

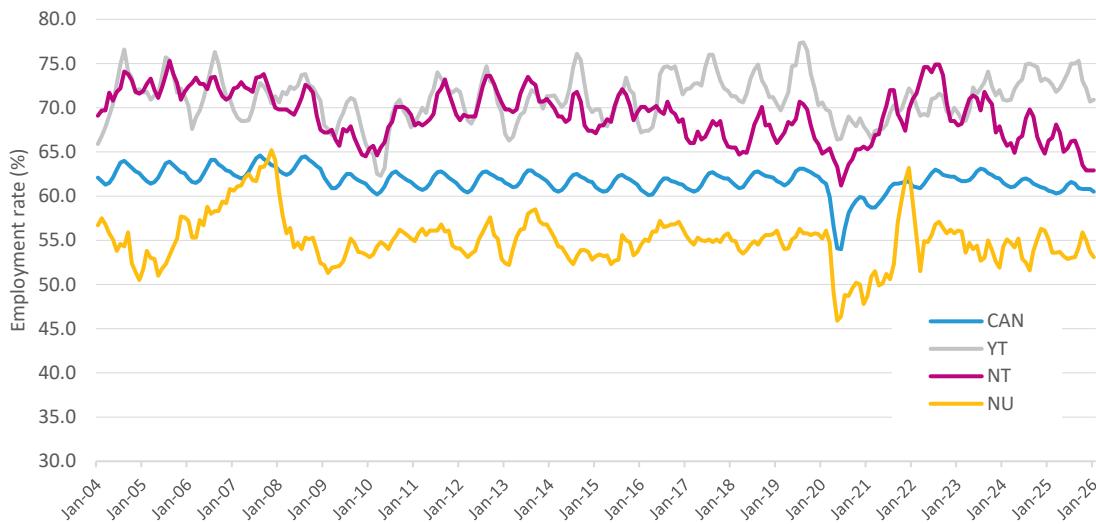


Labour Force Activity¹

January 2026

According to Labour Force Survey (LFS) results released today by Statistics Canada, the Northwest Territories' (NWT) seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 62.9% in January 2026, unchanged from the previous two months and the lowest recorded for January since 2001. In recent months, the NWT's employment rate has shifted closer to the national level, standing 2.4 percentage points higher in January, compared with a long-term average gap of 7.9 points. Figure 1 shows this convergence, with the NWT trending toward the national rate while the other two territories remain near their historical patterns.

Figure 1: Employment Rates, Canada & Territories, Jan 2004 - Jan 2026



Year over year, the Northwest Territories' employment rate declined 3.4 percentage points, from 66.3% in January 2025 to 62.9% in January 2026. Among major demographic groups, the largest decreases were recorded among youth aged 15–24 (43.6% to 35.1%), males (68.0% to 62.4%), and residents of Yellowknife (74.3% to 69.4%).

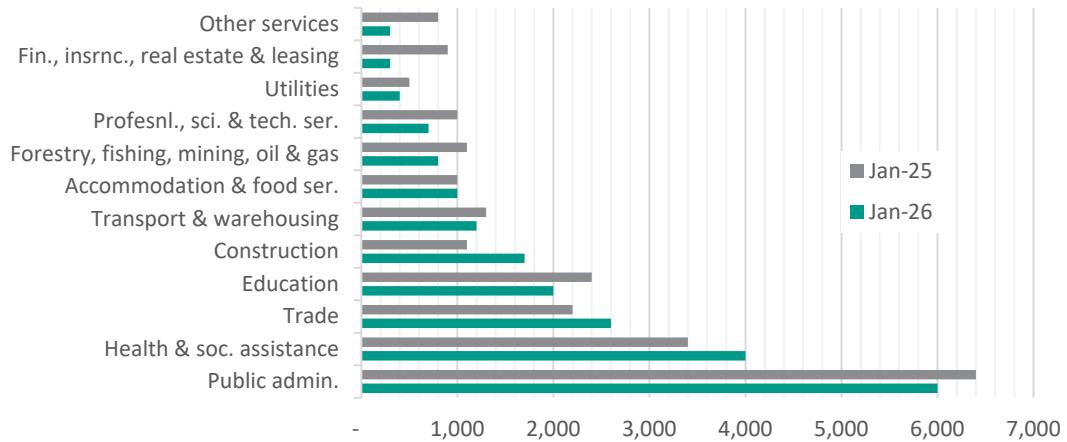
Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the NWT declined by 800 persons. Gains of 300 in the goods-producing sector were offset by losses in the services-producing sector. By industry, employment increased the most in construction (+600) and in health care and social assistance (+600), while the largest

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

declines were observed in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-600), other services except public administration (-500), public administration (-400), and educational services (-400) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Employment by Selected Industries, Jan-2025 & Jan-2026



National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 60.5%. Across the provinces and territories, Yukon (70.9%) posted the highest employment rate, followed by Alberta (64.2%), Saskatchewan (63.2%), and the Northwest Territories (62.9%). The lowest rates were recorded in Newfoundland and Labrador (50.5%) and Nunavut (53.1%).

Table 1: Historical Labour Market Indicators for January, Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Historical Employment Rate (%) for January
2026	22,200	1,200	5.1	62.9	72.0
2025	23,000	1,200	5.0	66.3	69.0
2024	22,600	1,700	7.0	66.5	66.0
2023	22,900	1,200	5.0	68.0	64.0
2022	24,000	1,600	6.3	71.0	62.0
2021	21,800	2,000	8.4	65.3	60.0
2020	21,700	2,000	8.4	64.8	58.0
2019	22,100	1,800	7.5	66.0	56.0
2018	22,000	2,000	8.3	65.5	54.0
2017	22,300	1,900	7.9	66.6	52.0
2016	23,400	2,400	9.3	70.1	69.0

10 Year Avg., 66.6

Additional labour market information can be found on the NWT Bureau of Statistics website.

- Tables & Reports: <https://www.statsnwt.ca/labour-income/labour-force-activity/>
- Telephone: (867) 767-9169

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