2021, Canada's changes in number of employments became higher than that of New Brunswick. In the last quarter of 2021, both Canada's and New Brunswick's number of employments surpassed their pre-pandemic stage by 2.53 per cent and 1.32 per cent respectively. Within the same period, the percentage point difference between these two jurisdictions was 1.21 percentage points.

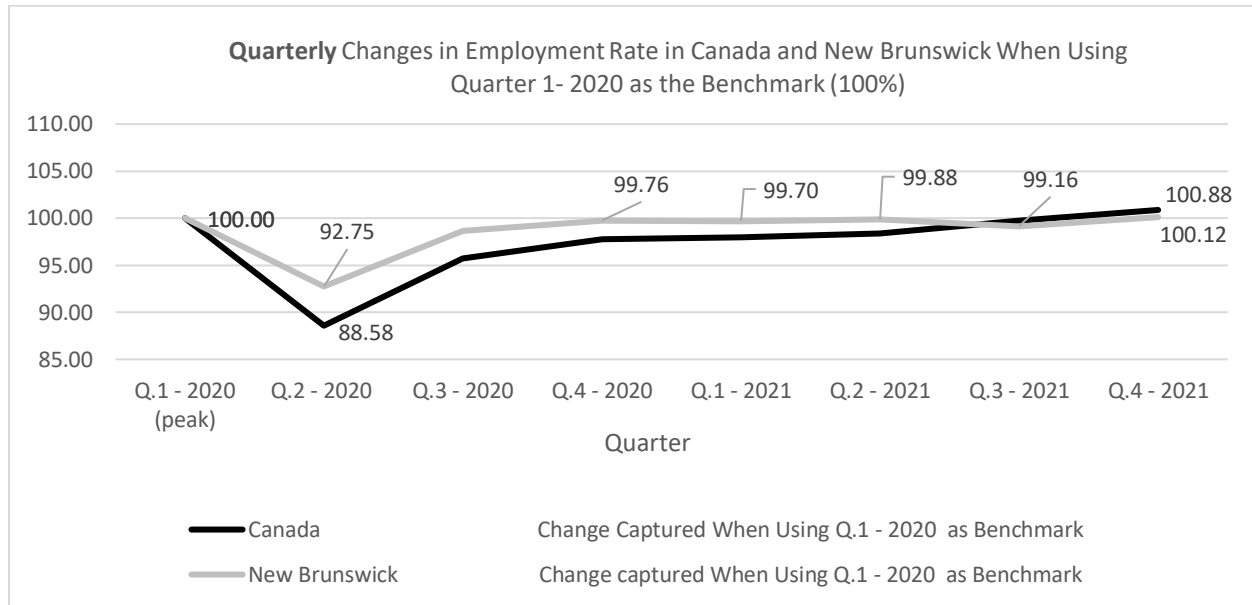
At the yearly level, both Canada and New Brunswick saw their employment dropped the most in 2020 by 5.00 per cent and 2.56 per cent. The percentage point difference between these two jurisdictions in 2020 was 2.44. In 2021, Canada's employment level was 0.56 per cent lower and that of New Brunswick was 0.07 per cent lower than their pre-pandemic level. That said, New Brunswick saw a smaller drop in number of employments in 2020 and a better recovery in number of employments in 2021. In 2021, New Brunswick's employment level was 0.49 percentage point higher than that of Canada.

Chart 5: The comparison between Canada's and New Brunswick's employment rates

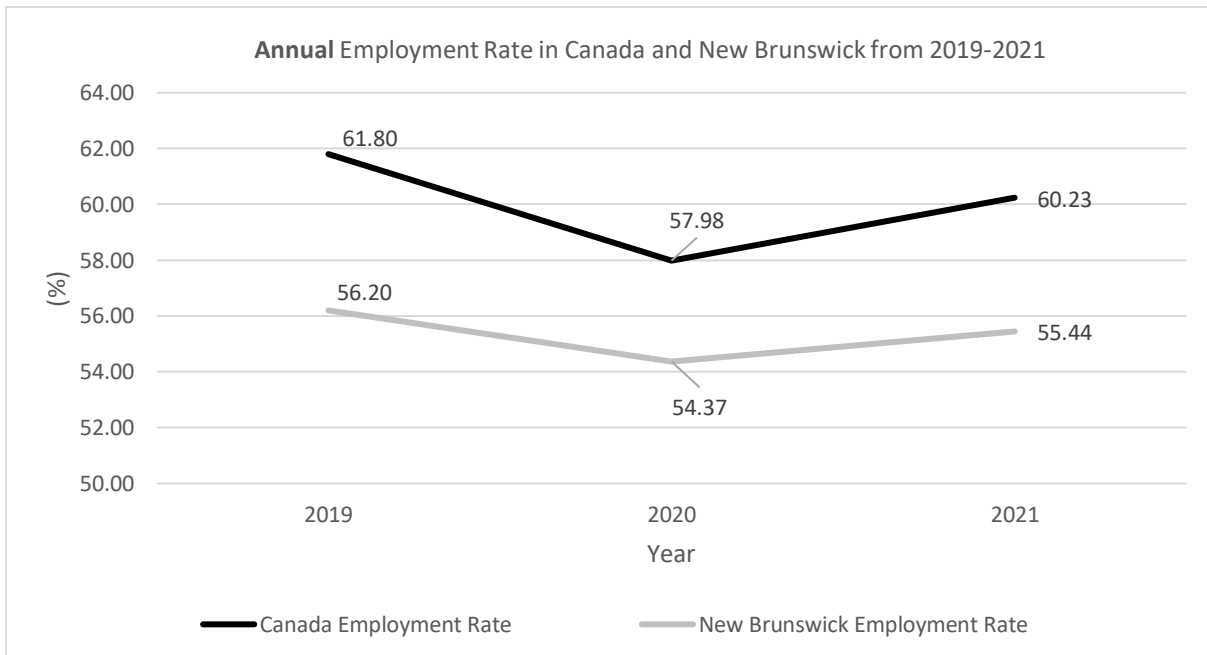
Panel A: Monthly



Panel B: Quarterly



Panel C: Yearly



Panel A suggests that Canada and New Brunswick saw their largest fall in employment rate during the COVID pandemic, by 15.83 per cent and 13.50 per cent respectively in April 2020 compared to February 2020. Following this drop, New Brunswick's employment rate

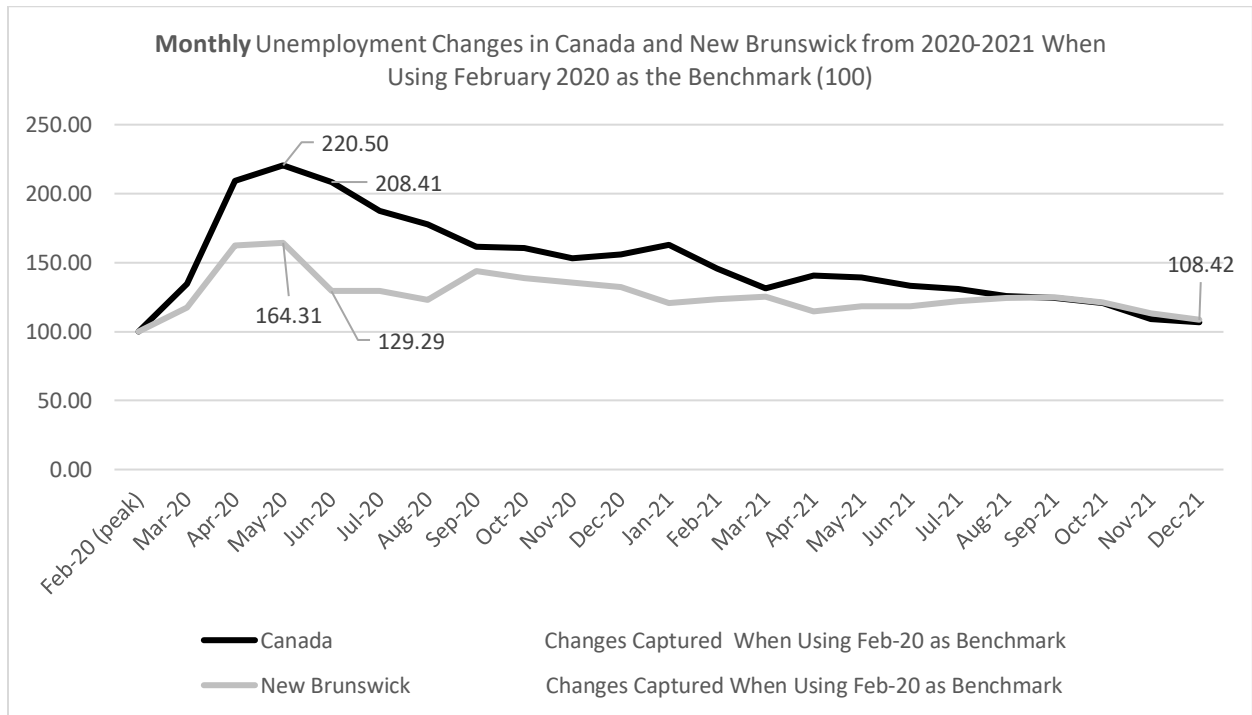
bounced back more quickly than Canada but could not reach its pre-pandemic level by December 2021. Speaking of Canada as a whole, following the April 2020 decline, the country saw its employment rate constantly rose back to the near pre-pandemic level. From May 2020 to July 2021, Canada's increases in employment rate were lower than that of New Brunswick. From November to December 2021, Canada's increases in employment rate surpassed that of New Brunswick. By December 2021, the percentage point difference between Canada and New Brunswick was 0.95.

Panel B shows that compared to the first quarter of 2020, New Brunswick's and Canada's employment rate dropped the most in the second quarter of 2020, by 7.25 per cent and 11.42 per cent respectively. According to this chart, from the fourth quarter of 2020 to the third quarter of 2021, New Brunswick's employment rate saw a recovery that constantly remained more or less 1.00 per cent lower than the benchmark level. In the last quarter of 2021, New Brunswick saw an increase in employment rate that surpassed its pre-pandemic level by 0.12 per cent. As for Canada, following the drop in the second quarter of 2020, its employment rate had the tendency to rise continuously. However, from the second quarter of 2020 to the second quarter of 2021, Canada's positive changes in employment rate remained lower than that of New Brunswick. From the third to the fourth quarters of 2021, Canada's quarterly employment rate surpassed that of New Brunswick, by 0.76 percentage point

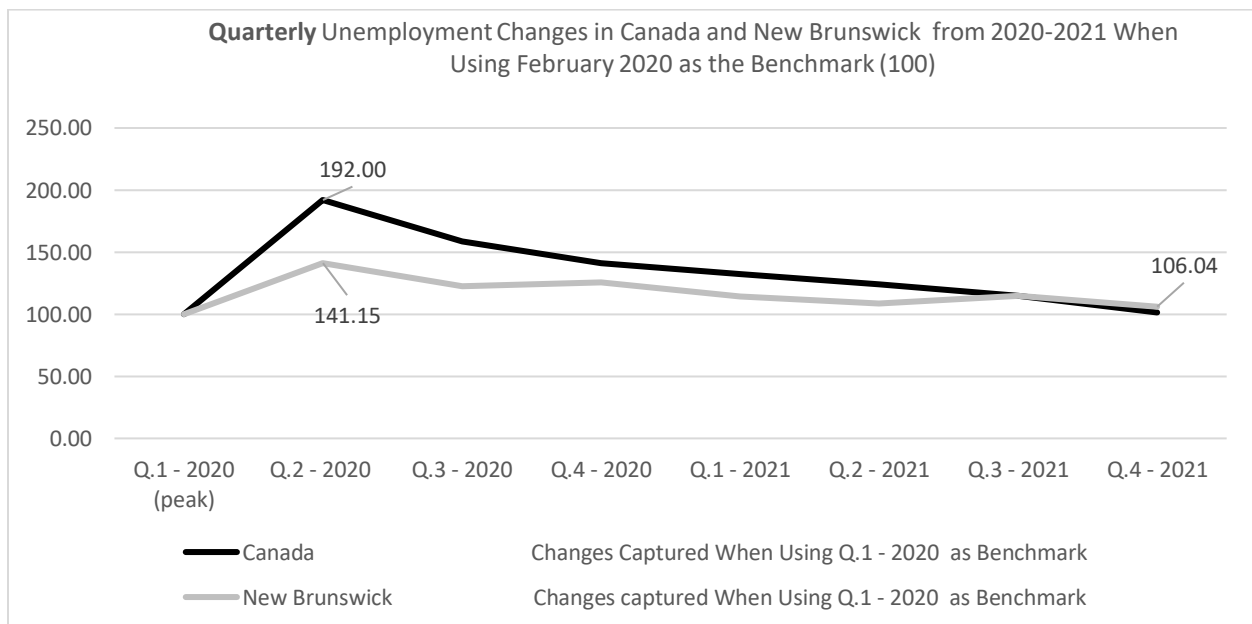
2020 saw the largest drop in the employment rate for both jurisdictions, by 3.82 percentage points for Canada and 1.83 percentage points for New Brunswick compared to 2019. In 2021, both jurisdictions saw an improvement in their employment rate, but none of them could return to the pre-pandemic level. Canada's 2021 employment rate was 1.57 percentage points lower than its benchmark level in 2019, and New Brunswick, by 0.76 percentage points. Compared to 2020, Canada's 2021 employment rate rose by 2.25 percentage points and New Brunswick, by 1.07 percentage points. That said, New Brunswick experienced a smaller drop in 2020 whereas Canada saw a faster recovery in employment rate in 2021.

Chart 6: The comparison between Canada's and New Brunswick's annual unemployment at the absolute level

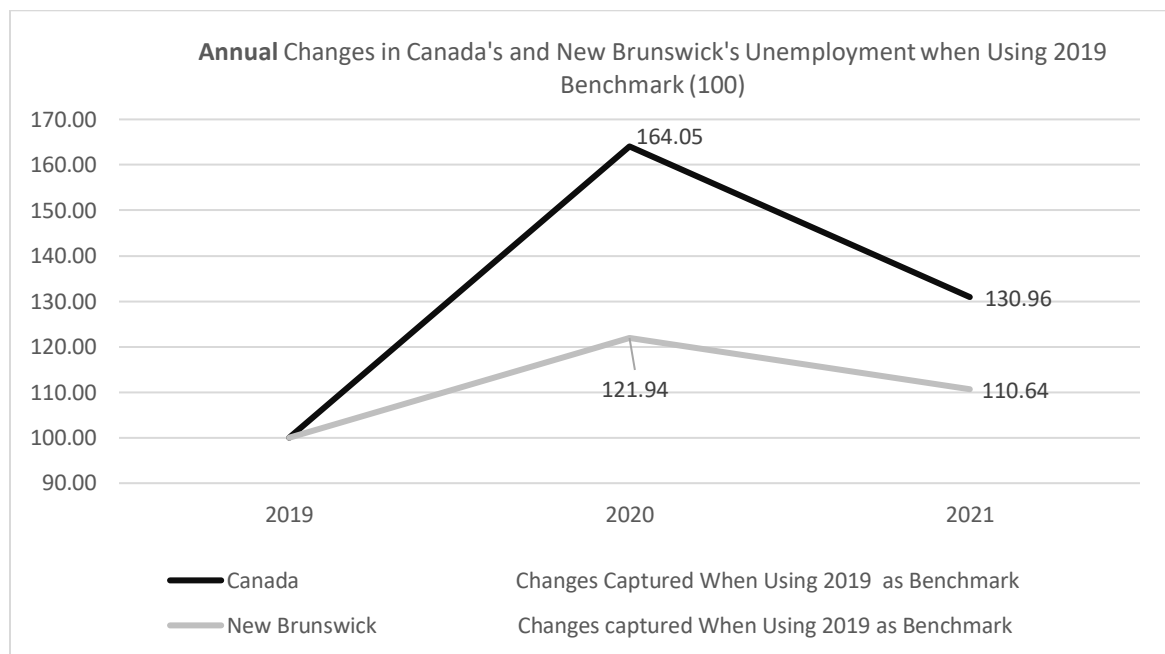
Panel A: Monthly



Panel B: Quarterly



Panel C: Yearly



Panel A shows that Canada and New Brunswick saw the largest increase in their unemployment level in May 2020: Canada's unemployment increased by 120.50 per cent and New Brunswick's, by 64.31 per cent compared to February 2020, the benchmark level. From March 2020 to August 2021, Canada's increases of unemployed population were higher than that of New Brunswick. The biggest gap between the monthly unemployment level of these two jurisdictions occurred in June 2020: 79.12 percentage points. Throughout the months, both Canada and New Brunswick saw their unemployment level eventually returning to their benchmark level. By December 2021, New Brunswick's level of unemployment was 8.42 per cent higher than its pre-pandemic level, and Canada, by 6.78 per cent. Within the same month, New Brunswick also saw a larger increase in number of unemployment compared to Canada, a difference of 1.64 percentage points.

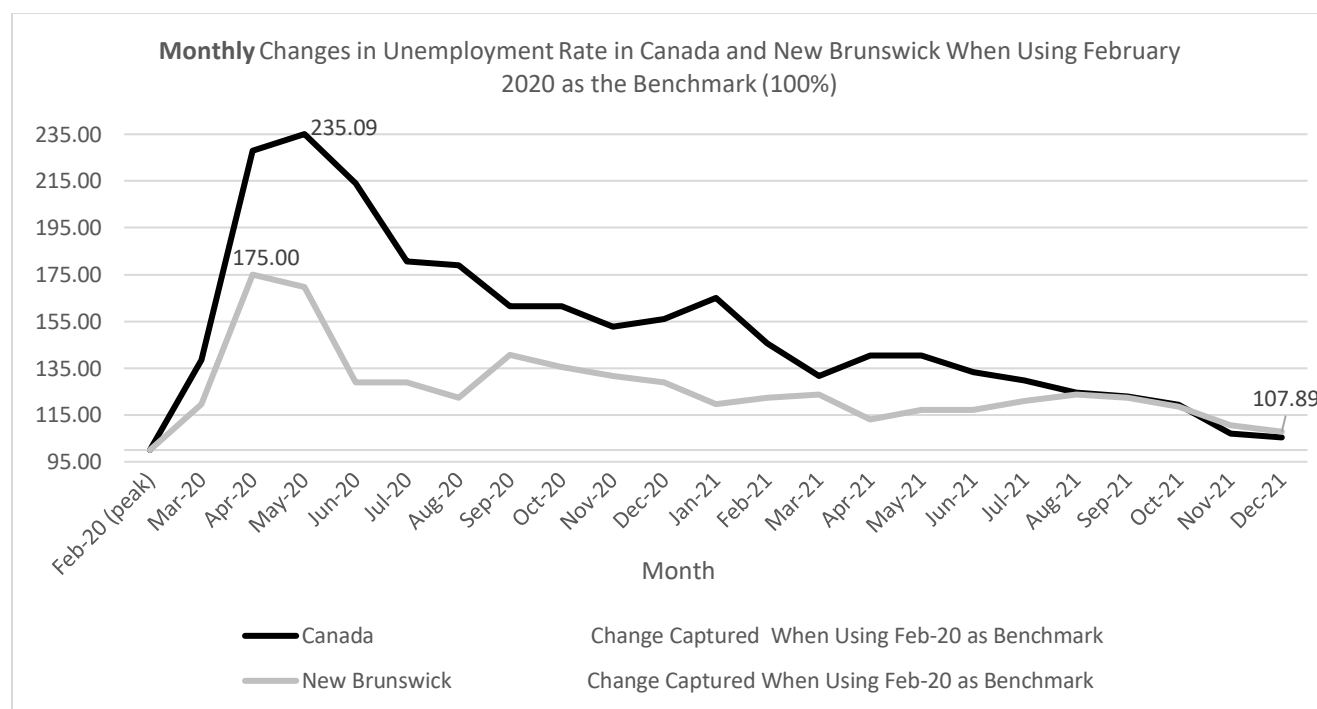
Panel B shows that both Canada and New Brunswick experienced the highest increase in their level of unemployment in the second quarter of 2020. More precisely, Canada's number of unemployment increased by 92.00 per cent and New Brunswick, by 41.15 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2020. From the third quarter of 2020 to the second quarter of 2021, Canada saw higher increases in unemployment compared to New Brunswick. From the third quarter of 2021 to the last quarter of 2021, Canada's increases in unemployed population became smaller than that of New Brunswick. By the fourth quarter of 2021, both Canada and New Brunswick could not return to their benchmark level: Canada's unemployment was 1.2 per cent higher than the first quarter of 2020, and New Brunswick, by 6.04 per cent. The

percentage point difference between Canada and New Brunswick in the last quarter of 2021 was 4.84.

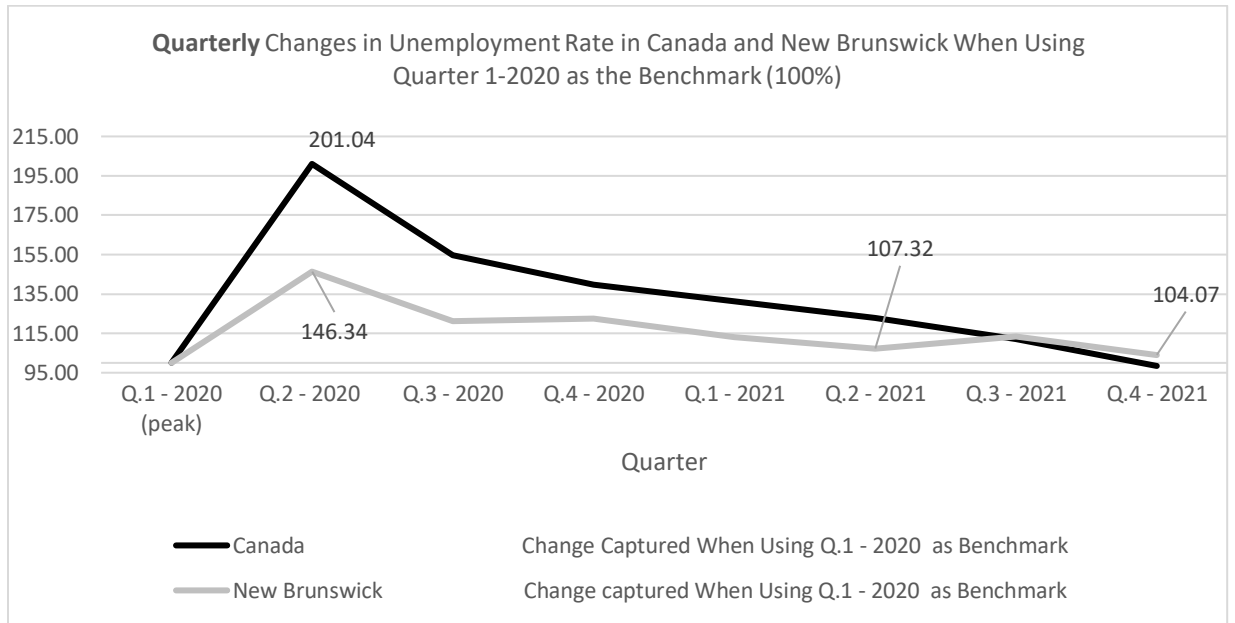
At the annual level, compared to 2019, Canada's and New Brunswick's 2020 number of unemployment increased by 64.05 per cent and 21.94 per cent respectively. The yearly percentage point differences between these two jurisdictions in 2020 and 2021 respectively are 42.11 and 20.32. In 2021, Canada's unemployment level was 30.96 per cent higher than the benchmark level set in 2019, and New Brunswick, by 10.64 per cent higher than its pre-pandemic level. Compared to 2020, in 2021, Canada saw a decline of 33.09 percentage points and New Brunswick, a decline of 11.30 percentage points. That said, even though Canada experienced a higher increase in unemployment at the absolute level in 2020, this jurisdiction saw a larger decline in unemployed population in 2021.

Chart 7: The comparison between Canada's and New Brunswick's unemployment rate

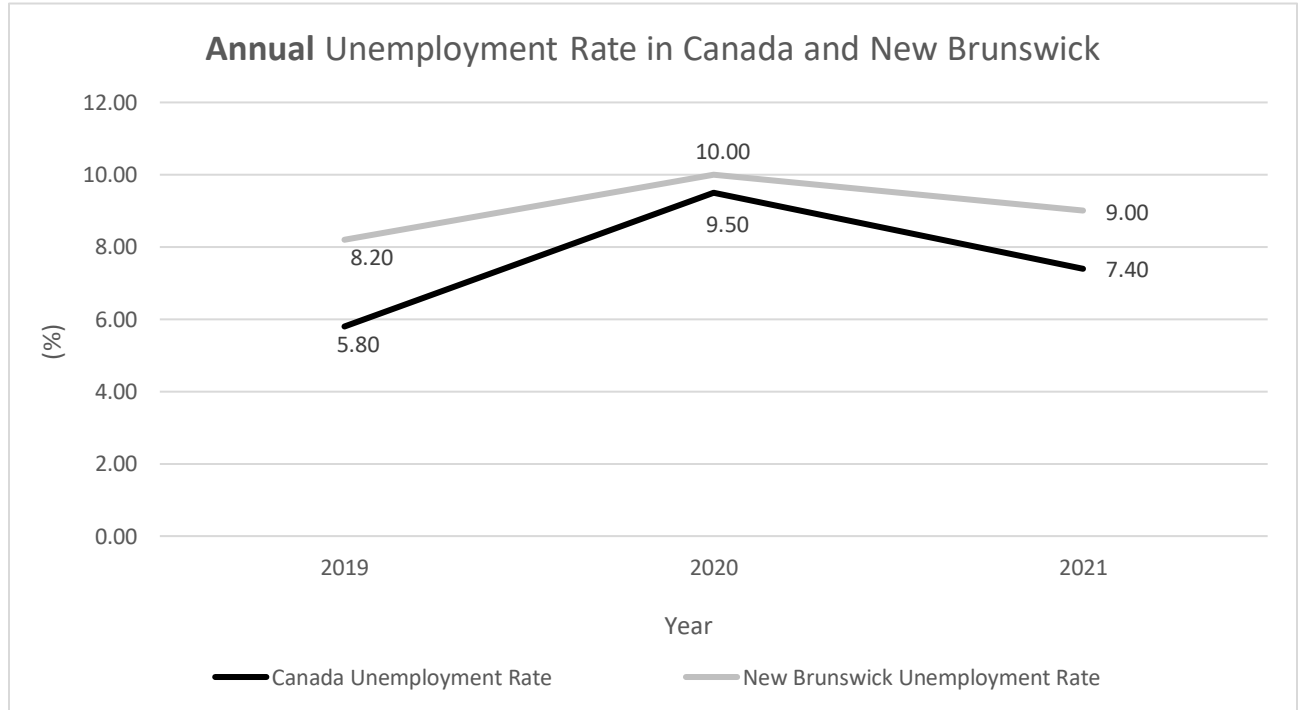
Panel A: Monthly



Panel B: Quarterly



Panel C: Yearly



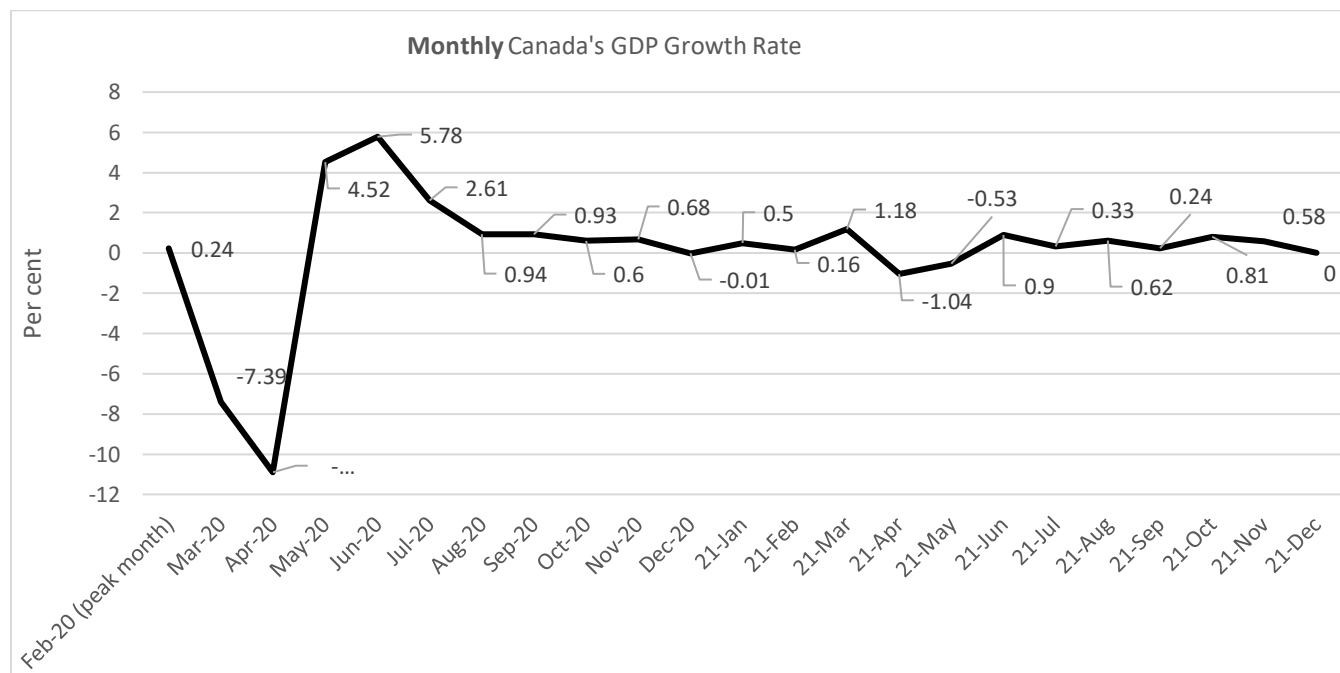
This chart shows that compared to February 2020, Canada saw the largest increase in its unemployment rate, an increase by 135.09 per cent in May 2020 and New Brunswick, by 75.00 per cent in April 2020. Following April 2020, both jurisdictions saw their unemployment rate continuously decreased. However, from May 2020 to October 2021, Canada's declines in unemployment rates were smaller than that of New Brunswick. By December 2021, both Canada and New Brunswick reached its lowest level of unemployment rate since the beginning of the pandemic, which however remained 7.89 per cent and 5.26 per cent respectively higher than their pre-pandemic unemployment rate set in February 2020. The percentage point difference between these two jurisdictions in December 2021 was 2.63 percentage points.

Regarding the quarterly changes in unemployment rate, both Canada and New Brunswick saw their biggest increase in unemployment rate in the second quarter of 2020, by 101.04 per cent and 46.34 per cent respectively. From the quarter two of 2020 to the quarter two of 2021, Canada experienced a smaller decline in unemployment rate compared to New Brunswick. Nonetheless, from the third quarter of 2021 to the last quarter of 2021, Canada's decreases in quarterly unemployment rate were larger than that of New Brunswick. In the fourth quarter of 2021, Canada's unemployment rate was 1.56 per cent lower than its benchmark unemployment rate, and New Brunswick's unemployment rate surpassed its pre-pandemic level by 4.07 per cent. The percentage point difference between these two jurisdictions was 5.63.

When looking at the annual picture with 2019 as the benchmark year, in 2020, Canada saw a larger increase in its unemployment rate meaning 3.70 percentage points higher than the pre-pandemic level, whereas New Brunswick saw an increase of 1.80 percentage point. Compared to 2020, in 2021, both Canada and New Brunswick saw their unemployment rate declining by 2.10 and 1.00 percentage points respectively. That said, Canada's annual unemployment rate increased faster than New Brunswick in 2020 but also declined by a larger scope in 2021. None of the jurisdictions was able to get back to their initial unemployment rate: The 2021 unemployment rate in Canada and New Brunswick remained 1.60 and 0.80 percentage points higher than their pre-pandemic level set in 2019. In 2020, the percentage point difference between Canada and New Brunswick was 0.50. In 2021, New Brunswick's annual unemployment rate is 1.60 percentage points higher than Canada.

Chart 8: Canada's monthly and quarterly GDP growth rate and a comparison between Canada's and New Brunswick's annual GDP growth rate

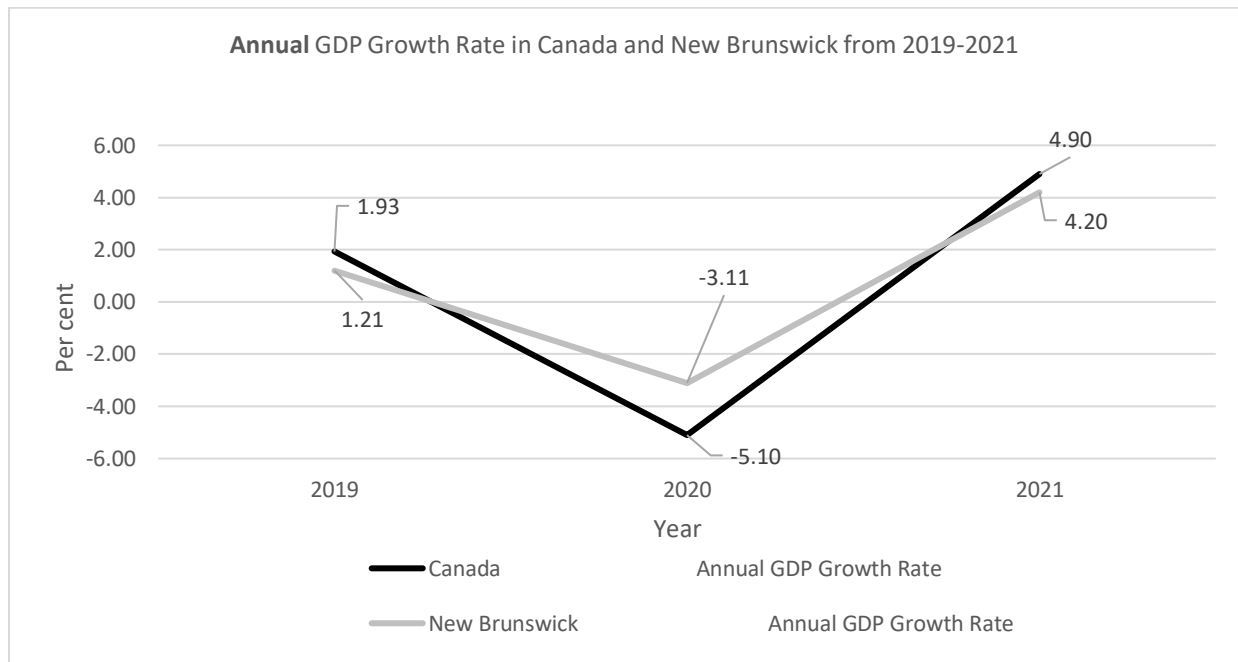
Panel A: Monthly



Panel B: Quarterly



Panel C: Yearly



This chart shows that the biggest drop among the monthly Canada's GDP growth rates occurred in April 2020, by 11.14 percentage points, compared to February 2020, the benchmark month. Following this drop, in May 2020, Canada's monthly GDP growth rate was able to surpass the benchmark level, by 4.28 percentage points. In June 2020, Canada saw the highest increase in GDP growth rate within the entire considered period, by 5.54 percentage points, compared to February 2020. From July 2020 to December 2021, Canada's monthly GDP growth rates began decreasing and varied from -1.04 per cent to 2.61 per cent. In December 2021, Canada's GDP growth rate was null and remained lower than February 2020, by 0.24 percentage points.

The quarterly chart shows that the largest drop in Canada's GDP growth rate happened in the first quarter of 2020, -2.07 per cent. The highest increase in Canada's quarterly GDP growth rate then occurred in the third quarter of 2020, by 3.56 percentage points of difference compared to quarter one of 2020. From the third quarter of 2020 to the last quarter of 2021, Canada's quarterly GDP growth rates dropped and varied from -0.22 to 0.70 per cent. In the fourth quarter of 2021, Canada's GDP growth rate was 2.77 percentage points higher than the first quarter of 2020, the benchmark level.

Given that 2019 is the pre-pandemic year, in 2020, Canada saw a drop of 7.03 percentage points and New Brunswick, 4.32 percentage points, in GDP growth rate. In 2021,

Canada's annual GDP growth rate saw an increase of 10.00 percentage points compared to 2020 and of 2.97 percentage points compared to the pre-pandemic growth rate in 2019. In 2021, New Brunswick also saw an increase in their annual GDP growth rate, an increase by 7.31 percentage points compared to 2020 and by 2.99 percentage points compared to 2019². That said, New Brunswick experienced a smaller decline in GDP growth rate in 2020 but saw a smaller increase in GDP growth rate in 2021. The absolute percentage point differences between these two jurisdictions in 2020 and 2021 are 1.99 and 0.7.

² This report uses New Brunswick's estimated 2021 GDP growth rate published by Department of Finance and Treasury Board (2021). It is possible that this estimate is different from that published by Statistics Canada. [Labour force characteristics by province, monthly, seasonally adjusted](#)

Some Explanations Regarding the Differences Between Canada and New Brunswick

1. New Brunswick's evolutions in population before and during the pandemic compared to Canada

Overall, the charts suggest that since the pandemic started, the working-age population (15 and over) of Canada and New Brunswick has been steadily growing. The upward changes in the number of working-age population of these two jurisdictions have become increasingly large. According to Statistics Canada (2022), immigration, and not fertility (Fostik & Galbraith, 2021), mostly drove Canada's working-age population from 2019 to 2021 despite the border restrictions put in place facing the spread of COVID 19 making Canada the G7 leading country in terms of population growth (Statistics Canada, 2022). Furthermore, the *Immigration, Refugees, and Population Ministry* started welcoming more immigrants in 2021 as part of a three-year economic recovery effort (Government of Canada, 2020).

Speaking of New Brunswick in particular, from 1972 to 2020, this province mostly welcomed immigrants aged from 15 to 64 years old (Bonsall, 2021, 36). During the same period, the share of people aged from 15 to 64 in total number of immigrants varied between a minimum of 55.0 per cent and a maximum of 76.3 per cent (Bonsall, 2021, 36). The panels A, B, and C point out that the rise in New Brunswick's working-age population continued into 2021, which can be explained by this historical trend of a high share of working-age immigrants coming to this province every year.

The recent trend regarding the increasing number of working age immigrants moving to New Brunswick also appears to be the result of the Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP) previously known as the Atlantic Immigration Pilot (Government of Canada, 2020) which started being implemented in 2017 as part of the Atlantic Growth Strategy (Bains, 2019) (Government of Canada, 2022) to help employers fill the local shortage of skilled workers.

Another potential reason for the continuous growth of New Brunswick's working-age population is its record high number of interprovincial migrants in the recent years, among which more than half are non-retirement-age individuals (Statistics Canada, 2022) (Jones, 2021) (Singer, 2021) who are attracted by the more affordable housing prices and lower cost of living in this province.

2. New Brunswick's and Canada's evolutions in labour force size and participation rate during the pandemic

The sharp reduction in labour force participation and participation rates of these jurisdictions in April and the second quarter of 2020 were mostly due to the youth population from 15 to 24 years old being laid off, especially those with only a high school diploma or less who were working in non-essential businesses (Government of New Brunswick, 2021) (Lamb, Gomez, and Moghaddas, 2021). The drop in the number of young and employed women in the mentioned age category was also an important causative factor (Lamb, Gomez, and Moghaddas, 2021) because of the high concentration of female employees in the service sector (Grekou and Lu, 2021), the industry affected the most by the pandemic-related restrictions, which accounted for at least 70.5 percent of Canadian GDP as of 2018 (Government of Canada, 2021).

3. New Brunswick's evolutions in employment and unemployment before and during the pandemic compared to Canada

Both Canada and New Brunswick experienced their worst drop in employment and the highest increase in unemployment, both at the absolute and per cent values, in April 2020 or the second quarter of 2020. At the national level, Statistics Canada explained that these unprecedented changes were driven by the number of workers on temporary layoff who accounted for almost 97 per cent of the newly unemployed during this period (Statistics Canada, 2020). Also, losses of employment were mostly observed in the services-producing sector (i.e., transportation, wholesale and retail trade; art, entertainment, and recreational services, real estate-related services, non-university educational services, healthcare and social assistance, accommodation and food services) (Statistics, 2015). Youth from 15 to 24 were affected the most since they were more likely to hold hard-hit jobs in wholesale and retail trade as well as accommodation and food services (Statistics Canada, 2020).

Throughout 2021, the improvement in Canada's and New Brunswick's unemployment and employment may be partly explained by employers' increased adaptation and flexibility to health guidelines, especially in retail trade, as well as the significantly higher level of telework feasibility (Mehdi & Morissette, 2021) which allowed temporarily laid-off employees to work from home.

As for New Brunswick, the largest decline in employment in April 2020 was mostly due to the large increase in youth unemployment from 15 to 24 years old who were mostly working for nonessential businesses (Government of Canada, 2020) following the provincial declaration of state of emergency on March 19, 2020 (Government of New Brunswick, 2020).

On top of the layoff of youth from 15 to 24 years old, essential businesses including grocery stores, pharmacies, fuel retailers, financial institutions, hardware and automotive parts providers, convenient store, animal and fish feed providers, as well as liquor and cannabis businesses were required to take all measures ensuring the two-meter distance among patrons (Government of New Brunswick, 2020), which automatically led to a reduction in demand and consumption of services and products at all levels and an additional increase in temporary or permanent layoff of workers deemed non-necessary which further worsened the level of unemployment of New Brunswick in April 2020.

On April 24, 2020, New Brunswick announced the beginning of its four-phase recovery which took immediate effect after six straight days with no COVID cases, the lowest COVID cases per capita across Canada (Government of New Brunswick, 2020), allowing the reopening of outdoor recreational businesses and of post-secondary institutions (Government of New Brunswick, 2020). Quickly, on May 8, 2020, the province of New Brunswick moved to the orange phase (phase 2) which allows all nonessential businesses to welcome back patrons if they could follow public health measures (Government of New Brunswick, 2020) allowing the return of temporarily laid off employees and easing the decline in employment. Within the same month, on May 22, 2020, New Brunswick initiated the yellow phase (phase 3) lifting restrictions on services requiring direct human contact such as beauty institutions, further improving the provincial employment level and rates (Government of New Brunswick, 2020). On June 4, 2020, New Brunswick recorded the first death in the province of a senior resident with underlying health issues (Government of New Brunswick, 2020). From June 4, 2020 to July 22, 2021, there are 46 deaths (i.e., 0.00006 per cent³ in total population) officially reported as being caused by COVID-19. On July 23, 2021, New Brunswick entered the green phase (phase 4) where all COVID-19 restrictions (i.e., mask mandatory, gathering limitation, border restrictions) would be lifted (Government of New Brunswick, 2021) facilitating the free movement of people, goods, and services from and to New Brunswick. Generally speaking, compared to other Canadian provinces including Ontario and Quebec, the two largest Canadian provinces, New Brunswick's employment recovered faster and its unemployment worsened less from the beginning of the pandemic until the end of the second quarter of 2021 because this Atlantic province was able to move forward much faster with its recovery and reopening plans thanks to the lower death rate compared to Canada as a whole⁴ as well as the provincial officials' hypervigilance, swift declaration of emergency, and immediate implementation of strict health guidelines after being informed about the first 7 confirmed and 4 probable

³ New Brunswick's average population in 2020 and 2021 was 785,358 (Statistics Canada, 2022)

³ [GDP at basic prices, by industry, monthly, growth rates \(* 1,000,000\)](#)

⁴ Canada's death to population ratio from the beginning of the pandemic until the end of 2021 was 0.001 per cent given that Canada's death counts was 30,024 (Heath Canada, 2022) and Canada's average population from 2020 to 2021 was 38,110,439 (Statistics Canada, 2022).

provincial cases of COVID-19 (i.e., 0.0014 per cent in total population⁵) (Government of New Brunswick, 2022) (Fraser & Mackinnon, 2020) in March 2020.

Another potentially contributing factor which resulted in New Brunswick's larger increase in employment and more significant decline in unemployment from July 2020 to August 2021 was the Atlantic bubble agreement among the Atlantic provinces including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador (CBC, 2021) which allowed their residents who had not travelled outside the Atlantic provinces for any reason or who were not subjected to any of the listed symptoms to freely move within the bubble without the 14-day isolation (Government of New Brunswick, 2021). Canadians outside the Atlantic provinces who wished to travel freely within this bubble were subjected to screening and required to quarantine for 14 days (Government of New Brunswick, 2021). This unrestricted human mobility along with its detailed requirements potentially encouraged the movement as well as trading of goods and services among non-infected local people and visitors across Canada while ensuring to keep New Brunswick's cases in check. Thus, this cross-provincial travel strategy minimized the pandemic-related interruptions of flows and exchanges of goods and services within the Atlantic bubble which helped boost the provincial consumption level which in turn automatically generated the highest possible demand for local production outputs and inputs including the faster reintegration of laid-off local workers into the job market.

Having fewer airports than most Canadian provinces may have equally contributed to New Brunswick's better employment. The number of airports with scheduled flights is 6 for New Brunswick and accounts for 3.11 per cent⁶ of the total number of Canadian airports with scheduled flights (Get by Bus, 2022), which is only higher than two other Canadian provinces that are Prince Edward Island (1 airport) and Nova Scotia (2 airports). Furthermore, the three busiest airports in New Brunswick (Moncton Airport, Fredericton International Airport, Saint John Airport) are reported to welcome around 1.4 million incoming and departing passengers per year (Get by Bus, 2022). This annual number of passengers is only higher than Prince Edward Island (around 0.4 million passengers) (Get by Bus, 2022). That said, a lower number of airports and passengers further endorsed the health measures in place by limiting the spread of COVID-19 and its socioeconomical consequences resulted from a large volume of human mobility across New Brunswick from mid-2020 to September 2021.

From October to December 2021, New Brunswick's increases in employment and declines in unemployment lessened and became worse than Canada as a whole resulted from the fact that the government of New Brunswick quickly reinstated the emergency order on September 24, 2021 facing a record-breaking single day increase of 78 new Covid cases (i.e., 0.0099 per cent in total population⁷), a total of 52 deaths (i.e., 0.0066 per cent total population⁴), and a

⁵ New Brunswick's population in quarter 1 of 2020 was 780,707 (Statistics Canada, 2022)

⁶ The total number of Canadian airports with schedule flights is 193 (GetbyBus, 2020).

⁷ New Brunswick's population in quarter 3 of 2021 was 789,225 (Statistics Canada, 2022)

spike in provincial hospitalizations in late September 2021 (Government of New Brunswick, 2021). The swift reimplementation of mandatory measures against the increasing risks of Covid infections and potential deaths was not enough this time for New Brunswick. On September 30, 2021, New Brunswick saw the highest active caseload since the start of the pandemic, 99 (i.e., 0.0125 per cent in total population⁴) (Government of New Brunswick, 2021). On October 2, 2021, hospitalizations in this province rose to 44 with 17 in ICU (i.e., 0.0077 per cent in total population⁸) (Government of New Brunswick, 2021). Amidst these pressures on the public health system and the threat of the Omicron variant, New Brunswick initiated the Winter Action Plan comprising of three levels of alertness with level 1 as the least restrictive effective on December 4 of 2021 including indoor masking when physical distancing could not be respected and proof of vaccination requirements (Government of New Brunswick, 2021). Level 2 with stricter measures was put in place on December 27, 2021, additionally required businesses in the service industry to operate at 50 per cent of capacity and respect the two-meter distance between patrons (Government of New Brunswick, 2021). That said, New Brunswick's establishment of its most restrictive health measures within the two last quarters of 2021 greatly contributed to its larger drop of employment compared to Canada in late 2021.

Furthermore, beginning from the week of July 17, 2021, through the week of November 27, 2021, New Brunswick experienced 636 'excess deaths' (i.e., 0.08 percent in total population⁹) meaning the number of mortality counts that exceeds the number of deaths expected to occur within a period (Jones, 2022). New Brunswick's Health Minister reportedly suspected that the death jumps had been remarkably high likely due to New Brunswick's inadequate testing which ranked lowest among provinces throughout the pandemic (Jones, 2022). In September and October 2021 alone, Statistics Canada identified 423 'excess mortalities' (i.e., 0.05 per cent in total population¹⁰) in New Brunswick (Statistics Canada, 2022), (Jones, 2022). By June 2022, the excess deaths have not been categorized by age group yet. It is therefore unconvincing to say that these mortality counts played a role in the drop of participation rates and labour force in quarter three and four of 2021 as shown in the charts. Even though the excess death to the total population ratio is small, it is worth indicating that these potential deaths of undetected Covid cases may still negatively affect New Brunswick's employment to a certain extend in late 2021. All excessive loss of human lives can further lower the provincial consumption level, thus lower its demand for production, services, and labour.

⁸ New Brunswick's population in quarter 4 of 2021 was 794,300 (Statistics Canada, 2022)

⁹ New Brunswick's population in 2021 was 788,375 on average (Statistics Canada, 2022)

¹⁰ New Brunswick's average population in quarter 3 and 4 of 2021 was 791,763 (Statistics Canada, 2022)

An overview of New Brunswick's annual GDP growth rates from 2019–2021 compared to Canada

The charts generally suggest that New Brunswick's labour force outperformed that of Canada throughout 2020. Altogether, this largely contributed to the better performance of New Brunswick's 2020 GDP growth rate.

In 2020, the government of New Brunswick appeared to react very promptly by immediately instating the state of emergency on March 19, 2020, when facing only 11 cases both confirmed and presumptive, and no death, a much more positive statistics compared to many other larger provincial economies such as Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, and Manitoba. This quick implementation of thorough health measures allowed New Brunswick to enter the recovery stages more quickly than many other Canadian provinces, which started in late April 2020. From July 2020 to November 2020, New Brunswick also took part in the Atlantic travel agreement that allowed non-infected Atlantic and other Canadian residents to travel freely within the Atlantic bubble. These pandemic responses seemed to succeed in stringently monitoring the number of covid infections while securing the best possible level of consumption, of employment, and participation rate as well as minimizing the level of unemployment in New Brunswick throughout 2020. New Brunswick appeared to secure more quickly a safer environment for its businesses and residents to invest, produce, work, and consume as best as they could throughout 2020, which resulted in a less significant negative change in GDP growth rate in this Atlantic province compared to Canada as a whole.

In late 2021, New Brunswick's GDP growth rate was smaller than Canada mostly due to the following reasons. The first reason is the reestablishment of the emergency order in late September and the Winter Action Plan with increasingly stricter health measures to combat the threat of the Omicron variant. These restrictive health measures undoubtedly disrupted the provincial flows of goods and services as well as the volume of exported goods because of the reduced number of employees or work hours which then potentially decreased the provincial consumption level following this drop in the availability of goods and services. Second, New Brunswick's highest count¹¹ and ratio¹² of 'excess deaths'¹³, which occurred from September to October 2021, were much greater than the total number of deaths reported by Heath Canada (160 deaths or 0.0002 per cent in total population¹⁴) since the beginning of the pandemic until the end of 2021 in this province. It is unclear how New Brunswick's employment level and participation rate were affected by these excess mortalities because the proportion of the working age population (15-64 years old) in the total number of 'excess deaths' has not been made available as of June 2022. However, this additional loss of human lives could further

¹¹ Reminder: 423 'excess mortalities'

¹² Reminder: 0.05 per cent in total population

¹³ Reminder: Experts doubt that these deaths are mostly unreported COVID cases.

¹⁴ New Brunswick's average population in 2020 and 2021 was 785,358 (Statistics Canada, 2022)

lower the consumption level across New Brunswick and therefore was maybe responsible for decreasing the provincial GDP growth rate in 2021 to a certain extent.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the performance of New Brunswick's labour force was superior to Canada nearly throughout the entire considered periods except for late 2021 or approximately the third and fourth quarters of 2021.

New Brunswick performed better in terms of labour force, employment, and unemployment at the absolute level, as well as participation rates, employment rates, unemployment rates, and 2020 GDP growth rate. The reason is that New Brunswick's death to population ratio was lower than that of Canada, and that the government of New Brunswick stayed highly alert and attempted to quickly prevent the spread of Covid through the prompt establishment of state of emergency when the number of cases was merely around 0.0014 per cent in total population with no officially reported COVID-19-induced death. This quick response allowed this Atlantic province to enter the recovery phases quickly in April 2020. On top of this, by having a smaller number of airports and taking part in the Atlantic travel bubble agreement, the pandemic-induced interruptions in flows of goods and services was minimized in New Brunswick, which secured the highest possible level of consumption, production, and employment within the province.

In the last two quarters of 2021, New Brunswick's labour force performance became weaker than that of Canada mostly due to the reinstatement of emergency order as well as the Winter Action Plan amidst the rising number of cases and hospitalizations as well as the Omicron threat within the province. It is worth noting that at this point, even though New Brunswick's number of cases, deaths, and hospitalizations remained lower than Canada during the same period, its excess death counts and excess mortality rate were among the highest compared to all other Canadian provinces (Telegraph Journal, 2022).

The lesson here is that facing the same pandemic, overall, New Brunswick's labour force appear to perform better than an average Canadian province thanks to the officials' rapid, thorough, continuous exercises of prudence to shield the provincial economy from potentially longer and worse disruption induced by the spread of the pandemic.

Appendix

Summary Table

Changes in Population		Canada	New Brunswick
MONTHLY (February 2020 as benchmark)	February 2020	100.00	100.00
	March 2020	100.10	100.03
	April 2020	100.15	100.06
	May 2020	100.19	100.09
	June 2020	100.28	100.12
	July 2020	100.36	100.17
	August 2020	100.44	100.22
	September 2020	100.53	100.26
	October 2020	100.61	100.29
	November 2020	100.68	100.33
	December 2020	100.74	100.36
	January 2021	100.78	100.39
	February 2021	100.86	100.39
	March 2021	100.92	100.43
	April 2021	100.98	100.46
	May 2021	101.02	100.53
	June 2021	101.08	100.60
	July 2021	101.18	100.67
	August 2021	101.32	100.82
	September 2021	101.43	100.98
	October 2021	101.55	101.11
	November 2021	101.67	101.24
	December 2021	101.81	101.39
QUARTERLY (Quarter 1-2020 as benchmark)	Quarter 1 – 2020	100.00	100.00
	Quarter 2 – 2020	100.20	100.09
	Quarter 3 – 2020	100.44	100.22
	Quarter 4 – 2020	100.67	100.33
	Quarter 1 – 2021	100.85	100.40
	Quarter 2 – 2022	101.02	100.53
	Quarter 3 – 2021	101.30	100.82
	Quarter 4 – 2021	101.67	101.25
YEARLY (2019 as benchmark)	2019	100.00	100.00
	2020	101.17	100.66
	2021	102.06	101.25

Changes in Labour Force		Canada	New Brunswick
MONTHLY (February 2020 as benchmark)	February 2020	100.00	100.00
	March 2020	96.98	97.81
	April 2020	91.47	92.32
	May 2020	93.69	96.49
	June 2020	97.58	99.85
	July 2020	98.39	100.08
	August 2020	98.77	99.49
	September 2020	99.74	101.17
	October 2020	100.13	101.42
	November 2020	99.93	101.91
	December 2020	99.99	101.58
	January 2021	99.37	100.81
	February 2021	99.71	100.25
	March 2021	100.27	100.94
	April 2021	99.80	101.20
	May 2021	99.48	100.33
	June 2021	100.21	99.97
	July 2021	100.47	100.18
	August 2021	100.50	100.31
	September 2021	101.28	101.50
	October 2021	101.16	101.81
	November 2021	101.27	101.25
	December 2021	101.53	100.43
QUARTERLY (Quarter 1-2020 as benchmark)	Quarter 1 – 2020	100.00	100.00
	Quarter 2 – 2020	95.28	96.76
	Quarter 3 – 2020	100.06	100.81
	Quarter 4 – 2020	101.12	102.21
	Quarter 1 – 2021	100.88	101.24
	Quarter 2 – 2022	100.93	101.07
	Quarter 3 – 2021	101.86	101.23
	Quarter 4 – 2021	102.44	101.73
YEARLY (2019 as benchmark)	2019	100.00	100.00
	2020	98.84	99.41
	2021	101.25	100.77

Changes in Employment		Canada	New Brunswick
MONTHLY (February 2020 as benchmark)	February 2020	100.00	100.00
	March 2020	94.71	96.18
	April 2020	86.02	86.55
	May 2020	85.90	90.93
	June 2020	90.88	97.42
	July 2020	92.99	97.66
	August 2020	93.99	97.55
	September 2020	96.00	97.64
	October 2020	96.47	98.35
	November 2020	96.72	99.15
	December 2020	96.60	99.04
	January 2021	95.52	99.15
	February 2021	96.94	98.32
	March 2021	98.38	98.93
	April 2021	97.35	100.05
	May 2021	97.08	98.85
	June 2021	98.20	98.46
	July 2021	98.62	98.35
	August 2021	98.97	98.32
	September 2021	99.89	99.59
	October 2021	99.99	100.19
	November 2021	100.80	100.25
	December 2021	101.21	99.75
QUARTERLY (Quarter 1-2020 as benchmark)	Quarter 1 – 2020	100.00	100.00
	Quarter 2 – 2020	89.21	92.78
	Quarter 3 – 2020	96.07	98.84
	Quarter 4 – 2020	98.38	100.08
	Quarter 1 – 2021	98.74	100.04
	Quarter 2 – 2022	99.34	100.36
	Quarter 3 – 2021	100.99	99.99
	Quarter 4 – 2021	102.53	101.32
YEARLY (2019 as benchmark)	2019	100.00	100.00
	2020	95.00	97.44
	2021	99.44	99.93
Changes in Unemployment		Canada	New Brunswick
	February 2020	100.00	100.00

MONTHLY (February 2020 as benchmark)	March 2020	134.41	117.51
	April 2020	209.30	162.63
	May 2020	220.50	164.31
	June 2020	208.41	129.29
	July 2020	187.70	129.29
	August 2020	177.78	122.90
	September 2020	161.63	143.77
	October 2020	160.69	138.72
	November 2020	152.95	135.35
	December 2020	155.93	132.32
	January 2021	163.10	120.88
	February 2021	145.50	123.57
	March 2021	131.50	125.25
	April 2021	140.44	114.81
	May 2021	139.10	118.18
	June 2021	133.34	118.18
	July 2021	131.00	122.22
	August 2021	125.72	124.24
	September 2021	124.30	124.92
	October 2021	120.57	121.21
	November 2021	109.04	113.13
	December 2021	106.78	108.42
QUARTERLY (Quarter 1-2020 as benchmark)	Quarter 1 – 2020	100.00	100.00
	Quarter 2 – 2020	192.00	141.15
	Quarter 3 – 2020	158.58	122.50
	Quarter 4 – 2020	141.27	125.73
	Quarter 1 – 2021	132.40	114.38
	Quarter 2 – 2022	124.21	108.65
	Quarter 3 – 2021	114.63	114.90
	Quarter 4 – 2021	101.20	106.04
YEARLY (2019 as benchmark)	2019	100.00	100.00
	2020	164.05	121.94
	2021	130.96	110.64
Changes in Participation Rate		Canada	New Brunswick
	February 2020	100.00	100.00
	March 2020	96.95	97.70
	April 2020	91.31	92.28

MONTHLY (February 2020 as benchmark)	May 2020	93.45	96.39
	June 2020	97.26	99.67
	July 2020	98.02	99.84
	August 2020	98.32	99.34
	September 2020	99.24	100.82
	October 2020	99.54	101.15
	November 2020	99.24	101.64
	December 2020	99.24	101.15
	January 2021	98.63	100.49
	February 2021	98.78	99.84
	March 2021	99.39	100.49
	April 2021	98.78	100.66
	May 2021	98.48	99.84
	June 2021	99.09	99.34
	July 2021	99.24	99.51
	August 2021	99.24	99.51
	September 2021	99.85	100.49
	October 2021	99.54	100.66
	November 2021	99.54	100.00
	December 2021	99.70	99.01
QUARTERLY (Quarter 1-2020 as benchmark)	Quarter 1 – 2020	100.00	100.00
	Quarter 2 – 2020	95.02	96.75
	Quarter 3 – 2020	99.59	100.66
	Quarter 4 – 2020	100.41	101.98
	Quarter 1 – 2021	100.00	100.94
	Quarter 2 – 2022	99.85	100.61
	Quarter 3 – 2021	100.51	100.50
	Quarter 4 – 2021	100.67	100.55
ANNUAL RATES	2019	65.60	61.20
	2020	64.09	60.42
	2021	65.07	60.89
Changes in Employment Rate		Canada	New Brunswick
	February 2020	100.00	100.00
	March 2020	94.51	96.09
	April 2020	84.17	86.50
	May 2020	85.78	90.94
	June 2020	90.63	97.34

MONTHLY (February 2020 as benchmark)	July 2020	92.57	97.51
	August 2020	93.54	97.34
	September 2020	95.48	97.34
	October 2020	95.80	98.05
	November 2020	95.96	98.76
	December 2020	95.80	98.76
	January 2021	94.67	98.76
	February 2021	96.12	98.05
	March 2021	97.42	98.58
	April 2021	96.28	99.64
	May 2021	95.96	98.40
	June 2021	97.09	97.87
	July 2021	97.42	97.69
	August 2021	97.58	97.51
	September 2021	98.38	98.58
	October 2021	98.38	99.11
	November 2021	99.03	99.11
	December 2021	99.35	98.40
QUARTERLY (Quarter 1-2020 as benchmark)	Quarter 1 – 2020	100.00	100.00
	Quarter 2 – 2020	88.58	92.75
	Quarter 3 – 2020	95.72	98.62
	Quarter 4 – 2020	97.75	99.76
	Quarter 1 – 2021	97.97	99.70
	Quarter 2 – 2022	98.35	99.88
	Quarter 3 – 2021	99.73	99.16
	Quarter 4 – 2021	100.88	100.12
ANNUAL RATES	2019	61.80	56.20
	2020	57.98	54.37
	2021	60.23	55.44
Changes in Unemployment Rate		Canada	New Brunswick
	February 2020	100.00	100.00
	March 2020	138.60	119.74
	April 2020	228.07	175.00
	May 2020	235.09	169.74
	June 2020	214.04	128.95
	July 2020	180.70	128.95
	August 2020	178.95	122.37

MONTHLY (February 2020 as benchmark)	September 2020	161.40	140.79
	October 2020	161.40	135.53
	November 2020	152.63	131.58
	December 2020	156.14	128.95
	January 2021	164.91	119.74
	February 2021	145.61	122.37
	March 2021	131.58	123.68
	April 2021	140.35	113.16
	May 2021	140.35	117.11
	June 2021	133.33	117.11
	July 2021	129.82	121.05
	August 2021	124.56	123.68
	September 2021	122.81	122.37
	October 2021	119.30	118.42
	November 2021	107.02	110.53
	December 2021	105.26	107.89
QUARTERLY (Quarter 1-2020 as benchmark)	Quarter 1 – 2020	100.00	100.00
	Quarter 2 – 2020	201.04	146.34
	Quarter 3 – 2020	154.69	121.14
	Quarter 4 – 2020	139.58	122.36
	Quarter 1 – 2021	131.25	113.01
	Quarter 2 – 2022	122.92	107.32
	Quarter 3 – 2021	111.98	113.41
	Quarter 4 – 2021	98.44	104.07
ANNUAL RATES	2019	5.80	8.20
	2020	9.50	10.00
	2021	7.40	9.00
Absolute Variables in Population (*1000)		Canada	New Brunswick
	February 2020	30,949	645.90
	March 2020	30,979	646.10
	April 2020	30,994	646.30
	May 2020	31,009	646.50
	June 2020	31,037	646.70
	July 2020	31,062	647.00
	August 2020	31,085	647.30
	September 2020	31,115	647.60
	October 2020	31,139	647.80

MONTHLY	November 2020	31,161	648.00
	December 2020	31,178	648.20
	January 2021	31,191	648.40
	February 2021	31,216	648.40
	March 2021	31,235	648.70
	April 2021	31,252	648.90
	May 2021	31,266	649.30
	June 2021	31,283	649.80
	July 2021	31,315	650.20
	August 2021	31,357	651.20
	September 2021	31,391	652.20
	October 2021	31,430	653.10
	November 2021	31,467	653.90
	December 2021	31,510	654.90
QUARTERLY	Quarter 1 – 2020	30,951	645.90
	Quarter 2 – 2020	31,103	646.50
	Quarter 3 – 2020	31,087	647.30
	Quarter 4 – 2020	31,159	648.00
	Quarter 1 – 2021	31,214	648.50
	Quarter 2 – 2022	31,267	649.33
	Quarter 3 – 2021	31,354	651.20
	Quarter 4 – 2021	31,469	653.97
YEARLY	2019	30,695	642.70
	2020	31,053	646.93
	2021	31,326	650.75
Absolute Variables in Labour Force (*1000)		Canada	New Brunswick
	February 2020	20,301	393.30
	March 2020	19,687	384.70
	April 2020	18,569	363.10
	May 2020	19,020	379.50
	June 2020	19,810	392.70
	July 2020	19,975	393.60
	August 2020	20,052	391.30
	September 2020	20,249	397.90
	October 2020	20,328	398.90
	November 2020	20,287	400.80
	December 2020	20,299	399.50

MONTHLY	January 2021	20,174	396.50
	February 2021	20,242	394.30
	March 2021	20,357	397.00
	April 2021	20,261	398.00
	May 2021	20,195	394.60
	June 2021	20,343	393.20
	July 2021	20,396	394.00
	August 2021	20,403	394.50
	September 2021	20,561	399.20
	October 2021	20,537	400.40
	November 2021	20,560	398.20
	December 2021	20,612	395.00
QUARTERLY	Quarter 1 – 2020	20,080	391.07
	Quarter 2 – 2020	19,133	378.43
	Quarter 3 – 2020	20,092	394.27
	Quarter 4 – 2020	20,304	399.73
	Quarter 1 – 2021	20,258	395.93
	Quarter 2 – 2022	20,266	395.27
	Quarter 3 – 2021	20,453	395.90
	Quarter 4 – 2021	20,570	397.87
YEARLY	2019	20,135	393.20
	2020	19,902	390.88
	2021	20,387	396.24
Absolute Variables in Employment (*1000)		Canada	New Brunswick
	February 2020	19,144	363.70
	March 2020	18,131	349.80
	April 2020	16,467	314.80
	May 2020	16,444	330.70
	June 2020	17,398	354.30
	July 2020	17,802	355.20
	August 2020	17,994	354.80
	September 2020	18,378	355.10
	October 2020	18,468	357.70
	November 2020	18,516	360.60
	December 2020	18,493	360.20
	January 2021	18,286	360.60
	February 2021	18,558	357.60

MONTHLY	March 2021	18,834	359.80
	April 2021	18,636	363.90
	May 2021	18,585	359.50
	June 2021	18,799	358.10
	July 2021	18,880	357.70
	August 2021	18,947	357.60
	September 2021	19,122	362.20
	October 2021	19,142	364.40
	November 2021	19,298	364.60
	December 2021	19,376	362.80
QUARTERLY	Quarter 1 – 2020	18,797	359.17
	Quarter 2 – 2020	16,770	333.27
	Quarter 3 – 2020	18,058	355.03
	Quarter 4 – 2020	18,492	359.50
	Quarter 1 – 2021	18,559	359.33
	Quarter 2 – 2022	18,673	360.50
	Quarter 3 – 2021	18,983	359.17
	Quarter 4 – 2021	19,272	363.93
YEARLY	2019	18,978	361.00
	2020	18,029	351.74
	2021	18,872	360.73
Absolute Variables in Unemployment (*1000)		Canada	New Brunswick
MONTHLY	February 2020	1,157.6	29.70
	March 2020	1,555.9	34.90
	April 2020	2,422.9	48.30
	May 2020	2,552.5	48.80
	June 2020	2,412.5	38.40
	July 2020	2,172.8	38.40
	August 2020	2,058.0	36.50
	September 2020	1,871.0	42.70
	October 2020	1,860.2	41.20
	November 2020	1,770.6	40.20
	December 2020	1,805.0	39.30
	January 2021	1,888.0	35.90
	February 2021	1,684.3	36.70
	March 2021	1,522.2	37.20
	April 2021	1,625.7	34.10

	May 2021	1,610.2	35.10
	June 2021	1,543.6	35.10
	July 2021	1,516.5	36.30
	August 2021	1,455.3	36.90
	September 2021	1,438.9	37.10
	October 2021	1,395.7	36.00
	November 2021	1,262.2	33.60
	December 2021	1,236.1	32.20
QUARTERLY	Quarter 1 – 2020	1282.6	31.97
	Quarter 2 – 2020	2462.6	45.17
	Quarter 3 – 2020	2033.9	39.20
	Quarter 4 – 2020	1811.9	40.23
	Quarter 1 – 2021	1698.2	36.60
	Quarter 2 – 2022	1539.2	34.77
	Quarter 3 – 2021	1470.2	36.77
	Quarter 4 – 2021	1298.0	33.93
YEARLY	2019	1,156.8	32.10
	2020	1,897.8	39.14
	2021	1,514.9	35.52
Participation Rates (per cent)		Canada	New Brunswick
MONTHLY	February 2020	65.60	60.90
	March 2020	63.60	59.50
	April 2020	59.90	56.20
	May 2020	61.30	58.70
	June 2020	63.80	60.70
	July 2020	64.30	60.80
	August 2020	64.50	60.50
	September 2020	65.10	61.40
	October 2020	65.30	61.60
	November 2020	65.10	61.90
	December 2020	65.10	61.60
	January 2021	64.70	61.20
	February 2021	64.80	60.80
	March 2021	65.20	61.20
	April 2021	64.80	61.30
	May 2021	64.60	60.80
	June 2021	65.00	60.50

	July 2021	65.10	60.60
	August 2021	65.10	60.60
	September 2021	65.50	61.20
	October 2021	65.30	61.30
	November 2021	65.30	60.90
	December 2021	65.40	60.30
QUARTERLY	Quarter 1 – 2020	64.90	60.53
	Quarter 2 – 2020	61.67	58.53
	Quarter 3 – 2020	64.63	60.90
	Quarter 4 – 2020	65.17	61.70
	Quarter 1 – 2021	64.90	61.07
	Quarter 2 – 2022	64.80	60.87
	Quarter 3 – 2021	65.23	60.80
	Quarter 4 – 2021	65.33	60.83
YEARLY	2019	65.60	61.20
	2020	64.09	60.42
	2021	65.07	60.89
Employment Rates (per cent)		Canada	New Brunswick
MONTHLY	February 2020	61.90	56.30
	March 2020	58.50	54.10
	April 2020	52.10	48.70
	May 2020	53.10	51.20
	June 2020	56.10	54.80
	July 2020	57.30	54.90
	August 2020	57.90	54.80
	September 2020	59.10	54.80
	October 2020	59.30	55.20
	November 2020	59.40	55.60
	December 2020	59.30	55.60
	January 2021	58.60	55.60
	February 2021	59.50	55.20
	March 2021	60.30	55.50
	April 2021	59.60	56.10
	May 2021	59.40	55.40
	June 2021	60.10	55.10
	July 2021	60.30	55.00
	August 2021	60.40	54.90

	September 2021	60.90	55.50
	October 2021	60.90	55.80
	November 2021	61.30	55.80
	December 2021	61.50	55.40
QUARTERLY	Quarter 1 – 2020	60.73	55.60
	Quarter 2 – 2020	53.77	51.57
	Quarter 3 – 2020	58.10	54.83
	Quarter 4 – 2020	59.33	55.47
	Quarter 1 – 2021	59.47	55.43
	Quarter 2 – 2022	59.70	55.53
	Quarter 3 – 2021	60.53	55.13
	Quarter 4 – 2021	61.23	55.67
YEARLY	2019	61.80	56.20
	2020	57.98	54.37
	2021	60.23	55.44
Unemployment Rates (per cent)		Canada	New Brunswick
MONTHLY	February 2020	5.70	7.60
	March 2020	7.90	9.10
	April 2020	13.00	13.30
	May 2020	13.40	12.90
	June 2020	12.20	9.80
	July 2020	10.30	9.80
	August 2020	10.20	9.30
	September 2020	9.20	10.70
	October 2020	9.20	10.30
	November 2020	8.70	10.00
	December 2020	8.90	9.80
	January 2021	9.40	9.10
	February 2021	8.30	9.30
	March 2021	7.50	9.40
	April 2021	8.00	8.60
	May 2021	8.00	8.90
	June 2021	7.60	8.90
	July 2021	7.40	9.20
	August 2021	7.10	9.40
	September 2021	7.00	9.30
	October 2021	6.80	9.00

	November 2021	6.10	8.40
	December 2021	6.00	8.20
QUARTERLY	Quarter 1 – 2020	6.40	8.20
	Quarter 2 – 2020	12.87	12.00
	Quarter 3 – 2020	9.90	9.93
	Quarter 4 – 2020	8.93	10.03
	Quarter 1 – 2021	8.40	9.27
	Quarter 2 – 2022	7.87	8.80
	Quarter 3 – 2021	7.17	9.30
	Quarter 4 – 2021	6.30	8.53
YEARLY	2019	5.80	8.20
	2020	9.50	10.00
	2021	7.40	9.00

Change in Labour Market Related Variables by Phase of Cycle

	Working Age Population						
	TROUGH	Peak to trough		Trough to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)		Peak to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)	
		Canada	NB	Canada	NB	Canada	NB
MONTH February 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Mar-20	0.10	0.03	1.71	1.36	1.81	1.39
QUARTER Quarter 1- 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Quarter 2-2020	0.20	0.09	1.47	1.16	1.67	1.25
YEAR 2019 as peak (Per cent changes)	2020	1.17	0.66	0.89	0.59	2.06	1.25
	Labour Force						
	TROUGH	Peak to trough		Trough to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)		Peak to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)	
		Canada	NB	Canada	NB	Canada	NB
MONTH February 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Apr-20	-8.53	-7.68	10.06	8.11	1.53	0.43
QUARTER Quarter 1- 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Quarter 2-2020	-4.72	-3.24	7.16	4.97	2.44	1.73
YEAR 2019 as peak (Per cent changes)	2020	-1.16	-0.59	2.41	1.36	1.25	0.77

	Employment at the Absolute Level						
	TROUGH	Peak to trough		Trough to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)		Peak to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)	
		Canada	NB	Canada	NB	Canada	NB
MONTH February 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Apr-20	n/a	-13.45	n/a	13.20	1.21	-0.25
	May-20	-14.1	n/a	15.31	n/a		
QUARTER Quarter 1- 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Quarter 2-2020	-10.79	-7.22	13.32	8.54	2.53	1.32
YEAR 2019 as peak (Per cent changes)	2020	-5.00	-2.56	4.44	2.49	-0.56	-0.07
	Employment Rates						
	TROUGH	Peak to trough		Trough to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)		Peak to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)	
		Canada	NB	Canada	NB	Canada	NB
MONTH February 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Apr-20	-15.83	-13.50	15.18	11.90	-0.65	-1.60
QUARTER Quarter 1- 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Quarter 2-2020	-11.42	-7.25	12.30	7.37	0.88	0.12
YEAR 2019 as peak (Percentage point changes)	2020	-3.82	-1.83	2.25	1.07	-1.57	-0.76

	Unemployment at the Absolute Level						
	TROUGH	Peak to trough		Trough to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)		Peak to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)	
		Canada	NB	Canada	NB	Canada	NB
MONTH February 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Dec-21	6.78	8.42	0.00	0.00	6.78	8.42
QUARTER Quarter 1- 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Quarter 4-2021	1.20	6.04	0.00	0.00	1.20	6.04
YEAR 2019 as peak (Per cent changes)	2021	30.96	10.64	0.00	0.00	30.96	10.64
	Unemployment Rates						
	TROUGH	Peak to trough		Trough to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)		Peak to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)	
		Canada	NB	Canada	NB	Canada	NB
MONTH February 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Dec-21	5.26	7.89	0.00	0.00	5.26	7.89
QUARTER Quarter 1- 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Quarter 4-2021	-1.56	4.07	0.00	0.00	-1.56	4.07
YEAR 2019 as peak (Percentage point changes)	2021	1.60	0.80	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.80

	Participation Rates						
	TROUGH	Peak to trough		Trough to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)		Peak to 2021 (December, Q.4, or annual average)	
		Canada	NB	Canada	NB	Canada	NB
MONTH February 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Apr-20	-8.69	-7.72	8.39	6.73	-0.30	-0.99
QUARTER Quarter 1- 2020 as peak (Per cent changes)	Quarter 2-2020	-4.98	-3.25	5.65	3.80	0.67	0.55
YEAR 2019 as peak (Percentage point changes)	2020	-1.51	-0.78	0.98	0.47	-0.53	-0.31

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