



Education, Instruction in the Minority Official Language, and Labour Market

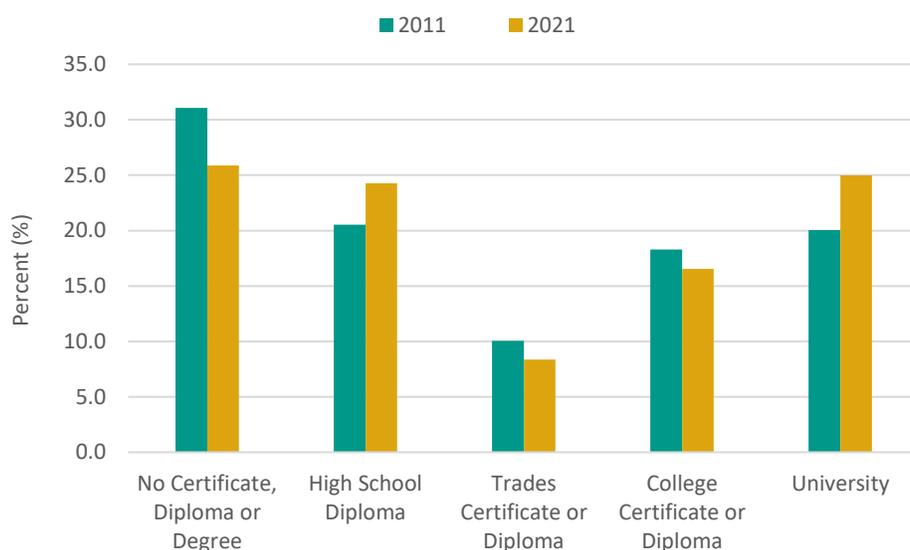
2021 Census

Yesterday Statistics Canada released the final data products from the 2021 Census, providing information on education, instruction in the minority official language, and the labour market.

Section 1: Education

Education levels continue to improve in the Northwest Territories (NWT) with more residents obtaining high school diplomas and postsecondary education. In 2021, 74.1% of NWT residents 15 years and over had a high school diploma or some form of postsecondary education, up from 68.9% in 2011 and 72.6% in 2016.

Figure 1: Population 15 years and older, by highest level of education, Northwest Territories, 2011 & 2021



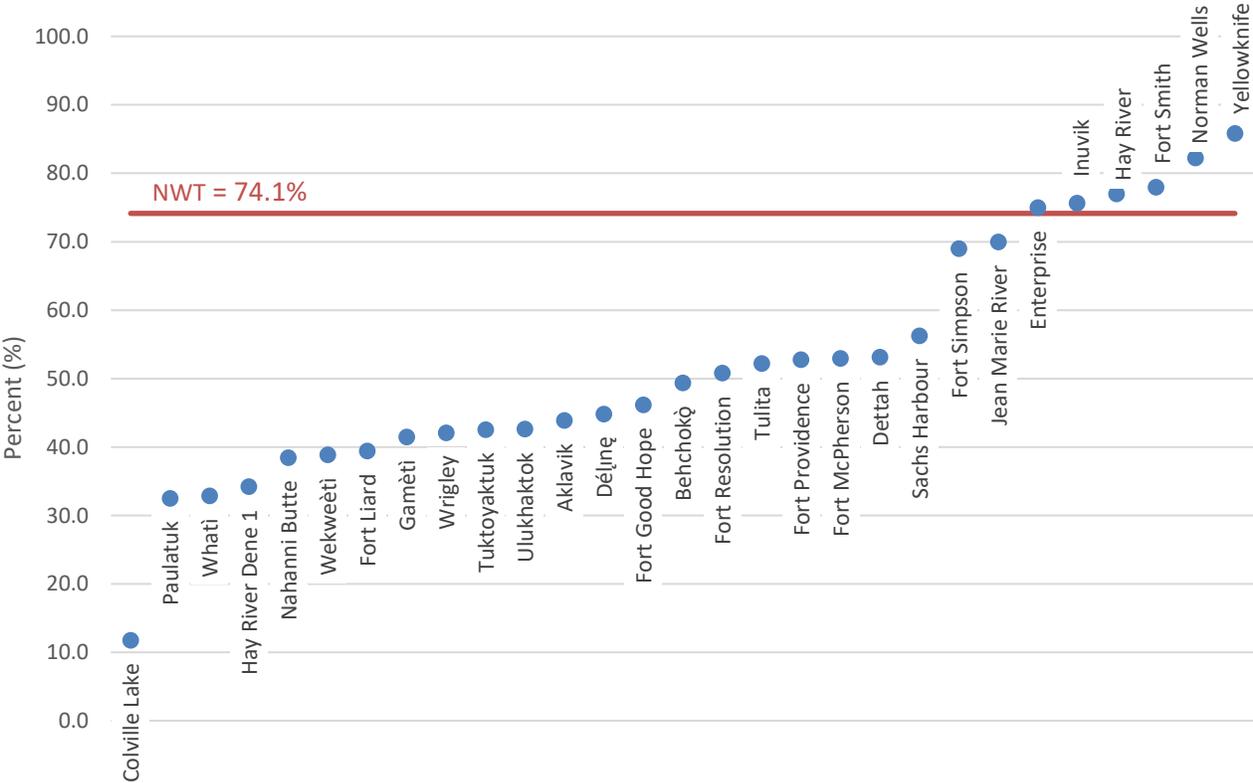
Between 2011 and 2021, residents without a certificate, diploma or degree as their highest level of education fell from 31.1% to 25.9%. Nationally, the rate was 16.2% with Nunavut having the highest level at 51.9%, followed by the NWT.

In the NWT, apprenticeship or trades and college or other non-university certificate or diploma as the highest level of education decreased since 2011, while high school diplomas and university qualifications increased.

Between 2011 and 2021, improvements in educational attainment were noted in the majority of the NWT communities¹, with Wrigley, Jean Marie River and Fort McPherson, showing the largest increases in the share of persons with a high school diploma or higher.

Regional centres² continue to have higher education levels compared to smaller NWT communities (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Population 15 years & older with high school diploma or higher, by community, Northwest Territories, 2021



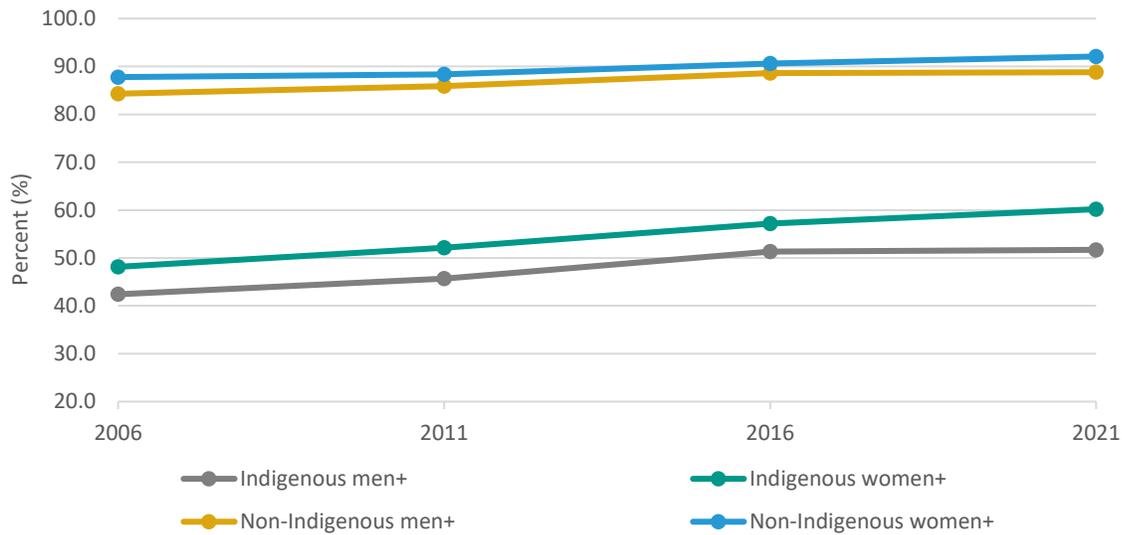
Ethnicity, gender, and educational attainment

Gains in education between 2006 and 2021 differed by ethnicity; Indigenous residents with a high school diploma or higher increased by nearly 11 percentage points to 56.1% (Figure 3). Those with high school diplomas and university degrees both increased. Meanwhile, the proportion of non-Indigenous persons with a high school diploma or higher increased from 85.9% to 90.3% during the same period.

Historically, women+ have had higher education levels than men+, however the gap is larger among Indigenous persons.

¹ Communities with TNR (Total non-response) rate higher than 90% were suppressed.
² Regional Centres: Behchokò, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Norman Wells, & Yellowknife

Figure 3: Population 15 years and older with high school diploma or higher by gender and ethnicity, Northwest Territories, 2006 to 2021



In 2021, the proportion of residents with apprenticeship or trades certificates or diplomas was higher among Indigenous than non-Indigenous residents, with men+ more than three times more likely than women+ to have a trades qualification.

Section 2: Instruction in a Minority Official Language

For the first time, the 2021 Census provided data on the number of children eligible to receive instruction in a minority official language, English in Québec and French in all other provinces and territories. If certain criteria are met, a child is considered eligible for education in the minority official language³.

In the NWT, there were 1,110 children under the age of 18 who were eligible to be educated in the French language; 325 were preschool age (less than 5 years old) and 785 were school-aged (5 – 17 years old). Despite the NWT having the third lowest population in Canada, it had the fifth highest proportion of eligible children. As well, the NWT had the highest proportion (63.8%) of eligible children living less than two kilometers from a French school.

³ A child whose usual place of residence is in Canada outside Quebec on Census Day is considered eligible for instruction in the minority official language (i.e., French), if at least one of the following criteria is met:

- At least one parent of the child has French as a mother tongue.
- At least one parent of the child is attending or has attended a regular French program in a French-language school in Canada during their primary education.
- The child is attending or has attended a regular French program in a French-language school in Canada during their primary or secondary education.
- A brother or a sister of the child is attending or has attended a regular French program in a French-language school in Canada during their primary or secondary education.

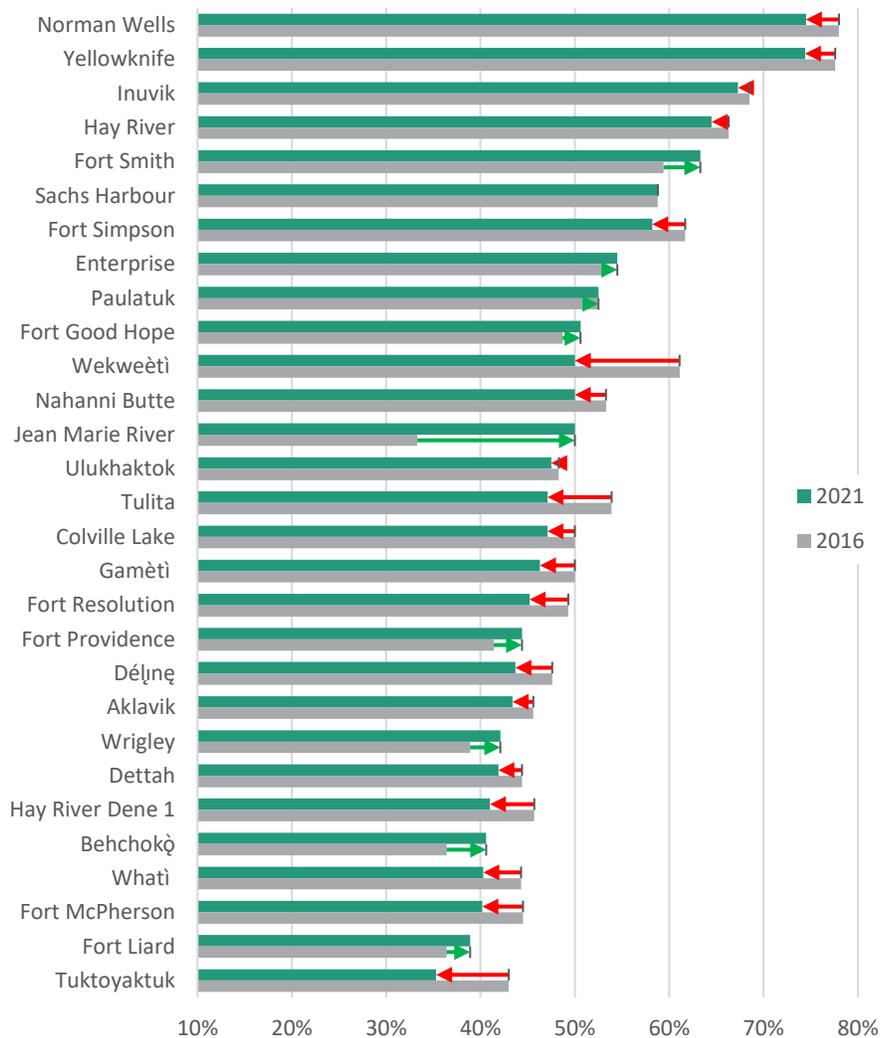
Section 3: Labour Market

While the most current information comes from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Census provides community level labour market information.

Similar to historical trends, 2021 employment rates were generally higher in regional centres than the outlying communities (Figure 4). For instance, the highest employment rates were recorded in Norman Wells (74.5%), Yellowknife (74.4%), Inuvik (67.3%) and Hay River (64.5%). Meanwhile, the lowest employment rates were recorded in Tuktoyaktuk (35.3%), Fort Liard (38.9%), Fort McPherson (40.2%), and Whatì (40.3%).

Compared to 2016, employment rates increased in nine communities while dropping in 19 communities, with one community unchanged, among those where data was available.

Figure 4: Employment rates by community, Northwest Territories, 2016 & 2021

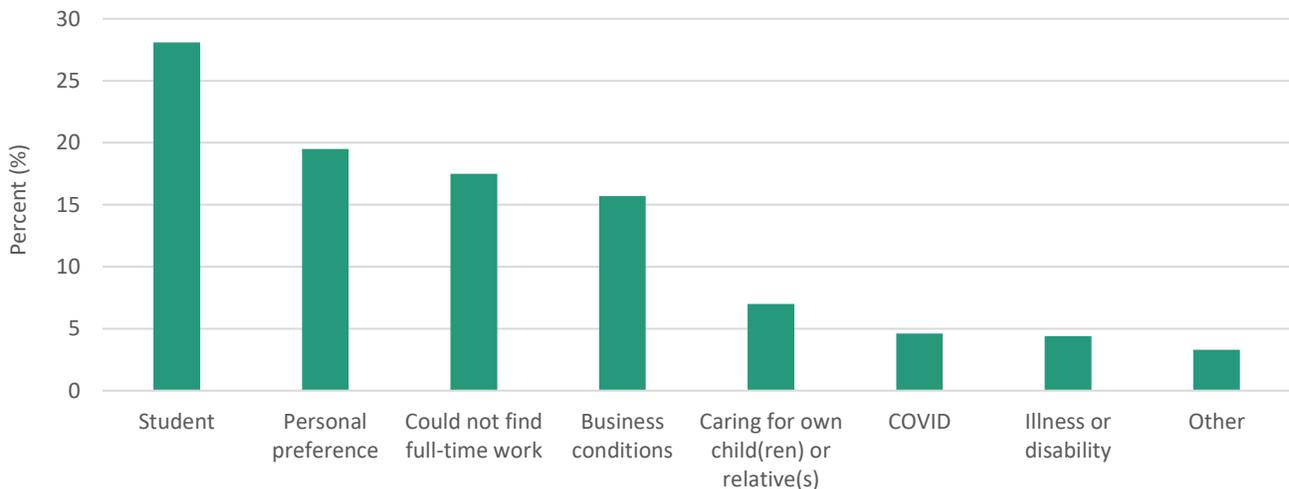


Similarly, unemployment rates were highest in smaller NWT communities, with 12 communities having rates of 20% or more. In contrast, except for Behchokò (21.1%) and Fort Simpson (10.7%), all regional centres had unemployment rates below 9%.

Work activity

The proportion of workers that were employed full-time for the full year rose 6.9 percentage points to 63.1% between 2015 and 2020, increasing across all age groups and for both men+ and women+. In 2021, 14.7% worked part time for various reasons (Figure 5).

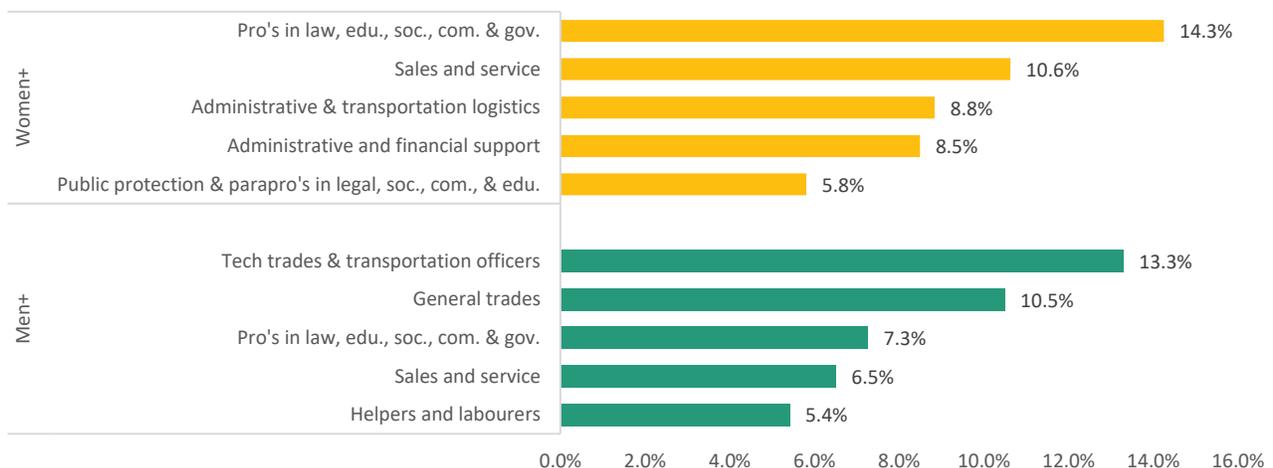
Figure 5: Main reasons people mostly worked part time, Northwest Territories, 2020



Employment by occupation

Similar to 2016, the highest proportion of NWT residents in 2021 worked in the broader occupational categories of sales & service occupations (19.6%), and in education, law & social, community & government service (21.9%). Historical gender differences in occupational groups persisted, with the largest share of women+ working in administrative and human service occupations (28.7%), while men+ were more concentrated in trades, transport and equipment operator and related occupations (32.6%).

Figure 6: Top occupations by gender, Northwest Territories, 2021



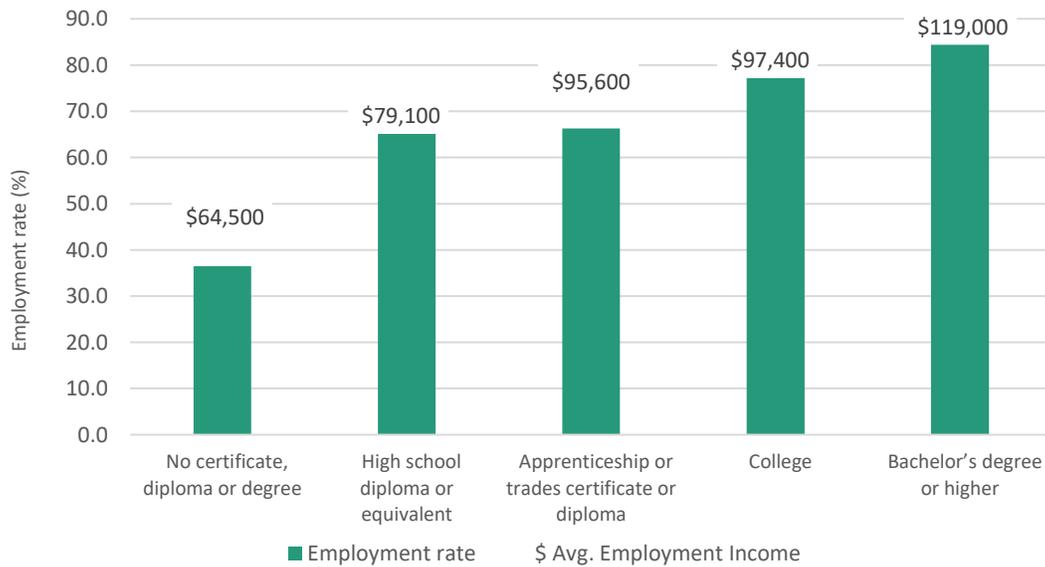
At 41.9%, the share of managerial occupations held by women+ was unchanged from 2016.

Visible minorities made 14.0% of the 2021 labour force, increasing from 10.8% in 2016. About 31.6% of visible minorities worked in in sales and service occupations.

Employment rates and employment income, by highest level of education

Figure 7 demonstrates the strong relationship between education levels, labour market indicators, and employment income. In 2021, NWT employment rates ranged from 36.5% for persons with less than high school diploma, to 84.4% for persons with postsecondary education. Likewise, higher levels of education equated with higher levels of employment income, with average earnings for those with university education in the NWT 84% higher than that for persons with no certificate, diploma, or degree.

Figure 7: Employment rate & average employment income, by highest level of schooling, Northwest Territories, 2021



For more information, please visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at <http://www.statsnwt.ca> or call (867) 767-9169.