

2001 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

Alberta's Labour Market Continued to Outperform All Provinces

In 2001...

- Alberta's economy continued to create jobs. - Page 2
- Over a quarter of all employment growth in Canada occurred in Alberta. - Page 2
- More Albertans were working than ever before. - Page 2
- Alberta's employment rate led the country and was the highest recorded for the province in two decades. - Page 2
- Alberta had the lowest annual unemployment rate in Canada. - Page 4
- Edmonton and Calgary continued to have lower unemployment rates than other Canadian cities. - Page 4
- The seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate fell to a low of 4.0% in September before rising to close at 5.1% in December. - Page 4
- Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction emerged as the strongest growth industry, followed by Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, and Construction. - Page 5
- Increases in annual employment occurred in the following occupational groups: Social Science, Education, Government and Religion; Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities; and Sales and Service. - Page 6
- The youth unemployment rates in Alberta were the lowest of all provinces. - Page 7



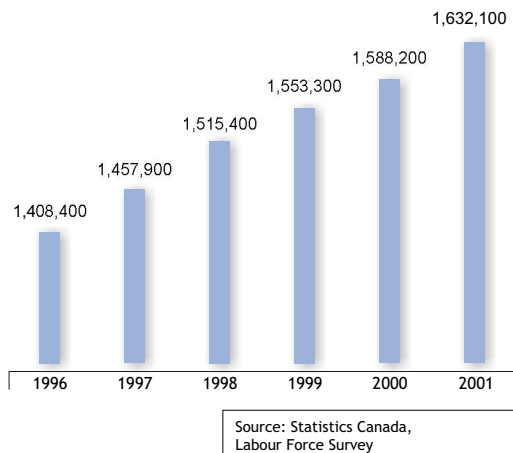
I. Employment

Alberta Continued to Create Jobs

Since 1996, employment in Alberta has grown by 223,700 jobs. This represents a 16% increase, the highest growth rate among all provinces over this period. More Albertans are working than ever before. In 2001, over 1.6 million people were employed in Alberta.

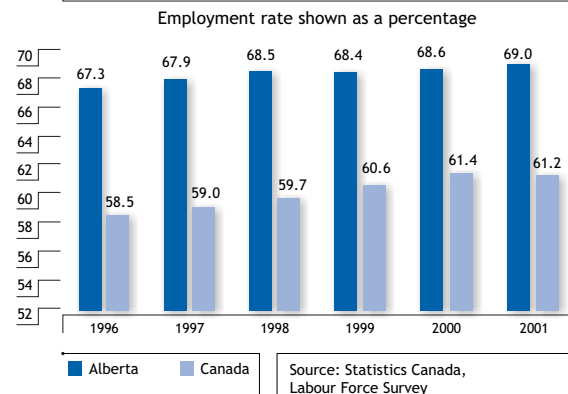
Last year, over a quarter (26.0%) of Canada's employment growth happened in Alberta where employment rose by 43,900. National employment rose by 167,000.

Annual Average Employment in Alberta, 1996-2001



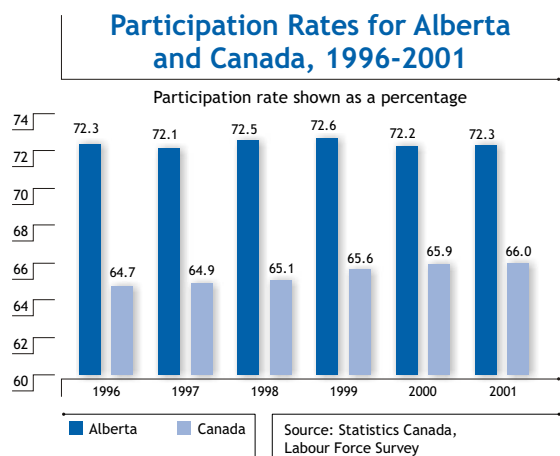
A high employment rate is one indicator of the economy's ability to create jobs and to employ a large percent of its working age population. In 2001, Alberta's employment rate of 69.0%, the highest recorded since 1981, led the country. The employment rate represents the number of people employed expressed as a percentage of the total working age population (people 15 years of age and older).

Employment Rate for Alberta and Canada, 1996-2001



I. Employment

In 2001, Alberta's participation rate averaged 72.3%, the highest of all provinces. The participation rate represents the total labour force expressed as a percentage of the working age population (people 15 years of age and older). The participation rates represent the proportion of the working age population either employed or actively looking for work.



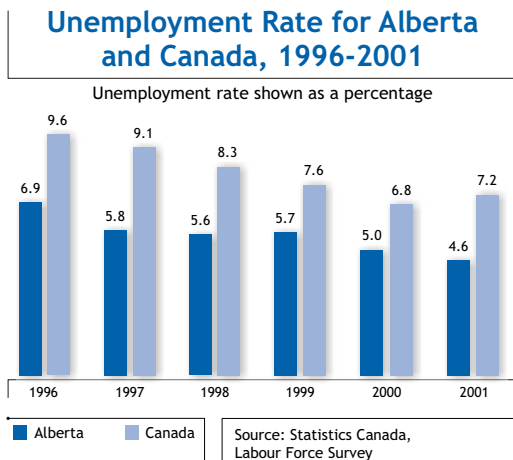
Of the people employed in Alberta, 81.8% were in full-time positions and 18.2% were in part-time positions.



II. Unemployment

Unemployment Levels Lowest in Canada

Alberta's unemployment rate has dropped 2.3 percentage points since 1996. In 2001, the annual unemployment rate was the lowest in the country at 4.6%. Alberta consistently has had an unemployment rate lower than the national rate.



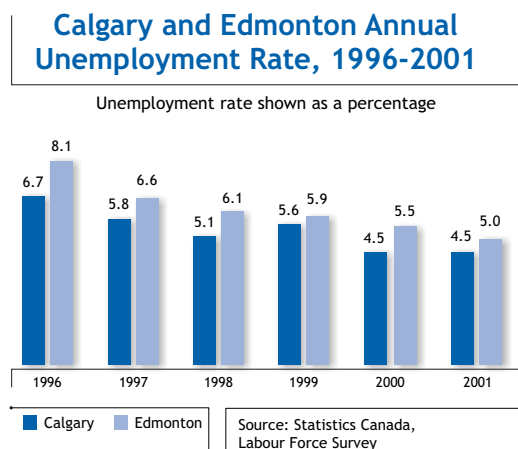
Alberta's annual unemployment rate in 2001 moved towards a tight labour market where demand is greater than supply. In this situation, there are more employers looking to hire than there are people looking for jobs.

The seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate fell to a low of 4.0% in September before rising to close at 5.1% in December.

Labour Market Thermometer



Since 1996, Calgary has dropped 2.2 percentage points in its unemployment rate and Edmonton has dropped 3.1 percentage points. Calgary and Edmonton continued to have the lowest unemployment rates among cities in Canada in 2001. Calgary's annual average was 4.5% and Edmonton's was 5.0%.



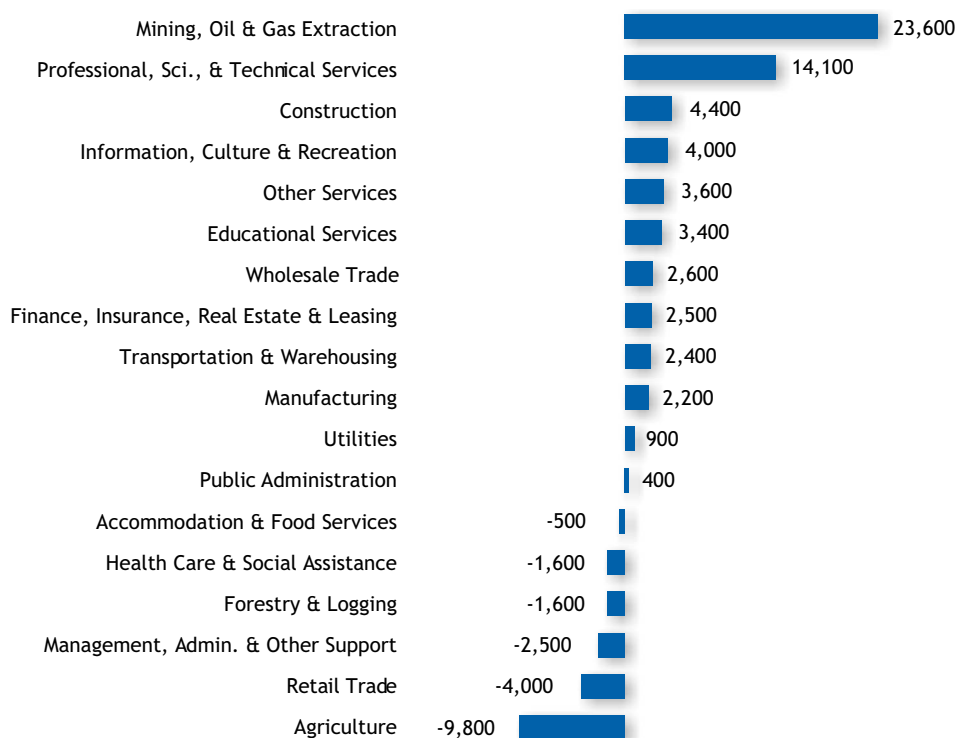
III. Industry

Strong Growth in Mining, Oil and Gas Industry

From 2000 to 2001, Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction had the greatest increases in employment (23,600 jobs). Professional, Scientific and Technical Services followed with an increase of 14,100 and Construction

came next with an increase of 4,400 jobs. The largest employment decreases occurred in Agriculture, 9,800; Retail Trade, 4,000; and Management, Administrative and Other Support, 2,500.

Annual Employment Growth by Industry in Alberta, 2000-2001



Source: Statistics Canada,
Labour Force Survey

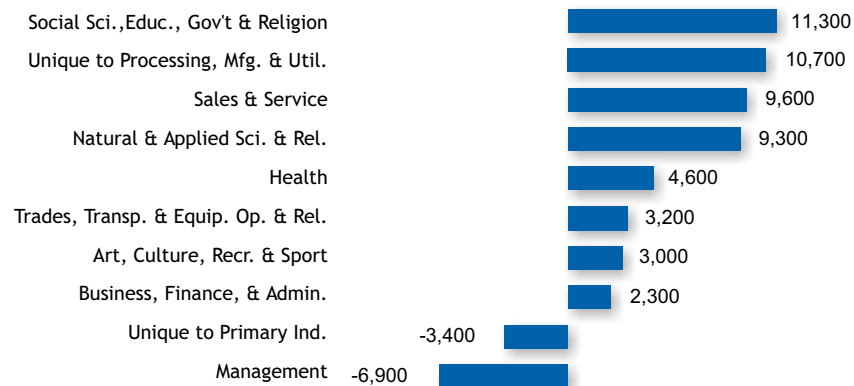
IV. Occupational Groups

Employment Growth in Most Groups

In 2001, the largest increases in jobs were in the following major occupational groupings: Social Science, Education, Government and Religion, at 11,300; Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities, at 10,700; and Sales and Service, at 9,600.

Decreases in employment occurred in two major occupational groupings: Management, at -6,900, and Occupations Unique to Primary Industry, at -3,400.

Annual Employment Growth by Occupations in Alberta, 2000-2001



Source: Statistics Canada,
Labour Force Survey

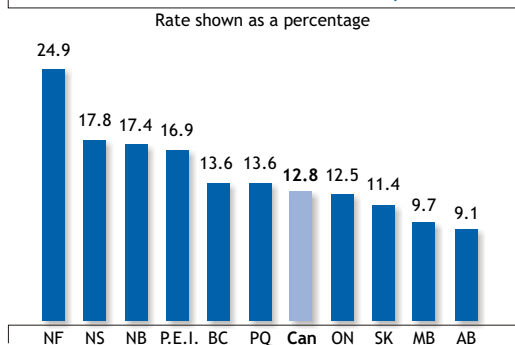
V. Characteristics of the Labour Force

Lowest Youth Unemployment Rate In Canada

In Canada, youths aged 15 to 24 years experience higher unemployment than any other age group. Compared to those in all other provinces, youths in Alberta have the lowest unemployment rate. However, Alberta youths experience more difficulty in finding employment than older people. In 2001, the average unemployment rate for Albertans aged 15 to 24 was 9.1%, more than double the rate of 3.6% for those aged 25 years of age or older.

Further examination of Alberta's youth population shows that those 15 to 19 years of age had an unemployment rate of 13.2%. For those aged 20 to 24, the rate was only 6.1%. Being inexperienced and less skilled are likely factors contributing to higher unemployment rates among those aged 15 to 19.

Youth (15-24) Unemployment Rate for Canada and Provinces, 2001



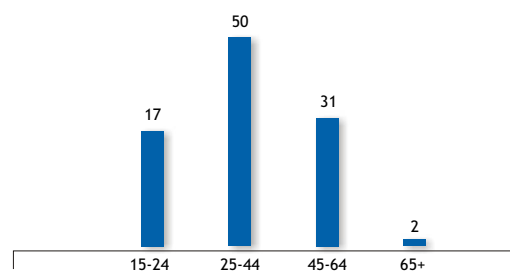
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

More Albertans Working Than Ever Before

In 2001, there were more than 1.6 million people employed in Alberta. Of that total, 17% were between 15 to 24 years of age, 50% were between 25 to 44 years of age, 31% were between 45 to 64 years of age, and 2% were 65 years or older.

Alberta's labour force is aging. In 1990, 25% of Albertans employed were 45 years of age or older. Currently, 33% are 45 years of age or older and soon will be approaching retirement age. The major impact of an aging workforce likely will be felt after 2011. Although Alberta has a younger population than other provinces in Canada, there still remains a need to address pressures created by an aging labour force.

Percentage Of Albertans Employed By Age Group



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



In Conclusion

By most major measures, Alberta's labour market in 2001 surpassed the performance of other provinces as well as Canada as a whole. Important categories where Alberta achieved top percentage ranking included employment, participation and employment growth. Compared with the rest of the country, Alberta also had the lowest annual unemployment rates both in terms of youth, and all age groups combined.

Besides outperforming other Canadian jurisdictions, several 2001 Alberta labour market results also compared favourably against the province's own past performance. For example, the employment rate reached a 20-year high. Furthermore, with 4.6% unemployment, Alberta maintained the general pattern of declining rates.

Additional information about
Alberta Labour Market statistics may be found at
www.gov.ab.ca/hre/lfstats.htm

