

Labour Force Statistics for the 10 largest communities in Nunavut

Labour Force Statistics at a glance – 3 month moving average ending in July 2006:
Participation rate: 66.1% Employment rate: 58.5% Unemployment rate: 11.6%

Highlights for the 3 month moving average ending in July 2006

All statistics are seasonally unadjusted 3 month moving averages (3MMA), unless otherwise indicated.

More people are working than a year ago

Among the estimated 13,800 people 15 years of age and older residing in one of the 10 largest communities in Nunavut in the 3 month moving average ending in July 2006, about 8,100 persons were employed, up 800 from the corresponding three-month period 12 months ago. This employment growth pushed the three-month average employment rate up 5.3 percentage points to 58.5% for the May to July 2006 period. In other words, almost 6 people of working-age out of 10 in the 10 largest Nunavut communities had a job. Canada's employment rate stood at 64.2% for the same period.

On average for May to July 2006, approximately 1,100 persons were unemployed¹ in the 10 largest communities in Nunavut, that is, they have been looking for work over the past four weeks of the survey. Compared to the corresponding period 12 months ago, the number of unemployed in the territory was down by 400. This pushed the unemployment rate down 5.3 percentage points to 11.6% in the 3 month moving average ending in July 2006. Over the same period, the unemployment rate in the country decreased by 0.6 percentage points to reach 6.1%.

Chart 1: Labour Force Characteristics, 3MMA ending in July 2006, Nunavut – 10 largest communities

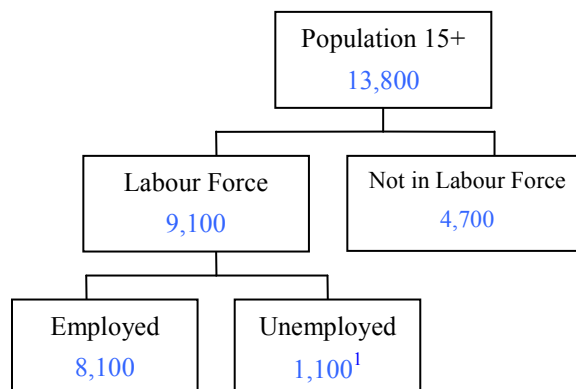


Table 1: Labour force characteristics for people aged 15 and over, 3MMA ending in July 2004, July 2005 and July 2006, Nunavut – 10 largest communities

	Levels			Change		% change	
	Jul-04	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jul-04 to Jul-05	Jul-05 to Jul-06	Jul-04 to Jul-05	Jul-05 to Jul-06
Population	13,600	13,700	13,800	100	100	0.7	0.7
Labour force	8,900	8,800	9,100	-100	300	-1.1	3.4
Employment	7,500	7,300	8,100	-200	800	-2.7	11.0
Unemployment ¹	1,300	1,500	1,100	200	-400	15.4	-26.7
Not in the labour force	4,700	4,900	4,700	200	-200	4.3	-4.1
Participation rate	65.5	64.0	66.1	-1.5	2.1	x	x
Employment rate	55.5	53.2	58.5	-2.3	5.3	x	x
Unemployment rate ¹ (official)	15.2	16.9	11.6	1.7	-5.3	x	x
Unemployment rate (including the discouraged searchers) ¹	16.0	17.9	15.5	1.9	-2.4	x	x

Alternative unemployment rates can be calculated to give further information on the underutilization of the available labour resources². One of these supplementary measures of unemployment is to include the discouraged searchers as unemployed people, which automatically make them part of the labour force. The discouraged searchers are defined as those persons who reported wanting to work at a job or business during the reference week and were available, but who did not look for work because they believed no suitable work was available. Since the communities in the territory are relatively small in terms of population, it is quite possible that most residents are aware of all the job opportunities in their respective community and therefore do not need to undertake job searching activities even if they want to work. Moreover, the job opportunities in some communities may be chronically scarce and the job searching activities can be futile. On average for May to July 2006, the alternative unemployment rate¹ (including the discouraged searchers) was estimated at 15.5%, 3.9 percentage points higher than the official unemployment rate for the same period.

The labour force includes the employed and the unemployed people and it represents the number of people who are participating in the labour market, either by working or by looking for a job. In the 3 month moving average ending in July 2006, the labour force in the 10 largest communities in Nunavut comprised some 9,100 people and the participation rate stood at 66.1%. This compares to a rate of 68.4% in Canada.

Chart 2: Number of people by labour force characteristics, 10 largest communities in Nunavut

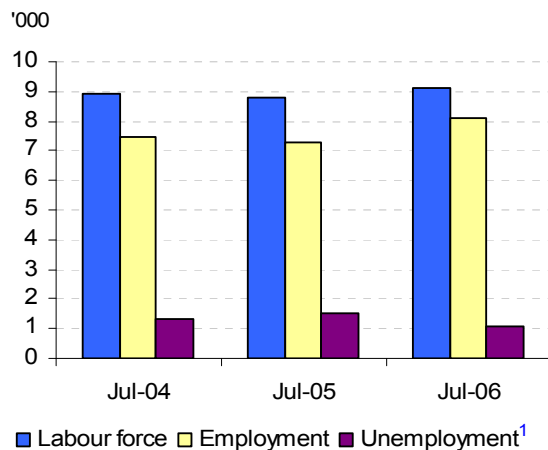
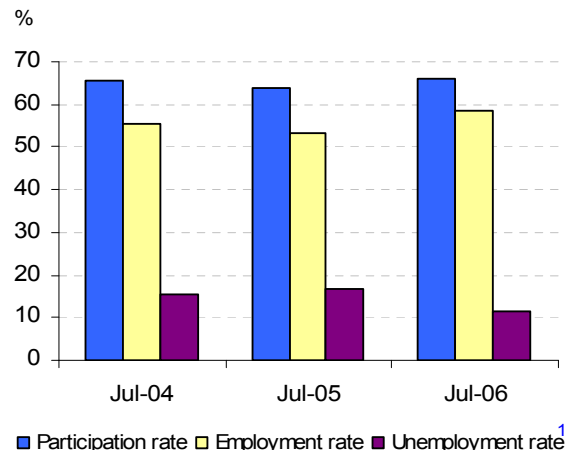


Chart 3: Participation, employment and unemployment rates, 10 largest communities in Nunavut



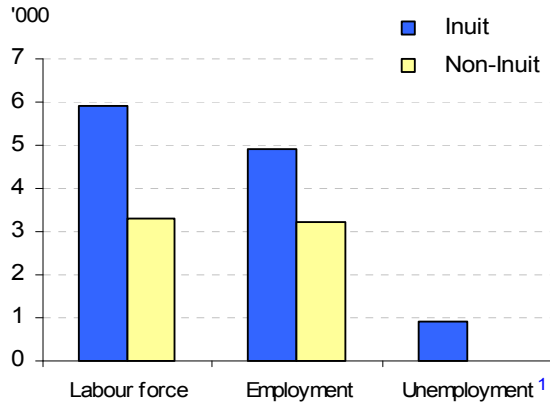
More Inuit have a job than a year ago

Employment among Inuit in the 10 largest communities in Nunavut was up from the 3MMA ending in July 2005 to the 3MMA ending in July 2006, where it increased by 500 to reach 4,900. Although Inuit accounted for about 75% of the working-age population in the 10 largest Nunavut communities, they accounted for only 60% of all the employed people in that region on average for May to July 2006. That period, the employment rate for Inuit in the territory’s 10 largest communities was 47.6% while it stood at 90.4% for their non-Inuit counterparts.

From a year ago, the number of unemployed Inuit decreased by 500 to reach 900 on average for May to July 2006. This decline pushed the unemployment rate down by 7.5 percentage points to an estimated 16.2%. Unemployment estimates for non-Inuit, Iqaluit residents, men, women and youths (rates only) are suppressed due to their small numbers. In general, it is advisable to use with caution the unemployment estimates as they tend to have a high variability.

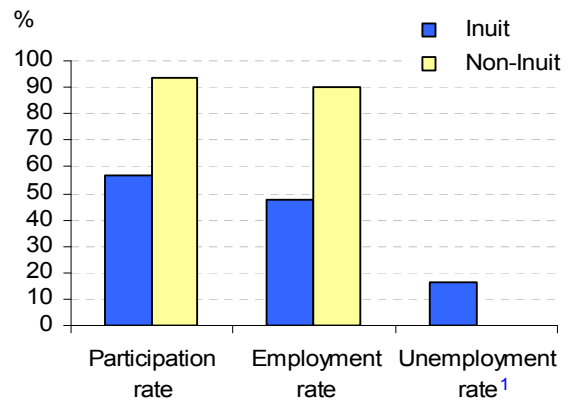
Please see the notes and definitions on pages 6 and 7 for a better understanding of the survey and its concepts.

Chart 4: Number of people by labour force characteristics and Inuit identity, 3MMA ending in July 2006



Note: Unemployment data for Non-Inuit are suppressed.

Chart 5: Participation, employment and unemployment rates by Inuit identity, 3MMA ending in July 2006



Note: Unemployment data for Non-Inuit are suppressed.

Table 2: Labour force characteristics in the 10 largest communities in Nunavut for selected groups, 3MMA ending in July 2005 and 2006

	Labour force			Employment			Unemployment ¹		
	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jul-05 to Jul-06	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jul-05 to Jul-06	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jul-05 to Jul-06
Total (15 +)	8,800	9,100	300	7,300	8,100	800	1,500	1,100	-400
Inuit	5,700	5,900	200	4,400	4,900	500	1,400	900	-500
Non-Inuit	3,000	3,300	300	2,900	3,200	300	x	x	x
Iqaluit	330	400	70	3,000	3,700	700	x	x	x
Other nine communities	550	520	-30	4,300	4,400	100	1,200	800	-400
Men	4,900	4,800	-100	4,000	4,200	200	x	x	x
Women	3,900	4,400	500	3,300	3,900	600	x	x	x
Youth (15-24)	1,900	1,900	0	1,200	1,500	300	600	400	-200
Adults (25+)	6,900	7,200	300	6,100	6,600	500	800	600	-200
	Participation rate (%)			Employment rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%) ¹		
	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jul-05 to Jul-06	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jul-05 to Jul-06	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jul-05 to Jul-06
Total (15 +)	64.0	66.1	2.1	53.2	58.5	5.3	16.9	11.6	-5.3
Inuit	55.9	56.8	0.9	42.6	47.6	5.0	23.7	16.2	-7.5
Non-Inuit	87.7	93.7	6.0	84.2	90.4	6.2	x	x	x
Iqaluit	80.4	83.7	3.3	74.4	77.8	3.4	x	x	x
Other nine communities	57.0	57.0	0.0	44.2	48.4	4.2	22.5	15.1	-7.4
Men	70.2	67.6	-2.6	56.8	58.6	1.8	x	x	x
Women	57.5	64.6	7.1	49.4	58.4	9.0	x	x	x
Youth (15-24)	49.6	49.1	-0.5	32.4	37.9	5.5	x	x	x
Adults (25+)	69.4	72.8	3.4	61.0	66.5	5.5	12.1	8.6	-3.5

Note: Cells with the letter X indicate insufficient data and/or very small sample sizes.

Please see the notes and definitions on pages 6 and 7 for a better understanding of the survey and its concepts.

Employment growth was concentrated in Iqaluit

From the 3MMA ending in July 2005 to the 3MMA ending in July 2006, the employment growth observed in the 10 largest communities in Nunavut was widespread among the major groups (Inuit, non-Inuit, men, women, *etc.*). However, the employment increase was more concentrated for certain groups of people.

The number of employed people in Iqaluit grew by 700 from 12 months ago compared with a net increase of 100 for the other nine communities. A similar situation was observed between women and men. The number of women working in the 10 largest communities in Nunavut increased by 600 during the same period while employment among men was up by 200.

In Nunavut's 10 largest communities, slightly more than 9 workers out of 10 had a job in the service-producing industries and it is in that sector that most of the employment growth (+700) happened from the 3MMA ending in July 2005 to the 3MMA ending in July 2006. During that period, the number of employed people working in the health care and social assistance sector and the trade sector increased while employment declined in the public administration sector. Since the May to July 2005 period, the number of employees in the private sector jumped by 1,200. On average for May to July 2006, the 3,700 private sector employees represented almost half of all employees, a large increase from the 39% share observed a year ago.

Most of the employed people in the territory's largest communities are working full time, although part-time employment increased from a year ago. On average for May to July 2006, about 83% were full-time workers, down from 86% in the same corresponding three-month period 12 months ago.

Table 3: Employment among people aged 15+ by selected industry (based on NAICS 2002) and class of worker, Nunavut – 10 largest communities, 3MMA ending in July 2005 and 2006

	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jul-05 to Jul-06
All industries	7,300	8,100	800
<u>Goods-Producing Industries</u> ¹	600	700	100
<u>Services-Producing Industries</u>	6,700	7,400	700
Trade	1,000	1,200	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	500	500	0
Educational Services	700	700	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	600	900	300
Public Administration	2,300	2,100	-200
All classes of worker ²	7,300	8,100	800
<u>Employees</u>	6,500	7,500	1,000
Public sector employees	4,100	3,800	-300
Private sector employees	2,500	3,700	1,200
All types of work	7,300	8,100	800
Full-time employment	6,300	6,700	400
Part-time employment	1,000	1,400	400

Notes: 1) Goods-producing industries' data tend to be more or less reliable.
2) Self-employment data tend to be more or less reliable.

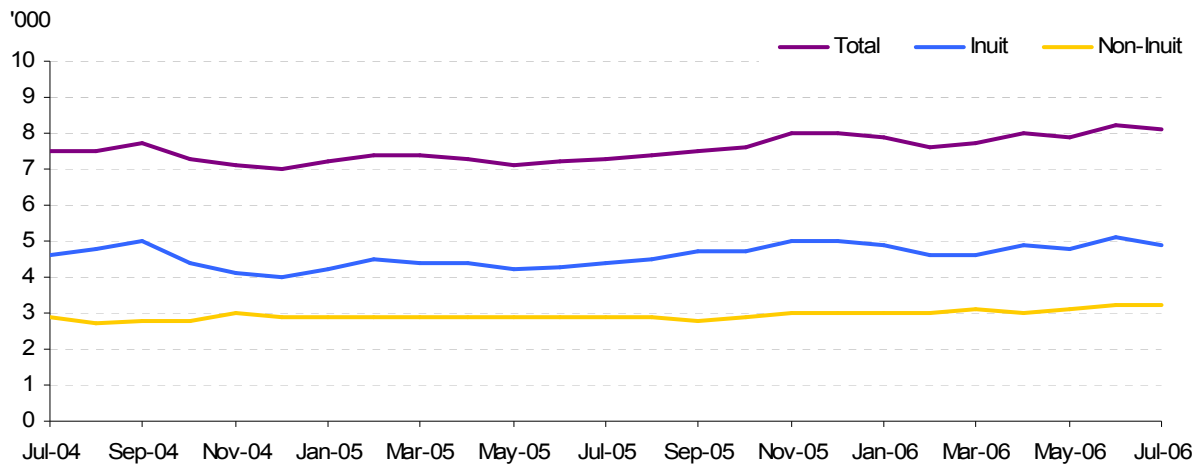
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Employment trends

Employment tends to follow regular seasonal patterns over the months, which makes it difficult to analyse the month-to-month changes. A technique called “seasonal adjustment” allows this type of comparison by removing the seasonal movements observed in the data series. However, at least five years of data is needed to calculate a seasonal pattern in a series. In the meantime, it is recommended to compare a 3MMA estimate with the same three-month period of a preceding year.

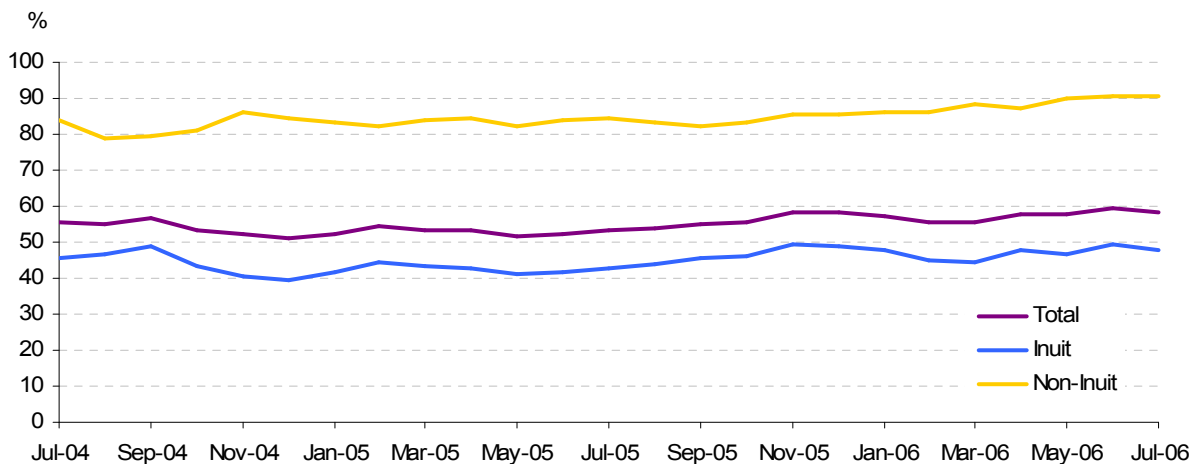
From the 3MMA ending in July 2004 to July 2006, the number of employed people in the 10 largest communities in Nunavut varied from a low of 7,000 in December 2004 to a high of 8,200 in June 2006. The Inuit share of total employment varied from a low of 57% to a high of 65% during that period. The number of non-Inuit with a job has been mostly stable over the past two years.

Chart 6: Employment by Inuit identity, Nunavut – 10 largest communities, unadjusted for seasonality, 3 month moving averages



The employment rate is a useful indicator to monitor since it takes into account population variations. On average for May to July 2006, the proportion of employed people among the working-age population was estimated at 58.5%, a proportion higher than what was observed in the 3MMA ending in July 2004 and July 2005. The employment growth was faster than the population growth, increasing therefore the employment rate.

Chart 7: Employment rates by Inuit identity, Nunavut – 10 largest communities, unadjusted for seasonality, 3 month moving averages



Please see the notes and definitions on pages 6 and 7 for a better understanding of the survey and its concepts.

Table 4: Participation, employment and unemployment rates by territory and province, 3MMA ending in July 2006

	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Nunavut	66.1	58.5	11.6
Canada	68.4	64.2	6.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	62.1	53.6	13.6
Prince Edward Island	71.5	65.5	8.4
Nova Scotia	64.4	59.4	7.8
New Brunswick	66.0	60.6	8.2
Quebec	66.6	61.5	7.5
Ontario	69.0	64.6	6.4
Manitoba	69.5	66.8	3.8
Saskatchewan	70.3	67.2	4.4
Alberta	74.8	72.2	3.5
British Columbia	66.3	63.2	4.6
Yukon	80.0	75.8	5.2
Northwest Territories	79.9	75.1	6.5

On average for May to July 2006, the proportion of people working among the population aged 15 and over in the 10 largest Nunavut communities (58.5%) was lower than most provinces and territories. Only Newfoundland and Labrador had a lower employment rate (53.6%).

Similarly, the unemployment rate in the 10 largest community in Nunavut (11.6%) was the second highest in the country after the one observed in Newfoundland and Labrador (13.6%).

Notes about the Labour Force Survey in Nunavut

All the data in this document are from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), a national household survey conducted each month by Statistics Canada. The LFS is the source of the official measure of unemployment in Canada and provides information on major labour market trends. The objective of the LFS is to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive classifications – employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force – and to provide descriptive data on each of these categories.

The LFS has been conducted in Nunavut as a pilot project since late 2000 and, after analysis of the preliminary data, the estimates starting from January 2004 and onward were considered to be sufficiently reliable to be released. The survey covers the 10 largest communities in Nunavut (about 70% of the working-age population) and is not representative of the whole territory, although it gives a close portrait of the labour force situation in Nunavut. According to the 2001 Census, the 10 largest communities in Nunavut are: Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk and Cape Dorset.

The Nunavut data are collected from a sample of approximately 450 households per three-month consecutive period, involving about 1,020 persons 15 years of age and over. Data collection is carried out each month during the week following the LFS reference week (normally the week containing the 15th day of the month). The average response rate in Nunavut was 94.2% in 2004 and 91.6% in 2005.

Results for the territories are reported based on 3 month moving averages (3MMA) to respect the sampling design and to obtain reasonable sampling errors. This means that data reported for July, actually represent survey collection in May, June and July. All survey counts are rounded to the nearest 100, but the rates are based on the unrounded data. Due to the rounding some components may not sum to the total. Rounded estimates of less than 200 are suppressed for confidentiality and reliability reasons. Therefore, any estimates with a value of 149 or less are indicated as 0.

More detailed information on the Labour Force Survey methodology, data quality and definitions is available from the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics. For more information about the survey and/or to obtain data, please contact the Labour Market Analyst at the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics (867-473-2653; slanglois@gov.nu.ca).

Next release date: September 8, 2006

Please see the definitions on page 7 for a clarification of the terms used.

Definitions

Discouraged searcher

Discouraged searchers are defined as those persons who reported wanting to work at a job or business during the reference week and were available but who did not look for work because they believed no suitable work was available.

Employment

Employed persons are those who, during the reference week: (a) did any work at all at a job or business, that is, paid work in the context of an employer-employee relationship, or self-employment; or (b) had a job but were not at work due to factors such as own illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, vacation, labour dispute or other reasons (excluding persons on layoff, between casual jobs, and those with a job to start at a future date).

Employment rate

Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The employment rate for a particular group (for example, Inuit aged 25 years and over) is the number employed in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

Full-time employment

Persons who usually work 30 hours or more per week at their main or only job.

Goods-producing industries /sector

Includes agriculture; forestry, fishing, mining, and oil and gas extraction; utilities (electric power, gas and water); construction; and manufacturing.

Inuit identity

Persons who reported identifying themselves as Inuit. This is based on the individual's own perception of his/her Inuit identity.

Labour force

Civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the survey reference week, were employed or unemployed.

Not in the labour force

Persons not in the labour force are those who, during the reference week, were unwilling or unable to offer or supply labour services under conditions existing in their labour markets, that is, they were neither employed nor unemployed.

Part-time employment

Persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week at their main or only job.

Participation rate

Total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. The participation rate for a particular group (for example, Inuit aged 25 years and over) is the labour force in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

Private sector employee

Those who work as employees of a private firm or business.

Public sector employee

Those who work for a local, provincial or federal government, for a government service or agency, a crown corporation, or a government funded public establishment such as a school (including universities) or a hospital.

Service-producing industries/sector

Includes trade; transportation and warehousing; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing; professional, scientific and technical services; management, administrative and other support; educational services; health care and social assistance; information, culture and recreation; accommodation and food services; other services; and public administration.

Unemployment

Refers to persons who during the reference week were available for work and; (i) were without work and had looked for work in the previous four weeks, or (ii) had been on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or (iii) had definite arrangements to start a new job within the next four weeks.

Unemployment rate (official)

Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (for example, Inuit aged 25 years and over) is the number unemployed in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that group.

Unemployment rate (alternative)

Number of unemployed persons and discouraged searchers expressed as a percentage of the labour force including the discouraged searchers.

¹ Please use with caution the unemployment estimates (levels and rates) as they tend to have a high variability.

² Statistics Canada. 1999. "Supplementary measures of unemployment". *Labour Force Update*. 3, 3, Summer: 32–39. Catalogue no. 71-005-XPB.