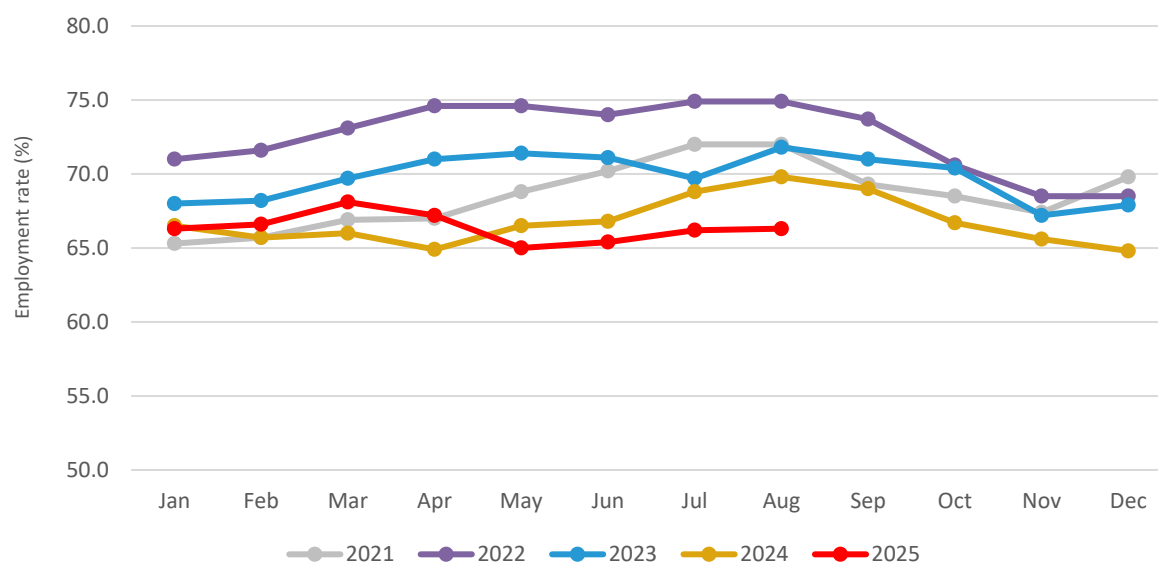




Labour Force Activity¹ August 2025

In August 2025, the employment rate in the Northwest Territories stood at 66.3%, virtually unchanged from July, as the number of employed persons remained steady at 23,400. The unemployment rate declined from 6.0% to 5.3%, reflecting a decrease of 200 in the number of unemployed persons over the month.

Figure 1: Historical Employment Rates, Northwest Territories



Compared to August 2024, the employment rate declined by 3.5 percentage points, as employment fell by 600 persons to 23,400. At 66.3%, the current employment rate is 3.6 points below the 10-year August average (69.9%), marking the second-lowest rate for that month in the past decade.

Year-over-year declines in employment rates were observed across all key demographic groups, with the exception of a slight increase among Yellowknife residents. The most notable decreases occurred among residents outside Yellowknife (from 60.6% to 53.4%), females (67.3% to 60.5%), and youth aged 15–24 (55.6% to 50.0%).

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

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Despite the overall year-over-year decline in employment, some industries posted gains. Employment increased in trade (+400), forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (+300), and business, building & other support services (+300). In contrast, the largest declines were observed in finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (-300), transportation & warehousing (-300), and in utilities (-300).

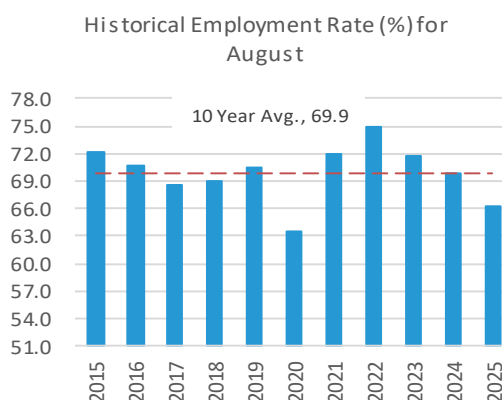
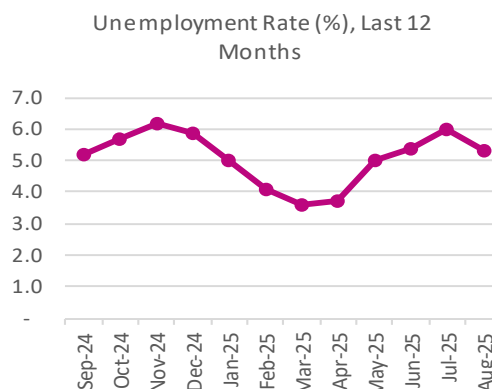
National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 61.4%. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon (75.0%) had the highest employment rate, followed by Northwest Territories (66.3%), and Saskatchewan (65.2%). Nunavut (53.1%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (54.3%) had the lowest employment rates.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy - ment rate	Employ- ment rate
Aug-25	23,400	1,300	5.3	66.3
Jul-25	23,300	1,500	6.0	66.2
Jun-25	22,900	1,300	5.4	65.4
May-25	22,700	1,200	5.0	65.0
Apr-25	23,400	900	3.7	67.2
Mar-25	23,700	900	3.6	68.1
Feb-25	23,100	1,000	4.1	66.6
Jan-25	23,000	1,200	5.0	66.3
Dec-24	22,500	1,400	5.9	64.8
Nov-24	22,700	1,500	6.2	65.6
Oct-24	23,000	1,400	5.7	66.7
Sep-24	23,800	1,300	5.2	69.0

Historial Labour Market Indicators for August				
2025	23,400	1,300	5.3	66.3
2024	24,000	1,200	4.8	69.8
2023	24,500	1,600	6.1	71.8
2022	25,300	1,000	3.8	74.9
2021	24,200	1,500	5.8	72.0
2020	21,300	2,800	11.6	63.6
2019	23,500	1,500	6.0	70.4
2018	23,100	2,000	8.0	69.0
2017	23,100	1,800	7.2	68.5
2016	23,700	2,200	8.5	70.7
2015	24,000	2,400	9.1	72.1



Additional labour market information can be found on the NWT Bureau of Statistics website.

<https://www.statsnwt.ca/labour-income/labour-force-activity/> or call (867) 767-9169

Next Release: October 10, 2025