



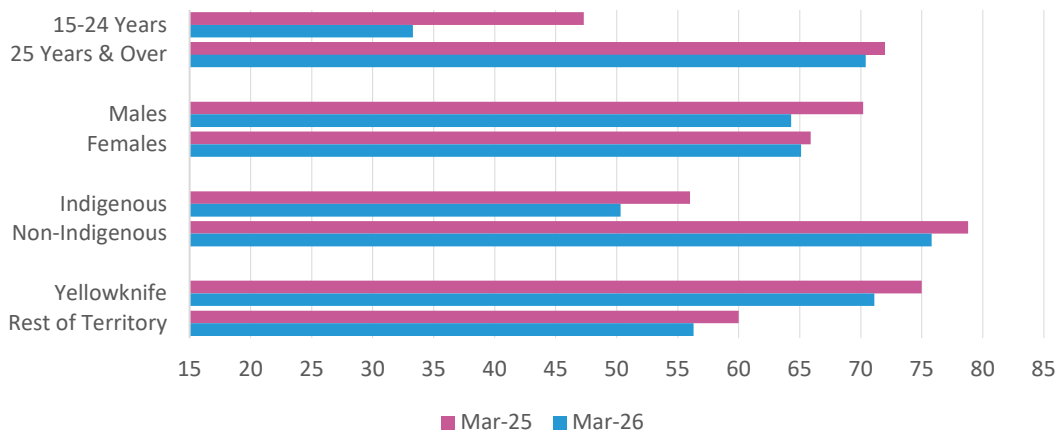
Labour Force Activity¹ March 2026

The seasonally unadjusted employment rate in the Northwest Territories (NWT) was 64.4% in March 2026, little changed from 64.6% in February. Employment totaled 22,800, with the majority of workers employed full time (89.9%), while 10.1% worked part time.

Compared to one year ago, the number of employed persons in the Northwest Territories declined by 900 persons with all losses concentrated in the services producing sector. As a result, the employment rate fell by 3.7 percentage points down from 68.1% in March 2025. Over the same period, the unemployment rate increased by 2.6 percentage points to 6.2%, as the number of unemployed persons rose by 600.

Among major demographic groups, the largest year-over-year declines in employment rates were observed among youth aged 15 to 24 (47.3% to 33.3%), males (70.2% to 64.3%), and Indigenous persons (56.0% to 50.3%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Employment Rates by Key Demographic Characteristics, March 2025 & March 2026



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Despite the overall year-over-year decline in employment, some industries recorded gains. Employment rose in construction (+900), business, building & other support services (+300), health care & social assistance (+200), and professional, scientific & technical services (+200). In contrast, the largest employment decline occurred in 'other services' (700), forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas (600), and finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (400).

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

National highlights

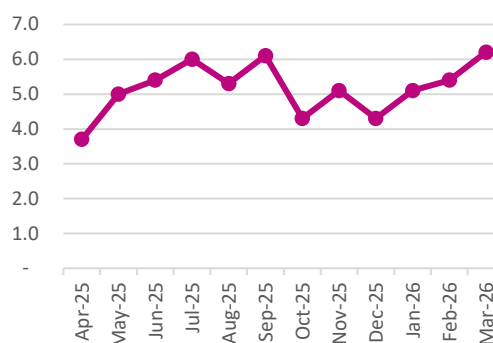
For Canada overall, the employment rate edged down from 60.1% in February to 59.5% in March 2026. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon recorded the highest employment rate (70.0%), followed by the Northwest Territories (64.4%) and Alberta (63.9%). Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest employment rate at 50.0%.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

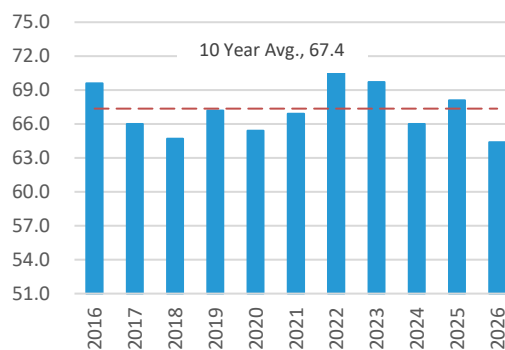
	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy - ment rate	Employ- ment rate
Mar-26	22,800	1,500	6.2	64.4
Feb-26	22,800	1,300	5.4	64.6
Jan-26	22,200	1,200	5.1	62.9
Dec-25	22,200	1,000	4.3	62.9
Nov-25	22,200	1,200	5.1	62.9
Oct-25	22,400	1,000	4.3	63.5
Sep-25	23,000	1,500	6.1	65.2
Aug-25	23,400	1,300	5.3	66.3
Jul-25	23,300	1,500	6.0	66.2
Jun-25	22,900	1,300	5.4	65.4
May-25	22,700	1,200	5.0	65.0
Apr-25	23,400	900	3.7	67.2

Historical Labour Market Indicators for March				
Year	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment rate	Employment rate
2026	22,800	1,500	6.2	64.4
2025	23,700	900	3.6	68.1
2024	22,500	1,200	5.1	66.0
2023	23,500	1,300	5.2	69.7
2022	24,700	1,200	4.6	73.1
2021	22,400	1,600	6.7	66.9
2020	21,900	2,000	8.4	65.4
2019	22,500	1,500	6.3	67.2
2018	21,800	2,100	8.8	64.7
2017	22,100	1,900	7.9	66.0
2016	23,300	2,100	8.3	69.6

Unemployment Rate (%), Last 12 Months



Historical Employment Rate (%) for March



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: May 8, 2026