

Labour Force Activity

January 2020

The January 2020 employment rate in the Northwest Territories was 63.2%, a slight decline from 63.5% in December 2019. Nationally, Canada's employment rate was 61.4% in January 2020. The Northwest Territories had the fourth highest employment rate after Yukon (69.6%), Alberta (65.2%) and Saskatchewan (64.7%).

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

	Jan-2020		Dec-2019		Jan-2019		Change from 1 Yr. Ago
	Employment						
	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(p.p)
Northwest Territories	20,400	63.2	20,500	63.5	20,800	64.2	(1.0)
15-24 Yrs.	2,000	38.5	2,100	40.4	2,200	41.5	(3.0)
25+ Yrs.	18,400	67.6	18,400	67.6	18,700	69.0	(1.4)
Males	10,500	64.4	10,500	64.4	10,700	65.6	(1.2)
Females	9,900	61.9	9,900	61.9	10,100	63.1	(1.2)
Indigenous	7,200	46.5	7,300	47.1	7,200	48.0	(1.5)
Non-Indigenous	13,200	78.6	13,200	78.1	13,700	78.7	(0.1)
Yellowknife	11,500	75.2	11,700	75.0	11,800	77.1	(1.9)
Rest of the Territory	9,000	52.9	8,800	52.7	9,000	52.9	-

Year over year, employment in the NWT decreased by 400 persons, and the employment rate dropped 1.0 percentage point. Employment rates decreased among all key demographic characteristics, particularly for youth aged 15 to 24 years. Among persons living in Yellowknife and Indigenous persons, employment rates dropped by 1.9 and 1.5 percentage points, respectively.

At the industrial level, the service-producing industry accounted for all of the year-over-year employment declines, while the goods-producing sector experienced no change from January 2019. Over the same period, job losses in the private sector were partially offset by increases in both the public sector and those self-employed.

Table 2: Employment & Employment Changes by Selected Characteristics

	Jan-2020	Jan-2019	Change from 1 Yr. Ago	
			No.	%
Total Employment	20,400	20,800	(400)	(1.9)
Full-time	18,400	18,800	(400)	(2.1)
Part-time	2,000	2,000	-	-
Employees	18,700	19,400	(700)	(3.6)
Public sector	9,600	9,000	600	6.7
Private sector	9,100	10,500	(1,400)	(13.3)
Self-employment	1,700	1,400	300	21.4
Goods-producing industry	2,900	2,900	-	-
Services-producing industry	17,500	17,900	(400)	(2.2)

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-20	32,300	22,300	20,400	1,900	10,100	69.0	8.5	63.2
Dec-19	32,300	22,400	20,500	1,900	10,000	69.3	8.5	63.5
Nov-19	32,300	22,800	20,700	2,000	9,500	70.6	8.8	64.1
Oct-19	32,300	23,300	21,300	1,900	9,000	72.1	8.2	65.9
Sep-19	32,300	24,000	22,100	2,000	8,300	74.3	8.3	68.4
Aug-19	32,300	24,200	22,400	1,800	8,100	74.9	7.4	69.3
Jul-19	32,400	24,100	22,500	1,700	8,200	74.4	7.1	69.4
Jun-19	32,400	23,400	21,500	1,900	9,000	72.2	8.1	66.4
May-19	32,400	22,900	21,100	1,800	9,600	70.7	7.9	65.1
Apr-19	32,500	23,000	21,300	1,700	9,500	70.8	7.4	65.5
Mar-19	32,500	22,700	21,100	1,600	9,800	69.8	7.0	64.9
Feb-19	32,400	22,900	21,100	1,900	9,500	70.7	8.3	65.1
Previous Years:								
Jan-19	32,400	22,800	20,800	1,900	9,600	70.4	8.3	64.2
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

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 6, 2020.