

Labour Market Notes

Employment moves up after two months of record job losses

Alberta

- **Employment bounces higher.** Employment grew 28,200 in May following record declines in the previous two months.
- **Gains solely in part-time positions and services sector.** With the phase one relaunch, job gains were entirely in the service sector (+33,000), while employment in the goods sector (-4,800) fell. In particular, the gains were concentrated in retail and wholesale trade, food and accommodation, and other services, which were impacted by public health restrictions. Part-time employment also grew (+55,000), while full-time (-26,800) positions continued to decline.
- **Unemployment rate moves higher.** Despite the gain in employment, the unemployment rate rose 2.1 percentage points to 15.5% as many Albertans rejoined the labour force and started looking for work.
- **Participation rate increases from record low.** The participation rate increased 2.4 percentage points to 66.1%, as the number of Albertans not in the labour force but wanting to work fell by 58,000. The increase follows the change in the CERB program allowing people earning up to \$1,000 a month to be eligible for the benefit. However, there are still over 160,000 Albertans not in the labour force but wanting to work, which was 100,000 more than in February.
- **Labour market remains weak.** Despite the job gains, employment remains down more than 330,000 since February, reflecting the continued impact of COVID-19. The private sector has accounted for the majority of the losses, down 303,200 jobs or 20.0%. Employment in the public sector has also fallen (-35,100 or -8.0%), while self-employment (+5,700 or 1.5%) has increased.
- **All industries impacted.** The losses since February have been broad-based, with employment lower in both the goods and services sector. The service sector accounts for the majority of the losses, with employment down 270,500 or 15.4% since February. In percentage terms, industries that have had shutdowns, such as accommodation and food services (-45.7%), information, culture and recreation (-28.4%), wholesale and retail trade (-20.1%) and other services (-18.0%) have had the largest declines.
- **COVID-19 is having an impact beyond employment.** In May, there were 247,000 Albertans who were employed but did not work during the reference week. This was virtually unchanged from April and 171,900 more than a year ago. The number of Albertans working less than half their usual hours also remained elevated and the year-over-year decline in total hours worked accelerated to 22.3% from 21.7% in April.

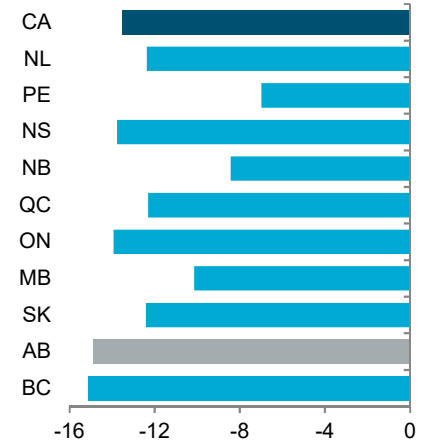
Canada

- **Employment moves up as restrictions gradually ease.** Employment in Canada rose by 289,600 in May after falling by more than 3 million in the previous two months. Employment rebounded in provinces that have begun to ease public health and other restrictions, led by Quebec (+230,900), British Columbia (+43,300) and Alberta (+28,200).
- **Unemployment rate hits a record.** The national unemployment rate rose 0.7 percentage points to 13.7%, surpassing the record 13.1% hit in December 1982.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

May 2020 vs. May 2019

(year-over-year % change)



Source: Statistics Canada

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	1,997,200
month-over-month change	28,200
year-over-year % change	-14.9%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	15.5%
Edmonton UR**	13.6%
Calgary UR**	13.4%
Participation Rate	66.1%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,173.70
year-over-year % change	1.4%
Average Hourly Wage	\$34.04
year-over-year % change	8.8%
Job Vacancy Rate***	2.6%

Source: Statistics Canada

* All data is from the May 2020 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is the March 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.

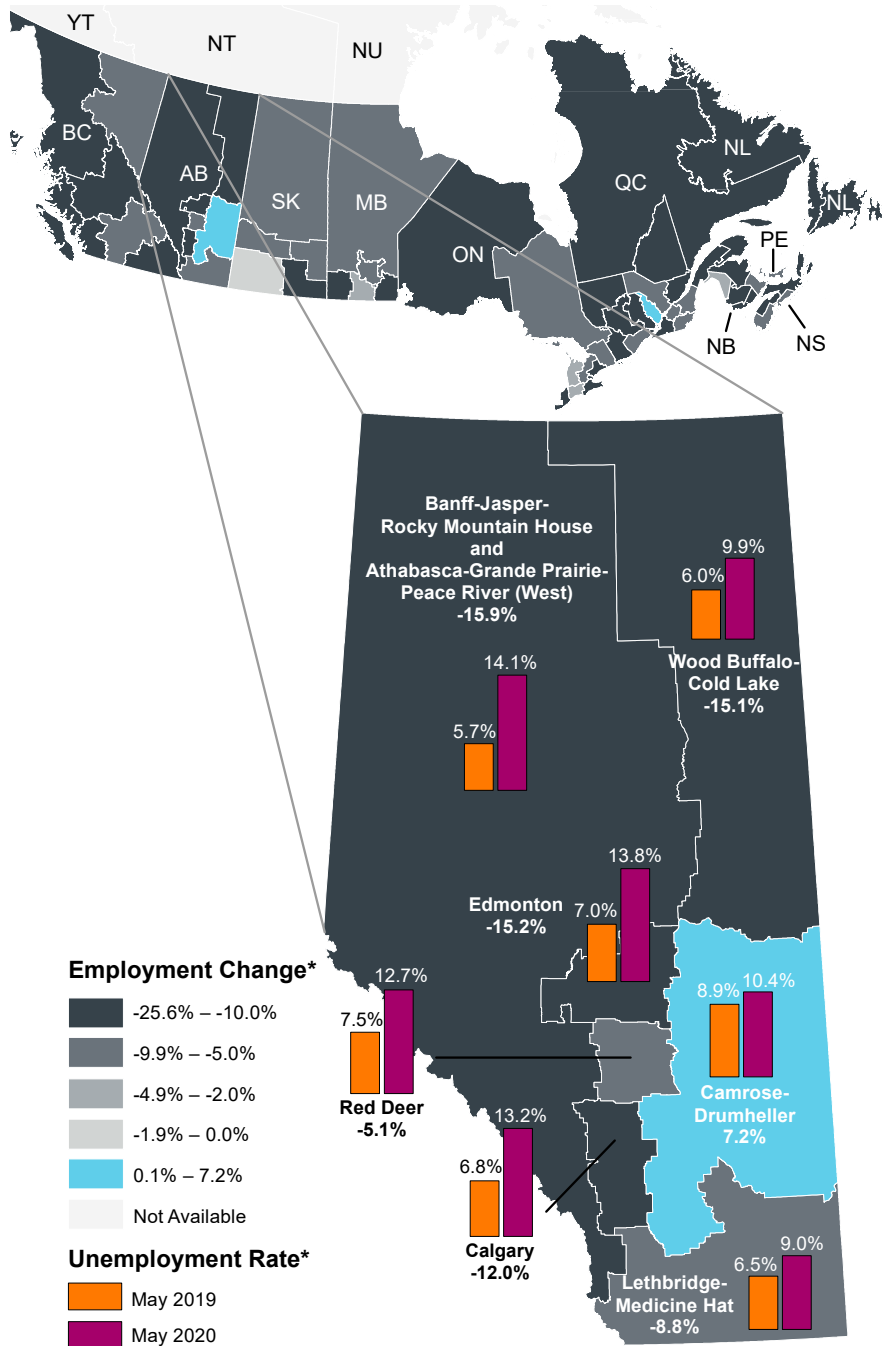
Regional labour market indicators

	2017	2019	2020 YTD
Alberta			
Population	1.2	1.6	1.7
Labour Force	0.5	0.9	-2.2
Employment	1.9	0.5	-4.5
Unemployment Rate	6.6	6.9	9.1
Calgary			
Population	1.8	2.3	2.4
Labour Force	0.0	2.5	-1.8
Employment	0.9	3.0	-4.0
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.1	9.4
Edmonton			
Population	1.8	2.1	2.2
Labour Force	0.7	1.7	-3.5
Employment	2.6	0.7	-6.2
Unemployment Rate	6.4	7.3	9.5
West			
Population	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Labour Force	2.9	-1.2	-2.8
Employment	3.9	-1.1	-6.6
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.5	8.9
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	0.4	1.0	1.0
Labour Force	-0.6	0.1	-0.8
Employment	0.0	-0.8	-0.7
Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.0	6.0
Red Deer			
Population	0.6	0.9	0.9
Labour Force	3.1	-4.8	-2.7
Employment	4.8	-6.2	-7.2
Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.7	10.0
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	-0.6	-0.3	-0.2
Labour Force	-0.2	-7.1	10.0
Employment	2.8	-8.4	11.4
Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.5	7.7
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	-2.1	-2.3	-2.3
Labour Force	-2.0	-0.9	-7.4
Employment	-0.2	-0.6	-8.4
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.6	7.0

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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