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Gross Domestic Product

Northwest Territories, 2021 Preliminary

Statistics Canada has released initial 2021 industry level estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at basic prices in chained (2012) dollars. Changes in chained dollar GDP estimates only reflect the change in the quantities of goods and services produced, not their prices. In 2021, the NWT economy grew by 6.3% partially offsetting the 10.5% decline in 2020.

Figure 1 shows the NWT GDP for the goods and service producing sectors over the last 2 decades. Typically, GDP in the NWT is driven by a few goods producing industries that may rise or fall over the short to medium term. In contrast, the service producing sector tends to increase steadily over time. The pandemic disrupted both sectors in 2020 with both experiencing a partial recovery in 2021.

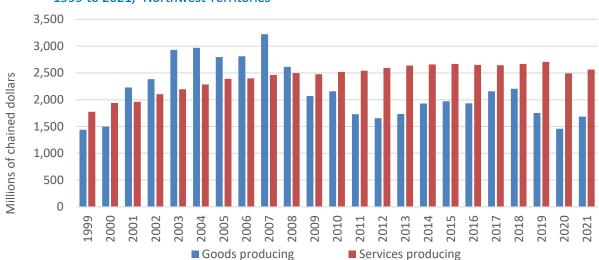


Figure 1 Gross Domestic Product at Basic Prices for the Goods and Service Sectors 1999 to 2021, Northwest Territories

The mining, oil and gas extraction industry, the largest industry in the territory, grew by 11.9% between 2020 and 2021. Following a temporary shutdown for most of 2020, the Ekati mine reopened in early 2021 resulting in a 12.2% increase in the diamond mining industry. The construction industry also grew in 2021, largely a result of increased engineering construction.

GDP changes between 2020 and 2021 varied among service producing industries. Real estate and renting and leasing, along with the retail trade industry saw GDP increase between 2019 and 2020, and again between 2020 and 2021. Finance and insurance also increased over both years as did public administration.



In contrast, wholesale trade GDP decreased a further 25% between 2020 and 2021. Transportation and warehousing, professional, scientific, and technical services, management, and arts, entertainment and recreation industries also saw GDP decrease between both two-year periods. After decreasing in 2020 by 38.7%, accommodation and food services rose by 8.0% in 2021.

Table 1 Gross Domestic Product at Basic Prices by Selected Industries, 2019 to 2021 Northwest Territories

	Millions of Chained (2012) Dollars			Percent Change (%)	
	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021
All industries	4,508.9	4,035.8	4,291.2	-10.5	6.3
Goods Producing Industries					
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	8.6	8.3	8.4	-3.5	1.2
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas	1,469.0	1,022.0	1,143.2	-30.4	11.9
Oil and gas extraction	168.2	116.4	122.4	-30.8	5.2
Diamond mining	1,375.7	966.1	1,083.8	-29.8	12.2
Support activities for mining, oil and gas	51.5	32.0	38.9	-37.9	21.6
Utilities	72.0	65.3	63.6	-9.3	-2.6
Construction	296.0	359.5	458.0	21.5	27.4
Residential building construction	28.5	36.2	38.2	27.0	5.5
Non-residential building construction	40.0	32.9	31.7	-17.8	-3.6
Engineering construction	115.3	172.8	260.5	49.9	50.8
Other activities in construction	31.8	39.0	50.0	22.6	28.2
Repair construction	85.1	78.7	75.3	-7.5	-4.3
Manufacturing	11.0	10.3	9.1	-6.4	-11.7
Service Producing Industries					
Wholesale trade	101.4	58.1	43.6	-42.7	-25.0
Retail trade	161.2	168.2	170.6	4.3	1.4
Transportation and warehousing	230.9	124.5	122.8	-46.1	-1.4
Information and cultural industries	104.6	103.5	104.4	-1.1	0.9
Finance and insurance	119.7	124.8	132.4	4.3	6.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	402.3	413.8	420.9	2.9	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical servic	es 81.4	74.7	74.3	-8.2	-0.5
Management of companies and enterprise	s 10.9	3.8	2.8	-65.1	-26.3
Administrative & support, waste man.	53.4	48.6	52.1	-9.0	7.2
Educational services	218.2	211.3	217.9	-3.2	3.1
Health care and social assistance	321.8	306.8	331.5	-4.7	8.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	6.5	3.3	2.6	-49.2	-21.2
Accommodation and food services	95.9	58.8	63.5	-38.7	8.0
Other services (except public administration	on) 58.7	54.4	57.0	-7.3	4.8
Public administration	736.0	742.1	771.1	0.8	3.9
Federal government	153.5	158.1	163.5	3.0	3.4
Provincial and territorial	416.9	418.9	438.4	0.5	4.7
Local, municipal and regional	98.4	94.4	98.9	-4.1	4.8
Indigenous	65.4	69.0	68.8	5.5	-0.3

National GDP

Table 2 shows GDP for the provinces and territories during 2019, 2020 and 2021. Nationally, GDP increased by 4.8% in 2021. Most provinces and territories grew by over 5% with Nunavut and Yukon experiencing the highest growth rate between 2020 and 2021. These two territories were the only jurisdictions to increase between 2019 and 2020, and again between 2020 and 2021. GDP in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island saw GDP returning to levels above 2019, while most other provinces and the Northwest Territories only partially recovered. Saskatchewan was the only jurisdiction to experience a decline in GDP between 2020 and 2021.

Table 2 Gross Domestic Product at Basic Prices, 2019 to 2021 Canada, Provinces and Territories

	Millions of Chained (2012) Dollars			Percent Change (%	
	2019	2020	2021	2020	2023
nada	1,986,183	1,884,083	1,974,468	-5.1	4.8
Northwest Territories	4,509	4,036	4,291	-10.5	6.3
Nunavut	3,084	3,164	3,376	2.6	6.
Yukon	2,555	2,687	2,931	5.2	9.
British Columbia	255,698	246,927	262,187	-3.4	6.
Alberta	334,202	307,522	323,065	-8.0	5.
Saskatchewan	81,454	77,273	77,038	-5.1	-0.
Manitoba	63,417	60,545	61,279	-4.5	1.
Ontario	750,793	713,444	746,495	-5.0	4.
Quebec	378,018	357,742	377,909	-5.4	5.
New Brunswick	31,017	30,052	31,630	-3.1	5.
Nova Scotia	37,907	36,950	39,082	-2.5	5.
Prince Edward Island	5,993	5,883	6,273	-1.8	6.
Newfoundland and Labrador	31,818	30,138	30,493	-5.3	1.

The next release of provincial/territorial economic accounts information is scheduled for November 2022. This release will provide final 2021 economic accounts information and revised estimates for the years 2019 and 2020. All three categories of GDP (industry, income and expenditure based) will be released in November.

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