

Monthly Labour Force Activity - October 2017-

Overview

The Northwest Territories' employment rate was 67.3% in October, virtually unchanged from the previous month. Out of 32,400 residents 15 years of age and older, 21,800 were employed, 1,500 were unemployed while 9,000 were not in the labour force. Most of the key labour force indicators (Table 1) were little changed between September and October 2017.

On a year-over-year basis, there were 900 less people employed in the NWT compared to October 2016. All job losses occurred in full-time employment, in the public sector and in the services-producing industry.

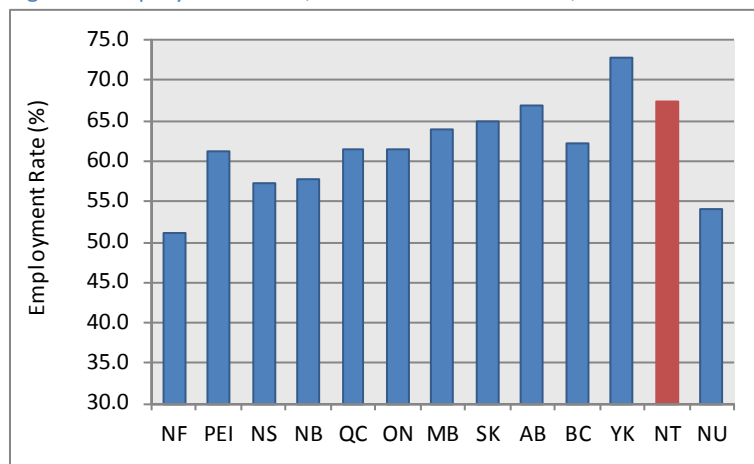
Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, October 2017

	Oct-17	Sep-17	Oct-16	Change from 12 months ago	
				Number	%
Population 15 & over	32,400	32,300	32,600	(200)	(0.6)
Labour force	23,400	23,300	24,400	(1,000)	(4.1)
Employment	21,800	21,700	22,700	(900)	(4.0)
Full-time	18,700	18,800	20,100	(1,400)	(7.0)
Part-time	3,200	2,900	2,500	700	28.0
Unemployment	1,500	1,600	1,700	(200)	(11.8)
Not in labour force	9,000	9,000	8,200	800	9.8
Participation rate (%)	72.2	72.1	74.8		
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	6.9	7.0		
Employment rate (%)	67.3	67.2	69.6		

National highlights

In October 2017, Canada's employment rate dropped slightly from the previous month to 62.0%. The Northwest Territories had the second highest employment rate after Yukon (72.7%), with Alberta (66.9%), Saskatchewan (64.9%) and Manitoba (64.0%) completing the top five jurisdictions with the highest employment rates.

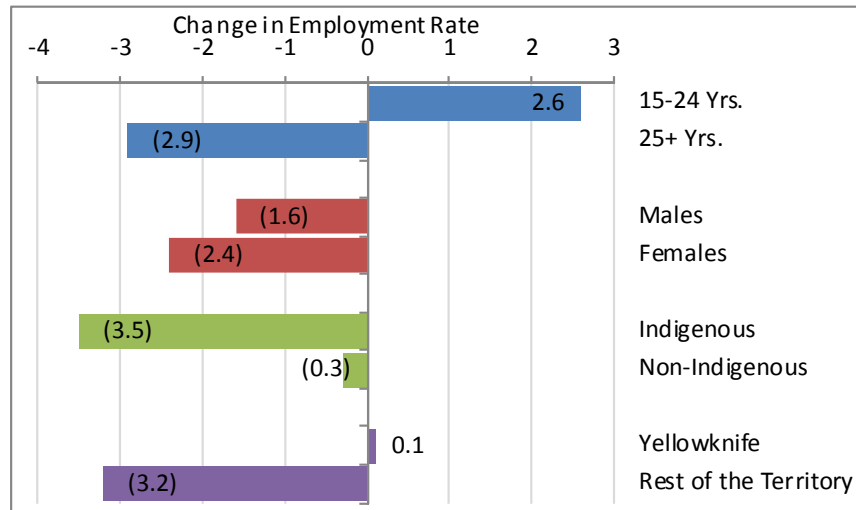
Figure 1: Employment Rates, Provinces & Territories, October 2017



Employment rates by key demographic characteristics

The year-over-year drop in employment by 900 persons affected all key demographic characteristics. The exceptions were persons aged 15-24 years (where employment was unchanged) and persons living in Yellowknife (where employment increased marginally). Similarly, employment rates dropped for all key demographic characteristics except for the two mentioned above (Figure 2). The highest drop in the employment rates occurred among Indigenous persons and for persons who live outside of Yellowknife.

Figure 2: Change in employment rates from 12 months ago



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Between October 2016 and October 2017, year-over-year gains in private sector employment and self-employment were more than off-set by losses in public sector employment. Similarly, part-time employment increased by 700, while full-time employment dropped by 1,400.

Employment in the goods-producing sector was unchanged from last year, while it dropped by 700 in the services-producing sector.

Table 2: Monthly and Yearly Change in Employment by Selected Characteristics

	Oct-17	Sep-17	Oct-16	Change (persons) from	
				Sep-17	Oct-16
Total Employment	21,800	21,700	22,700	100	(900)
Full-time	18,700	18,800	20,100	(100)	(1,400)
Part-time	3,200	2,900	2,500	300	700
Employees	20,200	20,200	21,100	-	(900)
Public	9,200	9,000	10,800	200	(1,600)
Private	11,100	11,200	10,400	(100)	700
Self-employment	1,600	1,500	1,500	100	100
Goods-producing sector	3,500	3,700	3,500	(200)	-
Services-producing sector	18,400	18,000	19,100	400	(700)

Historical labour force activity

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 3: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unem- ployed	Not in the Labour Force	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Oct-17	32,400	23,400	21,800	1,500	9,000	72.2	6.4	67.3
Sep-17	32,300	23,300	21,700	1,600	9,000	72.1	6.9	67.2
Aug-17	32,300	23,400	22,000	1,400	9,000	72.4	6.0	68.1
Jul-17	32,400	23,000	21,500	1,500	9,300	71.0	6.5	66.4
Jun-17	32,400	22,700	21,300	1,400	9,700	70.1	6.2	65.7
May-17	32,400	22,400	21,100	1,400	9,900	69.1	6.3	65.1
Apr-17	32,400	22,800	21,600	1,200	9,600	70.4	5.3	66.7
Mar-17	32,400	22,900	21,400	1,600	9,400	70.7	7.0	66.0
Feb-17	32,300	22,800	21,100	1,600	9,600	70.6	7.0	65.3
Jan-17	32,400	22,700	21,100	1,600	9,600	70.1	7.0	65.1
Dec-16	32,400	23,400	21,800	1,600	9,000	72.2	6.8	67.3
Nov-16	32,500	23,700	22,100	1,600	8,800	72.9	6.8	68.0
Previous Years:								
Oct-16	32,600	24,400	22,700	1,700	8,200	74.8	7.0	69.6
Oct-15	31,900	24,100	21,900	2,200	7,700	75.5	9.1	68.7
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

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) 767-9169.

Next Release: December 1, 2017