

Labour Market Notes

Alberta labour market regains ground

Alberta

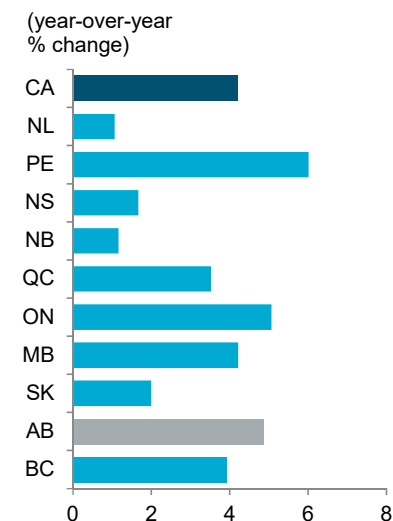
- **Employment bounces back.** Employment in the province increased (+15,400 month-over-month or m/m) in November. Businesses and consumers continue adapting to ongoing public health measures, and the private sector responded with strong job growth.
- **Service sector leads the charge.** Buoyed by higher consumer spending, employment in the services sector increased (+12,600 m/m), led by other services (+7,700 m/m), retail & wholesale trade (+7,100 m/m), and health care and social assistance (+4,000 m/m). Employment in other close-contact industries remained subdued, including information, culture & recreation (-800 m/m) and accommodation & food services (-500 m/m).
- **Goods sectors also regained ground.** After widespread losses in October, employment in some goods producing sectors increased, including construction (+6,100 m/m), agriculture (+400 m/m), and utilities (+200 m/m). Despite strong business output and activity, employment continued declining in manufacturing (-2,000 m/m) and forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas (-1,600 m/m).
- **Full-time and part-time jobs back to pre-pandemic levels.** Employment grew for part-time positions (+19,400), but fell for full-time (-3,800) positions. Even with the monthly loss, full-time employment remained above its pre-pandemic level, up 0.1% from February 2020.
- **Employment above pre-COVID levels.** With this monthly growth, Alberta has gained more than 118,000 jobs since the start of the year and employment is now back to the pre-pandemic level.
- **Higher participation rate keeps unemployment rate unchanged.** The unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.6%, as the job gains were accompanied by increases in the source population and labour force. The participation rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 69.2% in November.
- **Labour underutilization eases.** The labour underutilization remained the same as in October, at 13.3%. The number of Albertans who were employed but worked zero hours or less than half of their usual hours during the reference week increased 10,700 (+12.0% m/m) to 99,500. However, the number of those who wanted a job but did not look for one decreased significantly in November, 17% lower than the February 2020 level.
- **Wages tick up.** The average hourly wage in Alberta grew 1.3% m/m to \$33.07. Compared to a year ago, it was up 0.9%.

Canada

- **National employment advances.** A total of 153,700 jobs were added in November, despite many provinces re-introducing public health measures. Employment increased in all provinces, led by Ontario (+68,100 m/m).
- **Unemployment rate falls.** With the employment gain, the national unemployment rate declined by 0.7 percentage points to 6.0% in November.
- **Wages increase.** The national average hourly wage rate edged up to \$30.40 (+0.5% m/m), and they were up 2.7% compared to a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

November 2021 vs. November 2020



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,279,300
month-over-month change	15,400
year-over-year % change	4.8%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	7.6%
Edmonton UR**	7.6%
Calgary UR**	8.1%
Participation Rate	69.2%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,234.46
year-over-year % change	3.1%
Average Hourly Wage	\$33.07
year-over-year % change	0.9%
Job Vacancy Rate	4.7%

Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

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

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

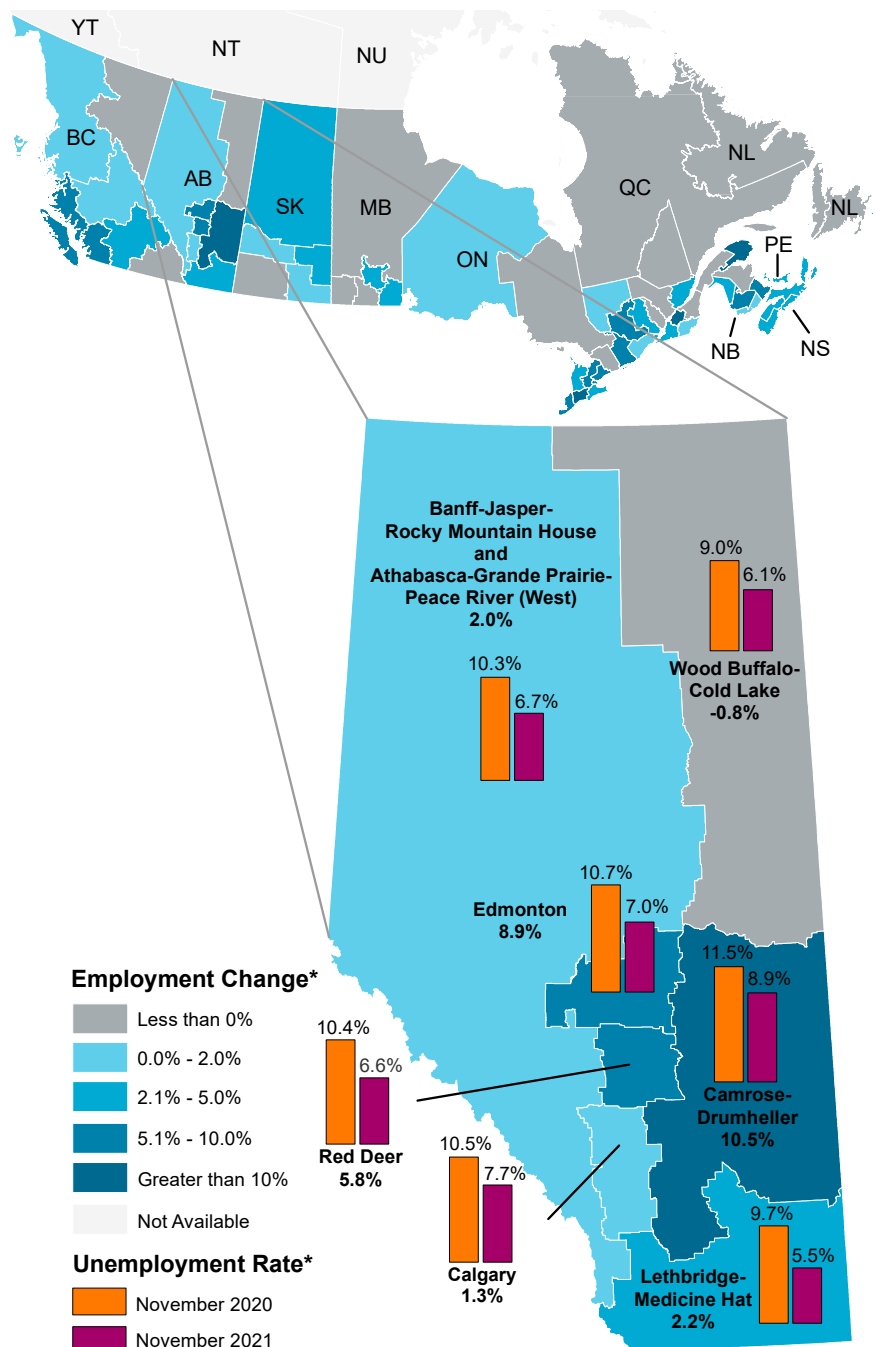
Regional labour market indicators

	2019	2020	2021 YTD
Alberta			
Population	1.6	1.5	1.0
Labour Force	1.0	-1.9	1.8
Employment	0.7	-6.6	4.2
Unemployment Rate	7.0	11.4	9.2
Calgary			
Population	2.0	1.8	1.3
Labour Force	2.4	-0.5	0.7
Employment	2.8	-5.3	3.1
Unemployment Rate	7.2	11.7	9.4
Edmonton			
Population	2.0	1.9	1.4
Labour Force	1.7	-2.9	4.5
Employment	0.7	-7.7	7.2
Unemployment Rate	7.4	12.0	9.6
West			
Population	0.6	0.4	0.1
Labour Force	-0.1	-3.4	1.4
Employment	0.1	-9.2	4.1
Unemployment Rate	5.5	11.1	8.6
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	1.1	0.9	0.3
Labour Force	0.5	-2.8	0.3
Employment	-0.3	-5.4	0.9
Unemployment Rate	6.1	8.6	7.2
Red Deer			
Population	1.2	1.2	0.8
Labour Force	-4.6	-1.9	1.3
Employment	-6.1	-6.7	3.8
Unemployment Rate	7.0	11.6	9.4
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	0.2	0.1	-0.4
Labour Force	-6.5	0.5	-3.9
Employment	-7.8	-4.0	-1.8
Unemployment Rate	6.6	10.7	8.5
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	0.4	0.0	-0.3
Labour Force	2.0	-3.7	-1.3
Employment	2.3	-7.6	0.8
Unemployment Rate	5.7	9.5	7.3

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

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY ECONOMIC REGION

Per cent change in year-over-year employment



*Based on three-month moving averages.

Contact [Ceilidh Ballantyne](#) at 780.427.7543
Have a question? Send us an [email](#)

CHART 1: LARGE EMPLOYMENT GAINS IN PRIVATE SECTOR AND SERVICE SECTOR

Monthly change in employment

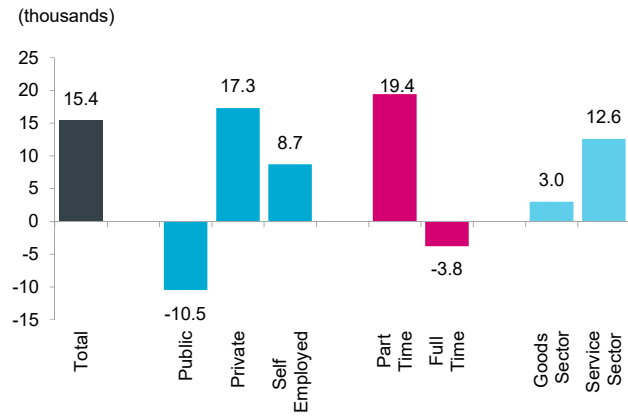


CHART 2: UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES BUT REMAINS HIGHER THAN PRE-COVID LEVEL

Number of employed and unemployed

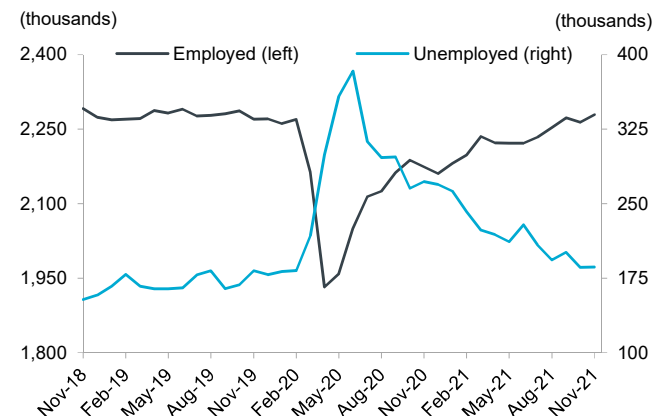


CHART 3: SOURCE POPULATION AND LABOUR FORCE INCREASES

Monthly change in labour market indicators, November 2021

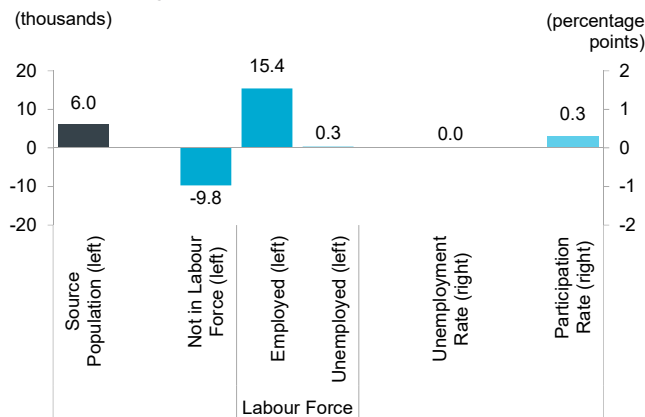


CHART 4: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE INCREASES, BUT REMAINS BELOW PRE-COVID LEVELS

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

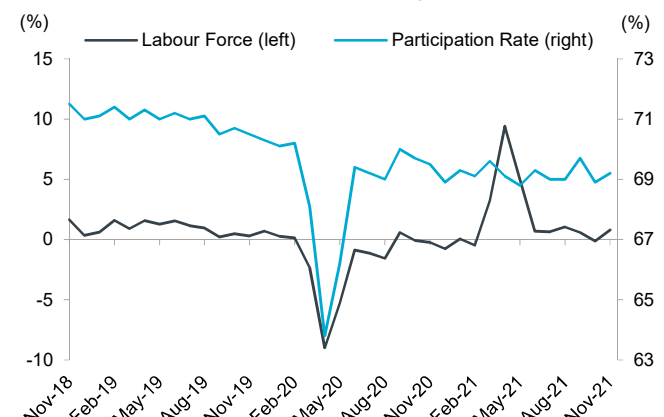


CHART 5: HOURLY WAGE INCREASES IN NOVEMBER AND UP 0.9% YEAR-OVER-YEAR

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

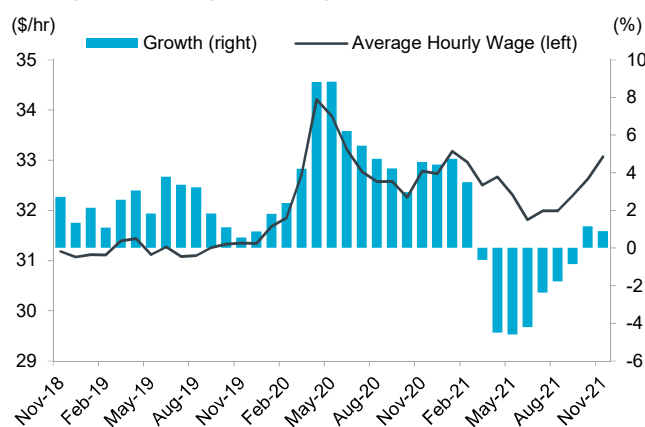


CHART 6: LABOUR UNDERUTILIZATION EASES FURTHER

Unemployment rate and labour underutilization rate

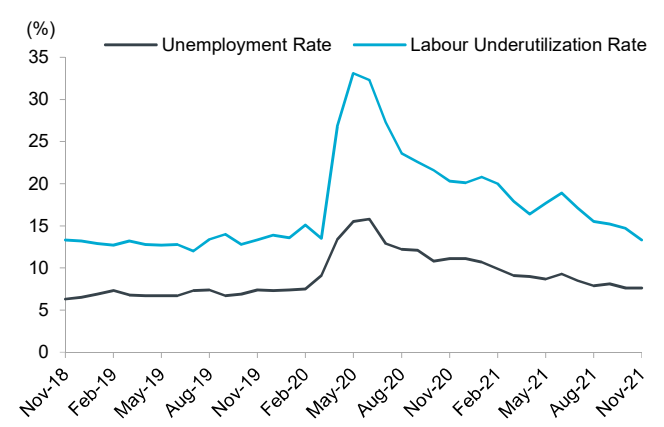


CHART 7: EMPLOYMENT ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL, LED BY SERVICE SECTOR
Change in employment since Feb 2020

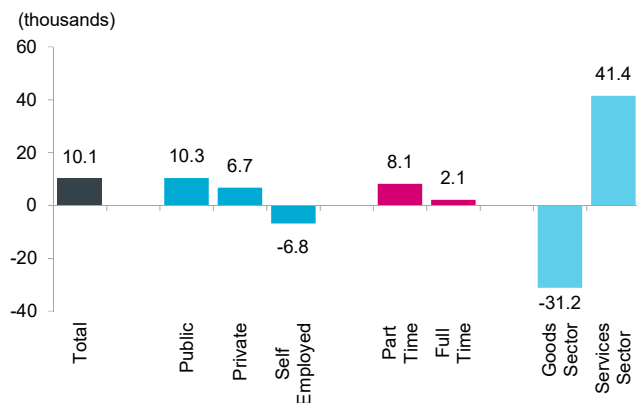


CHART 8: JOB LOSSES CONCENTRATED IN INDUSTRIES DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES
Change in employment since Feb 2020

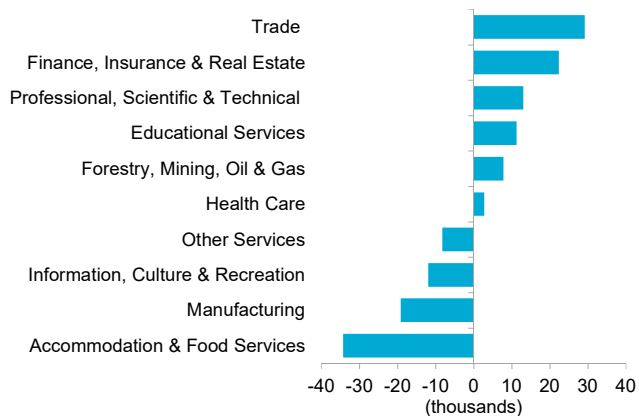


CHART 9: EMPLOYMENT IN SERVICE SECTOR DRIVES RECOVERY

Alberta employment indexed to 2020 peak, by sector



CHART 10: GAINS IN PART-TIME AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT
Alberta employment indexed to Feb 2020, by type

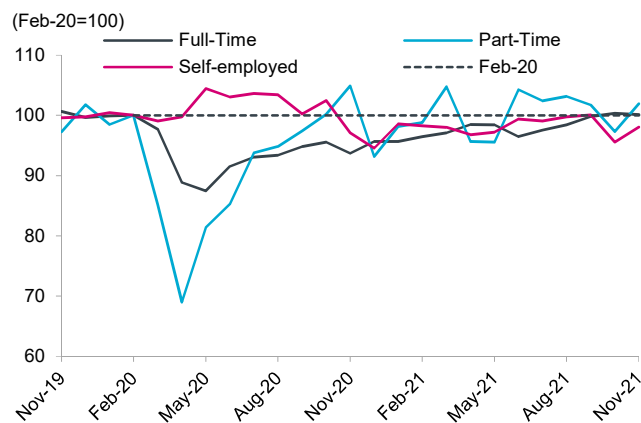


CHART 11: EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY IS FASTER IN THE TWO MAJOR URBAN CENTERS

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

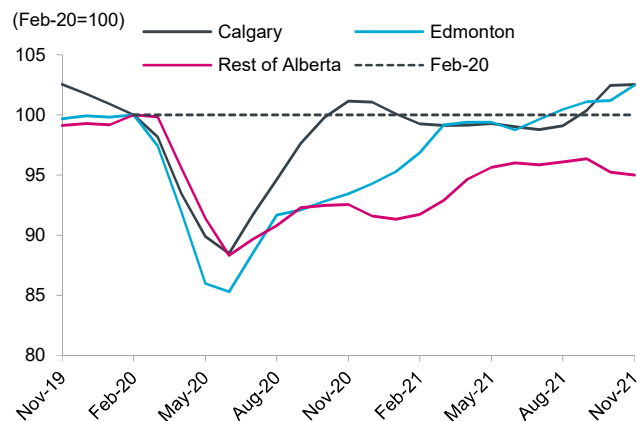


CHART 12: EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY LED BY CORE AGE (25-54); WORKERS 55+ LAGGING BEHIND

Alberta employment indexed to Feb 2020, by age group

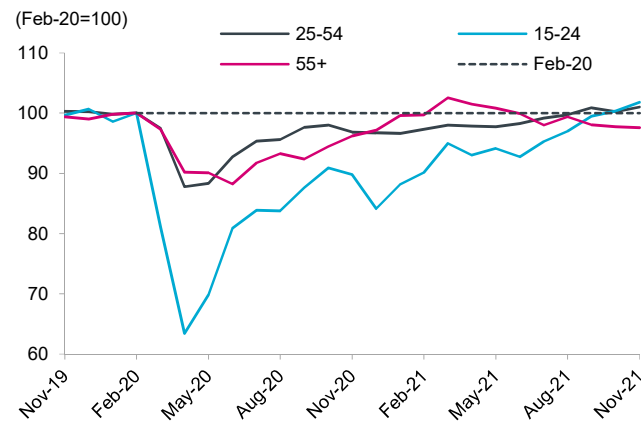


CHART 13: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL

Percentage change in employment since Feb 2020

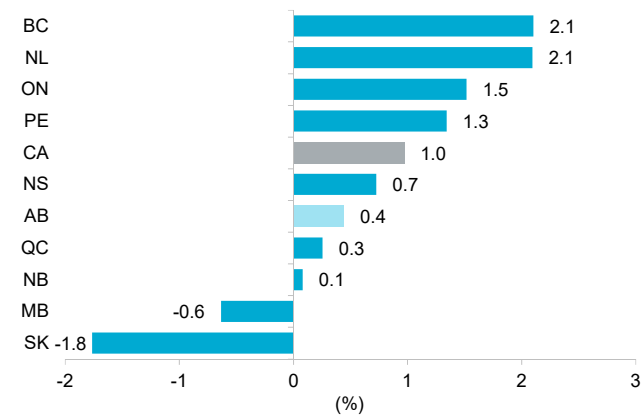


CHART 14: GROWTH IN ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT IN LINE WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE

Year-over-year growth in employment by province

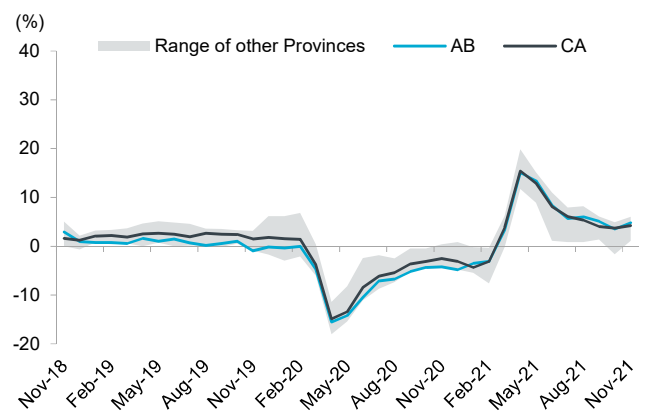


CHART 15: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Unemployment rates by province

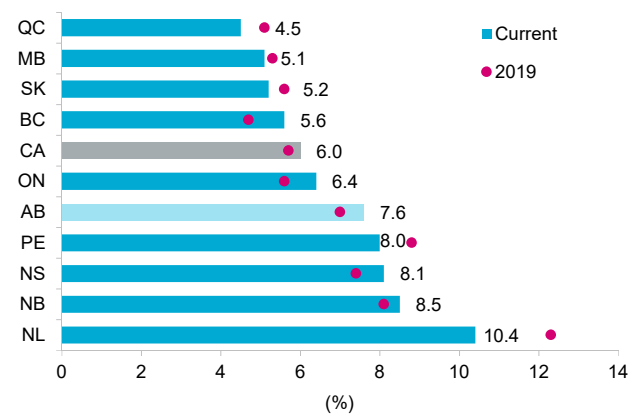


CHART 16: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE SINCE THE 2015-16 RECESSION

Unemployment rates by province

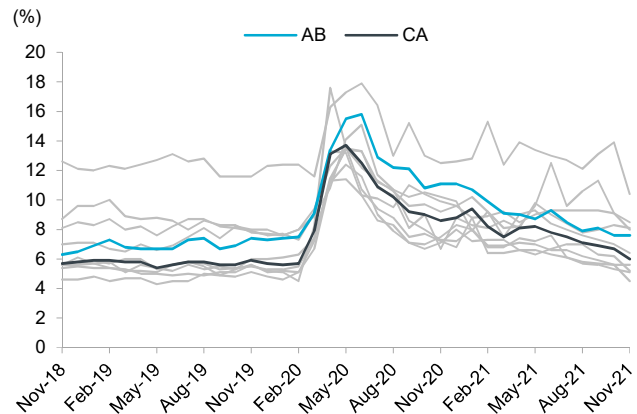


CHART 17: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS FROM 2019; STILL THE HIGHEST AMONG PROVINCES

Employment rates by province

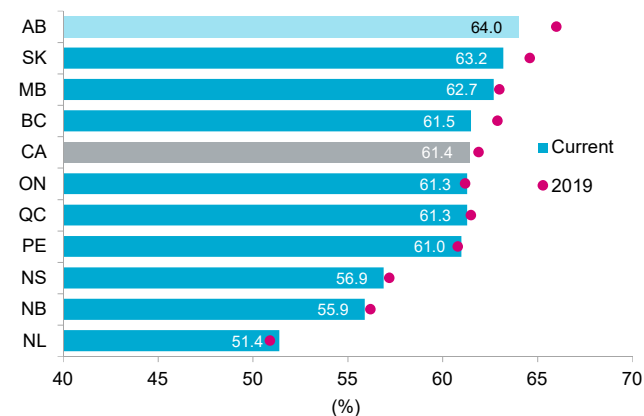
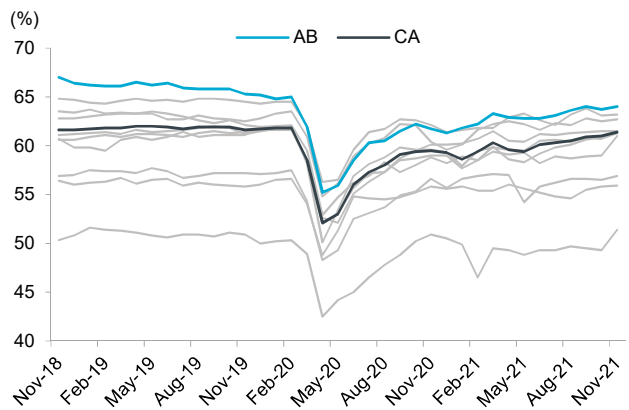


CHART 18: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE HIGHEST AMONG PROVINCES

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.