

# Labour Market Notes

Labour market continues to make headway

## Alberta

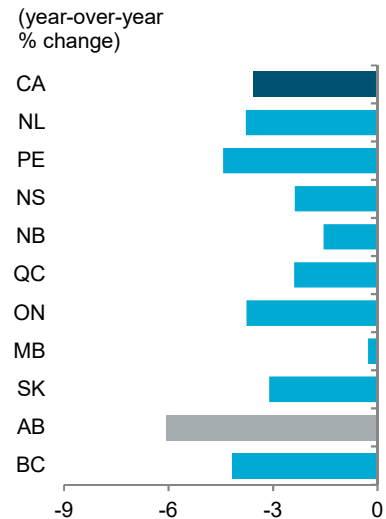
- The recovery in Alberta's labour market continued in September.** Employment surged 38,200 month-over-month after solid gains over the previous four months.
- Strong gain in full-time.** The monthly job gains were almost entirely in full-time work (+34,500), but there was also modest growth in part-time positions (+3,700).
- Services sector continues to lead recovery.** A broad-based gain in the service sector (+30,100) accounted for most gains, led by educational services (+10,300) as schools reopened in the Fall. Information and culture (+8,700) and public administration (+8,200) also contributed to the increase. However, job gains in most service-producing industries slowed from the strong rebound seen in the spring and early summer.
- Goods sector lagging.** Goods sector employment increased (+8,100). However, the goods sector has shed 37,400 jobs (or -6.5%) since February, with employment lower in all industries but utilities. The manufacturing sector (-16,600 or -12.1%) and agriculture (-8,700 or 17.5%) have been particularly weak.
- Private sector regains ground.** The private sector accounted for the majority of the job losses between February and April, and for nearly all of the job gains since then. After contracting 333,000 jobs (or 22%), employment in the private sector has grown by 207,300 over the last five months.
- Unemployment rate ticks down.** The unemployment rate declined for the third month in a row, but only by a slight 0.1 percentage points to 11.7%, as the labour force participation rate increased by 1.1 percentage point to 69.7%.
- Employment remains below pre-COVID-19 levels.** With the monthly gain, Alberta has recovered 235,000, or 65%, of the 360,900 jobs lost between February and April. Employment in majority of the industries still remains below February levels.
- Many employed Albertans still missing work.** In September, there were 134,400 Albertans who were employed but did not work during the reference week. This was down from the high of 248,800 in April, but still 65,500 more than a year ago.
- Wages steady for September.** The average hourly wage in Alberta fell for the fifth month in a row to \$32.79 (-0.1%). Even with the recent pullback, the average wage was up 2.6% from February and were up 4.5% compared to a year ago.

## Canada

- Employment recovery across Canada accelerated.** A total of 378,200 jobs were added in September, following a gain of over million and a half over the previous three months. Employment increased in nine of the ten provinces.
- Unemployment rate falls.** The national unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points to 9.0% in September.
- Wages remain elevated.** The national average hourly wage ticked up, after declining in the past four months, to \$27.79 (or +0.8%). The average wage was up 3.7% from February and 5.7% higher compared to a year ago.

### EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

September 2020 vs. September 2019



Source: Statistics Canada

### ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,204,000
month-over-month change	38,200
year-over-year % change	-6.1%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	11.7%
Edmonton UR**	12.6%
Calgary UR**	12.6%
Participation Rate	69.7%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,214.29
year-over-year % change	4.5%
Average Hourly Wage	\$32.79
year-over-year % change	4.5%

Source: Statistics Canada

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

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

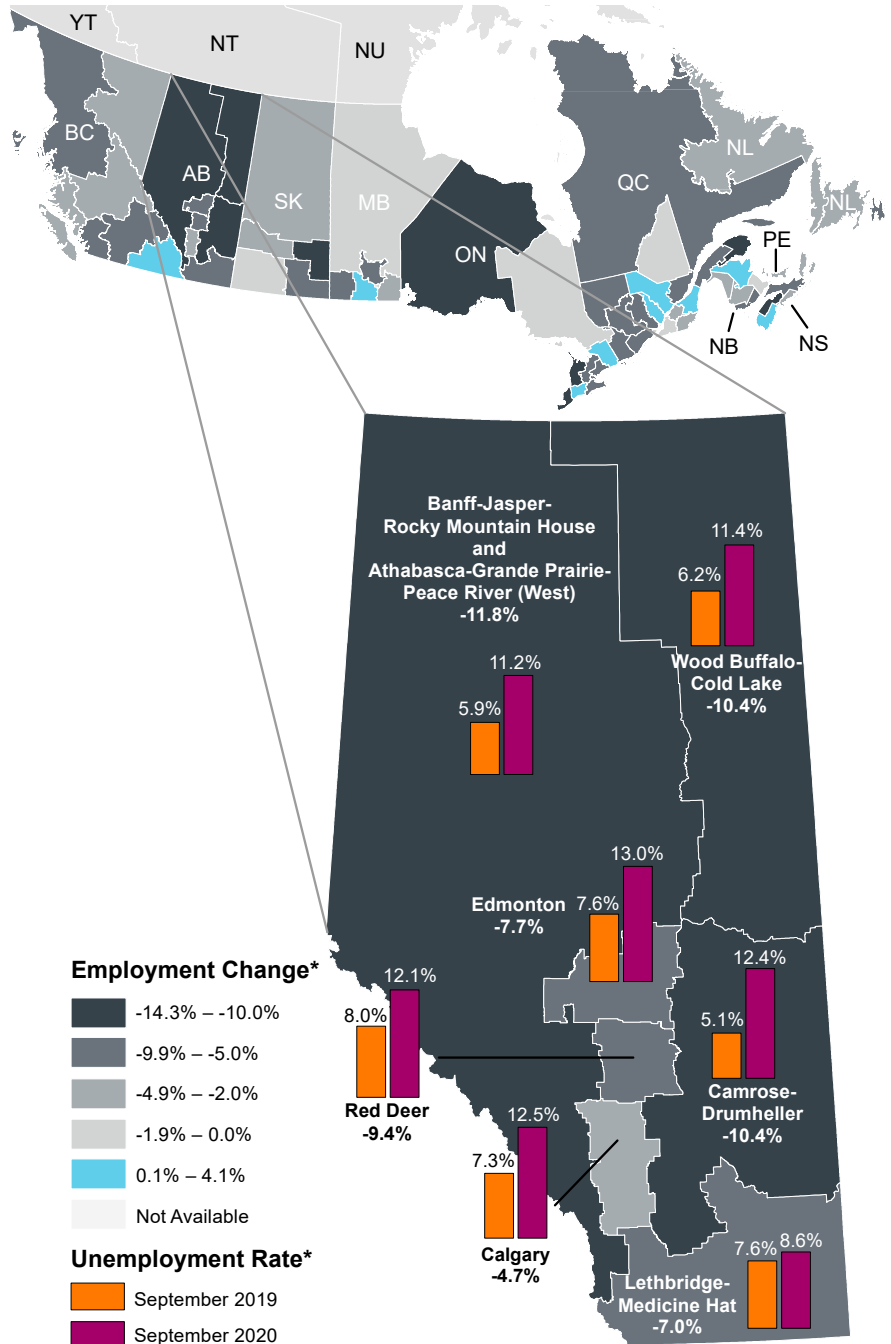
# Regional labour market indicators

	2018	2019	2020 YTD
<b>Alberta</b>			
Population	1.2	1.6	1.6
Labour Force	0.5	0.9	-2.7
Employment	1.9	0.5	-7.1
Unemployment Rate	6.6	6.9	11.2
<b>Calgary</b>			
Population	1.8	2.3	2.3
Labour Force	0.0	2.5	-1.7
Employment	0.9	3.0	-6.3
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.1	11.5
<b>Edmonton</b>			
Population	1.8	2.1	2.1
Labour Force	0.7	1.7	-3.6
Employment	2.6	0.7	-8.4
Unemployment Rate	6.4	7.3	11.8
<b>West</b>			
Population	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5
Labour Force	2.9	-1.2	-5.0
Employment	3.9	-1.1	-10.6
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.5	11.0
<b>Lethbridge - Medicine Hat</b>			
Population	0.4	1.0	0.9
Labour Force	-0.6	0.1	-3.8
Employment	0.0	-0.8	-4.8
Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.0	7.4
<b>Red Deer</b>			
Population	0.6	0.9	0.8
Labour Force	3.1	-4.8	-2.3
Employment	4.8	-6.2	-7.4
Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.7	11.4
<b>Camrose - Drumheller</b>			
Population	-0.6	-0.3	-0.3
Labour Force	-0.2	-7.1	6.1
Employment	2.8	-8.4	3.4
Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.5	10.0
<b>Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake</b>			
Population	-2.1	-2.3	-2.4
Labour Force	-2.0	-0.9	-7.9
Employment	-0.2	-0.6	-10.9
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.6	9.1

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