

Labour Market Notes

Labour market takes a step back

Alberta

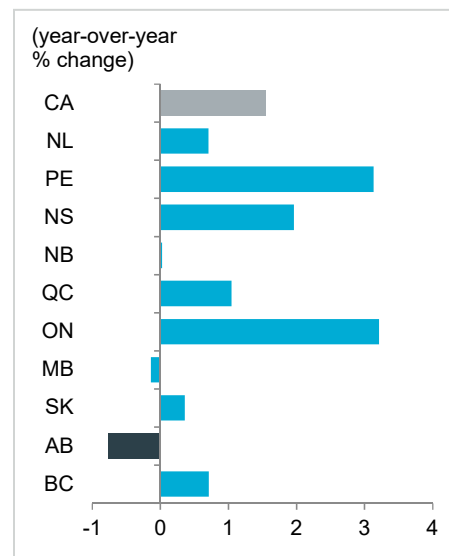
- **Employment pulls back.** Employment in Alberta decreased by 18,200 in November, more than reversing the gains made in the previous three months.
- **Full-time and private sector give back gains.** The monthly losses were concentrated in the private sector (-23,000) and full-time (-14,100).
- **Broad-based decline.** The monthly decline was widespread with employment falling in both the goods and services sectors and in 11 of the 16 industries.
- **Unemployment rate jumps up.** With the large drop in employment, the unemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 7.2%.
- **Participation falls back.** The increase in the unemployment rate was moderated by a decrease in the participation rate, which fell back to its 39-year low of 71%.
- **Employment growth stalls.** Compared to a year ago, employment was down 18,200, or 0.8%, the first year-over-year (y/y) decline since March 2017.
- **Self-employment weighs on annual growth.** The year-over-year declines were entirely due to declining self-employment (-31,700 y/y), while employment in the private (+6,100 y/y) and public (+7,400 y/y) sector remained higher than a year ago.
- **Strength in the service sector moderates.** Employment in the service sector retreated 13,000 month-over-month after reaching a new high in October. With the monthly decline, the year-over-year growth slowed from 1.7% to 0.3%. Employment in wholesale and retail trade, transportation and warehousing, business, building and other support services, and other services have all pulled back from highs reached earlier in the year.
- **Goods sector remains sluggish.** Employment in the goods sector continues to give back gains made in 2017 and 2018. Good sector employment was 23,400 lower than a year ago, weighed down by ongoing weakness in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas, and construction.
- **Earnings growth accelerates.** Average weekly earnings (AWE) increased \$11.61 in August to \$1,178. Compared to a year ago, earnings were up 3.4%, the most robust growth in nineteen months.

Canada

- **Sharp decline in employment.** Employment in Canada fell by 71,200 in November. This was the largest monthly decline since 2009 and was led by pullbacks in Quebec (-45,100), B.C. (-18,200) and Alberta (-18,200). Only Ontario (+15,400) posted a notable gain.
- **Unemployment rate moves up.** Nationally, the unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 5.9%, a fifteen-month high.
- **Canadian earnings continue to improve.** Canadian AWE increased by \$9.31 to \$1,042 in September, with year-over-year growth of 4.0%.

Employment Growth by Province

November 2019 vs. November 2018



Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta Labour Market Indicators

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,338,700
month-over-month change	-18,200
year-over-year % change	-0.8%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	7.2%
Edmonton UR**	7.7%
Calgary UR**	6.9%
Participation Rate	71.0%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,177.54
year-over-year % change	3.4%
Average Hourly Wage	\$31.45
year-over-year % change	0.3%
Job Vacancy Rate***	1.8%

Source: Statistics Canada

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

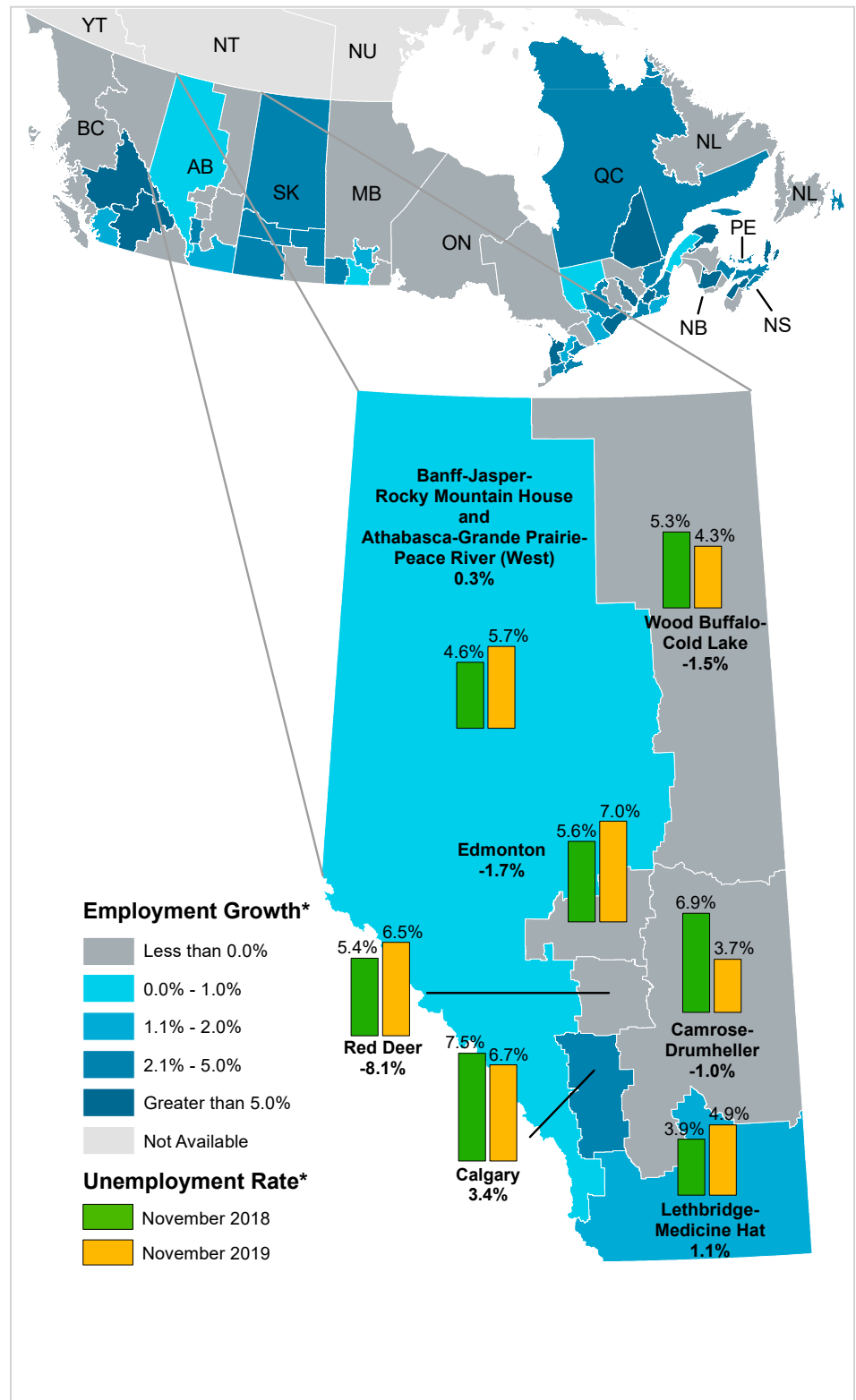
** This indicator is calculated as a three-month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

*** 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	1.6
Labour Force	0.7	0.5	0.9
Employment	1.0	1.9	0.7
Unemployment Rate	7.8	6.6	6.8
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	7.1
Edmonton			
Population	1.3	1.8	2.1
Labour Force	0.9	0.7	2.0
Employment	0.1	2.6	1.3
Unemployment Rate	8.1	6.4	7.1
West			
Population	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4
Labour Force	0.1	2.9	-1.2
Employment	0.5	3.9	-0.9
Unemployment Rate	6.4	5.6	5.4
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	-0.2	0.4	0.9
Labour Force	-4.4	-0.6	-0.8
Employment	-3.3	0.0	-1.8
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.1	6.3
Red Deer			
Population	0.5	0.6	0.8
Labour Force	-0.1	3.1	-3.3
Employment	1.7	4.8	-4.1
Unemployment Rate	6.9	5.5	6.5
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	-0.8	-0.6	-0.3
Labour Force	-0.6	-0.2	-8.4
Employment	-0.7	2.8	-10.5
Unemployment Rate	8.0	5.1	7.0
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	-0.8	-2.1	-2.3
Labour Force	0.0	-2.0	-0.6
Employment	1.8	-0.2	-0.4
Unemployment Rate	7.7	5.9	5.8

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.

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