

Monthly Labour Force Survey Northwest Territories

Notes and Definitions

Survey Methodology

- Data is collected from approximately 200 households per month, involving approximately 400 persons 15 years of age and over.
- Survey operations are completed by Statistics Canada staff, with support for survey operations provided by the NWT Bureau of Statistics.
- Interviews are completed in person for initial contact and by telephone for follow-up interviews where possible.
- The sample is designed to represent 96.4% of all territorial residents 15 years of age and older. Only residents of very small communities are excluded from the survey.

Survey Results

- Results are reported based on three month moving averages. This means that data reported for April, actually represent survey collection in February, March and April. This technique is also used to report sub-provincial LFS results in southern Canada.
- Due to the use of three month moving averages, the month to month changes should be used with some caution. However, this technique should smooth out extreme variations in the data and allow simpler trend analysis.
- All counts from the monthly labour force survey are rounded to the nearest 100, however, rates are based on raw data. Due to the rounding some components may not sum to the total.
- Provincial and territorial results exclude Nunavut. Although an attempt to extend the national labour force survey to the Nunavut has begun, publishable results have yet to be achieved.

Data Quality

- Information on survey operations indicates an average response rate of 83.6% for the monthly labour force survey in the Northwest Territories.

- Sampling errors calculated for the survey should be considered when statistics from the monthly labour force are being used. The most recent sampling errors for the monthly labour force estimates are as follows:

	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation
Labour Force	853	3.9
Employed	799	3.9
Unemployed	226	13.2
Not in the Labour Force	854	11.0
Participation Rate	2.9	3.8
Unemployment Rate	1.0	12.3
Employment Rate	2.7	3.9

Statistics Canada considers any survey estimate with a coefficient of variation under 16.5% as reliable, and publishable without cautionary notes.

- Another source of error in surveys is referred to as non-sampling errors. These errors result from incorrect answers being given to questions, data entry errors, etc. Surveys are designed to help minimize such errors. Generally, the effect of such errors is not known.

Definitions

Labour Force

- refers to persons who were either employed or unemployed during the reference week.

Employed

- refers to persons who during the reference week: (i) did any work at all, excluding housework, maintenance around the home and volunteer work; or (ii) were absent from their job or business because of vacation, illness, on strike or locked out, etc.

Unemployed

- refers to persons who during the reference week; (i) were without work, had actively looked for work in the previous four weeks and were available for work; or (ii) had been on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or (iii) had definite arrangements to start a new job within the next four weeks.

Participation Rate

- the percentage of persons 15 years of age and over who are in the labour force.

Unemployment Rate

- the percentage of the labour force who were unemployed during the reference week.

Employment Rate

- the percentage of persons 15 years of age and over who were employed during the reference week.