

# Labour Force Developments

August 10, 2007

July 2007

## July Highlights

Alberta's unemployment rate remained the lowest in the country, falling half a percentage point to 3.3% in July. The decline in the unemployment rate was a result of employment (+13,600) growing faster than the labour force (+4,800). Employment growth in Alberta is the highest in the country, up 5.1% year-to-date.

### Alberta

60,500 new jobs have been added in Alberta since December 2006. Industries that experienced the largest gains were information, culture and recreations (+15%); trade (+10.1%); business (+9.1%) and "other" services (+9.1%).

Alberta's participation rate remains the highest in the country at 74.1%. Nationally, participation was at 67.6% in July.

Labour markets remain tight in certain regions. Red Deer and Lethbridge-Medicine Hat have unemployment rates of 2.9%, indicating worker shortages are a concern.

Alberta's average hourly wages grew by 6.3% in July compared to a year ago. Canada's wages were up 3.7% over the same period. Alberta's wage growth kept pace with inflation, as the Consumer Price Index was up 6.3% from June 2006 to June 2007.

### Canada

National employment increased by 11,300 (0.1%) in July. Jobs are up 2.2% year-to-date. Since employment grew much faster than the

### ALBERTA JULY HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Employment</b>	
Monthly Net Jobs	13,600
% Change	0.7%
<b>Unemployment Rate (July 2007)</b>	
Alberta	3.3%
Canada	6.0%

labour force (+4,500), the unemployment rate fell to 6.0% after holding steady at 6.1% for five months.

Full-time employment increased by 19,700 in July, more than offsetting declines in part-time positions. Growth in full-time positions since July 2006 is a full percentage point higher than growth in part-time positions.

Ontario and Alberta were the only two provinces to post monthly job gains. Jobs in Ontario were up by 11,400 (+0.2%) due to a surprising increase in the manufacturing sector (+27,000), the first significant manufacturing increase in more than a year. The largest monthly employment declines occurred in the East, with jobs falling in Newfoundland (-0.8%), Nova Scotia (-0.8%), and New Brunswick (-0.9%).

### United States

U.S. employment increased by 92,000 in July. Strong gains in the service industries more than offset small declines in the goods producing sectors. Despite slower job growth compared to previous years, average hourly earnings grew by 0.3% from June (up 3.9% over the year) and the unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 4.6%, indicating a tight labour market.

**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>June 2007-July 2007</b>								
<b>Change</b>	9,300	7,500	1,400	2,000	1,900	500	1,000	400
<b>Growth Rate</b>	1.5%	1.0%	2.1%	1.5%	1.8%	0.5%	1.9%	0.3%
<b>July 2006-July 2007</b>								
<b>Change</b>	34,400	43,200	4,800	5,600	5,900	-3,500	4,400	-10,200
<b>Growth Rate</b>	5.8%	6.1%	7.6%	4.2%	5.9%	-3.1%	8.9%	-7.2%
<b>July Unemployment Rate</b>	4.1%	3.2%	3.3%	3.8%	2.9%	3.7%	N/A	2.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey