

Released: October 5, 2018

Labour Force Activity -September 2018-

Overview

In September 2018, the Northwest Territories' (NWT) employment rate increased to 69.1%, a 1.1 percentage point increase from a month ago. The number of employed persons continued to trend upwards, reaching 22,400, the highest since November 2016. Employment increases between August and September 2018 were recorded in both part-time and full-time jobs. During the same period, the unemployment rate declined by 2.1 percentage points to 4.7%. This is the lowest unemployment rate for the NWT since March 2009.

Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, September 2018

	Sep-18	Aug-18	Sep-17	Change from 1 Yr. Ago	
				No.	%
Population 15 & Older	32,400	32,500	32,300	100 ▲	0.3
Labour force	23,500	23,700	23,300	200 ▲	0.9
Employment	22,400	22,100	21,700	700 ▲	3.2
Unemployment	1,100	1,600	1,600	(500) ▼	(31.3)
Not in labour force	8,900	8,700	9,000	(100) ▼	(1.1)
Participation rate (%)	72.5	72.9	72.1		
Unemployment rate (%)	4.7	6.8	6.9		
Employment rate (%)	69.1	68.0	67.2		

On an annual basis, the NWT labour force slightly increased to 23,500, with employment increasing by 3.2% or 700 persons, and unemployment dropping by 500 persons. The number of persons not in the labour force was little changed, at 8,900 in September 2018.

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Year-over-year, employment increases in services-producing industries were offset by a drop in the goods-producing industries. Specifically, employment increases in public administration; information, culture and recreation; and transportation & warehousing were offset by decreases in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas; trade; and accommodation & food services.

Employment by key demographic characteristics

With the exception of youths aged 15 to 24 years and Indigenous persons, year-over-year employment in the NWT went up for most of the key demographic characteristics over the last 12 months. The highest employment increases were among Non-Indigenous persons (+800), persons aged 25 and over (+700), and those living outside of Yellowknife (+600).

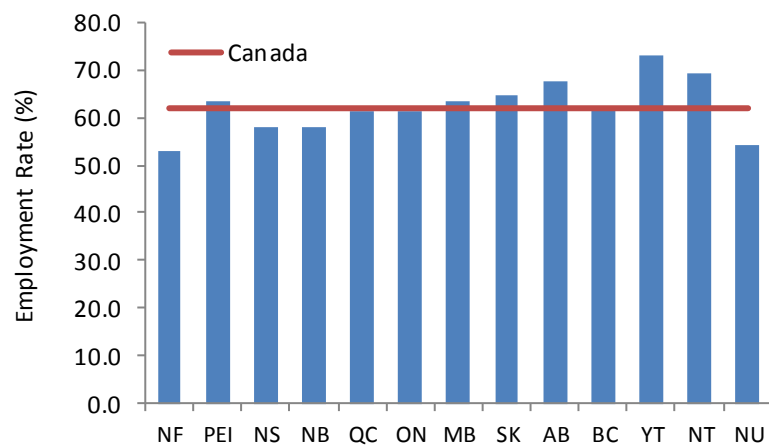
Table 2: Employment & Employment Rates by Key Characteristics, NWT

	Sep-18		Aug-18		Sep-17		Change from 1 Yr. Ago No.
	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(Persons)	Rate (%)	(Persons)	Rate (%)	
Northwest Territories	22,400	69.1	22,100	68.0	21,700	67.2	700
15-24 Yrs.	2,900	54.7	3,000	55.6	2,900	52.7	-
25+ Yrs.	19,500	72.2	19,100	70.5	18,800	70.1	700
Males	11,600	71.2	11,300	68.9	11,200	69.1	400
Females	10,700	66.5	10,900	67.7	10,500	65.2	200
Indigenous	8,500	54.8	8,400	52.8	8,600	53.1	(100)
Non-Indigenous	13,900	82.2	13,700	83.0	13,100	81.4	800
Yellowknife	11,900	79.3	12,000	78.9	11,800	80.3	100
Rest of the Territory	10,500	60.3	10,100	58.4	9,900	56.3	600

National highlights

Nationally, Canada's employment rate dropped slightly from the previous month to 62.1% in September 2018. Among the provinces and territories, the Northwest Territories (69.1%) had the second highest employment rate after Yukon (73.2%), with Alberta (67.5%) coming third. Newfoundland & Labrador (53.1%), Nunavut (54.3%) and New Brunswick (58.0%) had the lowest employment rates.

Figure 1: Employment Rates, Provinces & Territories, September 2018



Historical labour force activity

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

Table 3: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unem- ployed	Not in the Labour Force	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Sep-18	32,400	23,500	22,400	1,100	8,900	72.5	4.7	69.1
Aug-18	32,500	23,700	22,100	1,600	8,700	72.9	6.8	68.0
Jul-18	32,500	23,600	21,900	1,700	8,900	72.6	7.2	67.4
Jun-18	32,500	23,400	21,400	2,000	9,100	72.0	8.5	65.8
May-18	32,500	22,700	20,900	1,900	9,800	69.8	8.4	64.3
Apr-18	32,500	22,500	20,700	1,800	10,000	69.2	8.0	63.7
Mar-18	32,400	22,700	20,700	2,000	9,700	70.1	8.8	63.9
Feb-18	32,400	22,800	20,900	1,900	9,600	70.4	8.3	64.5
Jan-18	32,400	22,900	20,900	2,000	9,500	70.7	8.7	64.5
Dec-17	32,400	22,600	21,000	1,600	9,900	69.8	7.1	64.8
Nov-17	32,400	22,800	21,300	1,500	9,600	70.4	6.6	65.7
Oct-17	32,400	23,400	21,800	1,500	9,000	72.2	6.4	67.3
Previous Years:								
Sep-17	32,300	23,300	21,700	1,600	9,000	72.1	6.9	67.2
Sep-16	32,600	24,500	22,900	1,600	8,100	75.2	6.5	70.2
Sep-15	31,800	24,300	22,200	2,100	7,500	76.4	8.6	69.8
Sep-14	32,300	24,300	22,500	1,800	8,000	75.2	7.4	69.7
Sep-13	32,600	25,800	23,700	2,100	6,700	79.1	8.1	72.7
Sep-12	32,500	26,000	23,800	2,200	6,400	80.0	8.5	73.2
Sep-11	32,400	26,100	24,100	1,900	6,300	80.6	7.3	74.4
Sep-10	32,100	23,800	22,300	1,500	8,200	74.1	6.3	69.5
Sep-09	31,700	22,500	20,700	1,800	9,200	71.0	8.0	65.3
Sep-08	31,800	24,300	23,100	1,300	7,400	76.4	5.3	72.6

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national Labour Force Survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of 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: November 2, 2018