

# Labour Market Notes

Employment recovering as COVID restrictions ease

## Alberta

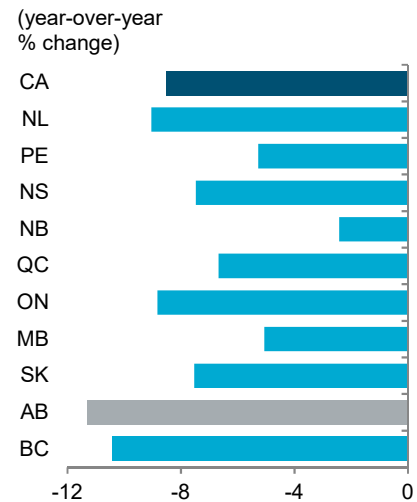
- **Employment continues to recover.** Alberta added 91,600 jobs in June, following a gain of 28,200 in May. In the past two months, Alberta has recovered 119,800 or 33% of the 360,900 jobs lost between February and April.
- **Recovery led by industries reopening in the services sector.** The service sector added 82,200 jobs in June. The gains were in the industries directly impacted by the public health measures. Retail and wholesale trade (+26,200), health care and social assistance (+23,100), information, culture and recreation (+14,300) and food and accommodation (+11,900) accounted for the majority of the gains.
- **Large gain in construction.** The construction sector added 16,500 jobs in June after losing more than 36,000 in the previous two months.
- **Rebound in the private sector.** The private sector has accounted for the majority of job losses and gains. After contracting by 333,000 jobs (-22%) between February and April, employment in the private sector grew by 121,000 in the last two months.
- **The goods sector continues to struggle.** Even though employment increased in June, the goods sector has shed 52,900 jobs (or 9.3%) since February, with employment lower in all industries.
- **COVID-19 weighing on nearly all industries.** Despite the gains over the past two months, employment in 14 of the 16 industries lower than in February. In percentage terms, employment in the accommodation and food services (-38%) has been hardest hit, while employment in many other industries remains 10% lower than February levels.
- **Fewer Albertans are missing work.** In June, there were 166,600 Albertans who were employed but did not work during the reference week. This was down from the 248,800 in April, but still 91,600 more than a year ago.
- **Unemployment rate unchanged.** Despite the employment gains, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 15.5%, as 109,000 people rejoined the labour force in June.
- **The participation rate remains low.** The participation rate jumped 3.0 percentage points to 69.1% in June, after gaining 2.4 percentage points in the previous month. Despite the increases, the participation rate remained 1.4 percentage points below February's level.
- **Many still not looking for work.** In June 116,300 Albertan wanted a job but did not search for work. While this was down from over 220,000 in April, it is more than double the 56,800 in February.

## Canada

- **Employment moves up.** Employment in Canada rose by nearly 1 million in June. Employment increased in all provinces, led by the populous provinces of Ontario (+377,900), Quebec (+247,500) and British Columbia (+118,100).
- **Unemployment rate falls.** The national unemployment rate fell 1.4 percentage points from a record high of 13.7% in May to 12.3% in June.

### EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

June 2020 vs. June 2019



Source: Statistics Canada

### ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

| Indicator                      | Latest*    |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Employment                     | 2,088,800  |
| month-over-month change        | 91,600     |
| year-over-year % change        | -11.3%     |
| Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR) | 15.5%      |
| Edmonton UR**                  | 15.7%      |
| Calgary UR**                   | 15.6%      |
| Participation Rate             | 69.1%      |
| Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)  | \$1,241.42 |
| year-over-year % change        | 8.5%       |
| Average Hourly Wage            | \$33.43    |
| year-over-year % change        | 6.3%       |
| Job Vacancy Rate***            | 2.6%       |

Source: Statistics Canada

\* All data is from the June 2020 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is the April 2020 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Job Vacancy Rate which is the third quarter 2019 Job Vacancy and Wage Survey.

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

\*\*\* This indicator is reported quarterly.

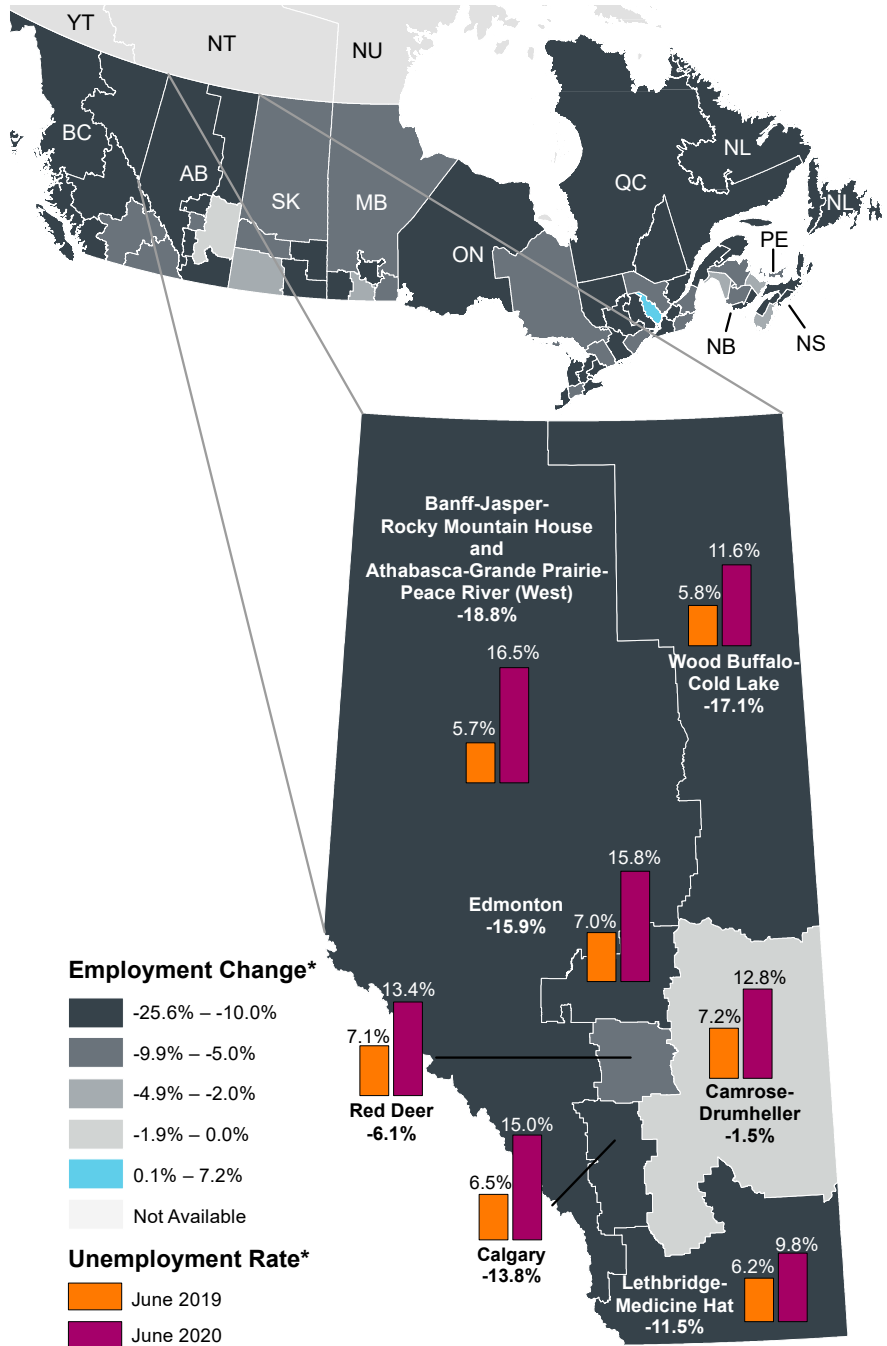
# Regional labour market indicators

|                                  | 2017 | 2019 | 2020<br>YTD |
|----------------------------------|------|------|-------------|
| <b>Alberta</b>                   |      |      |             |
| Population                       | 1.2  | 1.6  | 1.7         |
| Labour Force                     | 0.5  | 0.9  | -2.8        |
| Employment                       | 1.9  | 0.5  | -6.1        |
| Unemployment Rate                | 6.6  | 6.9  | 10.0        |
| <b>Calgary</b>                   |      |      |             |
| Population                       | 1.8  | 2.3  | 2.4         |
| Labour Force                     | 0.0  | 2.5  | -2.4        |
| Employment                       | 0.9  | 3.0  | -5.7        |
| Unemployment Rate                | 7.6  | 7.1  | 10.3        |
| <b>Edmonton</b>                  |      |      |             |
| Population                       | 1.8  | 2.1  | 2.2         |
| Labour Force                     | 0.7  | 1.7  | -4.1        |
| Employment                       | 2.6  | 0.7  | -7.8        |
| Unemployment Rate                | 6.4  | 7.3  | 10.6        |
| <b>West</b>                      |      |      |             |
| Population                       | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.4        |
| Labour Force                     | 2.9  | -1.2 | -3.7        |
| Employment                       | 3.9  | -1.1 | -8.6        |
| Unemployment Rate                | 5.6  | 5.5  | 10.2        |
| <b>Lethbridge - Medicine Hat</b> |      |      |             |
| Population                       | 0.4  | 1.0  | 1.0         |
| Labour Force                     | -0.6 | 0.1  | -2.0        |
| Employment                       | 0.0  | -0.8 | -2.6        |
| Unemployment Rate                | 5.1  | 6.0  | 6.7         |
| <b>Red Deer</b>                  |      |      |             |
| Population                       | 0.6  | 0.9  | 0.9         |
| Labour Force                     | 3.1  | -4.8 | -2.2        |
| Employment                       | 4.8  | -6.2 | -7.0        |
| Unemployment Rate                | 5.5  | 6.7  | 10.6        |
| <b>Camrose - Drumheller</b>      |      |      |             |
| Population                       | -0.6 | -0.3 | -0.2        |
| Labour Force                     | -0.2 | -7.1 | 9.1         |
| Employment                       | 2.8  | -8.4 | 9.1         |
| Unemployment Rate                | 5.1  | 6.5  | 8.6         |
| <b>Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake</b>  |      |      |             |
| Population                       | -2.1 | -2.3 | -2.3        |
| Labour Force                     | -2.0 | -0.9 | -8.1        |
| Employment                       | -0.2 | -0.6 | -9.9        |
| Unemployment Rate                | 5.9  | 5.6  | 7.8         |

Source: Statistics Canada  
All number 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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Have a question? Send us an [email](#)