

Labour Force Activity

-March 2019-

Overview

The employment rate in the Northwest Territories (NWT) was 64.9% in March, a slight decline from 65.1% in February. The number of employed persons stood at 21,100, with about 90% working full-time and 10% working part-time. Unemployment dropped by 300 as a result of more people leaving the labour force.

Year-over-year, there were 400 more persons employed in the NWT compared to March 2018. During the same period, there was a large shift towards full-time employment with 1,100 more persons working full-time at the expense of part-time employment.

Compared to March 2018, different patterns in employment rate for key demographic characteristics can be observed. Employment rates increased 8.0 and 3.9 percentage points for youth aged 15 to 24 and for males, respectively. A slight drop in employment rates was observed among persons aged 25 years & over, females, and Non-Indigenous persons.

The increase to 46.2% in March among youth aged 15 to 24 brought an early break in the seasonal decline of the employment rate for this age group. Last month had the highest employment rate for the month of March since 2015 for youth aged 15 to 24.

Table 1: Employment & Employment Rates by Key Characteristics, NWT

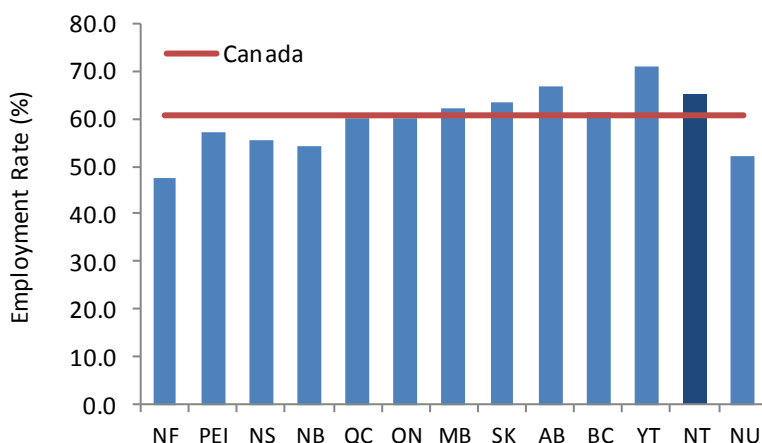
	Mar-2019		Feb-2019		Mar-2018		Change from 1 Yr. Ago (p.p)
	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(Persons)	Rate (%)	
Northwest Territories	21,100	64.9	21,100	65.1	20,700	63.9	1.0
15-24 Yrs.	2,400	46.2	2,300	43.4	2,100	38.2	8.0
25+ Yrs.	18,700	68.8	18,800	69.4	18,600	68.9	(0.1)
Males	10,800	65.9	10,700	65.2	10,100	62.0	3.9
Females	10,300	64.4	10,400	65.0	10,600	65.4	(1.0)
Indigenous	7,100	47.3	7,300	48.0	7,700	47.2	0.1
Non-Indigenous	13,900	79.9	13,700	79.7	13,000	80.2	(0.3)
Yellowknife	12,000	77.4	12,000	77.4	11,300	76.9	0.5
Rest of the Territory	9,100	53.8	9,100	53.5	9,300	52.2	1.6



National highlights

Nationally, Canada's employment rate dropped slightly from the previous month to 60.7% in March 2019. The Northwest Territories (64.9%) had the third highest employment rate after Yukon (71.0%) and Alberta (66.6%).

Figure 1: Employment Rates, Provinces & Territories, March 2019



At 7.0%, the Northwest Territories' unemployment rate was seventh highest in the country, with Newfoundland & Labrador (16.5%), Nunavut (14.8%) and Prince Edward Island (12.5%), having the highest unemployment rates. The national unemployment rate was 6.2%.

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

At the industrial level, the goods-producing industry accounted for most of the year-over-year job gains, all in construction. Meanwhile in the services-producing industry, employment in trade increased by 300. This increase was however offset by declines in other service industries.

During the past 12 months to March 2019, employment gains in private sector and self-employment were offset by losses in public sector employment.

Table 2: Employment & Employment Changes by Selected Characteristics

	2019			Mar-2018	Change from 1 Yr. Ago	
	Mar	Feb	Jan		No.	%
Total Employment	21,100	21,100	20,800	20,700	400	1.9
Full-time	18,700	18,900	18,800	17,600	1,100	6.3
Part-time	2,400	2,200	2,000	3,000	(600)	(20.0)
Employees	19,400	19,600	19,400	19,200	200	1.0
Public sector	9,400	9,300	9,000	9,800	(400)	(4.1)
Private sector	10,000	10,300	10,500	9,400	600	6.4
Self-employment	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,500	100	6.7
Goods-producing industry	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,700	300	11.1
Services-producing industry	18,100	18,100	17,900	18,000	100	0.6

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	Unem- ployed	Not in the Labour Force	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Mar-19	32,500	22,700	21,100	1,600	9,800	69.8	7.0	64.9
Feb-19	32,400	22,900	21,100	1,900	9,500	70.7	8.3	65.1
Jan-19	32,400	22,800	20,800	1,900	9,600	70.4	8.3	64.2
Dec-18	32,300	23,000	21,300	1,700	9,300	71.2	7.4	65.9
Nov-18	32,300	23,100	21,700	1,500	9,200	71.5	6.5	67.2
Oct-18	32,300	23,100	21,700	1,400	9,200	71.5	6.1	67.2
Sep-18	32,400	23,500	22,400	1,100	8,900	72.5	4.7	69.1
Aug-18	32,500	23,700	22,100	1,600	8,700	72.9	6.8	68.0
Jul-18	32,500	23,600	21,900	1,700	8,900	72.6	7.2	67.4
Jun-18	32,500	23,400	21,400	2,000	9,100	72.0	8.5	65.8
May-18	32,500	22,700	20,900	1,900	9,800	69.8	8.4	64.3
Apr-18	32,500	22,500	20,700	1,800	10,000	69.2	8.0	63.7
Previous Years:								
Mar-18	32,400	22,700	20,700	2,000	9,700	70.1	8.8	63.9
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

Labour Force Survey (LFS) 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 10, 2019