

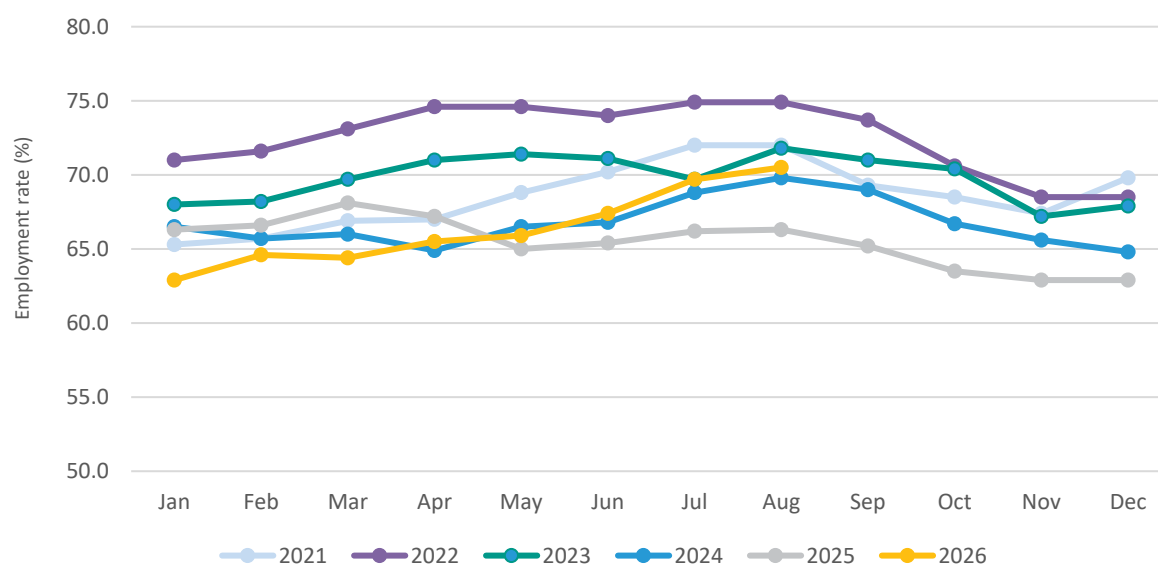


Labour Force Activity¹ August 2026

In August 2026, the employment rate in the Northwest Territories edged up to 70.5% from 69.7% in July, continuing the seasonal increase typically observed during the summer months. The August employment rate was 0.7 percentage points above the 10-year average for the month and has remained above 2024 and 2025 levels since June.

The unemployment rate also improved, declining from 7.8% in July to 7.4% in August. This decrease reflects a reduction in the number of unemployed persons, which fell to 2,000 in August.

Figure 1: Historical Employment Rates, Northwest Territories



Year-over-year employment rates increased across most key demographic groups, except for a slight decline among men+. The largest gains were among women+ (60.5% to 69.4%), youth aged 15 to 24 (50.0% to 57.9%), and residents outside Yellowknife (53.4% to 60.6%).

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

Employment increased across most industries, year-over-year, more than offsetting a decline in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-1,200). The largest employment gains were recorded in public administration (+700), finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (+400), accommodation & food services (+400), trade (+300), transportation & warehousing (+300), and information, culture & recreation (+300).

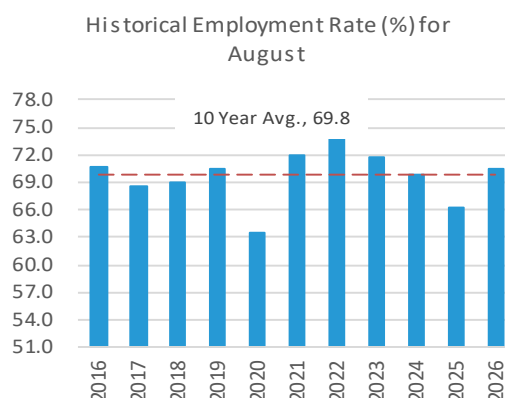
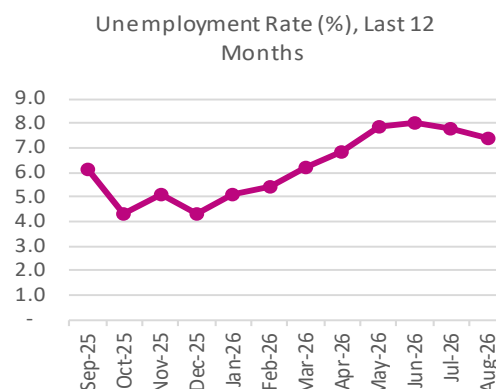
National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 61.5% in August, little changed from 61.6% in July. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon recorded the highest employment rate (72.1%), followed by the Northwest Territories (70.5%) and Alberta (64.9%). Newfoundland and Labrador (53.8%) and Nunavut (56.2%) had the lowest employment rates.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy - ment rate	Employ- ment rate
Aug-26	25,100	2,000	7.4	70.5
Jul-26	24,800	2,100	7.8	69.7
Jun-26	24,000	2,100	8.0	67.4
May-26	23,400	2,000	7.9	65.9
Apr-26	23,200	1,700	6.8	65.5
Mar-26	22,800	1,500	6.2	64.4
Feb-26	22,800	1,300	5.4	64.6
Jan-26	22,200	1,200	5.1	62.9
Dec-25	22,200	1,000	4.3	62.9
Nov-25	22,200	1,200	5.1	62.9
Oct-25	22,400	1,000	4.3	63.5
Sep-25	23,000	1,500	6.1	65.2

Historical Labour Market Indicators for August				
2026	25,100	2,000	7.4	70.5
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



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

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