

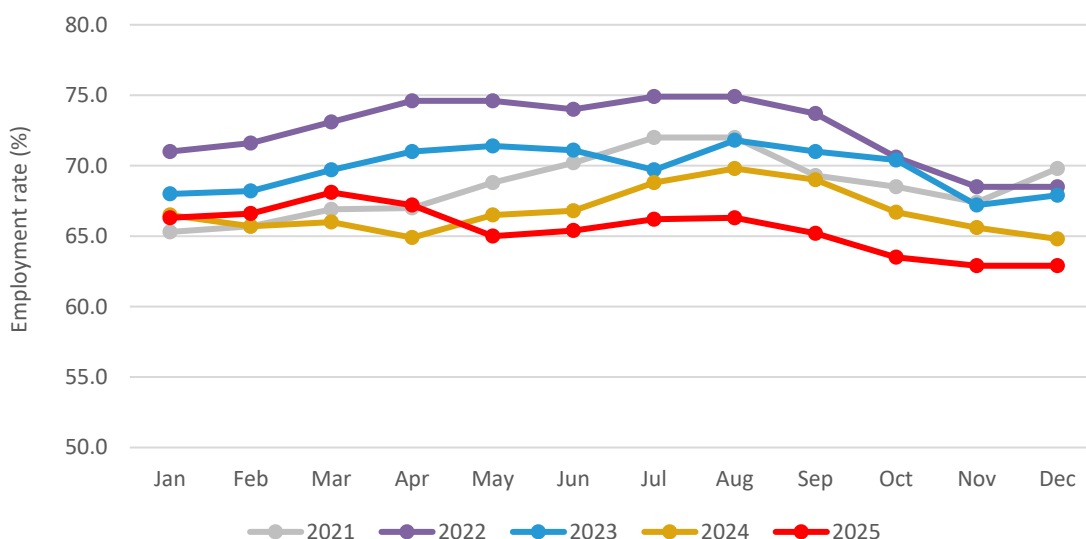


Labour Force Activity¹ December & Annual Review 2025

December 2025

According to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, an estimated 23,200 Northwest Territories residents were in the labour force in December 2025, with 22,200 employed. This corresponds to an employment rate of 62.9%, unchanged from the previous month and 4.0 percentage points below the 10-year December average. Last month's lower employment rate reflects a broader trend as employment rates have remained below historical monthly averages since May 2025.

Figure 1: Historical Employment Rates, Northwest Territories



Year-over-year, the NWT employment rate dropped 1.9 percentage points between December 2024 and December 2025. Despite this decline, the NWT had the fourth highest employment rate among provinces and territories in December. Yukon had the highest rate (70.7%), followed by Alberta (64.3%) and Saskatchewan (63.6%).

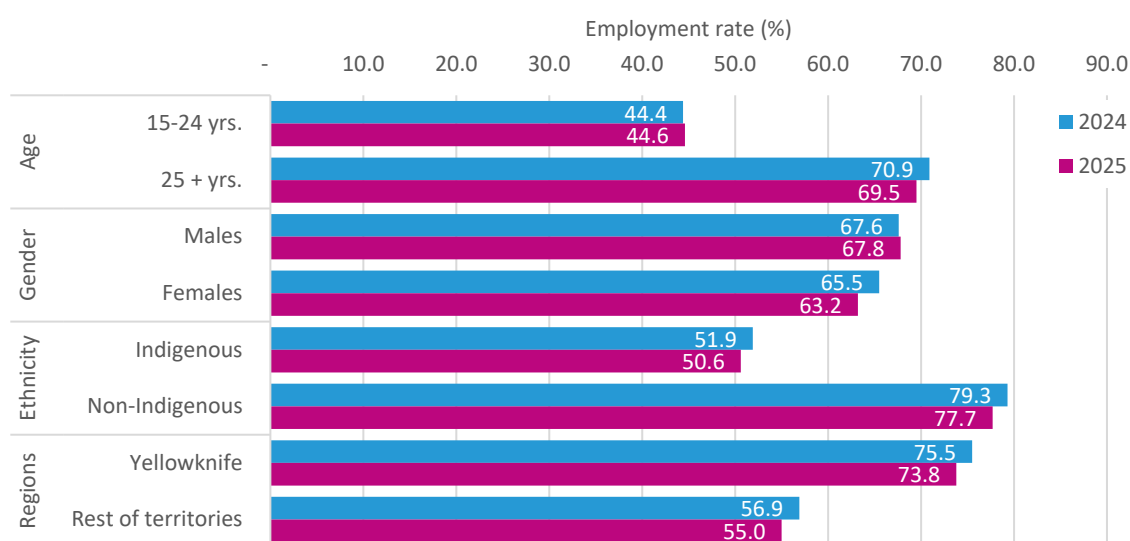
¹ Monthly LFS estimates in this report are based on seasonally unadjusted, three-months moving-average time series data.

Year-End Review, 2025

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly estimates of key labour market indicators. Each year, Statistics Canada aggregates these monthly data to produce detailed annual estimates. The rest of this report presents information on the annual estimates released today.

In 2025, the average employment rate in the NWT was 65.5%, slightly lower than the 66.6% recorded in 2024 and the second lowest since collection began in 2001. Only the COVID-impacted year of 2020 had a lower annual rate. Employment rates slightly declined for most major worker groups, with the largest decreases among females, persons living outside of Yellowknife, and Non-Indigenous persons.

Figure 2: Employment Rates by Selected Characteristics, 2024 & 2025

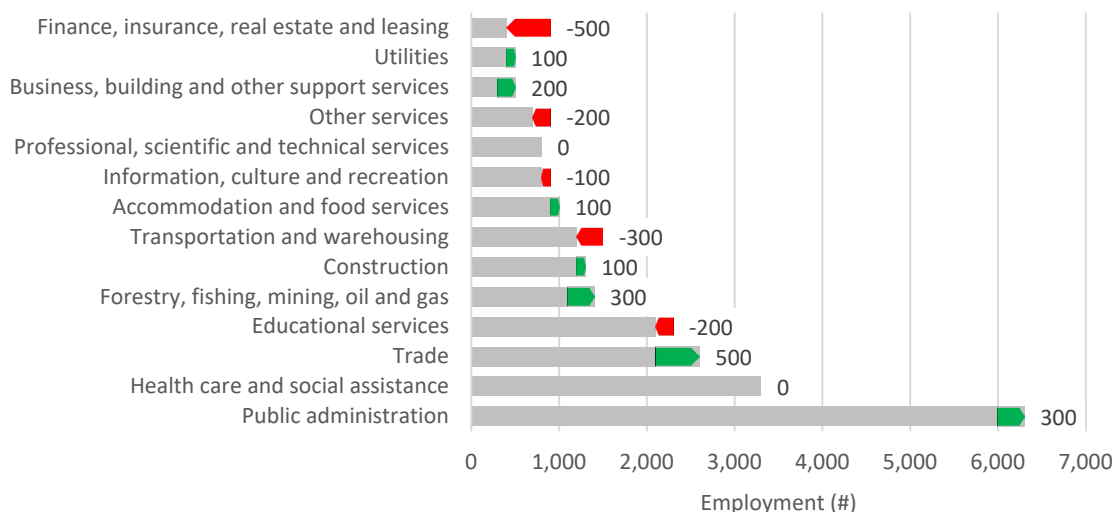


Between 2024 and 2025, the NWT labour force declined slightly by 200 people to 24,100. Gains in part-time employment (+300) were offset by a decrease in full-time employment.

Employment Change by Industry

The services sector shed 300 jobs in 2025, following a loss of 500 jobs in 2024. In contrast, the goods-producing sector added 300 jobs in 2025 after losing 400 in 2024. Despite minimal overall employment growth, certain industries experienced gains, including trade; forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas; public administration; and business, building, and other support services.

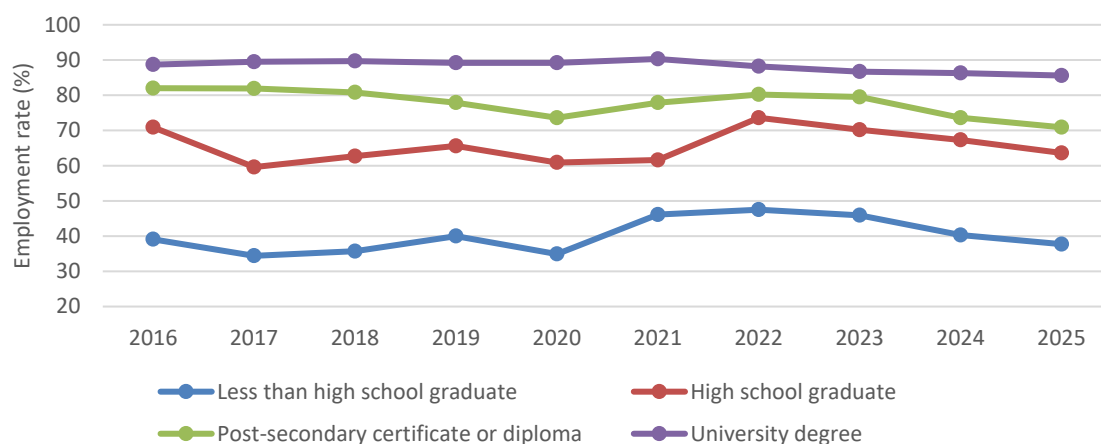
Figure 3: Employment Changes by Selected Industries, 2024 & 2025



Employment Rates by Highest Level of Schooling

In 2025, the employment rate ranged from 37.7% for individuals without a high school diploma to 85.6% for those with a university degree. These figures are similar to historical rates and show greater employment rate stability for those with university education compared to other groups, underscoring the persistent link between higher education and improved employment prospects (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Employment Rates by Highest Level of Schooling, 2016-2025



Over the past ten years, the proportion of NWT residents aged 15 and older with a university degree increased by 6.4 percentage points to 25.6%, while the share without post-secondary education declined by 4.7 percentage points to 37.6%, reflecting a gradual shift toward higher educational attainment in the territory.

Additional labour market information can be found on the NWT Bureau of Statistics website:
<https://www.statsnwt.ca/labour-income/labour-force-activity/>

Next Release: February 6, 2026