

Labour Market Notes

Alberta labour market continues to improve

Alberta

- **Employment advances.** Employment in the province increased (+7,200 month-over-month or m/m) in March as all capacity limits and proof-of-vaccination requirements were lifted.
- **Services sector employment leads growth.** Employment in service-producing sectors increased (+13,100 m/m), led by gains in wholesale and retail trade (+18,400 m/m) and business, building & other support services (+6,100 m/m). Service industries that were most impacted by the pandemic — information & culture and accommodation & food — experienced a boost to employment.
- **Goods sector employment down.** After a large jump in January, goods sector employment waned for the second consecutive month (-6,000 m/m). Declines in construction, agriculture, and manufacturing outweighed a small increase in the natural resources sector.
- **Surge in full-time positions.** Full-time positions led employment gains (+15,700 m/m), while part-time jobs receded (-8,400 m/m) in March. Both remained above their pre-pandemic levels.
- **Lower unemployment rate and participation rate.** With the employment gains, the unemployment rate dropped to 6.5%. The participation rate declined to 69.3% as more Albertans remained outside the labour force.
- **Labour underutilization inches up.** Despite the increase in jobs, the labour underutilization rate nudged up to 13.7%. The number of Albertans who were employed but worked zero hours or less than half of their usual hours during the reference week increased 4,600 (+3.8% m/m) to 126,800. Likewise, the number of those who wanted a job but did not look for one increased 12% m/m.
- **Wages dip slightly.** The average hourly wage in Alberta declined 0.1% m/m to \$32.94, but was up 1.4% from the same time period a year ago.

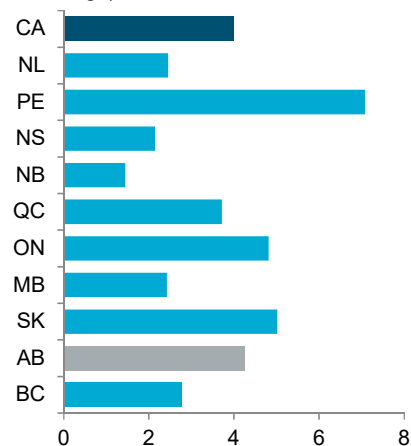
Canada

- **National employment advances.** Nationally, employment increased by over 72,000 in March, on the back of large gains in Ontario and Quebec.
- **Unemployment rate falls.** With the employment gains, the national unemployment rate fell to 5.3% in March, the lowest rate on record since comparable data became available in 1976.
- **Wages grow.** The national average hourly wage rate edged up to \$30.92 (+0.1% m/m), up 3.4% compared to a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

March 2022 vs. March 2021

(year-over-year % change)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,322,200
month-over-month change	7,200
year-over-year % change	4.3%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	6.5%
Edmonton UR**	7.1%
Calgary UR**	7.7%
Participation Rate	69.3%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,253.77
year-over-year % change	2.0%
Average Hourly Wage	\$32.94
year-over-year % change	1.4%
Job Vacancy Rate	4.2%

Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

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

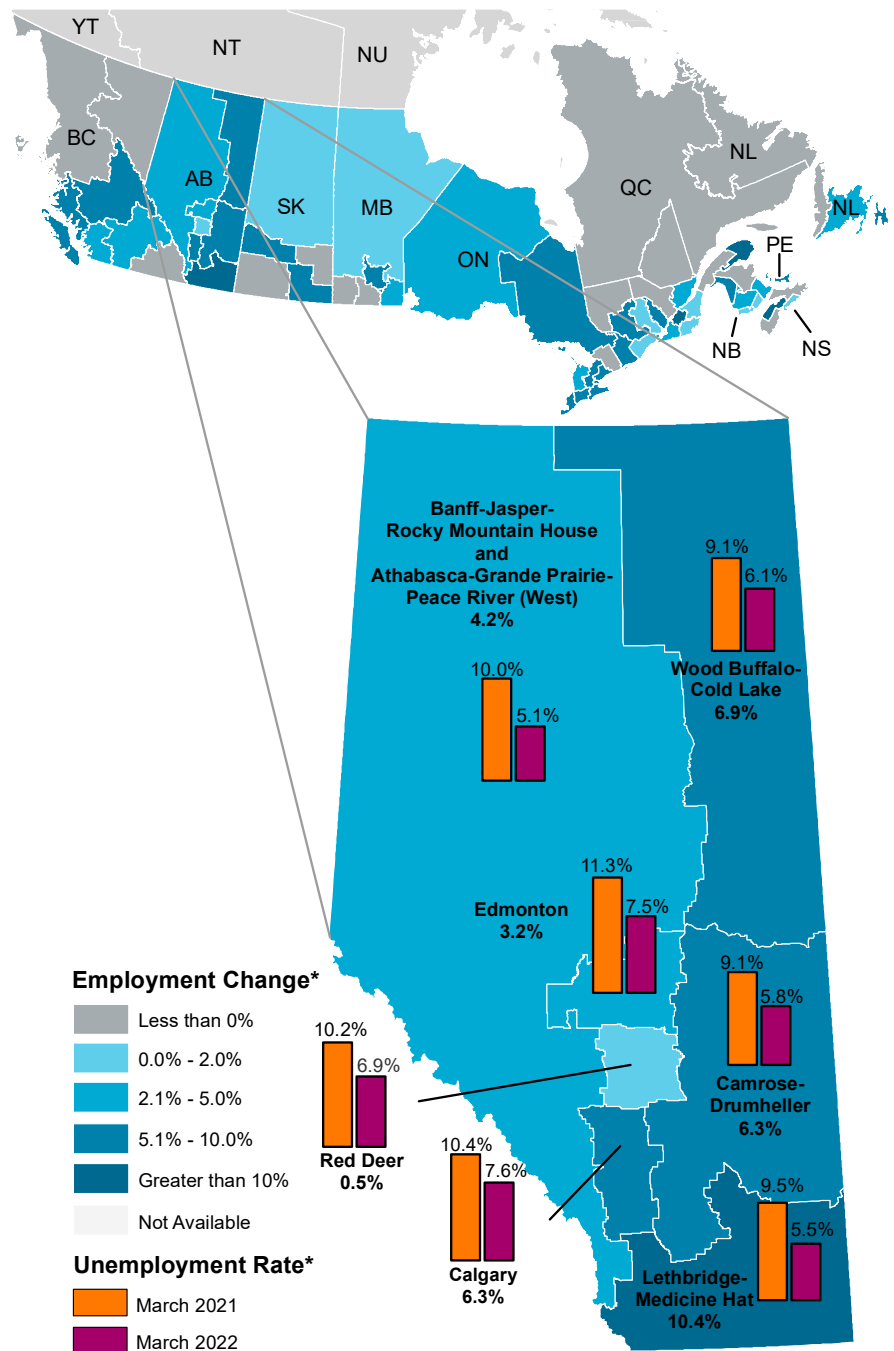
** This indicator is calculated as a three month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

Regional labour market indicators

	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Alberta			
Population	1.5	1.0	1.3
Labour Force	-1.9	2.0	1.3
Employment	-6.6	5.1	5.3
Unemployment Rate	11.4	8.7	7.1
Calgary			
Population	1.8	1.3	1.6
Labour Force	-0.5	0.4	1.5
Employment	-5.3	3.3	4.6
Unemployment Rate	11.7	9.1	7.7
Edmonton			
Population	1.9	1.4	1.7
Labour Force	-2.9	5.0	0.8
Employment	-7.7	8.7	5.7
Unemployment Rate	12.0	8.9	7.1
West			
Population	0.4	0.1	0.4
Labour Force	-3.4	1.4	0.2
Employment	-9.2	4.8	5.3
Unemployment Rate	11.1	8.1	5.3
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	0.9	0.3	0.5
Labour Force	-2.8	-0.2	1.1
Employment	-5.4	1.7	5.8
Unemployment Rate	8.6	6.9	6.5
Red Deer			
Population	1.2	0.8	1.1
Labour Force	-1.9	2.2	0.4
Employment	-6.7	5.1	3.4
Unemployment Rate	11.6	9.0	7.0
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	0.1	-0.4	-0.1
Labour Force	0.5	-0.7	5.8
Employment	-4.0	2.0	9.9
Unemployment Rate	10.7	8.4	6.0
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	0.0	-0.2	0.1
Labour Force	-3.7	-1.3	2.4
Employment	-7.6	1.3	5.2
Unemployment Rate	9.5	7.1	6.8

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

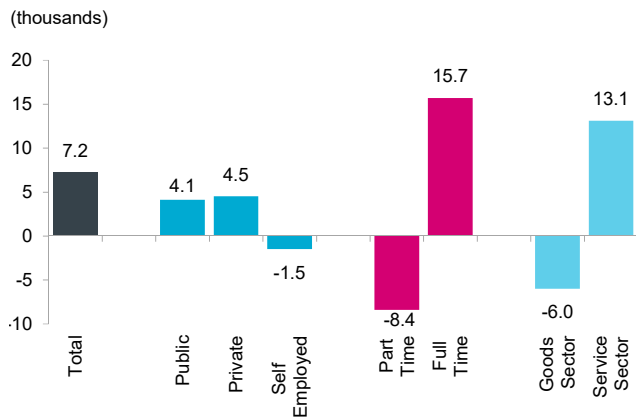


CHART 2: UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES, NOW LOWER THAN PRE-COVID LEVEL

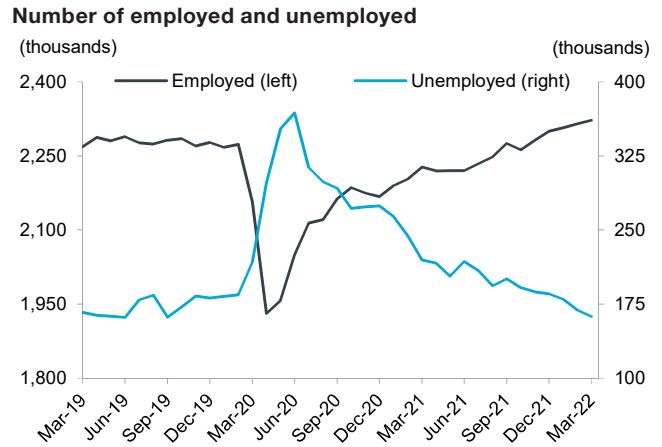


CHART 3: LABOUR FORCE GROWTH ACCOMPANIED BY DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

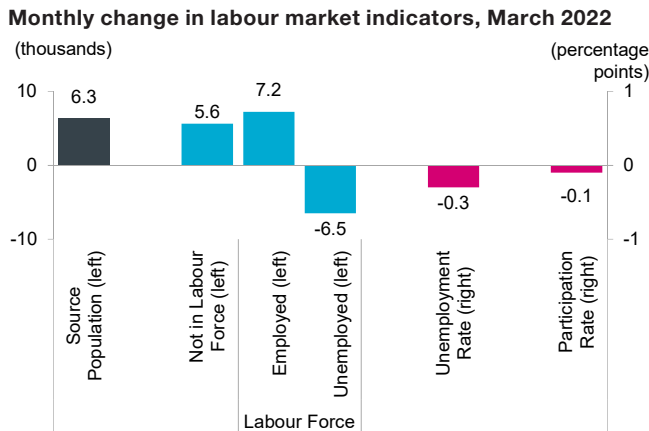


CHART 4: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE DECREASES, REMAINS BELOW PRE-COVID LEVELS

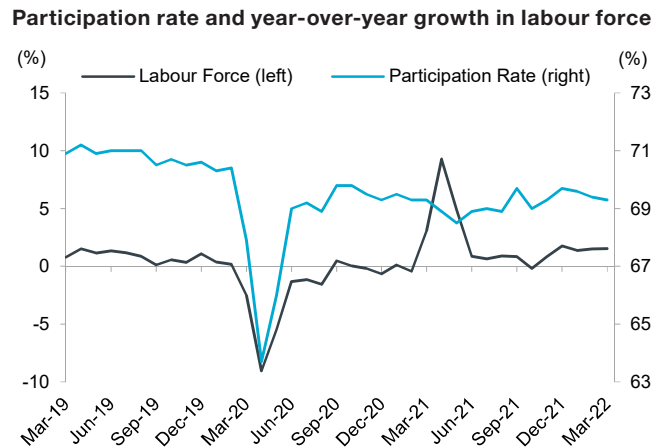


CHART 5: HOURLY WAGE DIPS IN MARCH, BUT IS UP FROM LAST YEAR

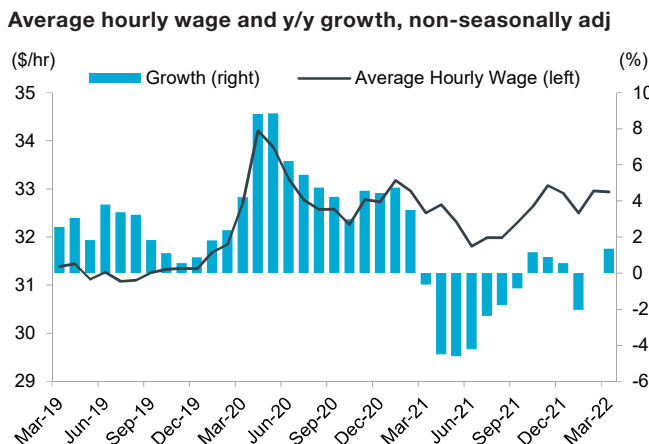


CHART 6: LABOUR UNDERUTILIZATION INCHES UP

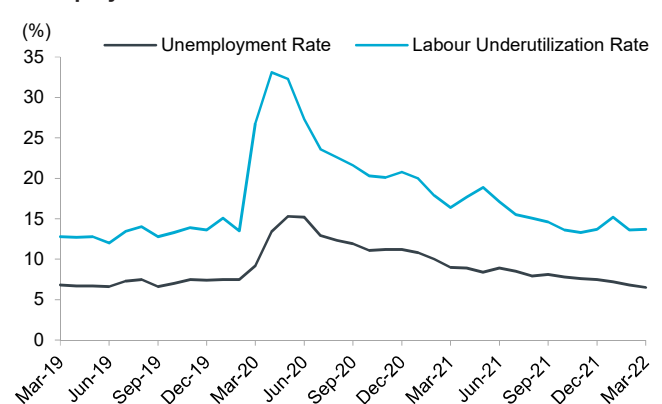


CHART 7: EMPLOYMENT ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL, LED BY SERVICE SECTOR

Change in employment since Feb 2020

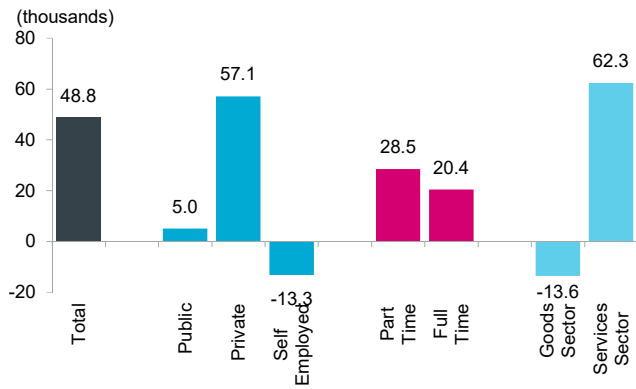


CHART 8: JOB LOSSES CONCENTRATED IN INDUSTRIES DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Change in employment since Feb 2020

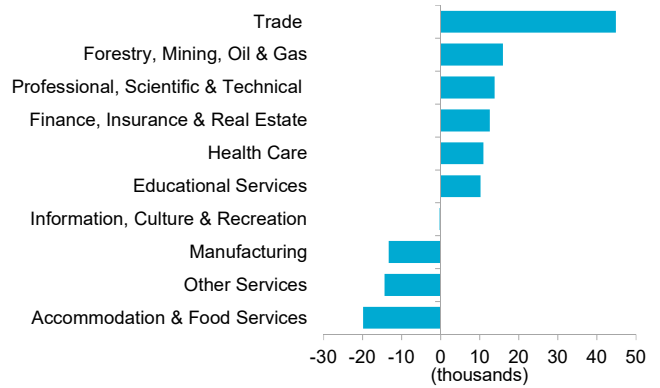


CHART 9: EMPLOYMENT IN SERVICES SECTOR DRIVING RECOVERY

Alberta employment indexed to 2020 peak, by sector

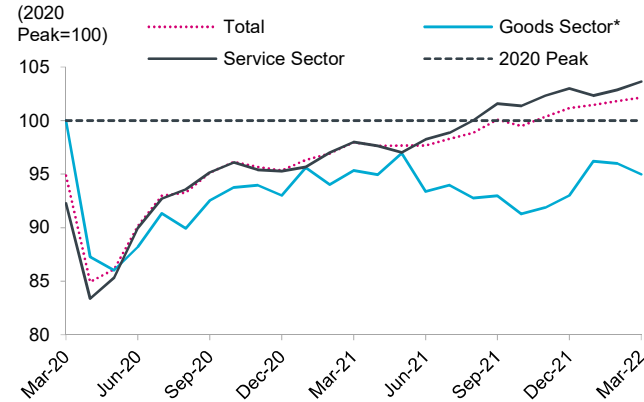


CHART 10: GAINS IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Alberta employment indexed to Feb 2020, by type

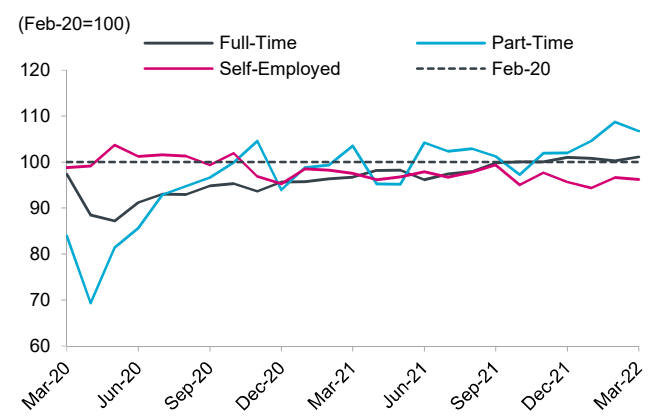


CHART 11: EMPLOYMENT RECOVERING OUTSIDE MAJOR URBAN CENTRES

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

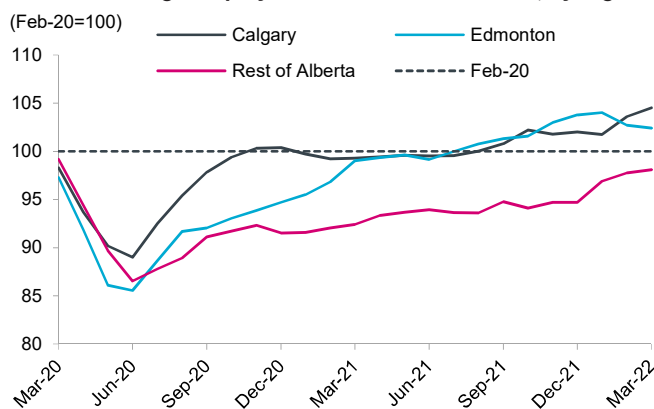


CHART 12: EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY LED BY CORE AGE AND YOUTH; WORKERS 55+ LAGGING BEHIND

Alberta employment indexed to Feb 2020, by age group

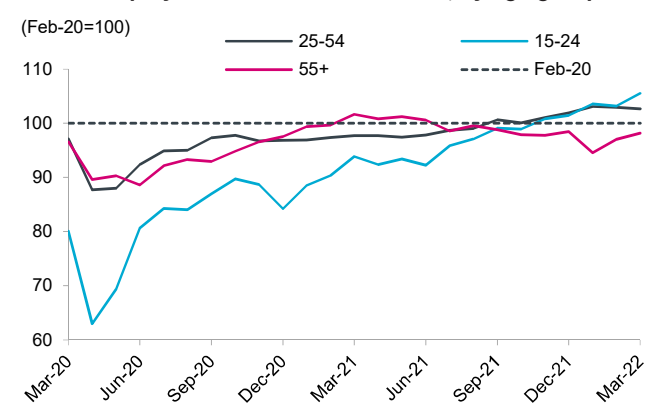


CHART 13: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL

Percentage change in employment since Feb 2020

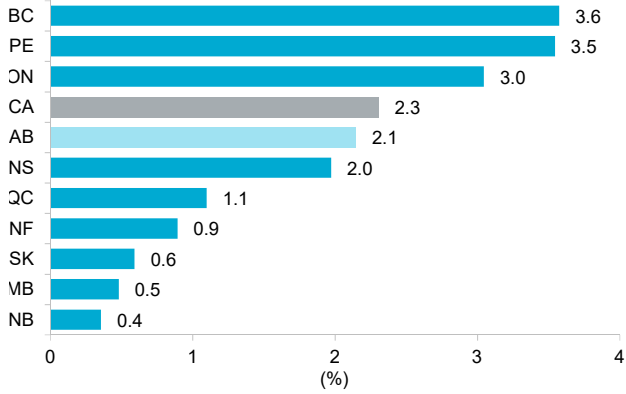


CHART 14: GROWTH IN ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT IN LINE WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE

Year-over-year growth in employment by province

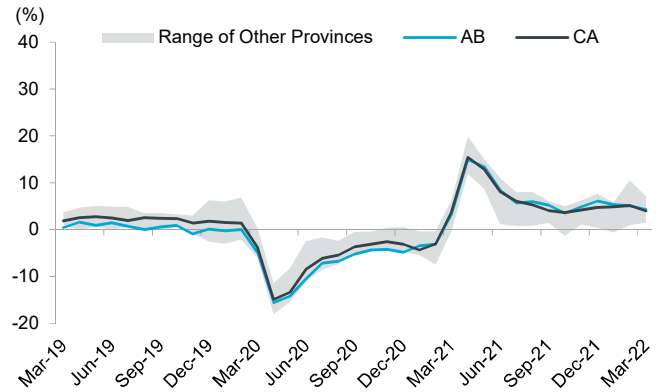


CHART 15: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LOWER THAN 2019 AVERAGE

Unemployment rates by province

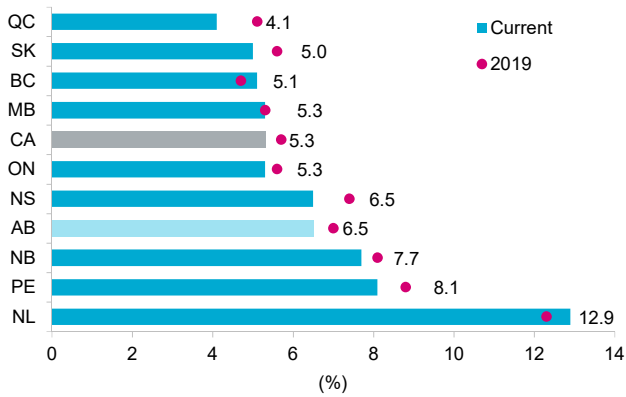


CHART 16: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE SINCE THE 2015-16 RECESSION

Unemployment rates by province

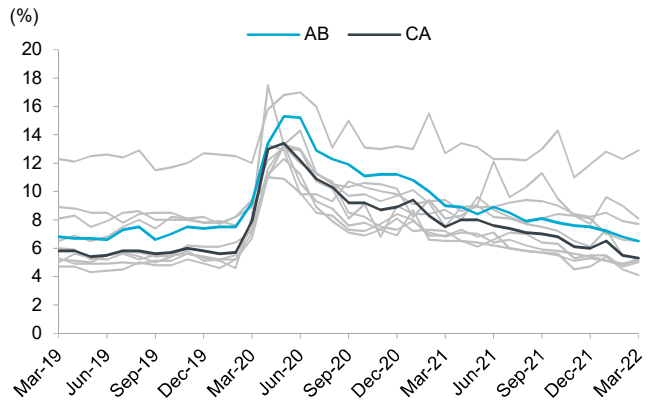


CHART 17: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS FROM 2019; STILL THE HIGHEST

Employment rates by province

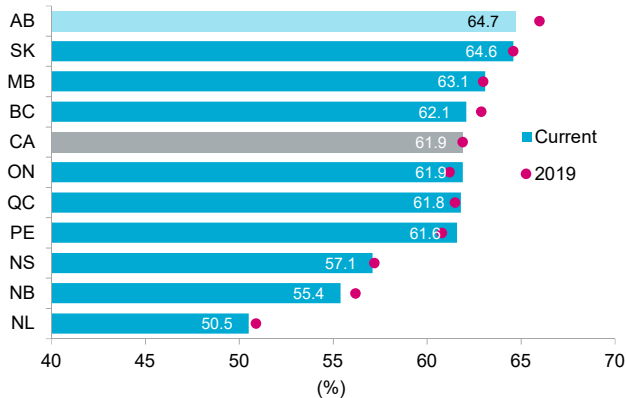
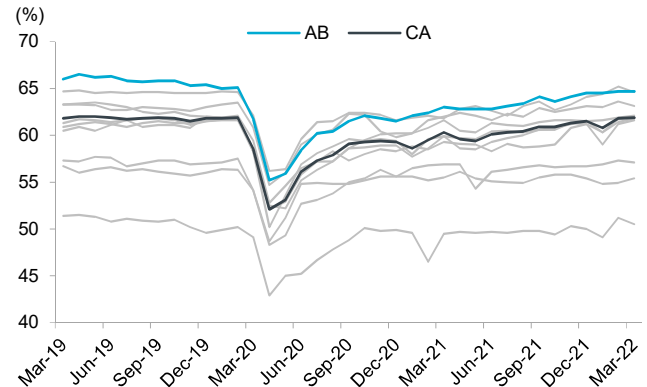


CHART 18: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE EXCEEDS NATIONAL AVERAGE

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.

