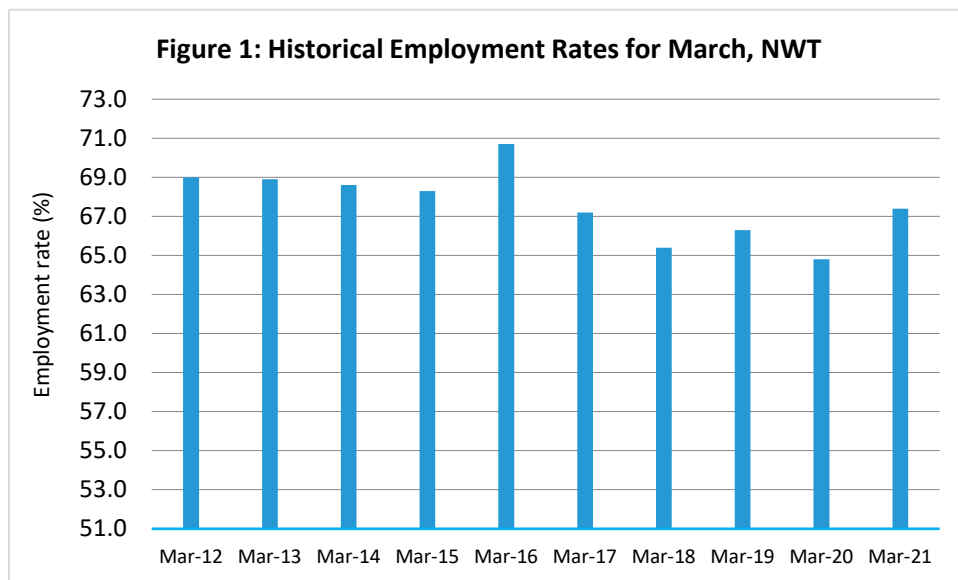


Labour Force Activity March 2021

Labour Force Survey information released by Statistics Canada today estimates the Northwest Territories' seasonally unadjusted employment rate at 67.4%, continuing the gradual rise in the employment rate that started last September. Between February and March 2021, the employment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points from 66.7%. Meanwhile, the number of employed persons went up by 300, to 22,900, mostly driven by part-time employment in the public sector.

Figure 1 compares historical employment rates for March. Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market, last month's employment rate was the highest for March in the past 5 years and 2.6 percentage points higher than March 2020 when interventions to contain the pandemic began.



For Canada overall, the employment rate stood at 58.4%, unchanged from the previous month and 1.3 percentage points lower than March 2020. Between February and March 2021, seven Canadian jurisdictions saw slight increases in employment rates, all by less than a percentage point.

The Northwest Territories (6.5%), followed by Manitoba (7.2%) and Nunavut (7.3%) recorded the lowest unemployment rate. In the NWT, the average unemployment rate for March during the past 10 years is 7.6%.

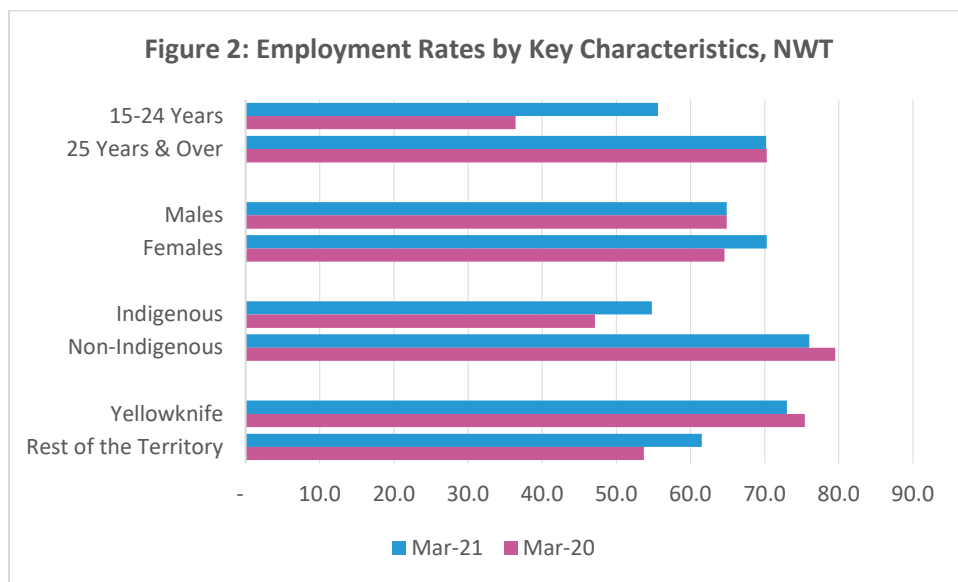
¹ NWT LFS estimates are based on seasonally unadjusted, three-months moving-average time series data.



Employment by selected characteristics

On an annual basis, the NWT labour force increased by 400, to 24,500 while employment increased by 1,000 persons. The year-over-year increase in employment was concentrated among youth aged 15 to 24 years, females, Non-Indigenous persons, and those living outside of Yellowknife.

The overall NWT employment rate increased 2.6 percentage points from 12 months ago. With more youth aged 15 to 24 years participating in the labour market, the employment rate rose 19.2 percentage points to 55.6%, making it the record highest for March among this age group. For persons living outside of Yellowknife, last month's employment rate was the highest since October 2016. Year-over-year employment rates also increased among females and Indigenous persons.



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

In March 2021, full-time employment numbers were similar to those recorded in March 2020. Meanwhile, 1,100 additional people were added to part-time employment. Year-over-year employment increases were also seen in self-employment and in public sector employment while private sector employment was unchanged from 12 months ago.

Among industries, employment increased the most in public administration; health care and social assistance; and in business, building and other support services. Employment declines were recorded in manufacturing; information, culture and recreation; trade; educational services; and in accommodation and food services.

Historical Labour Force Activity

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Pop. 15 & Over	Labour force	Employed Persons	Unemploy-ed	Not in Labour force	Participat-ion rate	Unemploy- ment rate	Employ - ment rate
	Number of persons					Percent		
Mar-21	34,000	24,500	22,900	1,600	9,500	72.1	6.5	67.4
Feb-21	33,900	24,300	22,600	1,700	9,600	71.7	7.0	66.7
Jan-21	33,900	23,700	22,300	1,400	10,200	69.9	5.9	65.8
Dec-20	33,900	23,600	22,200	1,400	10,300	69.6	5.9	65.5
Nov-20	33,900	23,500	22,000	1,500	10,400	69.3	6.4	64.9
Oct-20	33,900	23,500	21,700	1,900	10,300	69.3	8.1	64.0
Sep-20	33,900	23,700	21,500	2,200	10,200	69.9	9.3	63.4
Aug-20	33,900	24,000	21,400	2,600	9,800	70.8	10.8	63.1
Jul-20	33,800	23,700	21,400	2,300	10,100	70.1	9.7	63.3
Jun-20	33,900	23,100	21,000	2,100	10,800	68.1	9.1	61.9
May-20	33,900	23,300	21,400	1,900	10,500	68.7	8.2	63.1
Apr-20	33,800	23,400	21,300	2,100	10,400	69.2	9.0	63.0
<i>Historical for this month:</i>								
Mar-21	34,000	24,500	22,900	1,600	9,500	72.1	6.5	67.4
Mar-20	33,800	24,100	21,900	2,100	9,700	71.3	8.7	64.8
Mar-19	33,800	24,000	22,400	1,700	9,800	71.0	7.1	66.3
Mar-18	33,800	24,100	22,100	2,000	9,700	71.3	8.3	65.4
Mar-17	33,500	24,200	22,500	1,600	9,400	72.2	6.6	67.2
Mar-16	33,500	25,600	23,700	1,900	7,900	76.4	7.4	70.7
Mar-15	33,100	24,500	22,600	2,000	8,500	74.0	8.2	68.3
Mar-14	32,800	24,400	22,500	1,800	8,500	74.4	7.4	68.6
Mar-13	32,800	24,400	22,600	1,800	8,300	74.4	7.4	68.9
Mar-12	32,600	24,600	22,500	2,100	8,000	75.5	8.5	69.0
Mar-11	32,200	23,800	22,300	1,500	8,400	73.9	6.3	69.3

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.

Next Release: May 7, 2021