

Labour Force Developments

July 6, 2007

June 2007

June Highlights

Alberta's unemployment rate remained the lowest in the country and unchanged at 3.8% in June. Although employment in Alberta was up 12,200 in June, the unemployment rate remained unchanged due to a surge of 11,800 people looking for work in the province. Comparing the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2006, Alberta employment is up 5.1%, the highest job growth in the country.

Alberta

Since December 2006, employment in Alberta has increased 2.5%, or by 47,000 jobs. Gains were observed in numerous industries including: business (15.9%), information (14.7%), natural resources (5.8%) and construction (5.6%).

At 74.2%, Alberta's June participation rate was the highest on record for the province and continues to be the highest among the provinces. Nationally, the participation rate was 67.6%.

In the second quarter of 2007, Alberta's average hourly wages were up 5.1% from the same time period last year. This is inline with the Consumer Price Index which posted a 5% increase from May 2006 to May 2007. Nationally, wages were up 3.2%.

Canada

National employment increased by 35,000 (0.2%) in June, following two quiet months. For the fifth consecutive month, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.1% as the labour

ALBERTA JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Employment	
Monthly Net Jobs	12,200
% Change	0.6%
Unemployment Rate (June 2007)	
Alberta	3.8%
Canada	6.1%

force kept pace with employment. Since December 2006, Canadian employment has increased 1.2%.

Full-time employment soared in June, increasing by 62,600 and more than offsetting the decline in part-time employment.

The most surprising of the six provinces to experience employment gains were Quebec (22,000), Ontario (5,700) and New Brunswick (4,400). All three provinces are heavily concentrated in manufacturing, which continues to suffer from a high Canadian dollar but posted gains due to strong hiring in the service sector. Nationally, factory employment has fallen by over 100,000 jobs in the last 12 months.

United States

U.S. employment increased by 132,000 jobs in June. Although monthly job gains have slowed in the first half of 2007 from the fast pace in 2005 and 2006, a sustained low unemployment rate and solid wage gains signal a tight labour market continues in the United States. Average hourly earnings were up 3.9% from June 2006, 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
May 2007-June 2007								
Change	8,600	11,200	800	2,900	1,200	1,300	300	-1,400
Growth Rate	1.4%	1.5%	1.2%	2.2%	1.2%	1.2%	0.6%	-1.1%
June 2006-June 2007								
Change	37,500	40,300	3,500	5,100	4,800	-1,200	3,600	-7,600
Growth Rate	6.5%	5.7%	5.5%	3.9%	4.8%	-1.1%	7.3%	-5.5%
June Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.2%	3.2%	4.0%	3.6%	3.9%	2.8%	3.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey