

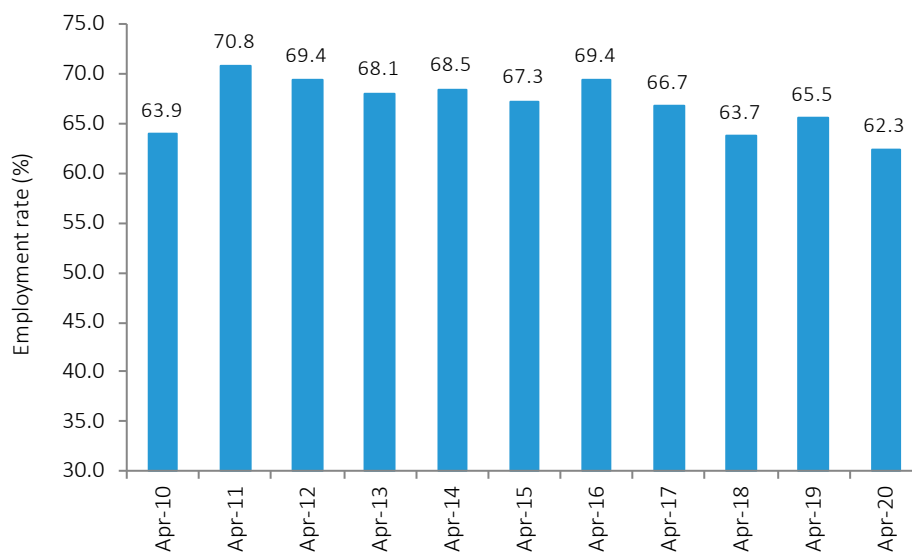
Labour Force Activity

April 2020

Total employment in the Northwest Territories (NWT) fell by 400 persons in April, while the employment rate dropped to 62.3%, the lowest for that month in the past 10 years. Among industries, employment declined the most in transportation and warehousing (-300), utilities (-200), forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-200), and educational services (-200). These employment losses off-set gains made in other industries.

The unemployment rate for March (9.3%) and for April (9%) were the highest since January 2016. Last month's unemployment rate could potentially be higher, except that it appears many people stopped looking for work as reflected by an increase of 600 in the number of persons not in the labour force between March and April 2020.

Figure 1: Historical employment rates for April, NWT, 2010 to 2020



Employment by selected characteristics

Compared to last year, the NWT labour force declined by 800, while employment dropped by 1,100 and unemployment increased by 300. Unemployment rates rose among all major worker groups, increasing the highest among those who live outside of Yellowknife, among females and among persons aged 25 and older.

National highlights

Nationally, the employment rate was 56.6% having dropped by 4.5 percentage points between February and April 2020. Employment rates dropped for all provinces and territories with Nunavut, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia experiencing the biggest drop. Seven Canadian jurisdictions had unemployment rates above 10%, with Nunavut highest at 17.7%.



Supplementary Indicators - Canada

Figure 2 compares two supplementary indicators developed to measure the effects of the coronavirus and efforts to contain it. Between February and April 2020, the number of employed Canadians away all week from their workplaces increased from 317,100 to 2,402,600. Meanwhile the number of employed persons and absent 50% or more of their usual work hours increased from 503,600 to 883,500 during the same period.

Figure 2: Supplementary Labour Force Indicators, Canada

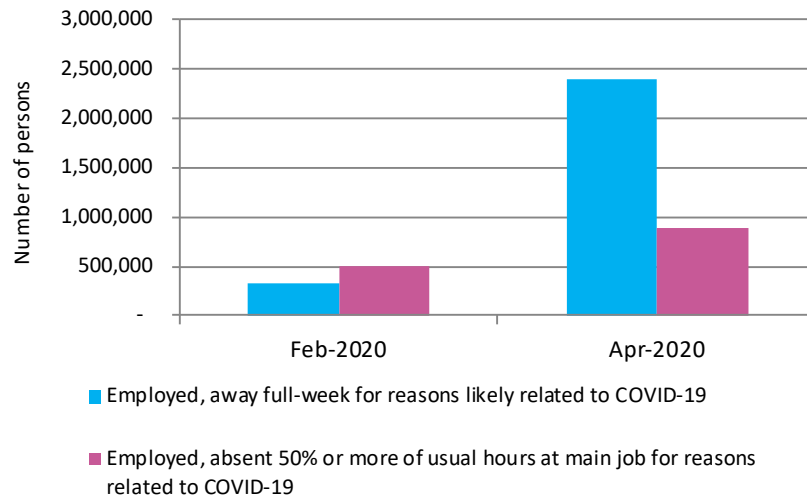


Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour force	Employed Persons	Unemploy-ed	Not in the labour force	Participati-on rate	Unemploy-ment rate	Employment rate
Apr-20	32,400	22,200	20,200	2,000	10,300	68.5	9.0	62.3
Mar-20	32,400	22,700	20,600	2,100	9,700	70.1	9.3	63.6
Feb-20	32,300	22,500	20,500	2,000	9,800	69.7	8.9	63.5
Jan-20	32,300	22,300	20,400	1,900	10,100	69.0	8.5	63.2
Dec-19	32,300	22,400	20,500	1,900	10,000	69.3	8.5	63.5
Nov-19	32,300	22,800	20,700	2,000	9,500	70.6	8.8	64.1
Oct-19	32,300	23,300	21,300	1,900	9,000	72.1	8.2	65.9
Sep-19	32,300	24,000	22,100	2,000	8,300	74.3	8.3	68.4
Aug-19	32,300	24,200	22,400	1,800	8,100	74.9	7.4	69.3
Jul-19	32,400	24,100	22,500	1,700	8,200	74.4	7.1	69.4
Jun-19	32,400	23,400	21,500	1,900	9,000	72.2	8.1	66.4
May-19	32,400	22,900	21,100	1,800	9,600	70.7	7.9	65.1

For additional information and detailed tables 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.

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