

Labour Force Activity

-December 2018-

Overview

In December 2018 the employment rate in the Northwest Territories (NWT) decreased to 65.9%, a 1.3 percentage point drop from the previous month. The number of employed persons also declined mirroring historical patterns of the final quarter of the year.

Compared to December 2017, employment rates by key demographic characteristics were mixed. Employment rates were up for persons 25 years and older, males, Indigenous persons, and people living outside of Yellowknife. On the other hand, employment rates were down among youth aged 15 to 24, females, Non-Indigenous persons, and people living in Yellowknife.

Year-over-year, employment increased by 300, with a considerable shift from part-time to full-time employment. Employment in the public sector increased by 500, while increasing marginally in the private sector, and declining by 300 in self-employment.

Nationally, Canada's employment rate stood at 61.7% in December 2018. Among the provinces and territories, the Northwest Territories (65.9%) had the third highest employment rate after Yukon (71.2%) and Alberta (67.1%).

Table 1: Employment & Employment Rates by Key Characteristics, NWT

	Dec-2018		Nov-2018		Dec-2017		Change from 1 Yr. Ago (Persons)
	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(Persons)	Rate (%)	
Northwest Territories	21,300	65.9	21,700	67.2	21,000	64.8	300
15-24 Yrs.	2,200	41.5	2,400	45.3	2,300	41.8	(100)
25+ Yrs.	19,100	70.7	19,300	71.5	18,700	69.5	400
Males	11,000	67.5	11,400	69.9	10,300	63.2	700
Females	10,300	64.4	10,300	64.4	10,700	66.0	(400)
Indigenous	7,500	51.0	7,600	52.1	7,900	49.7	(400)
Non-Indigenous	13,800	78.4	14,100	80.1	13,200	80.0	600
Yellowknife	11,900	77.3	11,900	77.3	11,700	78.5	200
Rest of the Territory	9,400	55.6	9,800	58.0	9,300	53.1	100



Year-End Review, 2018

In 2018, 32,400 people of working age lived in the NWT, with 72% of this population being in the labour force. Employment was little changed compared to 2017, with 21,400 people employed (+100) resulting in an increase of 0.3 percentage points in the employment rate. Unemployment rose by 200 to 1,700 during the same timeframe, causing an increase of 0.7 percentage points in the unemployment rate.

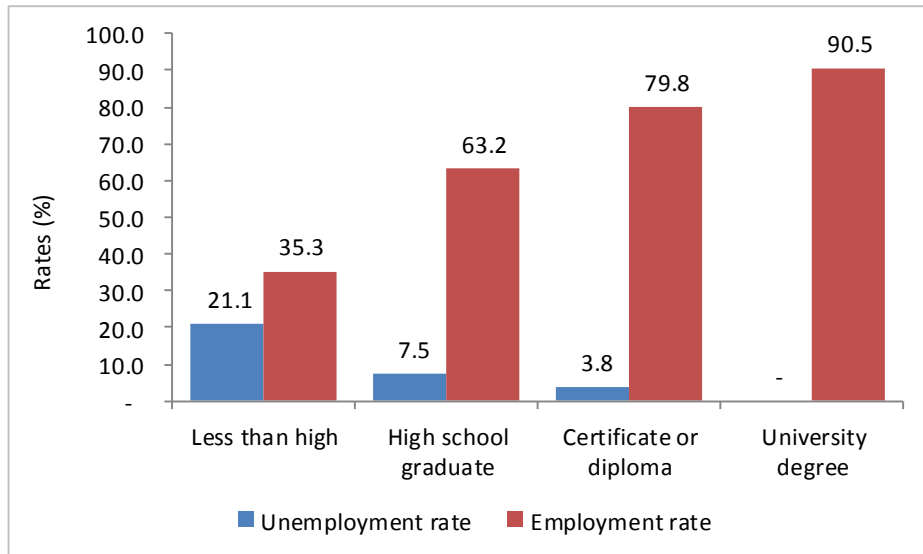
Table 2. Annual Labour Force Activity: NWT, 2013 -2018

	Population	Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in labour force	Unemployment rate (%)	Participation rate (%)	Employment rate (%)
2018	32,400	23,200	21,400	1,700	9,300	7.3	71.6	66.0
2017	32,400	22,900	21,300	1,500	9,500	6.6	70.7	65.7
2016	32,500	24,300	22,500	1,800	8,200	7.4	74.8	69.2
2015	32,000	24,000	21,900	2,000	8,000	8.3	75.0	68.4
2014	32,300	24,000	22,100	1,900	8,300	7.9	74.3	68.4
2013	32,600	25,100	23,200	2,000	7,500	8.0	77.0	71.2
2012	32,400	25,100	23,100	2,100	7,300	8.4	77.5	71.3
2011	32,300	24,800	23,000	1,800	7,500	7.3	76.8	71.2
2010	32,000	23,200	21,500	1,700	8,800	7.3	72.5	67.2
2009	31,700	22,600	21,100	1,400	9,200	6.2	71.3	66.6

Employment rates and educational attainment

Employment rates in the NWT demonstrate the strong association between educational attainment and employment (Figure 1). In 2018, the employment rate among persons with high school education was 63.2% compared to 35.3% for those with less than high school education. The unemployment rate for those with a university degree was negligible compared to over 20% for those with less than high school.

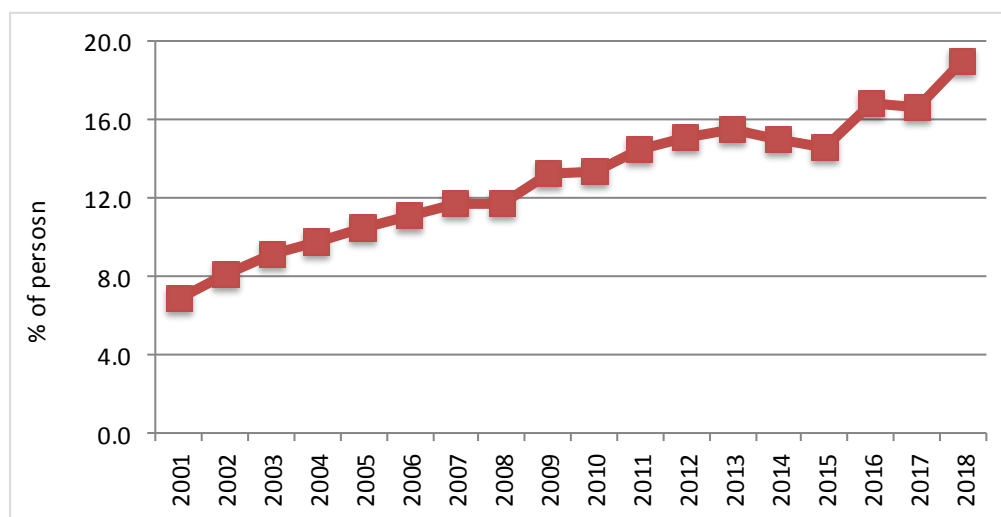
Figure 1: Employment & Unemployment Rates by Level of Schooling, NWT 2018



Employment and employment rates by age group

The proportion of persons aged 55 and older employed continues to grow, increasing from 6.9% in 2001 to 19% in 2018. Subsequently, the proportion employed among the other age groups declined over the same period. Between 2017 and 2018, employment rates rose by 5.5 percentage points for those 55 years and over, while dropping among youths 15 to 24 and those aged 25 to 54 (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Proportion of Persons 55 Yrs.+ Among the Employed: NWT, 2001 - 2018



Employment by industry

Sectors that saw job growth between 2017 and 2018 were exclusively in the services industry. Growth was recorded in the information, culture and recreation sector (+500), transportation and warehousing (+200), health care and social assistance (+200), and public administration (+100).

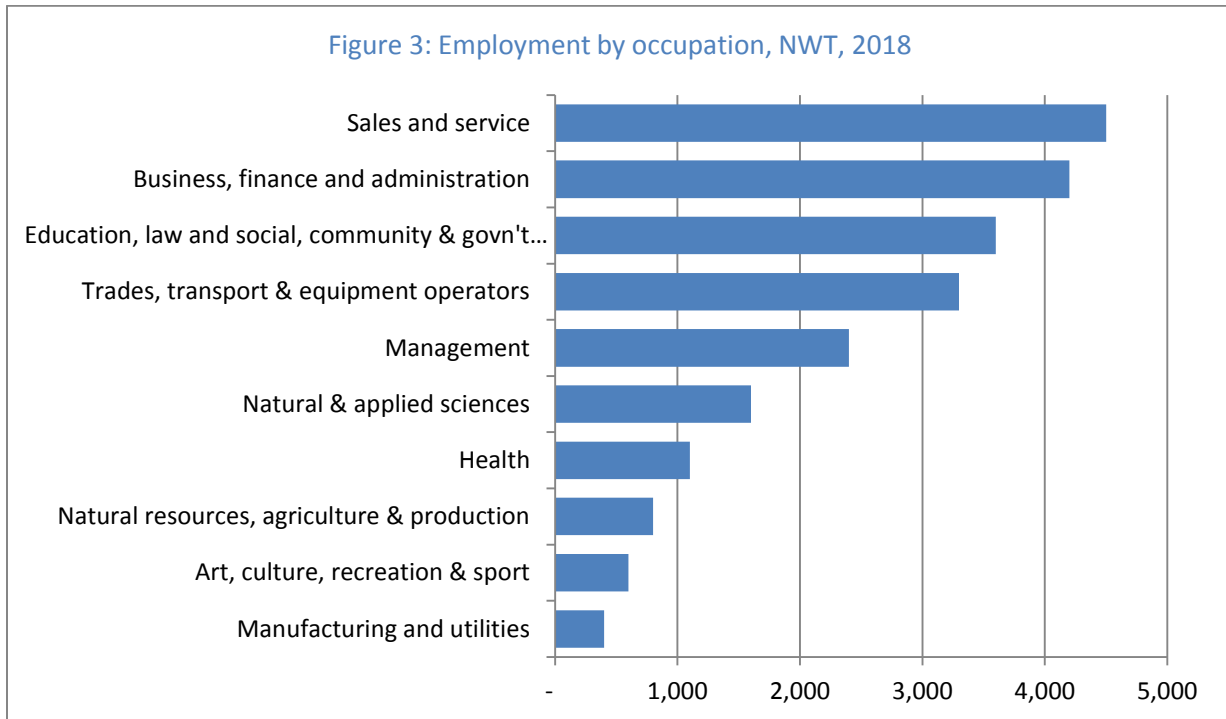
Table 3. Employment Changes for Selected Industries: NWT, 2017 & 2018

	2018		2017		Change from 2017	
	Persons	(%)	Persons	(%)	Persons	(% Growth)
All Industries	21,400	100.0	21,300	100.0	100	0.5
Goods-producing sector	3,100	14.5	3,500	16.4	(400)	(11.4)
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	1,400	6.5	1,600	7.5	(200)	(12.5)
Utilities	300	1.4	300	1.4	-	-
Construction	1,200	5.6	1,400	6.6	(200)	(14.3)
Services-producing sector	18,400	86.0	17,900	84.0	500	2.8
Trade	2,300	10.7	2,300	10.8	-	-
Transportation and warehousing	1,500	7.0	1,300	6.1	200	15.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,000	4.7	1,000	4.7	-	-
Professional, scientific and technical services	700	3.3	900	4.2	(200)	(22.2)
Business, building and other support services	300	1.4	300	1.4	-	-
Educational services	1,600	7.5	1,800	8.5	(200)	(11.1)
Health care and social assistance	2,700	12.6	2,500	11.7	200	8.0
Information, culture and recreation	1,400	6.5	900	4.2	500	55.6
Accommodation and food services	1,200	5.6	1,200	5.6	-	-
Other services	500	2.3	600	2.8	(100)	(16.7)
Public administration	5,100	23.8	5,000	23.5	100	2.0

Employment by occupation

The top four occupation categories in 2018, by number of employees, were sales and service, employing 19.4% of the workforce, followed by business, finance and administration (18.1%) education, law and social, community and government services (15.5%); and trades, transport and equipment operation (14.2%).

Natural and applied sciences and related occupations, trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, as well as management occupations added the most jobs, showing growth of 14% each between 2017 and 2018.



Additional Tables

Table 4: Labour Force Activity by Selected Characteristics, NWT 2018

	Population 15 & over	Labour force	Employment	Unemploy- ment	Not in labour	Participa- tion rate	Unemploy- ment rate	Employ- ment rate
Northwest Territories	32,400	23,200	21,400	1,700	9,300	71.6	7.3	66.0
Males	16,300	11,900	10,800	1,100	4,400	73.0	9.2	66.3
Females	16,100	11,200	10,600	600	4,900	69.6	5.4	65.8
15 – 24 yrs.	5,400	3,000	2,400	600	2,400	55.6	20.0	44.4
25 – 54 yrs.	18,700	15,700	14,700	1,000	3,100	84.0	6.4	78.6
55 + yrs.	8,300	4,500	4,400	200	3,800	54.2	4.4	53.0
Indigenous	15,600	9,300	7,900	1,400	6,300	59.6	15.1	50.6
Non-Indigenous	16,800	13,900	13,500	300	2,900	82.7	2.2	80.4
Yellowknife	15,100	12,200	11,800	400	2,800	80.8	3.3	78.1
Rest of territories	17,400	10,900	9,700	1,300	6,400	62.6	11.9	55.7
Less than high school	8,500	3,800	3,000	800	4,700	44.7	21.1	35.3
High school	8,100	5,800	5,200	500	2,300	71.6	8.6	64.2
Certificate/diploma	9,400	7,800	7,500	300	1,600	83.0	3.8	79.8
University degree	6,300	5,800	5,700	-	600	92.1	-	90.5

Table 5: Historical Employment Rates by Selected Characteristics, NWT 2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Northwest Territories	66.6	67.2	71.2	71.3	71.2	68.4	68.4	69.2	65.7	66.0
Males	68.1	68.3	72.7	72.7	72.1	69.9	68.8	69.9	66.0	66.3
Females	65.2	65.4	69.6	69.8	69.6	66.5	68.1	68.5	66.0	65.8
15 – 24 yrs.	41.2	41.2	47.1	46.3	47.7	44.4	48.3	47.5	44.6	44.4
25 – 54 yrs.	79.3	80.3	83.5	83.5	83.0	81.7	83.9	82.5	80.3	78.6
55 + yrs.	53.6	52.5	59.0	60.3	58.2	51.4	47.9	53.2	47.5	53.0
Indigenous	46.6	51.3	55.2	55.6	54.9	51.7	55.3	56.1	51.6	50.6
Non-Indigenous	84.1	83.1	84.3	83.9	84.0	81.9	80.0	81.2	80.4	80.4
Yellowknife	81.2	80.1	80.9	81.6	82.0	79.2	79.7	79.3	77.7	78.1
Rest of territories	53.4	57.0	60.0	61.4	60.0	57.0	58.1	60.6	55.7	55.7
Less than high school	36.3	36.8	44.4	44.6	44.8	39.1	43.5	43.2	35.2	35.3
High school	73.5	76.9	74.0	72.5	70.2	71.7	67.9	69.8	65.3	63.2
Certificate/diploma	85.2	85.2	86.6	83.8	83.5	82.0	81.4	82.1	80.9	79.8
University degree	91.5	90.4	92.6	89.8	88.5	86.9	86.9	89.6	88.6	90.5

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: February 8, 2019