

## Labour Force Activity August 2020

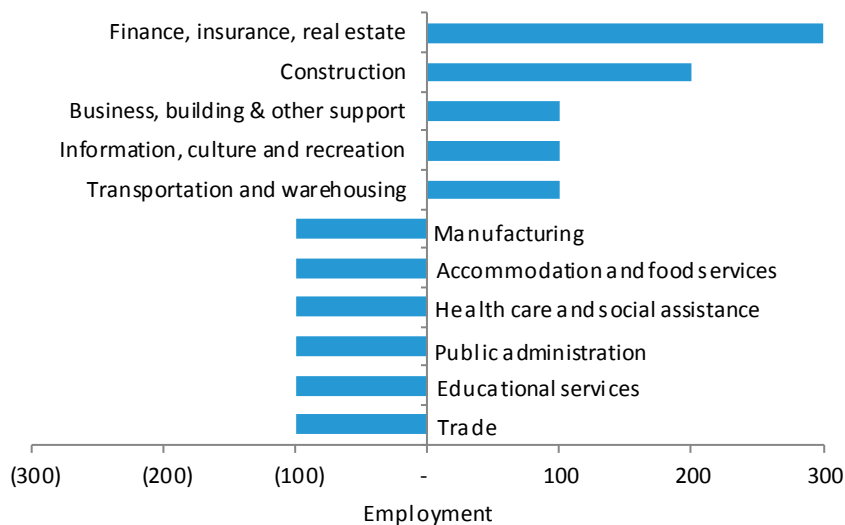
Employment in the Northwest Territories rose by 200 in August, representing an employment rate of 62.6% and a 0.4 percentage point increase from July. The unemployment rate rose to a historic high of 11.3% as a result of more people seeking employment (+200). Following months of record low labour force participation, these changes suggest an increase in economic activities following the relaxation of constraints introduced to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, 2020

	Aug-20	Jul-20	Jun-20	May-20	Aug-2019	Change from 1 Month ago
<b>Population 15 &amp; over</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>32,300</b>	100
Labour force	23,000	22,500	21,800	22,000	24,200	500
Employment	20,400	20,200	19,700	20,200	22,400	200
Unemployment	2,600	2,400	2,100	1,800	1,800	200
Not in labour force	9,500	10,000	10,700	10,500	8,100	(500)
Participation rate (%)	70.6	69.2	67.1	67.7	74.9	
Unemployment rate (%)	11.3	10.7	9.6	8.2	7.4	
Employment rate (%)	62.6	62.2	60.6	62.2	69.3	

Month-over-month employment gains were concentrated in the finance, insurance, real estate and construction industries, while other industries experienced marginal increases or decreases.

Figure 1: Change in Employment by Industry, NWT, July to August 2020



## Employment rates by selected characteristics

The overall employment rate in the NWT rose 0.4 percentage points between July and August 2020, spurred exclusively by employment gains among youth aged 15 to 24 years. In spite of this increase, employment among this age group was still 700 persons lower compared to the same month last year. Among the other major worker groups, month-over-month employment rates increased among females, Indigenous persons, and those living outside of Yellowknife.

Table 2: Employment Rates by Selected Characteristics - Northwest Territories, 2020

	Aug-20	Jul-20	Jun-20	Aug-19	Change from 1 Month ago
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>
15-24 Years	49.0	41.2	33.3	61.5	7.8
25 Years & Older	65.3	65.7	65.7	71.2	(0.4)
Males	61.8	62.2	60.4	71.3	(0.4)
Females	63.4	62.1	60.9	66.9	1.3
Indigenous	50.0	47.4	45.9	53.0	2.6
Non-Indigenous	73.3	75.4	75.3	83.7	(2.1)
Yellowknife	72.8	73.4	72.5	79.7	(0.6)
Rest of the Territory	52.4	51.7	50.6	59.0	0.7

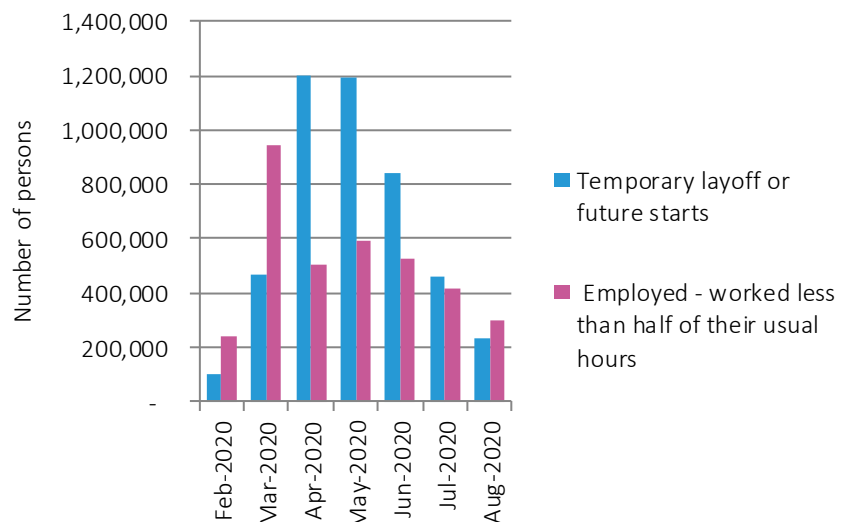
## National highlights

Nationally, the employment rate was 57.9 following a 1.7 percentage points increase from July 2020. Across the country, all provinces and territories recorded increases in employment rates. Jurisdictions with the highest employment rates in August were Yukon (67.0%), Northwest Territories (62.6%) and Saskatchewan (62.1%).

## Supplementary Indicators – Canada

After peaking in April, the number of laid-off workers declined over the past four months as more people return to work. Similarly, the number of employed persons who worked less than half of their usual hours fell by 116,200 between July and August 2020.

Figure 2: Supplementary Labour Force Indicators, Canada



## 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 Persons	Unemploy-ed	Not in the labour force	Participati-on rate	Unemploy- ment rate	Employment rate
Last 12 Months								
Aug-20	32,600	23,000	20,400	2,600	9,500	70.6	11.3	62.6
Jul-20	32,500	22,500	20,200	2,400	10,000	69.2	10.7	62.2
Jun-20	32,500	21,800	19,700	2,100	10,700	67.1	9.6	60.6
May-20	32,500	22,000	20,200	1,800	10,500	67.7	8.2	62.2
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
Previous Years:								
Aug-20	32,600	23,000	20,400	2,600	9,500	70.6	11.3	62.6
Aug-19	32,300	24,200	22,400	1,800	8,100	74.9	7.4	69.3
Aug-18	32,500	23,700	22,100	1,600	8,700	72.9	6.8	68.0
Aug-17	32,300	23,400	22,000	1,400	9,000	72.4	6.0	68.1
Aug-16	32,700	25,300	23,400	1,900	7,400	77.4	7.5	71.6
Aug-15	31,800	24,500	22,500	2,000	7,300	77.0	8.2	70.8
Aug-14	32,300	24,600	22,700	1,900	7,700	76.2	7.7	70.3
Aug-13	32,600	26,100	24,200	2,000	6,400	80.1	7.7	74.2
Aug-12	32,500	26,100	23,800	2,300	6,300	80.3	8.8	73.2
Aug-11	32,400	26,100	23,900	2,200	6,300	80.6	8.4	73.8
Aug-10	32,100	24,200	22,300	1,900	7,900	75.4	7.9	69.5

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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