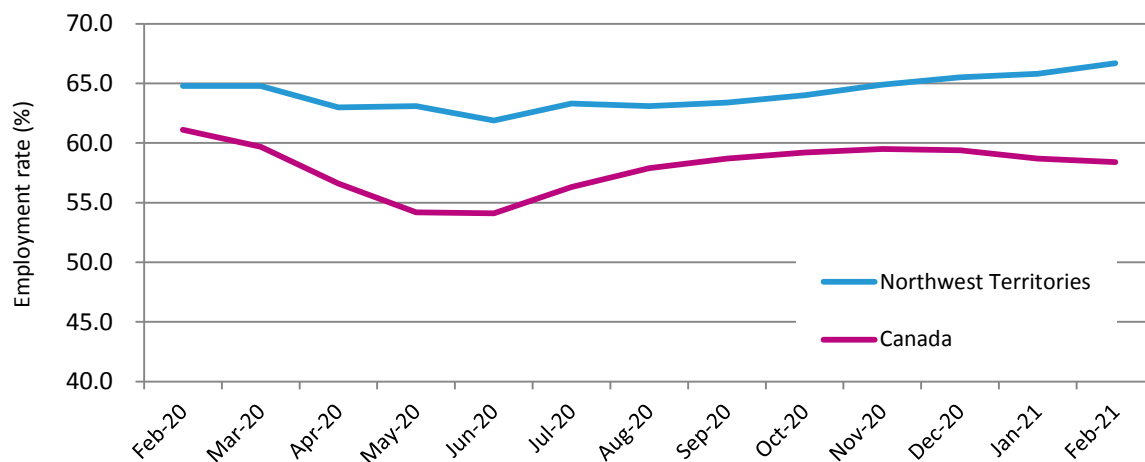


Labour Force Activity¹ February 2021

The Northwest Territories' employment rate increased to 66.7% in February 2021 up 1.9 percentage points from 12 months ago. NWT employment rates dropped in the summer months of 2020 in response to measures introduced to contain the coronavirus pandemic, but 2021 employment rates have surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels. Nationally, employment levels saw greater declines due to COVID-19 than the NWT. At 58.4%, Canada's employment rate in February 2021 was 2.7 percentage points lower than 12 months earlier.

Figure 1: Employment Rates, Canada & NWT, Feb 2020 - Feb 2021



Employment by selected characteristics

On an annual basis, the NWT employment grew by 700 person to 22,600 in February 2021. All of the employment gains were in part-time employment, with 1,200 more people employed. This was partially offset by a 500 person decline in full-time employment. Year-over-year increases were also seen in the public sector. Both the goods and service producing industries experienced gains since February 2020.

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



Table 2: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, 2021

	PAST 3 MONTHS			LAST YEAR	CHANGE FROM 1 YR. AGO	
	Feb-21	Jan-21	Dec-20	Feb-20	No.	%
Total Employment	22,600	22,300	22,200	21,900	700	3.2
Full-time employment	19,500	19,700	19,700	20,000	(500)	(2.5)
Part-time employment	3,100	2,600	2,500	1,900	1,200	63.2
Employees	20,600	20,500	20,400	19,900	700	3.5
Public sector	10,700	10,800	11,000	9,900	800	8.1
Private sector	9,900	9,600	9,400	10,000	(100)	(1.0)
Self-employment	2,000	1,800	1,800	2,000	-	-
Goods-producing industry	3,200	2,900	3,100	2,900	300	10.3
Services-producing industry	19,400	19,400	19,100	18,900	500	2.6

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Between February 2020 and February 2021, Yellowknife saw a decrease in number of employed persons with all employment gains occurring in the rest of the territory. Females primarily accounted for the gains in employed persons (+800), representing an employment rate of 69.7%, the highest since December 2016. The employment rate also increased 12.7 percentage points compared to February 2020, rising to 50.9% for youth aged 15 to 24 years. The youth employment rate was the highest level in four years.

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

	EMPLOYED PERSONS				EMPLOYMENT RATE (%)			
	PAST 3 MONTHS			LAST YEAR	PAST 3 MONTHS			LAST YEAR
	Feb-21	Jan-21	Dec-20	Feb-20	Feb-21	Jan-21	Dec-20	Feb-20
Northwest Territories	22,600	22,300	22,200	21,900	66.7	65.8	65.5	64.8
15-24 Years	2,800	2,500	2,400	2,100	50.9	45.5	43.6	38.2
25 years & over	19,800	19,800	19,800	19,800	69.5	69.5	69.5	70.2
Males	11,100	11,000	11,000	11,200	63.8	63.2	63.2	64.7
Females	11,500	11,300	11,200	10,700	69.7	68.5	67.9	65.2
Indigenous	7,500	7,400	7,500	7,200	54.7	54.4	55.1	47.1
Non-Indigenous	15,100	14,900	14,700	14,600	74.8	73.0	72.4	78.9
Yellowknife	12,800	12,700	12,700	13,100	71.9	71.3	71.3	74.9
Rest of the Territory	9,800	9,600	9,600	8,700	60.9	59.6	59.3	53.7

Historical Labour Force Activity

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 3: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Pop. 15 & Over	Labour force	Employed Persons	Unem- ployed	Not in lab. force	Participa- tion rate	Unemploy- ment rate	Employ- ment rate
	Number of persons					Percent		
Feb-21	33,900	24,300	22,600	1,700	9,600	71.7	7.0	66.7
Jan-21	33,900	23,700	22,300	1,400	10,200	69.9	5.9	65.8
Dec-20	33,900	23,600	22,200	1,400	10,300	69.6	5.9	65.5
Nov-20	33,900	23,500	22,000	1,500	10,400	69.3	6.4	64.9
Oct-20	33,900	23,500	21,700	1,900	10,300	69.3	8.1	64.0
Sep-20	33,900	23,700	21,500	2,200	10,200	69.9	9.3	63.4
Aug-20	33,900	24,000	21,400	2,600	9,800	70.8	10.8	63.1
Jul-20	33,800	23,700	21,400	2,300	10,100	70.1	9.7	63.3
Jun-20	33,900	23,100	21,000	2,100	10,800	68.1	9.1	61.9
May-20	33,900	23,300	21,400	1,900	10,500	68.7	8.2	63.1
Apr-20	33,800	23,400	21,300	2,100	10,400	69.2	9.0	63.0
Mar-20	33,800	24,100	21,900	2,100	9,700	71.3	8.7	64.8
Historical for this month:								
Feb-21	33,900	24,300	22,600	1,700	9,600	71.7	7.0	66.7
Feb-20	33,800	23,900	21,900	2,100	9,800	70.7	8.8	64.8
Feb-19	33,800	24,300	22,400	1,900	9,500	71.9	7.8	66.3
Feb-18	33,700	24,100	22,200	1,900	9,700	71.5	7.9	65.9
Feb-17	33,500	24,000	22,300	1,700	9,500	71.6	7.1	66.6
Feb-16	33,400	25,800	23,700	2,100	7,600	77.2	8.1	71.0
Feb-15	33,000	24,400	22,500	1,900	8,700	73.9	7.8	68.2
Feb-14	32,800	24,300	22,600	1,800	8,500	74.1	7.4	68.9
Feb-13	32,700	24,200	22,600	1,600	8,500	74.0	6.6	69.1
Feb-12	32,500	24,500	22,400	2,100	8,000	75.4	8.6	68.9
Feb-11	32,200	24,000	22,300	1,700	8,200	74.5	7.1	69.3

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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