

Labour Force Developments

May 11, 2007

April 2007

April Highlights

Alberta employment rose by 12,100 in April, lowering the province's unemployment rate to 3.4 per cent. Nationally, employment declined by 5,200, while the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1 per cent.

Alberta

In April, Alberta's economy added 12,100 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis. Increases in both full-time (+6,600) and part-time (5,400) employment contributed to last month's gain.

Over the past twelve months, Alberta employment has risen by 5.6 per cent (+103,100), the highest rate of job growth among the provinces, and more than double the national employment increase of 2.3 per cent.

With the April job gains, Alberta's employment rate returned to an all-time high. Last month, 71.6 per cent of working age Albertans were employed, matching the record first set in February of this year. In April, the national employment rate was 63.4 per cent.

Alberta's unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points in April, to 3.4 per cent, as job growth (+12,100) outpaced growth in the province's labour force (+8,500).

In April, Edmonton had the lowest unemployment rate among Canada's 27 largest cities, at 3.3 per cent (seasonally adjusted). Calgary unemployment rate was the second-lowest, at 3.5 per cent.

ALBERTA APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Employment	
Monthly Net Jobs	12,100
% Change	0.6%
Unemployment Rate (April 2007)	
Alberta	3.4%
Canada	6.1%

Canada

National employment fell slightly (-5,200) in April, recording its first decline in eight months. Nevertheless, Canada's unemployment rate remained at a 33-year low of 6.1 per cent.

While part-time employment rose (+9,700) last month, this was more than offset by a decline in the number of full-time jobs (-14,900).

Provinces with the largest increases in overall employment were Alberta (+12,100), Quebec (+10,900) and Nova Scotia (+3,100). The largest declines occurred in Ontario (-16,800) and British Columbia (-16,300).

Nationally, the manufacturing sector continued to experience job losses, with employment declining by 18,600 in April. The natural resources sector added 11,200 jobs last month.

United States

In April, the U.S. economy added 88,000 jobs - the smallest monthly increase in more than two years. Job gains in various service industries were partly offset by declines in retail trade (-26,000) and manufacturing (-19,000). 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
Mar. 2007-Apr. 2007								
Change	500	5,000	500	700	1,600	800	-100	-100
Growth Rate	0.1%	0.7%	0.8%	0.5%	1.6%	0.7%	-0.2%	-0.1%
Apr. 2006-Apr. 2007								
Change	43,300	36,700	3,100	4,100	7,100	4,800	4,200	-700
Growth Rate	7.7%	5.3%	5.0%	3.2%	7.4%	4.7%	8.6%	-0.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.2%	4.2%	4.1%	3.3%	3.8%	3.1%	4.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey