

# Monthly Labour Force Survey: Notes and Definitions

## Northwest Territories

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### Survey Methodology

- The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a monthly household survey of a sample of individuals who are representative of the civilian, non-institutionalized population 15 years of age or older.
- Survey operations are completed by Statistics Canada staff in both the provinces and the territories.
- Interviews are completed in person for initial contact and by telephone for follow-up interviews where possible.
- Data is collected from approximately 693 Northwest Territories households per month.
- The sample is designed to represent 96.4% of all territorial residents 15 years of age and older.

### Survey Results

- Results are reported based on three month moving averages. This means that data reported for April, actually represent survey collection in February, March and April.
- Due to the use of three month moving averages, the month to month changes should be used with some caution. However, this technique should smooth out extreme variations in the data and allow simpler trend analysis.
- All counts from the monthly labour force survey are rounded to the nearest 100, however, rates are based on raw data. Due to the rounding some components may not sum to the total.
- Since estimates for the territories are calculated and reported as moving averages, they are therefore not included with the monthly provincial totals.

## Definitions

**Employment:** Employed persons are those who, during the reference week:

- did any work at all at a job or business, that is, paid work in the context of an employer-employee relationship, or self-employment. It also includes persons who did unpaid family work, which is defined as unpaid work contributing directly to the operation of a farm, business or professional practice owned and operated by a related member of the same household; or
- had a job but were not at work due to illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, vacation or labour dispute. This category excludes persons not at work because they were on layoff or between casual jobs, and those who did not then have a job (even if they had a job to start at a future date).

**Employment rate** (employment/population ratio): Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

**Goods-producing industries (or goods sector/goods industries):** Includes agriculture; forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas extraction; utilities (electric power, gas and water); construction; and manufacturing.

**Household:** Any person or group of persons living in a dwelling. A household may consist of any combination of: one person living alone, one or more families or a group of people who are not related.

**Labour force:** Civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the survey reference week, were employed or unemployed.

**Labour force status:** Designates the status of the respondent vis-à-vis the labour market: a member of the non-institutional population 15 years of age and over is either employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force.

**Not in the labour force:** Persons who were neither employed, nor unemployed during the reference period. This includes persons who, during the reference period, were either unable to work or unavailable for work. It also includes persons who were without work and who had neither looked for work in the past four weeks, nor had a job to start within four weeks of the reference period.

**Participation rate:** Total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over.

**Population:** The target population covered by the survey corresponds to all persons aged 15 years and over, with the exception of the following: full-time members of the regular Armed Forces and persons living in institutions (for example, inmates of penal institutions and patients in hospitals or nursing homes).

**Public/private sector employment:**

- The **public sector** includes employees in federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and Aboriginal public administrations, as well as in Crown corporations, liquor control boards and other government institutions such as schools (including universities), hospitals and public libraries.
- The **private sector** comprises all other employees and self-employed owners of businesses (including unpaid family workers in those businesses), and self-employed persons without businesses.

**Reference week:** The labour force status of respondents is based on their activities during a specific week each month. This reference week usually contains the 15th day of the month and stretches from Sunday to Saturday.

**Self-employment:** Working owners of an incorporated business, farm or professional practice, or working owners of an unincorporated business, farm or professional practice.

**Services-producing industries (or service sector/service industries):** Includes wholesale and retail trade; transportation and warehousing; finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing; professional, scientific and technical services; business, building and other support services; educational services; health care and social assistance; information, culture and recreation; accommodation and food services; other services (except public administration); and public administration.

**Type of work:** Full-time or part-time work schedule. Full-time employment consists of persons who usually work 30 hours or more per week at their main or only job. Part-time employment consists of persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week at their main or only job.

**Unemployment:** Unemployed persons are those who, during the reference week:

- were without work, but had looked for work in the past four weeks ending with the reference period and were available for work;
- were on temporary layoff due to business conditions, with an expectation of recall, and were available for work; or
- were without work, but had a job to start within four weeks from the reference period and were available for work.

**Unemployment rate:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.