

# Labour Force Developments

September 8, 2006

August 2006

## August Highlights

Alberta employment rose by 7,700 in August, bringing year-to-date job gains to over 73,000. Due to a large increase in Alberta's labour force, the unemployment rate increased to 4.2 per cent - still the lowest among provinces. Nationally, employment fell by 16,000, and the unemployment rate edged up to 6.5 per cent.

## Alberta

The Alberta economy continued to add jobs at a strong pace, recording a monthly gain of 7,700 in August.

Through the first eight months of 2006, the Alberta economy has added 73,400 jobs, for employment growth of 4.1 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.

In August, Alberta's full-time employment increased by 11,600. Over the past year, the number of full-time jobs in Alberta has increased by over 100,000, or a remarkable 6.5 per cent.

Exceptionally high levels of in-migration to the province have led to large increases in the province's labour force, which swelled by 18,500 in August. Despite strong job gains, this jump in the labour force caused the province's unemployment rate to rise to 4.2 per cent last month (up from 3.6 per cent in July). Nevertheless, Alberta's unemployment rate remained the lowest among provinces.

## ALBERTA AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Employment</b>	
Monthly Net Jobs	+7,700
% Change	0.4%
<b>Unemployment Rate (August 2006)</b>	
Alberta	4.2%
Canada	6.5%

## Canada

National employment fell for the third consecutive month, declining by 16,000 in August. Canada's unemployment rate edged up slightly, to 6.5 per cent.

Despite the overall decline in employment, the full-time employment picture remained positive, as the number of full-time jobs rose by 46,600 last month. Part-time employment declined by 62,600.

Provinces with the largest increases in employment were Alberta (+7,700) and Newfoundland (+3,200). The largest declines occurred in Ontario (-15,200), Quebec (-5,800) and New Brunswick (-5,300).

Canada's manufacturing sector continues to experience the effects of a higher Canadian dollar, shedding another 11,300 jobs in August. Since the beginning of 2006, manufacturing employment in Canada has fallen by 87,000.

## United States

The U.S. economy added 128,000 jobs in August, matching the average increase over the preceding two months. The U.S. unemployment rate edged down slightly, to 4.7 percent.

**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>July 2006-August 2006</b>								
Change	2,600	3,400	-1,400	-300	-400	-400	-300	-800
Growth Rate	0.4%	0.5%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.6%
<b>Aug. 2005-Aug. 2006</b>								
Change	18,900	47,000	3,700	5,100	5,800	10,600	500	-700
Growth Rate	3.3%	7.1%	6.3%	4.0%	6.1%	10.3%	1.0%	-0.5%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey