

Labour Market Notes

Labour market continues to move forward

Alberta

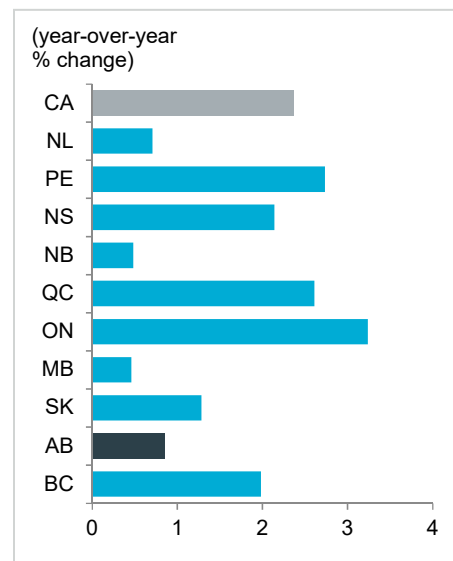
- **Alberta adds jobs.** Alberta's labour market continued to make progress in October, adding 7,700 jobs after gaining 4,900 in September.
- **Gains in full-time and private sector jobs.** The gains were in the private sector (+20,600) and full-time jobs (+14,400), while public sector employment (-10,200), self-employment (-2,600) and part-time (-6,700) positions declined.
- **Service sector remains a source of strength.** Service industries added 6,200 jobs in October and increased in seven of the last eight months. While the monthly increase was concentrated in health care and social assistance (+5,800), other private sector industries also contributed to the gains, including wholesale and retail trade (+4,100), business, building and other support services (+3,100), professional and scientific services (+2,800) and accommodation and food services (+2,500).
- **Goods sector remains sluggish.** While employment in the sector improved (+1,500), it remained down by nearly 10,000 from June, weighed down by weakness in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas.
- **Labour force reverses last month decline.** The labour force expanded by more than 11,000 in October, nearly reversing the previous month's drop. The growth in the labour force was due to both growth in population (+5,400) and a 0.3 percentage point increase in the participation rate.
- **Unemployment ticks up.** After a large drop in September, the unemployment rate ticked up 0.1 percentage points to 6.7% as growth in the labour force exceeded the gain in employment.
- **Employment growth picks up.** Compared to a year ago, employment was up 20,000, or 0.9%.
- **Private sector continues to lead the way.** The private sector added 20,600 jobs in October, and over the last year increased by 51,600 or 3.4%. Public sector employment has also grown over the last year and was up 9,100 compared to a year ago. A sharp pullback in self-employment (-40,600 y/y) has partially offset these strong gains.
- **Earnings improve.** Average weekly earnings (AWE) increased \$9.61 in August to \$1,171. Compared to a year ago, earnings were up 0.9%.

Canada

- **Employment eases.** After two months of solid gains, employment in Canada fell by 1,800 in October. Pullbacks in Ontario (-16,200) and Quebec (-9,500) offset gains in B.C. (+15,300) and Alberta (+7,700).
- **Unemployment rate holds steady.** Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5%.
- **Canadian earnings move higher.** Canadian AWE increased by \$6.09 to \$1,035 in July, with year-over-year growth of 2.9%.

Employment Growth by Province

October 2019 vs. October 2018



Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta Labour Market Indicators

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,356,900
month-over-month change	7,700.0
year-over-year % change	0.9%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	6.7%
Edmonton UR**	7.1%
Calgary UR**	7.2%
Participation Rate	71.3%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,170.50
year-over-year % change	0.9%
Average Hourly Wage	\$31.45
year-over-year % change	0.9%
Job Vacancy Rate***	1.9%

Source: Statistics Canada

* All data is from the October 2019 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is the August 2019 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Job Vacancy Rate is for July 2019.

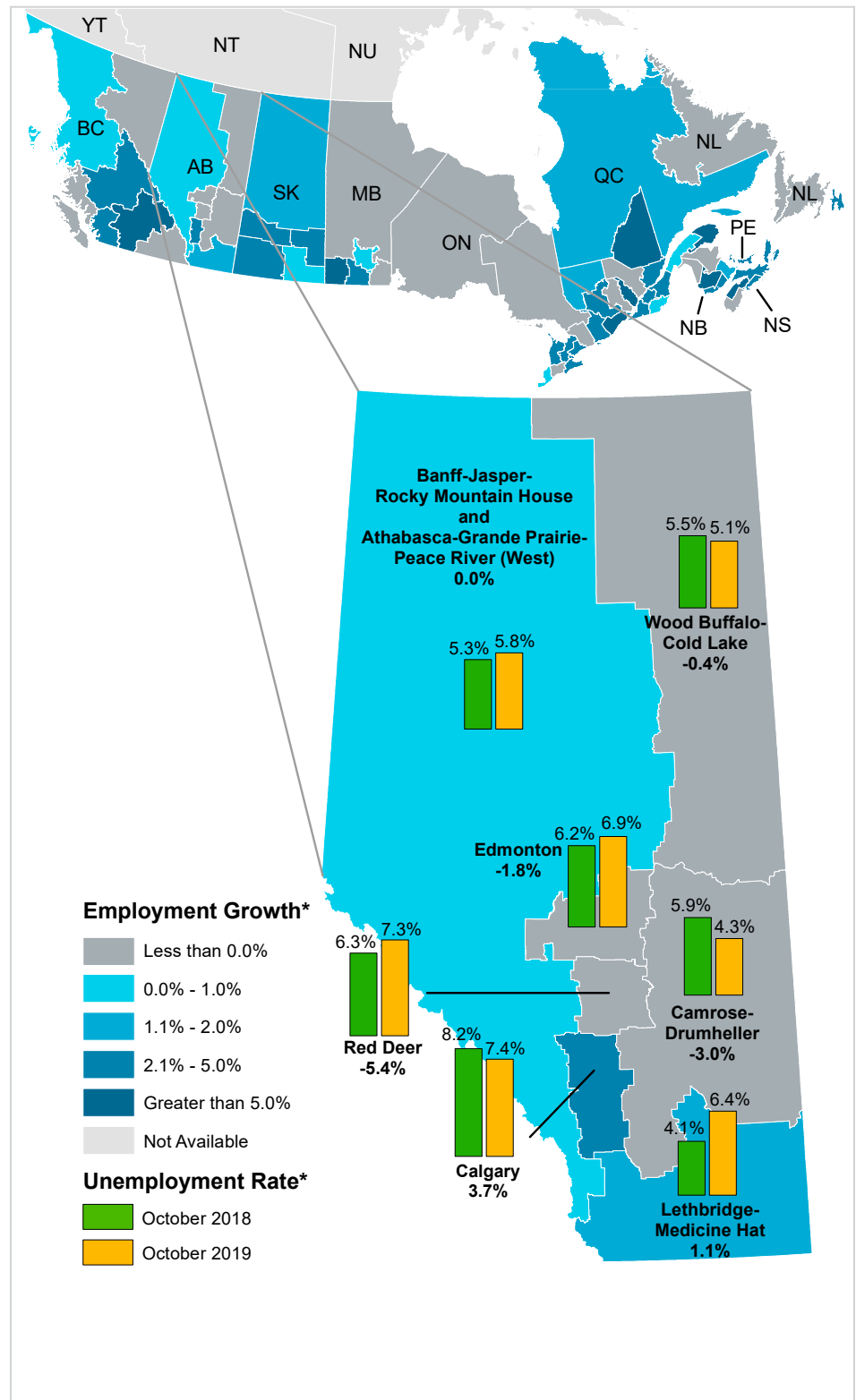
** This indicator is calculated as a three-month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

*** This indicator is calculated as a three-month moving average and is not seasonally adjusted.

Regional labour market indicators

	2017	2018	2019 YTD
Alberta			
Population	0.9	1.2	1.5
Labour Force	0.7	0.5	0.9
Employment	1.0	1.9	0.7
Unemployment Rate	7.8	6.6	6.9
Calgary			
Population	1.4	1.8	2.3
Labour Force	1.8	0.0	2.3
Employment	2.7	0.9	2.9
Unemployment Rate	8.4	7.6	7.2
Edmonton			
Population	1.3	1.8	2.1
Labour Force	0.9	0.7	2.2
Employment	0.1	2.6	1.7
Unemployment Rate	8.1	6.4	7.2
West			
Population	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4
Labour Force	0.1	2.9	-1.4
Employment	0.5	3.9	-1.0
Unemployment Rate	6.4	5.6	5.3
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	-0.2	0.4	0.9
Labour Force	-4.4	-0.6	-1.1
Employment	-3.3	0.0	-2.1
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.1	6.4
Red Deer			
Population	0.5	0.6	0.8
Labour Force	-0.1	3.1	-2.9
Employment	1.7	4.8	-3.7
Unemployment Rate	6.9	5.5	6.6
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	-0.8	-0.6	-0.3
Labour Force	-0.6	-0.2	-8.8
Employment	-0.7	2.8	-11.4
Unemployment Rate	8.0	5.1	7.3
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	-0.8	-2.1	-2.3
Labour Force	0.0	-2.0	-0.4
Employment	1.8	-0.2	-0.3
Unemployment Rate	7.7	5.9	5.9

Employment growth by economic region Per cent change in year-over-year employment



Source: Statistics Canada
All number are percent growth, except unemployment rates.

*Based on three-month moving averages.

Contact: Robert Van Blyderveen at 780.638.5628

Have a question? Send us an [email](#)