

Labour Force Activity July 2020

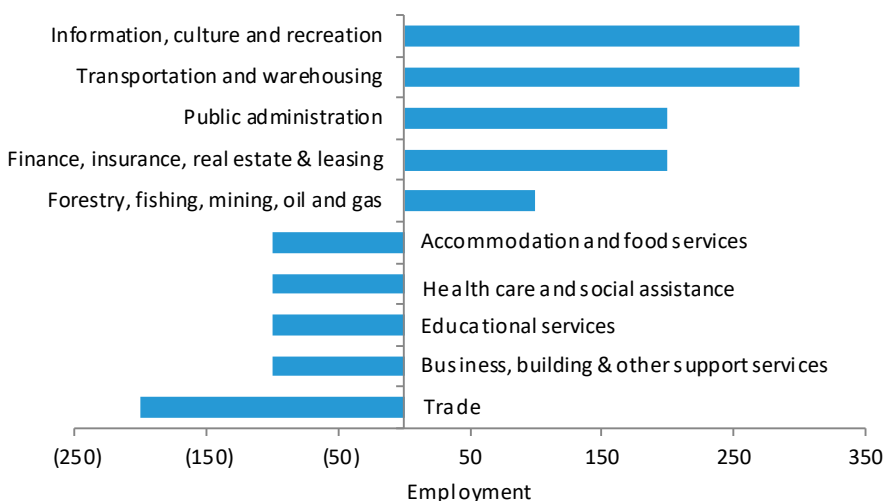
Employment in the Northwest Territories rose by 500 in July, representing an employment rate of 62.2% and a 1.6 percentage point increase from June. The unemployment rate rose to a historic high of 10.7% as a result of more people seeking employment (+300). Following months of record low labour force participation, these changes suggest an increase in economic activities following the relaxation of constraints introduced to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, 2020

	Jul-20	Jun-20	May-20	Apr-20	Jul-2019	Change from 1 Month ago
Population 15 & over	32,500	32,500	32,500	32,400	32,400	-
Labour force	22,500	21,800	22,000	22,200	24,100	700
Employment	20,200	19,700	20,200	20,200	22,500	500
Unemployment	2,400	2,100	1,800	2,000	1,700	300
Not in labour force	10,000	10,700	10,500	10,300	8,200	(700)
Participation rate (%)	69.2	67.1	67.7	68.5	74.4	
Unemployment rate (%)	10.7	9.6	8.2	9.0	7.1	
Employment rate (%)	62.2	60.6	62.2	62.3	69.4	

Month-over-month employment gains were concentrated in the services producing industries, led by the information, culture & recreation; and transportation & warehousing industries. Meanwhile, employment in the goods producing industries was little changed between June and July 2020.

Figure 1: Change in Employment by Industry, NWT, June to July 2020



Employment rates by selected characteristics

The overall employment rate in the NWT rose 1.6 percentage points between June and July 2020, spurred exclusively by employment gains among youth aged 15 to 24 years. In spite of this increase, employment among this age group was still 1,000 persons lower compared to the same month last year. Among the other major worker groups, month-over-month employment rates increased the most among males, Indigenous persons, and those living outside of Yellowknife.

Table 2: Employment Rates by Selected Characteristics - Northwest Territories, 2020

	Jul-20	Jun-20	May-20	Jul-19	Change from 1 Month ago
Northwest Territories	62.2	60.6	62.2	69.4	1.6
15-24 Years	41.2	33.3	31.4	59.6	7.9
25 Years & Older	65.7	65.7	68.1	71.3	-
Males	62.2	60.4	62.8	71.3	1.8
Females	62.1	60.9	60.9	67.5	1.2
Indigenous	47.4	45.9	45.6	50.7	1.5
Non-Indigenous	75.4	75.3	77.8	85.1	0.1
Yellowknife	73.4	72.5	74.7	80.9	0.9
Rest of the Territory	51.7	50.6	51.4	59.0	1.1

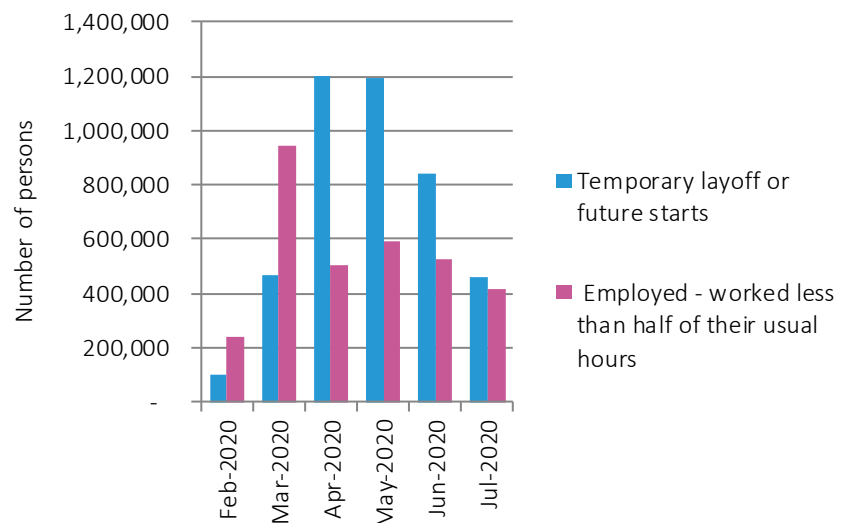
National highlights

Nationally, the employment rate was 56.2 following a 2.2 percentage points increase from June 2020. Across the country, all provinces and territories recorded increases in employment rates. Jurisdictions with the highest employment rates in July were Yukon (66.3%), Northwest Territories (62.2%) and Saskatchewan (60.3%).

Supplementary Indicators – Canada

After peaking in April, the number of laid-off workers declined over the past three months as more people return to work. Similarly, the number of employed persons who worked less than half of their usual hours fell by 104,400 between June and July 2020.

Figure 2: Supplementary Labour Force Indicators, Canada



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 Persons	Unemploy-ed	Not in the labour force	Participati-on rate	Unemploy- ment rate	Employment rate
Last 12 Months								
Jul-20	32,500	22,500	20,200	2,400	10,000	69.2	10.7	62.2
Jun-20	32,500	21,800	19,700	2,100	10,700	67.1	9.6	60.6
May-20	32,500	22,000	20,200	1,800	10,500	67.7	8.2	62.2
Apr-20	32,400	22,200	20,200	2,000	10,300	68.5	9.0	62.3
Mar-20	32,400	22,700	20,600	2,100	9,700	70.1	9.3	63.6
Feb-20	32,300	22,500	20,500	2,000	9,800	69.7	8.9	63.5
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
Previous Years:								
Jul-20	32,500	22,500	20,200	2,400	10,000	69.2	10.7	62.2
Jul-19	32,400	24,100	22,500	1,700	8,200	74.4	7.1	69.4
Jul-18	32,500	23,600	21,900	1,700	8,900	72.6	7.2	67.4
Jul-17	32,400	23,000	21,500	1,500	9,300	71.0	6.5	66.4
Jul-16	32,600	25,100	23,100	2,100	7,500	77.0	8.4	70.9
Jul-15	31,800	24,500	22,500	2,000	7,300	77.0	8.2	70.8
Jul-14	32,300	24,900	22,700	2,200	7,400	77.1	8.8	70.3
Jul-13	32,600	26,200	24,300	1,900	6,400	80.4	7.3	74.5
Jul-12	32,400	25,800	23,500	2,300	6,600	79.6	8.9	72.5
Jul-11	32,300	25,500	23,500	2,000	6,800	78.9	7.8	72.8
Jul-10	32,000	24,000	21,900	2,100	8,100	75.0	8.8	68.4

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.

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