

NWT Annual Labour Force Activity - 2008 -

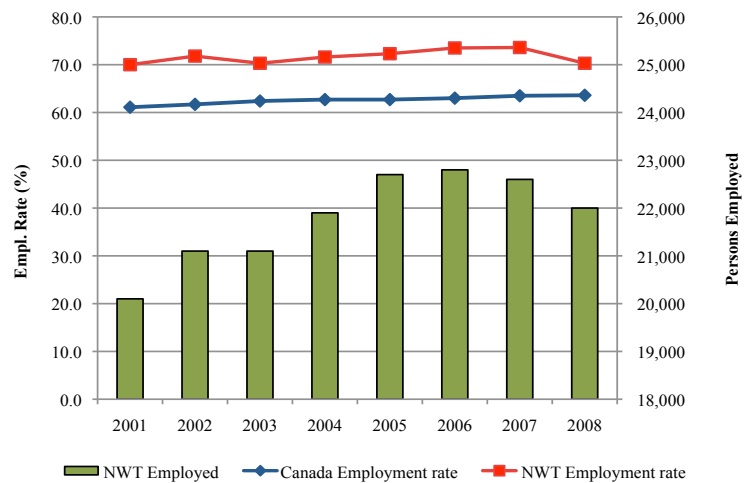
Based on the annual averages for 2008, Statistics Canada estimates that of the 31,300 residents 15 years of age and older in the Northwest Territories, 23,400 persons, on average, were in the labour force (Table 1). This represents an overall participation rate of 74.8%.

**Table 1 Labour Force Activity
Northwest Territories, 2002-2008**

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Population (15 & Over)	31,300	30,700	31,000	31,400	30,600	30,000	29,400
Labour Force	23,400	23,900	24,000	23,900	23,300	22,700	22,400
Employed	22,000	22,600	22,800	22,700	21,900	21,100	21,100
Unemployed	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,600	1,300
Not in the Labour Force	7,900	6,800	7,000	7,400	7,300	7,300	6,900
Participation Rate	74.8	77.9	77.4	76.1	76.1	75.7	76.2
Unemployment Rate	6.0	5.4	5.4	5.4	6.0	7.0	5.8
Employment Rate	70.3	73.6	73.5	72.3	71.6	70.3	71.8

Approximately 22,000 persons were employed in the NWT in 2008, resulting in a 70.3% employment rate. While employment has fallen from 2007, unemployment has only increased by about 100 persons. The lower employment rate in 2008 is attributable mostly to the growth in the number of persons not in the labour force. The NWT employment rate is still 6.7 percentage points higher than Canada's as a whole (Figure 1). NWT employment levels remain slightly above those seen in 2004.

**Figure 1 Employment Rates & Persons
Northwest Territories & Canada, 2001-2008**



Generally, employment rates are a better indicator of labour activity in the NWT, because limited labour markets in smaller communities mean persons that lose jobs may leave the labour force if they are not optimistic regarding other employment opportunities. Discouraged job seekers exiting the labour force may artificially lower the unemployment rate. In 2008, the NWT unemployment rate rose slightly to 6.0%, from a low of 5.4% between 2005 and 2007.

In 2008, the NWT employment rate was the third highest amongst Canadian provinces and territories (Table 2). The NWT also had the sixth lowest unemployment rate in Canada, slightly below the overall Canadian unemployment rate of 6.1%.

**Table 2 Key Measures of Labour Market Activity
Canada, Provinces & Territories, 2008**

	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
Canada	67.8	6.1	63.6
Northwest Territories	74.8	6.0	70.3
Yukon	75.5	5.0	72.2
Nunavut*	67.4	10.7	60.3
British Columbia	66.6	4.6	63.5
Alberta	74.7	3.6	72.0
Saskatchewan	69.7	4.1	66.8
Manitoba	69.6	4.2	66.7
Ontario	68.1	6.5	63.6
Quebec	65.7	7.2	60.9
New Brunswick	64.8	8.6	59.3
Nova Scotia	63.9	7.7	59.0
Prince Edward Island	68.7	10.8	61.3
Newfoundland & Labrador	59.5	13.2	51.7

*Labour force survey information only represents Nunavut's ten largest communities.

**Table 3 Labour Force Activity, by Selected Characteristics
Northwest Territories, 2008**

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the Labour Force	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
All Persons	31,300	23,400	22,000	1,400	7,900	74.8	6.0	70.3
Males	16,100	12,400	11,600	800	3,700	77.0	6.5	72.0
Females	15,300	11,100	10,500	600	4,200	72.5	5.4	68.6
15-24 Yrs.	6,700	3,800	3,200	600	3,000	56.7	15.8	47.8
25-44 Yrs.	12,300	10,800	10,300	500	1,500	87.8	4.6	83.7
45 Yrs. & Over	12,400	8,900	8,600	300	3,500	71.8	3.4	69.4
Aboriginal	13,800	8,100	7,100	1,100	5,700	58.7	13.6	51.4
Non-Aboriginal	17,500	15,300	15,000	300	2,200	87.4	2.0	85.7
Yellowknife	15,900	13,500	13,000	500	2,400	84.9	3.7	81.8
Other NWT Comm.	15,500	9,900	9,000	900	5,600	63.9	9.1	58.1
Less than Grade 9	3,700	1,300	1,100	200	2,400	35.1	15.4	29.7
Grade 9-11	7,100	4,200	3,700	600	2,900	59.2	14.3	52.1
High School Diploma	6,100	4,900	4,600	-	1,200	80.3	-	75.4
Other Cert./Diploma	9,000	8,000	7,600	300	1,000	88.9	3.8	84.4
University Degree	5,400	5,000	5,000	-	300	92.6	-	92.6

In 2008, NWT employment rates were higher among males compared with females (Table 3); however, the difference was 3.4 percentage points compared with Canada where the male employment rate was 8.8 percentage points higher than for females. Employment rate trends from 2001 to 2008 show rates rose for women and fell slightly among men, narrowing the employment gap.

In 2008, the employment rate was highest for the 25 to 44 age group at 83.7%; that age group also experienced the biggest fall in employment rate from 2007 of 3.4 percentage points. In 2008, the employment rate for aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons was 51.4% and 85.7%, respectively. Significant differences in unemployment rates also exist. Aboriginal unemployment stood at 13.6%, while the non-aboriginal rate was only 2.0%. Aboriginal employment rates are at the lowest level they have been over the past six years (Table 4).

Geographically, Statistics Canada only reports data for Yellowknife and 'other NWT communities'. Yellowknife's employment rate decreased from its peak in 2007 to 81.8% in 2008. The employment rate for the other NWT communities decreased by 4.0 percentage points to its lowest rate since data collection began in 2001.

Table 4 *Employment Rate, by Selected Characteristics
Northwest Territories, 2003-2008*

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Northwest Territories	70.3	73.6	73.5	72.3	71.6	70.3
Males	72.0	74.8	75.6	73.8	74.2	71.8
Females	68.6	71.8	71.3	70.7	68.0	68.8
15-24 Yrs.	47.8	50.0	50.7	51.5	49.2	51.6
25-44 Yrs.	83.7	87.1	85.7	82.7	82.1	80.3
45 Yrs. & Over	69.4	72.6	73.5	72.3	72.0	68.7
Aboriginal	51.4	55.3	55.3	55.1	53.3	52.0
Non-Aboriginal	85.7	86.9	86.5	83.4	83.7	83.4
Yellowknife	81.8	83.4	82.4	82.0	80.8	82.1
Other NWT Communities	58.1	62.1	63.4	62.8	63.1	60.0
Less than Grade 9	29.7	30.0	35.5	36.8	34.3	27.0
Grade 9-11	52.1	54.3	50.7	52.1	49.3	50.7
High School Diploma	75.4	80.6	79.4	78.5	79.7	81.0
Other Cert./Diploma	84.4	88.2	86.2	87.6	86.5	86.7
University Degree	92.6	92.2	94.2	92.7	93.2	90.9

Education levels continue to influence employment rates with just 29.7% of persons with less than grade 9 working in 2008. This compared to an employment rate of 75.4% for those with a high school diploma, 84.4% for those with a trades or college certificate or diploma, and 92.6% for those with a university degree. In 2008, the employment rate rose only for those persons with a university degree, and fell for all other levels of education.

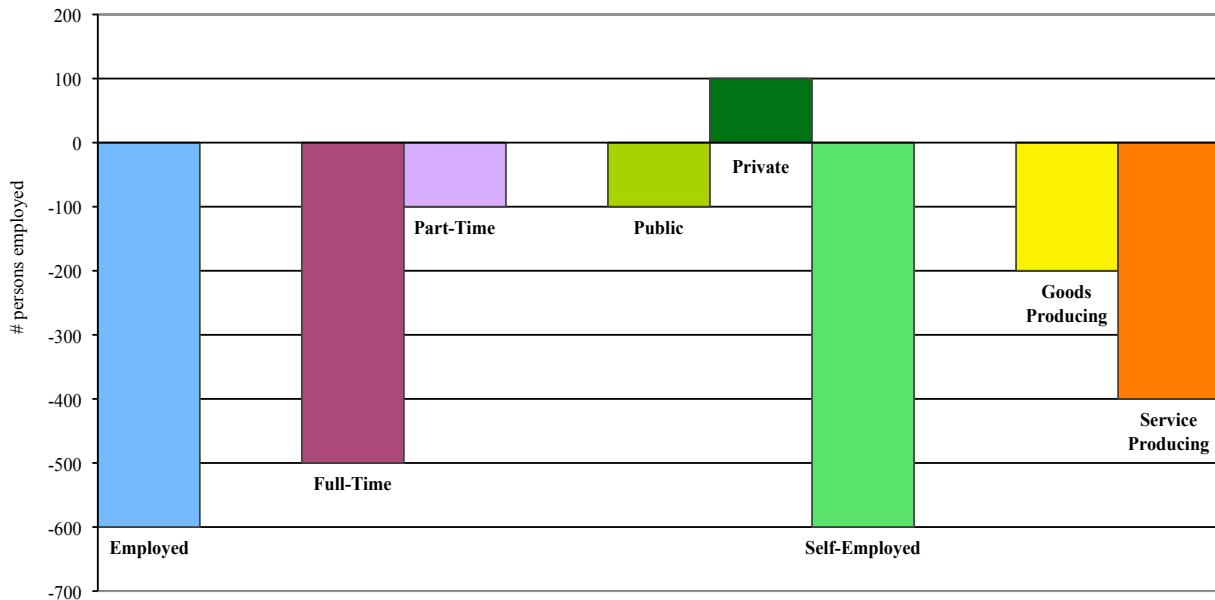
Examining the share of total employment by selected characteristics for 2008 shows that 90.9% of employment was full-time in the NWT (Table 5). NWT employment by class of worker saw 41.4% public employees, 49.5% private employees and 9.1% self-employed. Most persons employed in the NWT are working in service producing industries (80.9%), while goods producing industries, like mining and construction, represent 19.1% of total employment. The goods producing sector has substantially increased its share of total employment over the last eight years, from 14.9% to 19.1%.

Table 5 *Share of Total Employment, by Selected Characteristics Northwest Territories, 2004-2008*

	2008	(%)	2007	(%)	2006	(%)	2005	(%)	2004	(%)
Employed Persons	22,000	100.0	22,600	100.0	22,800	100.0	22,700	100.0	21,900	100.0
Full-Time	20,000	90.9	20,500	90.7	20,700	90.8	20,100	88.5	19,500	89.0
Part-Time	2,000	9.1	2,100	9.3	2,100	9.2	2,600	11.5	2,300	10.5
Employees	20,000	90.9	20,000	88.5	20,500	89.9	20,700	91.2	19,800	90.4
Public	9,100	41.4	9,200	40.1	9,500	41.7	9,000	39.6	8,600	39.3
Private	10,900	49.5	10,800	47.8	11,000	48.2	11,700	51.5	11,100	51.1
Self-Employed	2,000	9.1	2,600	11.5	2,300	10.1	2,000	8.8	2,100	9.6
Goods Producing	4,200	19.1	4,400	19.5	4,000	17.5	4,500	19.8	4,100	18.7
Service Producing	17,800	80.9	18,200	80.5	18,700	82.5	18,100	79.7	17,800	81.3

Between 2007 and 2008, total employment in the NWT shrunk by 600 persons. Most of the loss occurred in full-time jobs, particularly in Yellowknife where full-time employment decreased by approximately 400 persons. Looking at employment by class of worker shows losses in public employees were offset by gains in private employees, while the greatest fall was seen in self-employed persons, particularly in the service producing industry. Employment losses occurred both in the goods and service producing sectors, the latter experiencing the larger fall (Figure 2).

Figure 2 *Change in Employment by Selected Characteristics from 2007 to 2008 Northwest Territories*



Additional information on employment by detailed industry shows 20.9% of all employed persons in the NWT worked in public administration in 2008 (Table 6). Other large industries include health & social services at 11.8%, forestry, fishing, mining and oil & gas at 10.5%, retail & wholesale trade at 9.5%, and transportation and warehousing at 8.2%.

Table 6 *Percent of Employed Persons, by Selected Industries
Northwest Territories, 2002-2008*

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
All Industries	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Goods Producing Sector	19.1	19.5	17.5	19.8	18.7	17.1	15.6
Forest, Fish, Mine, Oil & Gas	10.5	10.2	8.3	9.3	8.7	7.6	7.1
Construction	6.4	7.1	7.0	7.9	8.2	7.6	6.2
Manufacturing	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.9	-	0.9	1.4
Utilities	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.3	0.9	0.9	-
Service Producing Sector	80.9	80.5	82.0	79.7	81.3	82.9	84.4
Retail & Wholesale Trade	9.5	10.6	11.8	11.0	11.0	12.3	11.8
Transportation & Warehousing	8.2	8.0	7.9	9.7	10.0	9.5	8.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	4.5	4.0	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.3	4.3
Profess. Scientific & Tech Services	4.5	5.3	4.8	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.8
Business, Blding & Other Support Ser.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.2	1.8	2.4	2.8
Information, Culture & Recreation	3.6	4.4	4.8	3.5	4.1	4.3	3.8
Accommodation & Food Services	5.5	4.4	3.9	5.3	5.5	6.2	6.6
Public Administration	20.9	21.2	21.9	19.4	20.1	19.0	21.8
Educational Services	5.9	6.2	7.5	8.4	7.8	7.1	6.6
Health Care & Social Services	11.8	11.5	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.4	11.4
Other Services	3.2	2.7	1.8	2.2	2.7	3.3	3.3

Data presented for the Northwest Territories is rounded to the nearest 100 persons and therefore categories may not sum to the totals. Annual averages are from Statistics Canada's national monthly labour force survey (LFS). More detailed information on LFS methodology, including definitions, is available from the NWT Bureau of Statistics at <http://www.stats.gov.nt.ca> or (867) 873-7147.