

Monthly Labour Force Activity - September 2017-

Overview

Labour force information released today by Statistics Canada indicates that the Northwest Territories' employment rate was 67.2% in September 2017. This marked a slight drop from August following three months of consecutive increases in the employment rate.

In all, 21,700 persons were employed, a decrease of 300 persons over the previous month. The drop in employment levels in September follows historical trends when summer students return to school and the end of the fire season.

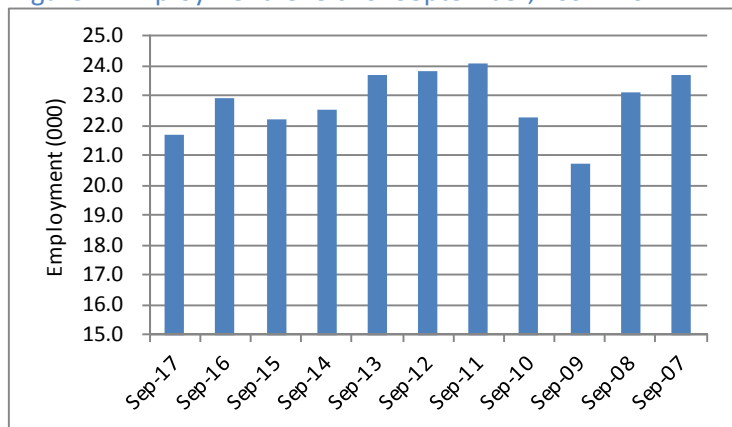
Table 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories, September 2017

| | Sep-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-16 | Change from 12 months ago | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | Number | % |
| Population 15 & over | 32,300 | 32,300 | 32,600 | (300) | (0.9) |
| Labour force | 23,300 | 23,400 | 24,500 | (1,200) | (4.9) |
| Employment | 21,700 | 22,000 | 22,900 | (1,200) | (5.2) |
| Full-time | 18,800 | 19,400 | 20,600 | (1,800) | (8.7) |
| Part-time | 2,900 | 2,600 | 2,300 | 600 | 26.1 |
| Unemployment | 1,600 | 1,400 | 1,600 | - | - |
| Not in labour force | 9,000 | 9,000 | 8,100 | 900 | 11.1 |
| Participation rate (%) | 72.1 | 72.4 | 75.2 | | |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 6.9 | 6.0 | 6.5 | | |
| Employment rate (%) | 67.2 | 68.1 | 70.2 | | |

Throughout 2017, year-over-year employment levels have been lower compared to previous years. Following that trend, the number of employed persons was the second lowest in the past 10 years for the month of September.

Compared to one year ago, the number of unemployed persons was unchanged at 1,600.

Figure 1: Employment levels for September, 2007 - 2017



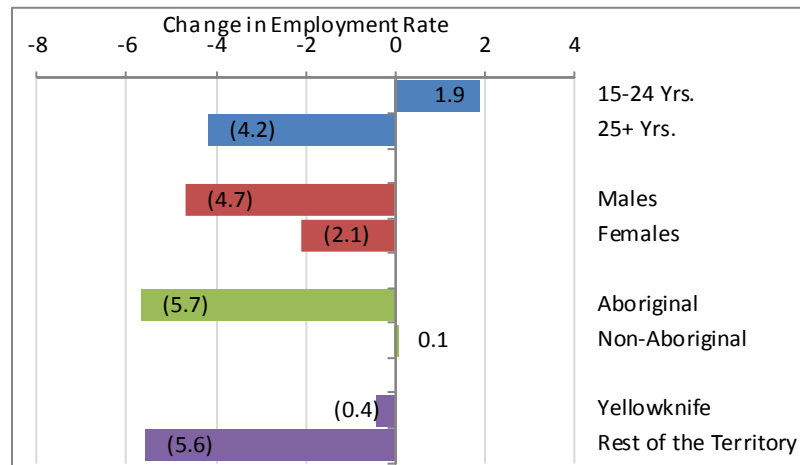
National highlights

Nationally, the employment rate in Canada dropped slightly to 62.2% in September 2017. Among the provinces and territories, Yukon maintained the highest employment rate at 75.0%, followed by the Northwest Territories (67.2%) and Alberta (66.9%). Newfoundland & Labrador and Nunavut had the lowest employment rates at 51.6% and 54.8%, respectively.

Employment rates by key demographic characteristics

In the 12 months to September 2017, employment rates in the NWT dropped across most of the key demographic characteristics. The exceptions were Non-Aboriginal persons and persons aged 15-24 whose rates increased by 0.1 and 1.9 percentage points, respectively.

Figure 2: Change in employment rates from 12 months ago



Employment by employment type, class of worker, and industry

Part-time employment increased by 600 from the same time last year. In contrast, full-time employment dropped by 1,800 persons, offsetting gains made in part-time employment. Employment gains in the private sector were off-set by losses in public sector employment.

There were 1,300 fewer persons employed in the services-producing sector in September 2017, compared to the same time last year. Meanwhile employment levels were unchanged in the goods-producing industry.

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

| | Sep-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-16 | Change (persons) from | |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | | | | Aug-17 | Sep-16 |
| Total Employment | 21,700 | 22,000 | 22,900 | (300) | (1,200) |
| Full-time | 18,800 | 19,400 | 20,600 | (600) | (1,800) |
| Part-time | 2,900 | 2,600 | 2,300 | 300 | 600 |
| Employees | 20,200 | 20,300 | 21,500 | (100) | (1,300) |
| Public | 9,000 | 9,100 | 10,800 | (100) | (1,800) |
| Private | 11,200 | 11,200 | 10,700 | - | 500 |
| Self-employment | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,500 | (200) | - |
| Goods-producing sector | 3,700 | 4,200 | 3,700 | (500) | - |
| Services-producing sector | 18,000 | 17,800 | 19,300 | 200 | (1,300) |

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 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |
| Oct-16 | 32,600 | 24,400 | 22,700 | 1,700 | 8,200 | 74.8 | 7.0 | 69.6 |
| Previous Years: | | | | | | | | |
| Sep-16 | 32,600 | 24,500 | 22,900 | 1,600 | 8,100 | 75.2 | 6.5 | 70.2 |
| Sep-15 | 31,800 | 24,300 | 22,200 | 2,100 | 7,500 | 76.4 | 8.6 | 69.8 |
| Sep-14 | 32,300 | 24,300 | 22,500 | 1,800 | 8,000 | 75.2 | 7.4 | 69.7 |
| Sep-13 | 32,600 | 25,800 | 23,700 | 2,100 | 6,700 | 79.1 | 8.1 | 72.7 |
| Sep-12 | 32,500 | 26,000 | 23,800 | 2,200 | 6,400 | 80.0 | 8.5 | 73.2 |
| Sep-11 | 32,400 | 26,100 | 24,100 | 1,900 | 6,300 | 80.6 | 7.3 | 74.4 |
| Sep-10 | 32,100 | 23,800 | 22,300 | 1,500 | 8,200 | 74.1 | 6.3 | 69.5 |
| Sep-09 | 31,700 | 22,500 | 20,700 | 1,800 | 9,200 | 71.0 | 8.0 | 65.3 |
| Sep-08 | 31,800 | 24,300 | 23,100 | 1,300 | 7,400 | 76.4 | 5.3 | 72.6 |
| Sep-07 | 31,600 | 25,200 | 23,700 | 1,400 | 6,400 | 79.7 | 5.6 | 75.0 |

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: November 3, 2017