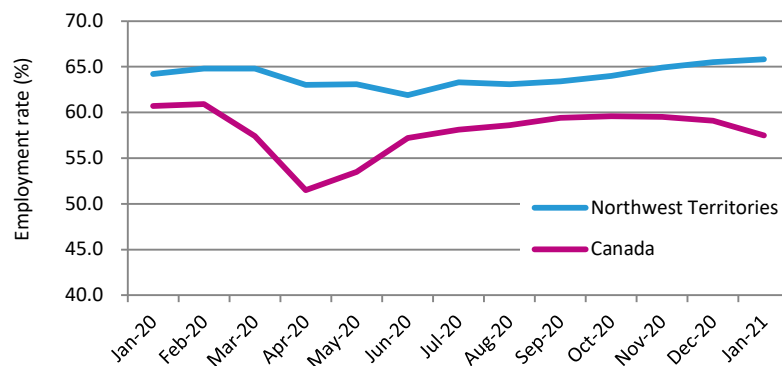


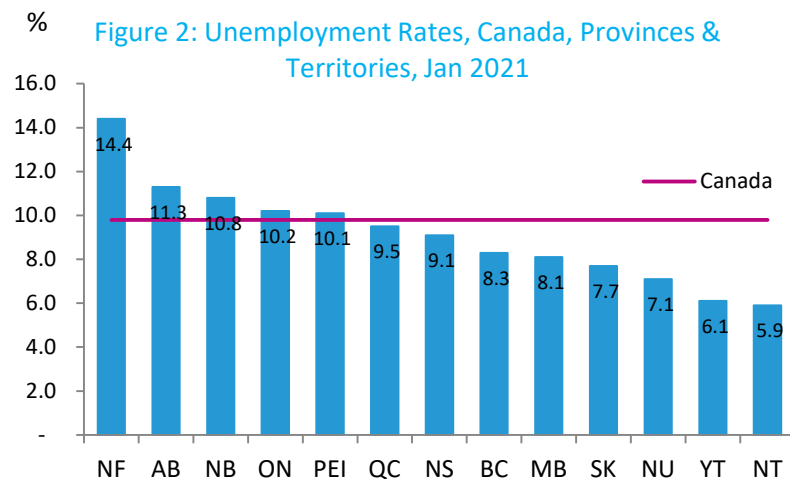
Labour Force Activity January 2021

The Northwest Territories' employment rate increased to 65.8% in January, continuing the upward trend following record lows last year. Employment rates dropped in the summer months of 2020 in response to measures introduced to contain the coronavirus pandemic, but the NWT January 2021 employment rate has surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels. Nationally, employment levels saw greater declines due to COVID-19 than the NWT. At 57.5%, Canada's employment rate in January 2021 was 3.2 percentage points lower than 12 months earlier.

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



The NWT's employment rate was the second highest, after Yukon (66.4%), with Alberta coming third at 60.8%. Newfoundland & Labrador and Nunavut had the lowest rates at 47.4% and 48.6%, respectively.



The Northwest Territories recorded the lowest unemployment rate (5.9%) among all jurisdictions in Canada. Together with December 2020, these were the lowest employment rates in the territory since October 2018. The three territories had lower unemployment rates compared to the provinces.



Employment by selected characteristics

On an annual basis, the NWT labour force was unchanged at 23,700. Employment increased by 600 persons. All employment increases between January 2020 and January 2021 occurred among females (+800), while male employment dropped by 200 persons.

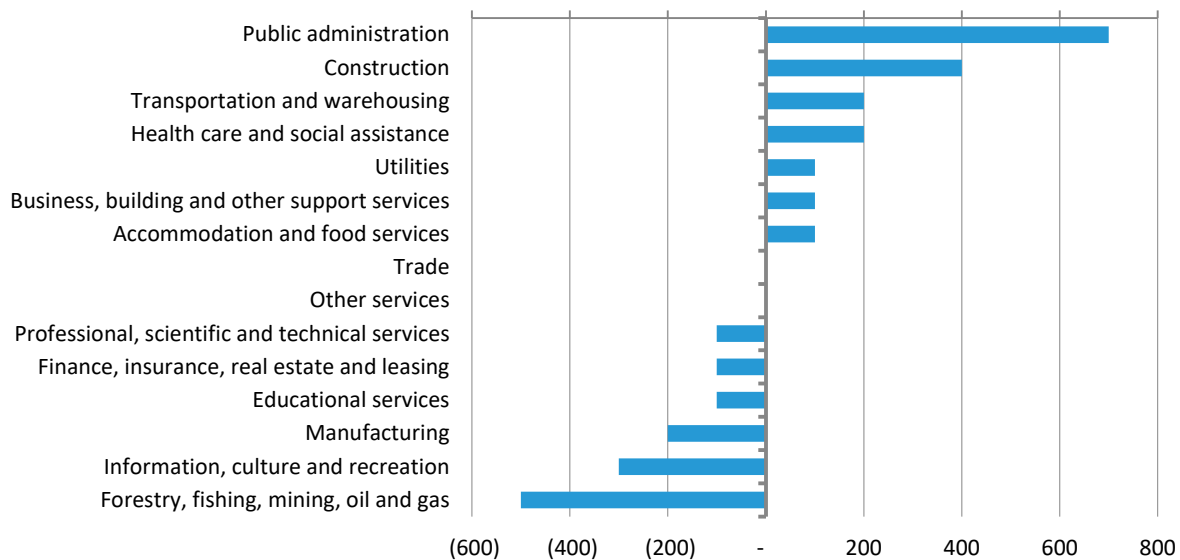
Overall, the employment rate increased 1.6 percentage points from 12 months ago. The employment rate increased 5.5 percentage points to 45.5% for youth aged 15 to 24 years, reaching the highest rate for January among this age group since 2017. Among females, the employment rate was up 5.5 percentage points to 68.5%, the highest since August 2019.

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

In January 2021, full time employment numbers matched those of January 2020, with 500 additional people added to part-time employment. Year-over-year increases were also seen in self-employment and the public sector. Partially off-setting these gains were 300 fewer people in the private sector compared to January 2020.

Among industries, year-over-year employment increased the most in public administration, construction, health care and social assistance, in transportation and warehousing, and health care and social assistance. The largest employment declines were recorded in information, culture and recreation and forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas industries.

Figure 3. NWT Employment change by Industry, Jan 2020 & Jan 2021



Historical Labour Force Activity

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

Table 2: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Pop. 15 & Over	Labour force	Employed Persons	Unemploy- ed	Not in Labour force	Participat- ion rate	Unemploy- ment rate	Employme- nt rate
	Number of persons					Percent		
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
Feb-20	33,800	23,900	21,900	2,100	9,800	70.7	8.8	64.8
<i>Historical for this month:</i>								
Jan-21	33,900	23,700	22,300	1,400	10,200	69.9	5.9	65.8
Jan-20	33,800	23,700	21,700	1,900	10,100	70.1	8.0	64.2
Jan-19	33,800	24,100	22,200	1,900	9,700	71.3	7.9	65.7
Jan-18	33,700	24,100	22,200	1,900	9,600	71.5	7.9	65.9
Jan-17	33,500	23,900	22,300	1,700	9,600	71.3	7.1	66.6
Jan-16	33,400	25,800	23,500	2,400	7,600	77.2	9.3	70.4
Jan-15	33,000	24,200	22,300	1,900	8,900	73.3	7.9	67.6
Jan-14	32,800	24,700	22,800	1,900	8,200	75.3	7.7	69.5
Jan-13	32,700	24,700	22,900	1,800	8,000	75.5	7.3	70.0
Jan-12	32,500	24,100	22,200	1,900	8,400	74.2	7.9	68.3
Jan-11	32,200	23,800	22,100	1,700	8,300	73.9	7.1	68.6

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.

Next Release: March 12, 2021