



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon

October 2019



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

There were 57,300 people employed in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut as of October 2019, representing a decrease of 1.5% (-900) from September. Employment levels in Northwest Territories and Yukon were lower on the month, while employment in Nunavut increased slightly.

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the Territories advanced 0.9% (+500). The number of people employed is up both in Nunavut (+1.4%) and in Yukon (+2.4%), while the Northwest Territories saw employment decline over the past year (-0.9%).

#### Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the combined Territories was unchanged on a monthly basis. Year-over-year, the unemployment rate fell both in Nunavut and in Yukon, declining to 12.9% and 3.1% respectively. Meanwhile, the Northwest Territories' unemployment rate increased 2.0 percentage points to 8.1% over the same period.

For the combined Territories, the unemployment rate for youth (15 to 24 years) was 14.1% in October, up 0.3 percentage points from October 2018. The unemployment rate for young men reached 19.0% in October, 2.7 percentage points higher than a year earlier. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young women fell 2.5 percentage points to 8.3% over the same period.

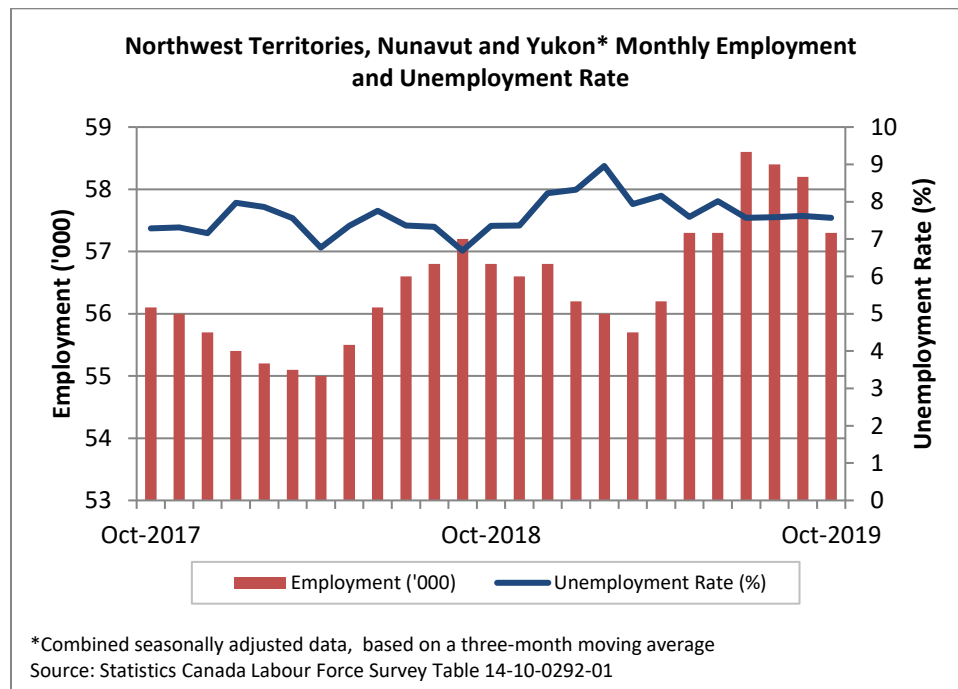
**Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon\* Monthly Labour Force Statistics**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	88.4	88.4	87.3	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	62.1	63.0	61.2	-0.9	-1.4	0.9	1.5
Employment ('000)	57.3	58.2	56.8	-0.9	-1.5	0.5	0.9
Unemployment ('000)	4.7	4.8	4.5	-0.1	-2.1	0.2	4.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.6	7.6	7.4	0.0	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	70.2	71.3	70.1	-1.1	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	64.8	65.8	65.1	-1.0	-	-0.3	-

\*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey Table 14-10-0292-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0100)



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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	October 2019 (%)	October 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.6	7.2	0.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.7	6.2	0.5
Men - 25 years and over	7.1	7.5	-0.4
Women - 25 years and over	6.2	4.7	1.5
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.1	13.8	0.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	19.0	16.3	2.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.3	10.8	-2.5

*\*Combined data - three month moving average*

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – ESDC custom table*

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The number of people in the goods-producing sector was unchanged on an annual basis. Employment losses in the resource extraction industry (forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas) were offset by gains in the construction and manufacturing industries.

Looking ahead, the goods-producing sector should see some growth over the short- and medium-term. Projects such as the \$157 million North Klondike Highway improvement project in Yukon,<sup>1</sup> the \$150 million Mike Zubko Airport expansion project<sup>2</sup> in Northwest Territories, and construction of the \$74 million Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre in Nunavut should create a significant number of job opportunities across the North.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, construction recently began on Nunavut Arctic College's new \$40 million Kitikmeot Campus in Cambridge Bay. The college has indicated that the new building will help to consolidate and expand the existing campus to meet demand for college programs within the Kitikmeot region. The new facility is expected to be complete in 2020.<sup>4</sup>

There were 48,500 people employed in the services-producing sector in October. Several key industries within the sector saw significant employment gains over the year including, professional, scientific and technical services; trade; and public administration.

In the near-term, industries such as professional, scientific and technical services; transportation and warehousing; and business, building and other support services should see growth, buoyed by increasing federal and territorial funding commitments. For example, the federal government earmarked \$7.4 million in September to NAV Canada for a project that will improve safety and reliability for aircraft landings in airports across the three territories. The project will also see a new Global Navigation Satellite System implemented to improve access to northern aerodromes in poor weather conditions. The new initiative is expected to create 100 jobs during assessment and implementation.<sup>5</sup>

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data ('000)	October 2019	October 2018	Yearly Variation	
			Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	57.1	57.1	0.0	0.0
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	8.5	8.5	0.0	0.0
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	--
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.4	2.9	-0.5	-17.2
Utilities	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Construction	4.4	4.0	0.4	10.0
Manufacturing	0.6	0.5	0.1	20.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	48.5	48.6	-0.1	-0.2
Trade	7.1	6.6	0.5	7.6
Transportation and warehousing	3.4	3.3	0.1	3.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	2.4	1.8	0.6	33.3
Business, building and other support services	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Educational services	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0
Health care and social assistance	8.0	8.5	-0.5	-5.9
Information, culture and recreation	2.4	2.8	-0.4	-14.3
Accommodation and food services	2.2	2.8	-0.6	-21.4
Other services	1.7	1.9	-0.2	-10.5
Public administration	13.0	12.7	0.3	2.4

\*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS****Yukon**

The number of people employed in Yukon reached 21,600 in October, an increase of 500 compared to a year ago. Positive employment growth in the territory is likely to continue moving forward as major construction projects will help to support growth. For instance, the federal government announced in September that it is providing \$98.3 million in funding this year towards 16 local infrastructure projects across the territory including fire halls, government buildings and recreation facilities.<sup>6</sup>

The territory's mining sector is also expected to see strong growth over the next few years. U.K.-based Pembridge Resources recently announced that milling operations have restarted at their Minto Mine located 240 kilometres northwest of Whitehorse. Pembridge purchased the copper and gold mine from Capstone Mining Corp in June 2019; the mine was originally placed in care and maintenance in October 2018 due to falling copper prices. Although no specific employment numbers are available for the restart, Pembridge estimated in June that 150 staff would be hired when the mine reaches full capacity.

## Northwest Territories

In October, there were 21,500 people employed in the Northwest Territories, slightly fewer (-200) compared to the same time last year.

There are a number of private and public projects that are either underway or scheduled to begin in the Northwest Territories over the next few years. These projects include the new \$2.2 million Islamic Centre of Yellowknife,<sup>7</sup> the \$9.8 million diesel power plant in Sachs Harbour<sup>8</sup>, and a \$75 million wind farm project near Rankin Inlet.<sup>9</sup>

In September, the federal and Northwest Territories governments announced \$6.8 million in joint funding to construct a new healthcare and wellness facility in Yellowknife. The new Vulnerable Persons Centre is expected to provide better healthcare and temporary shelter for residents, as well as better services in Indigenous healing and wellness.<sup>10</sup>

## Nunavut

Employment in Nunavut increased 1.4% (+200) on a year-over-year basis, with trade and public administration seeing the most significant increases.

Nunavut's mining sector is expected to post strong growth over the medium-term as Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine and Amaruq gold mines both came into production this year.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, construction is underway at the \$540 million Back River gold mine development located in the western Kitikmeot region. The Back River project is estimated to create about 1,600 jobs during construction and 900 mining jobs once operational.<sup>12</sup>

Also, in October, a mine delegation hoping to recruit local workers toured five communities in the western Kitikmeot region. The delegation included representatives from Canadian-based mining company TMAC Resources, Regional Development Corporation, and Kitikmeot Camp Solutions. TMAC, for example, began the tour in Cambridge Bay to discuss current and future job opportunities at its Hope Bay gold mine. Indeed, TMAC plans to expand its Hope Bay gold field operations. The expansion project is expected to create up to 360 construction jobs by 2022, and 820 positions once operational.<sup>13</sup>

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2019 ('000)	October 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2019 (%)	October 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Territories*</b>	57.3	56.8	0.9	7.6	7.4	0.2
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	21.5	21.7	-0.9	8.1	6.1	2.0
<b>Nunavut</b>	14.2	14.0	1.4	12.9	13.4	-0.5
<b>Yukon</b>	21.6	21.1	2.4	3.1	4.1	-1.0

\*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey Table 14-10-0292-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0100)

**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.

**Prepared by:** Labour Market Information (LMI) Directorate, Service Canada, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at: [http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact\\_us.aspx?section=lmi](http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi)

**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2019, all rights reserved

---

<sup>1</sup> Yukon News, North Klondike Highway to get \$157M poured into it, August 1, 2019. <https://www.yukon-news.com/news/north-klondike-highway-to-get-157m-poured-into-it/>

<sup>2</sup> Government of Canada News Release, National Defence to contribute funding for upgrades at Inuvik Airport, September 4, 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2019/09/national-defence-to-contribute-funding-for-upgrades-at-inuvik-airport.html>

<sup>3</sup> Nunatsiaq News, New Iqaluit correctional facility going up, September 5, 2019. <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/new-igaluit-correctional-facility-going-up/>

<sup>4</sup> Nunatsiaq News, Cambridge Bay groundbreaking ushers in new Nunavut Arctic College campus, October 3, 2019. <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/cambridge-bay-ground-breaking-ushers-in-new-nunavut-arctic-college-campus/>

<sup>5</sup> Government of Canada News Release, Government of Canada invests in transportation infrastructure in Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon, August 27, 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-transportation-infrastructure-in-the-northwest-territories-nunavut-and-yukon.html>

<sup>6</sup> Government of Canada, Backgrounder: Yukoners to benefit from 16 local infrastructure projects across the territory, September 4, 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2019/09/backgrounder-yukoners-to-benefit-from-16-local-infrastructure-projects-across-the-territory.html>

<sup>7</sup> My Yellowknife Now, YK Islamic Centre torn down, making room for \$2.2 million build, June 11, 2019. <https://www.myyellowknifenow.com/40588/yk-islamic-centre-torn-down-making-room-for-2-2-million-build/>

<sup>8</sup> CBC News, Sachs Harbour to get new diesel power plant, March 04, 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/sachs-harbour-power-plant-1.5042979>

<sup>9</sup> Nunavut News Online, Sakku signs on for Agnico wind farm, May 31, 2019. <https://nunavutnews.com/kivalliq-news/sakku-signs-on-for-agnico-wind-farm/>

<sup>10</sup> Government of Canada, Better healthcare and wellness for vulnerable populations in Yellowknife, August 30, 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2019/08/better-healthcare-and-wellness-for-vulnerable-populations-in-yellowknife.html>

---

<sup>11</sup> Agnico Eagle News Release, Agnico Eagle Achieves Commercial Production at the Amaruq Satellite Deposit, October 07, 2019. <https://www.agnicoeagle.com/English/investor-relations/news-and-events/news-releases/news-release-details/2019/Agnico-Eagle-Achieves-Commercial-Production-at-the-Amaruq-Satellite-Deposit/default.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Northern Mining News, August 2018. [http://www.miningnorth.com/\\_rsc/site-content/newsletters/2018-09-06\\_Chamber\\_Newsletter\\_Aug\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.miningnorth.com/_rsc/site-content/newsletters/2018-09-06_Chamber_Newsletter_Aug_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Nunatsiaq News, Western Nunavut mine delegation tours region to seek out future employees, October 9, 2019. <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/western-nunavut-mine-delegation-tours-region-to-seek-out-future-employees/>