

Labour Force Activity

-January 2019-

Overview

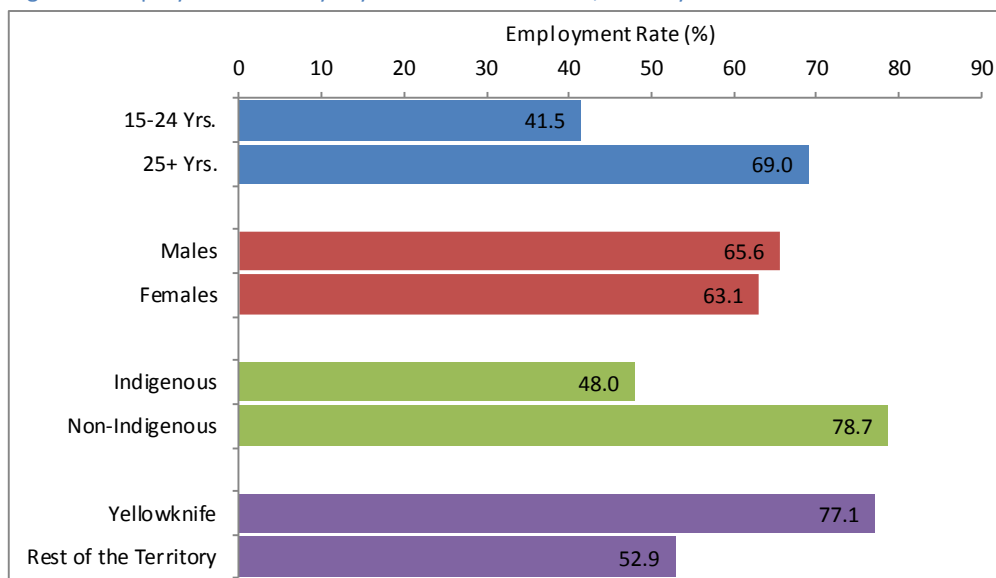
Following seasonal patterns, employment in the Northwest Territories (NWT) dropped to 20,800 persons in January 2019, driven by losses in full-time work. At 64.2%, the employment rate was 1.7 percentage points lower than in December 2018.

The unemployment rate increased 0.9 percentage points to 8.3%, a result of more people looking for work. Compared to the previous month, unemployment grew by 200, to 1,900 in January 2019.

Year-over-year, total employment in the NWT was little changed, albeit with a shift from part-time to full-time employment. Among those aged 25 and over, the increase in male employment were offset by a drop in female employment. Consequently, the employment rate fell by 5 percentage points to 67.7% for women aged 25 years and over while increasing 4 percentage points to 70.8% for their male counterparts. Employment among youth aged 15 to 24 was little changed, at 2,200. Their employment rate was also little changed at 41.5%.

Except for persons living outside of Yellowknife, year-over-year employment rates for other key demographic characteristics were down compared to January 2018. Indigenous persons and persons living in Yellowknife had the biggest drops at 1.7 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively.

Figure 1: Employment rates by key characteristic - NWT, January 2019



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Table 1 shows employment shifts within selected characteristics over the past 12 month with a result of little overall change. For instance, year-over-year employment in the private sector was up by 300 in January 2019. However, these employment gains were offset by the decline in public sector employment and self-employment. Similarly, gains in full-time employment were offset by losses in part-time employment.

Table 1: Employment & Employment Changes by Selected Characteristics

	2019			Jan-2018	Change from 1 Yr. Ago	
	Jan	Dec	Nov		No.	%
Total Employment	20,800	21,300	21,700	20,900	(100)	(0.5)
Full-time	18,800	19,400	19,200	17,900	900	5.0
Part-time	2,000	1,900	2,500	3,000	(1,000)	(33.3)
Employees	19,400	19,900	20,300	19,300	100	0.5
Public sector	9,000	9,300	9,500	9,100	(100)	(1.1)
Private sector	10,500	10,600	10,800	10,200	300	2.9
Self-employment	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,600	(200)	(12.5)
Goods-producing industry	2,900	3,000	3,100	3,000	(100)	(3.3)
Services-producing industry	17,900	18,300	18,600	18,000	(100)	(0.6)

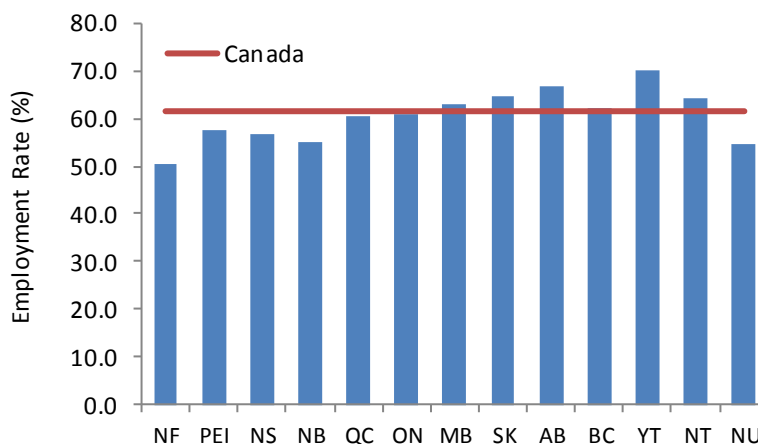
National highlights

In January, Canada's employment rate dropped 0.3 percentage points to 61.4%. The national unemployment rate edged up from 5.2% in December 2018 to 5.5% in January 2019.

Among the provinces and territories, Yukon (69.9%) maintained the highest employment rate, followed by Alberta (66.6%) and Saskatchewan (64.6%). The Northwest Territories was fourth highest at 64.2%.

The NWT's (8.3%) unemployment rate was the fifth highest in the country after Nunavut (14.6%), Newfoundland and Labrador (12.4%), Prince Edward Island (10.4%), and New Brunswick (8.4%).

Figure 2: Employment Rates, Provinces & Territories, January 2019



Historical labour force activity

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

Table 2: 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-19	32,400	22,800	20,800	1,900	9,600	70.4	8.3	64.2
Dec-18	32,300	23,000	21,300	1,700	9,300	71.2	7.4	65.9
Nov-18	32,300	23,100	21,700	1,500	9,200	71.5	6.5	67.2
Oct-18	32,300	23,100	21,700	1,400	9,200	71.5	6.1	67.2
Sep-18	32,400	23,500	22,400	1,100	8,900	72.5	4.7	69.1
Aug-18	32,500	23,700	22,100	1,600	8,700	72.9	6.8	68.0
Jul-18	32,500	23,600	21,900	1,700	8,900	72.6	7.2	67.4
Jun-18	32,500	23,400	21,400	2,000	9,100	72.0	8.5	65.8
May-18	32,500	22,700	20,900	1,900	9,800	69.8	8.4	64.3
Apr-18	32,500	22,500	20,700	1,800	10,000	69.2	8.0	63.7
Mar-18	32,400	22,700	20,700	2,000	9,700	70.1	8.8	63.9
Feb-18	32,400	22,800	20,900	1,900	9,600	70.4	8.3	64.5
Previous Years:								
Jan-18	32,400	22,900	20,900	2,000	9,500	70.7	8.7	64.5
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

Labour Force Survey (LFS) 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 8, 2019