

Labour Market Notes

Labour market tightens further amid surge in employment

Alberta

- **Employment shoots up.** Employment in the province surged (+27,600 month-over-month or m/m) in May, leading the country in jobs gains.
- **Services sector employment jumps.** Employment in service-producing sectors increased (+21,200 m/m), driven by gains in professional, scientific & technical services, transportation & warehousing, and wholesale & retail trade. While some close contact industries – accommodation & food services and other services – had healthy increases, employment in these sectors remain below February 2020 levels.
- **Goods sector employment up.** After declining for the previous three months, goods sector employment grew (+6,300 m/m) with gains in utilities, agriculture, and natural resources outweighing the continuing weakness in manufacturing.
- **Full-time positions jump.** Full-time positions led employment gains (+60,600 m/m), while part-time jobs contracted (-33,100 m/m). These full-time positions contributed to solid growth in both the private and public sectors.
- **Lower unemployment rate and higher participation rate.** With the employment gains, the unemployment rate dropped to 5.3%, the lowest level since early 2015. The decline in Alberta's overall unemployment (-15,200 m/m) was fully attributable to the long-term unemployed. The participation rate inched up to 69.3% in May, but remained well below the pre-pandemic level.
- **Labour underutilization declines.** With the increase in jobs, the labour underutilization rate dipped to 11.7%. Those who were employed but worked zero hours or less than half of their usual hours during the reference week declined 27,700 (-20% m/m) to 113,700. Likewise, the number of those who wanted a job but did not look for one dropped 5.1%.
- **Wages ease.** The average hourly wage in Alberta declined 0.6% m/m to \$33.06, but was up 2.3% from the same time period a year ago.

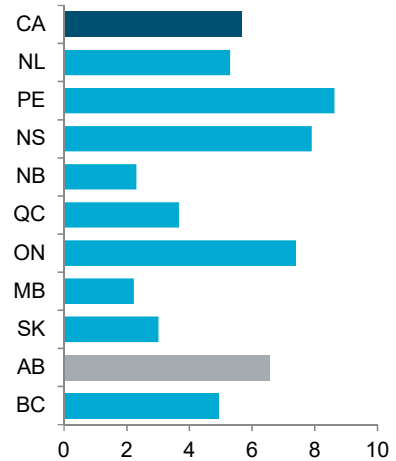
Canada

- **National employment advances.** Nationally, employment increased by 39,800 in May, with growth in seven provinces, led by Alberta.
- **Unemployment rate falls.** With the employment gains, the national unemployment rate fell to 5.1% in May, the lowest rate on record since comparable data became available in 1976.
- **Wages grow.** The national average hourly wage rate edged up to \$31.12 (+0.2% m/m), up 3.9% compared to a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

May 2022 vs. May 2021

(year-over-year % change)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,365,700
month-over-month change	27,500
year-over-year % change	6.6%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	5.3%
Edmonton UR**	6.2%
Calgary UR**	6.6%
Participation Rate	69.3%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,259.00
year-over-year % change	4.2%
Average Hourly Wage	\$33.06
year-over-year % change	2.3%
Job Vacancy Rate	4.7%

Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

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

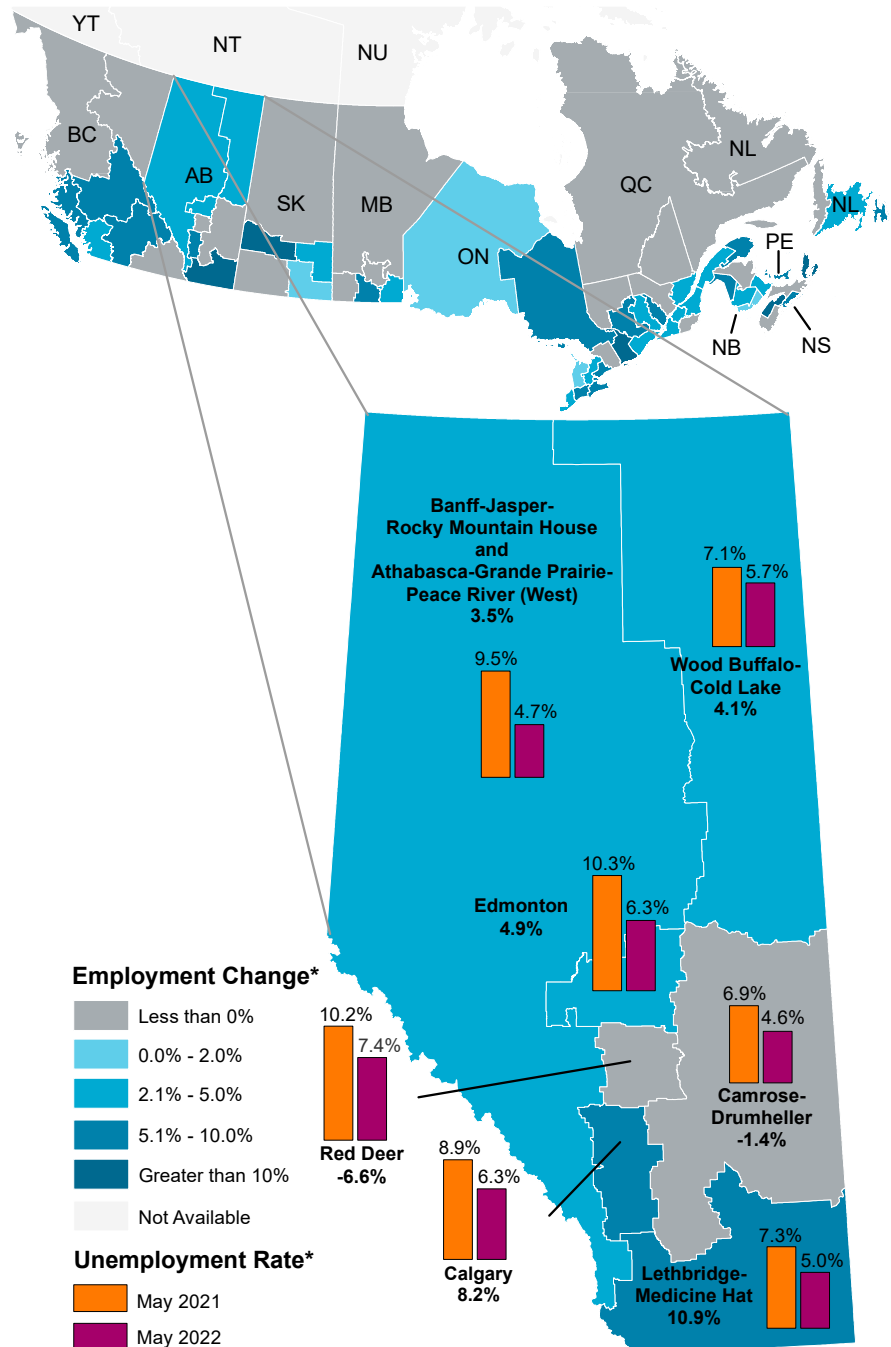
** This indicator is calculated as a three month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

Regional labour market indicators

	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Alberta			
Population	1.5	1.0	1.4
Labour Force	-1.9	2.0	1.4
Employment	-6.6	5.1	5.3
Unemployment Rate	11.4	8.7	6.8
Calgary			
Population	1.8	1.3	1.7
Labour Force	-0.5	0.4	2.8
Employment	-5.3	3.3	5.9
Unemployment Rate	11.7	9.1	7.3
Edmonton			
Population	1.9	1.4	1.8
Labour Force	-2.9	5.0	0.4
Employment	-7.7	8.7	5.0
Unemployment Rate	12.0	8.9	6.9
West			
Population	0.4	0.1	0.5
Labour Force	-3.4	1.4	-0.9
Employment	-9.2	4.8	4.4
Unemployment Rate	11.1	8.1	5.0
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	0.9	0.3	0.7
Labour Force	-2.8	-0.2	3.9
Employment	-5.4	1.7	8.2
Unemployment Rate	8.6	6.9	5.9
Red Deer			
Population	1.2	0.8	1.2
Labour Force	-1.9	2.2	-3.1
Employment	-6.7	5.1	0.0
Unemployment Rate	11.6	9.0	7.0
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	0.1	-0.4	0.0
Labour Force	0.5	-0.7	2.0
Employment	-4.0	2.0	5.3
Unemployment Rate	10.7	8.4	5.7
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	0.0	-0.2	0.2
Labour Force	-3.7	-1.3	2.7
Employment	-7.6	1.3	5.1
Unemployment Rate	9.5	7.1	6.4

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 FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT
Monthly change in employment

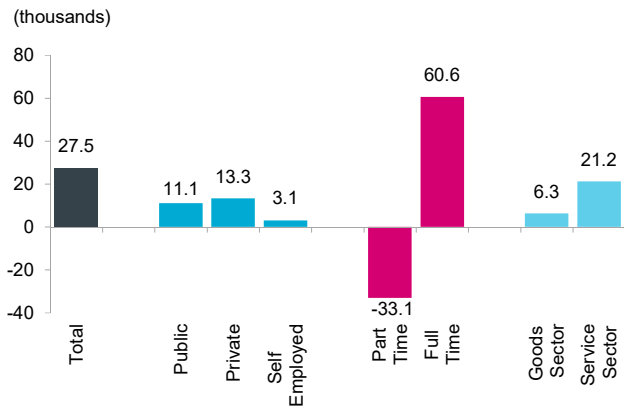


CHART 2: UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES, NOW LOWER THAN PRE-COVID LEVEL

Number of employed and unemployed

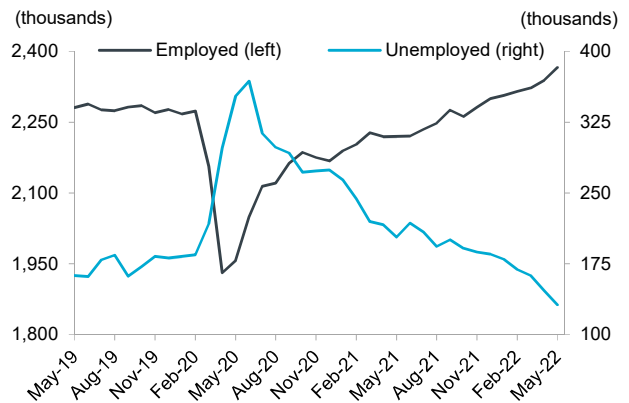


CHART 3: LABOUR FORCE GROWTH ACCOMPANIED BY DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly change in labour market indicators, May 2022



CHART 4: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE INCREASES BUT REMAINS BELOW PRE-COVID LEVELS

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

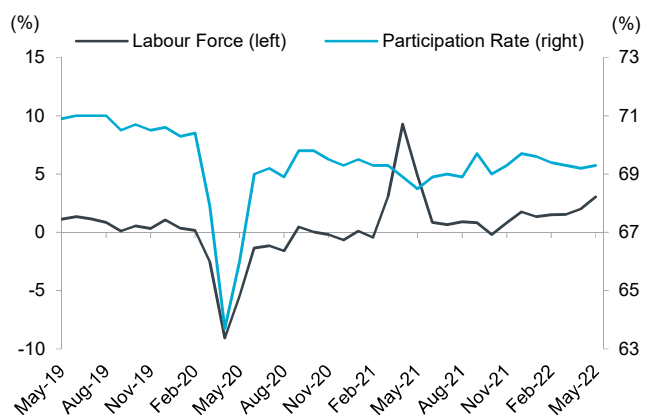


CHART 5: HOURLY WAGE DIPS IN MAY, STILL UP FROM LAST YEAR

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

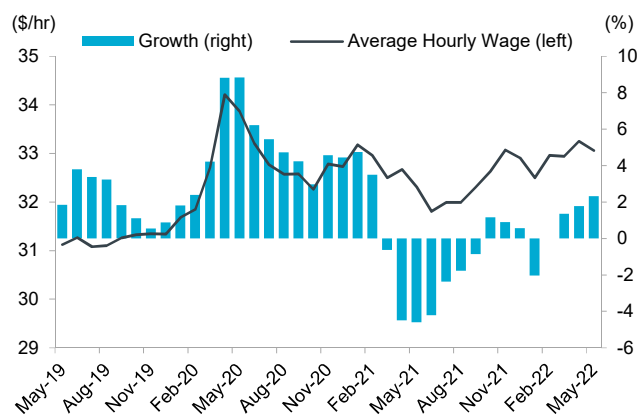


CHART 6: LABOUR UNDERUTILIZATION DECLINES

Unemployment rate and labour underutilization rate

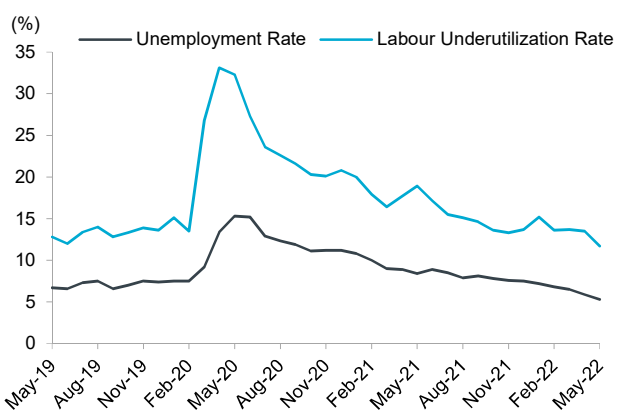


CHART 7: EMPLOYMENT ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL, LED BY SERVICE SECTOR

Change in employment since Feb 2020

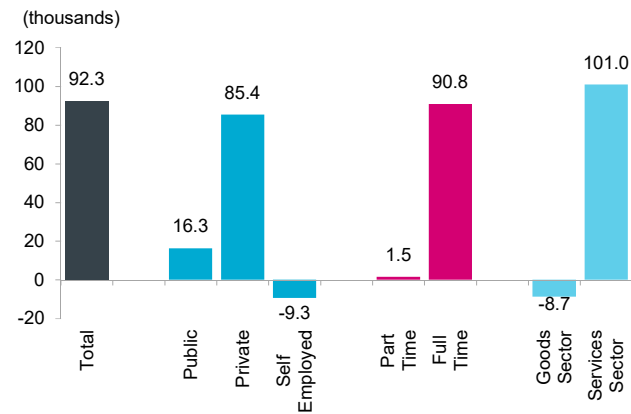


CHART 8: JOB LOSSES CONCENTRATED IN INDUSTRIES DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Change in employment since Feb 2020

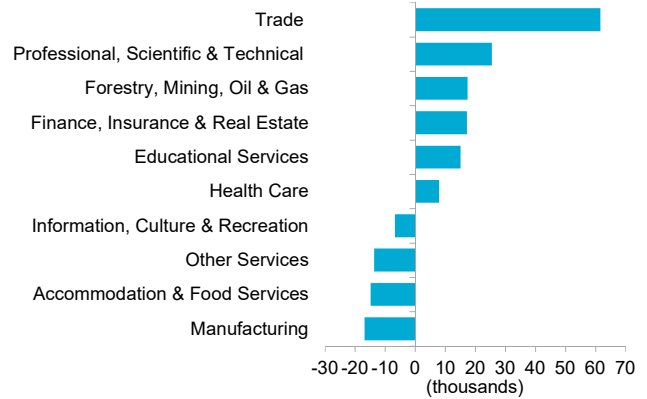


CHART 9: EMPLOYMENT IN SERVICES SECTOR DRIVING RECOVERY

Alberta employment indexed to 2020 peak, by sector

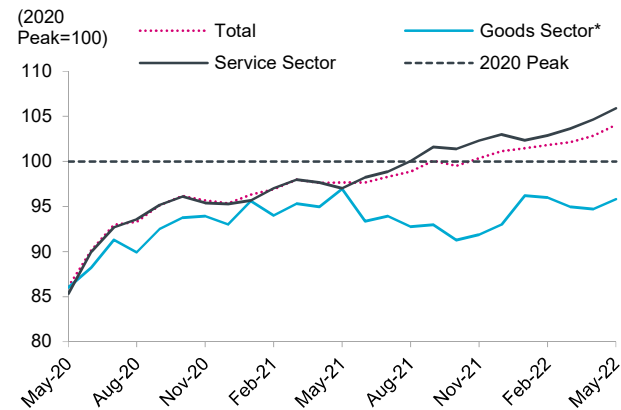


CHART 10: GAINS IN FULL-TIME AND SELF-EMPLOYED

Alberta employment indexed to Feb 2020, by type

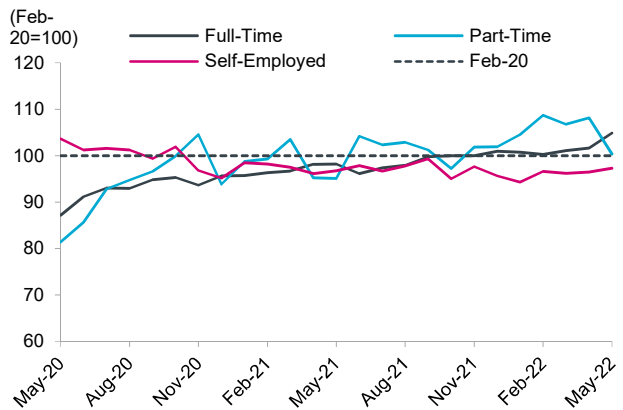


CHART 11: EMPLOYMENT STILL RECOVERING OUTSIDE MAJOR URBAN CENTRES

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

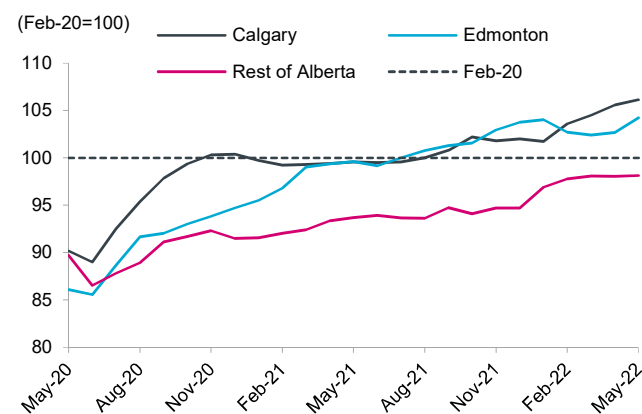


CHART 12: EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY LED BY CORE AGE AND YOUTH; WORKERS 55+ LAGGING BEHIND

Alberta employment indexed to Feb 2020, by age group

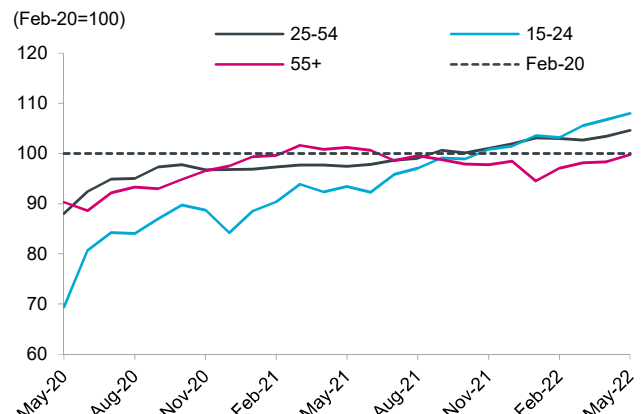


CHART 13: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL

Percentage change in employment since Feb 2020

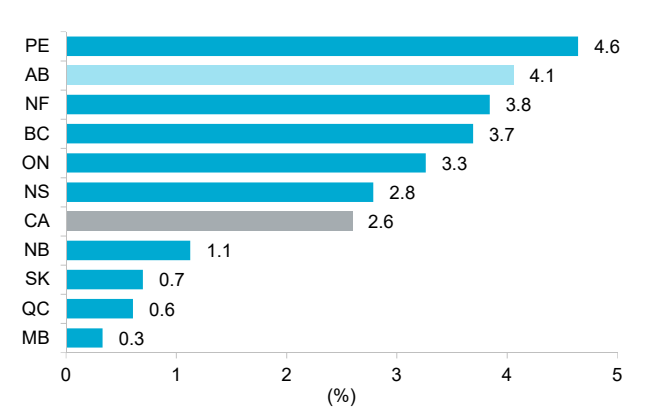


CHART 14: GROWTH IN ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT IN LINE WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE

Year-over-year growth in employment by province

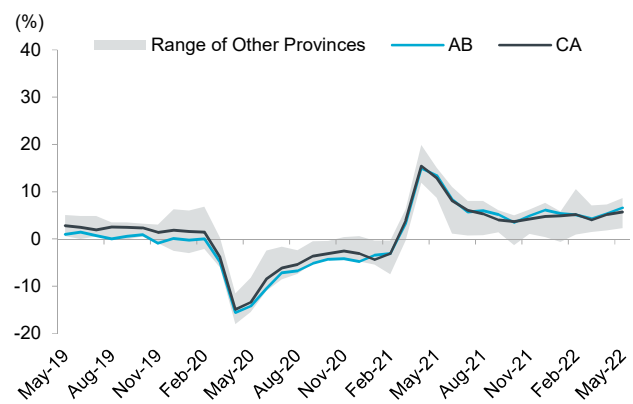


CHART 15: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LOWER THAN 2019 AVERAGE

Unemployment rates by province

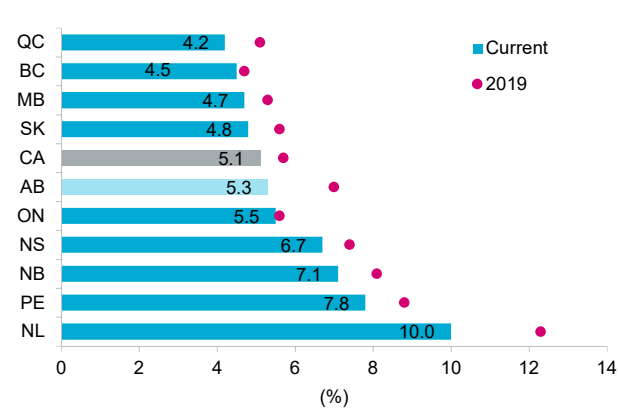


CHART 16: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE SINCE THE 2015-16 RECESSION

Unemployment rates by province

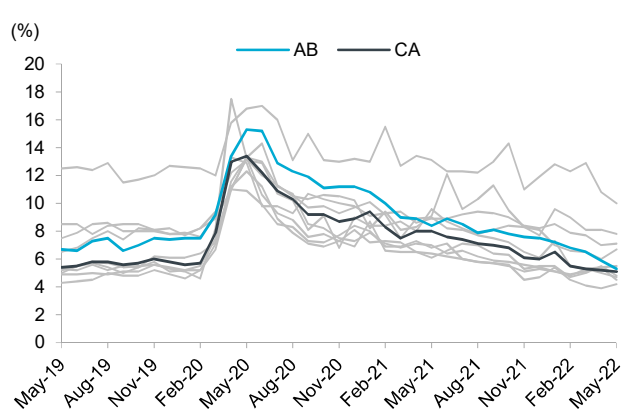


CHART 17: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS FROM 2019; STILL THE HIGHEST

Employment rates by province

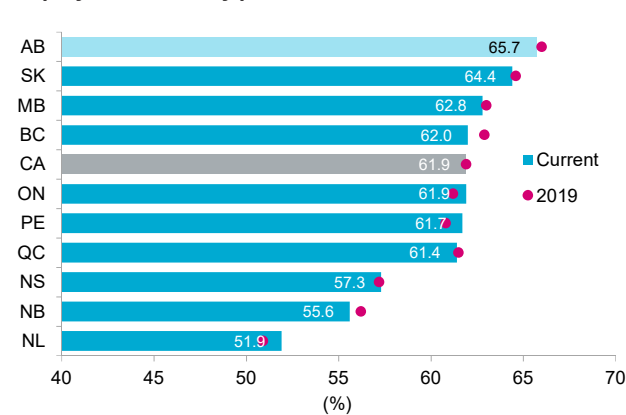
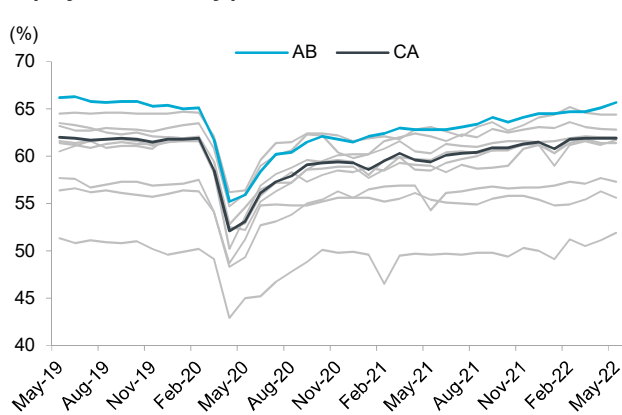


CHART 18: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE EXCEEDS NATIONAL AVERAGE

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.

