

# NWT Labour Force Activity

October 2015

## OVERVIEW

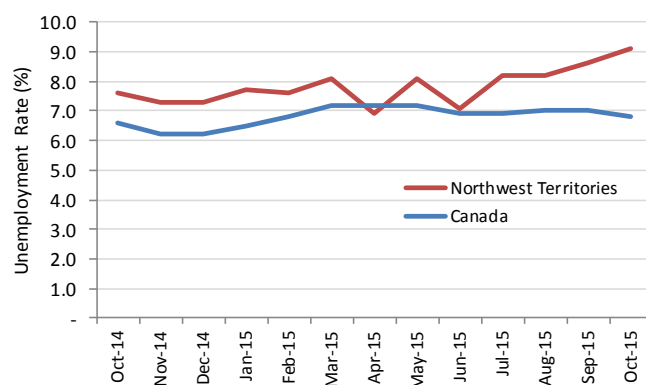
Statistics Canada estimates that in October 2015, 21,900 persons were employed in the Northwest Territories, representing an employment rate of 68.7%. This is an increase from one year ago. The unemployment rate, also increased in the NWT between October 2014 and October 2015. Nationally, Canada’s employment rate was 61.8%.

Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories

|                        | October-2015 | September-2015 | October-2014 | Change from Oct 2014 – Oct 2015 |      |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|------|
|                        |              |                |              | No. of Persons                  | %    |
| Population 15+         | 31,900       | 31,800         | 32,300       | (400)                           | -1.2 |
| Labour force           | 24,100       | 24,300         | 23,700       | 400                             | 1.7  |
| Employment             | 21,900       | 22,200         | 21,900       | -                               | -    |
| Full-time              | 19,300       | 19,400         | 19,800       | (500)                           | -2.5 |
| Part-time              | 2,600        | 2,800          | 2,100        | 500                             | 23.8 |
| Unemployment           | 2,200        | 2,100          | 1,800        | 400                             | 22.2 |
| Participation rate (%) | 75.5         | 76.4           | 73.4         |                                 |      |
| Unemployment rate (%)  | 9.1          | 8.6            | 7.6          |                                 |      |
| Employment rate (%)    | 68.7         | 69.8           | 67.8         |                                 |      |

The NWT unemployment rate has increased over the last two months and was 9.1% in October 2015. Year-over-year, the unemployment rate increased by 1.5 percentage points. The unemployment rate for Canada increased by 0.2 percentage points to 6.8% over the same period.

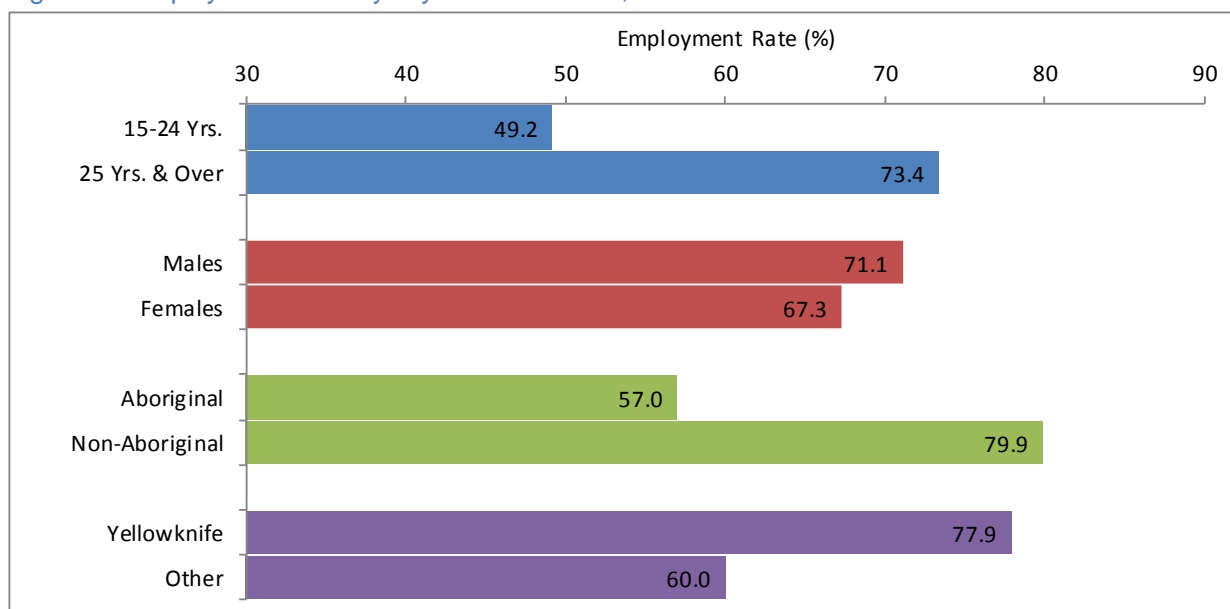
Figure 1: Unemployment rates during past 12 months, Northwest Territories & Canada



## EMPLOYMENT BY KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Compared to September 2015, employment in the NWT decreased by 300 people. Youth aged 15 to 24 years of age accounted for all of this monthly decline. The employment rate for youths aged 15 to 24 dropped 5.0 percentage points compared to no change among those aged 25 and over. While the employment rate for males remained higher than for females, it declined 1.2 percentage points from September, compared to a 0.6 percentage point rise for females. In Yellowknife, the employment rate was 1.7 percentage points lower than the previous month, while it was 0.8 points lower for the rest of the territory.

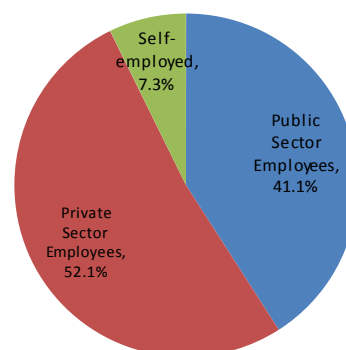
Figure 2: Employment rates by key characteristics, Oct 2015



## EMPLOYMENT BY CLASS OF WORKER

Compared to October 2014, employment in the private sector increased by 500 persons. This was offset by employment declines in the public sector and in self-employment. Figure 3 presents the distribution of the employed by class of worker.

Figure 3: Employed persons by class of worker Northwest Territories, Oct 2015



## HISTORICAL LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY

Table 2: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

|                 | Population<br>15 & Over | Labour<br>Force | Employed | Unem-<br>ployed | Not in the<br>Labour<br>Force | Partic-<br>ipation<br>Rate | Unemp-<br>loyment<br>Rate | Employ-<br>ment<br>Rate |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Oct-15          | 31,900                  | 24,100          | 21,900   | 2,200           | 7,700                         | 75.5                       | 9.1                       | 68.7                    |
| Sep-15          | 31,800                  | 24,300          | 22,200   | 2,100           | 7,500                         | 76.4                       | 8.6                       | 69.8                    |
| Aug-15          | 31,800                  | 24,500          | 22,500   | 2,000           | 7,300                         | 77.0                       | 8.2                       | 70.8                    |
| Jul-15          | 31,800                  | 24,500          | 22,500   | 2,000           | 7,300                         | 77.0                       | 8.2                       | 70.8                    |
| Jun-15          | 31,900                  | 23,800          | 22,200   | 1,700           | 8,000                         | 74.6                       | 7.1                       | 69.6                    |
| May-15          | 32,000                  | 23,500          | 21,600   | 1,900           | 8,500                         | 73.4                       | 8.1                       | 67.5                    |
| Apr-15          | 32,100                  | 23,200          | 21,600   | 1,600           | 8,800                         | 72.3                       | 6.9                       | 67.3                    |
| Mar-15          | 32,200                  | 23,600          | 21,700   | 1,900           | 8,500                         | 73.3                       | 8.1                       | 67.4                    |
| Feb-15          | 32,200                  | 23,600          | 21,800   | 1,800           | 8,600                         | 73.3                       | 7.6                       | 67.7                    |
| Jan-15          | 32,300                  | 23,400          | 21,600   | 1,800           | 8,900                         | 72.4                       | 7.7                       | 66.9                    |
| Dec-14          | 32,300                  | 23,300          | 21,600   | 1,700           | 9,000                         | 72.1                       | 7.3                       | 66.9                    |
| Nov-14          | 32,300                  | 23,400          | 21,800   | 1,700           | 8,900                         | 72.4                       | 7.3                       | 67.5                    |
| Previous Years: |                         |                 |          |                 |                               |                            |                           |                         |
| Oct-14          | 32,300                  | 23,700          | 21,900   | 1,800           | 8,700                         | 73.4                       | 7.6                       | 67.8                    |
| Oct-13          | 32,600                  | 25,200          | 23,300   | 2,000           | 7,300                         | 77.3                       | 7.9                       | 71.5                    |
| Oct-12          | 32,500                  | 25,500          | 23,600   | 1,900           | 7,000                         | 78.5                       | 7.5                       | 72.6                    |
| Oct-11          | 32,300                  | 25,100          | 23,400   | 1,800           | 7,200                         | 77.7                       | 7.2                       | 72.4                    |
| Oct-10          | 32,100                  | 23,300          | 22,000   | 1,300           | 8,800                         | 72.6                       | 5.6                       | 68.5                    |
| Oct-09          | 31,700                  | 22,600          | 20,800   | 1,700           | 9,100                         | 71.3                       | 7.5                       | 65.6                    |
| Oct-08          | 31,800                  | 24,200          | 23,100   | 1,100           | 7,600                         | 76.1                       | 4.5                       | 72.6                    |
| Oct-07          | 31,600                  | 24,800          | 23,400   | 1,400           | 6,800                         | 78.5                       | 5.6                       | 74.1                    |
| Oct-06          | 31,300                  | 24,100          | 23,000   | 1,100           | 7,200                         | 77.0                       | 4.6                       | 73.5                    |
| Oct-05          | 31,300                  | 24,000          | 22,800   | 1,200           | 7,300                         | 76.7                       | 5.0                       | 72.8                    |

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national labour force survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of labour force survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at <http://www.statsnwt.ca/> or call (867) 873-7147.

Next Release: December 4, 2015