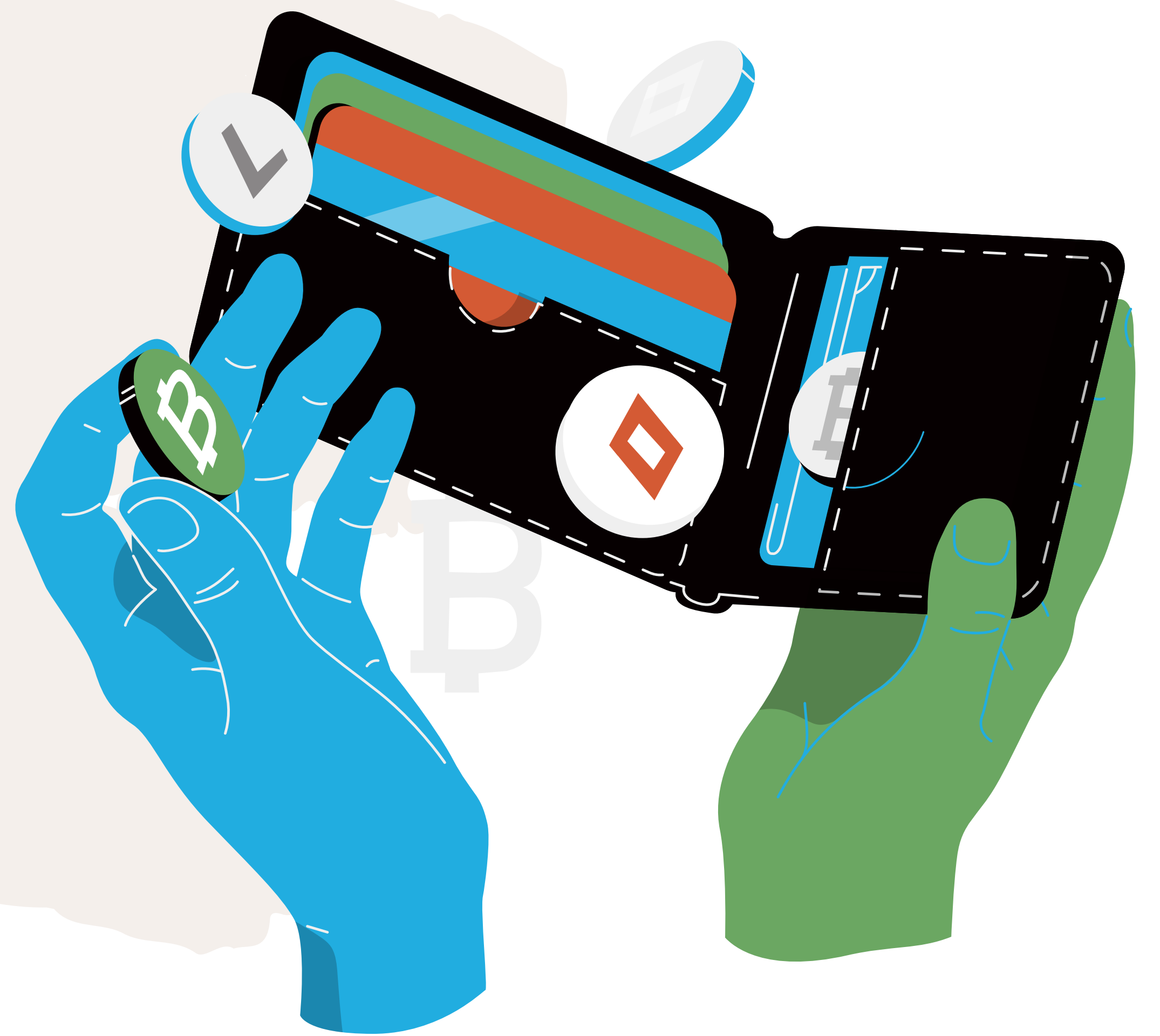


The Affordability Crisis

In New Brunswick



1. New Brunswick had the **highest poverty rate** (using the low-income measure after-tax) in the country in 2022, tied with Nova Scotia at 16.5%.^[1]
2. Poverty rates are increasing in New Brunswick. The low-income measure after- tax **increased by 4.6%** from 2021 to 2022.^[2]
3. The median after-tax income of economic families in New Brunswick was the **lowest in the country** in 2022.^[3]
4. Among the provinces, New Brunswick had the **highest increase** in the Consumer Price Index from July 2023 to July 2024 at 2.9%.^[4]
5. Digging deeper into the costs of specific types of goods, electricity and rent had the largest increases. **Electricity went up 13.6% and rent went up 10.5%**.^[5]
6. NB Power's rates of disconnections for residential customers are **increasing**.^[6]
7. Social Assistance caseloads and recipients have returned to **pre-pandemic levels** and are increasing. In August, more than 37,000 New Brunswickers relied on Social Assistance.^[7]
8. Effective April 2024, a single person was entitled to \$660/month in Social Assistance payments.^[8] Total welfare income for a single person only reaches **33% of the official poverty line**.^[9]
9. Food insecurity is rising. Food Banks Canada reported a **25% increase in total visits** in NB in 2022 to 2023. The increase in visits from 2019 to 2023 was 34%.^[10]
10. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives reported in July that **33% (114,170) of workers** in New Brunswick earned less than \$20/hour in 2023.^[11]
11. 86% of New Brunswick workers earning less than \$20/hour were **not students**. 85% were over the age of 20.^[12]

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