newstats NWT Bureau of Statistics

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Labour Force Activity[1]

October 2026

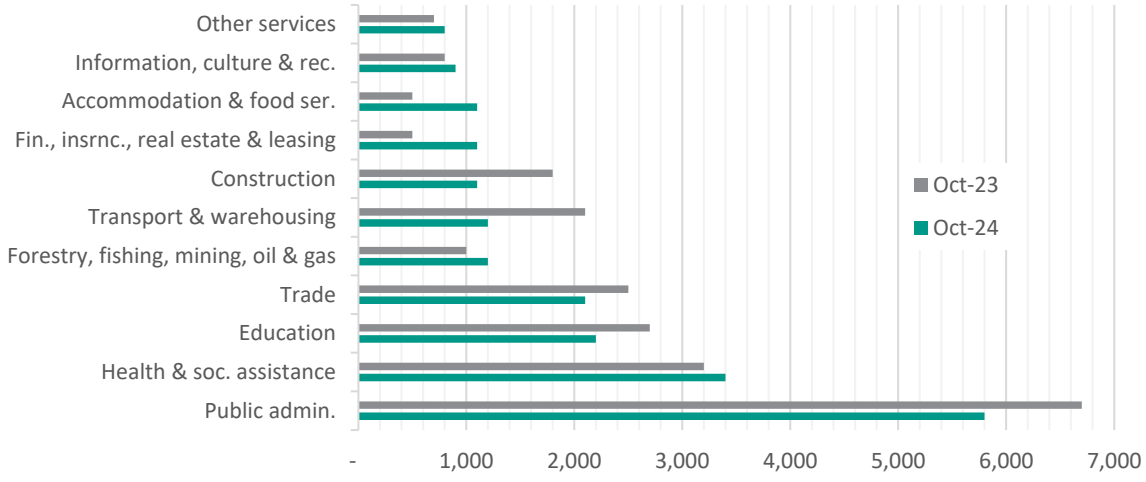
Statistics Canada estimates that in October 2026, out of 34,600 Northwest Territories residents aged 15 years and older, 22,900 were employed, a decrease of 800 persons from the previous month. Consequently, the employment rate declined by 2.3 percentage points to 66.2%, while the unemployment rate increased to 5.8% in October.

Year-over-year, the Northwest Territories' employment rate decreased 4.1 percentage points from 70.3% as the number of employed persons dropped by 1,300 between October 2025 and October 2026 Employment rates dropped for all major worker groups, declining the most for youths aged 15-24 (58.2% to 45.6%), females (72.0% to 64.5%) and persons living in Yellowknife (80.6% to 75.1%).

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Compared to October 2025, employment increased in industries such as finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (600), accommodation & food services (600), forestry, and in fishing, mining, oil & gas (200). These employment increases were, however, offset by declines in other industries, with public administration, transport & warehousing, and construction recording the largest employment declines.

Figure 1: Changes in Employment, by Selected Industries, Oct-23 & Oct-24



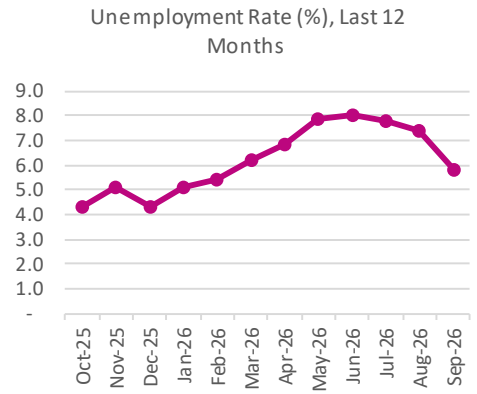
[1] *LFS estimates in this report are based on seasonally unadjusted, three-months moving-average time series data.*

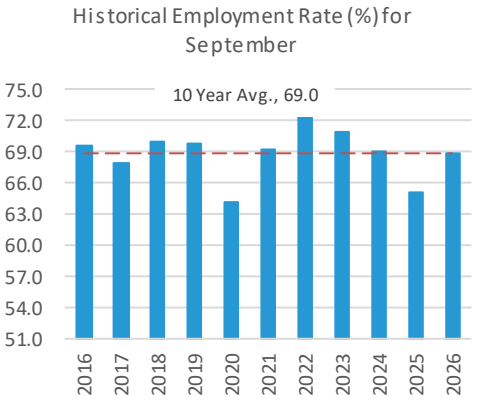
National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 61.0%, a slight drop from 61.2% in September 2026 Among the provinces and territories, Yukon (73.4%), followed by the Northwest Territories (66.2%), and Alberta (64.2%) had the highest employment rates. Nunavut (55.3%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (53.6%) 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: December 4, 2026