



Labour Market Bulletin

Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon

August 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 58,400 people working in Yukon, Northwest Territories (NWT) and Nunavut as of August 2019, representing a slight decrease of 0.3% (-200) from July. Employment levels in Yukon were unchanged this month, while Northwest Territories and Nunavut saw decreases of 0.4% and 0.7% respectively.

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the Territories advanced 2.8% (+1,600). The number of people employed is up considerably both in Nunavut (+5.2%) and in Yukon (+2.8%), while employment in Northwest Territories advanced more moderately (+1.4%).

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the combined Territories was unchanged on a monthly basis in August. Year-over-year, Nunavut was the only territory to see its unemployment rate improve, falling 0.2 percentage points to 14.6%. By contrast, Northwest Territories' unemployment rate increased 0.7 percentage points to 7.5%, while the unemployment rate for Yukon was unchanged over the year.

The unemployment rate for youth (15 to 24 years) was 11.5% in August, a decrease of 2.6 percentage points from August 2018. The unemployment rate for young men fell 0.9 percentage points to 13.7% year-over-year, while the unemployment rate for young women decreased considerably – down 2.5 percentage points to 11.1%.

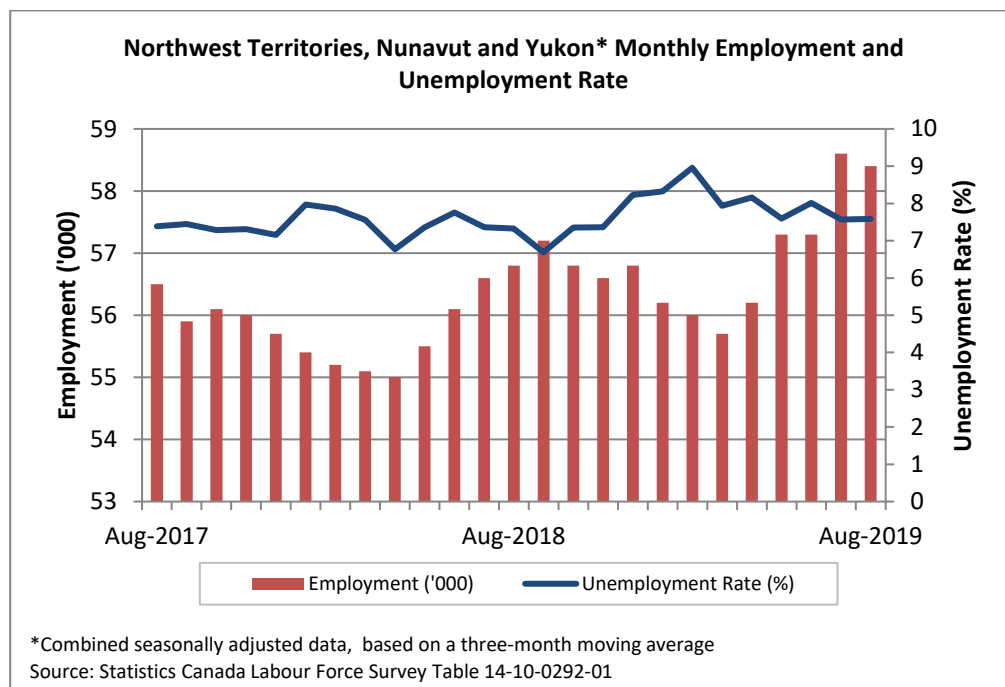
Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon* Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2019	July 2019	August 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	88.2	88.2	87.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	63.3	63.4	61.4	-0.1	-0.2	1.9	3.1
Employment ('000)	58.4	58.6	56.8	-0.2	-0.3	1.6	2.8
Unemployment ('000)	4.8	4.8	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	6.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.6	7.6	7.3	0.0	-	0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	71.8	71.9	70.5	-0.1	-	1.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	66.2	66.4	65.2	-0.2	-	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)



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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	August 2019 (%)	August 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	7.3	7.2	0.1
25 years and over	6.6	5.8	0.8
Men - 25 years and over	7.7	7.2	0.5
Women - 25 years and over	5.4	4.3	1.1
15 to 24 years	11.5	14.1	-2.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.7	14.6	-0.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.1	13.6	-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

There were 9,400 people employed in the goods-producing sector in August, up 3.3% (+300) compared to a year ago. Employment losses in mining and utilities were offset by growing employment in construction and manufacturing over the year.

Looking ahead, the goods-producing sector should continue to see steady growth in the medium-term as large-scale construction and mining remediation projects will help to create plenty of job opportunities across the North. For instance, the federal government recently pledged \$2.2 billion in funding over 15 years to remediate eight of the largest and most contaminated defunct mines in Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The funding – through the Northern Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program – will help start remediation work at these mine sites in 2020-21. These projects are expected to create long-term employment and training opportunities for local residents, along with business opportunities for companies specializing in transportation, construction, engineering, and hazardous material handling.¹

Meanwhile, employment in the services-producing sector increased significantly on a year-over-year basis (+1,500). Over the short-term, industries such as professional, scientific and technical services and business, building and other support services should see growth, buoyed by increasing federal and territorial funding commitments. For example, the federal government has pledged \$55 million in funding to create Inuit-led training and employment programs to support operations of the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area in Nunavut. These initiatives are expected to create marine monitoring and scientific research job opportunities for Inuit in the High Arctic region.² In addition, another \$190 million over seven years will go towards the construction of new small-craft harbours, food-processing facilities, and an Inuit training centre across five communities on Baffin Island in Nunavut.³

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	August 2019	August 2018	Yearly Variation	
			Number	%
Total employed, all industries	59.4	57.7	1.7	2.9
Goods-producing sector	9.4	9.1	0.3	3.3
Agriculture	0.2	0.0	0.2	--
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.7	3.3	-0.6	-18.2
Utilities	0.9	1.0	-0.1	-10.0
Construction	4.7	4.4	0.3	6.8
Manufacturing	0.7	0.2	0.5	250.0
Services-producing sector	50.2	48.7	1.5	3.1
Trade	7.9	6.2	1.7	27.4
Transportation and warehousing	3.5	3.0	0.5	16.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.0	2.2	-0.2	-9.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	2.2	2.1	0.1	4.8
Business, building and other support services	1.3	1.5	-0.2	-13.3
Educational services	4.9	4.5	0.4	8.9
Health care and social assistance	8.2	8.1	0.1	1.2
Information, culture and recreation	2.4	3.2	-0.8	-25.0
Accommodation and food services	2.7	2.9	-0.2	-6.9
Other services	1.7	1.6	0.1	6.2
Public administration	13.2	13.3	-0.1	-0.8

*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 22,000 in August, an increase of 600 positions compared to a year ago. Both the goods-producing and services-producing sectors saw rising employment over the year.

Positive employment growth in both sectors is likely to continue moving forward due to several mining and construction projects underway across the territory. Construction projects include the \$157 million North Klondike Highway improvement project,⁴ the Brewery Creek gold mine project, the \$370 million Eagle Gold Project and the \$320 million Coffee Gold Project. In fact, the Brewery Creek project alone will generate about 180 jobs during the construction and operational phase.⁵

Meanwhile, the Government of Canada is providing \$33 million in funding this year for local infrastructure projects across Yukon through the federal Gas Tax Fund. Projects include upgrades on the Hart Crescent recirculation station in Whitehorse and a new concession building in the City of Dawson.⁶

Northwest Territories

Year-over-year, the number of people employed in Northwest Territories is up 1.4% (+300). Employment losses in the territory's goods-producing sector were offset by gains in the services-producing sector.

Over the short-term, major infrastructure projects are expected to support employment growth in NWT. For instance, the federal and territorial governments recently earmarked a total of \$29 million in funding to build new fuel storage tanks and improve fuel resupply systems across the territory. These projects will ensure year-round access to fuel for residents in several remote communities including Hay River, Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok and Paulatuk.⁷

In addition, the federal government and the NWT Power Corporation are contributing \$50.4 million for three projects aimed at improving and expanding power generation facilities that will provide cleaner and more reliable sources of energy for more residents. These improvement projects include the Taltson Hydroelectric Facility near Fort Smith; the Fort Simpson Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Power Generation project; and the New Diesel Power Plant Facility in Lutsel'k'e.⁸

Nunavut

Employment in Nunavut increased 5.2% (+700) on a year-over-year basis. Several industries saw significant gains, including trade, public administration and educational services.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Nunavut will see strong economic growth over the next few years due to a boom in the mining industry.⁹ Projects such as the \$540 million Back River gold mine development¹⁰ and TMAC Resources Inc.'s Boston and Madrid gold projects should create many job opportunities for the region.¹¹

Moreover, the federal and Nunavut governments recently announced joint funding to build a new addictions and trauma treatment centre in Iqaluit. The Government of Canada is providing \$47.5 million over five years to build the new facility and another \$9.7 million per year to operate the Centre. The territorial government will cover 30% of the remaining building costs. The Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation has also committed \$11.85 million over five years to help train Inuit addictions counsellors for the Centre. The Nunavut Recovery Centre will offer on-the-land healing camps, Inuit-led treatment counselling services, a specialized program to help pregnant women to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and staff housing. Construction is expected to begin in 2021 and the facility could be in operation as early as 2024.¹²

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August 2019 ('000)	August 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August 2019 (%)	August 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Territories*	58.4	56.8	2.8	7.6	7.3	0.3
Northwest Territories	22.2	21.9	1.4	7.5	6.8	0.7
Nunavut	14.2	13.5	5.2	14.6	14.8	-0.2
Yukon	22.0	21.4	2.8	2.7	2.7	0.0

*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.

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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 CBC News, Federal program to target 8 highest-risk abandoned mines in Yukon and N.W.T, August 19, 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/northern-contaminated-sites-program-1.5252182>

² CBC News, With marine conservation area comes \$55M for Inuit communities, PM announces, August 2, 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/trudeau-iiba-tallarutiup-imanga-1.5234149>

³ Nunatsiaq News, Trudeau announces protection for Nunavut's last-ice area, August 1, 2019. <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/trudeau-announces-protection-for-nunavuts-last-ice-area/>

⁴ Government of Canada News Release, Government of Canada invests in transportation infrastructure for North Klondike Highway in the Yukon, July 24, 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-transportation-infrastructure-for-the-north-klondike-highway-in-the-yukon.html>

⁵ CBC News, Brewery Creek mine near Dawson City to reopen after 17-year shutdown, company says, August 27, 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/brewery-creek-mine-reopen-golden-predator-1.5260754>

⁶ Government of Yukon, Building stronger communities across Yukon with the federal Gas Tax Fund, August 29, 2019. <https://yukon.ca/en/news/building-stronger-communities-across-yukon-federal-gas-tax-fund-0>

⁷ CBC News, Federal and N.W.T governments to improve fuel storage capacity in North, August 30, 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/fuel-supply-mitigation-1.5266119>

⁸ My Yellowknife Now, Feds invest \$60 million in NWT energy infrastructure, September 3, 2019. <https://www.myyellowknifenow.com/42343/feds-invest-60-million-in-nwt-energy-infrastructure/>

⁹ Conference Board of Canada, Territorial Outlook Economic Forecast: Summer 2019, July 9, 2019. <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-Library/abstract.aspx?did=10321>

¹⁰ Nunavut News Online, Sabina delays gold mine by a year due to lack of equity investment, March 21, 2019. <https://nunavutnews.com/nunavut-news/sabina-delays-gold-mine-by-a-year-due-to-lack-of-equity/>

¹¹ Nunatsiaq News, Western Nunavut gold mine turns a small profit, May 3, 2019. <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/western-nunavut-gold-mine-turns-a-small-profit/>

¹² CBC News, Nunavut addictions treatment centre planned for Iqaluit, August 19, 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/addictions-treatment-nunavut-funding-1.5250235>