



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon



July 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

The combined employment of Yukon, Northwest Territories (NWT) and Nunavut trended upward for a second consecutive month in July. The number of people employed in the combined territories increased by 0.3% (+200) to 63,000 compared to June. Employment losses in Northwest Territories (-0.4%) and Yukon (-0.9%) were offset by gains in Nunavut (+3.6%).

On a year-over-year basis, employment in the territories increased substantially between July 2021 and July 2022, up 9.4% (+5,400). Employment in all three territories increased during the year. The largest annual increase occurred in Nunavut (+20.8%). Employment levels in Northwest Territories and Yukon grew more moderately, increasing by 5.4% and 7.4%, respectively.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2022	June 2022	July 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	93.5	93.3	91.7	0.2	0.2	1.8	2.0
Labour Force ('000)	66.8	66.8	61.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	9.5
Employment ('000)	63.0	62.8	57.6	0.2	0.3	5.4	9.4
Unemployment ('000)	3.8	3.9	3.3	-0.1	-2.6	0.5	15.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	5.8	5.4	-0.1	-	0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	71.4	71.6	66.5	-0.2	-	4.9	-
Employment Rate (%)	67.4	67.3	62.8	0.1	-	4.6	-

\*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)

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

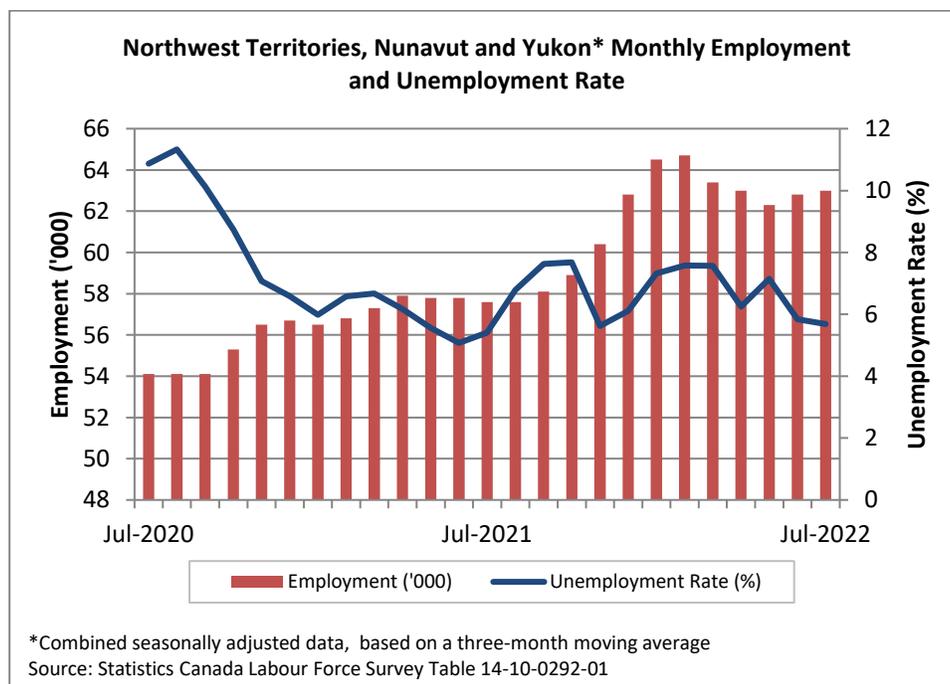
Seasonally Adjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2022 ('000)	July 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2022 (%)	July 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Territories*</b>	63.0	57.6	9.4	5.7	5.4	0.3
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	25.2	23.9	5.4	4.2	4.4	-0.2
<b>Nunavut</b>	14.5	12.0	20.8	12.7	5.9	6.8
<b>Yukon</b>	23.3	21.7	7.4	2.5	6.0	-3.5

\*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 three territories combined increased slightly (+0.3%) between July 2021 and July 2022. Nunavut was the only territory with an increasing unemployment rate, rising 6.8 percentage points to 12.7% year-over-year. In contrast, Northwest Territories dropped 0.2 percentage points to 4.2%. The unemployment rate in Yukon fell 3.5 percentage points to 2.5%. In July 2022, Yukon had the lowest unemployment rate in the country (2.5%), well below the national rate of 4.9%.



For the combined territories, the unemployment rate for youth (15 to 24 years) was 8.1% in July 2022, down 0.8 percentage points from July 2021. The unemployment rate for young women increased slightly over the year, up 0.1 percentage points to 7.8%. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young men fell 1.5 percentage points to 8.3%.

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	July 2022 (%)	July 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.6	5.2	0.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.2	4.6	0.6
Men - 25 years and over	5.5	5.5	0.0
Women - 25 years and over	4.4	3.8	0.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	8.1	8.9	-0.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	8.3	9.8	-1.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.8	7.7	0.1

\*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

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** was up 300 in July 2022, an increase of 4.0% compared to the same time last year. Nearly all industries within the sector experienced employment gains, except for utilities (-200). Mining and construction posted employment gains of 16.7% and 15%, respectively over the year.

The goods-producing sector should experience steady growth in the short-term due to new mining and construction projects that are either underway or set to begin over the next two years. Yukon's construction industry in particular is going to see strong growth this year. The value of building permits in Yukon for the first half of 2022 totalled approximately \$133 million, up over 50% from the same period in 2021—the highest percentage increase across the country.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, governments' investment in housing and infrastructure projects will help generate new employment opportunities.<sup>2</sup> The federal government, for example, pledged over \$21 million to construct five townhouse structures in Whitehorse's Whistle Bend neighbourhood and a new men's shelter and transitional housing facility in Dawson City.<sup>3</sup>

The federal government also invested over \$12.5 million to support two green infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories' Inuvik region.<sup>4</sup> These projects include solar panel upgrades at the Midnight Sun recreation centre and construction of the new Teetl'it Gwich'in Cultural Wellness Centre in Fort McPherson. Construction of both projects will commence in the spring of 2023.<sup>5</sup>

In Nunavut, the Blue Star Gold Corp. announced its drilling program has commenced at the Roma, Hood River and Ulu gold projects in July. These exploration projects are located near the Kitikmeot region. They consist of airborne and ground geophysics, regional geochemical sampling, prospecting and a focused diamond drilling program.<sup>6</sup> The projects are expected to create employment opportunities for residents in the region.

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

Seasonally Unadjusted Data ('000)	July 2022	July 2021	Yearly Variation	
			Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	64.3	58.6	5.7	9.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	7.8	7.5	0.3	4.0
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	--
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	2.1	1.8	0.3	16.7
Utilities	0.6	0.8	-0.2	-25.0
Construction	4.6	4.0	0.6	15.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.4	0.1	25.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	56.4	51.2	5.2	10.2
Trade	6.5	6.6	-0.1	-1.5
Transportation and warehousing	3.3	2.8	0.5	17.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1.7	2.4	-0.7	-29.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	2.6	2.4	0.2	8.3
Business, building and other support services	1.3	1.2	0.1	8.3
Educational services	7.3	5.1	2.2	43.1
Health care and social assistance	9.7	8.1	1.6	19.8
Information, culture and recreation	3.1	1.7	1.4	82.4
Accommodation and food services	2.4	3.1	-0.7	-22.6
Other services	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Public administration	16.5	15.5	1.0	6.5

\*Combined data - three month moving average

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - ESDC custom table

Between July 2021 and July 2022, employment in the **services-producing sector** in the combined territories increased by 10.2% (+5,200) to 56,400. The largest gains were in educational services, health care and social assistance and information, culture and recreation.

Over the short-term, the professional, scientific and technical services and information, culture and recreation industries will experience steady growth as new funding towards climate change, marine ecosystem and land protection, clean energy initiatives, and water supply improvement projects comes into effect. For example, the federal and Nunavut governments are investing over \$3.6 million to support the planning of improved water and wastewater treatment across Nunavut. The funding will be used to conduct feasibility studies for five new water treatment facilities in six communities.<sup>7</sup>

Northern Energy Capital, a renewable energy company, is starting wind turbine research at Baker Lake in Nunavut this fall. The research project will determine if a turbine energy source is feasible for the community. Currently, diesel is the main source of energy in the region and new wind turbines could provide 10% more energy.<sup>8</sup>

The federal government is providing \$7.46 million over four years in co-management with the Inuvialuit for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in NWT's Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The funding will help Inuvialuit to further

preserve their land, water, source of food, and marine ecosystems and to combat climate change. The initiative is expected to create job opportunities in all the communities associated with the MPAs.<sup>9</sup>

In Yukon, the federal government has earmarked \$411,000 to support a new Yukon University waste and wastewater initiative. The program aims to increase training and employment opportunities for First Nations residents to become water and wastewater operators to manage their own community water systems.<sup>10</sup>

In addition, the Yukon government and Carcross/Tagish First Nation has signed a 10-year joint management plan for the Conrad Historic site.<sup>11</sup> The collaboration will help protect and conserve historic resources, animal habitat and the natural landscape at the site. The maintenance of the campground and historic site will create jobs for Carcross and Tagish residents.<sup>12</sup>

**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> Statistics Canada (August 4, 2022). [Building permits, by type of structure and type of work.](#)
  - <sup>2</sup> Yukon News (July 31, 2022). [Yukonomist: Building boom continues, for now.](#)
  - <sup>3</sup> Yukon News (July 28, 2022). [Construction underway on housing projects.](#)
  - <sup>4</sup> Government of Canada (July 27, 2022). [Residents to benefit from green infrastructure improvements in the Inuvik Region.](#)
  - <sup>5</sup> CBC News (July 27, 2022). [Cultural centre, solar panels part of \\$12.5M announced for Inuvik, For McPherson.](#)
  - <sup>6</sup> Blue Star Gold Corp. (June 22, 2022). [Blue Star Gold Commences Drill Program at its Ulu Gold Project.](#)
  - <sup>7</sup> Government of Nunavut (July 20, 2022). [Canada and Nunavut invest in water and wastewater treatment.](#)
  - <sup>8</sup> Nunatsiaq News (July 29, 2022). [Wind turbine research to begin in Baker Lake.](#)
  - <sup>9</sup> Government of Canada (July 8, 2022). [Government of Canada invests in co-management of Marine Protected Areas in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.](#)
  - <sup>10</sup> Government of Canada (July 28, 2022). [Centralized water and wastewater operator training at Yukon University to benefit First Nations and operators in the region.](#)
  - <sup>11</sup> Government of Yukon (July 21, 2022). [Signing ceremony hold for Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site Management Plan](#)
  - <sup>12</sup> CBC News (July 22, 2022). [Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Yukon gov't sign plan to co-manage Conrad historic site.](#)