

# Labour Force Developments

October 6, 2006

September 2006

## September Highlights

Alberta employment edged up by 1,800 in September, bringing year-to-date job gains to over 75,000. The Alberta unemployment rate fell to 3.5 per cent, and remained the lowest among the provinces. Nationally, employment rose by over 16,000, and the unemployment rate declined to 6.4 per cent.

### Alberta

The Alberta economy added 1,800 jobs in September. The number of full-time jobs increased by 5,200, which more than offset a decline of 3,400 in part-time employment (all figures are seasonally adjusted).

Through the first nine months of 2006, the Alberta economy has added more than 75,900 jobs, for employment growth of 4.3 per cent. This is the highest rate of job growth of any province, and more than double Canada's employment growth of 2.0 per cent.

Year to date, Alberta has accounted for a remarkable 37.9 per cent of Canada's total employment gains – far in excess of the province's 10.3 per cent share of the national population.

Alberta's unemployment rate fell to 3.5 per cent in September (from 4.2 per cent in August), due mainly to a substantial decline in the number of youths participating in the labour force. Despite the decline last month, Alberta's youth labour force participation rate remained relatively high, at 69.9 per cent

### ALBERTA SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Employment</b>	
Monthly Net Jobs	+1,800
% Change	0.1%
<b>Unemployment Rate (September 2006)</b>	
Alberta	3.5%
Canada	6.4%

### Canada

The Canadian economy added 16,200 jobs in September, reversing a three-month decline. Canada's unemployment rate dipped slightly, to 6.4 per cent.

Increases in part-time employment accounted for all the net national gains in September. The number of part-time jobs increased by 31,000, while full-time employment fell by 15,000

Provinces with the largest increases in employment were Quebec (+10,900), British Columbia (+7,300) and Saskatchewan (+7,000). Ontario, which lost 13,900 jobs, was the only province to experience a significant decline in employment.

The manufacturing sector regained some of its recent losses, adding 19,000 jobs in September. Nevertheless, manufacturing employment has fallen by 67,000 (3.1 per cent) to date in 2006.

### United States

The U.S. economy added 51,000 jobs in August, the smallest gain in eleven months. The U.S. unemployment rate edged down slightly, to 4.6 per cent.

**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>Aug. 2006-Sept. 2006</b>								
Change	-2,300	1,700	-1,100	-1,900	-400	-2,500	100	-1,200
Growth Rate	-0.4%	0.2%	-0.2%	-1.4%	-0.4%	-2.2%	0.2%	-0.9%
<b>Sept. 2005-Sept. 2006</b>								
Change	16,700	56,900	2,300	4,200	5,000	7,100	1,500	-1,400
Growth Rate	2.9%	8.7%	3.9%	3.3%	5.3%	6.8%	3.1%	-1.0%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>3.3%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey