



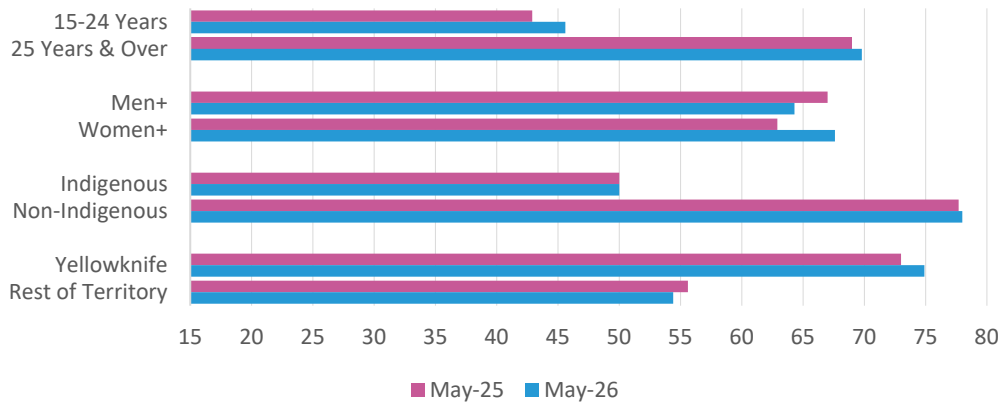
Labour Force Activity¹ May 2026

The employment rate in the Northwest Territories (NWT) reached 65.9% in May 2026, a slight increase from 65.5% in April and 0.9 percentage points higher than May 2025 (65.0%). Total employment rose modestly to 23,400, up from the previous month and 700 higher than a year earlier.

Month-over-month, the unemployment rate edged up to 7.9% in May, continuing its rise from 4.3% in December 2025, driven by an increase in the number of people entering the labour force.

Compared with May 2025, employment rates by demographic characteristics showed mixed changes. Increases were observed among youth aged 15–24 (42.9% to 45.6%), women+ (62.9% to 67.6%), non-Indigenous workers (77.7% to 78.0%), and in Yellowknife (73.0% to 74.9%). Declines were seen among men+ (67.0% to 64.3%) and in the rest of the territory (55.6% to 54.4%), while Indigenous persons’ employment rate remained unchanged at 50.0% (Figure 1).

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



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Between May 2025 and May 2026, part-time employment rose by 400 positions to 2,900, while full-time employment increased slightly to 20,400. At the sector level, public sector employment grew by 800 to 12,400, and self-employment increased by 200 to 1,800, while private sector employment declined by 400 to 9,100. By industry, gains of 1,200 positions in the services-producing sector more than offset a decline of 500 positions in the goods-producing sector.

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

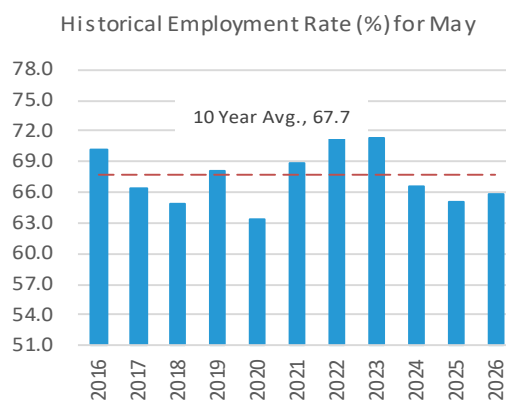
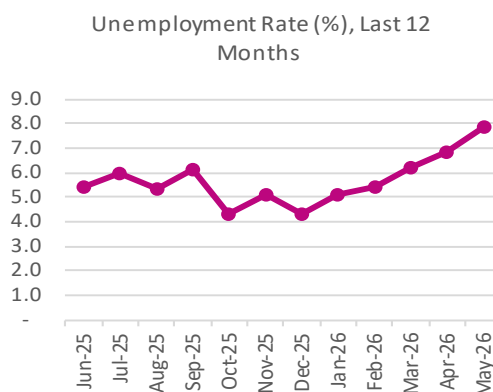
National highlights

For Canada overall, the employment rate increased slightly from 60.0% in April to 60.5% in May 2026. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon recorded the highest employment rate (68.9%), followed by the Northwest Territories (65.9%) and Alberta (64.3%). Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest employment rate at 51.0%.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy - ment rate	Employ - ment rate
May-26	23,400	2,000	7.9	65.9
Apr-26	23,200	1,700	6.8	65.5
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

Historical Labour Market Indicators for May				
2026	23,400	2,000	7.9	65.9
2025	22,700	1,200	5.0	65.0
2024	22,800	1,500	6.2	66.5
2023	24,200	1,800	6.9	71.4
2022	25,200	1,600	6.0	74.6
2021	23,100	1,200	5.0	68.8
2020	21,200	2,200	9.4	63.3
2019	22,800	1,500	6.2	68.1
2018	21,800	2,000	8.4	64.9
2017	22,300	1,700	7.1	66.4
2016	23,600	2,100	8.2	70.2



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

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