



Labour Market Bulletin

Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon



April 2022

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

There were 63,000 people employed in Northwest Territories (NWT), Nunavut and Yukon in April 2022, a slight decrease of 0.6% (-400) from March 2022. Employment gains in Yukon (+2.7%) were offset by losses in Nunavut (-3.9%) and Northwest Territories (-1.6%).

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the territories is up 8.8% or 5,100 workers compared to April 2021. Employment in all three territories increased from April 2021 to April 2022. The number of people employed went up considerably in Nunavut (+22.3%) and in Northwest Territories (+6.4%), while employment in Yukon advanced more moderately (+4.0%).

Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon* Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	93.0	92.9	91.5	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.6
Labour Force ('000)	67.2	68.7	61.6	-1.5	-2.2	5.6	9.1
Employment ('000)	63.0	63.4	57.9	-0.4	-0.6	5.1	8.8
Unemployment ('000)	4.2	5.2	3.8	-1.0	-19.2	0.4	10.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3	7.6	6.2	-1.3	-	0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	72.3	74.0	67.3	-1.7	-	5.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	67.7	68.2	63.3	-0.5	-	4.4	-

*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 Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

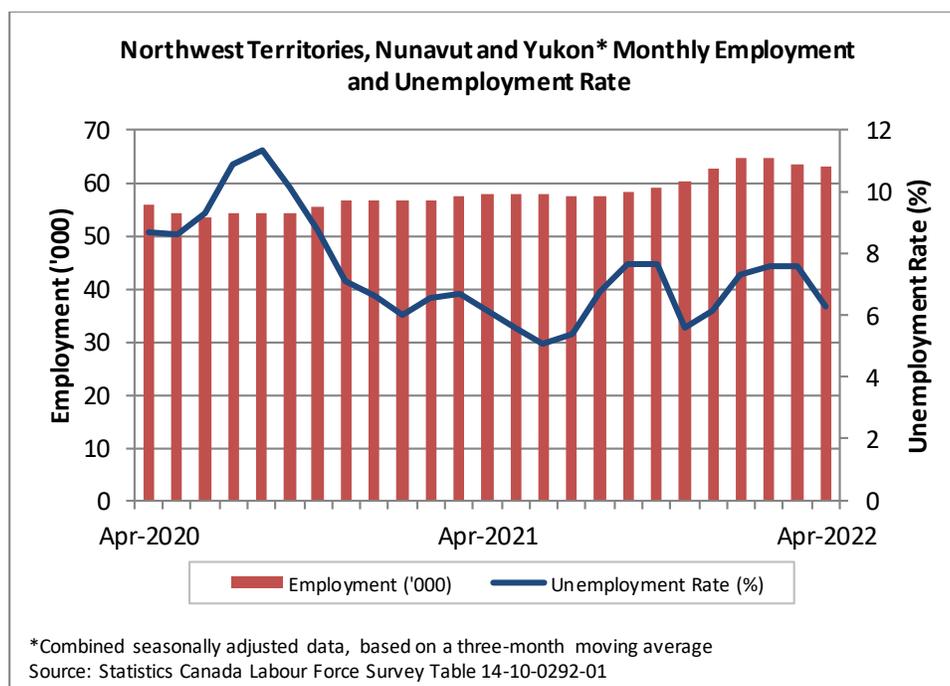
Seasonally Adjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2022 ('000)	April 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2022 (%)	April 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Territories*	63.0	57.9	8.8	6.3	6.2	0.1
Northwest Territories	25.0	23.5	6.4	5.3	6.4	-1.1
Nunavut	14.8	12.1	22.3	9.5	6.2	3.3
Yukon	23.2	22.3	4.0	5.3	5.9	-0.6

*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)

The unemployment rate for the combined territories decreased 1.3 percentage points to 6.3% from March to April 2022. Year-over-year, the unemployment rate decreased in Northwest Territories and Yukon, falling 1.1% and 0.6% respectively. Nunavut was the only territory to record an annual increase in its unemployment rate, rising 3.3 percentage points to 9.5%. Nunavut continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in Canada: 4.3 percentage points higher than the national average of 5.2%.



The youth (15 to 24 years) unemployment rate for the three territories combined was 6.0% in April 2022. This represents a decrease of 8.3 percentage points compared to April 2021. The unemployment rate for young women fell 3.5 percentage points to 4.8% year-over-year. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young men fell considerably from April 2021 to April 2022, down 13.3 percentage points to 7.3%—the lowest rate on record.

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	April 2022 (%)	April 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	6.6	6.4	0.2
25 years and over	6.6	5.5	1.1
Men - 25 years and over	7.1	5.2	1.9
Women - 25 years and over	6.1	5.9	0.2
15 to 24 years	6.0	14.3	-8.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	7.3	20.6	-13.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	4.8	8.3	-3.5

*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 7,800 people employed in the **goods-producing sector** in the territories in April 2022. Employment in the sector increased by 11.4% (+800) across the territories compared to April 2021. Nearly all industries within the goods-producing sector added jobs during the year, with the exception of manufacturing (-100).

The employment outlook for the goods-producing sector is positive over the short-term. Several large-scale mining and construction projects are slated to begin across the territories from 2022 to 2024. Projects include: the \$317 million Coffee Gold project in Yukon,¹ the \$140 million Great Bear River Bridge project in the NWT's Sahtu Region,²³ and the \$550 million Grays Bay Road and Port project in Nunavut. These projects will create several new employment opportunities in the goods-producing sector.⁴

In Northwest Territories, NorZinc Ltd. announced, its Prairie Creek zinc mine permitting process will be advancing to the final approval stage of the permitting process in June this year.⁵ Once approved, construction could start in 2023. The mine will employ over 200 workers during the construction phase. It will create 330 full-time jobs during the operational phase.⁶ The \$279 million Prairie Creek mine is estimated to have a 15-year mine life.

Federal and territorial government spending on housing and recreation centre projects will also support employment in the goods sector in the short to medium term. To address Nunavut's housing crisis, the federal government will provide \$60 million over two years for affordable housing and related infrastructure in Nunavut.⁷ According to Nunavut Housing Corp., about 56% of Inuit live in overcrowded homes across the territory.⁸ Nunavut will need to build 300 houses per year for the next eight years to meet demand. It will cost an estimated \$4 billion over ten years to fix the territory's housing crisis.⁹

In Yukon, the Yukon government will build a new gymnastics and climbing facility in Whitehorse in 2022. The Polaretttes Gymnastics Club facility is expected to cost \$22 million to construct and to be completed by the end of March 2024.¹⁰ The territorial government expects the new facility will be used by Western Canadians, and for

events such as the Canada Games and the Arctic Winter Games. It will support Yukon's sport tourism sector in the future.¹¹

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data ('000)	April 2022	April 2021	Yearly Variation	
			Number	%
Total employed, all industries	62.7	57.3	5.4	9.4
Goods-producing sector	7.8	7.0	0.8	11.4
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	--
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.5	1.9	0.6	31.6
Utilities	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	4.1	3.6	0.5	13.9
Manufacturing	0.5	0.6	-0.1	-16.7
Services-producing sector	54.8	50.4	4.4	8.7
Trade	7.3	6.4	0.9	14.1
Transportation and warehousing	3.7	3.3	0.4	12.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	2.1	2.4	-0.3	-12.5
Business, building and other support services	1.8	1.4	0.4	28.6
Educational services	6.5	5.0	1.5	30.0
Health care and social assistance	8.3	8.1	0.2	2.5
Information, culture and recreation	3.1	1.7	1.4	82.4
Accommodation and food services	2.9	2.5	0.4	16.0
Other services	1.8	2.0	-0.2	-10.0
Public administration	15.0	14.9	0.1	0.7

*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table

Employment increased substantially in the **services-producing sector** in the territories from April 2021 to April 2022. During this period, employment increased 8.7% (+4,400) to 54,800 positions. The largest gains were in educational services, information, culture and social assistance, and trade. Gains in these industries were primarily the result of the removal or reduction of COVID-19 related restrictions.

While employment in the territories' professional, scientific and technical services subsector decreased by 12.5% from April 2021 to April 2022, it is expected to rebound. In the short-term, the professional, scientific and technical services industry will experience steady growth as new funding towards climate change research initiatives and greenhouse gas reduction projects comes into effect. In Nunavut, for example, the federal government is providing \$14.5 million over five years to help support operations at the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Cambridge Bay. The research facility focuses on improving our understanding of the impacts of climate change.¹²

In Yukon, the federal government also pledged \$32.3 million to support the Atlin Hydro Expansion project. The project aims to expand the Indigenous-owned hydropower facility in Atlin B.C. to generate additional

hydroelectricity and create a new transmission line to connect to Yukon. The Yukon government is hoping the expansion project will help increase renewable energy capacity and could lead the territory to a net zero emissions in the future.¹³

In addition, the federal government is providing Yukon with \$624,000 to recruit, train, and mentor 690 new energy advisors and help 110 current advisors to improve their skills. This funding is part of the Canada Greener Homes Grant to ensure retrofits improve homes' energy efficiency across the territory and to improve homeowners' knowledge of their retrofit options.¹⁴

In Northwest Territories, the federal and territorial governments are planning to expand the Taltson hydropower generating station. This project will connect Northwest Territories' hydroelectric system to the electrical grids north and south of Great Slave Lake.¹⁵ The expansion project is currently at its feasibility stage. However, the federal government has invested approximately \$20 million since 2018 to support the project. Work is already underway to develop transmission and hydro plans. The Hydroelectricity Expansion Project is anticipated to create partnership opportunities for Indigenous governments and job opportunities for residents in the region.¹⁶

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

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

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- ¹ BuildForce Canada. (March 2022). [Construction & Maintenance Looking Forward, Canada Territories 2022-2027.](#)
 - ² Government of Northwest Territories (2022). [Great Bear River Bridge Project.](#)
 - ³ BuildForce Canada. (March 2022). [Construction & Maintenance Looking Forward, Canada Territories 2022-2027.](#)
 - ⁴ CBC News (October 15, 2021). [Arctic coast road, deep sea port project back in motion with \\$7.25M loan agreement.](#)
 - ⁵ North of 60 Mining News (May 6, 2022). [NorZinc's Prairie Creek mine inches ahead.](#)
 - ⁶ NS Energy Business (2022). [Prairie Creek Zinc-Lead-Silver-Project.](#)
 - ⁷ Government of Canada (April 13, 2022). [Minister Vandal announces Budget 2022 housing investments in Nunavut.](#)
 - ⁸ Chat News Today News (April 13, 2022). ['We must do better:' Nunavut leaders optimistic about housing money from Ottawa.](#)
 - ⁹ IIBD
 - ¹⁰ Yukon News (April 27, 2022). [New gymnastics, climbing gym coming to Whitehorse.](#)
 - ¹¹ Whitehorse Star (April 6, 2021). [Polarettes promised a new gymnastics facility.](#)
 - ¹² CBC News (April 07, 2022). [Money for northern housing, mining, clean energy among the 2022 budget highlights.](#)
 - ¹³ Government of Yukon (April 11, 2022). [Atlin Hydro Expansion Project to receive \\$32.3 million from Natural Resource Canada.](#)
 - ¹⁴ Government of Canada (April 6, 2022). [Government of Canada Announces Support for New Energy Advisors.](#)
 - ¹⁵ Cabin Radio (May 5, 2022). [Canada 'close' to finding money for NWT's Taltson expansion.](#)
 - ¹⁶ Government of Northwest Territories (2022). [Taltson Hydroelectricity Expansion Project.](#)