

Labour Force Developments

June 8, 2007

May 2007

May Highlights

Alberta's unemployment rate remains the lowest in the country at 3.8% in May. Although employment was down for the month, year-to-date growth reached 5.2%.

Alberta

On a seasonally adjusted basis, jobs in Alberta fell by 7,600 in May, down 0.4% from April. Due to seasonal gains in construction and increased student employment, full time jobs increased by 50,500, while part time jobs declined 14,400.

With year-to-date job growth reaching 5.2% (+96,400), the province continues to have the highest job growth in the country, more than double the national average of 2.3%.

Alberta's unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 3.8%, due to an increase in the labour force (+1,800) and a decline in employment (-7,600).

Canada

National employment increased by 9,300 (0.1%) in May, offsetting April's decline. With monthly job growth averaging 32,400 in 2007, year-to-date growth is a healthy 2.3%. Canada's unemployment rate remained at 6.1% for the fourth consecutive month, a 33-year low.

Summer employment is in full swing and strong with 33,000 more students employed in May 2007 than May 2006. The employment rate for students intending to return to school reached 47.2%, the highest in 16 years.

ALBERTA MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Employment	
Monthly Net Jobs	-7,600
% Change	-0.4%
Unemployment Rate (May 2007)	
Alberta	3.8%
Canada	6.1%

The trend towards self-employment continues, with the number of self-employed workers up 56,000 in May, offsetting most of the decline in the private sector (-58,000).

British Columbia (+14,200), Ontario (+11,900) and Manitoba (+2,700) were the only provinces to post employment gains. On a percentage basis, Prince Edward Island (-2.0%), Nova Scotia (-1.0%) and Newfoundland (-0.5%) experienced the largest monthly declines in employment.

A slowdown in the energy sector was reflective in May's employment figures, with a 2.3% decline in natural resources (-8,200 jobs). While a high Canadian dollar continues to weigh on the manufacturing (-12,300) and trade (-20,300) sectors, the construction (+21,900) and information, culture and recreation (+16,300) continue to be a source of growth for employment.

United States

In May, US employment increased by 157,000 jobs, almost double the previous month. Average hourly earnings were up by 0.3% from last month, while the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.5%.

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
April.2007-May 2007								
Change	4,500	8,400	700	1,700	200	1,000	-300	-700
Growth Rate	0.7%	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%	0.2%	0.9%	-0.6%	-0.5%
May 2006-May 2007								
Change	39,000	36,500	2,900	3,500	5,400	1,600	3,800	-3,500
Growth Rate	6.8%	5.2%	4.6%	2.7%	5.5%	1.5%	7.8%	-2.6%
May Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.3%	3.6%	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%	3.1%	4.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey