

# Labour Force Developments

February 9, 2007

January 2007

## January Highlights

The Alberta economy added 24,100 jobs in January. Due to a large increase in the labour force, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.3 per cent, remaining the lowest among provinces. Nationally, employment rose by 88,900, while the unemployment rate edged up to 6.2 per cent.

### Alberta

In January, Alberta recorded another strong gain in employment, adding 24,100 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis.

Since January 2006, the Alberta economy has generated more than 117,000 new jobs. All of the net employment gains over the past 12 months have been in full-time employment, which has increased by remarkable 7.8 per cent.

Over the past 12 months, sectors experiencing the largest employment gains have been manufacturing (+27,900), educational services (+20,200), mining and oil and gas extraction (+17,800) and construction (+17,200).

Despite the strong job growth in January, Alberta's unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.3 per cent last month, due to a large (+23,500) increase in the province's labour force.

In January, Alberta's employment rate reached a new record high, as 71.5 per cent of the province's working-age population was employed (the national employment rate in was 63.4 per cent).

### ALBERTA JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Employment</b>	
Monthly Net Jobs	+24,100
% Change	1.3%
<b>Unemployment Rate (January 2007)</b>	
Alberta	3.3%
Canada	6.2%

### Canada

The Canadian economy added 88,900 jobs in January. Despite the increase, the national unemployment rate rose slightly (to 6.2 per cent), as the number of people in the labour force jumped by 110,100.

National employment gains were divided almost equally between increases in full-time (+45,900) and part-time (+42,900) employment.

Provinces with the largest increases in overall employment were British Columbia (+31,700), Alberta (+24,100) and Quebec (+14,700). Alberta and British Columbia alone accounted for more than 60 per cent of national job growth in January. Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province to record a decline in employment (-3,100).

### United States

The U.S. economy added 111,000 jobs in January, following a gain of 206,000 in December 2006 (as revised) and an average monthly increase of 187,000 for all of 2006. The U.S. unemployment rate edged up slightly in January, 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>Dec. 2006-Jan. 2007</b>								
Change	2400	-600	100	1000	-1200	0	200	-1,900
Growth Rate	0.4%	-0.1%	0.2%	-0.8%	-1.2%	0.0%	0.4%	-1.4%
<b>Jan. 2006-Jan. 2007</b>								
Change	40,700	57,200	3,000	-800	3,000	3,900	4,100	900
Growth Rate	7.3%	8.6%	4.9%	-0.6%	3.2%	3.8%	8.6%	0.7%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey