



Released: August 7, 2026

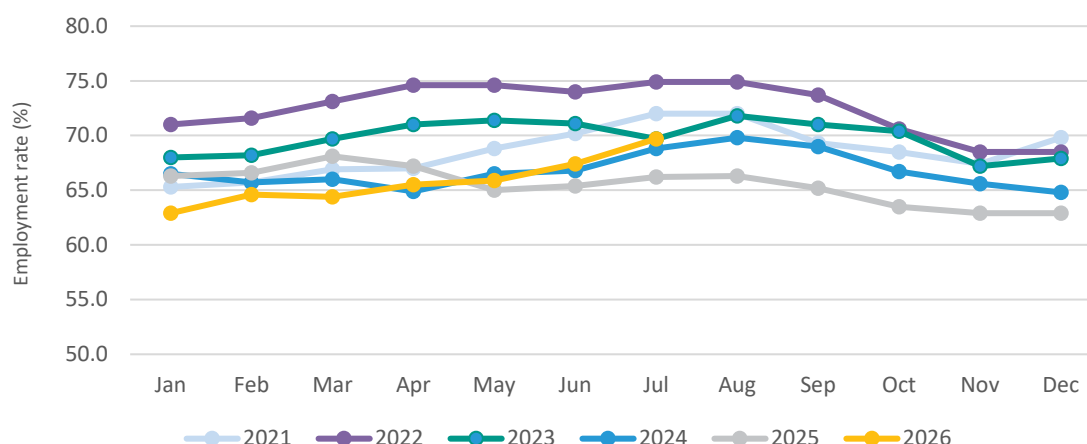
2026-19
ISSN-0827-3546

Labour Force Activity¹ July 2026

Statistics Canada estimates that in July 2026, 24,800 of the Northwest Territories' 35,600 residents aged 15 years and older were employed, an increase of 800 from the previous month. Employment growth was driven by gains in full-time positions, primarily within the services-producing sector.

The employment rate rose to 69.7% in July, up from 67.4% in June following the seasonal upward trend typically seen during the summer months. Although employment rates earlier in 2026 were below those recorded since 2021, they have increased steadily over the past three months, surpassing 2025 levels. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate edged down to 7.8% in July, reflecting the increase in employment levels.

Figure 1: Historical Employment Rates, Northwest Territories



Compared with July 2025, employment rates in July 2026 increased across nearly all major demographic groups. The largest gains were recorded among youth aged 15 to 24 years (+7.8 percentage points to 59.6%), women+ (+7.3 percentage points to 69.9%), and residents living outside Yellowknife (+4.8 percentage points to 58.8%). Men+ were the exception, as their employment rate declined by 1.1 percentage points to 68.9% over the same period.

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

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

On a year-over-year basis, employment increased in 10 of 15 major industries. The largest gains were recorded in health care and social assistance (+700), education (+400), and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+400). These increases were partially offset by a decline in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-1,400), which recorded the largest employment loss among all industries.

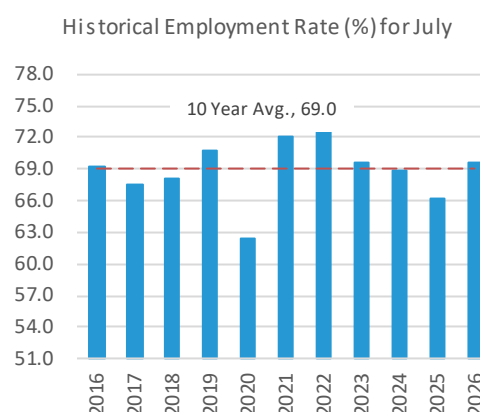
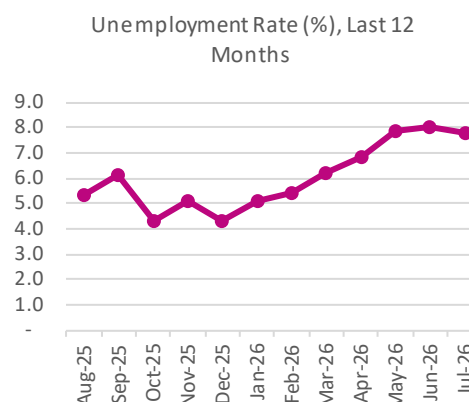
National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 61.6% in July, increasing from 61.1% in June 2026. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon (71.4%), followed by the Northwest Territories (69.7%), and Alberta (65.1%) had the highest employment rates. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest employment rate at 53.2%.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy - ment rate	Employ- ment rate
Jul-26	24,800	2,100	7.8	69.7
Jun-26	24,000	2,100	8.0	67.4
May-26	23,400	2,000	7.9	65.9
Apr-26	23,200	1,700	6.8	65.5
Mar-26	22,800	1,500	6.2	64.4
Feb-26	22,800	1,300	5.4	64.6
Jan-26	22,200	1,200	5.1	62.9
Dec-25	22,200	1,000	4.3	62.9
Nov-25	22,200	1,200	5.1	62.9
Oct-25	22,400	1,000	4.3	63.5
Sep-25	23,000	1,500	6.1	65.2
Aug-25	23,400	1,300	5.3	66.3

Historical Labour Market Indicators for July				
2026	24,800	2,100	7.8	69.7
2025	23,300	1,500	6.0	66.2
2024	23,600	1,600	6.3	68.8
2023	23,700	2,300	8.9	69.7
2022	25,300	1,200	4.5	74.9
2021	24,200	1,400	5.5	72.0
2020	20,900	2,800	11.9	62.4
2019	23,600	1,600	6.3	70.7
2018	22,800	1,900	7.7	68.1
2017	22,700	1,900	7.8	67.6
2016	23,300	2,400	9.3	69.3



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

Next Release: September 4, 2026