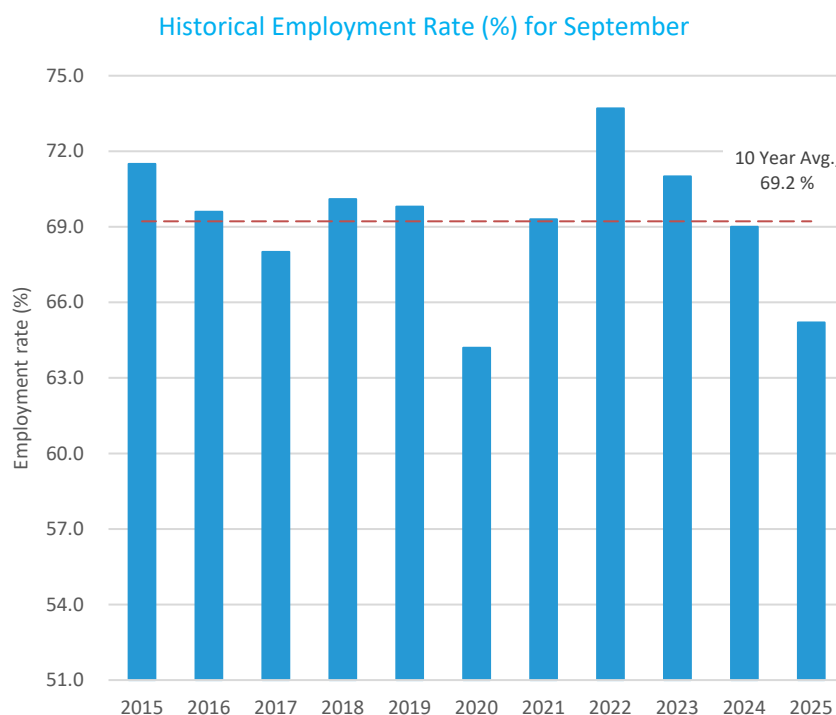




Labour Force Activity¹ September 2025

The monthly employment rate in the Northwest Territories (NWT) edged down from 66.3% in August to 65.2% in September 2025, reflecting typical seasonal declines in the fall. Since May, monthly employment rates have remained below the 10-year historical average. September's employment rate was the second lowest for that month in the past decade, surpassed only by September 2020. At 65.2%, it was 4.0 percentage points below the 10-year average of 69.2%.



Year-over-year, the overall employment rate fell by 3.8 percentage points between September 2024 and September 2025. Declines were seen across all major demographic groups, with the sharpest drops among residents outside Yellowknife (61.3% to 53.4%), Indigenous persons (55.1% to 49.1%), and females (66.7% to 61.6%).

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

Despite an overall decline of 800 jobs year-over-year, some industries posted employment gains. Increases were recorded in trade (+600), public administration (+500), forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (+300), and business, building and other support services (+200). These gains were offset by declines in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-700), health and social assistance (-600), accommodation and food services (-400), transportation and warehousing (-200), and construction (-200).

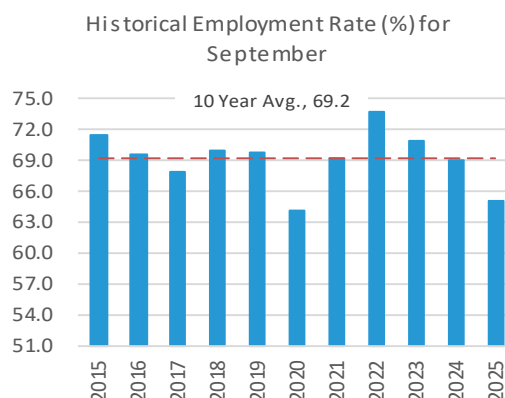
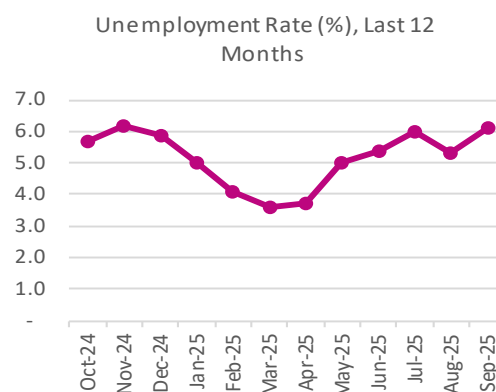
National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 60.9%. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon (75.3%) had the highest employment rate, followed by Northwest Territories (65.2%), and Saskatchewan (64.6%). The lowest rates were observed in Newfoundland and Labrador (53.5%) and Nunavut (54.2%).

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemploy - ment rate	Employ- ment rate
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
Oct-24	23,000	1,400	5.7	66.7

Historial Labour Market Indicators for September				
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
2015	23,800	2,400	9.2	71.5



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 7, 2025