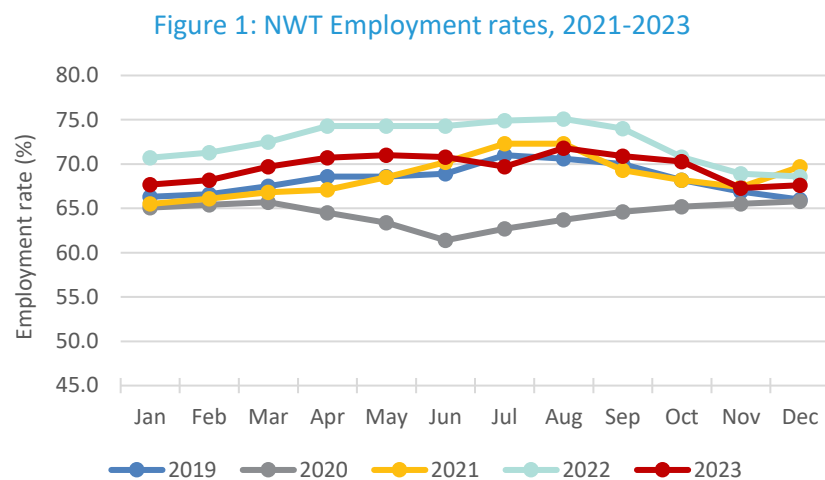




## Labour Force Activity<sup>1</sup> December & Annual Review 2023

On a yearly basis, Statistics Canada combines monthly data from the Labour Force Survey to come up with detailed annual estimates. This report provides information on the annual results released today, in addition to a summary of labour market estimates for December 2023.



In December 2023, the seasonally unadjusted employment rate in the Northwest Territories marginally increased to 67.6%, representing a 0.3 percentage point increase from November. Figure 1 indicates 2023 monthly employment rates were similar to previous years with the exception of the historical highs of 2022 and the 2020 COVID-19 impacts on the labour market. Meanwhile, the month-over-month unemployment rate increased from 4.5% to 6.1% in December as a result of more people entering the labour market looking for work.

### Year-End Review, 2023<sup>2</sup>

In 2023, the average employment rate was 69.9%, dropping from 72.2% reported in 2022. The number of employed persons averaged 23,900 workers in 2023, down from 24,700 in 2022. The drop in employment was largely in part-time work, the private sector and in self-employment.

During the same period, the unemployment rate increased by close to a percentage point to 5.9% as the number of people seeking employment increased from 1,300 to 1,500.

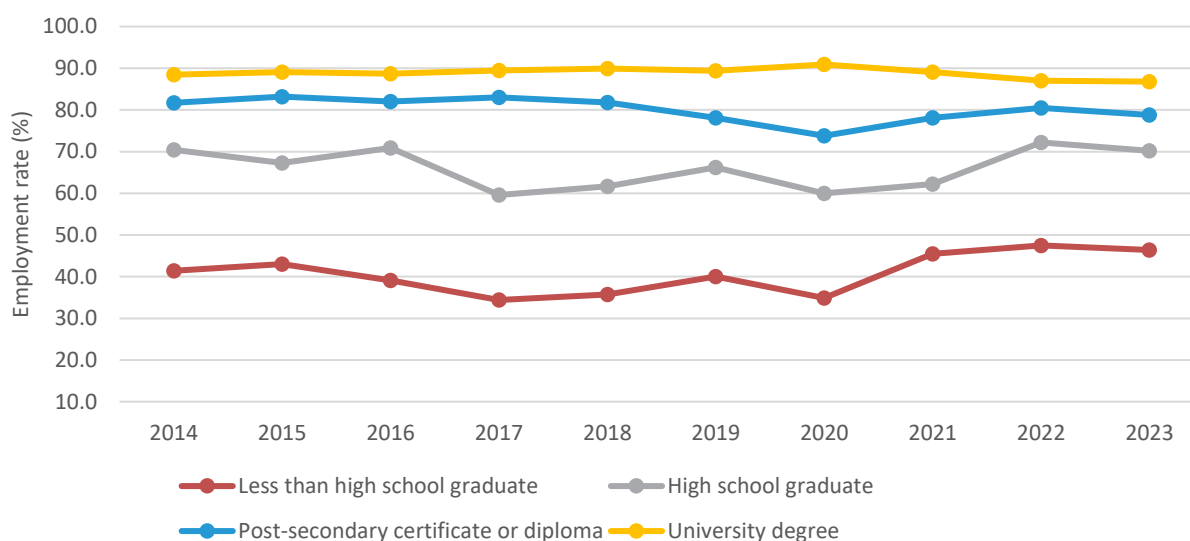
<sup>1</sup> LFS estimates in this report are based on seasonally unadjusted, three-months moving-average time series data.

<sup>2</sup> Forest fires in the NWT forced collection of the monthly labour force to be suspended during the month of August 2023. With more than half the population evacuated, coupled with the fact that estimates for the territories are based on three month moving averages, the territory's 2023 labour market activity may not be fully reflected.

## Employment Rates by Highest Level of Schooling

Similar to historical patterns, the employment rate in 2023 differed by the highest level of schooling attained, ranging from 46.4% among persons with less than high school education to 86.8% among those with a university degree. Despite slight declines across all educational attainment categories between 2022 and 2023, employment rates in the NWT consistently demonstrate the strong association between educational attainment and employment.

Figure 2: Historical Employment Rates by Highest Level of Schooling, 2006-2023



## Employment Change by Selected Demographic Characteristics

Between 2022 and 2023 employment rates decreased for most demographic categories, with those living outside of Yellowknife, Indigenous persons, and those 55 years or older recording the largest drop (Table 1). Meanwhile, employment rate increases were recorded among Non-Indigenous persons and those living in Yellowknife.

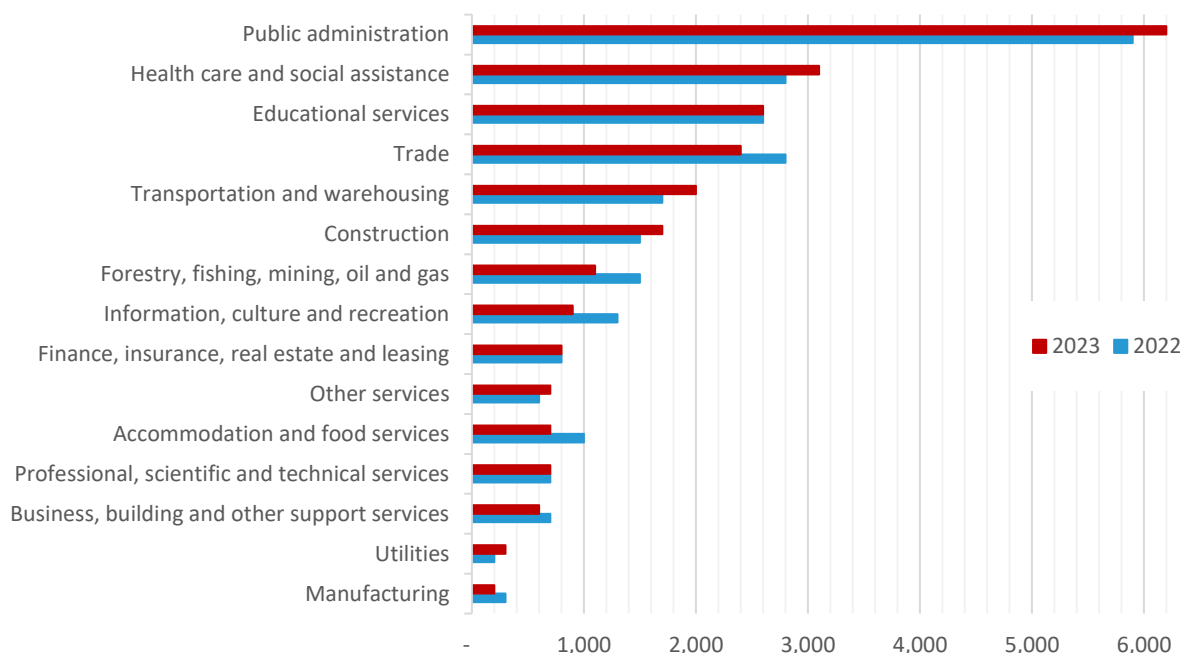
Table 1: Historical NWT Employment Rates by Selected Characteristics, 2014 - 2023

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>69.9</b>
Males	69.8	70.0	68.8	67.1	68.2	69.0	63.2	67.2	72.0	69.1
Females	68.3	69.1	69.3	66.3	66.5	67.1	65.5	71.5	72.5	70.7
15 – 24 yrs.	48.4	50.0	49.2	43.1	46.4	48.2	40.0	55.6	51.9	50.9
25 – 54 yrs.	81.6	83.8	82.3	81.3	79.1	79.9	76.0	80.6	84.7	83.1
55 + yrs.	52.1	48.0	51.3	48.1	54.1	54.5	54.3	53.7	59.8	54.5
Indigenous	53.1	55.3	53.9	50.6	50.3	51.3	49.3	58.3	60.9	54.0
Non-Indigenous	81.9	82.2	82.0	80.1	81.1	81.4	76.3	76.0	79.9	82.3
Yellowknife	80.2	81.7	79.6	77.6	78.5	78.2	72.9	75.4	76.4	79.3
Rest of territories	57.7	58.3	59.5	55.7	55.8	57.9	54.9	62.1	67.5	58.9

## Employment Change by Industry

Sectors that saw year-over-year employment increases in 2023 included public administration, health care and social assistance, transportation & warehousing, and construction (Figure 3). On the other hand, accommodation & food services; trade; forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas; and information, culture & recreation recorded larger drops in employment.

Figure 3: Annual Employment Change, by Selected Industries, 2022-2023



Additional labour market information can be found on the NWT Bureau of Statistics website.

- Tables & Reports: <https://www.statsnwt.ca/labour-income/labour-force-activity/>
- Telephone: (867) 767-9169

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