



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon

February 2018



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 54,700 people working in Northwest Territories (NWT), Nunavut and Yukon as of February 2018, representing a decrease of 0.4% (-200) from January. This drop can be attributed entirely to a decline in the number of people working part-time. Employment levels in both Northwest Territories and Yukon were unchanged this month, while the number of people employed in Nunavut dropped 1.5%.

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the Territories ticked up a marginal 0.2% (+100). However, Yukon was the only territory to have positive employment growth over the year, with the number of people employed increased by 1.5%. Employment levels in Nunavut were unchanged over the year, while the number of people employed in Northwest Territories dropped 0.9%.

#### Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the combined Territories declined 0.1 percentage points to 7.9% from January to February 2018. In comparison to last year, the unemployment rate in February 2017 and February 2018 has decreased 0.5 percentage points.

Northwest Territories was the only territory to record an increase in its unemployment rate year-over-year, up 1.3 percentage points to 8.3%. By contrast, Nunavut's unemployment rate declined 1.1 percentage points to 14.3%. Similarly, the Yukon's unemployment rate decreased 1.9 percentage points to 2.8% over 2017.

For the combined Territories, the unemployment rate for youth (15 to 24 years) was 16.0% in February 2018 or an increase of 0.2 percentage points from January. On an annual basis, the combined Territories' youth

unemployment rate decreased 1.5 percentage points. In this period, the youth unemployment rate for young men declined 6.4 percentage points to 16.7%. At the same time, the unemployment rate for young women decreased 0.6 percentage points to 12.8%.

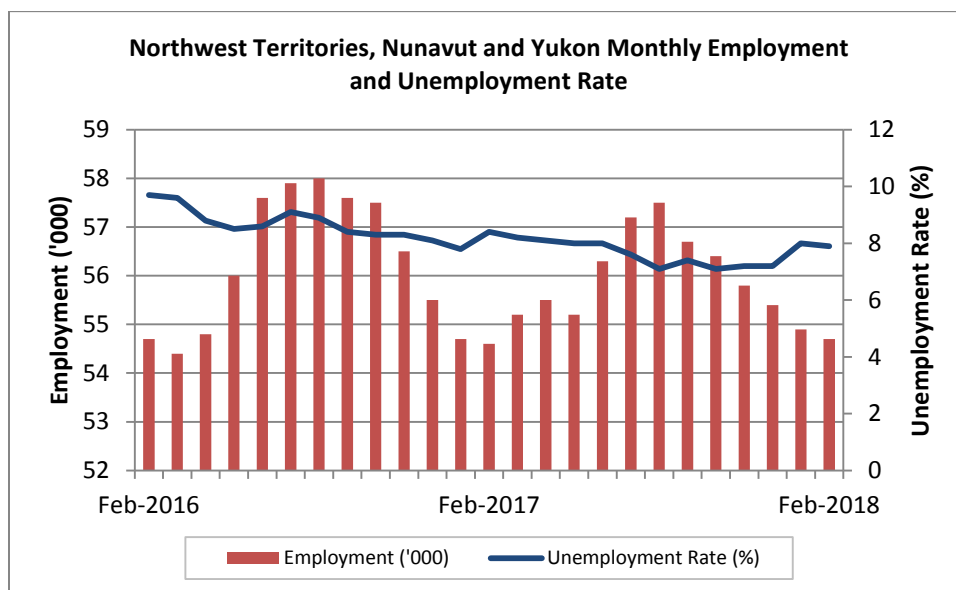
**Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon\* Monthly Labour Force Statistics**

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	86.1	86.1	85.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.3
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	59.4	59.8	59.7	-0.4	-0.7	-0.3	-0.5
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	54.7	54.9	54.6	-0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.2
Full-Time ('000)	46.7	46.7	45.8	0.0	0.0	0.9	2.0
Part-Time ('000)	8.0	8.3	8.9	-0.3	-3.6	-0.9	-10.1
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	4.7	4.8	5.0	-0.1	-2.1	-0.3	-6.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	7.9	8.0	8.4	-0.1	-	-0.5	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	69.0	69.5	70.2	-0.5	-	-1.2	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	63.5	63.8	64.2	-0.3	-	-0.7	-

\*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	February 2018 (%)	January 2018 (%)	February 2017 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.9	8.0	8.4	-0.1	-0.5
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.7	6.9	7.0	-0.2	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	9.3	9.3	9.1	0.0	0.2
Women - 25 years and over	4.0	4.4	4.8	-0.4	-0.8
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.0	15.8	17.5	0.2	-1.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.7	18.9	23.1	-2.2	-6.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.8	12.8	12.2	0.0	0.6

\*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

There were 7,100 people employed in the goods-producing sector in February, slightly fewer than in January (-100). This change stemmed from employment losses in the mining industry. On a year-over-year basis, employment in the goods-producing sector is up 2.9%. Employment losses in construction (-100) and manufacturing (-200) were offset by gains in the utilities (+500) and mining industries (+100).

In the short and medium term, employment in the goods-producing sector may benefit from public infrastructure and mining developments. The Government of Canada and the Government of Northwest Territories recently committed \$760 million for infrastructure projects over the next ten years.<sup>1</sup> The investment will be distributed to various streams including green infrastructure; public transit; community, culture and recreation; and rural and northern communities infrastructure.<sup>2</sup>

Employment in the services-producing sector declined marginally on a monthly basis (-0.2%). Employment gains in public administration (+500) and information, culture and recreation (+400) were offset by gains in the trade (-500), professional, scientific and technical services (-300) and educational services (-300).

In the next year, educational, health care and social services may see some growth from increases in federal and territorial government expenditures in these areas. This month, the federal and Yukon governments signed a \$7.3 million agreement to increase the Direct Operating Grant for early learning and child care centres.<sup>3</sup> These funds will be used to train and retrain child care workers, and run and expand licensed day care facilities throughout the territory. Under the new grant, child care operators in Whitehorse will see a 14.5% increase in funding. However, in rural areas, operators will see a 34.5% increase.<sup>4</sup>

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	54.7	54.9	54.6	-0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.2
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	7.1	7.2	6.9	-0.1	-1.4	0.2	2.9
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.2	2.3	2.1	-0.1	-4.3	0.1	4.8
Utilities	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.1	11.1	0.5	100.0
Construction	3.6	3.6	3.7	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-2.7
Manufacturing	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	-	-0.2	-
							100.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	47.6	47.7	47.8	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4
Trade	5.9	6.4	5.6	-0.5	-7.8	0.3	5.4
Transportation and warehousing	3.1	3.3	3.6	-0.2	-6.1	-0.5	-13.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.4	2.2	2.1	0.2	9.1	0.3	14.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	1.8	2.1	2.6	-0.3	-14.3	-0.8	-30.8
Business, building and other support services	1.1	1.2	1.3	-0.1	-8.3	-0.2	-15.4
Educational services	5.4	5.7	5.7	-0.3	-5.3	-0.3	-5.3
Health care and social assistance	7.6	7.6	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.8	11.8
Information, culture and recreation	3.0	2.6	2.3	0.4	15.4	0.7	30.4
Accommodation and food services	3.6	3.4	3.6	0.2	5.9	0.0	0.0
Other services	1.6	1.7	1.8	-0.1	-5.9	-0.2	-11.1
Public administration	12.3	11.8	12.2	0.5	4.2	0.1	0.8

\*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

## Yukon

For three consecutive months, December 2017 to February 2018, employment (20,700) in the Yukon remained unchanged. Yukon employment tends to be seasonal, with slowdowns in the winter months. However, there was a year-over-year employment increase of 1.5% (+300) in February 2018. Job gains over the past year are due entirely to growth in the goods-producing sector (+12.0%), with mining and utilities seeing the most significant increases.

In the short-term, significant mining developments are expected to support economic growth in the Yukon. These mining projects include the \$317 million Coffee Gold Project and the \$400 million Victoria Gold Corp.'s Eagle Gold Project.<sup>5</sup> Both developments are anticipated to increase training and job opportunities for residents.<sup>6</sup>

Currently, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board are reviewing an application for the Western Copper and Gold Corp.'s Casino gold mine project.<sup>7</sup> With approval, the Casino mine will be one of

Canada's largest open-pit gold, copper, silver and molybdenum mines.<sup>8</sup> Western Copper and Gold Corporation officials estimated that the two-year construction phase of the mine would create about 1,000 jobs. In the operations phase, the facility would sustain 600 full-time jobs throughout its expected 22-year lifespan.<sup>9</sup> The company has already invested \$20 million to initiate the project. In its entirety, the mine will cost about \$2.5 billion.<sup>10</sup>

### **Northwest Territories**

Employment in Northwest Territories did not change in February 2018. However, year-over-year, employment fell 0.9% because of contraction in the services-producing sector. Specifically, public administration (-500) and educational services (-400) saw the most significant declines.

In the medium term, the \$280 million Prairie Creek zinc mine development, the \$40 million TerraX Mineral's Yellowknife City Gold exploration project and the \$12.8 million Allain St-Cyr School expansion project should result in growth in the mining and construction industries.<sup>11</sup>

Moreover, the territory's health care and social assistance sector may see some growth in employment over the next few years, as the federal and territorial governments reached a new healthcare agreement in February.<sup>12</sup> Under the new agreement, NWT will receive \$6 million in funding over five years on top of the existing Canada Health Transfer (CHT) payment.<sup>13</sup> From this funding, \$2.4 million will be used to develop a suicide prevention and crisis support network, while the rest will be used to create a new tool that will assess each patient's need for home and community care services.<sup>14</sup> These new investments are expected to improve mental health services for children and youth in NWT, as well as to increase home care services for seniors.

### **Nunavut**

The number of people employed in Nunavut decreased for the second consecutive month in February, down 1.5% to 13,100. Both the goods-producing (-7.1%) and services-producing (-0.8%) sectors saw monthly employment decreases. Nevertheless, year-over-year employment in Nunavut remained unchanged.

As large construction projects commence in the next two years, Nunavut's economic performance is expected to improve. These include the new \$85 million deep-sea port project in Iqaluit, the Hope Bay gold mine expansion project in the Kitikmeot region and the \$1.2 billion Meliadine and Amaruq gold mines in the Kivalliq region.<sup>15</sup>

Furthermore, Sabina Gold & Silver recently announced the investment of \$94.5 million in advanced exploratory drilling program at its Back River gold mine in the western Kitikmeot region.<sup>16</sup> Additional pre-development infrastructure activities are scheduled to begin in late March 2018. Sabina Gold estimates that it will invest \$400 million in the Black River mine over its 11-year production lifespan. When the facility is operating, it may employ up to 800 workers.<sup>17</sup> The Sabina Gold and Silver Corp. and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association signed a comprehensive agreement in October last year to provide training and employment opportunities for residents.<sup>18</sup>

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2018 ('000)	February 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2018 (%)	February 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Territories*</b>	54.7	54.6	0.2	7.9	8.4	-0.5
Northwest Territories	20.9	21.1	-0.9	8.3	7.0	1.3
Nunavut	13.1	13.1	0.0	14.3	15.4	-1.1
Yukon	20.7	20.4	1.5	2.8	4.7	-1.9

\*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.

**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/cqi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact\\_us.aspx?section=lmi](http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cqi-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, 2018, all rights reserved

<sup>1</sup> CBC News, Canada to deliver \$570M in infrastructure funding to N.W.T., Mar 07, 2018.  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nwt-canada-infrastructure-agreement-1.4566328>

<sup>2</sup> Government of Northwest Territories, Wally Schumann: Federal Infrastructure Funding, Mar. 7, 2018.  
<http://www.gov.nt.ca/newsroom/news/wally-schumann-federal-infrastructure-funding>

<sup>3</sup> CBC News, Yukon announces new money for daycare facilities, Feb. 08, 2018.  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/yukon-child-care-funding-increase-1.4525469>

<sup>4</sup> Yukon News, Daycare operating grants gets its first increase in a decade, Feb. 07, 2018.  
<https://www.yukon-news.com/news/yukon-child-care-funding-gets-first-increase-in-a-decade/>

<sup>5</sup> BuildForce Canada, Canada's Territories – 2018 Construction trades outlook for major projects, 2018.  
<http://www.buildforce.ca/en/products/canadas-territories-2018-construction-trades-outlook-major-projects>

<sup>6</sup> BuildForce Canada, Canada's Territories – 2018 Construction trades outlook for major projects, 2018.  
<http://www.buildforce.ca/en/products/canadas-territories-2018-construction-trades-outlook-major-projects>

<sup>7</sup> Canadian Mining Journal, Yukon weighs large scale mining at Casino proposal, Jan 01, 2018.  
<http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/features/yukon-weighs-large-scale-mining-casino-proposal/>

---

<sup>8</sup> Canadian Mining Journal, Yukon weighs large scale mining at Casino proposal, Jan. 1, 2018.

<http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/features/yukon-weighs-large-scale-mining-casino-proposal/>

<sup>9</sup> CBC News, Yukon Casino mine 'large in all aspects', Jan. 06, 2014.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/yukon-casino-mine-large-in-all-aspects-1.2486011>

<sup>10</sup> The Northern Miner, Site visit: Western Copper approaches final mine design at Casino, Feb. 23, 2017.

<http://www.northernminer.com/news/site-visit-western-copper-closes-final-mine-design-casino/1003783863/>

<sup>11</sup> Conference Board of Canada, Territorial Outlook Economic Forecast, Summer 2017.

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=8979>

<sup>12</sup> CBC News, Federal government commits \$6M for suicide prevention, home care in N.W.T., Feb. 21, 2018.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/suicide-prevention-home-care-funding-nwt-1.4546107>

<sup>13</sup> Government of Canada, Canada-Northwest Territories Home and Community Care and Mental Health and Addictions Services Funding Agreement, Feb. 20, 2018.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/transparency/health-agreements/shared-health-priorities/northwest-territories.html>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Conference Board of Canada, Territorial Outlook Economic Forecast, Summer 2017.

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=8979>

<sup>16</sup> Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. News Release, Feb.13, 2018,

<http://www.sabinagoldsilver.com/news/sabina-gold-and-silver-announces-2018-budget-of-cad83million-to-focus-on-exploration-and-to-commence-pre-development-infrastructure-improvements-to-advance-back-river-towards-production>

<sup>17</sup> CBC News, Once-rejected gold mine in Kitikmeot gets go-ahead from Nunavut review board, July 19, 2018.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/back-river-gold-mine-sabina-nirb-1.4212558>

<sup>18</sup> Sabina Gold & Silver Corp. News Release, Oct.18, 2018.

<http://www.sabinagoldsilver.com/news/sabina-and-kitikmeot-inuit-association-announce-binding-term-sheet-for-land-tenure-and-inuit-benefits-for-the-back-river-gold-project-nunavut-canada>