

Labour Market Notes

Labour market remains soft

Alberta

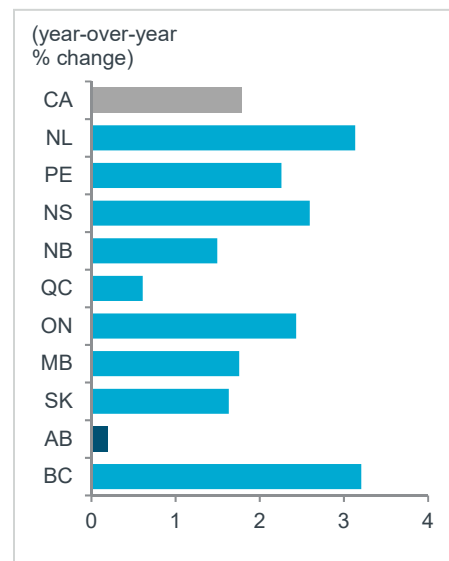
- **Employment weak.** Alberta lost 1,800 jobs in March, the third decline in the past four months.
- **Losses in part-time and goods sector.** Gains in full-time jobs (+18,100) offset losses in part-time positions (-19,900). The monthly decline was also concentrated in the goods sector (-3,900), which was partially tempered by improvement in the service sector (+2,200).
- **Unemployment rate falls.** Despite the decline in employment, the unemployment rate dipped 0.4 percentage points to 6.9% as the labour force participation rate fell back to 71.3%.
- **Ongoing declines in self-employment.** Self-employment declined (-2,700) for the seventh time in the last nine months to reach a 35-month low. The decrease in self-employment, along with a pullback in the public sector (-1,700), offset a modest gain in the private sector (+2,600).
- **Subdued year-over-year employment growth.** Compared to a year ago, employment (+4,600) was nearly unchanged as gains in the private (+50,100) and the public sectors (+3,900) were mitigated by a significant decline in self-employment (-49,500).
- **Weakness in the goods sector.** Over the last year, employment in the goods sector (-3,900) has declined while employment in the service sector (+2,200) has increased. The weakness in the goods sector has been driven by declining employment in agriculture (-7,300) and in construction (-5,700), which has fallen back to near to the recession lows. Employment in the service sector has been supported by growth in public administration (+15,600), the business, building and other support (+12,800) and other services (+8,900).
- **Earnings jump higher.** Average weekly earnings (AWE) increased \$10.48 in January to \$1,152.31, a five-month high. Compared to a year ago, earnings were up 1.0% as steady gains in the service sector (+1.8%) have been suppressed by lacklustre gains in the goods sector (0.4%).

Canada

- **Canadian employment slips.** After six months of solid employment gains, Canada lost 7,200 jobs in March. The dip was led by losses in Ontario (-8,800) and Quebec (-12,900). Over the last 12 months, Canada has added 331,600 jobs, an increase of 1.8% led by gains in Ontario (+175,000) and BC (+79,400).
- **Unemployment rate holds steady.** Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8% for the third month in a row as the employment losses were offset by a decrease in the participation rate.
- **Canadian earnings continue to edge up.** Canadian AWE grew by \$3.17 to \$1,012 in January, 2.0% higher than a year ago.

Employment Growth by Province

March 2019 vs. March 2018



Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta Labour Market Indicators

| Indicator | Latest* |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Employment | 2,328,400 |
| month-over-month change | -1,800 |
| year-over-year % change | 0.2% |
| Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR) | 6.9% |
| Edmonton UR** | 7.1% |
| Calgary UR** | 7.7% |
| Participation Rate | 71.3% |
| Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) | \$1,152.31 |
| year-over-year % change | 1.0% |
| Average Hourly Wage | \$31.53 |
| year-over-year % change | 2.5% |
| Job Vacancy Rate*** | 1.7% |

Source: Statistics Canada

* All data is from the March 2019 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is the January 2019 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Job Vacancy Rate is for December 2018.

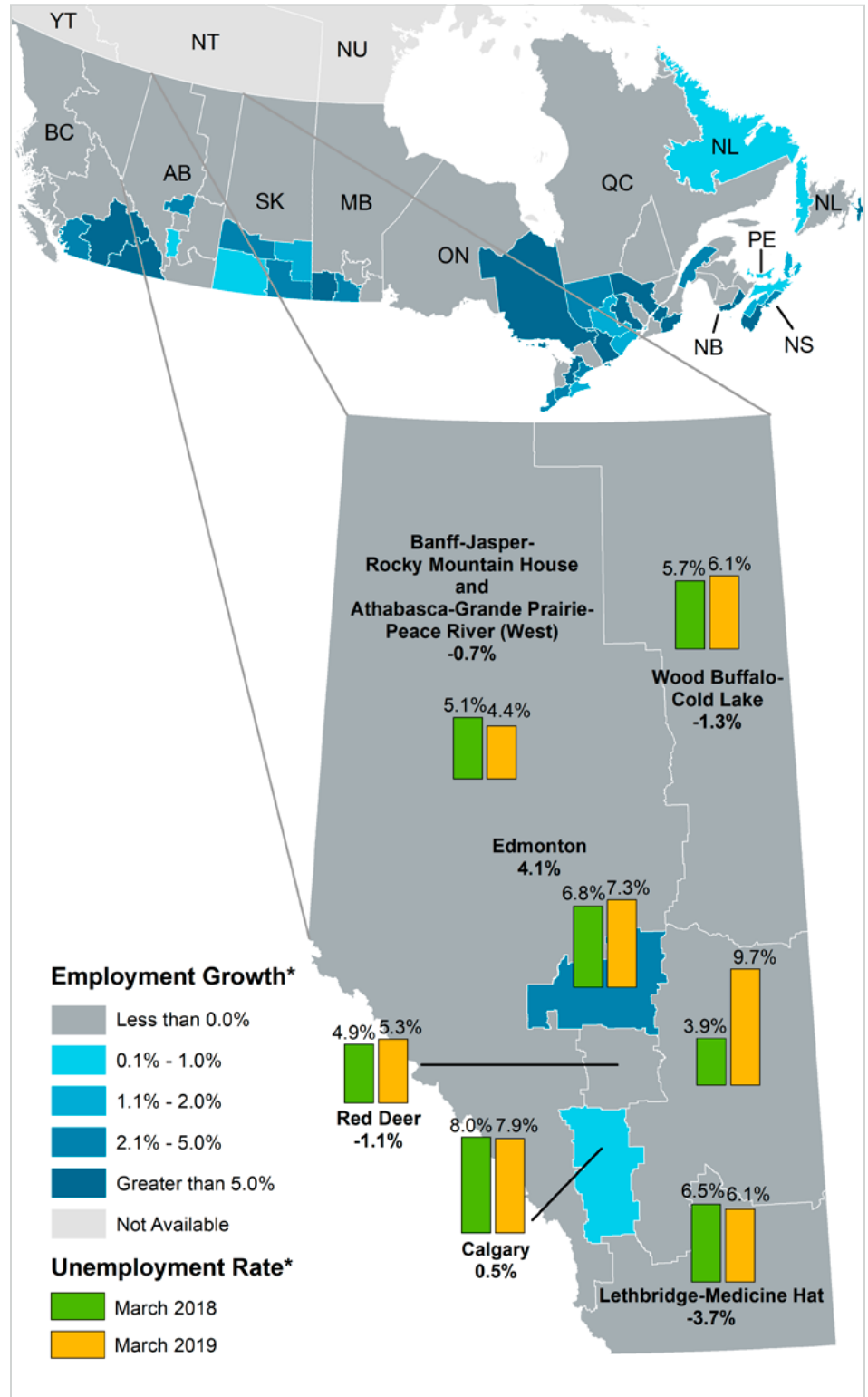
** This indicator is calculated as a three-month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

*** 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 | 0.7 |
| Employment | 1.0 | 1.9 | 0.8 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.8 | 6.6 | 6.8 |
| Calgary | | | |
| Population | 1.4 | 1.8 | 2.2 |
| Labour Force | 1.8 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Employment | 2.7 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Unemployment Rate | 8.4 | 7.6 | 7.4 |
| Edmonton | | | |
| Population | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| Labour Force | 0.9 | 0.7 | 4.3 |
| Employment | 0.1 | 2.6 | 4.3 |
| Unemployment Rate | 8.1 | 6.4 | 6.8 |
| West | | | |
| Population | -0.5 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Labour Force | 0.1 | 2.9 | -0.8 |
| Employment | 0.5 | 3.9 | -0.2 |
| Unemployment Rate | 6.4 | 5.6 | 4.8 |
| Lethbridge - Medicine Hat | | | |
| Population | -0.2 | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| Labour Force | -4.4 | -0.6 | -4.7 |
| Employment | -3.3 | 0.0 | -3.8 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.7 | 5.1 | 5.8 |
| Red Deer | | | |
| Population | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Labour Force | -0.1 | 3.1 | 0.7 |
| Employment | 1.7 | 4.8 | 1.3 |
| Unemployment Rate | 6.9 | 5.5 | 4.8 |
| Camrose - Drumheller | | | |
| Population | -0.8 | -0.6 | -0.3 |
| Labour Force | -0.6 | -0.2 | -8.9 |
| Employment | -0.7 | 2.8 | -13.2 |
| Unemployment Rate | 8.0 | 5.1 | 8.8 |
| Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake | | | |
| Population | -0.8 | -2.1 | -2.4 |
| Labour Force | 0.0 | -2.0 | -2.0 |
| Employment | 1.8 | -0.2 | -1.9 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.7 | 5.9 | 5.8 |

Employment growth by economic region
Percent change in year-over-year employment



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

*Based on three month moving averages