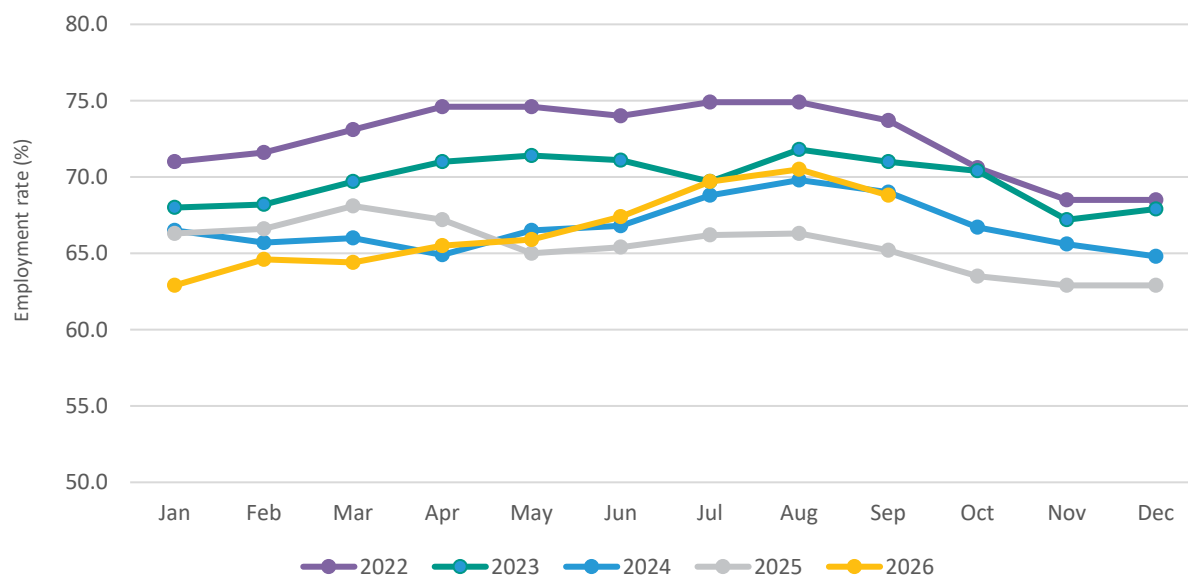




Labour Force Activity¹ September 2026

Labour Force Survey information released by Statistics Canada today estimates the Northwest Territories' (NWT) employment rate fell between August and September 2026 from 70.5% to 68.8%. This monthly decline is in line with historic patterns of higher rates over the summer months followed by lower rates in the fall and winter (Figure 1). The unemployment rate also fell, declining from 7.4% to 5.8%, a result largely due to individuals exiting the labour force.

Figure 1: Historical Employment Rates, Northwest Territories



On a year-over-year basis, the overall employment rate increased 3.6 percentage points as employment levels rose by 1,500 persons from September 2025. Employment rates rose across all key demographic groups with the largest increases occurring among women+ (61.6% to 68.2%), youth aged 15 to 24 (46.4% to 52.6%), and residents outside Yellowknife (53.4% to 60.0%).

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

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Employment increased across most industries year-over-year offsetting a decline in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-1,100). The largest employment gains were recorded in public administration (+700), transportation & warehousing (+600), accommodation & food services (+400), with finance, insurance, real estate & leasing, trade, and information, culture & recreation each adding 300 persons.

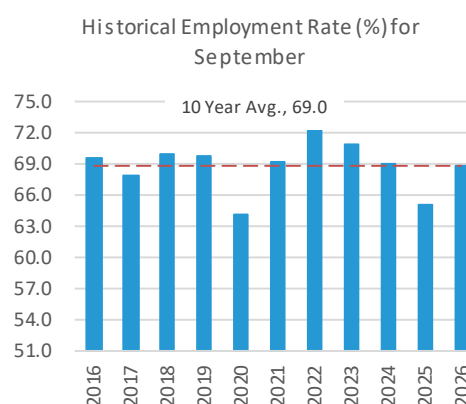
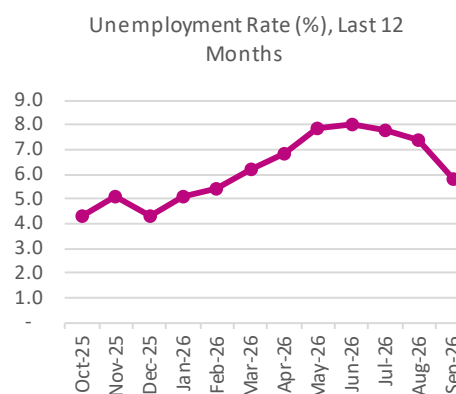
National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 61.1% in September, a slight decline from 61.5% in August. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon recorded the highest employment rate (71.1%), followed by the Northwest Territories (68.8%) and Alberta (64.5%). Newfoundland and Labrador (53.6%) and Nunavut (55.5%) had the lowest employment rates.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy- ment rate	Employ- ment rate
Sep-26	24,500	1,500	5.8	68.8
Aug-26	25,100	2,000	7.4	70.5
Jul-26	24,800	2,100	7.8	69.7
Jun-26	24,000	2,100	8.0	67.4
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

Historical Labour Market Indicators for September				
2026	24,500	1,500	5.8	68.8
2025	23,000	1,500	6.1	65.2
2024	23,800	1,300	5.2	69.0
2023	24,200	1,400	5.5	71.0
2022	24,900	1,000	3.9	73.7
2021	23,300	1,700	6.8	69.3
2020	21,500	2,300	9.7	64.2
2019	23,300	1,600	6.4	69.8
2018	23,400	1,700	6.8	70.1
2017	22,900	1,800	7.3	68.0
2016	23,300	1,900	7.5	69.6



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

Next Release: November 6, 2026