



Labour Market Bulletin

Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon

April 2016



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for all three of Canada's territories, including the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon.

OVERVIEW

Employment

The combined employment of Northwest Territories (NWT), Nunavut and Yukon increased 0.7% in April, meaning 400 more people were employed than in the previous month. This change reflects increases both in the number of people working full-time (+200) and in the number of people working part-time (+200). Employment is higher in Nunavut and Northwest Territories on a monthly basis, while employment levels in Yukon are unchanged.

On a year-over-year basis, employment levels in the combined territories advanced 3.0%, meaning 1,600 more people were employed in April 2016 than in April 2015. The number of employed people increased on an annual basis both in Nunavut (+5.6%) and in Northwest Territories (+4.2%). Yukon was the only territory to see an employment decline over the past year, with the number of people working falling by 0.5%.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the combined territories decreased for a fourth consecutive month, dropping to 8.8% in April. On a year-over-year basis, the unemployment rate decreased both in Yukon and Northwest Territories, while Nunavut's unemployment rate increased 2.5 percentage points to 15.4%.

For the combined territories, the unemployment rate for youth (aged 15 to 24 Years) was 18.5% on the month, a decrease of 0.7 percentage points from March. However, the youth unemployment rate is still up slightly on a year-over-year basis (+0.6 percentage points).

Compared to last April, the unemployment rate for young women is up 1.4 percentage points to reach 11.9%, while the unemployment rate for young men increased 0.6 percentage points to 25.6% over the year. By far the most striking figure is the unemployment rate for young men in Northwest Territories, which reached 27.3% in April 2016.

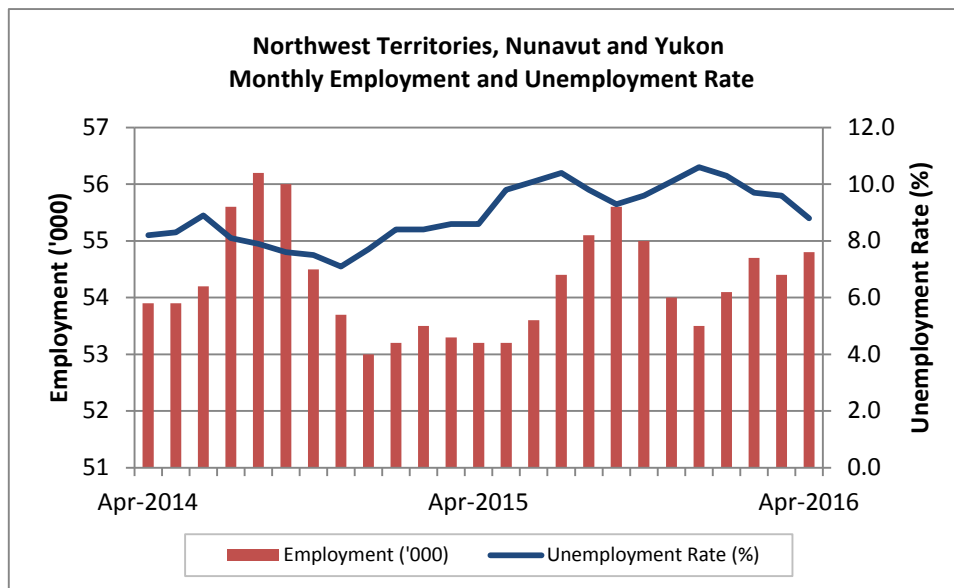
Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon* Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	April 2016	March 2016	April 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	84.7	84.6	83.5	0.1	0.1	1.2	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	60.0	60.2	58.2	-0.2	-0.3	1.8	3.1
Employment ('000)	54.8	54.4	53.2	0.4	0.7	1.6	3.0
Full-Time ('000)	47.2	47.0	46.7	0.2	0.4	0.5	1.1
Part-Time ('000)	7.5	7.3	6.5	0.2	2.7	1.0	15.4
Unemployment ('000)	5.3	5.8	5.0	-0.5	-8.6	0.3	6.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.8	9.6	8.6	-0.8	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	70.8	71.2	69.7	-0.4	-	1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	64.7	64.3	63.7	0.4	-	1.0	-

* Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



**Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon* Monthly Unemployment Rates,
by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	April 2016	March 2016	April 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	8.8	9.6	8.6	-0.8	0.2
25 years and over	7.3	8.4	7.1	-1.1	0.2
Men - 25 years and over	9.6	11.3	8.8	-1.7	0.8
Women - 25 years and over	4.9	5.2	5.0	-0.3	-0.1
15 to 24 years	18.5	19.2	17.9	-0.7	0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	25.6	23.7	25.0	1.9	0.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.9	15.0	10.5	-3.1	1.4

* Combined data - three month moving average

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the goods-producing sector increased 300 in April, up 3.9% from the previous month. All of these employment gains came in the construction industry. This upward trend is expected to continue as many construction projects are scheduled to start this summer. These projects include Yukon's new fire hall in Carcross, Northwest Territories' Ekati mine expansion, and Nunavut's Agnico Eagles Mine's all-weather road between Meadowbank Mine and Amaruq Mine.

Year-over-year, the goods sector saw employment rise 8.1% (+600). Employment in mining grew by 4.8% on the year, while construction employment increased considerably, up 7.5% compared to April 2015. In the medium-term, the goods-producing sector is expected to see some growth, driven by major mining and construction projects scheduled to begin in the next few years. Moreover, funding from all levels of government for infrastructure projects such as roads, community facilities, hospitals and airports will help to support growth in the construction industry.

Employment in the services-producing sector also gained ground in April, reaching 46,900 - an increase of 0.6% over the previous month. Employment growth occurred in several large industry groups within the services sector, including: health care and social assistance, finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, and professional, scientific and technical services.

On a year-over-year basis, the number of people employment in the services-producing sector increased 2.4%. Notable employment gains over the period were in health care and social assistance (+1,200), accommodation and food services (+1,000) and educational services (+400).

Looking ahead, the services-producing sector is expected to see steady growth over the next few years as new construction and mining projects create employment opportunities for the transportation and warehousing, and the professional scientific and technical services industries. Public administration, which accounts for a large share of employment in the territories (22%), should also see positive growth the next few years as the need for government services increases.

Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon* Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	April 2016	March 2016	April 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	54.7	54.4	53.2	0.3	0.6	1.5	2.8
Goods-producing sector	8.0	7.7	7.4	0.3	3.9	0.6	8.1
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.2	2.4	2.1	-0.2	-8.3	0.1	4.8
Utilities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	4.3	4.0	4.0	0.3	7.5	0.3	7.5
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services-producing sector	46.9	46.6	45.8	0.3	0.6	1.1	2.4
Trade	4.9	5.5	5.5	-0.6	-10.9	-0.6	-10.9
Transportation and warehousing	2.8	3.1	3.0	-0.3	-9.7	-0.2	-6.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.0	1.7	2.5	0.3	17.6	-0.5	-20.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	2.5	2.2	2.6	0.3	13.6	-0.1	-3.8
Business, building and other support services	1.1	1.2	1.4	-0.1	-8.3	-0.3	-21.4
Educational services	6.0	6.1	5.6	-0.1	-1.6	0.4	7.1
Health care and social assistance	7.5	7.2	6.3	0.3	4.2	1.2	19.0
Information, culture and recreation	2.1	2.1	2.5	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-16.0
Accommodation and food services	3.6	3.4	2.6	0.2	5.9	1.0	38.5
Other services	2.1	2.2	1.6	-0.1	-4.5	0.5	31.3
Public administration	12.2	12.1	12.5	0.1	0.8	-0.3	-2.4

* Combined data — three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Yukon

Employment in Yukon was unchanged on a monthly basis in April but declined marginally on a yearly basis (-0.5%). This decline is due to ongoing challenges in the territory's mining industry, which saw production and employment cutbacks at the Capstone Mining's Minto copper mine and the shutdown of Yukon Zinc's Wolverine Mine over the past year. In fact, employment in Yukon's mining industry decreased 40% over the year, while employment in transportation and warehousing dropped 25%.

Nevertheless, the territory should experience employment growth in construction over the medium-term. Construction projects such as the recently-announced Robert Campbell Highway and Alaska Highway expansion, the new Save-on-Foods store in Whitehorse and the Whistle Bend affordable housing development should generate employment opportunities for the territory over the next few years.

Northwest Territories

The number of people employed in Northwest Territories increased for the fourth consecutive month in April, up 0.4% to 22,500 month-over-month. Employment growth is due entirely to gains in the services-producing sector (+1.6%), while employment in the goods-producing sector decreased 2.5%.

On a yearly basis, employment in the territory is up 4.2% (+900). Employment advanced in several key industries including accommodation and food services, healthcare and social assistance, construction, and public administration. However, slumping commodity prices still pose a challenge for Northwest Territories. Mine closures last year are having a noticeable impact on NWT's economy. According to the Conference Board of Canada, the territory's gross domestic product (GDP) will increase by a mere 0.7% in 2016 – the lowest growth forecast among all three territories.¹

Nunavut

The number of people employed in Nunavut reached 13,300 in April, an increase of 200 compared to the previous month. Job growth is due entirely to gains in the goods-producing sector. Year-over-year, Nunavut posted the largest annual employment increase among the three territories (+5.6%). Employment in Nunavut's services-producing sector is up 5.4%, while employment in the goods-producing sector rose by 7.1%.

Nunavut's short-term economic fortunes are expected to be better than those of its two territorial counterparts. Construction activity is expected to pick up thanks to a number of private and public construction projects, including the recently-announced \$20 million expansion of Nunavut Arctic College's Iqaluit campus and the expansion of an open mine pit at Agnico Eagle Mines' Meadowbank site. In addition, planned projects such as a new \$84 million deep water port in Iqaluit and the Meliadine gold mine development are expected to create plenty of jobs for the territory in the medium-term.

Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2016 ('000)	April 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2016 (%)	April 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Territories*	54.8	53.2	3.0	8.8	8.6	0.2
Northwest Territories	22.5	21.6	4.2	6.6	6.9	-0.3
Nunavut	13.3	12.6	5.6	15.4	12.9	2.5
Yukon	18.9	19.0	-0.5	5.9	7.3	-1.4

* Combined data — three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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¹ Conference Board of Canada (CBOC) Territorial Outlook: Economic Forecast Winter 2016