

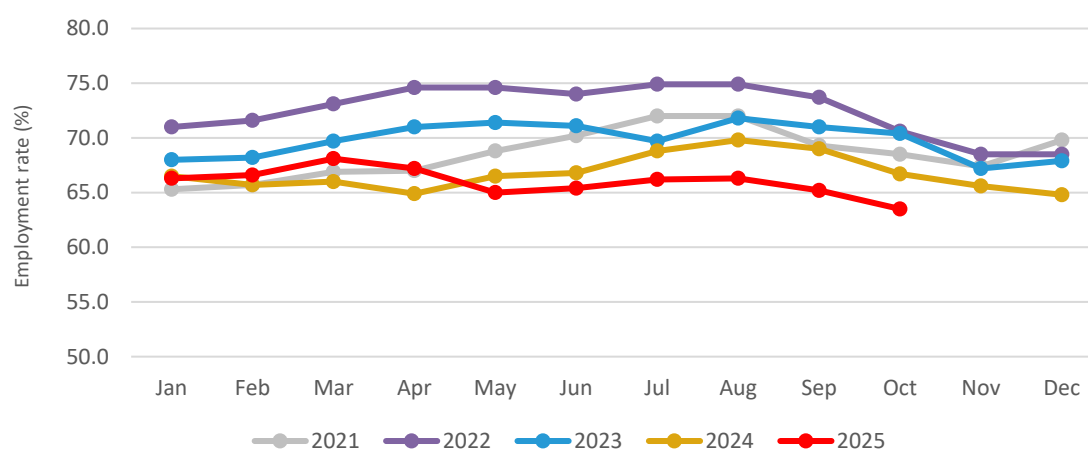


Labour Force Activity¹ October 2025

Employment in the Northwest Territories (NWT) declined to 22,400 in October, down from 23,000 in September 2025. This corresponds to an employment rate of 63.5%, down 1.7 percentage points from the previous month. While this drop aligns with typical fall seasonal trends, monthly employment rates since May have remained consistently below the 10-year historical average.

The unemployment rate fell from 6.1% to 4.3%, largely due to individuals exiting the labour force, particularly among females living in Yellowknife, and males living outside Yellowknife.

Figure 1: Historical Employment Rates, Northwest Territories



Year-over-year, the employment rate in the NWT dropped 3.2 percentage points from 66.7% in October 2024. The decline was observed across all major worker groups, with the largest decreases among youth aged 15–24, females, and persons living in Yellowknife.

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Despite a net loss of 600 jobs compared to October last year, some industries experienced employment growth. Gains were recorded in trade (+600) and utilities (+300). However, these increases were outweighed by declines in other industries, including finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (-600), manufacturing (-200), accommodation & food services (-200), and public administration (-200).

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

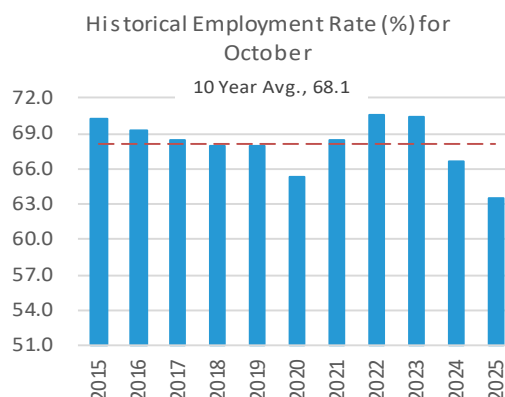
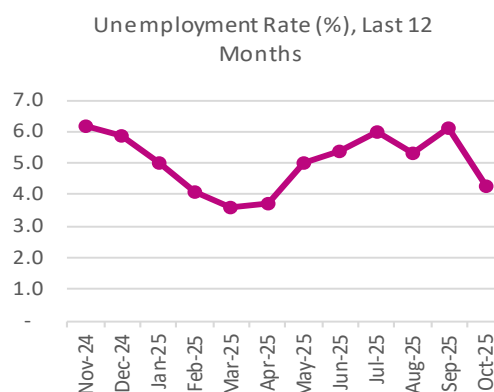
National highlights

Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate held steady at 60.8% in October, virtually unchanged from 60.9% in September 2025. Among provinces and territories, Yukon reported the highest employment rate at 73.0%, followed by Saskatchewan (64.3%), Alberta (63.9%), and the Northwest Territories (63.5%). Alberta and Nunavut were the only jurisdictions to see month-over-month increases in employment rates, though the changes were marginal.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy - ment rate	Employ - ment rate
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
Mar-25	23,700	900	3.6	68.1
Feb-25	23,100	1,000	4.1	66.6
Jan-25	23,000	1,200	5.0	66.3
Dec-24	22,500	1,400	5.9	64.8
Nov-24	22,700	1,500	6.2	65.6

Historial Labour Market Indicators for October				
2025	22,400	1,000	4.3	63.5
2024	23,000	1,400	5.7	66.7
2023	24,000	600	2.4	70.4
2022	23,800	1,700	6.7	70.6
2021	23,000	1,100	4.6	68.5
2020	21,800	2,300	9.5	65.3
2019	22,700	1,700	7.0	68.0
2018	22,700	1,900	7.8	68.0
2017	23,100	1,600	6.5	68.5
2016	23,200	1,800	7.2	69.3
2015	23,400	2,400	9.3	70.3



Additional labour market information can be found on the NWT Bureau of Statistics website.
<https://www.statsnwt.ca/labour-income/labour-force-activity/> or call (867) 767-9169

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