

NWT Annual Labour Force Activity - 2006 -

Statistics Canada has been collecting monthly labour force data in the Northwest Territories since 2001. In addition to the monthly indicators of labour market activity, this survey yields annual averages which provide more detailed labour market information for use in trend analysis. The annual data provides basic labour force statistics, along with additional labour force activity by education and industry.

Based on the annual averages for 2006, Statistics Canada estimates that of the 31,100 residents 15 years of age and older in the Northwest Territories, 24,100 persons, on average, were in the labour force (Table 1). This represents an overall participation rate of 77.5%. The participation rate has remained relatively steady over the last six years, ranging only from a low of 75.7% in 2003 to the high of 77.5% in 2006.

Table 1 *Labour Force Activity
Northwest Territories, 2001- 2006*

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Population	31,100	31,400	30,600	30,000	29,400	28,800
Labour Force	24,100	23,900	23,300	22,700	22,400	22,000
Employed	22,800	22,700	21,900	21,100	21,100	20,100
Unemployed	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,600	1,300	1,900
Not in the Labour Force	7,000	7,500	7,300	7,300	7,000	6,700
Participation Rate	77.5	76.1	76.1	75.7	76.2	76.4
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.4	6.0	7.0	5.8	8.6
Employment Rate	73.3	72.3	71.6	70.3	71.8	69.8

In 2006, approximately 22,800 persons were employed in the NWT. This represents an overall employment rate of 73.3%. NWT employment levels have remained relatively constant since collection of this data began, with the NWT having the highest employment rate in all of Canada since 2001 (Table 2).

In 2006, there were some 1,300 unemployed persons in the Northwest Territories, a decrease of 600 persons from 2001. The overall NWT unemployment rate stood unchanged from 2005 at 5.4% for 2006, which remains a large decrease from the 8.6% unemployment rate in 2001. The NWT had the sixth lowest unemployment rate in Canada in 2006.

**Table 2 Key Measures of Labour Market Activity
Canada, Provinces & Territories, 2006**

	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
Canada	67.2	6.3	63.0
Northwest Territories	77.5	5.4	73.3
Yukon	75.3	4.3	72.1
British Columbia	65.7	4.8	62.5
Alberta	73.4	3.4	70.8
Saskatchewan	69.1	4.7	65.9
Manitoba	68.8	4.3	65.8
Ontario	67.7	6.3	63.5
Quebec	65.5	8.0	60.2
New Brunswick	63.7	8.8	58.1
Nova Scotia	62.9	7.9	57.9
Prince Edward Island	68.7	11.0	61.1
Newfoundland & Labrador	59.2	14.8	50.4

*Annual labour force survey information is not available for Nunavut.

In 2006, NWT employment rates were higher among males compared with females (Table 3). However, the difference between male and female employment rates in 2006 was only 4.3%. In comparison, for Canada, employment rates for men were 9.4 percentage points higher than for women in 2006.

**Table 3 Labour Force Activity, by Selected Characteristics
Northwest Territories, 2006**

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the Labour Force	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
All Persons	31,100	24,100	22,800	1,300	7,000	77.5	5.4	73.3
Males	16,000	12,900	12,100	800	3,100	80.6	6.2	75.6
Females	15,000	11,200	10,700	500	3,800	74.7	4.5	71.3
15-24 Yrs.	6,700	3,800	3,400	500	2,900	56.7	13.2	50.7
25-44 Yrs.	12,600	11,300	10,800	500	1,300	89.7	4.4	85.7
45 Yrs. & Over	11,700	8,900	8,600	300	2,800	76.1	3.4	73.5
Aboriginal	13,100	8,200	7,200	900	4,900	62.6	12.2	55.0
Non-Aboriginal	18,000	15,900	15,600	300	2,100	88.3	1.3	86.7
Yellowknife	16,500	13,900	13,600	300	2,600	84.2	2.2	82.4
Other NWT Comm.	14,500	10,100	9,200	900	4,400	69.7	8.9	63.4
Less than Grade 9	3,200	1,300	1,100	200	1,800	40.6	15.4	34.4
Grade 9-11	7,100	4,100	3,600	500	3,000	57.7	12.2	50.7
High School Diploma	6,300	5,200	5,000	200	900	82.5	3.8	79.4
Other Cert./Diploma	9,400	8,400	8,100	300	1,000	89.4	3.6	86.2
University Degree	5,200	5,000	4,900	-	200	96.2	..	94.2

In 2006, the employment rate for aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons stood at 55.0% and 86.7%, respectively. Significant differences in unemployment rates also exist. Aboriginal unemployment stood at 12.2%, while the non-aboriginal rate was only 1.3%. Since 2003, when labour market information by ethnicity first became available, aboriginal unemployment and employment rates have steadily improved (Table 4).

Geographically, Statistics Canada only reports data for Yellowknife and for the category 'other NWT communities'. The employment rate for other NWT communities has increased by 2.7% from 2001 to stand at 63.4% for 2006 while Yellowknife's employment remained relatively constant over the 2001 to 2006 period. In 2006, the unemployment rate in Yellowknife was only 2.2%, while it was 8.9% for the other NWT communities.

**Table 4 Labour Force Activity, by Selected Characteristics
Northwest Territories, 2001-2006**

	Employment Rate (%)						Unemployment Rate (%)					
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Northwest Territories	73.3	72.3	71.6	70.3	71.8	69.8	5.4	5.4	6.0	7.0	5.8	8.6
Males	75.6	73.8	74.8	71.8	73.7	73.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	8.2	6.7	9.9
Females	71.3	70.7	68.0	68.8	69.7	66.2	4.5	3.6	5.7	5.7	4.8	7.1
15-24 Yrs.	50.7	51.5	49.2	51.6	54.8	49.2	13.2	10.0	10.8	13.2	10.5	16.7
25-44 Yrs.	85.7	82.1	82.1	79.7	82.2	82.0	4.4	4.3	6.0	6.8	5.1	7.6
45 Yrs. & Over	73.5	73.2	72.0	68.7	68.8	67.0	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.3	6.1
Aboriginal	55.0	55.1	53.3	52.0	..	..	12.2	11.3	13.3	14.5	..	..
Non-Aboriginal	86.7	83.4	83.7	83.4	..	..	1.3	1.9	3.2	3.3	..	..
Yellowknife	82.4	82.0	80.8	82.1	82.4	82.3	2.2	3.1	4.1	4.2	3.4	4.7
Other NWT Comm.	63.4	62.8	63.1	60.0	62.7	60.7	8.9	8.0	9.0	11.1	9.2	12.3
Less than Grade 9	34.4	36.8	34.3	27.0	26.5	31.3	15.4	18.8	14.3	16.7	18.2	23.1
Grade 9-11	50.7	52.1	49.3	50.7	53.5	46.8	12.2	11.6	15.0	15.9	11.4	18.9
High School Diploma	79.4	78.5	79.7	81.0	81.0	72.9	3.8	-	-	3.7	-	8.5
Other Cert./Diploma	86.2	87.6	86.5	88.0	86.7	85.2	3.6	2.3	4.9	3.9	4.0	6.3
University Degree	94.2	92.7	93.2	93.2	93.0	93.5	-	-	-	-	-	-

In 2006, over two-thirds (67%) of residents 15 years of age and older in the Northwest Territories had a high school diploma or higher, this figure has been relatively constant between 2001 and 2006. Employment rates continued to be significantly higher for those with higher levels of education. Just 34.4% of persons with less than grade 9 were working in 2006. This compared to an employment rate of 79.4% with a high school diploma, 86.2% with a trades or college certificate or diploma, and 94.2% with a university degree.

Other employment rate trends over the 2001 to 2006 period show that rates rose for both men and women as well as for each age group.

Table 5 *Share of Total Employment, by Selected Characteristics
Northwest Territories, 2002- 2006*

	2006	(%)	2005	(%)	2004	(%)	2003	(%)	2002	(%)
Employed Persons	22,800	100.0	22,700	100.0	21,900	100.0	21,100	100.0	21,100	100.0
Full-Time	20,700	90.8	20,100	88.5	19,500	89.0	18,900	89.6	18,700	88.6
Part-Time	2,100	9.2	2,600	11.5	2,300	10.5	2,200	10.4	2,400	11.4
Employees	20,500	89.9	20,700	91.2	19,800	90.4	19,000	90.0	19,200	91.0
Public	9,500	41.7	9,000	39.6	8,600	39.3	8,200	38.9	8,400	39.8
Private	11,000	48.2	11,700	51.5	11,200	51.1	10,800	51.2	10,800	51.2
Self-Employed	2,300	10.1	2,000	8.8	2,100	9.6	2,100	10.0	1,900	9.0
Goods Producing	4,000	17.5	4,500	19.8	4,100	18.7	3,600	17.1	3,300	15.6
Service Producing	18,800	82.5	18,100	79.7	17,800	81.3	17,500	82.9	17,800	84.4

Examining the share of total employment by selected characteristics indicates that 90.8% of employment is full-time in the Northwest Territories, while part-time employment accounts for 9.2% (Table 5). NWT employment by sector showed 41.7% in the public sector and 48.2% in the private sector, while 10.1% were self-employed. In the NWT, most persons 15 years of age and over are working in the service industry (82.5%), while goods producing industries, like mining and construction, represented 17.5% of total employment.

Table 6 *Share (%) of Employed Persons, by Selected Industries
Northwest Territories, 2001- 2006*

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
All Industries	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Goods Producing Sector	17.5	19.8	18.7	17.1	15.6	14.9
Forest, Fish, Mine, Oil & Gas	8.3	9.3	8.7	7.6	7.1	7.0
Construction	7.0	7.9	8.2	7.6	6.2	6.5
Manufacturing	0.9	0.9	-	0.9	1.4	-
Utilities	1.3	1.3	0.9	0.9	-	1.0
Service Producing Sector	82.5	79.7	81.3	82.9	84.4	85.1
Trade	11.8	11.0	11.0	12.3	11.8	11.4
Transportation & Warehousing	7.9	9.7	10.0	9.5	8.5	7.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.3	4.3	5.0
Profess. Scientific & Tech Services	4.8	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.5
Business, Bldg & Other Support Ser.	2.6	2.2	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.0
Information, Culture & Recreation	4.8	3.5	4.1	4.3	3.8	3.0
Accommodation & Food Services	3.9	5.3	5.5	6.2	6.6	6.5
Public Administration	21.9	19.4	20.1	19.0	21.8	23.9
Educational Services	7.5	8.4	7.8	7.1	6.6	8.5
Health Care & Social Services	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.4	11.4	10.4
Other Services	1.8	2.2	2.7	3.3	3.3	2.5

The three largest industries in the NWT are Public Administration, Trade, and Health Care & Social Services, with 21.9%, 11.8% and 11.0% of employed persons working within each industry, respectively. As a percentage, almost four times as many employed persons (21.9% compared to 6.0%) in the NWT work in Public Administration when compared to employed persons in Canada. In 2006, 8.3% of employed persons in the NWT worked in the Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil and Gas industry compared to only 2.0% at the national level for the same year.

The 2001 to 2006 information on the territorial labour market is the result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national labour force survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is rounded to the nearest 100 persons and therefore categories may not sum to the totals. More detailed information on LFS methodology, including definitions, is available from the NWT Bureau of Statistics.

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.stats.gov.nt.ca> or call (867) 873-7147.