

Education and Labour Market Activity

- 2016 Census -

Overview

Statistics Canada recently released information on education and the labour market from the 2016 Census.

While continuing to improve, the Northwest Territories (NWT), along with Nunavut, remain below the national average in terms of educational attainment. In 2016, one in five (20.5%) NWT residents aged 25 to 64 years did not have a high school diploma or some form of postsecondary education, a slight improvement from 23% in 2006. Nationally, 11.5% of adults did not have a certificate, diploma or degree in 2016.

The NWT had higher proportions of postsecondary education levels than Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nunavut, but at 60.1%, was below the national rate of 64.8% of Canadians holding a postsecondary certificate, diploma or university degree.

Table 1: Population 25 - 64 Years by Highest Degree, Certificate or Diploma, Canada, Provinces & Territories, 2016

	No certificate, diploma or degree		Secondary (high school diploma)		Certificate or Diploma		University degree	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Canada	11.5	23.7	36.3	28.5	36.3	28.5	36.3	28.5
Northwest Territories	20.5	19.4	35.6	24.5	35.6	24.5	35.6	24.5
Yukon Territory	10.7	20.9	38.2	30.1	38.2	30.1	38.2	30.1
Nunavut	40.9	14.6	30.2	14.3	30.2	14.3	30.2	14.3
Newfoundland & Labrador	15.7	22.7	43.3	18.3	43.3	18.3	43.3	18.3
Prince Edward Island	12.0	25.1	39.1	23.7	39.1	23.7	39.1	23.7
Nova Scotia	12.2	23.5	38.8	25.5	38.8	25.5	38.8	25.5
New Brunswick	13.9	28.5	37.4	20.2	37.4	20.2	37.4	20.2
Quebec	13.3	18.5	42.7	25.5	42.7	25.5	42.7	25.5
Ontario	10.4	24.5	33.2	31.9	33.2	31.9	33.2	31.9
Manitoba	14.4	27.9	32.5	25.2	32.5	25.2	32.5	25.2
Saskatchewan	12.2	29.7	35.6	22.5	35.6	22.5	35.6	22.5
Alberta	10.8	25.2	35.8	28.2	35.8	28.2	35.8	28.2
British Columbia	9.6	26.5	33.9	29.9	33.9	29.9	33.9	29.9

Comparison of educational attainment across the NWT indicates that residents living in regional centers tend to have higher levels of postsecondary education compared to residents of smaller communities. Norman Wells (71%), Yellowknife (69%) and Fort Smith (66%) had the highest proportions of their population with postsecondary education. In 2016, 10 of the 33 NWT communities saw over half of 25

to 64 year olds having less than a high school diploma as their highest level of education, including Gamètì at 68% and Colville Lake at 67%.

Table 2: Population 25 - 64 by Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree and Community, NWT, 2016

	Population 25-64 Years		No certificate, diploma or degree		High school certificate or equivalent		Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Northwest Territories	23,610	100.0	4,845	20.5	4,570	19.4	14,190	60.1
Beaufort Delta Region	3,310	100.0	1,090	32.9	570	17.2	1,635	49.4
Aklavik	300	100.0	115	38.3	55	18.3	125	41.7
Fort McPherson	350	100.0	145	41.4	40	11.4	155	44.3
Inuvik	1,735	100.0	375	21.6	310	17.9	1,050	60.5
Paulatuk	145	100.0	75	51.7	10	6.9	55	37.9
Sachs Harbour	55	100.0	25	45.5	10	18.2	25	45.5
Tsiigehtchic	80	100.0	25	31.3	15	18.8	40	50.0
Tuktoyaktuk	460	100.0	245	53.3	80	17.4	135	29.3
Ulukhaktok	185	100.0	85	45.9	50	27.0	50	27.0
Dehcho Region	1,730	100.0	640	37.0	250	14.5	855	49.4
Fort Liard	275	100.0	120	43.6	25	9.1	130	47.3
Fort Providence	405	100.0	200	49.4	75	18.5	135	33.3
Fort Simpson	720	100.0	150	20.8	105	14.6	465	64.6
Hay River Dene 1	145	100.0	80	55.2	15	10.3	60	41.4
Jean Marie River	40	100.0	15	37.5	10	25.0	15	37.5
Nahanni Butte	50	100.0	30	60.0	10	20.0	10	20.0
Sambaa K'e	45	100.0	15	33.3	- ¹	-	25	55.6
Wrigley	50	100.0	30	60.0	10	20.0	15	30.0
Sahtu Region	1,285	100.0	415	32.3	200	15.6	665	51.8
Colville Lake	45	100.0	30	66.7	-	-	20	44.4
Déljine	285	100.0	125	43.9	35	12.3	125	43.9
Fort Good Hope	255	100.0	110	43.1	50	19.6	95	37.3
Norman Wells	455	100.0	45	9.9	80	17.6	325	71.4
Tulita	245	100.0	105	42.9	35	14.3	100	40.8
South Slave Region	3,795	100.0	770	20.3	670	17.7	2,335	61.5
Enterprise	55	100.0	-	-	10	18.2	30	54.5
Fort Resolution	235	100.0	100	42.6	25	10.6	110	46.8
Fort Smith	1,350	100.0	240	17.8	210	15.6	895	66.3
Hay River	1,995	100.0	355	17.8	400	20.1	1,240	62.2
Kakisa	x ²	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Łutselk'e	160	100.0	75	46.9	25	15.6	60	37.5
Tłjcho Region	1,275	100.0	705	55.3	250	19.6	320	25.1
Behchokò	840	100.0	450	53.6	170	20.2	220	26.2
Gamètì	125	100.0	85	68.0	20	16.0	20	16.0
Wekweèti	70	100.0	25	35.7	10	14.3	35	50.0
Whati	240	100.0	145	60.4	50	20.8	45	18.8
Yellowknife Area	11,965	100.0	1,185	9.9	2,570	21.5	8,210	68.6
Detah	110	100.0	65	59.1	25	22.7	20	18.2
Yellowknife	11,855	100.0	1,120	9.4	2,545	21.5	8,190	69.1

¹ '-' means data zero or too small to be expressed

² 'x' means data is suppressed to meet confidential requirements

Location of study and major field of study

Table 3 provides the major fields of study and location of study for NWT residents with postsecondary education in 2016. Major field of study means the predominant areas of learning or training of a person's highest, completed, postsecondary qualification.

Overall, 25% of NWT residents received their postsecondary education from the NWT, 64% from other Canadian provinces or territories, and 11% from outside Canada. Personal, protective & transportation services (41%) and agriculture, natural resources & conservation (37%) had the highest representation of those whose major field of study was obtained from the NWT.

Table 3: Location of Study by Major Field of Study for Pop. 25-64 Yrs. with Postsecondary Education, NWT 2016

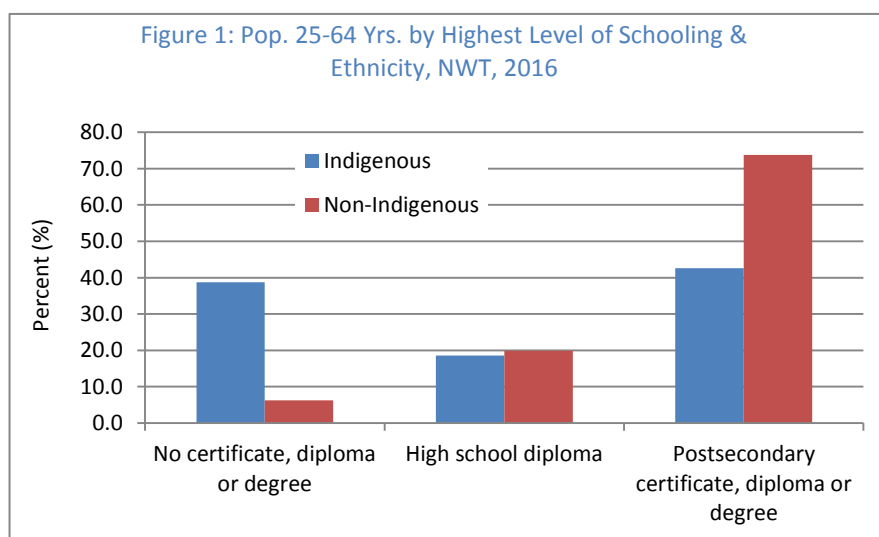
Major field of study	Pop. with postsecondary education		Northwest Territories		Other province or territory		Outside Canada	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Major field of study	14,195	100.0	3,525	24.8	9,130	64.3	1,540	10.8
Education	1,325	100.0	170	12.8	980	74.0	180	13.6
Visual and performing arts, & communications tech.	335	100.0	25	7.5	265	79.1	45	13.4
Humanities	530	100.0	45	8.5	430	81.1	60	11.3
Social and behavioral sciences & law	1,410	100.0	130	9.2	1,110	78.7	165	11.7
Business, management & public administration	3,045	100.0	1,050	34.5	1,625	53.4	370	12.2
Physical and life sciences & technologies	575	100.0	15	2.6	480	83.5	85	14.8
Mathematics, computer & information sciences	375	100.0	45	12.0	270	72.0	65	17.3
Architecture, engineering, & related technologies	2,930	100.0	855	29.2	1,830	62.5	245	8.4
Agriculture, natural resources & conservation	560	100.0	205	36.6	335	59.8	20	3.6
Health & related fields	1,830	100.0	465	25.4	1,100	60.1	265	14.5
Personal, protective & transportation services	1,280	100.0	520	40.6	710	55.5	50	3.9

Ethnicity and educational attainment

Highest levels of educational attainment varied with ethnicity. In 2016, nearly three-quarters (74%) of 25 to 64 year old NWT Non-Indigenous residents had a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree compared to 43% of Indigenous persons.

The proportion of Indigenous adults with less than a high school diploma decreased from 43% in 2006 to 39% in

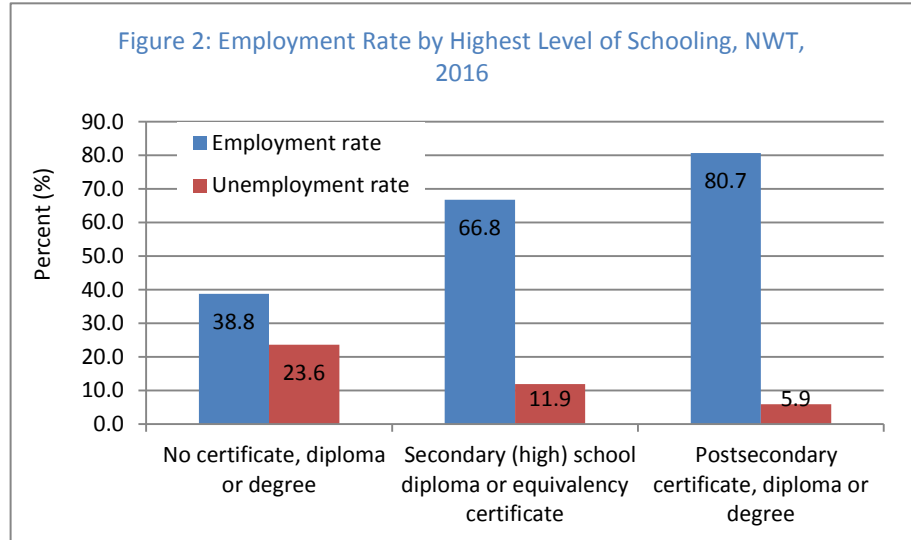
2016, but remained higher than the 6% among Non-Indigenous persons.



Females in the NWT were more likely than males to have postsecondary education at 62% vs. 58% respectively. In terms of the type of postsecondary qualification, females were more likely than males to have a university degree, while NWT males were more likely to hold a postsecondary certificate or diploma.

Highest level of education and employment rates

The relationship between education levels and labour force participation is illustrated in Figure 2. In 2016, the NWT employment rates ranged from 38.8% for persons with less than high school, to 80.7% for persons with postsecondary education. Conversely, unemployment rates decreased with higher levels of education.



Labour force characteristics

Looking at the overall labour force in the NWT, of the 32,330 persons aged 15 years and older, 21,415 were employed and 2,535 were looking for work in 2016. This converts to an employment rate of 66.2% and an unemployment rate of 10.6%.

Within the NWT, employment rates were generally higher in the regional centers than the outlying communities. For instance in 2016, Norman Wells (78.0%) and Yellowknife (77.6%) had the highest employment rates while Jean Marie River (33.3%) and Fort Liard (36.4%) had the lowest. Unemployment rates ranged from 5.2% in Norman wells to 37.5% in Jean Marie River.

Compared to 2006, the NWT unemployment rate was virtually unchanged at 10.4% while the employment rate dropped from 68.6% to 66.2% in the ten year period. Table 4 provides community level labour force statistics for the NWT.

Table 4: Labour Force Activity for Population 15 & Older, NWT 2016

	Population 15 & Older	In the Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labour Force	Participation Rate (%)	Unemploy- ment Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)
Northwest Territories	32,330	23,945	21,415	2,535	8,380	74.1	10.6	66.2
Beaufort Delta Region	4,680	3,205	2,700	500	1,475	68.5	15.6	57.7
Aklavik	450	280	205	80	170	62.2	28.6	45.6
Fort McPherson	550	335	245	85	215	60.9	25.4	44.5
Inuvik	2,350	1,760	1,610	155	585	74.9	8.8	68.5
Paulatuk	210	145	110	35	60	69.0	24.1	52.4
Sachs Harbour	85	60	50	10	25	70.6	16.7	58.8
Tsiigehtchic	115	80	65	20	35	69.6	25.0	56.5
Tuktoyaktuk	640	360	275	95	275	56.2	26.4	43.0
Ulukhaktok	290	175	140	40	115	60.3	22.9	48.3
Dehcho Region	2,515	1,640	1,245	390	875	65.2	23.8	49.5
Fort Liard	385	200	140	65	185	51.9	32.5	36.4
Fort Providence	580	370	240	130	210	63.8	35.1	41.4
Fort Simpson	965	695	595	100	270	72.0	14.4	61.7
Hay River Dene 1	230	130	105	25	100	56.5	19.2	45.7
Jean Marie River	60	40	20	15	25	66.7	37.5	33.3
Nahanni Butte	75	50	40	10	20	66.7	20.0	53.3
Sambaa K'e	65	50	35	15	10	76.9	30.0	53.8
Wrigley	90	55	35	20	35	61.1	36.4	38.9
Sahtu Region	1,855	1,310	1,100	210	545	70.6	16.0	59.3
Colville Lake	90	55	45	10	30	61.1	18.2	50.0
Déjné	420	285	200	85	135	67.9	29.8	47.6
Fort Good Hope	380	240	185	55	140	63.2	22.9	48.7
Norman Wells	590	485	460	25	110	82.2	5.2	78.0
Tulita	380	245	205	35	135	64.5	14.3	53.9
South Slave Region	5,495	3,800	3,390	415	1,695	69.2	10.9	61.7
Enterprise	85	55	45	10	25	64.7	18.2	52.9
Fort Resolution	375	220	185	40	150	58.7	18.2	49.3
Fort Smith	1,970	1,335	1,170	165	635	67.8	12.4	59.4
Hay River	2,820	2,045	1,870	170	775	72.5	8.3	66.3
Kakisa	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Łutselk'e	230	130	105	25	100	56.5	19.2	45.7
Tłjcho Region	1,935	980	785	205	955	50.6	20.9	40.6
Behchokò	1,290	615	470	150	675	47.7	24.4	36.4
Gamètì	210	125	105	20	80	59.5	16.0	50.0
Wekweètì	90	50	55	10	40	55.6	20.0	61.1
Whatì	350	185	155	30	165	52.9	16.2	44.3
Yellowknife Area	15,845	13,010	12,195	815	2,835	82.1	6.3	77.0
Detah	180	115	80	40	65	63.9	34.8	44.4
Yellowknife	15,400	12,710	11,955	755	2,690	82.5	5.9	77.6

¹ 'x' means data zero or too small to be expressed

² 'x' means data is suppressed to meet confidential requirements

Employment by occupation

Employment in the NWT was analyzed at the 3 digit occupational classification level. Overall, occupations with the highest number of employed persons in 2016 were cleaners (4%); administrative & regulatory occupations (4%); and secondary & elementary school teachers & educational counsellors (4%). Among males, the top three occupations were motor vehicle and transit drivers (5%); heavy equipment operators (4%); and cleaners (4%). The top three occupations among females were administrative & regulatory occupations (6%); secondary & elementary school teachers & educational counsellors (5%); and paraprofessional occupations in legal, social, community & education services (5%).

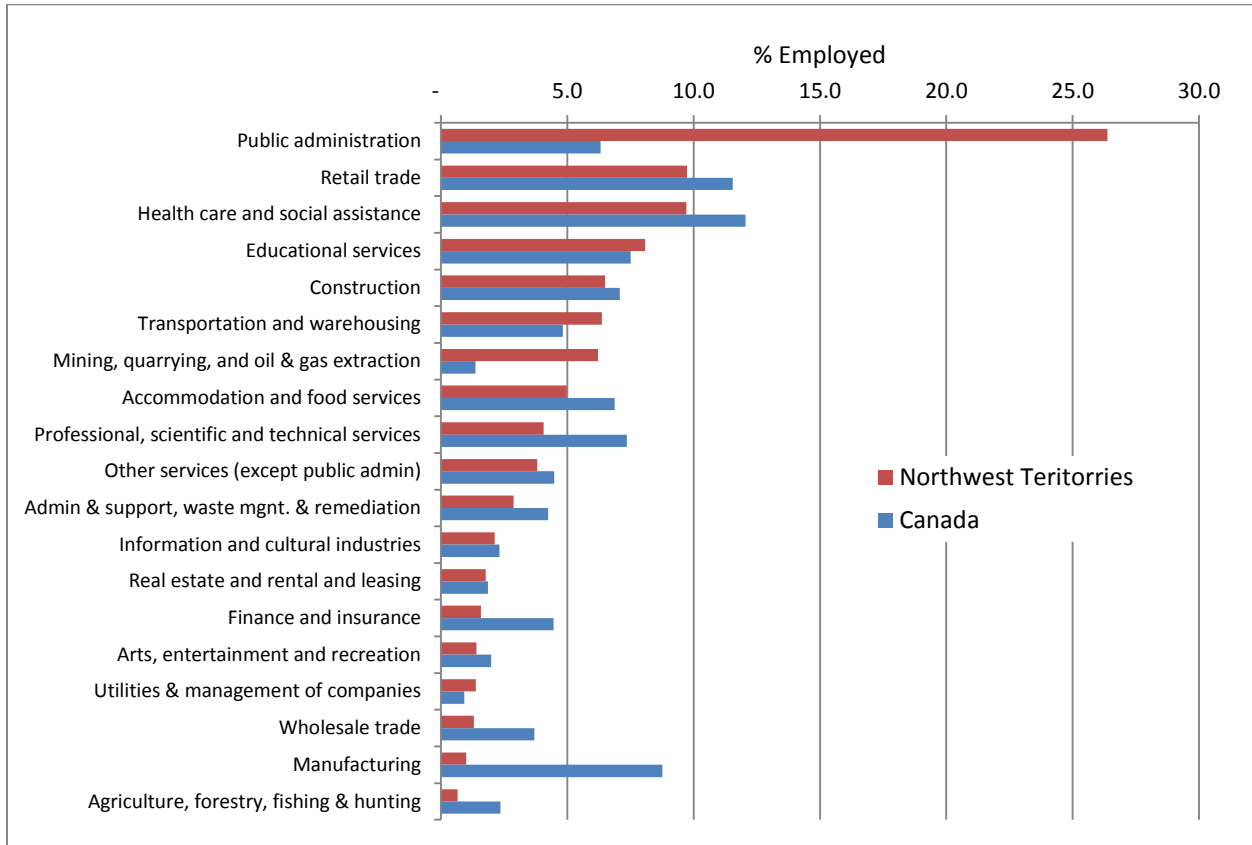
Table 5: Employment by Occupation (3 Digit NOC), NWT, 2016

	Pop. 15 Yrs. & Older		--- Male ---		--- Female ---	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total Employed	21,415	100.0	11,070	100.0	10,340	100.0
Cleaners (673)	830	3.9	405	3.7	425	4.1
Administrative and regulatory occupations (122)	820	3.8	200	1.8	620	6.0
Secondary and elementary school teachers and educational counsellors (403)	755	3.5	230	2.1	530	5.1
Policy and program researchers, consultants and officers (416)	720	3.4	325	2.9	400	3.9
Paraprofessionals in legal, social, community and education (421)	660	3.1	135	1.2	530	5.1
Motor vehicle and transit drivers (751)	660	3.1	590	5.3	70	0.7
General office workers (141)	570	2.7	60	0.5	510	4.9
Home care providers and educational support occupations (441)	545	2.5	50	0.5	495	4.8
Legislators and senior management (1)	470	2.2	300	2.7	170	1.6
Retail salespersons (642)	465	2.2	220	2.0	245	2.4
Office administrative assistants - general, legal and medical (124)	460	2.1	20	0.2	440	4.3
Heavy equipment operators (752)	450	2.1	440	4.0	10	0.1
Retail and wholesale trade managers (62)	420	2.0	280	2.5	140	1.4
Cashiers (661)	405	1.9	105	0.9	295	2.9
Professional occupations in nursing (301)	365	1.7	15	0.1	345	3.3
Occupations in front-line public protection services (431)	365	1.7	320	2.9	40	0.4
Administrative services managers (11)	360	1.7	130	1.2	225	2.2
Assisting occupations in support of health services (341)	335	1.6	65	0.6	270	2.6
Financial, insurance and related admin support workers (143)	315	1.5	45	0.4	265	2.6
Social and community service professionals (415)	310	1.4	100	0.9	210	2.0
<i>Rest of occupations</i>	<i>11,135</i>	<i>52.0</i>	<i>7,035</i>	<i>63.6</i>	<i>4,105</i>	<i>39.7</i>

Employment by industry

In 2016, public administration employed approximately one in four people in the NWT (26%) – more than any other industry. Together with retail trade (10%) health care and social assistance (10%), and educational services (8%), the top four industries employed over half (54%) of the NWT workforce. Nationally the highest proportion of employed persons were in health care and social assistance (12%), followed by retail trade (11%) and manufacturing (9%).

Figure 3: Employment by Industry, NWT & Canada, 2016



For more information, contact:

NWT Bureau of Statistics
Government of the Northwest Territories
Telephone: 867-767-9169
Toll Free: 1-888-782-8768 (1-888-STATSNT)
Email: knox_makumbe@gov.nt.ca

Or visit our website at:

<http://www.statsnwt.ca>