

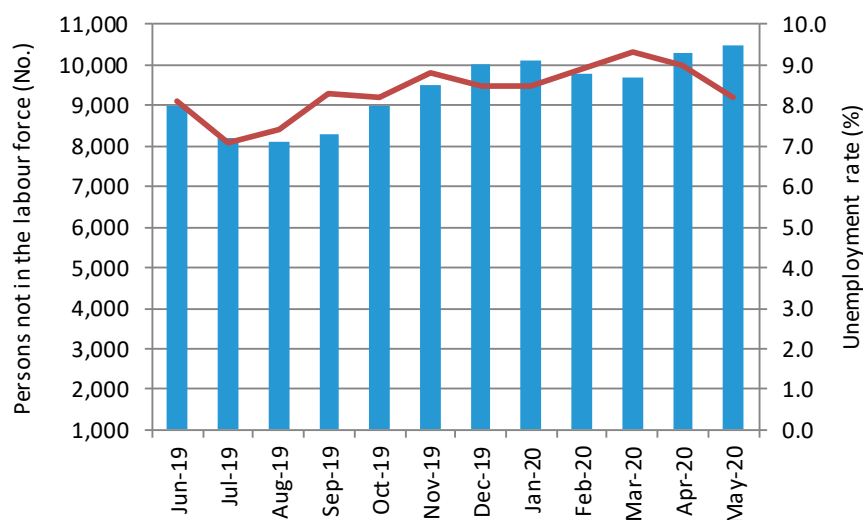
## Labour Force Activity

### May 2020

The employment rate in May was 62.2%, making it the lowest since collection of labour force information for the Northwest Territories (NWT) began in 2001. While the number of employed persons was unchanged from the previous month, at 20,200, there were 900 fewer compared to May 2019. This labour force status release is the third since the beginning of COVID-19 related interventions and business closures, and sheds more light on the impact of the pandemic on the NWT labour market.

The number of persons not in the labour force increased by 800 between March and May 2020, potentially indicating the reduction in people looking for employment due to COVID-19 related business closures. Figure 1 shows that the drop in the unemployment rate in April and May 2020 was more likely a result of people leaving the labour force than finding employment.

Figure 1: Persons not in the Labour Force & Unemployment Rates, NWT, June 19 to May 20



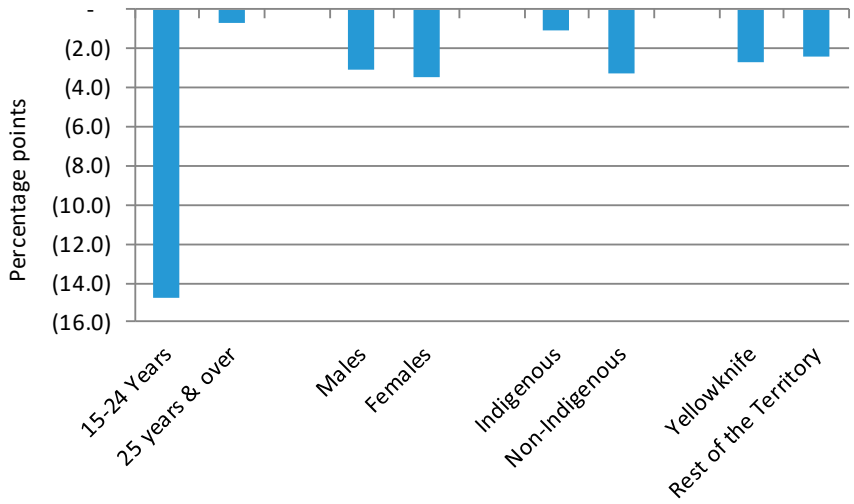
At the industrial level, year-over-year employment declined the most in the services-producing sector, dropping by 800 in the information, culture & recreation sub-sector, followed by health care & social assistance (-400), transportation & warehousing (-300), and finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (-300).

### Employment rates by selected characteristics

Compared to 12 months ago, employment rates dropped among all major worker groups, decreasing the most among youths aged 15-24 years, females, and Non-Indigenous persons. The drop in the employment rate from 46.2% to 31.4% among youths aged 15-24 years may reflect low employment levels of summer students this year (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Employment Rate Changes, by Selected Characteristics, May 2019 & May 2020



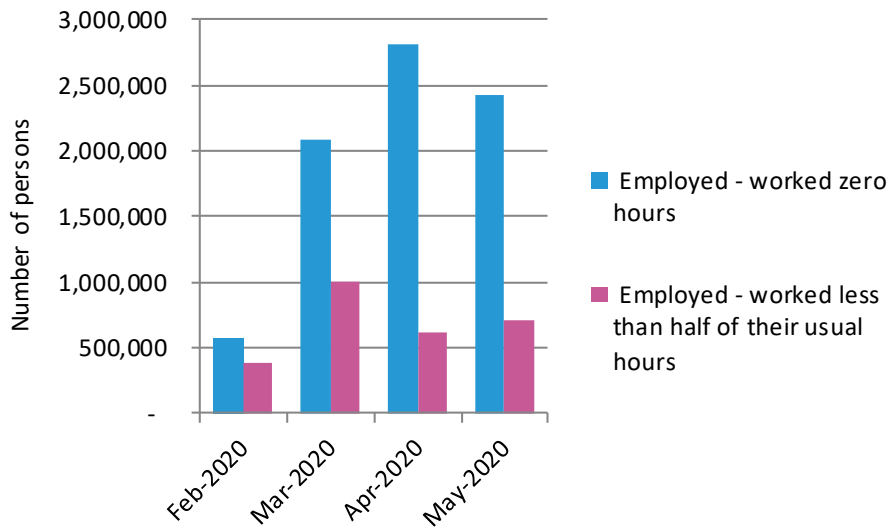
### National highlights

Nationally, the employment rate dropped 2.5 percentage points to 54.1% between April and May 2020. Employment rates dropped for all provinces and territories with Nunavut, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia experiencing the biggest drop. Unemployment rates were highest in Nunavut (16.6%), Newfoundland and Labrador (12.8%), and Prince Edward Island (10.4%).

### Supplementary Indicators – Canada

Figure 3 compares two supplementary indicators developed to measure the effects COVID-19 on work patterns among Canadian workers. The number of employed persons who were absent from work all week increased from 565,500 in February, peaking at 2,805,000 in April. Last month saw a slight decline in this category of workers. Similarly, the number of employed persons and absent 50% or more of their usual work hours increased in May following a drop in April.

Figure 3: Supplementary Labour Force Indicators, Canada



## Historical labour force activity

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

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour force	Employed Persons	Unemploy-ed	Not in the labour force	Participati-on rate	Unemploy- ment rate	Employment rate
May-20	32,500	22,000	20,200	1,800	10,500	67.7	8.2	62.2
Apr-20	32,400	22,200	20,200	2,000	10,300	68.5	9.0	62.3
Mar-20	32,400	22,700	20,600	2,100	9,700	70.1	9.3	63.6
Feb-20	32,300	22,500	20,500	2,000	9,800	69.7	8.9	63.5
Jan-20	32,300	22,300	20,400	1,900	10,100	69.0	8.5	63.2
Dec-19	32,300	22,400	20,500	1,900	10,000	69.3	8.5	63.5
Nov-19	32,300	22,800	20,700	2,000	9,500	70.6	8.8	64.1
Oct-19	32,300	23,300	21,300	1,900	9,000	72.1	8.2	65.9
Sep-19	32,300	24,000	22,100	2,000	8,300	74.3	8.3	68.4
Aug-19	32,300	24,200	22,400	1,800	8,100	74.9	7.4	69.3
Jul-19	32,400	24,100	22,500	1,700	8,200	74.4	7.1	69.4
Jun-19	32,400	23,400	21,500	1,900	9,000	72.2	8.1	66.4
Previous Years:								
May-19	32,400	22,900	21,100	1,800	9,600	70.7	7.9	65.1
May-18	32,500	22,700	20,900	1,900	9,800	69.8	8.4	64.3
May-17	32,400	22,400	21,100	1,400	9,900	69.1	6.3	65.1
May-16	32,500	24,600	22,900	1,700	7,900	75.7	6.9	70.5
May-15	32,000	23,500	21,600	1,900	8,500	73.4	8.1	67.5
May-14	32,300	24,300	22,100	2,200	8,000	75.2	9.1	68.4
May-13	32,500	25,200	23,000	2,200	7,300	77.5	8.7	70.8
May-12	32,400	24,700	22,500	2,200	7,700	76.2	8.9	69.4
May-11	32,200	24,700	22,700	2,000	7,500	76.7	8.1	70.5
May-10	31,900	22,400	20,700	1,700	9,600	70.2	7.6	64.9

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: July 10, 2020