

*1999 NWT  
Labour Force Survey*

*Overall Results & Community Detail*



Bureau of Statistics

# **NWT Labour Force Survey**

## **Winter 1999**

### **Overall Results & Community Detail**

**Bureau of Statistics  
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## DEFINITIONS

### *Labour Force*

- refers to persons who were either employed or unemployed during the week prior to the survey.

### *Employed*

- refers to persons who during the week prior to the survey: (i) did any work at all, excluding housework, maintenance around the home and volunteer work; or (ii) were absent from their job or business because of vacation, illness, on strike or locked out, etc.

### *Unemployed*

- refers to persons who during the week prior to the survey; (i) were without work, had actively looked for work in the previous four weeks and were available for work; or (ii) had been on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or (iii) had definite arrangements to start a new job within the next four weeks.

### *Participation Rate*

- the percentage of persons 15 years of age and over who are in the labour force.

### *Unemployment Rate*

- the percentage of the labour force who were unemployed during the week prior to the survey.

### *Employment Rate*

- the percentage of persons 15 years of age and over who were employed during the week prior to the survey.

### *Working Age*

- refers to persons 15 years of age and over.

## SYMBOLS

..	Not Available	-	Zero or too small to be expressed
no.	Number	%	Percent

# NWT LABOUR FORCE SURVEY WINTER 1999

## Overview

The Bureau of Statistics completed a labour force survey in all communities in the Northwest Territories (NWT) during January-March 1999. Key labour force statistics based on that survey are presented in this report. Additional information from the survey is available on the Bureau of Statistics' web site (<http://www.stats.gov.nt.ca>). Other information collected in the survey includes: (i) characteristics of the employed such as hours worked, industry and occupation; (ii) information on those not employed such as whether a job is wanted, willingness to do rotational work and perceived need for training; and (iii) information on activity during the previous year including number of months of wage employment and participation in traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping. Information will also be available on education, language use, and participation in volunteer and community organizations.

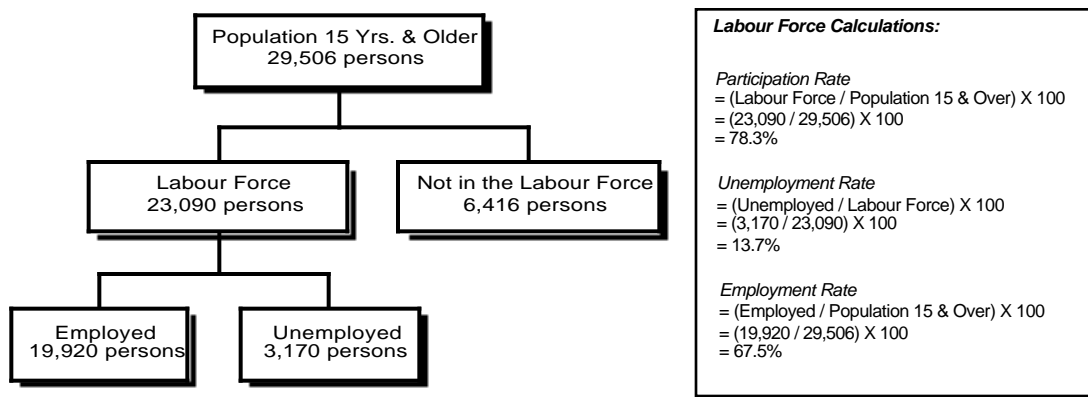
Statistics in this report are based on responses to labour force survey questions for 6,410 persons living in 2,990 households. Information on the methodology for the survey, sampling errors, and a copy of the questionnaire can be found in the Appendixes to the report.

All information for the Northwest Territories in this report refers to the geographic boundaries on April 1, 1999. It should be noted that the 1999 labour force survey was also completed for communities in Nunavut and the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics should be contacted for these results.

## Highlights

During winter 1999, an estimated 19,920 NWT residents were working (Table 1). Another 3,170 persons were unemployed resulting in a total labour force estimate of 23,090 persons. The labour force participation rate was 78.3% based on a population of 29,506 persons 15 years of age and over, while the unemployment rate was 13.7%. An estimated 67.5% of persons 15 years of age and over were employed at the time of the 1999 NWT labour force survey.

**Figure 1**  
**Labour Force Activity**  
**Northwest Territories, Winter 1999**



As with previous surveys, NWT labour force characteristics vary significantly by age and sex, for aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons, and by geographic area. Males were more likely than females to be in the labour force with a participation rate of 82.1% compared to 74.0% for females. However, males also had a higher unemployment rate at 15.4% compared to 11.6% for females. Examining the employment rate

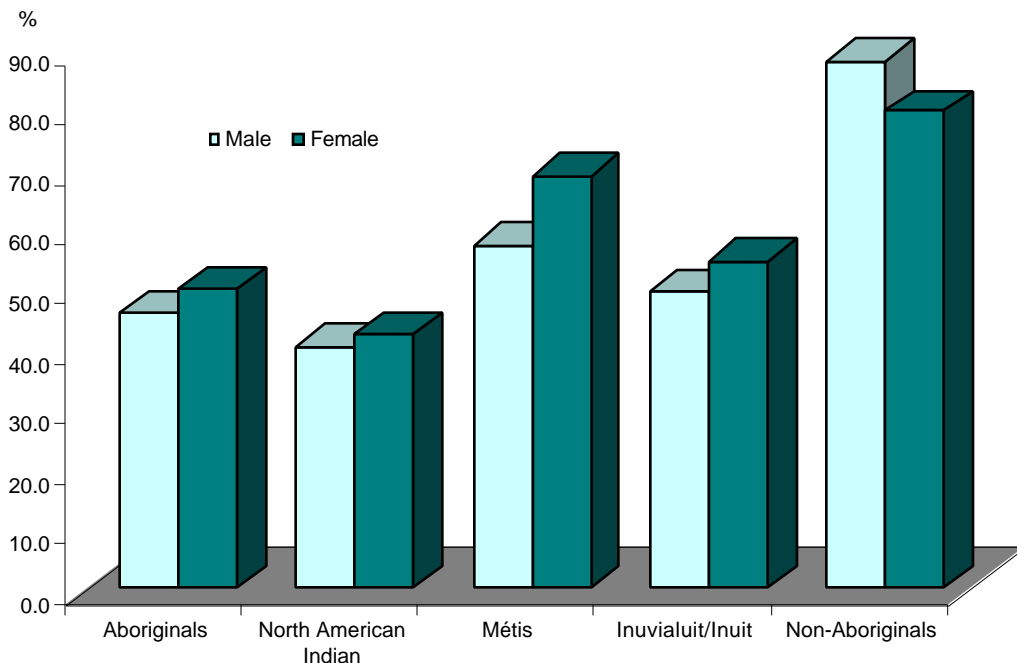
indicates that 69.4% of males 15 years of age or older were employed, compared with 65.4% of females 15 years of age or older.

Examining labour force characteristics of youth indicates that those 15 to 24 years had a participation rate of 60.0% and an unemployment rate of 25.7% (Table 2). The employment rate for this group was 44.6%, which is in part explained by the participation in schooling by this age group.

Aboriginal persons were less likely to be in the labour force, having a participation rate of 65.3% compared to 89.2% for non-aboriginals. Among aboriginal persons, the Métis had the highest participation rate at 73.8%. North American Indians (primarily Dene and Cree), at 61.2%, and Inuit and Inuvialuit, at 68.9%, had somewhat lower labour force participation rates. Aboriginal persons also had a higher unemployment rate at 26.7% compared to 5.7% for non-aboriginals. For specific aboriginal groups, unemployment rates ranged from a low of 15.6% for Métis to a high of 32.3% among the North American Indians. Among aboriginal people the employment rate was 62.3% for Métis, 52.0% for Inuvialuit and Inuit, and 41.4% for North American Indians.

An interesting pattern among aboriginal residents of the Northwest Territories is higher employment rates among aboriginal females (49.9%) compared to aboriginal males (46.0%). This overall pattern is consistent for each aboriginal group, and is the reverse of the pattern for non-aboriginal residents where the employment rate for males is 88.0%, compared to 79.4% for females (Figure 2).

**Figure 2**  
**Employment Rate, by Gender and Ethnic Group**  
**Northwest Territories, Winter 1999**



Community results from the 1999 NWT labour force survey indicate a wide variation in labour market conditions among communities (Table 4). For example, the unemployment rate is above 40% in Rae Lakes, Rae-Edzo, Trout Lake and Wrigley. By comparison, communities with unemployment rates under 10% include Inuvik, Norman Wells, Hay River, and Yellowknife. Employment rates show similar variability with less than 40% of the working age population in the Hay River Reserve, Kakisa, Rae Lakes, Rae-Edzo, and Wha Ti employed at the time of the survey. For Inuvik, Norman Wells, Hay River, and Yellowknife more than 70% of population 15 years of age and older had a job.

Labour force activity among the aboriginal population also varies by community. In Yellowknife, some 59.2% of aboriginal people were employed at the time of the survey (Table 3). This compares with 57.4%



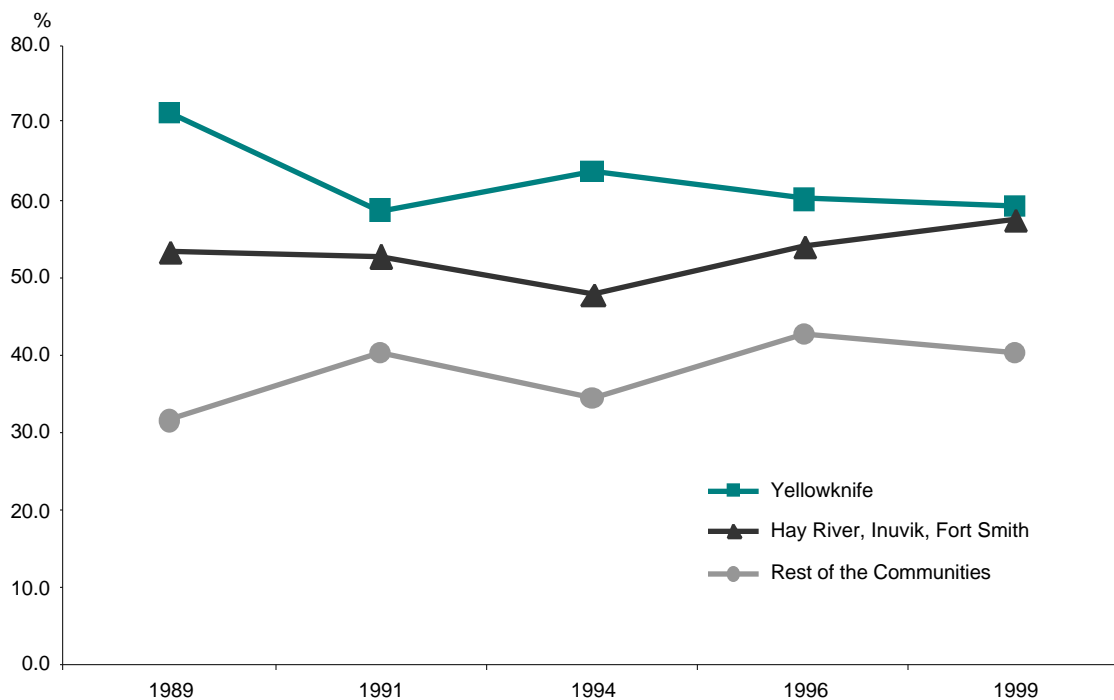
in Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik and 40.3% in the rest of the communities. Aboriginal unemployment rates shows similar patterns at 17.5% in Yellowknife, 17.6% in Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik, and 34.5% in the rest of the communities.

### Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Population estimates used to produce the NWT labour force survey in 1999 are based on territorial population estimates produced by Statistics Canada. Since these estimates are adjusted for people not counted in the census, counts from the NWT labour force survey and the census are not strictly comparable. However, comparisons of the participation rates, unemployment rates, and employment rates can be made with the rates based on the census. A further consideration when making comparisons is that the labour force surveys completed in 1989, 1994 and 1999 were conducted in the January to March period. The national censuses in 1986, 1991 and 1996 were completed in May or June in most NWT communities.

The overall employment rate in the Northwest Territories between 1986 and 1999 shows a relatively stable pattern (Table 5). However, improvements in employment conditions among aboriginal people are apparent over time. In 1989, some 41.8% of aboriginal persons 15 years and older were employed. This value stands at 47.9% in 1999. Aboriginal employment rates have consistently been highest in Yellowknife, followed by Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik, then the rest of the communities (Figure 3).

**Figure 3**  
**Aboriginal Employment Rate, by Community Type**  
**Northwest Territories, 1989 - 1999**



Comparing overall labour force activity by type of community shows relative consistency in activity in Yellowknife and the regional centers. In the rest of the communities, the labour force participation rate has increased from 58.5% in 1986 to 66.6% in 1999 (Table 6). The overall unemployment rate in the smaller NWT communities has been consistently above 20%, standing at 27.4% at the time of the 1999 NWT labour force survey.

## Comparisons to the Rest of Canada

Overall participation in the labour market is higher in the Northwest Territories, with a participation rate of 78.3%, compared to Canada at 64.5% for winter 1999 (Table 10). Higher participation rates in the Northwest Territories are apparent for both genders and across all age categories. However, unemployment rates are also higher in the Northwest Territories at 13.7%, while Canada's unemployment rate was 8.5% for the comparable period. The employment rate for the Northwest Territories was 67.5% at the time of the survey, while 59.0% of Canadians 15 years of age and older have a job.

Comparing the Northwest Territories with other provincial and territorial jurisdictions reveals that the NWT participation rate is the highest in the country (Table 11). Only the Yukon and Alberta also had participation rates over 70%. For unemployment rates, the Northwest Territories ranks 9<sup>th</sup> with Nunavut, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and the Yukon having higher unemployment rates. It should be noted that in the case of Prince Edward Island and Yukon, labour force characteristics display significant seasonal variations.

The Northwest Territories has the highest employment rate among the 13 provinces and territories at 67.5% of persons 15 years of age and older with a job. Alberta's rate at 67.0% ranked second, while the lowest employment rate in the country was for Newfoundland at 43.1% of the population 15 years and older. Some caution has to be used in comparing employment rates among provincial and territorial jurisdictions because of differences in the age structure of the population.

## STATISTICAL TABLES

**Table 1**  
**Labour Force Activity, by Ethnic Group and Gender**  
**Northwest Territories, Winter 1999**

	Popul. 15 Yrs & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
All Persons	29,506	23,090	19,920	3,170	78.3	13.7	67.5
Males	15,540	12,755	10,787	1,968	82.1	15.4	69.4
Females	13,966	10,333	9,132	1,201	74.0	11.6	65.4
Aboriginals	13,507	8,823	6,469	2,354	65.3	26.7	47.9
Males	6,866	4,710	3,155	1,555	68.6	33.0	46.0
Females	6,641	4,113	3,314	799	61.9	19.4	49.9
North American Indian	8,013	4,900	3,317	1,583	61.2	32.3	41.4
Males	3,964	2,624	1,597	1,027	66.2	39.1	40.3
Females	4,049	2,275	1,719	556	56.2	24.4	42.5
Métis	2,884	2,128	1,797	331	73.8	15.6	62.3
Males	1,587	1,125	907	218	70.9	19.4	57.2
Females	1,297	1,003	890	113	77.3	11.3	68.6
Inuvialuit/Inuit	2,610	1,797	1,356	441	68.9	24.5	52.0
Males	1,315	961	651	310	73.1	32.3	49.5
Females	1,295	834	704	130	64.4	15.6	54.4
Non-Aboriginals	15,999	14,266	13,450	816	89.2	5.7	84.1
Males	8,675	8,046	7,632	414	92.7	5.1	88.0
Females	7,324	6,220	5,818	402	84.9	6.5	79.4

**Table 2**  
**Labour Force Activity, by Ethnic Group and Age Category**  
**Northwest Territories, Winter 1999**

	Popul. 15 Yrs & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ - ment Rate
All Persons	29,506	23,090	19,920	3,170	78.3	13.7	67.5
15 - 24 Years	6,233	3,742	2,782	960	60.0	25.7	44.6
25 - 39 Years	11,351	10,196	8,987	1,209	89.8	11.9	79.2
40 - 59 Years	9,484	8,386	7,476	910	88.4	10.9	78.8
60 Years & Over	2,439	765	674	91	31.4	11.9	27.6
Males	15,540	12,755	10,787	1,968	82.1	15.4	69.4
15 - 24 Years	3,268	2,024	1,387	637	61.9	31.5	42.4
25 - 39 Years	5,912	5,541	4,857	684	93.7	12.3	82.2
40 - 59 Years	5,101	4,754	4,139	615	93.2	12.9	81.1
60 Years & Over	1,259	438	405	33	34.8	7.5	32.2
Females	13,966	10,333	9,132	1,201	74.0	11.6	65.4
15 - 24 Years	2,965	1,719	1,395	324	58.0	18.8	47.0
25 - 39 Years	5,439	4,656	4,131	525	85.6	11.3	76.0
40 - 59 Years	4,382	3,631	3,337	294	82.9	8.1	76.2
60 Years & Over	1,180	327	269	58	27.7	17.7	22.8
Aboriginals	13,507	8,823	6,469	2,354	65.3	26.7	47.9
15 - 24 Years	3,611	1,764	1,060	704	48.9	39.9	29.4
25 - 39 Years	4,966	4,085	3,130	955	82.3	23.4	63.0
40 - 59 Years	3,454	2,751	2,133	618	79.6	22.5	61.8
60 Years & Over	1,476	223	146	77	15.1	34.5	9.9
Males	6,866	4,710	3,155	1,555	68.6	33.0	46.0
15 - 24 Years	1,899	962	480	482	50.7	50.1	25.3
25 - 39 Years	2,532	2,210	1,603	607	87.3	27.5	63.3
40 - 59 Years	1,685	1,425	985	440	84.6	30.9	58.5
60 Years & Over	749	112	87	25	15.0	22.3	11.6
Females	6,641	4,113	3,314	799	61.9	19.4	49.9
15 - 24 Years	1,712	802	580	222	46.8	27.7	33.9
25 - 39 Years	2,434	1,876	1,528	348	77.1	18.6	62.8
40 - 59 Years	1,769	1,326	1,148	178	75.0	13.4	64.9
60 Years & Over	727	111	59	52	15.3	46.8	8.1
Non-Aboriginals	15,999	14,266	13,450	816	89.2	5.7	84.1
15 - 24 Years	2,622	1,979	1,722	257	75.5	13.0	65.7
25 - 39 Years	6,385	6,111	5,857	254	95.7	4.2	91.7
40 - 59 Years	6,030	5,635	5,343	292	93.4	5.2	88.6
60 Years & Over	962	541	528	13	56.2	2.4	54.9
Males	8,675	8,046	7,632	414	92.7	5.1	88.0
15 - 24 Years	1,369	1,062	907	155	77.6	14.6	66.3
25 - 39 Years	3,380	3,331	3,254	77	98.6	2.3	96.3
40 - 59 Years	3,416	3,329	3,154	175	97.5	5.3	92.3
60 Years & Over	509	324	317	7	63.7	2.2	62.3
Females	7,324	6,220	5,818	402	84.9	6.5	79.4
15 - 24 Years	1,253	917	815	102	73.2	11.1	65.0
25 - 39 Years	3,005	2,780	2,603	177	92.5	6.4	86.6
40 - 59 Years	2,614	2,305	2,189	116	88.2	5.0	83.7
60 Years & Over	453	216	210	6	47.7	2.8	46.4

**Table 3**  
**Labour Force Activity, by Community Type and Selected Characteristics**  
**Northwest Territories, Winter 1999**

	Popul. 15 Yrs & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ - ment Rate
All Persons	29,506	23,090	19,920	3,170	78.3	13.7	67.5
Males	15,540	12,755	10,787	1,968	82.1	15.4	69.4
Females	13,966	10,333	9,132	1,201	74.0	11.6	65.4
15 - 24 Years	6,233	3,742	2,782	960	60.0	25.7	44.6
25 - 39 Years	11,351	10,196	8,987	1,209	89.8	11.9	79.2
40 - 59 Years	9,484	8,386	7,476	910	88.4	10.9	78.8
60 Years & Over	2,439	765	674	91	31.4	11.9	27.6
Aboriginals	13,507	8,823	6,469	2,354	65.3	26.7	47.9
Non-Aboriginals	15,999	14,266	13,450	816	89.2	5.7	84.1
Yellowknife	13,139	11,331	10,440	891	86.2	7.9	79.5
Males	6,784	6,091	5,611	480	89.8	7.9	82.7
Females	6,355	5,238	4,828	410	82.4	7.8	76.0
15 - 24 Years	2,679	1,801	1,550	251	67.2	13.9	57.9
25 - 39 Years	5,163	4,916	4,601	315	95.2	6.4	89.1
40 - 59 Years	4,702	4,318	4,023	295	91.8	6.8	85.6
60 Years & Over	595	295	265	30	49.6	10.2	44.5
Aboriginals	2,449	1,757	1,450	307	71.7	17.5	59.2
Non-Aboriginals	10,690	9,573	8,989	584	89.6	6.1	84.1
Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik	6,933	5,474	4,914	560	79.0	10.2	70.9
Males	3,656	3,009	2,670	339	82.3	11.3	73.0
Females	3,277	2,465	2,244	221	75.2	9.0	68.5
15 - 24 Years	1,427	886	664	222	62.1	25.1	46.5
25 - 39 Years	2,587	2,282	2,104	178	88.2	7.8	81.3
40 - 59 Years	2,271	2,053	1,909	144	90.4	7.0	84.1
60 Years & Over	648	253	237	16	39.0	6.3	36.6
Aboriginals	3,306	2,303	1,897	406	69.7	17.6	57.4
Non-Aboriginals	3,627	3,172	3,018	154	87.5	4.9	83.2
Rest of the Communities	9,434	6,285	4,566	1,719	66.6	27.4	48.4
Males	5,101	3,655	2,506	1,149	71.7	31.4	49.1
Females	4,333	2,630	2,060	570	60.7	21.7	47.5
15 - 24 Years	2,126	1,055	567	488	49.6	46.3	26.7
25 - 39 Years	3,601	2,999	2,283	716	83.3	23.9	63.4
40 - 59 Years	2,511	2,013	1,543	470	80.2	23.3	61.4
60 Years & Over	1,196	216	172	44	18.1	20.4	14.4
Aboriginals	7,752	4,763	3,122	1,641	61.4	34.5	40.3
Non-Aboriginals	1,682	1,521	1,444	77	90.4	5.1	85.9

**Table 4**  
**Labour Force Activity, by Community**  
**Northwest Territories, Winter 1999**

	Popul. 15 Yrs & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ - ment Rate
Northwest Territories	29,506	23,090	19,920	3,170	78.3	13.7	67.5
Inuvik Region	6,741	5,062	4,089	973	75.1	19.2	60.7
Aklavik	506	327	217	110	64.6	33.6	42.9
Colville Lake	66	41	29	12	62.1	29.3	43.9
Deline	422	277	189	88	65.6	31.8	44.8
Fort Good Hope	471	345	248	97	73.2	28.1	52.7
Fort McPherson	628	421	301	120	67.0	28.5	47.9
Holman	310	206	166	40	66.5	19.4	53.5
Inuvik	2,347	1,935	1,746	189	82.4	9.8	74.4
Norman Wells	651	589	548	41	90.5	7.0	84.2
Paulatuk	174	121	83	38	69.5	31.4	47.7
Sachs Harbour	101	79	68	11	78.2	13.9	67.3
Tsiigehtchic	103	63	43	20	61.2	31.7	41.7
Tuktoyaktuk	655	421	273	148	64.3	35.2	41.7
Tulita	307	239	180	59	77.9	24.7	58.6
Fort Smith Region	22,765	18,026	15,830	2,196	79.2	12.2	69.5
Detah	152	97	73	24	63.8	24.7	48.0
Enterprise	68	47	42	5	69.1	10.6	61.8
Fort Liard	357	247	200	47	69.2	19.0	56.0
Fort Providence	611	381	284	97	62.4	25.5	46.5
Fort Resolution	374	223	163	60	59.6	26.9	43.6
Fort Simpson	908	656	548	108	72.2	16.5	60.4
Fort Smith	1,921	1,385	1,212	173	72.1	12.5	63.1
Hay River	2,665	2,156	1,957	199	80.9	9.2	73.4
Hay River Reserve	200	109	73	36	54.5	33.0	36.5
Jean Marie River	59	37	31	6	62.7	16.2	52.5
Kakisa	28	12	9	3	42.9	25.0	32.1
Lutsel'ke	244	162	116	46	66.4	28.4	47.5
Nahanni Butte	69	52	37	15	75.4	28.8	53.6
Rae Lakes	189	103	59	44	54.5	42.7	31.2
Rae-Edzo	1,177	648	347	301	55.1	46.5	29.5
Trout Lake	58	50	28	22	86.2	44.0	48.3
Wekweti	111	73	47	26	65.8	35.6	42.3
Wha Ti	310	170	114	56	54.8	32.9	36.8
Wrigley	125	91	51	40	72.8	44.0	40.8
Yellowknife	13,139	11,331	10,440	891	86.2	7.9	79.5

**Table 5**  
**Historical Measures of Labour Force Activity, by Ethnic Group and Gender**  
**Northwest Territories, 1986 - 1999**

	1999	1996	1994	1991	1989	1986
Participation Rate						
All Persons	78.3	77.2	77.2	78.2	74.9	74.5
Males	82.1	81.2	80.6	82.9	80.7	81.3
Females	74.0	73.0	73.4	72.8	68.4	67.0
Aboriginals	65.3	63.2	61.9	63.7	58.7	..
Males	68.6	67.4	66.5	69.3	64.2	..
Females	61.9	59.2	56.7	58.2	53.0	..
Non-Aboriginals	89.2	87.9	88.6	89.1	89.4	..
Males	92.7	91.0	91.2	92.6	92.7	..
Females	84.9	84.4	85.9	84.9	81.4	..
Unemployment Rate						
All Persons	13.7	11.7	14.8	11.3	13.2	11.2
Males	15.4	13.4	17.7	11.8	14.2	11.8
Females	11.6	9.6	11.3	10.6	11.9	10.3
Aboriginals	26.7	23.3	32.0	24.2	28.8	..
Males	33.0	28.0	38.9	26.9	32.4	..
Females	19.4	18.0	23.0	20.7	24.4	..
Non-Aboriginals	5.7	5.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	..
Males	5.1	5.8	5.9	3.8	5.0	..
Females	6.5	4.8	5.5	4.9	5.1	..
Employment Rate						
All Persons	67.5	68.2	65.7	69.3	65.8	66.2
Males	69.5	70.3	66.3	73.1	69.2	71.7
Females	65.4	66.0	65.1	65.1	60.3	59.9
Aboriginals	47.9	48.5	42.1	48.2	41.8	..
Males	46.0	48.6	40.6	50.4	43.4	..
Females	49.9	48.6	43.7	46.1	40.1	..
Non-Aboriginals	84.1	83.2	83.6	85.3	84.9	..
Males	88.0	85.7	85.8	89.1	88.1	..
Females	79.4	80.3	81.1	80.8	77.3	..



**Table 6**  
**Historical Measures of Labour Force Activity, by Community Type and Ethnic Group**  
**Northwest Territories, 1986 - 1999**

	1999	1996	1994	1991	1989	1986
Participation Rate						
All Persons	78.3	77.2	77.2	78.2	74.9	74.5
Aboriginals	65.3	63.2	61.9	63.7	58.7	..
Non-Aboriginals	89.2	87.9	88.6	89.1	87.6	..
Yellowknife	86.2	85.4	87.5	87.3	87.1	87.4
Aboriginals	71.7	70.8	76.8	71.8	78.2	..
Non-Aboriginals	89.6	88.3	89.2	89.8	88.5	..
Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik	79.0	77.9	78.8	79.9	78.0	79.4
Aboriginals	69.7	67.9	67.3	66.3	67.5	..
Non-Aboriginals	87.5	86.1	87.5	89.5	85.0	..
Rest of the Communities	66.6	64.8	61.5	64.3	57.7	58.5
Aboriginals	61.4	59.0	56.2	58.6	51.6	..
Non-Aboriginals	90.4	89.0	87.4	84.8	89.2	..
Unemployment Rate						
All Persons	13.7	11.7	14.8	11.3	13.2	11.2
Aboriginals	26.7	23.3	32.1	24.2	28.8	..
Non-Aboriginals	5.7	5.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	..
Yellowknife	7.9	6.4	6.8	5.1	4.4	5.1
Aboriginals	17.5	14.7	17.2	18.1	8.9	..
Non-Aboriginals	6.1	5.1	5.3	3.5	3.8	..
Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik	10.2	11.9	15.0	10.0	11.9	10.4
Aboriginals	17.6	20.1	28.8	20.3	21.0	..
Non-Aboriginals	4.9	6.6	7.1	4.6	7.2	..
Rest of the Communities	27.4	21.6	30.6	23.9	30.7	20.7
Aboriginals	34.5	27.7	38.6	31.3	38.7	..
Non-Aboriginals	5.1	4.4	5.5	5.3	7.1	..
Employment Rate						
All Persons	67.5	68.2	65.7	69.3	65.0	66.2
Aboriginals	47.9	48.5	42.1	48.2	41.8	..
Non-Aboriginals	84.1	83.2	83.6	85.3	83.1	..
Yellowknife	79.5	80.0	81.5	82.9	83.3	83.0
Aboriginals	59.2	60.1	63.6	58.8	71.2	..
Non-Aboriginals	84.1	83.8	84.5	86.8	85.2	..
Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik	70.9	68.6	67.0	71.8	68.8	71.1
Aboriginals	57.4	54.1	47.9	52.8	53.3	..
Non-Aboriginals	83.2	80.5	81.3	85.2	78.9	..
Rest of the Communities	48.4	50.8	42.6	48.9	40.0	46.4
Aboriginals	40.3	42.7	34.5	40.2	31.6	..
Non-Aboriginals	85.9	85.1	82.6	80.3	82.9	..

**Table 7**  
**Historical Participation Rate, by Community**  
**Northwest Territories, 1986 - 1999**

	1999	1996	1994	1991	1989	1986
	Participation Rate					
Northwest Territories	78.3	77.2	77.2	78.2	74.9	74.5
Inuvik Region	75.1	70.6	71.0	70.9	68.5	67.6
Aklavik	64.6	63.4	55.1	66.3	61.2	59.0
Colville Lake	62.1	72.7	58.3	50.0	26.7	28.6
Deline	65.6	60.8	56.7	52.1	56.5	48.5
Fort Good Hope	73.2	63.4	66.9	57.3	65.4	49.3
Fort McPherson	67.0	65.3	60.7	62.4	55.1	51.0
Holman	66.5	67.3	58.6	65.2	58.9	53.7
Inuvik	82.4	76.7	82.4	79.6	81.7	81.4
Norman Wells	90.5	90.2	85.6	86.7	83.4	85.1
Paulatuk	69.5	56.7	42.9	67.9	46.0	56.0
Sachs Harbour	78.2	76.5	88.0	81.3	67.3	61.9
Tsiigehtchic	61.2	61.9	66.0	61.1	48.1	31.3
Tuktoyaktuk	64.3	54.9	65.0	65.8	58.6	63.2
Tulita	77.9	68.4	68.0	62.0	58.7	52.2
Fort Smith Region	79.2	79.2	79.0	80.3	77.1	76.8
Detah	63.8	58.3	48.0	55.0	41.6	44.4
Enterprise	69.1	90.9	87.0	71.4	75.9	62.5
Fort Liard	69.2	62.3	68.9	69.8	54.7	51.9
Fort Providence	62.4	69.2	51.2	60.4	44.8	62.8
Fort Resolution	59.6	62.2	60.6	59.2	52.1	63.5
Fort Simpson	72.2	76.2	71.6	70.6	73.5	67.1
Fort Smith	72.1	75.5	70.1	76.2	69.2	79.3
Hay River	80.9	80.5	81.7	82.9	82.0	77.0
Hay River Reserve	54.5	65.6	56.8	57.1	54.1	39.1
Jean Marie River	62.7	75.0	67.4	71.4	51.1	55.6
Kakisa	42.9	..	47.1	..	24.1	..
Lutsel'ke	66.4	54.8	62.3	62.2	44.6	41.7
Nahanni Butte	75.4	72.7	55.6	58.3	60.0	41.7
Rae Lakes	54.5	54.5	37.4	56.3	29.1	39.1
Rae-Edzo	55.1	50.5	52.0	55.4	53.3	46.7
Trout Lake	86.2	58.3	66.7	80.0	46.7	50.0
Wekweti	65.8	61.1	31.5	56.3	43.6	40.0
Wha Ti	54.8	62.5	60.5	61.7	48.5	45.0
Wrigley	72.8	65.2	67.8	70.8	67.2	41.7
Yellowknife	86.2	85.4	87.5	87.3	87.1	87.4

**Table 8**  
**Historical Unemployment Rate, by Community**  
**Northwest Territories, 1986 - 1999**

	1999	1996	1994	1991	1989	1986
	Unemployment Rate					
Northwest Territories	13.7	11.7	14.8	11.3	13.2	11.2
Inuvik Region	19.2	15.2	23.9	18.1	17.8	15.0
Aklavik	33.6	25.4	36.2	36.9	47.5	37.3
Colville Lake	29.3	-	17.9	40.0	8.3	50.0
Deline	31.8	25.0	46.6	21.1	29.7	15.2
Fort Good Hope	28.1	17.3	20.1	25.6	18.1	20.6
Fort McPherson	28.5	22.1	34.5	28.6	39.9	24.5
Holman	19.4	8.6	8.7	16.7	12.7	22.7
Inuvik	9.8	11.0	16.4	10.5	5.7	8.0
Norman Wells	7.0	6.9	9.0	5.1	6.7	5.4
Paulatuk	31.4	23.5	30.3	21.1	12.5	35.7
Sachs Harbour	13.9	15.4	10.2	-	29.7	23.1
Tsiigehtchic	31.7	15.4	34.8	36.4	44.7	40.0
Tuktoyaktuk	35.2	26.9	45.6	34.2	34.6	28.4
Tulita	24.7	23.1	39.8	22.6	14.1	12.5
Fort Smith Region	12.2	10.8	12.4	9.5	11.9	10.0
Detah	24.7	21.4	29.6	36.4	50.0	50.0
Enterprise	10.6	-	14.9	-	13.6	-
Fort Liard	19.0	18.6	42.7	20.5	18.7	14.8
Fort Providence	25.5	31.1	37.2	29.1	36.0	26.5
Fort Resolution	26.9	28.3	33.3	35.7	41.2	32.5
Fort Simpson	16.5	18.1	17.8	13.9	25.0	14.6
Fort Smith	12.5	12.2	13.7	9.8	15.4	12.9
Hay River	9.2	12.5	14.5	9.8	15.4	11.2
Hay River Reserve	33.0	23.8	36.5	12.5	31.9	33.3
Jean Marie River	16.2	33.3	29.0	-	41.7	40.0
Kakisa	25.0	..	31.3	..	-	..
Lutsel'ke	28.4	13.0	31.7	26.1	39.1	20.0
Nahanni Butte	28.8	25.0	33.3	42.9	24.2	40.0
Rae Lakes	42.7	38.9	10.8	22.2	56.4	22.2
Rae-Edzo	46.5	32.4	41.7	35.2	42.4	27.8
Trout Lake	44.0	28.6	42.1	25.0	28.6	25.0
Wekweti	35.6	27.3	17.2	22.2	52.9	33.3
Wha Ti	32.9	28.6	50.0	37.9	53.0	33.3
Wrigley	44.0	26.7	14.1	29.4	20.5	30.0
Yellowknife	7.9	6.4	6.8	5.1	4.4	5.1

**Table 9**  
**Historical Employment Rate, by Community**  
**Northwest Territories, 1986 - 1999**

	1999	1996	1994	1991	1989	1986
	Employment Rate					
Northwest Territories	67.5	68.2	65.7	69.3	65.0	66.2
Inuvik Region	60.7	59.7	54.0	58.1	56.3	57.4
Aklavik	42.9	48.4	35.1	41.8	32.1	37.0
Colville Lake	43.9	63.6	47.9	40.0	24.4	28.6
Deline	44.8	45.6	30.2	41.1	39.7	41.2
Fort Good Hope	52.7	52.4	53.4	42.7	53.6	40.6
Fort McPherson	47.9	50.8	39.7	44.6	33.1	38.5
Holman	53.5	61.5	53.5	54.3	51.4	41.5
Inuvik	74.4	68.5	68.9	71.0	77.1	74.9
Norman Wells	84.2	84.8	78.0	81.1	77.7	80.5
Paulatuk	47.7	46.7	29.9	53.6	40.3	40.0
Sachs Harbour	67.3	76.5	79.0	75.0	47.3	47.6
Tsiigehtchic	41.7	52.4	43.0	38.9	26.6	25.0
Tuktoyaktuk	41.7	40.2	35.4	43.3	38.4	44.4
Tulita	58.6	54.4	40.9	46.0	50.4	45.7
Fort Smith Region	69.5	70.7	69.2	72.7	67.9	69.2
Detah	48.0	45.8	33.8	40.0	20.8	27.8
Enterprise	61.8	81.8	74.1	57.1	65.5	62.5
Fort Liard	56.0	49.3	39.4	55.6	44.5	44.2
Fort Providence	46.5	47.7	32.1	42.9	28.7	47.4
Fort Resolution	43.6	44.6	40.4	36.6	30.6	44.4
Fort Simpson	60.4	62.4	58.8	60.7	55.1	57.3
Fort Smith	63.1	66.0	60.5	68.8	58.5	69.1
Hay River	73.4	70.4	69.9	74.8	69.3	68.4
Hay River Reserve	36.5	50.0	36.1	50.0	36.8	26.1
Jean Marie River	52.5	37.5	47.8	57.1	29.8	33.3
Kakisa	32.1	..	32.4	..	24.1	..
Lutsel'ke	47.5	45.2	42.6	43.2	27.2	33.3
Nahanni Butte	53.6	54.5	37.0	41.7	45.5	25.0
Rae Lakes	31.2	33.3	33.3	43.8	12.7	30.4
Rae-Edzo	29.5	34.1	30.3	35.9	30.7	33.7
Trout Lake	48.3	50.0	38.6	60.0	33.3	50.0
Wekweti	42.3	44.4	26.1	50.0	20.5	20.0
Wha Ti	36.8	46.4	30.3	38.3	22.8	27.5
Wrigley	40.8	43.5	58.2	54.2	53.4	33.3
Yellowknife	79.5	80.0	81.5	82.9	83.3	83.0

**Table 10**  
**Comparison of Labour Force Activity, by Selected Characteristics**  
**Northwest Territories & Canada, Winter 1999**

	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
Northwest Territories	78.3	13.7	67.5
Males	82.1	15.4	69.4
Females	74.0	11.6	65.4
15 - 24 Years	60.0	25.7	44.6
25 - 39 Years	89.8	11.9	79.2
40 - 59 Years	88.4	10.9	78.8
60 Years & Over	31.4	11.9	27.6
Canada	64.5	8.5	59.0
Males	71.4	9.2	64.8
Females	57.9	7.7	53.4
15 - 24 Years	59.1	15.2	50.1
25 - 39 Years	85.1	7.9	78.3
40 - 59 Years	79.0	7.0	73.5
60 Years & Over	13.8	5.6	13.1

**Table 11**  
**Comparison of Labour Force Activity**  
**Provinces & Territories, Winter 1999**

	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
Northwest Territories	78.3	13.7	67.5
Nunavut	66.6	20.7	52.8
Yukon	77.2	16.4	64.0
British Columbia	65.1	9.0	59.2
Alberta	71.5	6.2	67.0
Saskatchewan	65.2	7.4	60.4
Manitoba	66.6	6.1	62.5
Ontario	65.9	7.1	61.2
Quebec	61.1	10.7	54.6
New Brunswick	59.0	12.5	51.6
Nova Scotia	59.3	11.3	52.6
Prince Edward Island	64.5	19.8	51.8
Newfoundland	52.5	18.0	43.1

Note: Provincial data are from the national labour force survey and are three month moving averages, as reported for March, 1999. Data for Nunavut and the Northwest Territories are from the 1999 NWT labour force survey.

**APPENDIX A**  
**METHODOLOGY**

# METHODOLOGY

## Survey Organization

- The labour force questionnaire and the survey methodology were developed by the Bureau of Statistics in consultation with a GNWT inter-departmental working group.
- Survey operations, training, and organization of community interviewers were completed by Bureau of Statistics staff. Senior interviewers were recruited and trained by Bureau of Statistics staff in Yellowknife. Senior interviewers then recruited and trained interviewers in each community. An interviewer manual was prepared and provided to all senior and community interviewers.
- All questionnaires were interviewer administered, with most interviews being completed during the period of mid-January through to the end of March 1999. Interviews in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik were completed by telephone, while face to face interviews were conducted in all remaining communities.
- A copy of the questionnaire is provided in Appendix B.

## Sampling Procedures

- The requirement for statistically reliable estimates of labour force activity indicators at the community level dictated sampling procedures used for the 1999 NWT labour force survey.
- Random sampling procedures were used in several communities. The sampling frame used for the 1999 NWT labour force survey in most communities was the Bureau of Statistics dwelling listing. Random digit dialing techniques were used in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik. Random sampling was used in the following communities:

Aklavik	Hay River
Fort McPherson	Inuvik
Fort Providence	Rae-Edzo
Fort Simpson	Tuktoyaktuk
Fort Smith	Yellowknife

- In the remaining NWT communities, an attempt was made to survey all dwellings to ensure sample sizes sufficiently large for the release of community level statistics.
- A survey questionnaire was completed for each sampled dwelling and included information for all persons fifteen years of age and over who normally resided in the dwelling. Where an individual was not present, responses were accepted from other household members.
- Population residing in unorganized areas were excluded from the survey .

## Data Entry and Processing

- As Senior Interviewers returned completed questionnaires to the Bureau of Statistics, each questionnaire was reviewed and obvious corrections and edits were made. In some cases, respondents were re-contacted for clarification of survey responses.
- Data entry was completed directly from questionnaires on a database developed by the Bureau of Statistics, while statistical tables were prepared using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

## Edit and Imputation of Data

- Following data entry, computer-assisted edits were performed to check for data entry errors and logical inconsistencies among responses.
- Where information on labour force variables was missing, an attempt was made to impute values based on other answers for the same person. Where this was not possible, the imputation procedure used information from another person. Such donor persons were selected by randomized computer matches and an attempt was made to select persons in the same community and who were the same sex, ethnic group and of similar age.

## Questionnaires Received and Sample Weighting

- A total of 2,990 household questionnaires were received with information provided for 6,410 persons 15 years of age and older. The count of persons for which information was provided from each community (sample size) is presented in Tables A1 and A2.
- Weighting of the statistical file was undertaken so that labour force activity statistics were based on estimated numbers of males and females for specific age categories and ethnic groups. Weighting of the sample was done at the community level.
- Due to the use of weighting procedures, totals for tables in this report do not necessarily sum.
- As noted in the introduction, population estimates used for weighting are based on published estimates of the NWT population produced by Statistics Canada and community population estimates produced by the Bureau of Statistics.

## Sampling and Non-Sampling Errors

- Information on the sample sizes and sampling errors is summarized in Tables A1 and A2. Community, regional and territorial level standard errors and coefficients of variation are provided for the estimates of labour force, employed, and unemployed; and for labour force participation, unemployment rates and employment rates. This information should be considered when statistics from this report are being used.
- The standard error statistic is used to determine confidence intervals for estimates of population values based on a sample. Most often, the 95 percent confidence interval, which should contain the true population value 19 times out of 20, is used. To determine the 95 percent confidence interval for an estimate, the standard error is doubled.
- For example the estimate of unemployment in Fort Good Hope is 97 persons. From Table A1, the standard error for the estimate of unemployed persons is 8 persons. Twice the standard error is 16, meaning that 19 times out of 20 the number of unemployed persons in Fort Good Hope is in the interval  $97 \pm 16$  persons, that is between 81 and 113 persons. Such interval estimates are highly conservative and most often population values are quite close to their corresponding sample estimates.
- The other measure of sampling error, provided in Table A2, is the coefficient of variation (CV). This statistic is the ratio of the standard error to the sample estimate, indicating the percentage error implicit in the estimate. In the case of the unemployed in Fort Good Hope, the coefficient of variation is 7.7%.
- Another source of error in surveys is referred to as non-sampling errors. These errors result from incorrect answers being given to questions, data entry errors, etc. Surveys are designed to help minimize such errors. Generally, the effect of such errors is not known.



**Table A1**  
**Sample Sizes and Standard Errors, by Community**  
**Northwest Territories Labour Force Survey, Winter 1999**

	Popul. 15 Yrs & Over	Sample	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Northwest Territories	29,506	6,410	187	215	136	0.6	0.6	0.7
Inuvik Region	6,741	2,552	54	60	42	0.8	0.8	0.9
Aklavik	506	169	15	16	13	3.0	3.7	3.1
Colville Lake	66	37	4	4	3	5.4	6.4	5.5
Deline	422	300	6	7	5	1.5	1.8	1.5
Fort Good Hope	471	272	8	9	8	1.7	2.1	2.0
Fort McPherson	628	221	16	17	13	2.6	3.0	2.7
Holman	310	158	8	9	6	2.6	2.7	2.8
Inuvik	2,347	378	41	48	30	1.8	1.5	2.0
Norman Wells	651	405	6	7	5	0.9	0.8	1.1
Paulatuk	174	85	6	7	6	3.6	4.3	3.9
Sachs Harbour	101	62	3	4	3	3.3	3.2	3.7
Tsiigehtchic	103	52	5	5	4	4.8	5.9	4.9
Tuktoyaktuk	655	189	19	20	17	2.9	3.7	3.0
Tulita	307	224	4	5	4	1.4	1.7	1.7
Fort Smith Region	22,765	3,858	179	206	130	0.8	0.7	0.9
Detah	152	118	3	3	2	2.1	2.4	2.2
Enterprise	68	38	3	4	2	5.0	4.0	5.3
Fort Liard	357	225	7	7	5	1.9	1.9	2.0
Fort Providence	611	197	17	18	13	2.8	3.2	2.9
Fort Resolution	374	199	9	9	7	2.4	2.8	2.4
Fort Simpson	908	287	20	22	14	2.2	2.1	2.4
Fort Smith	1,921	357	41	44	26	2.1	1.9	2.3
Hay River	2,665	376	50	56	33	1.9	1.5	2.1
Hay River Reserve	200	145	4	4	3	2.2	2.8	2.1
Jean Marie River	59	35	3	3	2	5.3	5.1	5.5
Kakisa	28	28	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lutsel'ke	244	200	3	4	3	1.4	1.7	1.5
Nahanni Butte	69	42	3	3	3	4.2	5.1	4.9
Rae Lakes	189	154	3	3	3	1.7	2.3	1.6
Rae-Edzo	1,177	279	31	28	27	2.6	3.5	2.4
Trout Lake	58	28	3	4	4	5.0	7.5	6.9
Wekweti	111	87	3	3	2	2.4	3.0	2.5
Wha Ti	310	246	4	4	3	1.4	1.8	1.4
Wrigley	125	69	5	5	5	3.6	4.7	4.0
Yellowknife	13,139	748	161	189	117	1.2	1.0	1.4

**Table A2**  
**Sample Sizes and Coefficients of Variation, by Community**  
**Northwest Territories Labour Force Survey, Winter 1999**

	Popul. 15 Yrs & Over	Sample	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemp- loyment Rate
Northwest Territories	29,506	6,410	0.8	1.1	4.3	4.2
Inuvik Region	6,741	2,552	1.1	1.5	4.3	4.2
Aklavik	506	169	4.7	7.3	11.9	11.0
Colville Lake	66	37	8.6	12.5	23.2	21.5
Deline	422	300	2.2	3.4	6.1	5.6
Fort Good Hope	471	272	2.4	3.7	7.7	7.4
Fort McPherson	628	221	3.8	5.7	11.2	10.5
Holman	310	158	4.0	5.2	14.5	13.9
Inuvik	2,347	378	2.1	2.7	16.0	15.8
Norman Wells	651	405	1.0	1.3	11.8	11.8
Paulatuk	174	85	5.2	8.2	14.7	13.7
Sachs Harbour	101	62	4.2	5.6	22.4	22.0
Tsiigehtchic	103	52	7.9	11.7	20.0	18.3
Tuktoyaktuk	655	189	4.6	7.3	11.4	10.4
Tulita	307	224	1.9	2.9	7.2	6.9
Fort Smith Region	22,765	3,858	1.0	1.3	5.9	5.8
Detah	152	118	3.3	4.5	10.1	9.6
Enterprise	68	38	7.2	8.5	39.1	38.4
Fort Liard	357	225	2.7	3.6	10.5	10.1
Fort Providence	611	197	4.6	6.3	13.5	12.7
Fort Resolution	374	199	4.0	5.5	11.2	10.4
Fort Simpson	908	287	3.0	4.0	13.3	12.9
Fort Smith	1,921	357	3.0	3.7	15.2	14.9
Hay River	2,665	376	2.3	2.9	16.9	16.7
Hay River Reserve	200	145	4.0	5.8	9.4	8.5
Jean Marie River	59	35	8.4	10.4	31.9	30.7
Kakisa	28	28	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lutsel'ke	244	200	2.1	3.2	6.2	5.8
Nahanni Butte	69	42	5.6	9.2	18.3	17.4
Rae Lakes	189	154	3.2	5.1	6.4	5.5
Rae-Edzo	1,177	279	4.7	8.1	8.9	7.6
Trout Lake	58	28	5.9	14.6	18.0	17.0
Wekweti	111	87	3.6	5.8	9.2	8.4
Wha Ti	310	246	2.6	3.8	6.2	5.6
Wrigley	125	69	5.0	9.7	11.9	10.8
Yellowknife	13,139	748	1.4	1.8	13.2	13.1