

Labour Market Notes

Alberta labour market resilient

Alberta

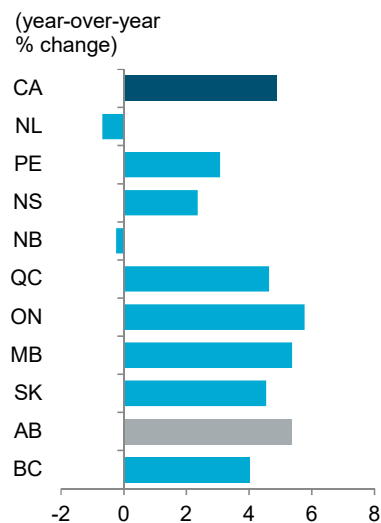
- **Employment holds up.** Employment in the province increased (+7,000 month-over-month or m/m) in January, as Alberta businesses and consumers navigated the ongoing Omicron wave.
- **Goods sector employment surges.** After growing in the previous two months, goods sector employment jumped by over 18,000 m/m on the back of broad-based gains. Manufacturing led the charge (+10,500 m/m), after declining for most of 2021.
- **Services sector employment.** Employment in service-producing sectors decreased (-11,300 m/m), led by pullbacks in other services (-10,600 m/m), education (-6,100 m/m), and professional and scientific (-5,500 m/m) services. However, employment in other close-contact industries such as accommodation & food, and information, culture & recreation managed to grow in January as public health measures were targeted.
- **Uptick in part-time positions.** Part-time positions led employment gains (+10,900), while full-time jobs receded (-3,900 m/m) in January. Both remained above their pre-pandemic levels.
- **Lower unemployment rate and participation rate.** The unemployment rate dropped to 7.2%, as employment gains outweighed increases to the labour force. The labour force participation rate dropped slightly to 69.6% and remained below pre-COVID levels.
- **Labour underutilization rises.** With the rapid spread of Omicron, the labour underutilization rate crept upwards to 15.2%. The number of Albertans who were employed but worked zero hours or less than half of their usual hours during the reference week increased 51,400 (+47% m/m) to 160,600. However, the number of those who wanted a job but did not look for one decreased 17% m/m.
- **Wages trend down.** The average hourly wage in Alberta contracted 1.2% m/m to \$32.50, a full 2.0% lower than a year ago when the hourly wage rate jumped.

Canada

- **National employment retreats.** Over 200,000 jobs were lost in January. Employment decreased in five provinces, led by Ontario (-145,700 m/m).
- **Unemployment rate rises.** With the employment decline, the national unemployment rate rose to 6.5% in January.
- **Wages increase.** With the job losses in lower-paid positions, the national average hourly wage rate edged up to \$30.95 (+1.5% m/m), up 2.4% compared to a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

January 2022 vs. January 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,306,800
month-over-month change	7,000
year-over-year % change	5.4%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	7.2%
Edmonton UR**	6.6%
Calgary UR**	8.5%
Participation Rate	69.6%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,231.81
year-over-year % change	3.0%
Average Hourly Wage	\$32.50
year-over-year % change	-2.0%
Job Vacancy Rate	4.4%

Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

* All data is from the January 2022 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is from the November 2021 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Job Vacancy Rate which is from the November 2021 Job Vacancy and Wage Survey.

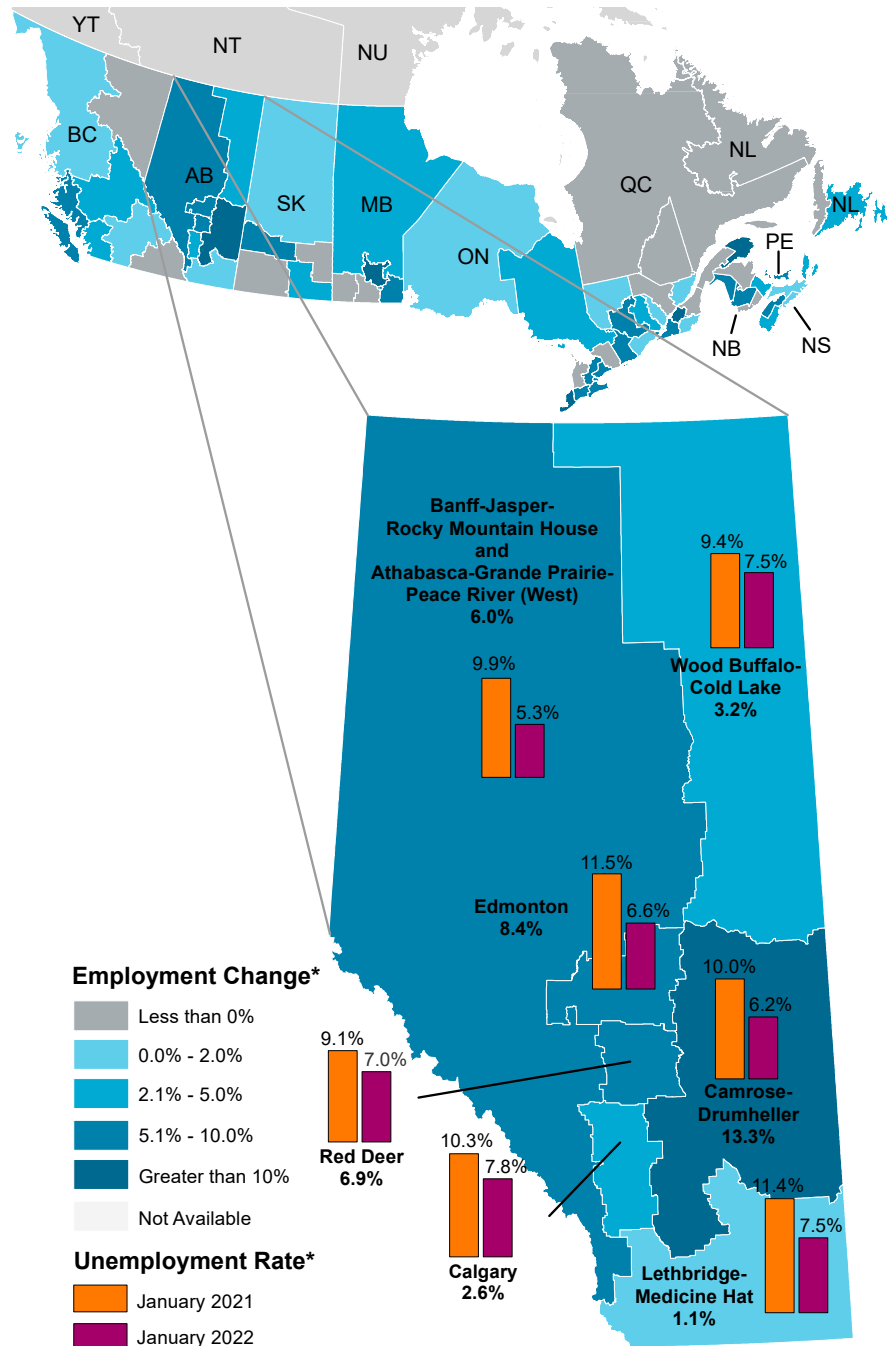
** This indicator is calculated as a three month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

Regional labour market indicators

	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Alberta			
Population	1.5	1.0	1.1
Labour Force	-1.9	2.0	1.9
Employment	-6.6	5.1	5.1
Unemployment Rate	11.4	8.7	8.7
Calgary			
Population	1.8	1.3	1.3
Labour Force	-0.5	0.4	0.4
Employment	-5.3	3.3	3.4
Unemployment Rate	11.7	9.1	9.1
Edmonton			
Population	1.9	1.4	1.4
Labour Force	-2.9	5.0	4.7
Employment	-7.7	8.7	8.5
Unemployment Rate	12.0	8.9	8.9
West			
Population	0.4	0.1	0.1
Labour Force	-3.4	1.4	1.4
Employment	-9.2	4.8	4.9
Unemployment Rate	11.1	8.1	8.0
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	0.9	0.3	0.3
Labour Force	-2.8	-0.2	-0.1
Employment	-5.4	1.7	1.8
Unemployment Rate	8.6	6.9	6.8
Red Deer			
Population	1.2	0.8	0.8
Labour Force	-1.9	2.2	2.1
Employment	-6.7	5.1	5.0
Unemployment Rate	11.6	9.0	9.0
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	0.1	-0.4	-0.4
Labour Force	0.5	-0.7	-0.9
Employment	-4.0	2.0	1.9
Unemployment Rate	10.7	8.4	8.2
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	0.0	-0.2	-0.3
Labour Force	-3.7	-1.3	-1.2
Employment	-7.6	1.3	1.5
Unemployment Rate	9.5	7.1	7.1

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY ECONOMIC REGION

Per cent change in year-over-year employment



*Based on three-month moving averages.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics
All numbers are percent growth, except unemployment rates.

Contact Ceilidh Ballantyne at TBF.ERFPublications@gov.ab.ca
Have a question? Send us an [email](#)

CHART 1: LARGE GAINS IN PART-TIME AND PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

Monthly change in employment

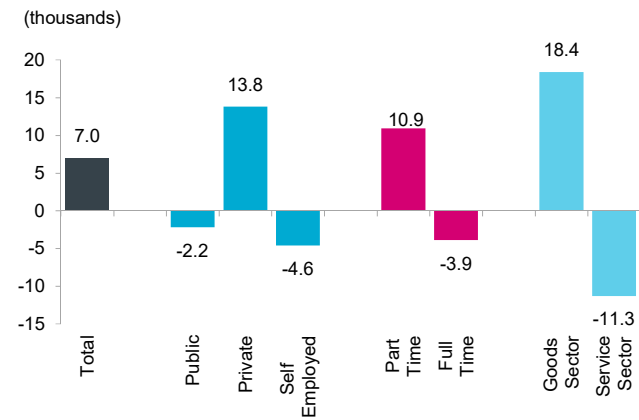


CHART 2: UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES AND NOW LOWER THAN PRE-COVID LEVEL

Number of employed and unemployed

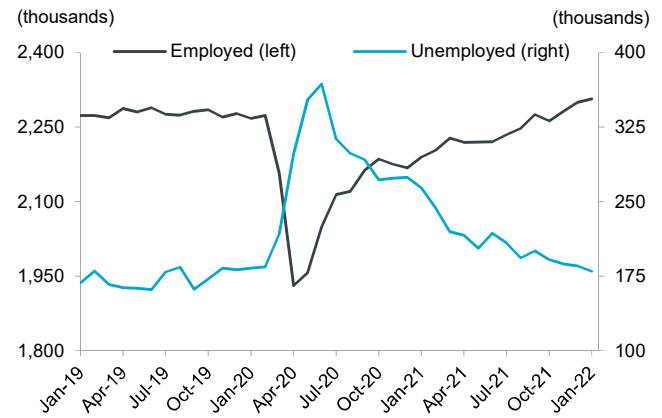


CHART 3: SOURCE POPULATION AND LABOUR FORCE

Monthly change in labour market indicators, January 2022

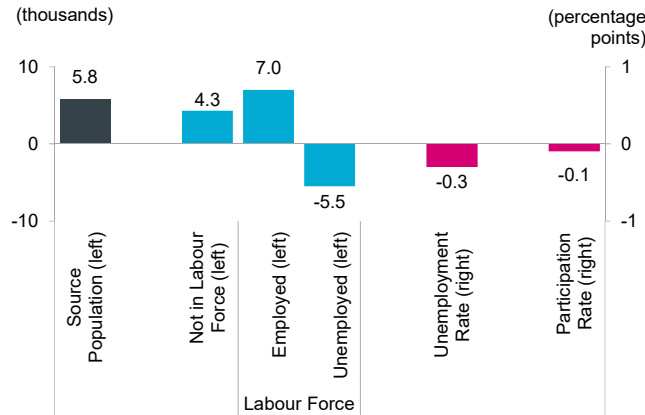


CHART 4: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE DECREASES, AND REMAINS BELOW PRE-COVID LEVELS

Participation rate and year-over-year growth in labour force

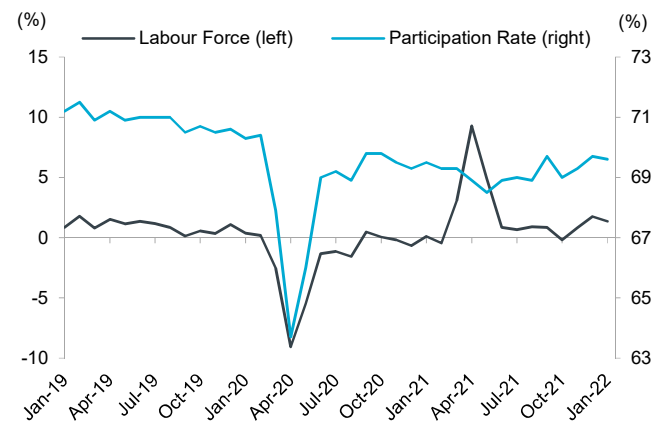


CHART 5: HOURLY WAGE DECREASES IN JANUARY, AND IS DOWN 2.0% YEAR-OVER-YEAR

Average hourly wage and y/y growth, non-seasonally adj

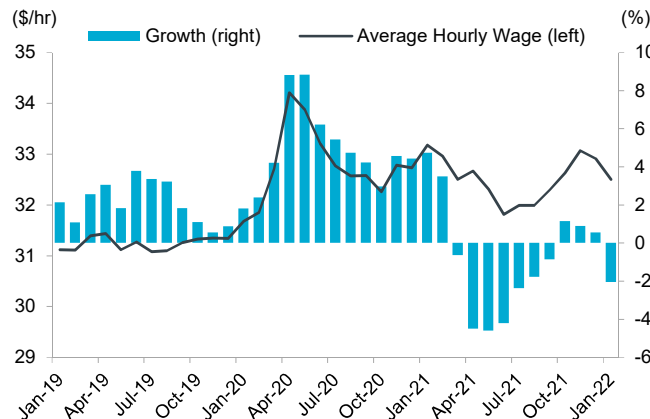


CHART 6: LABOUR UNDERUTILIZATION

Unemployment rate and labour underutilization rate

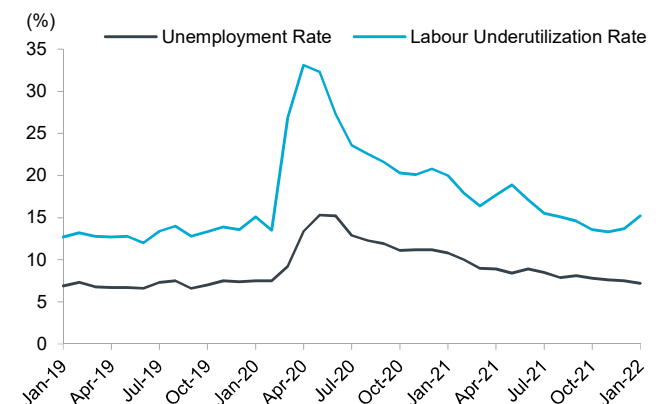


CHART 7: EMPLOYMENT ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL, LED BY SERVICE SECTOR

Change in employment since Feb 2020

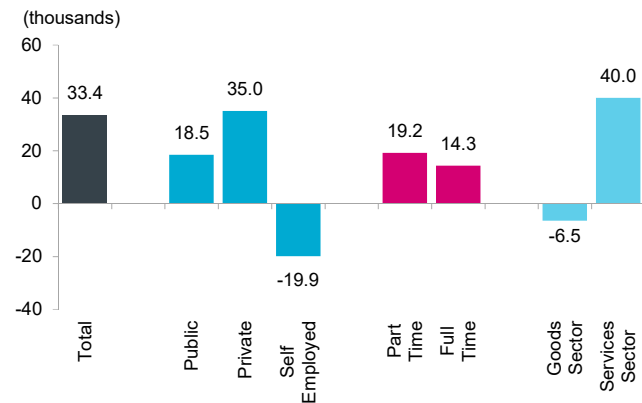


CHART 8: JOB LOSSES CONCENTRATED IN INDUSTRIES DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Change in employment since Feb 2020

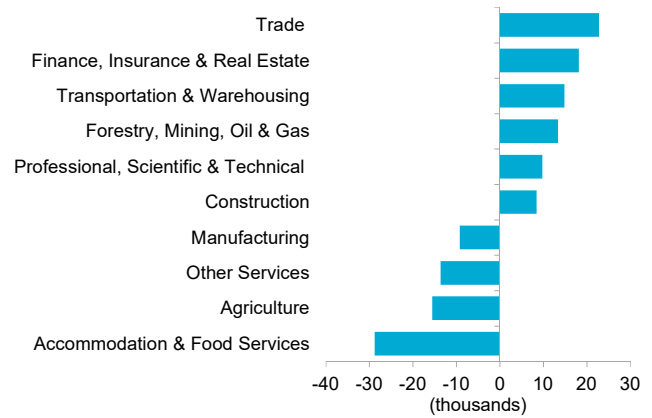


CHART 9: EMPLOYMENT IN SERVICES SECTOR DRIVES RECOVERY

Alberta employment indexed to 2020 peak, by sector

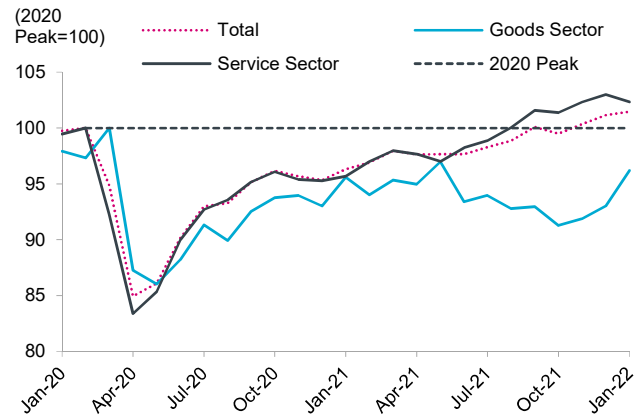


CHART 10: GAINS IN PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Alberta employment indexed to Feb 2020, by type

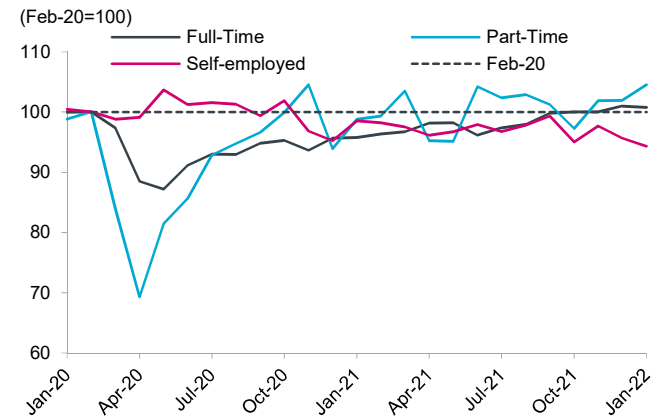


CHART 11: EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY IS FASTER IN THE TWO MAJOR URBAN CENTERS

3-month average employment indexed to Feb 2020, by region

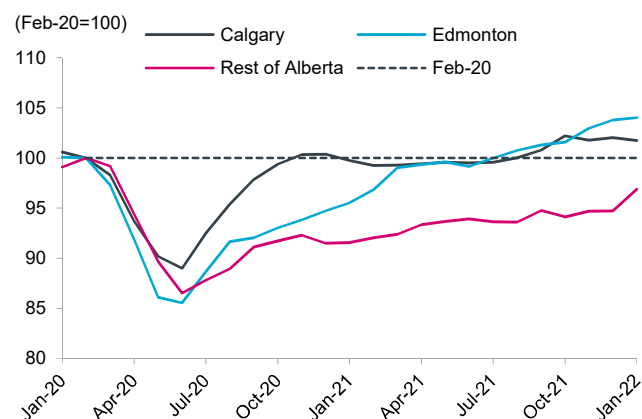


CHART 12: EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY LED BY CORE AGE (25-54); WORKERS 55+ LAGGING BEHIND

Alberta employment indexed to Feb 2020, by age group

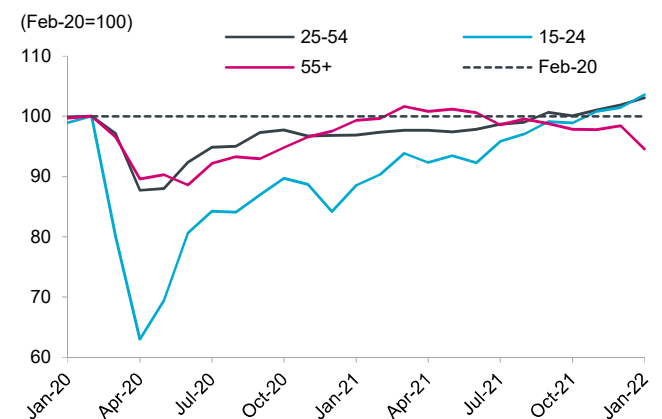


CHART 13: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL

Percentage change in employment since Feb 2020

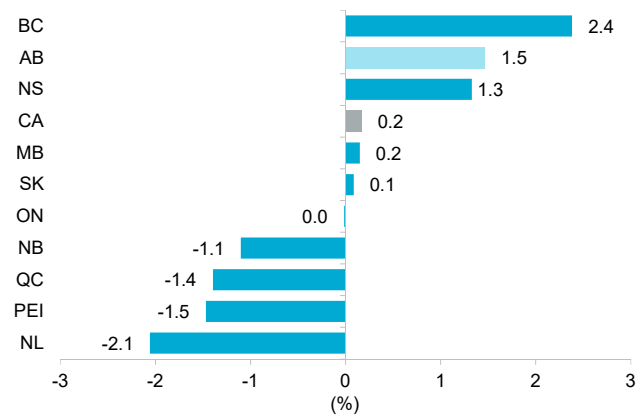


CHART 14: GROWTH IN ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT IN LINE WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE

Year-over-year growth in employment by province

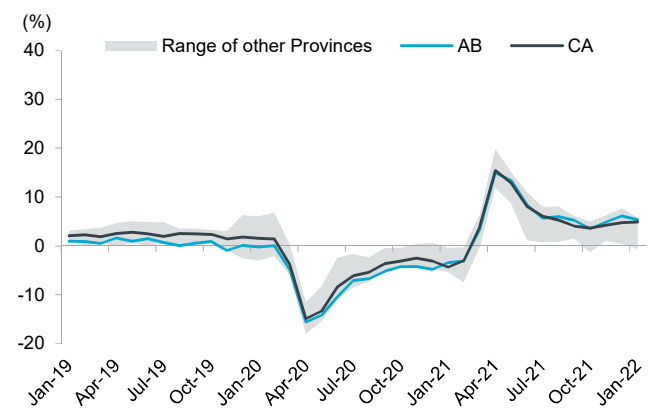


CHART 15: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MOVING CLOSER TO 2019 AVERAGE

Unemployment rates by province

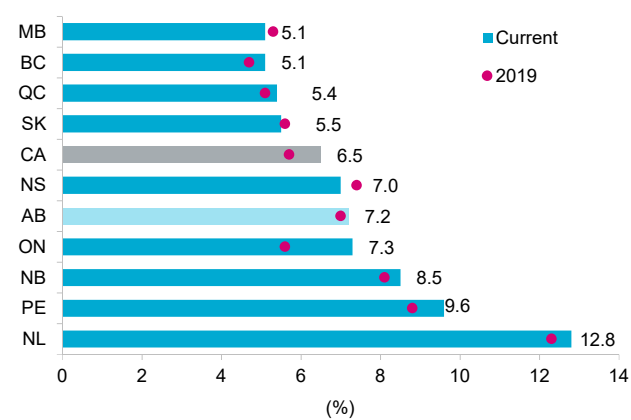


CHART 16: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE SINCE THE 2015-16 RECESSION

Unemployment rates by province

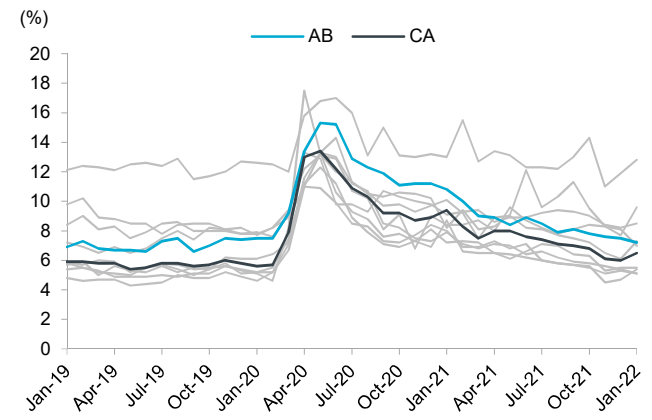


CHART 17: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS FROM 2019; STILL THE HIGHEST AMONG PROVINCES

Employment rates by province

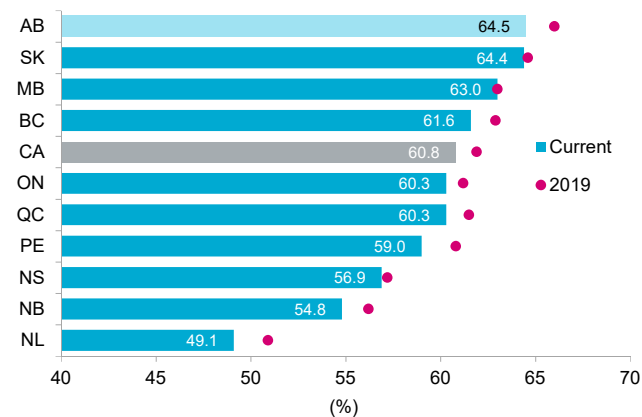
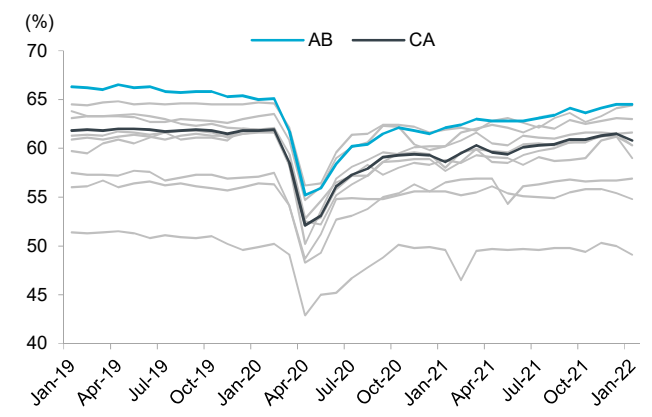


CHART 18: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE HIGHEST AMONG PROVINCES

Employment rates by province



Sources: Unless noted otherwise, all data are seasonally adjusted and taken from Statistics Canada and Haver Analytics. All historical data are subject to revision.

