

## *2002 NWT Regional Employment & Harvesting Survey*

### *- Summary of Results -*

In late 2002, the NWT Bureau of Statistics completed a regional employment & harvesting survey in cooperation with the Department of Resources, Wildlife, & Economic Development (RWED). This survey was designed to provide updated information on the territorial labour market and information on harvesting activities at a regional level. A final sample of 3,079 NWT residents were interviewed for the survey. This report provides a summary of the survey results. More detailed information is also available from the Bureau of Statistics website (<http://www.stats.gov.nt.ca>).

#### *Labour Force Activity*

Overall, an estimated 21,052 residents were employed at the time of the 2002 survey. This represents an overall employment rate of 69.1%. There is, however, considerable variation in the labour market conditions by area of the Northwest Territories. The employment rate is highest in Yellowknife at 82.3% and lowest in the Dogrib communities at 43.3% (Table 1). The employment rate in the Beaufort-Delta area was estimated at 57.7%, in the Sahtu area it was 62.6%, in the Deh Cho it was 56.8%, while in the South Slave area it was 64.4%.

*Table 1 Labour Force Activity, by Area  
Northwest Territories, Fall 2002*

	Popul. 15 & Over	Labour Force	Emp- loyed	Unemp- loyed	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Northwest Territories	30,459	23,212	21,052	2,160	76.2	9.3	69.1
Beaufort-Delta	5,116	3,593	2,950	643	70.2	17.9	57.7
Inuvik	2,606	1,991	1,776	215	76.4	10.8	68.2
Other Communities	2,510	1,602	1,174	428	63.8	26.7	46.8
Sahtu	1,952	1,465	1,221	244	75.1	16.7	62.6
Norman Wells	634	559	533	26	88.2	4.7	84.1
Other Communities	1,318	906	688	218	68.7	24.1	52.2
Deh Cho	2,525	1,725	1,434	291	68.3	16.9	56.8
Fort Simpson	942	738	679	59	78.3	8.0	72.1
Other Communities	1,583	987	755	232	62.3	23.5	47.7
South Slave	5,157	3,752	3,319	433	72.8	11.5	64.4
Hay River	2,579	1,975	1,793	182	76.6	9.2	69.5
Fort Smith	1,797	1,309	1,173	136	72.8	10.4	65.3
Other Communities	782	468	353	115	59.8	24.6	45.1
Dogrib	2,051	1,163	888	275	56.7	23.6	43.3
Rae-Edzo	1,265	719	530	189	56.8	26.3	41.9
Other Communities	786	444	358	86	56.5	19.4	45.5
Yellowknife	13,658	11,514	11,240	274	84.3	2.4	82.3

It is apparent also that labour market characteristics vary significantly within most areas. The regional centres tend to have stronger labour market conditions than the surrounding communities where there are lower participation rates and employment rates and higher unemployment rates.

*Table 2 Labour Force Activity, by Area  
Northwest Territories, Fall 2002 & Winter 1999*

	----- 2002 -----			----- 1999 -----		
	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
Northwest Territories	76.2	9.3	69.1	78.3	13.7	67.5
Beaufort-Delta	70.2	17.9	57.7	74.1	18.9	60.1
Inuvik	76.4	10.8	68.2	82.4	9.8	74.4
Other Communities	63.8	26.7	46.8	66.1	29.7	46.5
Sahtu	75.1	16.7	62.6	77.8	19.9	62.3
Norman Wells	88.2	4.7	84.1	90.5	7.0	84.2
Other Communities	68.7	24.1	52.2	71.2	28.4	51.0
Deh Cho	68.3	16.9	56.8	69.2	22.1	53.9
Fort Simpson	78.3	8.0	72.1	72.2	16.5	60.4
Other Communities	62.3	23.5	47.7	67.1	26.5	49.3
South Slave	72.8	11.5	64.4	74.4	12.8	64.9
Hay River	76.6	9.2	69.5	80.9	9.2	73.4
Fort Smith	72.8	10.4	65.3	72.1	12.5	63.1
Other Communities	59.8	24.6	45.1	60.5	27.1	44.1
Dogrib	56.7	23.6	43.3	56.3	41.3	33.0
Rae-Edzo	56.8	26.3	41.9	55.1	46.5	29.5
Other Communities	56.5	19.4	45.5	58.1	33.9	38.5
Yellowknife	84.3	2.4	82.3	86.2	7.9	79.5

Although survey timing makes comparison over time somewhat difficult because of seasonal employment patterns, it is apparent that there have been substantial improvements in labour market conditions in some areas during the period 1999 to 2002. Specifically, there has been a significant improvement in employment rates in Dogrib communities which can be largely attributed to diamond activity (Table 2). Employment rates also appear to have improved in the Deh Cho area. There has been less substantial improvements in the Beaufort-Delta, Sahtu and South Slave areas. For Yellowknife, employment rates have been consistently high.

Examining labour force activity by selected characteristics between the 1999 NWT labour force survey and the 2002 regional employment & harvesting survey indicates some of the changes in territorial labour market. Overall, employment increased by approximately 1,100 persons over this period which is reflected in the increase in the employment rate from 67.5% in 1999 to 69.1% in 2002 (Table 3).

Comparing males and females, there were similar increases in employment rates between 1999 and 2002. While the employment rate for females is lower than for males, labour force participation and unemployment rates are also lower. Youth employment rates increased slightly

between 1999 and 2002. Although at 15.4%, the unemployment rate for youth continued to be higher than for other age groups.

The employment rate for aboriginal people increased from 47.9% to 52.3% between 1999 and 2002. Employment levels among aboriginal people increased by an estimated 868 jobs during this period. Non-aboriginal employment rates continued to be significantly higher at 83.6%, although there was little change in the non-aboriginal employment rate between 1999 and 2002.

*Table 3 Labour Force Activity, by Selected Characteristics  
Northwest Territories, , Fall 2002 & Winter 1999*

	Popul. 15 & Over	Labour Force	Emp- loyed	Unemp- loyed	Partic- ipation Rate	Unemp- loyment Rate	Employ- ment Rate
<b>2002</b>							
Northwest Territories	30,459	23,212	21,052	2,160	76.2	9.3	69.1
Males	15,834	12,525	11,253	1,272	79.1	10.2	71.1
Females	14,464	10,531	9,661	870	72.8	8.3	66.8
15 - 24 Years	6,083	3,355	2,837	518	55.2	15.4	46.6
25 - 39 Years	10,379	8,849	7,904	945	85.3	10.7	76.2
40 - 59 Years	10,157	9,240	8,744	496	91.0	5.4	86.1
60 Years & Over	2,590	888	758	130	34.3	14.6	29.3
Aboriginals	14,022	9,269	7,337	1,932	66.1	20.8	52.3
Non-Aboriginals	16,211	13,764	13,555	209	84.9	1.5	83.6
<b>1999</b>							
Northwest Territories	29,506	23,090	19,920	3,170	78.3	13.7	67.5
Males	15,540	12,755	10,787	1,968	82.1	15.4	69.4
Females	13,966	10,333	9,132	1,201	74.0	11.6	65.4
15 - 24 Years	6,233	3,742	2,782	960	60.0	25.7	44.6
25 - 39 Years	11,351	10,196	8,987	1,209	89.8	11.9	79.2
40 - 59 Years	9,484	8,386	7,476	910	88.4	10.9	78.8
60 Years & Over	2,439	765	674	91	31.4	11.9	27.6
Aboriginals	13,507	8,823	6,469	2,354	65.3	26.7	47.9
Non-Aboriginals	15,999	14,266	13,450	816	89.2	5.7	84.1

Note: For the 2002 survey, categories may not sum to total due to non-response to demographic questions.

### Harvesting Activity

Harvesting information collected in the 2002 NWT employment & harvesting survey included information on involvement in trapping, hunting and fishing, gathering berries, and gathering plants for medicinal purposes during the previous 12 month period. Household information was also collected on the consumption of harvested meat and fish.

Overall, some 5.0% of persons 15 years of age and over indicated trapping during the previous 12 months (Table 4). This value was highest in the Dogrib area at 14.1% and lowest in Yellowknife at 1.2%. Some 40.2% of territorial residents 15 years of age and older spent time on the land hunting or fishing. This value was similar in all areas.

*Table 4 Persons 15 Years of Age & Over Involved in Harvesting Activity, by Area Northwest Territories, 2002*

	Trapped	%	Hunted or Fished	%	Gathered Berries	%	Gathered Plants	%
Northwest Territories	1,514	5.0	12,245	40.2	5,551	18.2	2,060	6.8
Beaufort-Delta	420	8.2	2,235	43.7	842	16.5	453	8.9
Sahtu	141	7.2	910	46.6	368	18.9	201	10.3
Deh Cho	240	9.5	1,088	43.1	751	29.7	348	13.8
South Slave	257	5.0	1,892	36.7	1,271	24.6	434	8.4
Dogrib	290	14.1	819	39.9	542	26.4	293	14.3
Yellowknife	166	1.2	5,301	38.8	1,777	13.0	331	2.4

Some 18.2% of persons 15 years of age & older indicated that they had spent time gathering berries during the previous 12 months. This value was highest in the Deh Cho, Dogrib and South Slave areas, and lowest in Yellowknife. An estimated 6.8% of persons 15 years of age and over reported gathering plants for medicinal purposes in the previous 12 months.

*Table 5 Percentage of Persons Involved in Harvesting Activities, by Selected Characteristics Northwest Territories, 2002*

	Trapped	Hunted or Fished	Gathered Berries	Gathered Plants
Persons 15 Yrs. & Over	5.0	40.2	18.2	6.8
Males	7.6	51.4	12.8	5.7
Females	2.2	27.9	24.4	7.9
15 - 24 Years	4.0	34.6	12.9	3.9
25 - 39 Years	4.7	40.8	16.9	5.2
40 - 59 Years	5.1	46.1	22.1	7.3
60 Years & Over	8.3	31.6	23.8	16.6
Aboriginals	9.9	44.9	23.6	13.0
Males	15.4	58.3	16.6	10.7
Females	4.3	30.7	30.9	15.5
Non-Aboriginals	0.7	36.5	13.2	1.3
Males	1.1	46.2	9.4	1.7
Females	0.3	25.4	17.9	1.0

Examining these results by gender, age, and ethnic group indicates that males were more likely to be involved in trapping and hunting and fishing than females (Table 5). The percentage of persons involved in gathering berries or gathering plants for medicinal purposes increases with age. Some 15.4% of aboriginal males indicated spending some time trapping in the previous 12 months, while 58.3% of aboriginal males hunted or fished. Some 30.7% of aboriginal females reported hunting or fishing, while 30.9% reported gathering berries in the past year.

Overall, some 75.2% of households in the Northwest Territories eat meat or fish obtained through hunting or fishing (Table 6). This value is slightly lower than the 77.4% of households in 1999. For 2002, 19.1% of households indicated that most or all of their meat and fish is obtained through hunting and fishing, which is a slight drop from 21.3% of households in 1999.

*Table 6 Percentage of Households Consuming Harvested Meat & Fish, by Area Northwest Territories, 1999 and 2002*

	----- 2002 -----		----- 1999 -----	
	Consume Harvested Meat & Fish	Most or All Meat & Fish from Harvesting	Consume Harvested Meat & Fish	Most or All Meat & Fish from Harvesting
Northwest Territories	75.2	19.1	77.4	21.3
Beaufort-Delta	87.8	26.0	85.7	36.4
Sahtu	92.4	44.5	90.7	43.6
Deh Cho	91.7	41.5	90.6	26.9
South Slave	74.9	20.3	77.4	18.9
Dogrib	91.0	44.3	95.7	57.3
Yellowknife	63.7	6.2	68.2	8.3

In most areas approximately 90% of households consume harvested meat and fish. The South Slave area at 74.9% of households and Yellowknife at 63.7% have lower percentage of households consuming harvested meat and fish. In the Sahtu, Dogrib and Deh Cho areas more than 40% of households indicated that most or all of their meat and fish was obtained through hunting and fishing.