

## **Labour Force Survey – Differences between North and Provinces - Sampling**

The sample for the Yukon and Northwest Territories is designed to be representative of the working-age population of each territory. Nunavut, on the other hand, has been designed to cover the 10 largest communities in the region, representing about 70% of all Nunavut residents 15 years of age and over. Plans are underway to determine the feasibility of increasing the survey coverage in Nunavut to bring it on par with the other two territories (about 98% in the Northwest Territories and about 92% in the Yukon Territory).

While persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements are not included in the sample for the provinces, the northern sample includes both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

In order to get a representative sample of the target population for each territory, the sample for three consecutive months are added. For this reason, estimates for the North are only available as 3 month moving averages.

Like the provinces, the northern sample design is also based on a rotating panel but at different intervals. Selected householders in the North are interviewed eight times, once every three months over a two-year period. For example, if a household was first selected for the month of January 2006, household members will be interviewed again every three months (i.e. April, July, and October 2006, January, April, July and October 2007). After eight interviews, the household is replaced by another from the same community or from another community in the same stratum. Each quarter, one-eighth of the sampled households are experiencing their first interview.

The same Labour Force Survey questions are asked in the territories as in the provinces, with a few exceptions. The rent questions are not asked in the territories nor are there any supplements to LFS in the North.