

Labour Force Activity

-April 2019-

Overview

Labour Force Survey information released by Statistics Canada today estimates the Northwest Territories' labour force at 23,000 persons in April 2019. Of these, 21,300 persons were working, representing an employment rate of 65.5%. Between March and April 2019 employment increased by 200 persons, with all gains occurring in part-time work.

Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, April 2019

| | 2019 | | | Apr-2018 | Apr-2017 | Change from 1 Yr. Ago | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Apr | Mar | Feb | | | No. | % |
| Population 15 & over | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,400 | - | - |
| Labour force | 23,000 | 22,700 | 22,900 | 22,500 | 22,800 | 500 | 2.2 |
| Employment | 21,300 | 21,100 | 21,100 | 20,700 | 21,600 | 600 | 2.8 |
| Unemployment | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,900 | 1,800 | 1,200 | (100) | (8.3) |
| Not in labour force | 9,500 | 9,800 | 9,500 | 10,000 | 9,600 | (500) | (5.2) |
| Participation rate (%) | 70.8 | 69.8 | 70.7 | 69.2 | 70.4 | | |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 7.4 | 7.0 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 5.3 | | |
| Employment rate (%) | 65.5 | 64.9 | 65.1 | 63.7 | 66.7 | | |

On an annual basis, total employment in the NWT increased by 600 persons to 21,300, the first year-over-year employment increase for April since 2016. Consequently, the employment rate increased by 1.8 percentage points between April 2018 and April 2019.

Employment rates increased for most of the key demographic characteristics over the 12 months period. The highest increase was observed for youth aged 15 to 24 years where the employment rate increased by 7.3 percentage points to 46.2%. This was the highest employment rate for the month of April among this age group since 2009. Employment rates also increased for males, Non-Indigenous persons, and for persons living outside of Yellowknife.

Unemployment was little changed from the previous year and stood at 1,700 persons in April. The unemployment rate decreased from 8.0% in April 2018 to 7.4% in April 2019.



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Between April 2018 and April 2019, employment increased by 800 persons in the private sector and by 200 in self-employment. The drop by 600 persons in public sector employment was not sufficient to offset gains in the former two sectors.

At the industrial level, employment increased in both the goods-producing and the services-producing industries with construction, trade, and finance, insurance, real estate & leasing accounting for most of the gains.

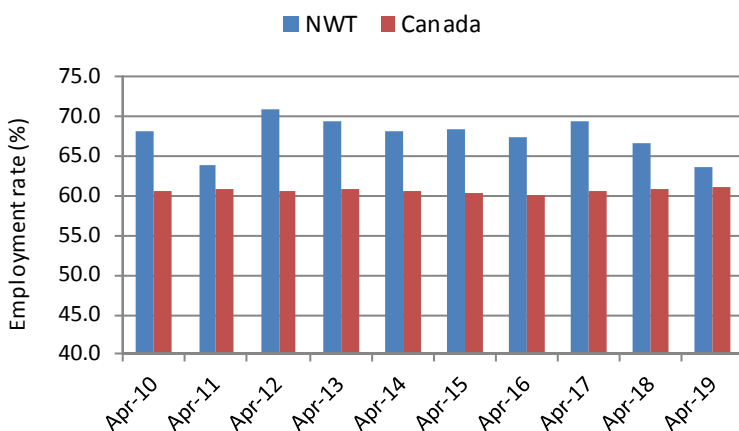
Table 2: Employment & Employment Changes by Selected Characteristics

| | 2019 | | | Apr-2018 | Change from 1 Yr. Ago | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Apr | Mar | Feb | | No. | % |
| Total Employment | 21,300 | 21,100 | 21,100 | 20,700 | 600 | 2.9 |
| Full-time | 18,700 | 18,700 | 18,900 | 17,800 | 900 | 5.1 |
| Part-time | 2,600 | 2,400 | 2,200 | 2,900 | (300) | (10.3) |
| Employees | 19,500 | 19,400 | 19,600 | 19,300 | 200 | 1.0 |
| Public sector | 9,200 | 9,400 | 9,300 | 9,800 | (600) | (6.1) |
| Private sector | 10,300 | 10,000 | 10,300 | 9,500 | 800 | 8.4 |
| Self-employment | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 200 | 13.3 |
| Goods-producing industry | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 2,800 | 200 | 7.1 |
| Services-producing industry | 18,300 | 18,100 | 18,100 | 17,900 | 400 | 2.2 |

National highlights

Nationally, Canada's employment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 61.2% between March and April 2019. Figure 1 shows April employment rate comparisons between the NWT and Canada. In recent years, the NWT employment rate has trended downward while the national rate has remained steady around 60%.

Figure 1: Employment Rates for April 2010 - 2019, Canada & NWT



Historical labour force activity

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 3: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

| | Population 15 & Over | Labour Force | Employed | Unem- ployed | Not in the Labour Force | Partic- ipation Rate | Unemp- loyment Rate | Employ- ment Rate |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Apr-19 | 32,500 | 23,000 | 21,300 | 1,700 | 9,500 | 70.8 | 7.4 | 65.5 |
| Mar-19 | 32,500 | 22,700 | 21,100 | 1,600 | 9,800 | 69.8 | 7.0 | 64.9 |
| Feb-19 | 32,400 | 22,900 | 21,100 | 1,900 | 9,500 | 70.7 | 8.3 | 65.1 |
| Jan-19 | 32,400 | 22,800 | 20,800 | 1,900 | 9,600 | 70.4 | 8.3 | 64.2 |
| Dec-18 | 32,300 | 23,000 | 21,300 | 1,700 | 9,300 | 71.2 | 7.4 | 65.9 |
| Nov-18 | 32,300 | 23,100 | 21,700 | 1,500 | 9,200 | 71.5 | 6.5 | 67.2 |
| Oct-18 | 32,300 | 23,100 | 21,700 | 1,400 | 9,200 | 71.5 | 6.1 | 67.2 |
| Sep-18 | 32,400 | 23,500 | 22,400 | 1,100 | 8,900 | 72.5 | 4.7 | 69.1 |
| Aug-18 | 32,500 | 23,700 | 22,100 | 1,600 | 8,700 | 72.9 | 6.8 | 68.0 |
| Jul-18 | 32,500 | 23,600 | 21,900 | 1,700 | 8,900 | 72.6 | 7.2 | 67.4 |
| Jun-18 | 32,500 | 23,400 | 21,400 | 2,000 | 9,100 | 72.0 | 8.5 | 65.8 |
| May-18 | 32,500 | 22,700 | 20,900 | 1,900 | 9,800 | 69.8 | 8.4 | 64.3 |
| Previous Years: | | | | | | | | |
| Apr-18 | 32,500 | 22,500 | 20,700 | 1,800 | 10,000 | 69.2 | 8.0 | 63.7 |
| Apr-17 | 32,400 | 22,800 | 21,600 | 1,200 | 9,600 | 70.4 | 5.3 | 66.7 |
| Apr-16 | 32,400 | 24,100 | 22,500 | 1,600 | 8,200 | 74.4 | 6.6 | 69.4 |
| Apr-15 | 32,100 | 23,200 | 21,600 | 1,600 | 8,800 | 72.3 | 6.9 | 67.3 |
| Apr-14 | 32,400 | 24,200 | 22,200 | 2,100 | 8,200 | 74.7 | 8.7 | 68.5 |
| Apr-13 | 32,600 | 24,200 | 22,200 | 2,000 | 8,400 | 74.2 | 8.3 | 68.1 |
| Apr-12 | 32,400 | 24,700 | 22,500 | 2,200 | 7,600 | 76.2 | 8.9 | 69.4 |
| Apr-11 | 32,200 | 24,600 | 22,800 | 1,800 | 7,600 | 76.4 | 7.3 | 70.8 |
| Apr-10 | 31,900 | 22,000 | 20,400 | 1,600 | 9,900 | 69.0 | 7.3 | 63.9 |

Labour Force Survey (LFS) data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of 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.

Next Release: June 7, 2019