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Monthly Labour Force Activity – January 2018-

Overview

Labour Force Survey information released by Statistics Canada today estimates the Northwest Territories' labour force at 22,900 persons in January 2018. Of these, 20,900 were working, representing an employment rate of 64.5%. The employment rate was below historical rates for January, continuing a trend observed in the past twelve months of lower employment rates compared to previous years.

Employment levels declined by 200 persons between January 2017 and January 2018. Gains in part-time employment were off-set by losses in full-time positions.

Between December 2017 and January 2018, the number of people actively seeking employment in the Northwest Territories increased by 400. As a result unemployment increased to 2,000, while the number of persons not in the labour force declined in return.

Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, January 2018

	Jan-18	Dec-17	Jan-17	Change from 12 months ago	
				Number	%
Population 15 & over	32,400	32,400	32,400	-	-
Labour force	22,900	22,600	22,700	200	0.9
Employment	20,900	21,000	21,100	(200)	(0.9)
Full-time	17,900	17,700	18,300	(400)	(2.2)
Part-time	3,000	3,300	2,800	200	7.1
Unemployment	2,000	1,600	1,600	400	25.0
Not in labour force	9,500	9,900	9,600	(100)	(1.0)
Participation rate (%)	70.7	69.8	70.1		
Unemployment rate (%)	8.7	7.1	7.0		
Employment rate (%)	64.5	64.8	65.1		

National highlights

For Canada overall, the employment rate dropped slightly to 61.4% from the previous month. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon (72.5%) maintained the highest employment rate, followed by Alberta (66.6%) and the Northwest Territories (64.5%).

At 8.7%, the Northwest Territories' unemployment rate was the fourth highest after Newfoundland and Labrador (15.5%), Nunavut (13.8%), and Prince Edward Island (11.0%). The national unemployment rate was 5.7%.

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Employment by key demographic characteristics

While the overall employment rate for the Northwest Territories was little changed year-over-year, a closer look shows different patterns for each of the key demographic characteristics (Figure 1). Compared to January 2017, employment rates increased for youths aged 15-24 years, Non-Indigenous persons, and those living in Yellowknife. All other demographic categories had declines in the employment rate.

Figure 1: Year-over-year percentage points change in Employment Rates - NWT, January 2018



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Compared to January 2017, full-time employment decreased by 400, more than offsetting gains made in part-time employment. Over the same period, gains in private sector employment and self-employment were off-set by losses in public sector employment.

Year-over-year employment levels by industry were little changed. In the 12 months to January 2018, employment levels ranged between 3,000 and 4,200 persons in the goods-producing industry, while ranging between 17,400 and 18,400 persons in the services-producing industry.

Table 2: Monthly and Yearly Change in Employment by Selected Characteristics

	Jan-18	Dec-17	Jan-17	Change (persons) from	
				Dec-17	Jan-17
Total Employment	20,900	21,000	21,100	(100)	(200)
Full-time	17,900	17,700	18,300	200	(400)
Part-time	3,000	3,300	2,800	(300)	200
Employees	19,300	19,300	19,700	-	(400)
Public	9,100	8,800	10,000	300	(900)
Private	10,200	10,500	9,700	(300)	500
Self-employment	1,600	1,700	1,400	(100)	200
Goods-producing sector	3,000	3,100	2,900	(100)	100
Services-producing sector	18,000	17,900	18,100	100	(100)

Historical labour force activity

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

Table 3: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unem- ployed	Not in the Labour Force	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Jan-18	32,400	22,900	20,900	2,000	9,500	70.7	8.7	64.5
Dec-17	32,400	22,600	21,000	1,600	9,900	69.8	7.1	64.8
Nov-17	32,400	22,800	21,300	1,500	9,600	70.4	6.6	65.7
Oct-17	32,400	23,400	21,800	1,500	9,000	72.2	6.4	67.3
Sep-17	32,300	23,300	21,700	1,600	9,000	72.1	6.9	67.2
Aug-17	32,300	23,400	22,000	1,400	9,000	72.4	6.0	68.1
Jul-17	32,400	23,000	21,500	1,500	9,300	71.0	6.5	66.4
Jun-17	32,400	22,700	21,300	1,400	9,700	70.1	6.2	65.7
May-17	32,400	22,400	21,100	1,400	9,900	69.1	6.3	65.1
Apr-17	32,400	22,800	21,600	1,200	9,600	70.4	5.3	66.7
Mar-17	32,400	22,900	21,400	1,600	9,400	70.7	7.0	66.0
Feb-17	32,300	22,800	21,100	1,600	9,600	70.6	7.0	65.3
Previous Years:								
Jan-17	32,400	22,700	21,100	1,600	9,600	70.1	7.0	65.1
Jan-16	32,100	24,400	22,100	2,300	7,600	76.0	9.4	68.8
Jan-15	32,300	23,400	21,600	1,800	8,900	72.4	7.7	66.9
Jan-14	32,600	24,400	22,500	1,900	8,200	74.8	7.8	69.0
Jan-13	32,600	24,400	22,600	1,800	8,200	74.8	7.4	69.3
Jan-12	32,300	24,200	22,300	1,900	8,100	74.9	7.9	69.0
Jan-11	32,100	23,600	21,800	1,800	8,500	73.5	7.6	67.9
Jan-10	31,800	22,100	20,700	1,400	9,700	69.5	6.3	65.1
Jan-09	31,700	22,800	21,800	1,000	8,900	71.9	4.4	68.8
Jan-08	31,700	23,700	22,300	1,400	8,000	74.8	5.9	70.3

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national Labour Force Survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

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: March 9, 2018