

# Labour Force Developments

August 4, 2006

July 2006

## July Highlights

Alberta's employment picture remained exceptionally strong in July. The unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 3.6 per cent, remaining easily the lowest among provinces. The national unemployment rate rose to 6.4 per cent (up 0.3 percentage points).

## Alberta

Alberta's economy continued to operate at effectively full employment in July, with an unemployment rate of just 3.6 per cent.

While overall employment levels were virtually unchanged from previous month, there was a sharp increase in the number of full-time jobs. On an unadjusted basis, Alberta full-time employment jumped by 26,100 last month.

Through the first seven months of 2006, the Alberta economy has added 71,000 jobs, for employment growth of 4.0 per cent. This is the highest rate of job growth in Canada in 2006, and the fastest pace of growth seen in Alberta since 1998.

Labour market strength is being seen throughout the province. Over the past year, employment is up in each of Alberta's eight regions. In July, the *highest* regional unemployment rate in Alberta was 4.1 per cent. This was 0.6 percentage points *below* the unemployment rate of any other province (the second lowest provincial unemployment rate in Canada was 4.7 per cent, shared by the three other western provinces).

## ALBERTA JULY HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Employment</b>	
Monthly Net Jobs	+800
% Change	0.0%
<b>Unemployment Rate (July 2006)</b>	
Alberta	3.6%
Canada	6.4%

## Canada

National employment fell slightly for the second consecutive month, declining by 5,500. Due to a substantial increase in the number of people entering the labour force (+64,200), Canada's unemployment rate jumped 0.3 percentage points, to 6.4 per cent.

The number of full-time jobs in Canada rose by 21,600 last month, while part-time employment declined by 27,000.

Employment levels were little changed throughout the country. Provinces with the largest increases in employment were British Columbia (+3,800) and Quebec (+3,700), while the largest decline occurred in Ontario (-5,500).

Sectors experiencing job gains included construction (+22,300) and public administration (+18,500). The manufacturing sector continued to experience job losses, with employment falling by 33,300 in July.

## United States

The U.S. economy added 113,000 jobs in July, falling short of the expected increase of 145,000. The U.S. unemployment rate rose from 4.6 to 4.8 per cent (a five-month high).

**TABLE 1. ALBERTA REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

Regional Employment 3 Month Moving Avg.	Edmonton Region	Calgary Region	Wood Buffalo- Cold Lake	Athabasca- Grande Prairie	Red Deer	Camrose- Drumheller	Banff- Jasper- Rocky Mt. House	Lethbridge- Medicine Hat
<b>June 2006-July 2006</b>								
Change	12,400	4,600	100	1,500	800	2,800	200	3,000
Growth Rate	2.1%	0.7%	0.2%	1.1%	0.8%	2.5%	0.4%	2.2%
<b>July 2005-July 2006</b>								
Change	17,500	43,100	4,600	6,300	7,000	12,000	300	1,300
Growth Rate	3.0%	6.5%	7.8%	5.0%	7.5%	11.8%	0.6%	0.9%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.8%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	4.1%	2.3%	n/a	2.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey