

Labour Market Notes

More full-time and private sector jobs

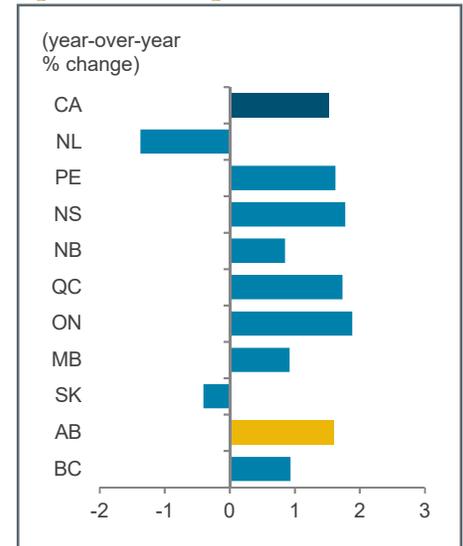
Alberta

- ◆ **Employment pauses.** After gains in six of the last seven months, employment stalled in April, easing by 1,800.
- ◆ **Rotation to full-time employment resumed.** All the monthly job losses were in part-time (-10,700) positions, while full-time employment (+8,900) increased for the first time since January. Since the June 2016 low, all the job gains have been in full-time employment (+93,200) while part-time employment has declined (-16,700).
- ◆ **Private sector gains ground.** After pulling back in the first quarter the private sector grew by 11,400. This was offset by job losses in the public sector (-9,300) and a decline in self-employment (-3,900). Over the last year, the employment gains have been concentrated in private sector (+20,800) and self-employment (+20,100), while the public sector (-4,400) declined modestly.
- ◆ **Recovery in the goods sector continues.** The goods sector added 8,300 jobs following a solid gain in April. The increase was led by the ongoing recovery in the manufacturing sector (+4,600) and an improvement in the construction industry (+3,100). The goods sector has accounted for nearly all the employment growth over the last 12 months.
- ◆ **Unemployment rate reverses last month's drop.** With a modest employment decline and growth in the labour force, the unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 6.7%. Despite the monthly increase, the unemployment rate has declined 1.2 percentage points over the last year.
- ◆ **Solid year-over-year job growth.** Despite the monthly weakness, year-over-year employment grew at a healthy rate, up 1.6% slightly higher than the Canadian rate of 1.5%.
- ◆ **Earnings move higher.** Average weekly earnings (AWE) jumped 1.1% higher in February to \$1,158. Compared to a year ago, earnings were up 4.3%.

Canada

- ◆ **Employment little changed.** Canada lost 1,100 jobs in April, as declines in Quebec (-13,800) and Saskatchewan (-4,900) were nearly offset by gain in Ontario (+9,300), Manitoba (+4,900) and BC (+2,900). Over the last 12 months, Canada has added 278,300 jobs for a year-over-year gain of 1.5%, down from the recent peak of 2.3% set in December.
- ◆ **Unemployment rate unchanged.** The Canadian unemployment rate remained at 5.8% for the third straight month, the lowest level since 1974.
- ◆ **Canadian earnings increase.** Canadian AWE edged up 0.4% in February to \$997, 3.4% higher than a year ago.

Employment Growth by Province, April 2018 vs. April 2017



Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta Labour Market Indicators

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,323,300
month-over-month change	-1,800
year-over-year % change	1.6%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	6.7%
Edmonton UR**	6.6%
Calgary UR**	8.0%
Participation Rate	72.0%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,158.11
year-over-year % change	4.3%
Average Hourly Wage	\$30.65
year-over-year % change	2.6%
Job Vacancy Rate***	1.8%

Source: Statistics Canada

* All data is from the April 2018 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is the February 2018 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Job Vacancy Rate is for January 2018.

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

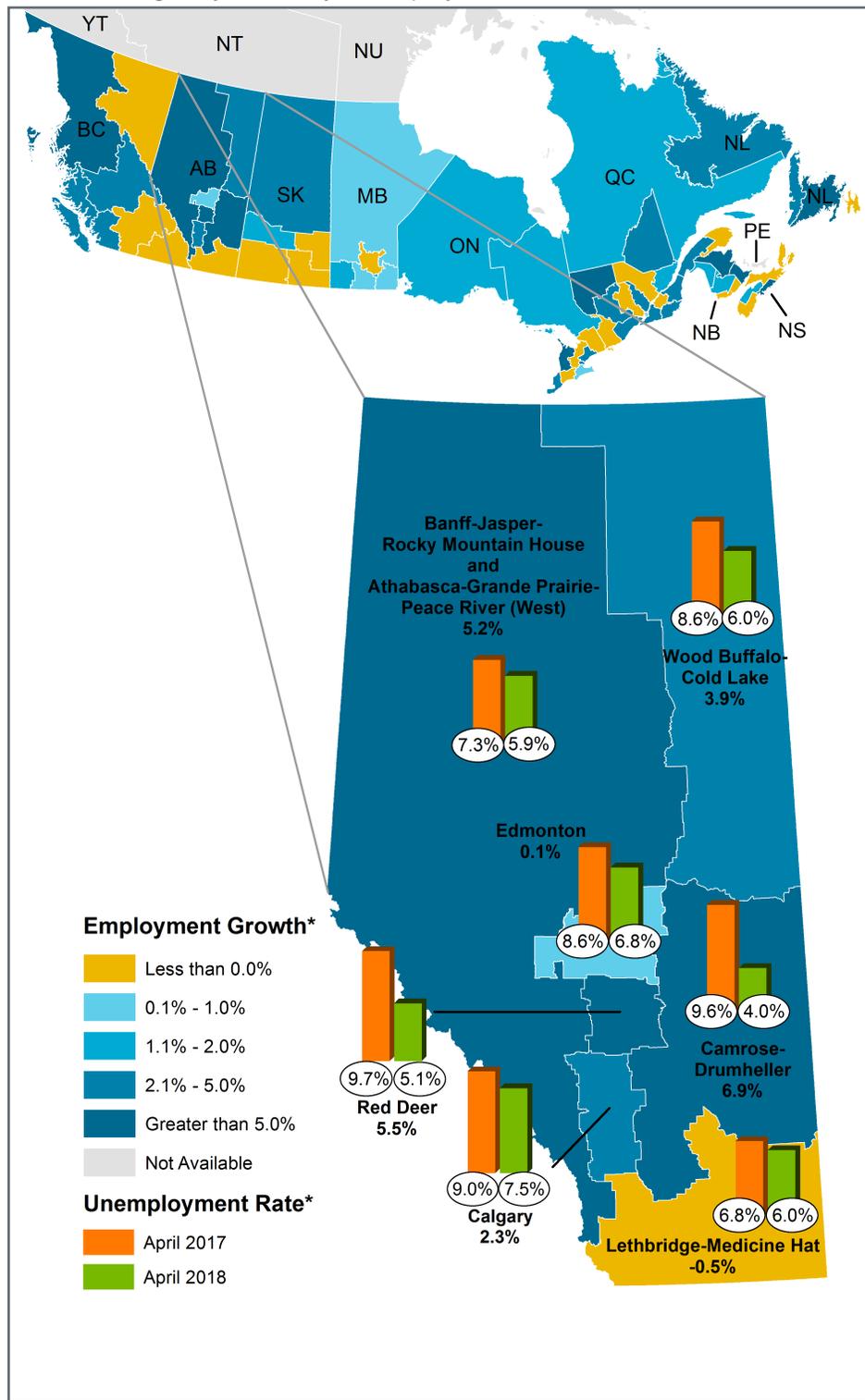
*** This indicator is calculated as a three-month moving average and is not seasonally adjusted.

Regional labour market indicators

	2016	2017	2018 YTD
Alberta			
Population	1.3	0.9	1.0
Labour Force	0.6	0.7	0.0
Employment	-1.6	1.0	2.0
Unemployment Rate	8.1	7.8	6.8
Calgary			
Population	1.9	1.4	1.6
Labour Force	1.3	1.8	0.8
Employment	-1.7	2.7	2.5
Unemployment Rate	9.2	8.4	7.7
Edmonton			
Population	1.7	1.3	1.6
Labour Force	1.3	0.9	-0.8
Employment	-0.2	0.1	1.0
Unemployment Rate	7.4	8.1	6.8
West			
Population	0.0	-0.5	-0.3
Labour Force	-4.2	0.1	1.9
Employment	-5.3	0.5	3.9
Unemployment Rate	6.9	6.4	5.6
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	0.0	-0.2	0.2
Labour Force	3.4	-4.4	-1.4
Employment	1.2	-3.3	-1.1
Unemployment Rate	6.9	5.7	6.5
Red Deer			
Population	1.2	0.5	0.5
Labour Force	-1.8	-0.1	-0.1
Employment	-4.3	1.7	4.4
Unemployment Rate	8.6	6.9	5.3
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	-0.3	-0.8	-0.7
Labour Force	-0.1	-0.6	-1.9
Employment	-3.4	-0.7	3.9
Unemployment Rate	7.8	8.0	4.2
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	0.9	-0.8	-1.8
Labour Force	-2.6	0.0	0.0
Employment	-4.0	1.8	3.3
Unemployment Rate	9.3	7.7	6.0

Employment growth by economic region

Percent change in year-over-year employment



Source: Statistics Canada
All number are percent growth, except unemployment rates

*Based on three month moving averages

Albertans work more hours and miss less work

On average, Albertans work more hours per week and miss few days of work compared with workers in other provinces. This is due in part to the composition of Alberta's labour force and demographics. This Labour InSight compares absentee rates in Alberta with other provinces in Canada.

Albertans work more

The workweek in Alberta is longer compared with other provinces in Canada. In 2017, Albertans worked an average of 34.6 hours per week, 1.5 hours more than the Canadian average of 33.1. This difference is mostly due to the larger proportion of workers in the goods-producing sector, which tend to work more hours. In addition, Albertans are less likely to miss work, with fewer Albertans

taking time off for vacations and work due to illness.

Albertans vacation less...

Albertans are less likely to take vacations in a given month than workers of other provinces. On average over the past 12 months, 2.7% of employed Albertans took more than a whole week off for vacation during any given month. This is lower than the Canadian average and all the other provinces except for Atlantic Canada (Chart 1), where higher levels of seasonal employment mean people are less likely to take time off for vacations. Albertans also take fewer short vacations or holidays. In any given month, 8.7% of employed Albertans take less than a full week off for a vacation or a holiday, fewer than all other provinces, except for Quebec (Chart 2), where longer holidays are more common.

...and take fewer sick days

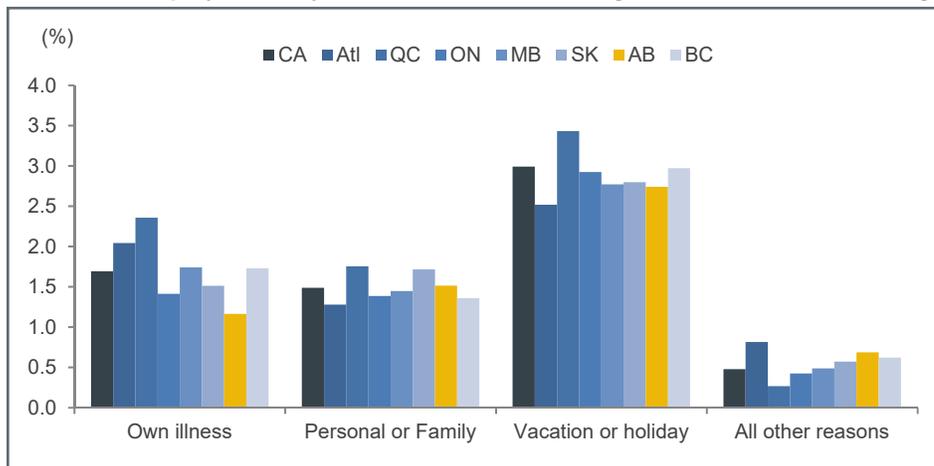
Albertans are also less likely to miss work due to illness, family and other personal reasons. Over the past 12 months, an average 4.0% of employed Albertans missed a day or week of work due to illness, the lowest rate among provinces. Albertans are also less likely to take a day off for personal and family reasons than their Canadian counterparts, with the exception of BC.

Composition factors

Alberta demographics and the composition of employment contribute to the lower absentee rates. Alberta's young work force is less likely to miss work due to vacation or illness compared to more mature workers. Moreover, with employment opportunities in remote locations and in seasonal industries, some employers in Alberta use rotational schedules, enabling employees to take vacation and holidays during their scheduled days off.

Chart 1: Fewer Albertans miss a whole work week

Per cent of employees away for one whole week during a month, 12-month average



Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance calculations

Chart 2: Fewer Albertans miss a part of a work week

Per cent of employees away for part of a week during a month, 12-month average



Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance calculations

Have a question or idea for Labour InSight? Send us an [email](#).

Contact

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