

Labour Market Notes

Labour market recovery stalls

Alberta

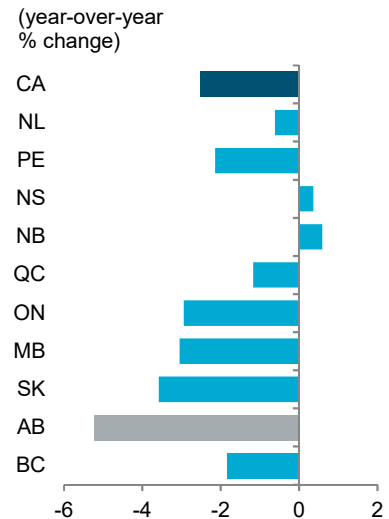
- **Employment takes a step back.** Employment declined 10,800 month-over-month (m/m) in November after consecutive monthly gains since April.
- **Part-time positions fully recovered.** Full-time (-29,400) positions declined, while part-time (+18,600) jobs continued to rise, surpassing its February levels.
- **Services sector retreats.** The employment in the service sector (-13,900) declined for the first time since April amid a COVID-19 resurgence. The decline was led by a large decrease in business, building and other support services (-11,800), which has been on the decline since its June 2020 peak. Meanwhile, an increase in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+6,600) moderated the overall employment loss.
- **Goods sector continues to grow.** The goods sector added jobs (+3,200) on the back of solid gains in natural resources sector (+4,700), supported by a growth in agriculture (+2,400) and construction (+2,200). Despite the gains, goods sector employment remained 4.6% lower than in February.
- **Private sector continued to improve.** The private sector added 9,700 jobs and has now recovered 70% of the peak-to-trough declines, but remains 6.5% below February level.
- **Unemployment rate ticks up.** The unemployment rate rose for the first time since May. It was up by 0.4 percentage point, to 11.1%. Meanwhile the labour force participation rate declined slightly by 0.1 percentage point to 69.5%.
- **Employment remains below pre-COVID levels.** Despite the monthly decline, Alberta has still recovered more than 68% (247,600) of the 360,900 jobs lost between February and April. However, employment remains nearly 113,300 below the February level.
- **Labour underutilization remains high.** In November, there were 166,300 who were employed but missed more than half of their usual hours during the reference week. This was up 49,400 (+42% y/y) more than a year ago. The number of Albertans who wanted a job but did not look for one declined in November, but remained 25,400 (+55% y/y) above last year.
- **Wages inch up.** The average hourly wage in Alberta increased for the first time since April to \$32.90 (+1.5% m/m). With this monthly gain, the average wage was up 3.0% from February and 4.7% compared to a year ago.

Canada

- **Employment growth across Canada continues to slow.** A total of 62,100 jobs were added in November, down from over 390,000 on average since May. Employment increased in seven of the ten provinces.
- **Unemployment rate falls.** The national unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage point to 8.5% in November.
- **Wages remain elevated.** The national average hourly wage edged down to \$29.68 (-0.2% m/m). The average wage remained 3.6% above February and 5.0% higher than last year.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

November 2020 vs. November 2019



Source: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,216,600
month-over-month change	-10,800
year-over-year % change	-5.2%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	11.1%
Edmonton UR**	11.3%
Calgary UR**	10.7%
Participation Rate	69.5%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,204.26
year-over-year % change	2.5%
Average Hourly Wage	\$32.93
year-over-year % change	4.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

* All data is from the November 2020 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is the September 2020 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

** This indicator is calculated as a three month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

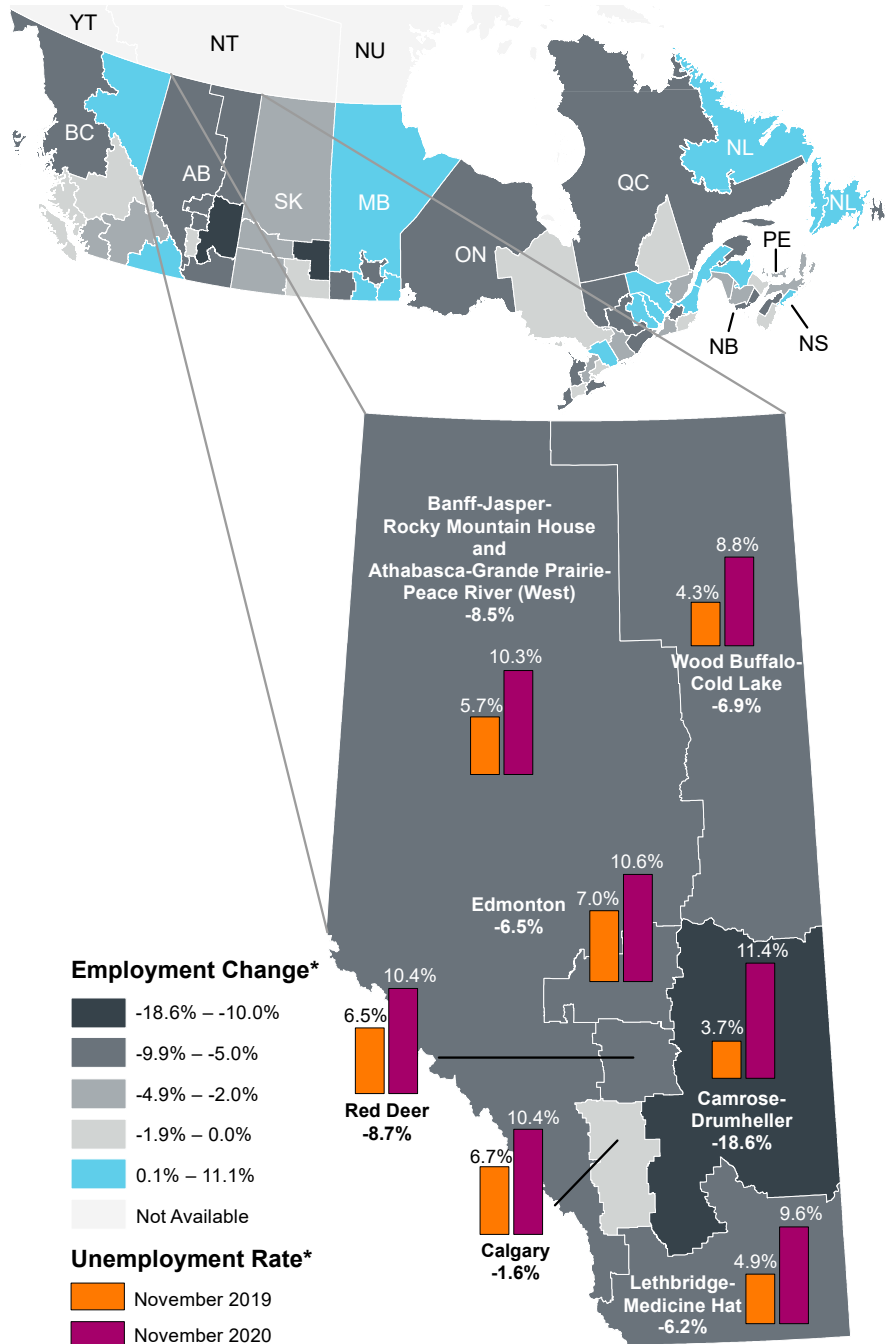
Regional labour market indicators

	2018	2019	2020 YTD
Alberta			
Population	1.2	1.6	1.5
Labour Force	0.5	0.9	-2.4
Employment	1.9	0.5	-6.9
Unemployment Rate	6.6	6.9	11.1
Calgary			
Population	1.8	2.3	2.2
Labour Force	0.0	2.5	-1.0
Employment	0.9	3.0	-5.5
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.1	11.4
Edmonton			
Population	1.8	2.1	2.1
Labour Force	0.7	1.7	-3.4
Employment	2.6	0.7	-8.1
Unemployment Rate	6.4	7.3	11.7
West			
Population	-0.4	-0.4	-0.6
Labour Force	2.9	-1.2	-5.0
Employment	3.9	-1.1	-10.4
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.5	10.9
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	0.4	1.0	0.8
Labour Force	-0.6	0.1	-3.8
Employment	0.0	-0.8	-5.2
Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.0	7.7
Red Deer			
Population	0.6	0.9	0.7
Labour Force	3.1	-4.8	-2.8
Employment	4.8	-6.2	-7.7
Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.7	11.3
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	-0.6	-0.3	-0.4
Labour Force	-0.2	-7.1	3.2
Employment	2.8	-8.4	-0.6
Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.5	10.4
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	-2.1	-2.3	-2.5
Labour Force	-2.0	-0.9	-7.1
Employment	-0.2	-0.6	-10.3
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.6	9.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics
All numbers are percent growth, except unemployment rates.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY ECONOMIC REGION

Per cent change in year-over-year employment



*Based on three-month moving averages.

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