

Labour Market Notes

Widespread gains in employment

Alberta

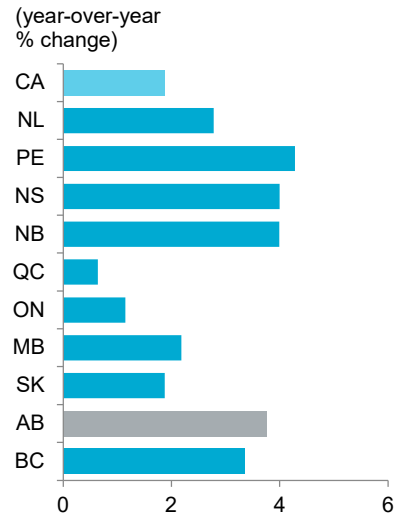
- **Employment advances.** Employment in the province increased by 10,600 month-over-month (m/m) in April, with gains in 13 of the 16 industries.
- **Natural resources lift goods sector.** Employment in the goods sector (+5,800 m/m) moved higher for the third consecutive month, led by gains in forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas.
- **Services sector regains ground.** Following the pullback in March, services sector employment moved higher in April (+4,900 m/m), driven by a rebound in professional, scientific, and technical services and a solid gain in other services.
- **Strength in private sector continues.** Employment in the private sector advanced (+6,100 m/m) for the third month in a row and was accompanied by a bounce back in self-employment (+6,700 m/m). Meanwhile, public sector employment retreated (-2,200 m/m).
- **Rebound in part-time.** After retreating in March, part-time positions bounced back in April (+14,000 m/m). This overwhelmed a modest decline in full-time employment (-3,400 m/m), which eased after three months of growth.
- **Employment growth picks up.** With the monthly gain, year-over-year (y/y) growth in employment accelerated from 3.4% in March to 3.8% in April, with strong gains in the private sector and full-time hiring.
- **Labour market conditions ease.** With staggering population growth and a jump in the participation rate, the labour force ballooned by 32,000 m/m. This exceeded the gains in employment and pushed the unemployment rate higher.
- **Participation rate hits recent high.** Alberta's participation rate surged by 0.6 percentage points to 70.1% in April, a 15-month high.
- **Unemployment rate jumps.** The unemployment rate moved from 6.3% in March to 7.0% in April as the strong monthly job growth was outpaced by a surge in the labour force.
- **Hours grow.** With the job gains in April, total hours worked increased 1.3% m/m and were up 7.1% y/y.
- **Wages move higher.** Average hourly wages advanced 1.5% m/m to \$36.58 and were up 4.5% y/y.

Canada

- **Solid gains for national employment.** Employment in Canada increased by 90,400 m/m in April, with gains in nine provinces. This followed a slight pullback in March and was the largest monthly gain since January 2023.
- **Unemployment rate holds steady.** The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1% in April.
- **Wages tick up.** Nationally, average hourly wages increased 0.4% m/m to \$34.95 and were up 4.7% y/y.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

April 2024 vs. April 2023



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,537,500
month-over-month change	10,600
year-over-year % change	3.8%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	7.0%
Edmonton UR**	6.4%
Calgary UR**	7.7%
Participation Rate	70.1%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,303.22
year-over-year % change	3.7%
Average Hourly Wage	\$36.58
year-over-year % change	4.5%
Job Vacancy Rate	3.8%

Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

* All data is from the April 2024 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is from the February 2024 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Job Vacancy Rate which is from the February 2024 Job Vacancy and Wage Survey.

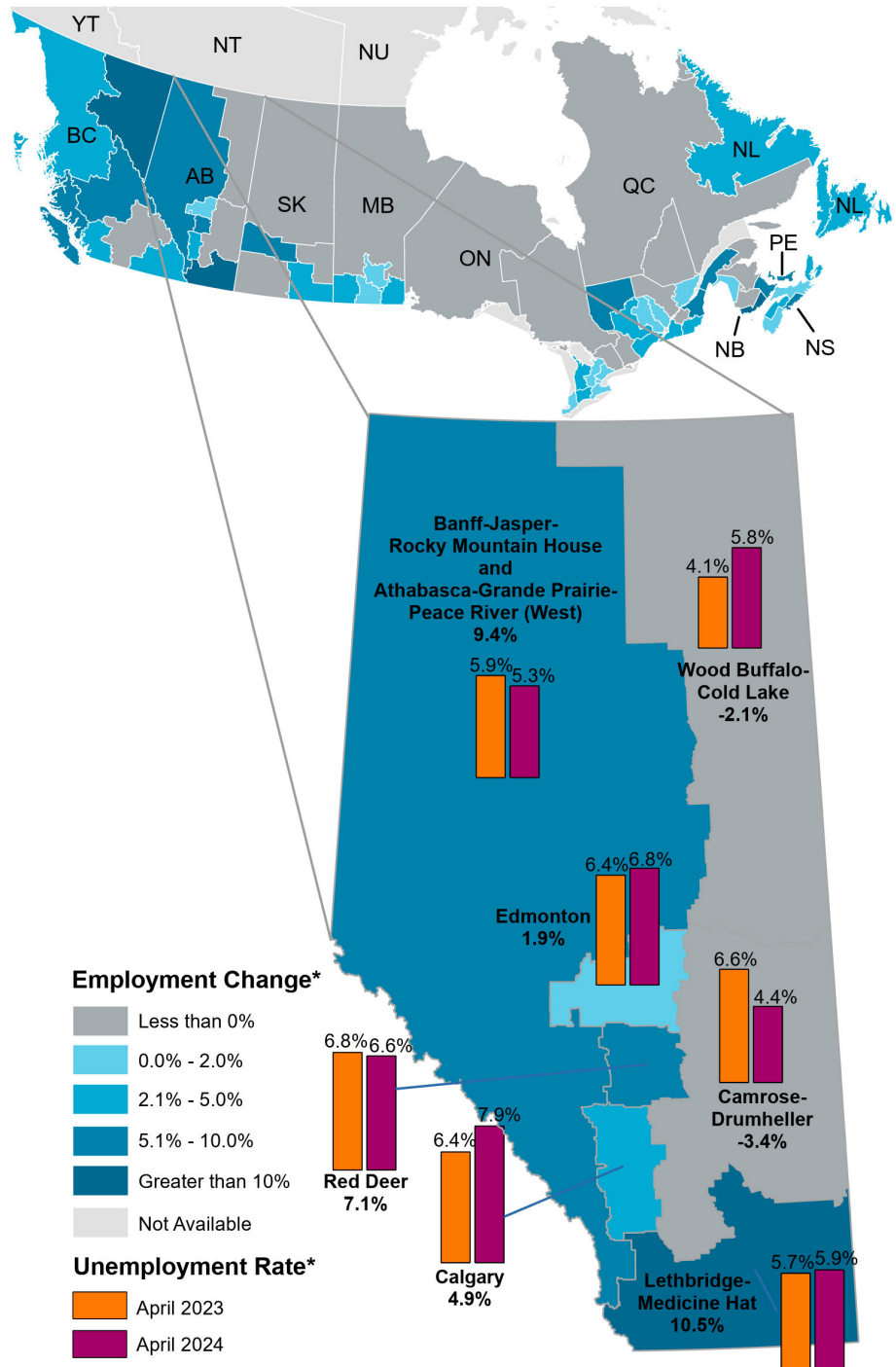
** This indicator is calculated as a three month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

Regional labour market indicators

	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Alberta			
Population	2.1	3.9	4.7
Labour Force	2.1	3.7	4.4
Employment	5.2	3.6	3.9
Unemployment Rate	5.8	5.9	6.6
Calgary			
Population	2.3	4.2	5.1
Labour Force	4.0	2.5	5.4
Employment	7.3	2.5	5.3
Unemployment Rate	6.0	6.0	6.7
Edmonton			
Population	2.4	4.4	5.3
Labour Force	0.8	5.0	2.5
Employment	3.7	4.8	1.6
Unemployment Rate	6.0	6.1	6.9
West			
Population	1.2	2.7	3.2
Labour Force	0.4	3.4	8.0
Employment	2.9	3.5	8.6
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.2	5.0
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	1.3	3.0	3.7
Labour Force	3.5	5.7	11.6
Employment	6.3	4.5	8.6
Unemployment Rate	4.4	5.5	7.2
Red Deer			
Population	1.8	3.2	3.6
Labour Force	-3.0	3.6	5.3
Employment	0.3	2.6	5.6
Unemployment Rate	6.2	7.0	7.2
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	0.6	2.0	2.5
Labour Force	3.3	2.2	-4.9
Employment	7.0	2.7	-4.5
Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.4	4.6
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	1.0	2.5	3.0
Labour Force	1.4	2.5	1.5
Employment	2.9	3.5	0.6
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.0	5.3

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY ECONOMIC REGION

Per cent change in year-over-year employment, April 2024



*Based on three-month moving averages.

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

Contact Ceilidh Ballantyne at TBF.ERFPublications@gov.ab.ca
Have a question? Send us an [email](#)

Labour Market Notes

CHART 1: EMPLOYMENT GAINS CONCENTRATED IN PART TIME POSITIONS, FOR SELF EMPLOYED AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Monthly change in employment, April 2024

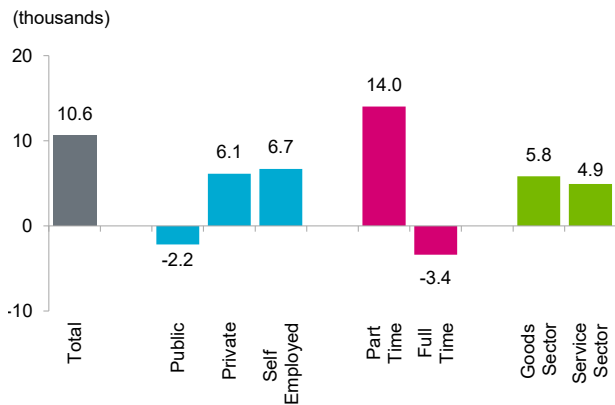


CHART 2: BOTH EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ADVANCE IN THE MONTH

Number of employed and unemployed (thousands)

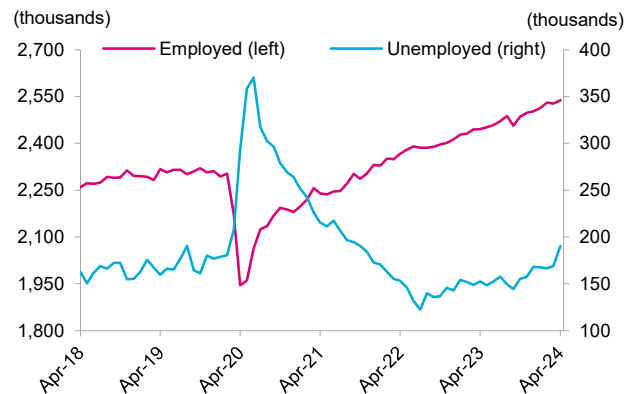


CHART 3: SOURCE POPULATION GROWS AT RAPID PACE

Monthly change in labour market indicators, April 2024



CHART 4: LABOUR FORCE EXPANDS WITH JUMP IN PARTICIPATION RATE

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

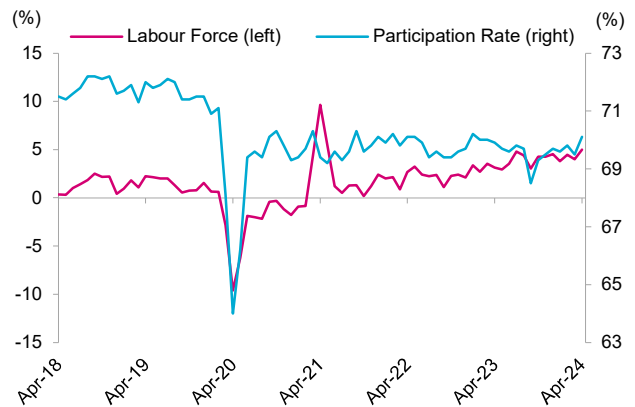


CHART 5: HOURLY WAGE UP STRONGLY FROM LAST YEAR

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

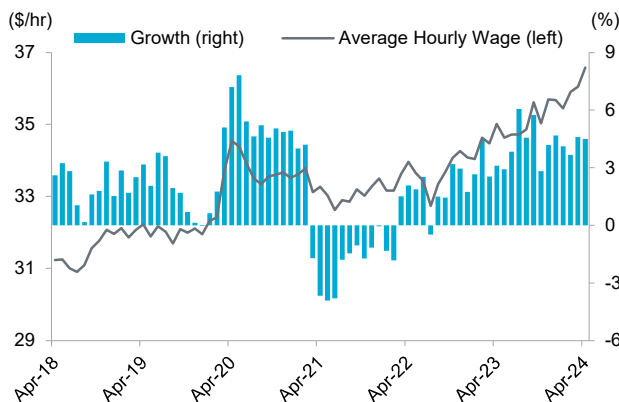


CHART 6: LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO EASE

Unemployment rate and job vacancy rate

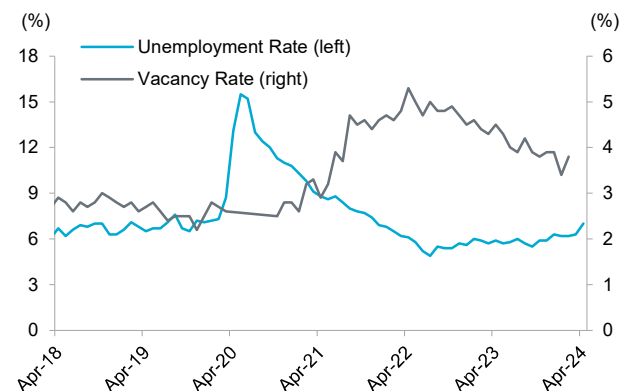


CHART 7: ANNUAL GAINS CONCENTRATED IN PRIVATE SECTOR AND FULL-TIME POSITIONS

Change in employment since April 2023

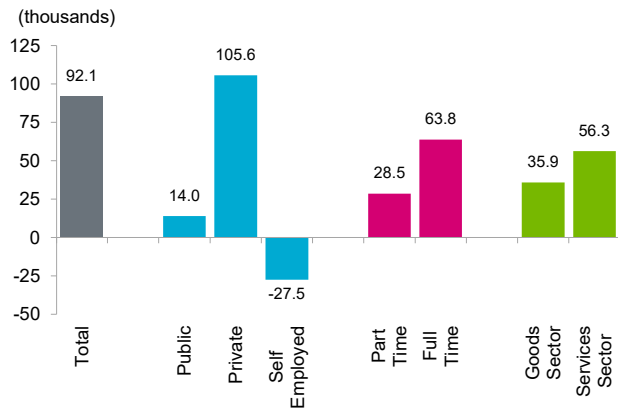


CHART 8: FORESTRY, MINING, AND OIL & GAS LEADS ANNUAL GAINS

Change in employment since April 2023

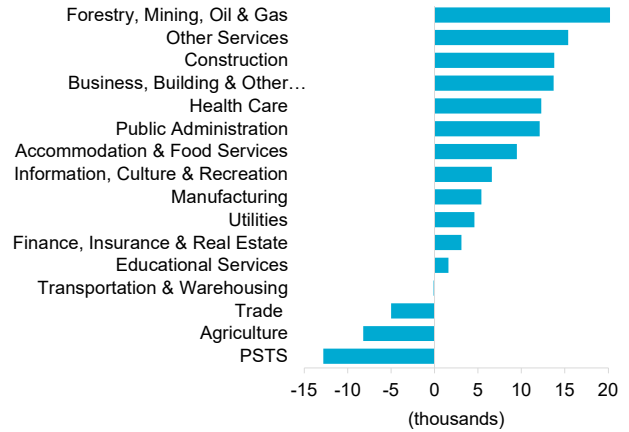


CHART 9: BOTH SECTORS UP IN THE MONTH

Alberta employment indexed to April 2023, by sector

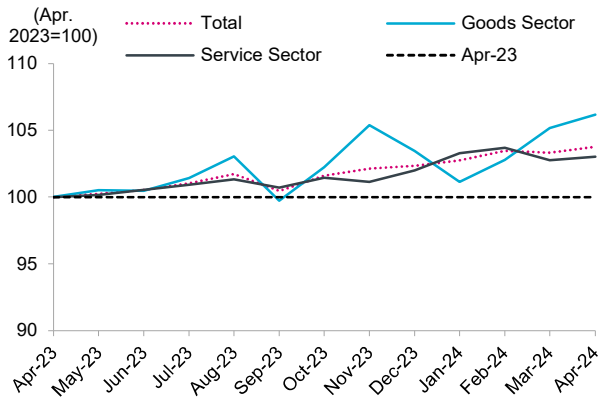


CHART 10: BOTH FULL- AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT UP Y/Y

Alberta employment indexed to April 2023, by type

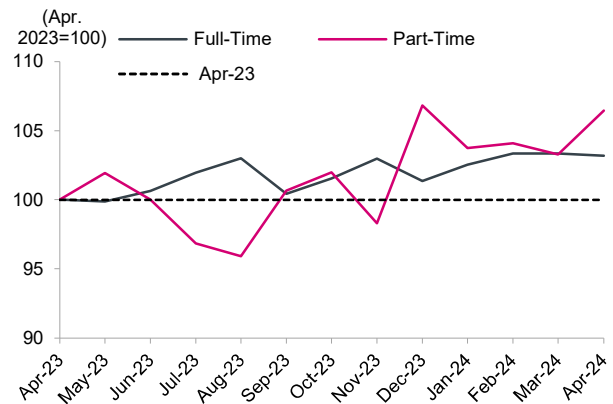


CHART 11: EMPLOYMENT GAINS WIDESPREAD ACROSS PROVINCE

3-month average employment indexed to April 2023, by region

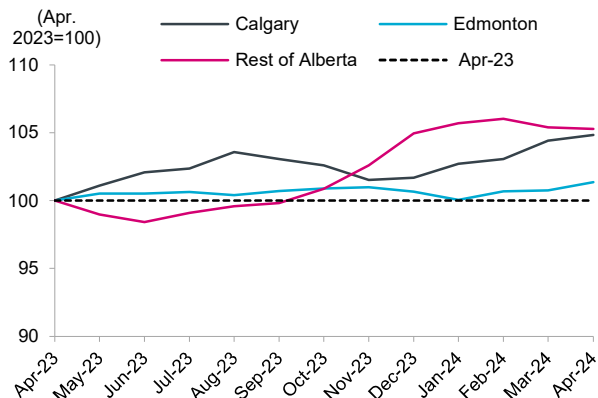


CHART 12: CORE AGE EMPLOYMENT WELL UP FROM LAST YEAR

Alberta employment indexed to April 2023, by age group

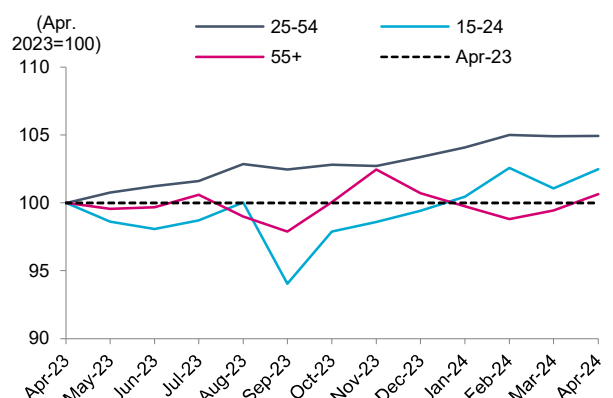


CHART 13: ALBERTA EMPLOYMENT GROWTH RANKS FOURTH AMONG THE PROVINCES

Percentage change in employment since April 2023

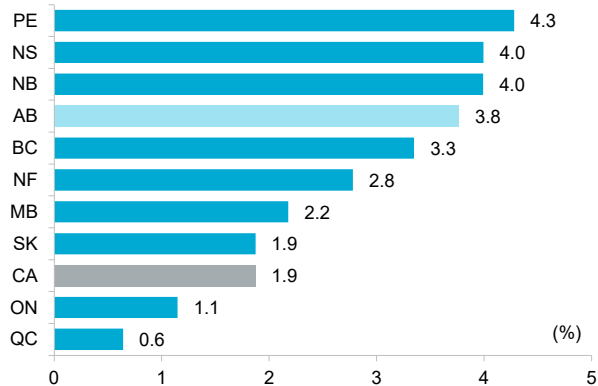


CHART 14: GROWTH IN ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Year-over-year growth in employment by province

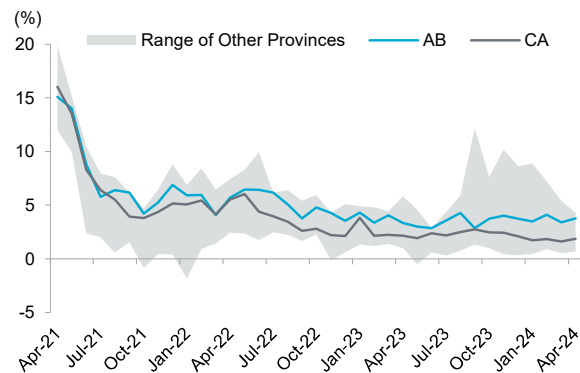


CHART 15: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MOVES HIGHER THAN 2019 AVERAGE

Unemployment rates by province

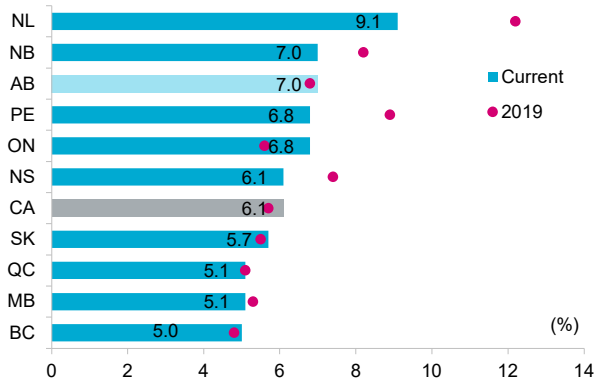


CHART 16: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Unemployment rates by province

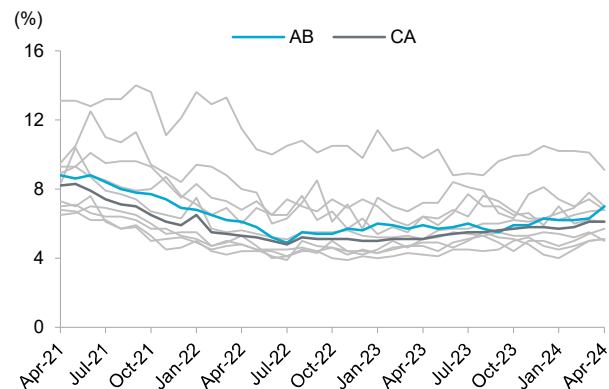


CHART 17: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS FROM 2019 BUT IS STILL THE HIGHEST

Employment rates by province

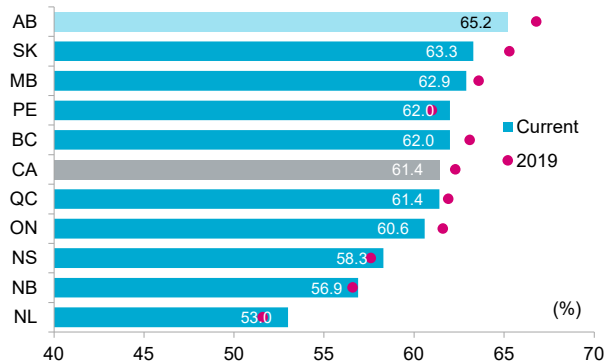
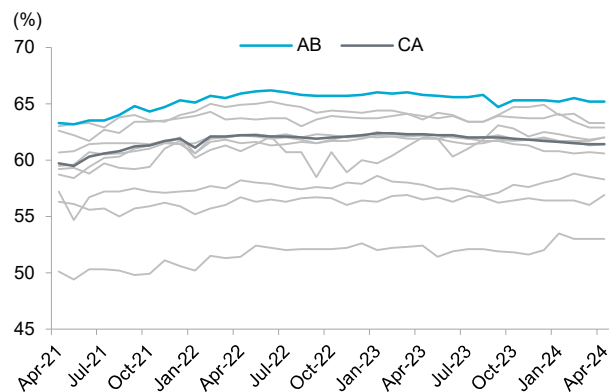


CHART 18: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE LEADS THE WAY

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.

Labour Market Notes

