

Released: April 6, 2018

Monthly Labour Force Activity - March 2018-

Overview

Statistics Canada estimates that in March 2018, out of 32,400 residents 15 years of age and older 20,700 persons were employed in the Northwest Territories (NWT), representing an employment rate of 63.9%. This is a slight drop from last month. Marginal gains in part-time employment were off-set by a drop in full-time employment as overall employment declined by 200 persons from February 2018.

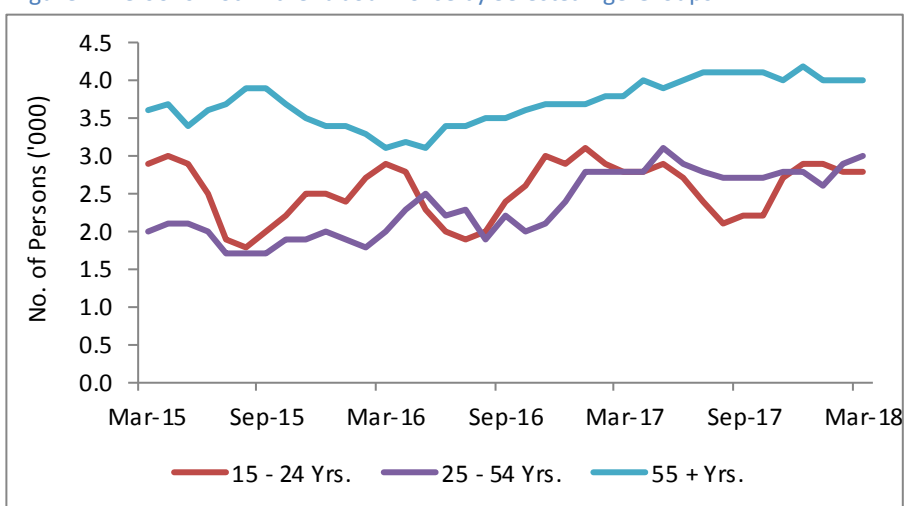
Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, March 2018

	Mar-18	Feb-18	Mar-17	Change from 12 months ago	
				Number	%
Population 15 & over	32,400	32,400	32,400	-	-
Labour force	22,700	22,800	22,900	(200)	(0.9)
Employment	20,700	20,900	21,400	(700)	(3.3)
Full-time	17,600	18,000	18,500	(900)	(4.9)
Part-time	3,000	2,900	2,800	200	7.1
Unemployment	2,000	1,900	1,600	400	25.0
Not in labour force	9,700	9,600	9,400	300	3.2
Participation rate (%)	70.1	70.4	70.7		
Unemployment rate (%)	8.8	8.3	7.0		
Employment rate (%)	63.9	64.5	66.0		

On a year-over-year basis, employment dropped by 700 persons as a result of a decline in full-time employment. Similarly, the employment rate dropped by 2.1 percentage points over the same period.

Meanwhile, since the beginning of 2017, the number of persons not in the labour force has trended upwards, and stood at 9,700 in March 2018. Among those not in the labour force last month, about 40% were aged 55 years and over.

Figure 1: Persons Not in the Labour Force by Selected Age-Groups



2018-009

ISSN-0827-3545

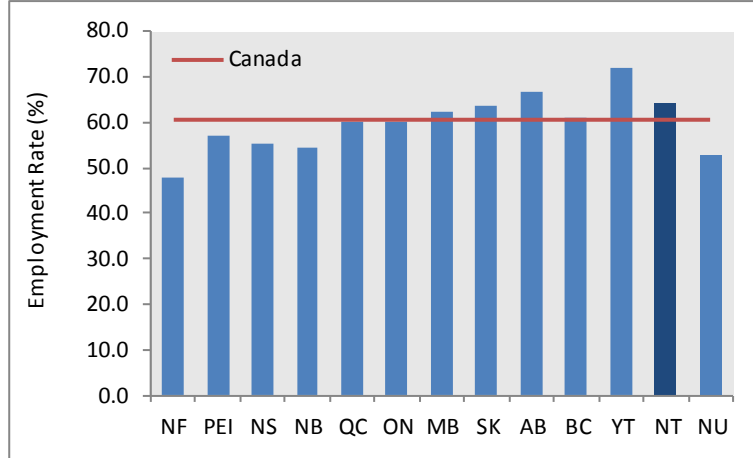


National highlights

The employment rate for Canada was 60.7% in March 2018. Despite the drop from the previous month, the NWT employment rate stayed the third highest in the country, after Yukon (71.9%) and Alberta (66.6%).

At 8.8%, the NWT unemployment rate was 1.8 percentage points higher than in March 2017. Jurisdictions with the highest unemployment rates were Newfoundland and Labrador (16.5%), Nunavut (12.6%), and Prince Edward Island (12.5%). Nationally, the unemployment rate was 6.2%.

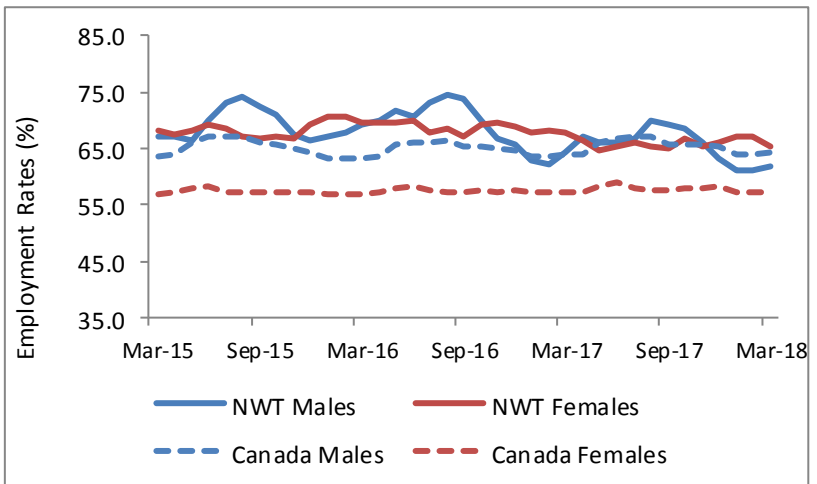
Figure 2: Employment Rates, Provinces & Territories, March 2018



Employment rates by selected demographic characteristics

Figure 3 compares employment rates by sex for the NWT and Canada over the past three years. Historical employment rates are constantly higher for males than females in Canada. In contrast, female employment rates in the NWT have occasionally surpassed male employment rates in recent years.

Figure 3: Employment rates by Sex, NWT & Canada, 2015-2018



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Both the private sector (-400) and public sector (-300) industries experienced employment declines year over year. However, self-employment was unchanged from March 2017 with 1,500 persons working last month.

The goods-producing sector accounted for the bulk of employment declines (-600), year-over-year. On the other hand employment in the services-producing sector dropped by about 100 persons.

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
Mar-18	32,400	22,700	20,700	2,000	9,700	70.1	8.8	63.9
Feb-18	32,400	22,800	20,900	1,900	9,600	70.4	8.3	64.5
Jan-18	32,400	22,900	20,900	2,000	9,500	70.7	8.7	64.5
Dec-17	32,400	22,600	21,000	1,600	9,900	69.8	7.1	64.8
Nov-17	32,400	22,800	21,300	1,500	9,600	70.4	6.6	65.7
Oct-17	32,400	23,400	21,800	1,500	9,000	72.2	6.4	67.3
Sep-17	32,300	23,300	21,700	1,600	9,000	72.1	6.9	67.2
Aug-17	32,300	23,400	22,000	1,400	9,000	72.4	6.0	68.1
Jul-17	32,400	23,000	21,500	1,500	9,300	71.0	6.5	66.4
Jun-17	32,400	22,700	21,300	1,400	9,700	70.1	6.2	65.7
May-17	32,400	22,400	21,100	1,400	9,900	69.1	6.3	65.1
Apr-17	32,400	22,800	21,600	1,200	9,600	70.4	5.3	66.7
Previous Years:								
Mar-17	32,400	22,900	21,400	1,600	9,400	70.7	7.0	66.0
Mar-16	32,300	24,200	22,400	1,800	8,000	74.9	7.4	69.3
Mar-15	32,200	23,600	21,700	1,900	8,500	73.3	8.1	67.4
Mar-14	32,500	24,000	22,100	1,800	8,500	73.8	7.5	68.0
Mar-13	32,600	24,300	22,400	1,900	8,300	74.5	7.8	68.7
Mar-12	32,300	24,500	22,400	2,100	7,800	75.9	8.6	69.3
Mar-11	32,100	23,900	22,400	1,500	8,200	74.5	6.3	69.8
Mar-10	31,900	22,100	20,300	1,800	9,800	69.3	8.1	63.6
Mar-09	31,700	22,700	21,700	1,100	9,000	71.6	4.8	68.5
Mar-08	31,800	23,800	22,300	1,500	7,900	74.8	6.3	70.1

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national Labour Force Survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. 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: May 11, 2018