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Asked by: John Main, MLA for Arviat North – Whale Cove

Asked of: Hon. David Akeeagok

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Number: 58 - 5 (2)

Date: November 7, 2019

Subject: Unemployment Rates and Labour Force

Question 1a: For the calendar years 2017, 2018, and 2019 to date, and providing a ranking from highest to lowest: What was the unemployment rate by Nunavut community

The unemployment rate is only available by community during census years. The latest available information in that detail derives from the 2016 census:

Clyde River	40.2%	Qikiqtarjuaq	26.0%
Taloyoak	39.7%	Kimmirut	25.8%
Gjoa Haven	35.8%	Pond Inlet	24.8%
Arviat	34.9%	Igloolik	23.9%
Kugaaruk	33.8%	Pangnirtung	23.0%
Coral Harbour	32.4%	Arctic Bay	21.4%
Naujaat	32.3%	Rankin Inlet	17.5%
Sanikiluaq	28.3%	Cambridge Bay	17.2%
Kugluktuk	27.6%	Chesterfield Inlet	15.0%
Cape Dorset	27.3%	Grise Fiord	13.3%
Baker Lake	26.5%	Resolute	11.8%
Whale Cove	26.3%	Iqaluit	9.6%
Hall Beach	26.2%		

During non-census years, the unemployment rate is estimated for Nunavut as a whole, using information from Labour Force Survey (a national household survey conducted each month by Statistics Canada).

2017:14.6%

2018: 14.1%

2019: (not yet available)

Question 1b: What was the source of data for the answer to 1 a?

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue #98-401-X2016055

Question 1c: To what extent does this represent a true measure of unemployment in Nunavut, considering the tendency for individuals to remove themselves from the labor force?

The calculation of unemployment rate does not consider individuals who have removed themselves from the labour force. For that reason, unemployment rates should not be viewed in isolation of participation rates. The participation rates are tracked alongside unemployed, this information is available from the same source.

2016:

Arctic Bay	81.8%	Arviat	61.7%
Cape Dorset	79.0%	Baker Lake	60.9%
Clyde River	75.0%	Chesterfield Inlet	60.8%
Grise Fiord	73.5%	Coral Harbour	60.7%
Hall Beach	70.4%	Naujaat	59.9%
Igloolik	70.2%	Rankin Inlet	59.8%
Iqaluit	67.5%	Whale Cove	59.8%
Kimmirut	65.7%	Cambridge Bay	59.6%
Pangnirtung	65.4%	Gjoa Haven	57.9%
Pond Inlet	63.9%	Kugaaruk	53.6%
Qikiqtarjuaq	62.7%	Kugluktuk	52.3%
Resolute	62.2%	Taloyoak	50.8
Sanikiluaq	61.8%		

During non-census years, the participation rate is estimated for Nunavut as a whole, using information from Labour Force Survey (a national household survey conducted each month by Statistics Canada).

2017: 64.3%

2018: 62.9%

2019: (not yet available)

Question 1d: What alternative measures to a unemployment rate does the Department track in terms of labour force utilization and employment in Nunavut?

There are a number of other tools available in addition to the community employment information included above, these are published regularly on the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics website:

- The Nunavut Government Employee Survey (NGES) and Nunavut Inuit Labor Force Analysis (NILFA) report. Both are undertaken collaboratively by Government of Nunavut, Employment and Social Development Canada, Statistics Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Statistics Canada's the Labor Force Survey which gives the total number of employed and unemployed persons; the Job Vacancy and Wage

Survey that provides quarterly data on job vacancies and average hourly wages offered; and Employment Insurance (EI) StatsUpdates which indicate the number of people who received EI benefits because they were unemployed.

Question 2: What specific actions has the Department taken to target economic development and employment opportunities in Nunavut communities with high unemployment?

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation (EDT) does not formally target communities or community projects based on measures of unemployment. Economic development projects and funding applications for business development are evaluated on the basis of overall impact. As such, communities with relatively scarce employment opportunities are more likely to receive support, when this is highlighted. Following this written question, the department will explore formalizing consideration of community unemployment rates when evaluating economic development proposals.

EDT also engages in targeted support related to large changes in employment. Most recently, loss of jobs caused by unexpected layoffs at Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Mine were of particular concern to the department, due to the scale at which qualified employees had lost their jobs at the mine. In response, EDT produced an informational campaign for laid-off employees with assistance from the federal government's Service Canada office in Nunavut, Nunavut Arctic College, Department Environment (Fishers and Sealing Division), Department of Family Services and Nunavut's Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium. Launched December 4, the campaign served to advise and guide laid-off Mary River employees on next best steps to take in periods of joblessness, including information on how to apply for employment and social assistance benefits from the federal and territorial governments, and highlight educational and training programs designed to open new and alternate employment opportunities for Nunavummiut. The campaign included:

- The launch of a web page on EDT's departmental website, which will remain open for all Nunavummiut who seek information on new employment opportunities. The web page is located at:
<https://www.gov.nu.ca/page/employment-support>
- Information sessions in Iqaluit and five communities in the North of Baffin Island that were most affected by the Mary River layoffs. These targeted sessions drew a total of 88 Nunavummiut, 42 of whom had been laid off from Mary River.[

The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics (Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs) is conducting a number of initiatives aimed at improving the availability and usability of employment data and related information.

- The Bureau of Statistics Nunavut Job Vacancy Survey that collects data on advertised job vacancies in each Nunavut community is a potential source whose findings will be published soon to provide data on community level employment opportunities.
- The Bureau of Statistics collaborated with EDT, Family Services and other partners in 2016 and 2017 to conduct the first-ever Nunavut Business Survey to generate data on constraints that limit Nunavut entrepreneurs' ability to expand their operations and increase employment.'
- Currently, the bureau is conducting a survey on sources of funding, marketing and business support services from which Nunavut entrepreneurs can solicit funds and other resources to start new ventures or expand their current businesses and thereby employ more people.

Note: Further questions on unemployment would be best posed to the Minister of Family Services who holds responsibility for Labour.