



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon



November 2017

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 trended downward for a second consecutive month in November. The number of people employed in the Territories dropped 1.1% to 55,800 on a month-over-month basis, which can be attributed entirely to a decrease in the number of people working full-time (-1,000). Declining employment is not entirely unexpected though, as the northern economy typically contracts during the winter months.

Year-over-year, employment across the Territories is down 1.2%, representing a decrease of 700 in the number of people employed. Yukon was the only territory to post an increase in employment over the year (+400) due to growth in its services-producing sector. By contrast, the number of people working in Northwest Territories declined by 3.6% (-800), while Nunavut saw a slight drop in employment (-200).

#### Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the combined Territories was essentially flat on a monthly basis, up 0.1 percentage points to 7.2% in November. Year-over-year, the unemployment rate is down across all three territories. Nunavut posted the most significant decline, with its unemployment rate falling 2.4 percentage points to 12.7%.

The youth (15 to 24 years) unemployment rate for the combined Territories was 13.9% in November, representing a decrease of 0.4 percentage points from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, the unemployment rate for this age group is down 1.6 percentage points. The unemployment rate for young men

fell considerably over the year, down 4.6 percentage points to 14.0%. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young women decreased 1.4 percentage points to 13.9%.

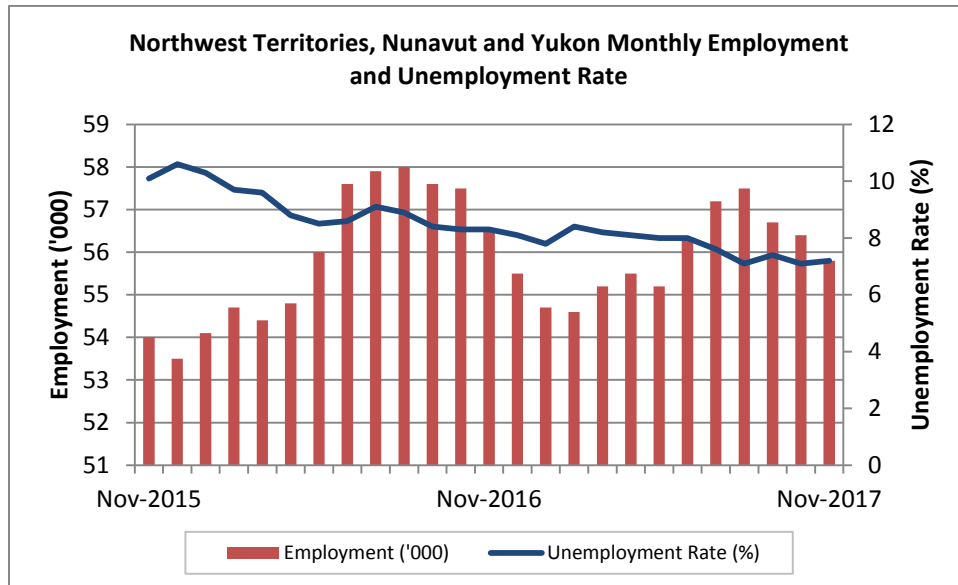
**Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon\* Monthly Labour Force Statistics**

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	November 2017	October 2017	November 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	85.9	85.7	85.1	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.9
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	60.1	60.7	61.6	-0.6	-1.0	-1.5	-2.4
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	55.8	56.4	56.5	-0.6	-1.1	-0.7	-1.2
Full-Time ('000)	47.7	48.7	48.6	-1.0	-2.1	-0.9	-1.9
Part-Time ('000)	8.2	7.7	7.9	0.5	6.5	0.3	3.8
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	4.3	4.3	5.1	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	7.2	7.1	8.3	0.1	-	-1.1	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	70.0	70.8	72.4	-0.8	-	-2.4	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	65.0	65.8	66.4	-0.8	-	-1.4	-

\*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	November 2017 (%)	October 2017 (%)	November 2016 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.2	7.1	8.3	0.1	-1.1
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.1	5.9	7.1	0.2	-1.0
Men - 25 years and over	7.7	6.6	8.4	1.1	-0.7
Women - 25 years and over	4.8	5.2	5.8	-0.4	-1.0
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	13.9	14.3	15.5	-0.4	-1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.0	15.2	18.6	-1.2	-4.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.9	15.8	12.5	-1.9	1.4

\*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Employment in the goods-producing sector fell for a second consecutive month in November, decreasing by 5.3% from October. This setback is due to employment losses in construction (-300) and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-200).

On an annual basis, employment in the goods-producing sector is down 7.7%, meaning 600 fewer people were employed in November compared to the same time last year. Employment declined in almost all goods-sector industries during the past year, with the exception of utilities. The mining and construction industries posted the most significant employment losses, with employment down 16.0% and 7.3% respectively.

Despite these recent losses, the goods-producing sector should see some growth over the medium-term as large-scale mining development projects and public infrastructure investment will help to generate new job opportunities. For example, the federal government announced a 10-year, \$40 billion national housing strategy that aims to see more affordable housing built across the country.<sup>1</sup> The plan earmarks \$300 million for the North, which includes \$240 million for Nunavut, \$36 million for Northwest Territories and \$24 million for Yukon.<sup>2</sup> This initiative is expected to create construction jobs for local residents and provide opportunities for local trades' apprentices.

There were 48,600 people employed in the services-producing sector in November, slightly fewer than in October (-0.4%). Public administration saw the largest decline (-400), while employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing fell 300.

Year-over-year, the number of people employed in the services-sector remains unchanged. Employment losses in public administration (-600) and professional, scientific and technical services (-400) were offset by gains in the trade industry (+1,000).

Moving forward, the outlook for the services-producing sector is positive over the next few years. With major construction and mining exploration projects underway across the three territories, the transportation and warehousing industry, as well as the trade industry, are expected to see more growth over the medium-term.

These projects include the \$1.2 billion Meliadine gold mines development, the new \$24 million Fort Smith female correctional facility in NWT, and the \$72 million Whitehorse General Hospital expansion project.

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	November 2017	October 2017	November 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	55.9	56.3	56.5	-0.4	-0.7	-0.6	-1.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	7.2	7.6	7.8	-0.4	-5.3	-0.6	-7.7
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.1	2.3	2.5	-0.2	-8.7	-0.4	-16.0
Utilities	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	33.3
Construction	3.8	4.1	4.1	-0.3	-7.3	-0.3	-7.3
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	48.6	48.8	48.6	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.0
Trade	7.1	6.6	6.1	0.5	7.6	1.0	16.4
Transportation and warehousing	3.3	3.3	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	10.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.2	2.5	2.6	-0.3	-12.0	-0.4	-15.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	2.1	2.3	2.5	-0.2	-8.7	-0.4	-16.0
Business, building and other support services	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	16.7
Educational services	5.4	5.2	5.6	0.2	3.8	-0.2	-3.6
Health care and social assistance	7.3	7.2	7.0	0.1	1.4	0.3	4.3
Information, culture and recreation	2.6	2.5	2.5	0.1	4.0	0.1	4.0
Accommodation and food services	3.5	3.6	3.4	-0.1	-2.8	0.1	2.9
Other services	1.7	1.7	2.1	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-19.0
Public administration	12.2	12.6	12.8	-0.4	-3.2	-0.6	-4.7

\*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

### Yukon

Yukon employment fell 0.9% to 21,100 in November. Both the goods-producing and services-producing sectors suffered employment losses over the month, down 3.7% and 1.1% respectively. Year-over-year, the number of people employed increased 1.9% (+400). Job gains over the past year are due entirely to growth in the services-producing sector (+4.0%), with trade, business, building and other support services and educational services seeing the largest increases.

Looking ahead, territorial employment is anticipated to advance over the short-term as a number of private and public construction projects are already underway or scheduled to start over the next two years. These projects include the \$12.7 million Nares River Bridge replacement project in Carcross, the \$45 million municipal operations building in Whitehorse, and the \$317 million Goldcorp Inc.'s Coffee Gold Project.

In addition, the City of Whitehorse has approved rezoning for a parcel of land that will allow development of Phase 5 of the Whistle Bend affordable housing subdivision. Once built, the new development will have 310 units, housing approximately 745 residents.<sup>3</sup> According to the Yukon Housing Corporation, the number of people waiting for social housing has jumped 106% - from 105 in July 2016 to 217 in September of this year, with over 85% of applicants from Whitehorse.<sup>4</sup>

### **Northwest Territories**

Employment in Northwest Territories dropped 2.3% to 21,300 in November, while its unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 6.6%. On a yearly basis, employment in the territory is down 3.6% (-800). Both the goods-producing and services-producing sectors saw declines over the year, down 3.1% and 3.2% respectively.

Despite these recent job losses, the territory's economic fortunes are expected to improve over the medium-term. Projects such as the \$300 million Stanton Territorial Hospital renewal project, the \$154 million Pine Point zinc mine redevelopment, and the \$40 million TerraX Mineral's Yellowknife City Gold project should provide support for the construction-related industries.

Furthermore, the federal government is providing \$7.4 million in funding to the Mine Training Society to train more Indigenous people in the mining sector across 18 communities in NWT and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut.<sup>5</sup> The society is expected to train up to 1,000 Indigenous residents between 2017 and 2020, including 300 women and 400 youth through the new Grey to Gold initiative.<sup>6</sup> Participants in this project will receive pre-employment training in a classroom setting, as well as hands-on training that will equip them for mining-related jobs.

### **Nunavut**

The number of people employed in Nunavut reached 13,500 in November, an increase of 300 compared to the previous month. Year-over-year employment in the territory is down 1.5% (-200), with both the goods-producing and the services-producing sectors posting job losses.

Moving forward, Nunavut's short-term economic outlook is optimistic. Construction activity is anticipated to pick up as projects such as the \$85 million deep sea port project in Iqaluit, the \$130 million Nanisivik Naval Facility near the Arctic Bay, and the \$400 million Sabine Gold and Silver Corp.'s Black River mine development are expected to create many job opportunities for the territory.

Moreover, the new Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) in Cambridge Bay is nearing completion. The \$250 million station will accommodate Canadian and international scientists.<sup>7</sup> The facility is expected to cost \$26.5 million per year to operate and will create approximately 50 jobs.<sup>8</sup> The project has also led to local infrastructure improvements including a water treatment system, tank farm and airport expansion.

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	November 2017 ('000)	November 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	November 2017 (%)	November 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Territories*</b>	55.8	56.5	-1.2	7.2	8.3	-1.1
Northwest Territories	21.3	22.1	-3.6	6.6	6.8	-0.2
Nunavut	13.5	13.7	-1.5	12.7	15.1	-2.4
Yukon	21.1	20.7	1.9	3.7	5.0	-1.3

\*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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> CBC News, Federal housing strategy raises hopes in the North, but details still sparse, Nov. 24, 2017. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nwt-housing-strategy-reaction-1.4418296>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Yukon News, Phase 5 of Whistle Bend a go, Nov. 20, 2017. <http://www.yukon-news.com/news/phase-5-of-whistle-bend-a-go/>

<sup>4</sup> Yukon News, Wait list for Yukon subsidized housing doubles, Nov. 2, 2017. <http://www.yukon-news.com/news/wait-list-for-yukon-subsidized-housing-doubles/>

<sup>5</sup> CBC News, Federal gov't gives \$7.4M to Mine Training Society to train Indigenous people, Oct. 13, 2017. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/mine-training-society-funding-1.4353322>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Nunatsiaq Online, CHARS steamrolls into Nunavut's Cambridge Bay, Oct. 30, 2017. [http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674chars\\_steamrolls\\_into\\_nunavuts\\_cambridge\\_bay/](http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674chars_steamrolls_into_nunavuts_cambridge_bay/)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid