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Labour Force Activity[1]

October 2026

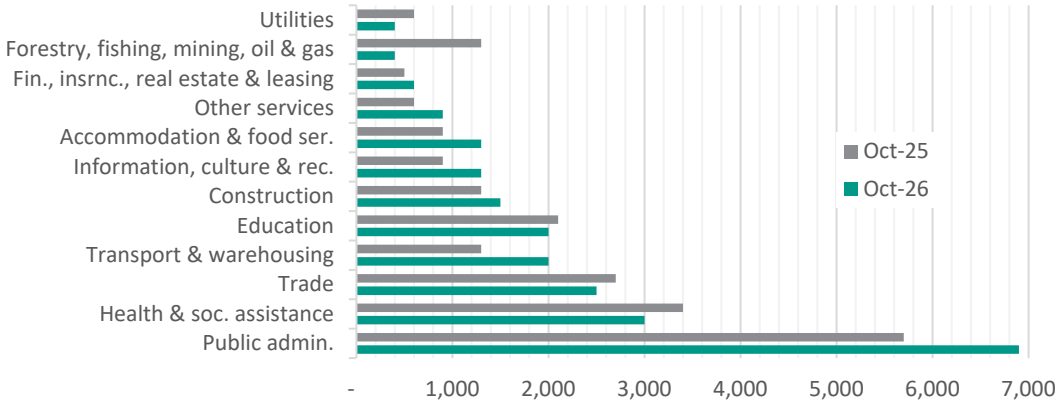
Statistics Canada estimates that in October 2026, 24,300 of the 35,700 Northwest Territories residents aged 15 years and older were employed, down slightly from 24,500 in September. Consequently, the employment rate declined by 0.7 percentage points to 68.1%, remaining slightly above the 10-year October average of 67.9%. At the same time, the unemployment rate edged down to 5.1%, reflecting a decrease in the number of people actively seeking work.

Despite the monthly decline, labour market conditions improved year-over-year. Between October 2025 and October 2026, the number of employed persons increased by 1,900 and the employment rate rose by 4.6 percentage points. Employment rates increased across all major worker groups, with the largest gains among youth aged 15 to 24 years (39.3% to 48.3%), women+ (59.9% to 67.1%), and residents living outside Yellowknife (53.4% to 58.8%).

Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

At the industrial level, the largest employment gains compared with October 2025, were recorded in public administration (+1,200), transportation and warehousing (+700), business, building & other support services (+400), information, culture & recreation (+400), and accommodation & food services (+400). These gains were partly offset by declines in industries such as forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-900), health care and social assistance (-400), utilities (-200), and wholesale and retail trade (-200).

Figure 1: Changes in Employment Levels, by Industry, Oct-25 & Oct-26



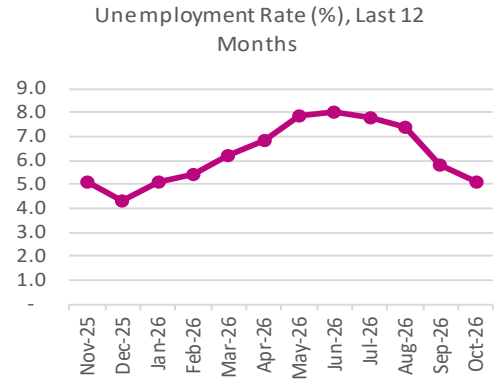
[1] *LFS estimates in this report are based on seasonally unadjusted, three-months moving-average time series data.*

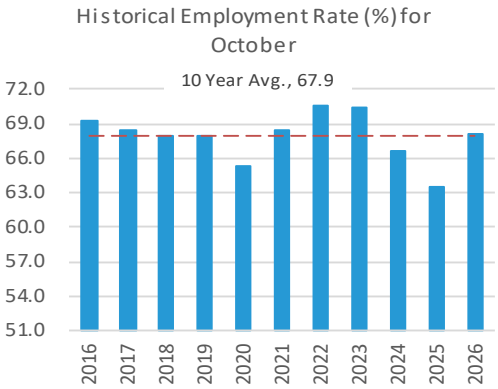
National highlights

Nationally, Canada's seasonally unadjusted employment rate was 60.8%, a slight drop from 61.1% in September 2026 Among the provinces and territories, Yukon (69.9%), followed by the Northwest Territories (68.1%), and Alberta (64.1%) had the highest employment rates. Newfoundland & Labrador (53.3%) and Nunavut (54.4%) and had the lowest employment rates.

Table 1: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment rate	Employment rate
Oct-26	24,300	1,300	5.1	68.1
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
Historical Labour Market Indicators for October				
2026	24,300	1,300	5.1	68.1
2025	22,400	1,000	4.3	63.5
2024	23,000	1,400	5.7	66.7
2023	24,000	600	2.4	70.4
2022	23,800	1,700	6.7	70.6
2021	23,000	1,100	4.6	68.5
2020	21,800	2,300	9.5	65.3
2019	22,700	1,700	7.0	68.0
2018	22,700	1,900	7.8	68.0
2017	23,100	1,600	6.5	68.5
2016	23,200	1,800	7.2	69.3





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