

Dependency ratio edging up

The demographic dependency ratio is a measure showing the number of dependents—children aged 0 to 14 and seniors aged 65 and over—to the working-age population aged 15 to 64. It is expressed as the number of dependents for every 100 workers aged 15 to 64 years.

- Fifty years ago, New Brunswick's total dependency ratio was 79.1. Thus, for every 100 workers in 1966, there were roughly 79 people (children and seniors) that needed to be supported.
- By 2006, the ratio had fallen to an all-time low of 45 dependents per 100 workers.
- The indicator has been rising since, and in 2016 it stood at 53.2, a significant jump from 46.2 in 2011 when the first baby boomers began to turn 65 years of age.
- Nationally, the total dependency ratio fell to a low of 45.7 in 2006 before rising to 50.4 in 2016.

