



Labour Force Activities 2024 NWT Community Survey

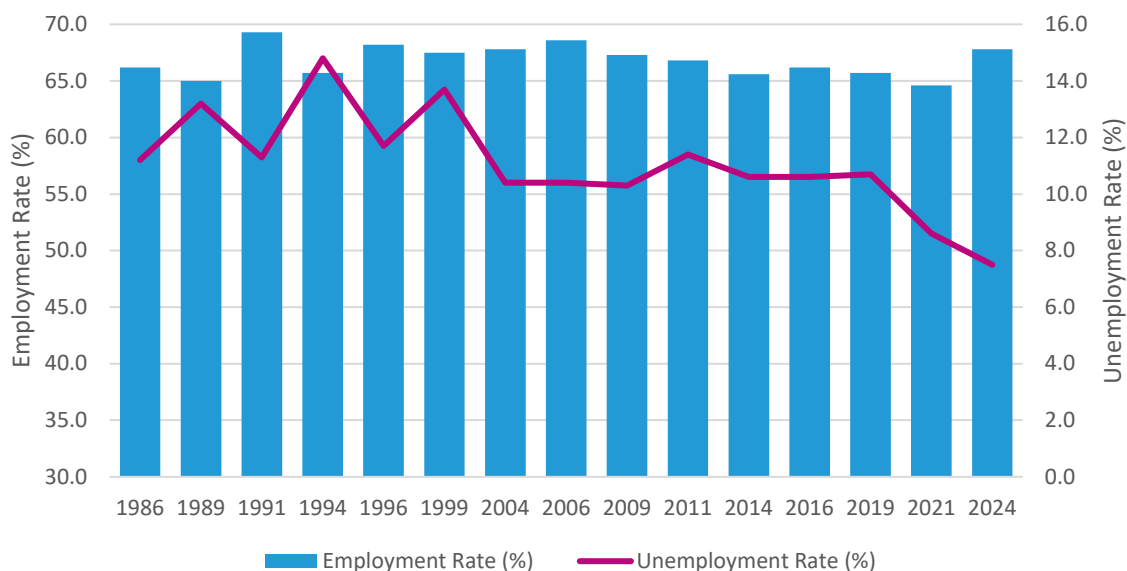
Today, the Northwest Territories (NWT) Bureau of Statistics is releasing labor market information from the 2024 NWT Community Survey. Every five years, the Bureau of Statistics collects information in all NWT communities on various indicators including education, labour market, housing conditions, and community involvement. This report provides an overview of the 2024 NWT labour market, highlighting long-term trends and recent developments in employment, unemployment, and labour force participation in the territory.

Overview

In 2024, out of the estimated 36,201 NWT residents aged 15 years or older, 24,541 were employed, while 1,988 were unemployed. These figures translate to an employment rate of 67.8% and unemployment rate of 7.5%.

The Northwest Territories labour force has experienced steady growth over the past four decades, expanding from fewer than 18,000 individuals in 1986 to approximately 26,529 in 2024. This represents a growth of over 50% in the working-age population. Employment rates have remained relatively stable during this period, fluctuating between 64.6% and 69.3%, with an average of 66.8%. During the same period, the unemployment rate has shown a downward trend, ranging from a high of 14.8% to a low of 7.5% in 2024. The proportion of persons not in the labour force has little changed during this time, averaging 24.8% of the population aged 15 years or older.

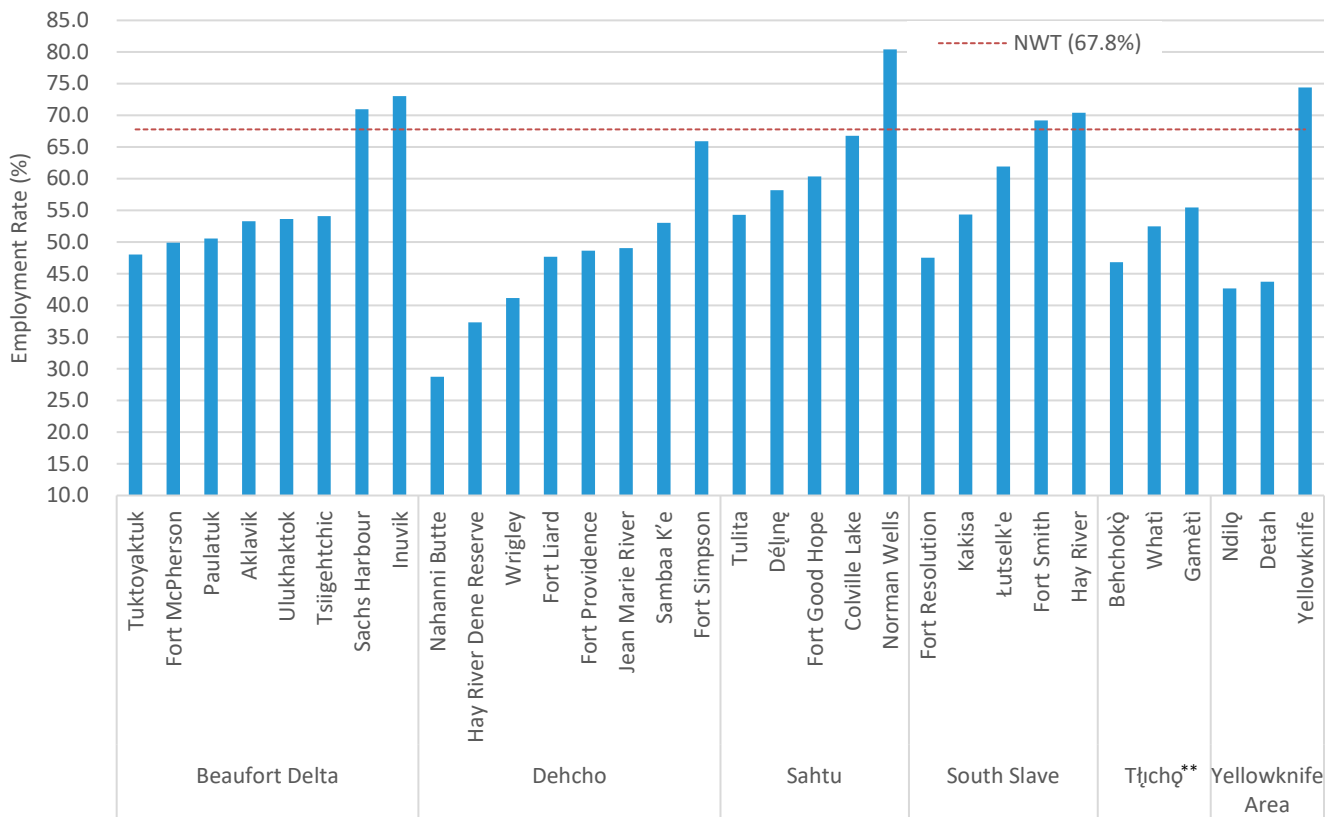
Figure 1: Historical Employment and Unemployment Rates, Northwest Territories, 1986 - 2024



Employment Rates By Community

At the community level, employment rates in 2024 ranged from 28.8% in Nahanni Butte to 80.4% in Norman Wells. Historical labour market disparities between regional centers and the smaller communities within a region persisted in 2024, with higher employment rates recorded in most regional centers (Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Hay River, Fort Smith, and Yellowknife). Behchokò, the regional center of Tłı̨chǫ, was the exception with an employment rate lower than the smaller communities in the region (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Employment Rates, By Community*, 2024



*The community of Enterprise was not included in the 2024 NWT Community Survey due to the impacts of the 2023 wildfires within the community.

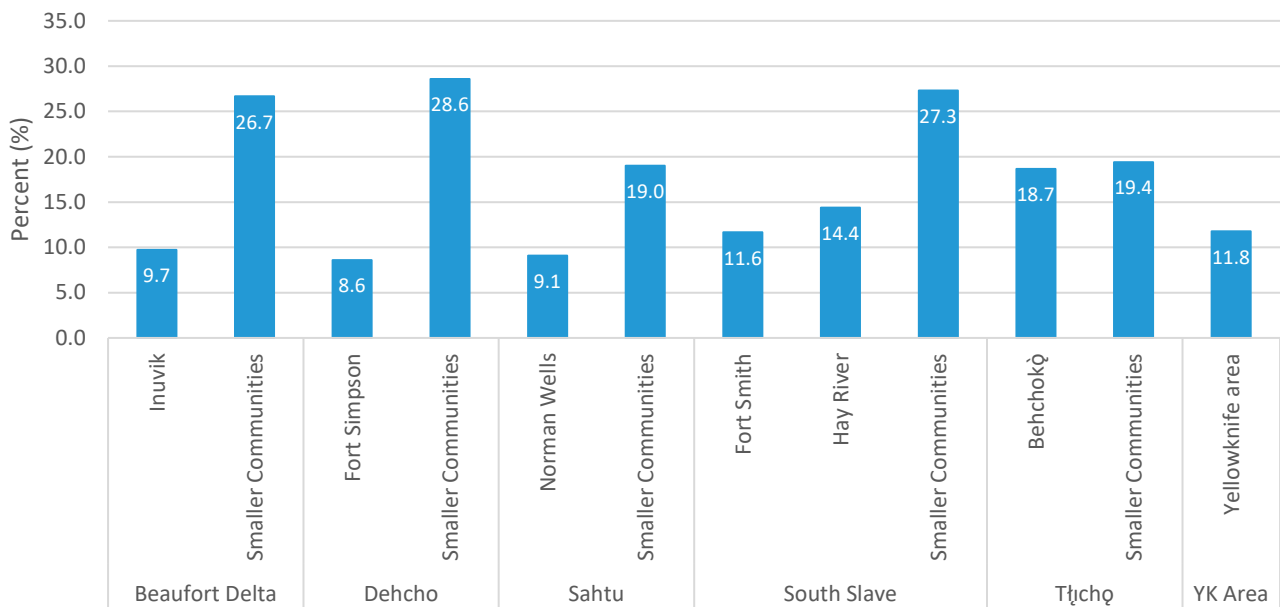
**Wekweèti was not included in Figure 2 due to data quality.

Work Patterns During 2024

In 2024, 79.2% of employed people in the Northwest Territories worked full-time (more than 30 hours per week), while 12.7% worked part-time. Among full-time workers, 93.3% were working for more than half the year and 11% held multiple jobs simultaneously. In contrast, among part-time workers, only 61.0% worked more than 26 weeks and a higher share (21.1%) held more than one job at the same time.

Overall, part-time employment was more common in smaller communities than in regional centers. Regionally, the share of part-time workers ranged from 11.8% in the Yellowknife area to 18.9% in Tłı̄chǫ. Females were more likely than males to work part-time, with regional rates ranging from 13.4% to 24.0%, compared to 10.3% to 15.2% among males.

Figure 3: Part-time Workers, by Community Size and Region



Employment by Occupational Group

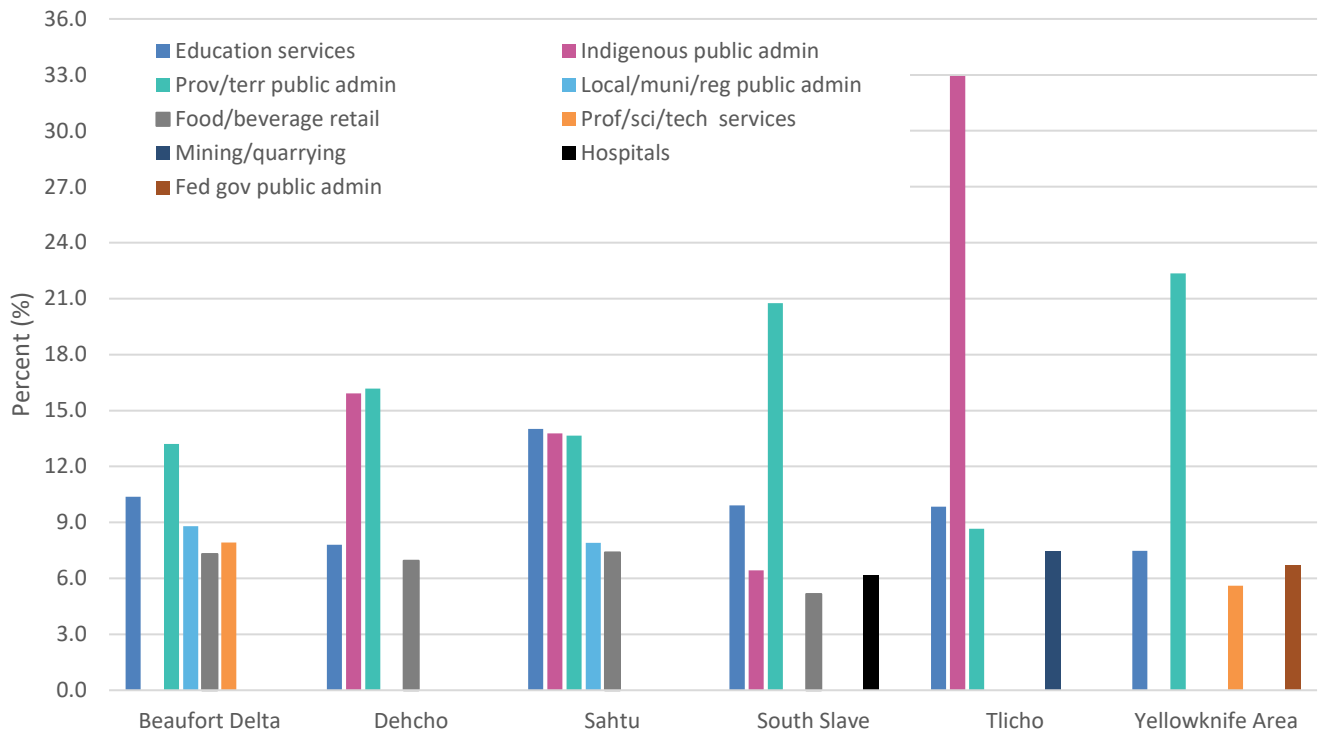
Overall, the top five occupational groups accounted for 24.1% of all employed individuals in the NWT. Administrative occupations, including jobs such as administrative officers, payroll administrators, and administrative assistants, represented the largest share at 7.0%. Other leading occupational groups included helpers and labourers such as construction trades helpers (4.6%); education services like teachers and college instructors (4.4%); middle management roles in administrative, financial, business, and communication services (4.3%); and cleaning and related services, including janitors and caretakers (3.8%).

Employment by Sector/Industry Group

In 2024, industries employing the most workers in the Northwest Territories were territorial public administration (20.0%), educational services (9.4%), federal public administration (6.1%), and Indigenous public administration (5.2%). As shown in Figure 4, public administration at the local, territorial, and federal levels, along with educational services, consistently employed the largest proportion of people across all regions.

Outside of public administration, other top industries varied by region. In the Beaufort Delta, professional, scientific, and technical services employed 8.5% of workers. In the Tłıchǫ region, mining and quarrying accounted for 7.8%, while in the Yellowknife area, food services and drinking places made up 4.8% of employment.

Figure 4: Employment by Selected Industries and Region



For additional information on labour force results from the 2024 NWT Community Survey, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at www.statsnwt.ca or call 1-888-STATSNT (1-888-762-8768).