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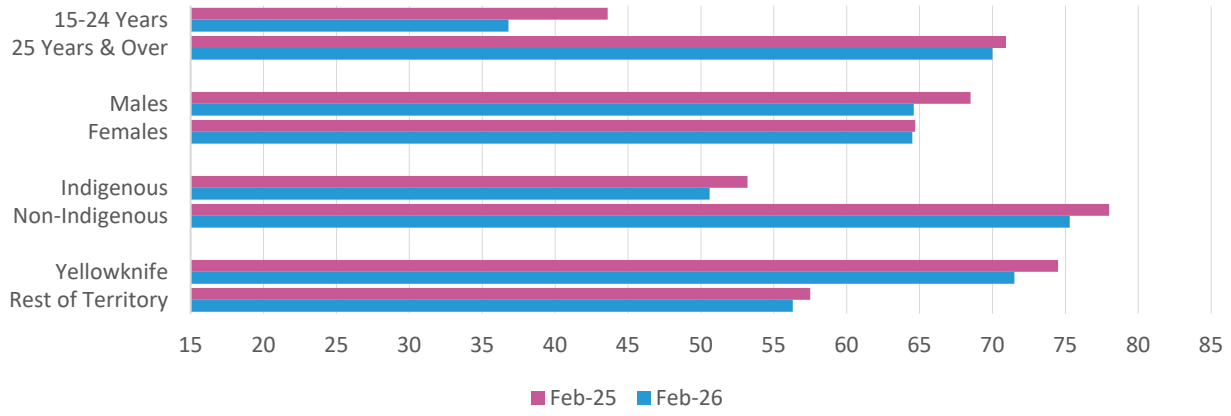
Labour Force Activity[1]

February 2026

In February 2026, the Northwest Territories' seasonally unadjusted employment rate rose to 64.6%, up from 62.9% in January. Employment increased by 600 over the previous month, driven by growth in full-time jobs within the services-producing sector. Employment stood at 22,800, with 90.4% in full-time and 9.6% in part-time jobs.

Year-over-year, the employment rate in the NWT dropped 2.0 percentage points from 66.6% in February 2025. The decline was observed across all major worker groups, with the largest decreases among youth aged 15–24, males, and persons living in Yellowknife.

Figure 1: Employment Rates by Key Demographic Characteristics, February 2025 & February 2026



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Despite a net loss of 300 jobs compared to February 2025, some industries experienced employment growth. Gains were recorded in construction (+700), health & social assistance (+500) and trade (+400). However, these increases were outweighed by declines in other industries including forestry, mining, oil & gas (-500), education (-500), finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (-300) and transportation & warehousing (-200).

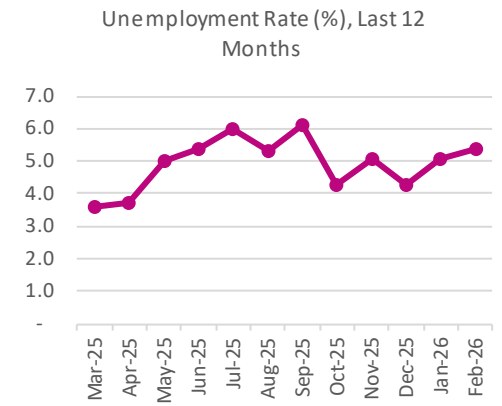
[1] *LFS estimates in this report are based on seasonally unadjusted, three-months moving-average time series data.*

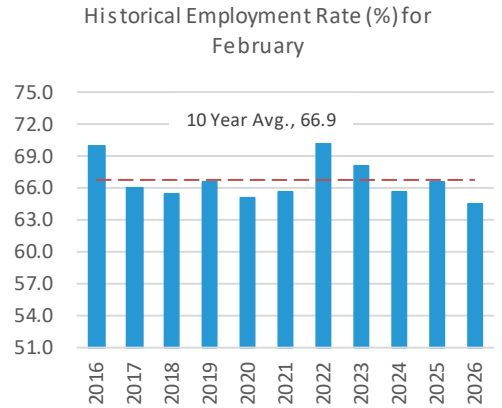
National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 60.1%. Across the provinces and territories, Yukon (70.5%) posted the highest employment rate, followed by Northwest Territories (64.6%), Alberta (64.0%), Saskatchewan (62.7%). The lowest rates were recorded in Newfoundland and Labrador (50.1%) and Nunavut (53.7%).

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy - ment rate	Employ- ment rate
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
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
Historical Labour Market Indicators for February				
2026	22,800	1,300	5.4	64.6
2025	23,100	1,000	4.1	66.6
2024	22,400	1,500	6.3	65.7
2023	23,000	1,200	5.0	68.2
2022	24,200	1,300	5.1	71.6
2021	22,000	2,100	8.7	65.7
2020	21,800	2,000	8.4	65.1
2019	22,300	1,700	7.1	66.6
2018	22,000	1,900	7.9	65.5
2017	22,100	1,800	7.5	66.0
2016	23,500	2,200	8.6	70.1





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: April 10, 2026