

# Labour Force Developments

March 9, 2007

February 2007

## February Highlights

Alberta employment rose by 6,200 in February, bringing year-to-date job gains to over 30,000. Due to a large increase in Alberta's labour force, the unemployment rate rose to 3.5 per cent. Nationally, employment increased by 14,000, while the unemployment rate dipped slightly to 6.1 per cent.

## Alberta

In February, Alberta's economy continued to generate jobs at a healthy pace, adding 6,200 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis. Over the past twelve months, employment has increased by 5.5 per cent (+100,700), the highest among the provinces. Alberta accounted for over 25 per cent of Canada's overall employment growth.

Strong gains in overall employment have been supported by a remarkable increase in the number of full-time jobs, which has risen 7.8 per cent over the past twelve months.

Continued growth in employment has led to a new record high employment rate. In February, 71.6 per cent of working age Albertans were employed. The national employment rate was 63.4 per cent.

Due to a large (+10,400) increase in the labour force, Alberta's unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points, to 3.5 per cent in February.

## ALBERTA FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Employment</b>	
Monthly Net Jobs	6,200
% Change	0.3%
<b>Unemployment Rate (February 2007)</b>	
Alberta	3.5%
Canada	6.1%

## Canada

The Canadian economy added 14,000 jobs in February. As a result, the national unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 6.1 per cent.

National employment gains were mainly in full-time (+10,500) employment, with a significant increase in youth employment.

The service sector was responsible for most of February's employment increase, adding 48,500 jobs. This strong growth was partially offset by a sharp declines in manufacturing (-34,700) and agriculture (-15,500).

Since February 2006, employment growth in Saskatchewan (4.3 per cent), Alberta (5.5 per cent) and British Columbia (3.5 per cent) has far exceeded the national employment growth rate of 2.4 per cent.

## United States

The U.S. economy added 97,000 jobs in February. Growth in the service sector was offset by a sharp decline in construction. The unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 4.5 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>Jan. 2007-Feb. 2007</b>								
Change	2,700	-5,300	600	700	2,200	800	1,100	-400
Growth Rate	0.5%	-0.7%	0.9%	0.5%	2.3%	0.8%	2.1%	-0.3%
<b>Feb. 2006-Feb. 2007</b>								
Change	42,700	45,600	3,100	1,300	5,800	5,400	4,500	400
Growth Rate	7.7%	6.8%	5.0%	1.0%	6.2%	5.4%	9.4%	0.3%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey