

Introduction

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The State of the Indigenous Economy as measured by employment measures was mixed. In 2019 wage rates increased for Aboriginals, their unemployment rates remained the same, while their employment and participation rates decreased. In contrast, all four of these rates improved for non-Aboriginals. In the following article, employment, unemployment, and participation rates are examined by gender, age, economic sector, and education level for Métis and First Nations. Historically these rates have been better for non-Aboriginals than for Aboriginals, and this was still the case in 2019. However, the employment rate is higher for Aboriginals who completed high school and post-secondary education than for non-Aboriginals who attained the same level of education. Thus, there appears to be a clear relationship between the education level attained and the employment rate. A reasonable conclusion is that adopting strategies that increase education levels of Aboriginals would improve the state of the Indigenous economy.