

# Labour Market Notes

## Alberta labour market advances

### Alberta

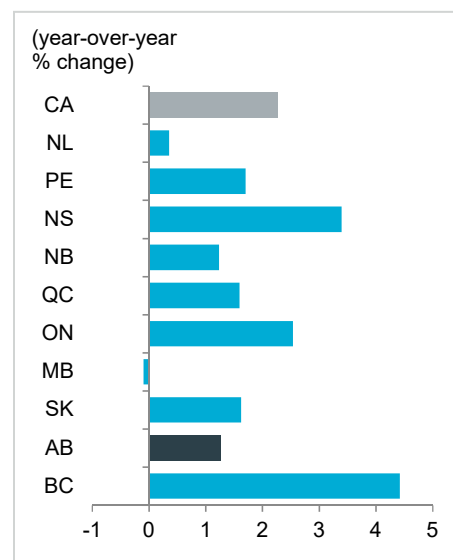
- **Solid employment gain.** After a slight pullback in May, the province added 10,400 jobs in June.
- **Unemployment rate ticks down.** With the monthly employment gain, the unemployment rate ticked down 0.1 percentage points to 6.6%, unchanged from a year ago.
- **Gains concentrated in the private sector.** The monthly increase was led by the private sector (+15,200) and supported by gains in the public sector (+10,700). Meanwhile, self-employment retreated (-15,500).
- **Surge in full-time employment.** Full-time positions (+36,900) surged in June, more than reversing the decline in May. This was partly offset by a decline in part-time positions (-26,500).
- **Growing private sector employment.** Private sector employment has grown 64,900 over the last 12 months and is 0.8% shy of the January 2015 peak level. The strength in the private sector has been moderated by declining self-employment (-52,100 year-over-year or y/y).
- **Service sector continues to grow.** Employment in the service sector expanded in June and was 38,500 higher than a year ago. The gains continued to be led by health care and social assistance (+19,000 y/y) and other services (+9,700 y/y).
- **Weakness in goods sector.** Despite increasing in June, employment in the goods-producing sector remained lower than a year ago. In the past year, this sector has lost 9,100 jobs as declines in construction (-13,600 y/y) and forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-5,500 y/y) have overwhelmed a gain in manufacturing (+7,100 y/y).
- **Employment growth picks up.** With the solid monthly gain, Alberta's labour market has added 29,500 jobs in the past 12 months, an increase of 1.3%. Growth has accelerated after a slow start to 2019 as the private sector and services sector have gained momentum.
- **Earnings reverse previous month's gain.** Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) retreated \$11.43 in April to \$1,144.45 after growing by nearly \$15 in March. Compared to a year ago, earnings were down 0.6% as lower earnings in the goods sector offset an increase in the service sector.

### Canada

- **Modest employment decline.** Canada lost 2,200 jobs in June as a solid gain in Alberta (+10,400) was offset by notable declines in Ontario (-7,000), Manitoba (-5,200) and BC (-3,700). Despite the monthly pullback, Canada has added 421,100 jobs over the last 12 months, led by large gains in Ontario, BC and Quebec.
- **Unemployment rate ticks up from a 44-year low.** Nationally, the unemployment rate ticked up 0.1 percentage points to 5.5% after falling to the lowest level since October 1974.
- **Canadian earnings continue to climb higher.** Canadian AWE increased by \$7.15 to \$1,022.53 in April with year-over-year growth of 2.9%.

### Employment Growth by Province

June 2019 vs. June 2018



Source: Statistics Canada

### Alberta Labour Market Indicators

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,358,000
month-over-month change	+10,400
year-over-year % change	1.3%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	6.6%
Edmonton UR**	7.0%
Calgary UR**	7.0%
Participation Rate	71.6%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,144.45
year-over-year % change	-0.6%
Average Hourly Wage	\$31.44
year-over-year % change	1.9%
Job Vacancy Rate***	1.9%

Source: Statistics Canada

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

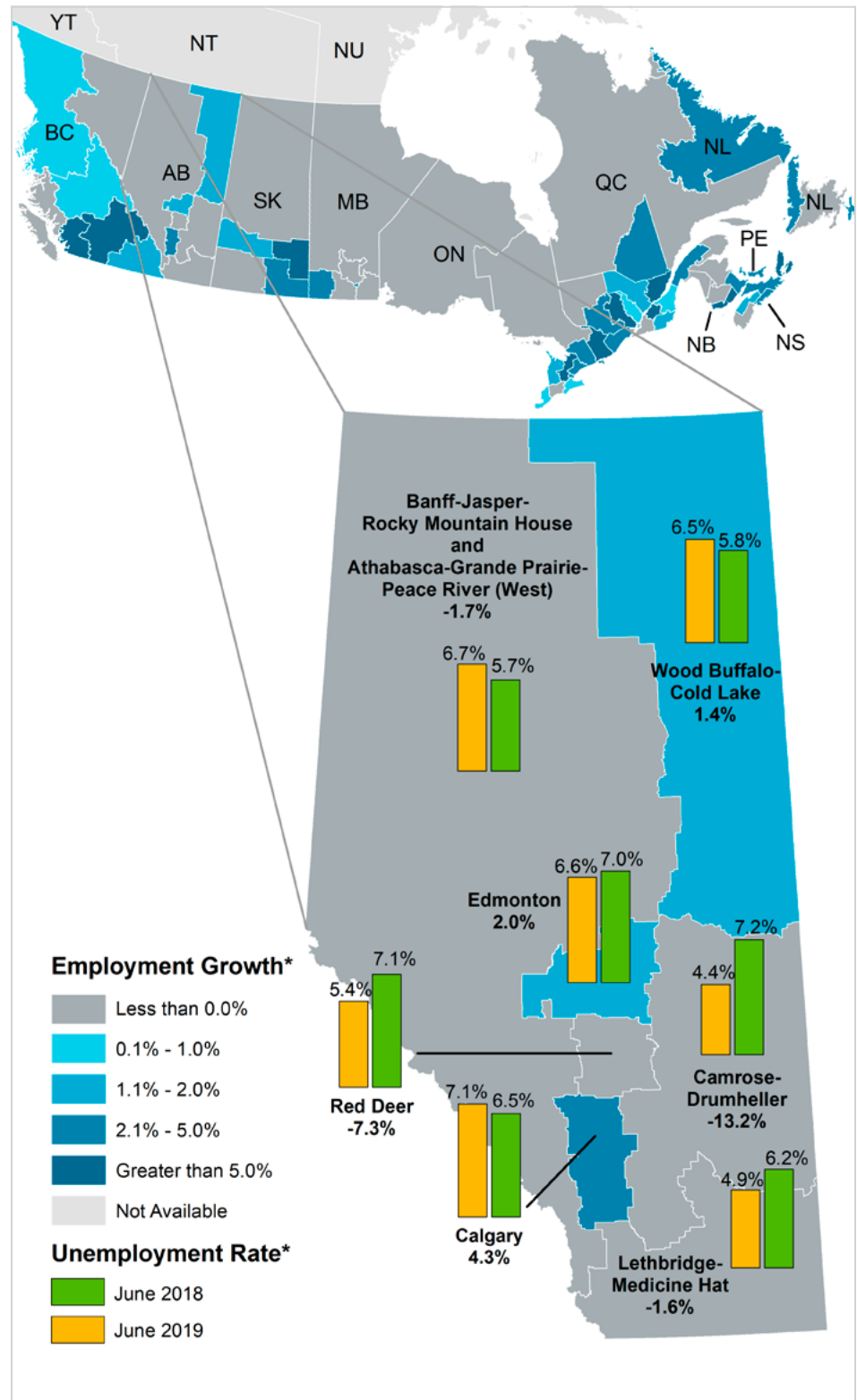
\*\* This indicator is calculated as a three-month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

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

# Regional labour market indicators

	2017	2018	2019 YTD
<b>Alberta</b>			
Population	0.9	1.2	1.5
Labour Force	0.7	0.5	0.9
Employment	1.0	1.9	0.8
Unemployment Rate	7.8	6.6	6.8
<b>Calgary</b>			
Population	1.4	1.8	2.2
Labour Force	1.8	0.0	1.3
Employment	2.7	0.9	1.7
Unemployment Rate	8.4	7.6	7.2
<b>Edmonton</b>			
Population	1.3	1.8	2.0
Labour Force	0.9	0.7	3.8
Employment	0.1	2.6	3.6
Unemployment Rate	8.1	6.4	6.9
<b>West</b>			
Population	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5
Labour Force	0.1	2.9	-1.4
Employment	0.5	3.9	-0.7
Unemployment Rate	6.4	5.6	5.2
<b>Lethbridge - Medicine Hat</b>			
Population	-0.2	0.4	0.8
Labour Force	-4.4	-0.6	-3.3
Employment	-3.3	0.0	-3.4
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.1	6.1
<b>Red Deer</b>			
Population	0.5	0.6	0.8
Labour Force	-0.1	3.1	-1.7
Employment	1.7	4.8	-2.4
Unemployment Rate	6.9	5.5	5.9
<b>Camrose - Drumheller</b>			
Population	-0.8	-0.6	-0.3
Labour Force	-0.6	-0.2	-10.2
Employment	-0.7	2.8	-14.3
Unemployment Rate	8.0	5.1	8.6
<b>Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake</b>			
Population	-0.8	-2.1	-2.3
Labour Force	0.0	-2.0	-0.9
Employment	1.8	-0.2	-0.7
Unemployment Rate	7.7	5.9	5.9

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



Source: Statistics Canada

All number are percent growth, except unemployment rates

\*Based on three month moving averages

# Occupations in the mining, and oil and gas industry

This Labour InSight looks at the composition of employment by occupation in the mining, oil and gas extraction (MOG) industry in Alberta, as reported in the 2016 Census. The census data provides a much more detailed snapshot of employment by occupation for each industry, compared with the more frequent employment surveys.

## Diverse occupations

The MOG industry employs a wide variety of skilled workers in many different professions. Of the approximately 121,000 people employed in this industry, only 17,500 were directly in occupations in the production of natural resources (Chart 1), with roughly 90% of those in oil and gas extraction. Of the remaining employed by the MOG sector, more than three-quarters were in professional and technical occupations which require advanced education and training.

## Many professionals in MOG

The MOG industry employs a significant number of professionals. At the time of the census, there were more than 36,500 people employed in professional occupations that require a post-secondary degree. Of these, nearly 15,000 were in natural and applied sciences occupations, such as geoscientists and civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical and petroleum engineers. The industry also employed 7,000 professionals in business, finance and administration, such as auditors, accountants and investment professionals, and nearly 13,000 senior and specialized managers.

## Large direct employer of trades

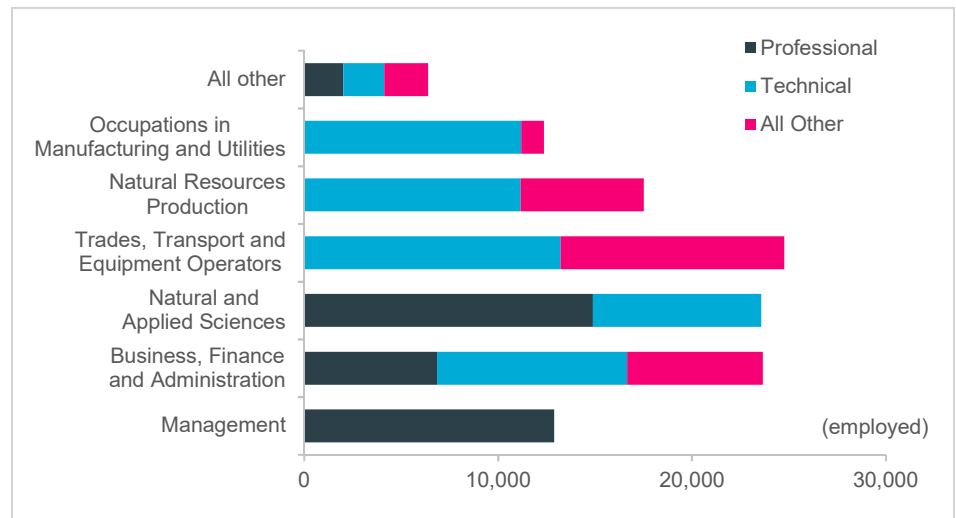
The industry also directly employs a large number of skilled trade workers which require a technical degree or

completion of an apprenticeship. According to Census 2016, there were more than 56,000 employed skilled workers such as welders, pipefitters, millwrights and mechanics, along with supervisors and operators involved in the control of petroleum, gas and chemical processing and manufacturing facilities.

## A major employer of highly skilled occupations

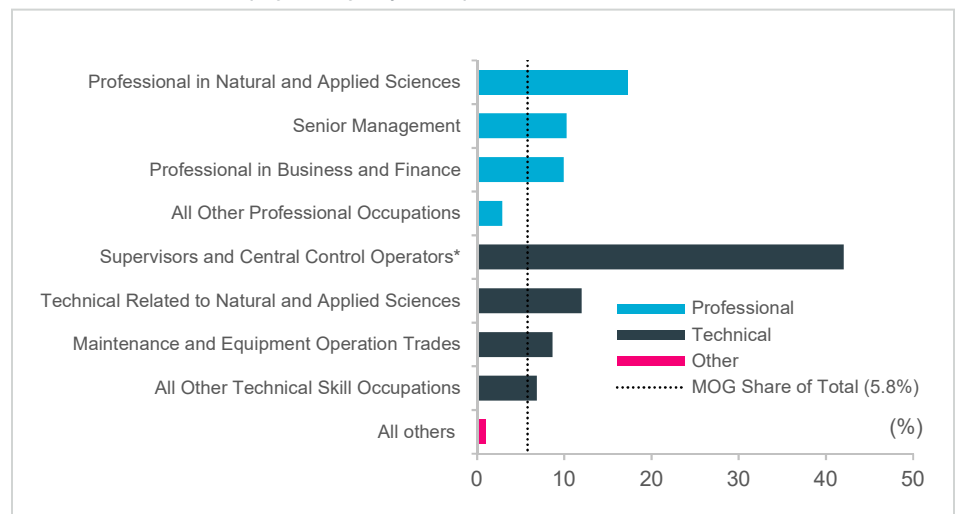
The MOG sector is a significant employer of professionals and skilled trade workers. Although the industry only represented 5.8% of total employment in the 2016 census, it accounted for 17% of professional occupations in natural and applied sciences and 10% in business and finance in the province (Chart 2). The sector also employed a disproportionate amount of skilled trade workers and has a meaningful influence on the labour market condition for professionals and technical workers in Alberta and across the country.

**Chart 1: Employment in the MOG is occupationally diversified and highly skilled**  
Employment in Alberta's mining, oil and gas extraction industry by broad occupation class and skill level



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016298.

**Chart 2: MOG sector employs outside amount of professional and technical workers**  
Share of Alberta's MOG employment by major occupation class



Source: Statistics Canada  
\* In Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities

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