

2016 NWT Annual Labour Force Activity

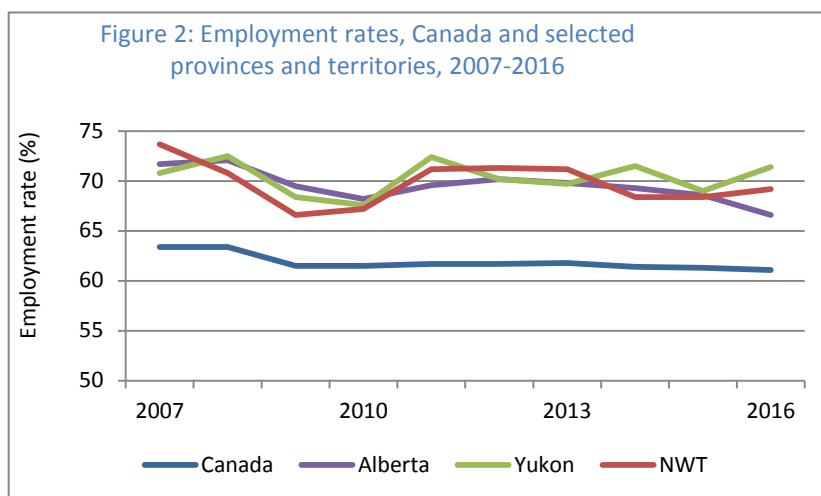
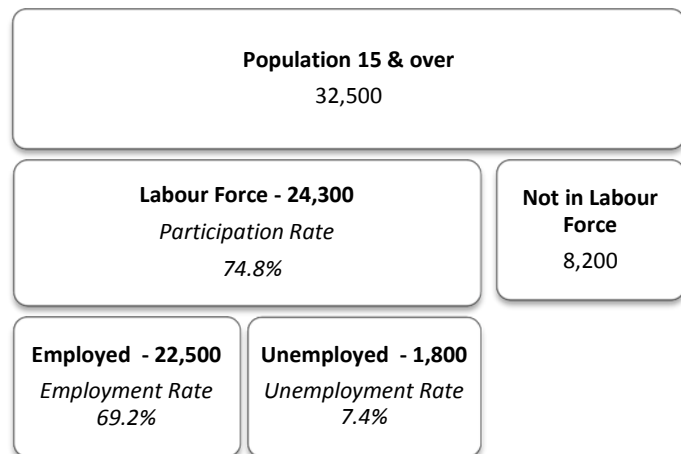
Overview

The Labour Force Survey is a source of monthly estimates of employment and unemployment. On a yearly basis, Statistics Canada combines monthly data to come up with detailed annual estimates. This report provides information on the Northwest Territories (NWT) labour force activity for 2016 with comparisons from previous years.

In 2016, the NWT had a labour force of 24,300 people, a slight increase from 24,000 in 2015. Of these workers, 22,500 were employed and 1,800 were unemployed. Following two years of no increases, the employment rate in 2016 went up 0.8 percentage points to 69.2%, but remained below the 70% seen in 2011-2013.

All job gains (+600) from the previous year occurred in full-time employment, increasing the proportion of full-time employment to 88.0% of total employment.

Figure 1: Annual labour force activity, NWT, 2016



Nationally, Canada's employment rate was 61.1%, with Yukon (71.4%) having the highest employment rate, followed by the Northwest Territories (69.2%) and Alberta (66.6%). Since 2001, the NWT employment rate has been higher than the Canadian employment rate by at least 5.1 percentage points.

In 2016, Canada's unemployment rate was 7.0% compared to 7.4% for the Northwest Territories.

Key demographic characteristics

Gender

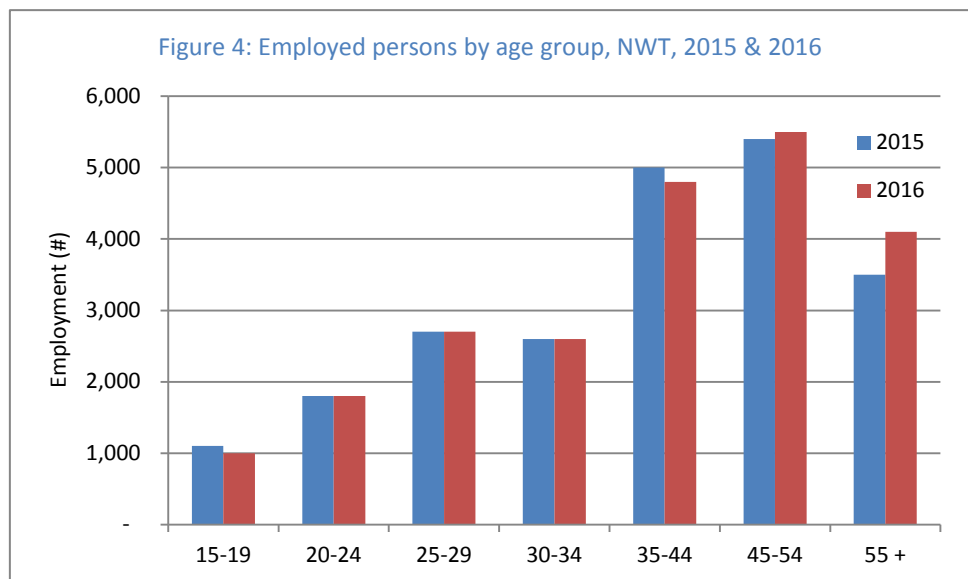
Between 2007 and 2016, the number of employed males declined by 900 while that of females was relatively unchanged. As a result, the proportion of females among employed persons increased from 47.2% to 49.3% during that period. Consequently, the gap in male and female employment narrowed from 1,300 to only 300 between 2007 and 2016. Employment rates have followed a similar pattern. In 2015 and 2016, male and female employment rates were 0.7 and 1.4 percentage points apart, respectively. This is the closest employment rates by sex have been since 2001.



Age groups

In 2016, employment rose by 600 persons among age groups 45-54 and 55 years and over. Employment in the remaining age groups was unchanged or declined from the previous year (Figure 4).

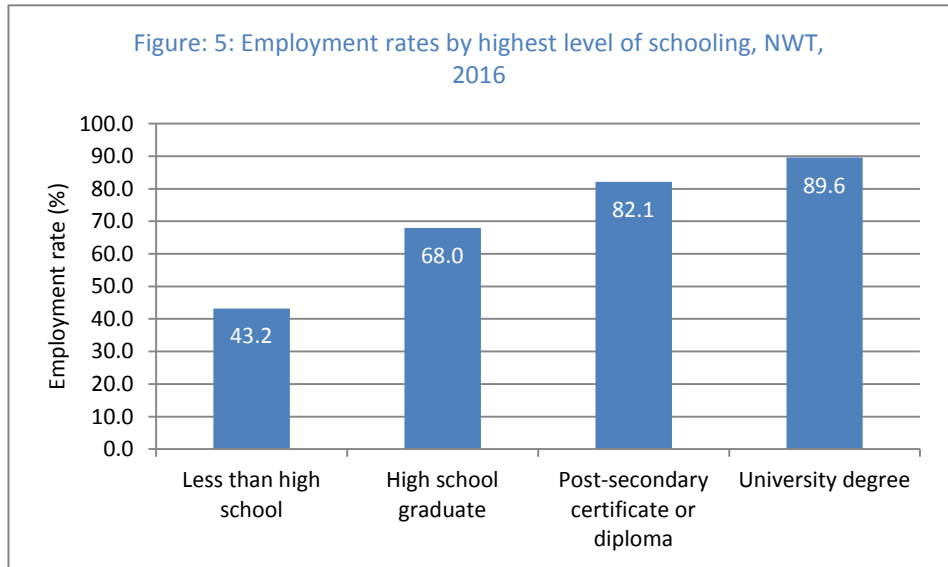
Following historic patterns, the employment rate for youths aged 15-24 remained low, at 47.5%, compared to 74.1% for those 25 years and over.



Educational attainment

Employment trends in the NWT demonstrate the strong association between educational attainment and employment. For example, employment rates have stayed above 86% among those with a university degree since 2007. In contrast, during the same period employment rates ranged between 36.3% and 47.6% among those with less than high school education.

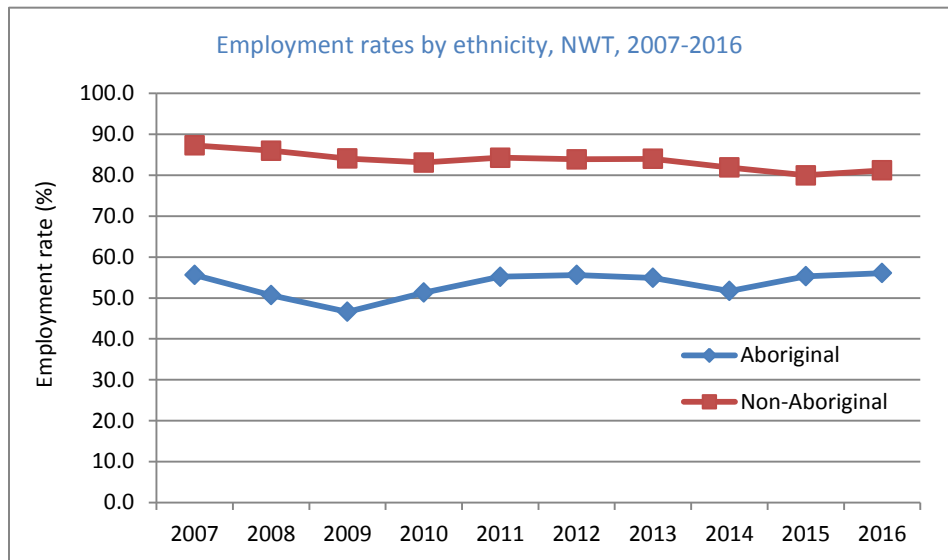
In 2016, the employment rate for those with less than high school was 43.2% compared to 79.3% for those with high school education or more.



Ethnicity

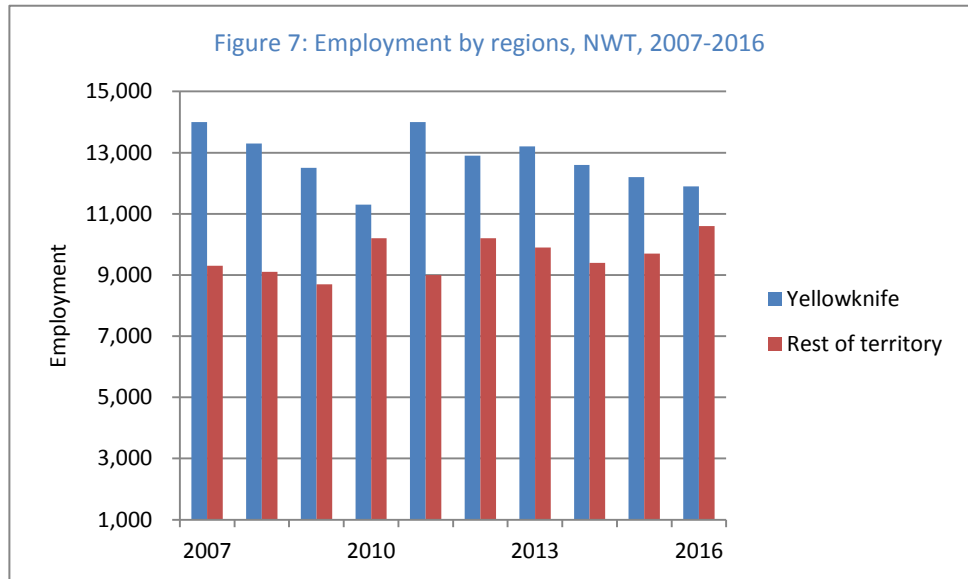
The employment rate increased slightly for both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal persons between 2015 and 2016.

At 56.1%, the 2016 Aboriginal employment rate was the highest for this group in 10 years. Despite this increase, the gap in the employment rates for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal persons persist (Figure 6).



Regional summary

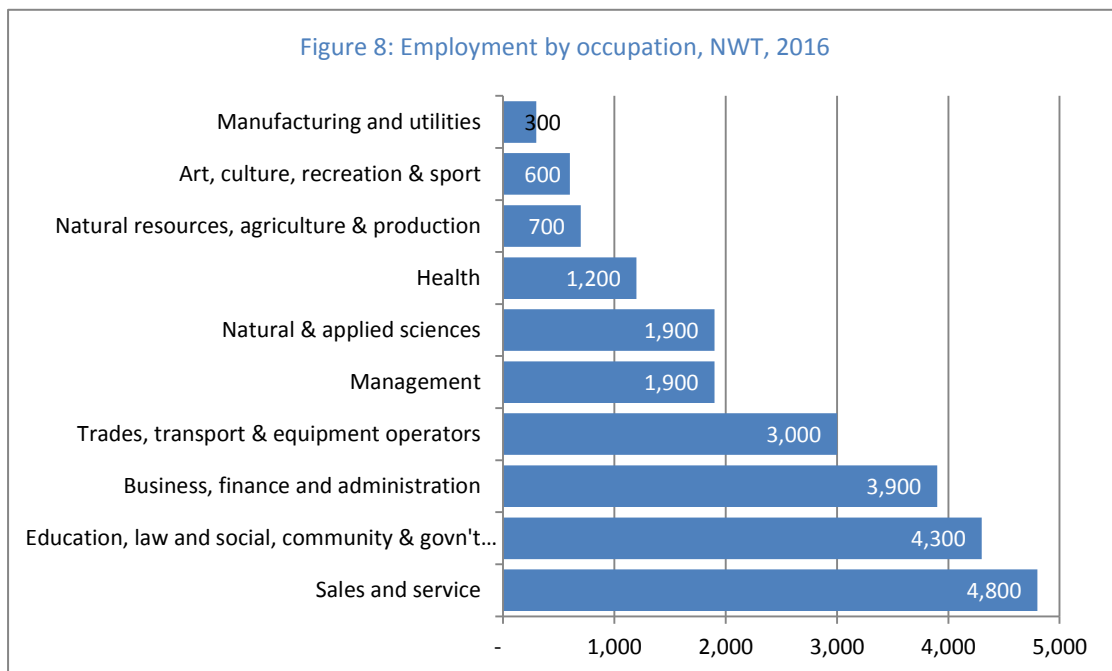
Regionally, employment dropped for the third successive year in Yellowknife with 300 less people employed in the region compared to 2015. In contrast, employment continued to trend upwards for the rest of the territory, reaching 10,600 in 2016. This is a record number of persons employed outside of Yellowknife.



In 2016, the employment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points to 79.3% in Yellowknife, while it increased 2.5 percentage points to 60.6% in the rest of the territory.

Employment by occupation

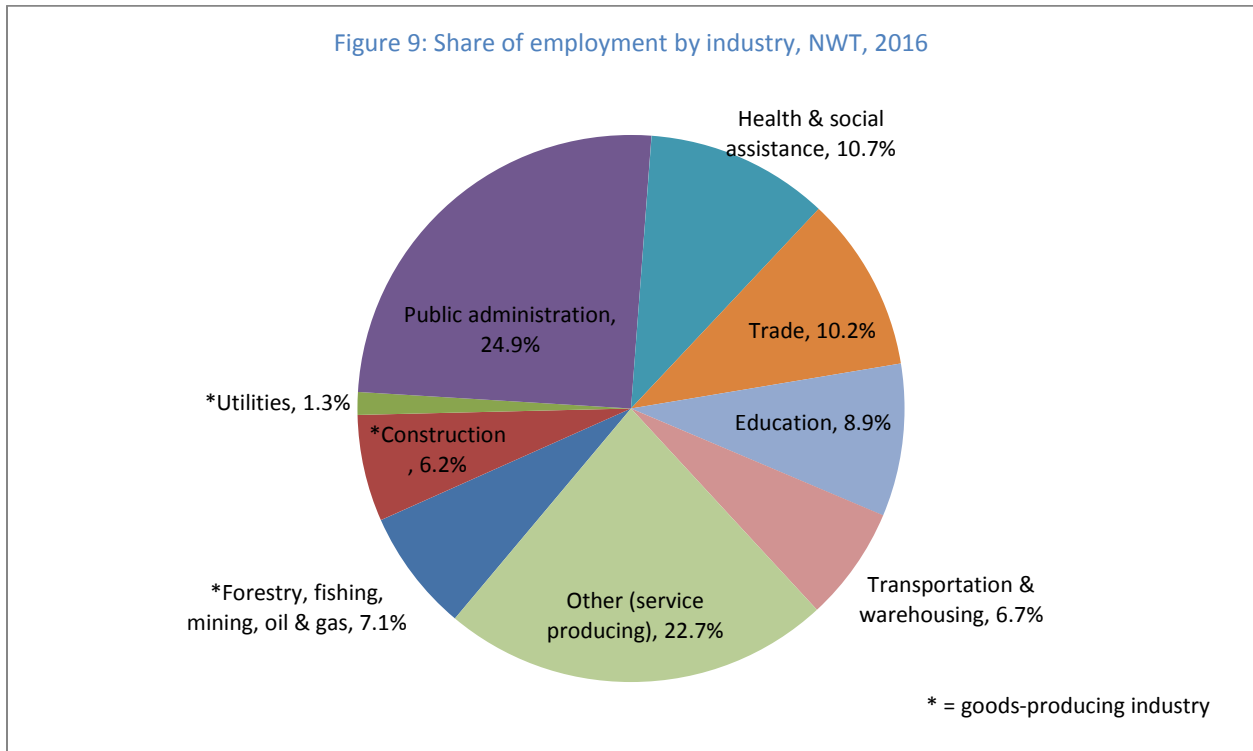
In the past 10 years to 2016, the majority of employment was concentrated in the following four occupation groups: sales and service occupations; occupations in education, law and social, community and government services; occupations in business, finance and administration; and occupations in trades, transport and equipment operation. The four occupational groups accounted for 71.1% of employed persons in 2016.



Employment by industry

Between 2015 and 2016, the proportion of people employed in the services-producing sector grew 2.7 percentage points to 84% with a corresponding drop in the proportion employed in the goods-producing sector to 16% of total employment. This was the smallest share of employment in the goods-producing sector since 2003 and possibly a reflection of changes in the mining industry in recent years.

In 2016, the number of employed persons was highest in public administration, followed by health care and social assistance, trade, and educational services (Figure 9).



Statistical Tables

Table 1: Labour force activity by selected characteristics, NWT 2016

	Population 15 & over	Labour force	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment	Not in labour force	Participa- tion rate	Unemploy- ment rate	Employ- ment rate
Northwest Territories	32,500	24,300	22,500	1,800	8,200	74.8	7.4	69.2
Males	16,300	12,500	11,400	1,100	3,800	76.7	8.8	69.9
Females	16,200	11,800	11,100	600	4,400	72.8	5.1	68.5
15 – 24 yrs.	5,900	3,300	2,800	500	2,600	55.9	15.2	47.5
25 – 54 yrs.	18,900	16,700	15,600	1,100	2,200	88.4	6.6	82.5
55 + yrs.	7,700	4,300	4,100	200	3,400	55.8	4.7	53.2
Aboriginal	15,500	10,100	8,700	1,400	5,400	65.2	13.9	56.1
Non-Aboriginal	17,000	14,200	13,800	400	2,800	83.5	2.8	81.2
Yellowknife	15,000	12,500	11,900	600	2,500	83.3	4.8	79.3
Rest of territory	17,500	11,800	10,600	1,200	5,700	67.4	10.2	60.6
Less than high school	8,800	4,500	3,800	700	4,300	51.1	15.6	43.2
High school	7,500	5,600	5,100	500	1,900	74.7	8.9	68.0
Certificate/diploma	9,500	8,200	7,800	400	1,400	86.3	4.9	82.1
University degree	6,700	6,100	6,000	-	700	91.0	-	89.6

Table 2: Employment rates by key characteristics, NWT, 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Population 15+	73.7	70.8	66.6	67.2	71.2	71.3	71.2	68.4	68.4	69.2
Males	75.5	72.6	68.1	68.3	72.7	72.7	72.1	69.9	68.8	69.9
Females	72.4	68.8	65.2	65.4	69.6	69.8	69.6	66.5	68.1	68.5
15 -24 yrs.	50.0	47.8	41.2	41.2	47.1	46.3	47.7	44.4	48.3	47.5
25 -54 yrs.	86.7	84.1	79.3	80.3	83.5	83.5	83.0	81.7	83.9	82.5
55 + yrs.	55.8	51.9	53.6	52.5	59.0	60.3	58.2	51.4	47.9	53.2
Aboriginal	55.6	50.7	46.6	51.3	55.2	55.6	54.9	51.7	55.3	56.1
Non-Aboriginal	87.3	86.0	84.1	83.1	84.3	83.9	84.0	81.9	80.0	81.2
Less than high school	47.6	43.6	36.3	36.8	44.4	44.6	44.8	39.1	43.5	43.2
High school	80.0	77.0	73.4	77.3	71.2	71.0	69.1	69.7	64.9	68.0
Certificate or diploma	88.4	85.7	85.2	85.2	86.6	83.8	83.5	82.0	81.4	82.1
University degree	92.5	92.7	91.5	90.4	92.6	89.8	88.5	86.9	86.9	89.6
Yellowknife	83.3	82.1	81.2	80.1	80.9	81.6	82.0	79.2	79.7	79.3
Rest of territory	62.8	58.3	53.4	57.0	60.0	61.4	60.0	57.0	58.1	60.6

Table 3: Employment by class of worker and industry, NWT 2015 & 2016

	2016		2015	
	Persons	(%)	Persons	(%)
Population 15+	22,500	100.0	21,900	100.0
Class of worker				
Employees	21,100	93.8	20,300	92.7
Public employees	10,500	49.8	9,400	46.3
Private employees	10,600	50.2	10,900	53.7
Self-employed	1,400	6.2	1,600	7.3
Industry				
Goods-producing sector	3,600	16.0	4,100	18.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	1,600	7.1	1,800	8.2
Construction	1,400	6.2	1,600	7.3
Utilities	300	1.3	300	1.4
Services-producing sector	18,900	84.0	17,800	81.3
Public administration	5,600	24.9	4,700	21.5
Health care and social assistance	2,400	10.7	2,000	9.1
Trade	2,300	10.2	2,200	10.0
Educational services	2,000	8.9	1,900	8.7
Transportation and warehousing	1,500	6.7	1,400	6.4
Accommodation and food services	1,100	4.9	1,000	4.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	900	4.0	1,000	4.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	900	4.0	1,000	4.6
Information, culture and recreation	900	4.0	900	4.1
Other services	800	3.6	1,000	4.6
Business, building and other support services	500	2.2	700	3.2

Table 4: Labour force activity, NWT, 2001-2016

	<i>Population</i>	<i>Labour force</i>	<i>Employed</i>	<i>Unemployed</i>	<i>Not in labour force</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>	<i>Unemployment rate (%)</i>	<i>Employment rate (%)</i>
2016	32,500	24,300	22,500	1,800	8,200	74.8	7.4	69.2
2015	32,000	24,000	21,900	2,000	8,000	75.0	8.3	68.4
2014	32,300	24,000	22,100	1,900	8,300	74.3	7.9	68.4
2013	32,600	25,100	23,200	2,000	7,500	77.0	8.0	71.2
2012	32,400	25,100	23,100	2,100	7,300	77.5	8.4	71.3
2011	32,300	24,800	23,000	1,800	7,500	76.8	7.3	71.2
2010	32,000	23,200	21,500	1,700	8,800	72.5	7.3	67.2
2009	31,700	22,600	21,100	1,400	9,200	71.3	6.2	66.6
2008	31,800	23,900	22,500	1,400	7,900	75.2	5.9	70.8
2007	31,600	24,700	23,300	1,400	6,900	78.2	5.7	73.7
2006	31,200	24,300	23,100	1,300	6,900	77.9	5.3	74.0
2005	31,200	23,900	22,700	1,200	7,300	76.6	5.0	72.8
2004	30,900	23,600	22,100	1,500	7,300	76.4	6.4	71.5
2003	30,200	22,900	21,300	1,600	7,300	75.8	7.0	70.5
2002	29,200	22,300	21,000	1,300	6,900	76.4	5.8	71.9
2001	28,400	21,800	19,900	1,900	6,600	76.8	8.7	70.1

For additional information on the Labour Force Survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at <http://www.statsnwt.ca/> or call (867) 767-9169.