

Labour Force Developments

October 5, 2007

September 2007

September Highlights

Alberta's unemployment rate was up slightly to 3.6% in September, as the labour force increased by more (+5,400) than the number of jobs (+4,600). Year to date, employment growth in Alberta is running at 5.1%, more than double the national increase (2.2%).

Alberta

The Alberta economy added 4,600 new jobs in September. To date in 2007, 94,000 new jobs have been created, representing 25% of all employment gains in Canada. Alberta's year-to-date job growth has been strongest in the business services (20.5%), utilities (19.4%), construction (12.9%) and information (12.5%) sectors.

Average hourly wages grew by 2.6% in September, the strongest monthly growth since September 2005. Alberta's year-to-date wage growth reached 5.4%.

Canada

In September, Canada's unemployment rate fell to 5.9%, the lowest level since 1974. National employment increased by 51,100 (0.3%), more than double the gains in August. Employment gains for the first nine months of 2007 (369,800) are already significantly higher than the job gains for all of 2006 (315,400).

Job declines in the goods sector (-9,500) slightly tempered the impressive growth in the service sector (+60,700). Agriculture was the only

ALBERTA SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Employment	
Monthly Net Jobs	+4,600
% Change	0.2%
Unemployment Rate (September 2007)	
Alberta	3.6%
Canada	5.9%

goods producing industry to post job gains (+13,200), while the educational services (+24,800) and public administration (+21,500) sectors recorded the strongest increases.

Among provinces, Ontario recorded the strongest monthly gain in employment (29,700), partly influenced by hiring for the provincial election. In percentage terms, Saskatchewan had the largest monthly increase, with employment growing by 1.4%.

With a low unemployment rate, national wages grew 1.7% in September, the strongest monthly increase since September 2005, raising year-to-date wage growth to 3.2%.

United States

U.S. employment rose by 110,000 in September. Due to large data revisions, the previously reported decline in employment for August was reversed, with a gain of 89,000 jobs now being reported for that month. The health care, food service and professional and technical service sectors continued to add jobs, making up for declines in manufacturing and construction. The U.S. unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 4.7%.

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
August 2007-September 2007								
Change	-2,500	-6,900	1,000	-2,600	100	900	-300	3,300
Growth Rate	-0.4%	-0.9%	1.5%	-1.9%	0.1%	0.8%	-0.6%	2.5%
September 2006-September 2007								
Change	35,300	35,100	8,700	5,700	7,300	700	4,100	-3,700
Growth Rate	6.0%	4.9%	14.3%	4.4%	7.4%	0.6%	8.3%	-2.6%
Sept. Unemployment Rate	4.2%	3.2%	4.5%	4.0%	2.8%	2.8%	N/A	3.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey