

# Labour Force Developments

December 7, 2007

November 2007

## November Highlights

Alberta continued to have the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 3.6%. Although employment was down in November, year-to-date growth is 4.8%, the strongest among provinces and more than double the national rate of 2.2%.

### Alberta

On a seasonally adjusted basis, Alberta's employment declined by 7,100 in November, down 0.4% from October. The decline was mainly attributed to a decrease in part-time jobs (-11,300), which outweighed the increase in full-time employment (+4,200).

The goods-producing industry lost 2,300 jobs in November, with declines in almost all sectors, most notably in manufacturing (-5,300). The number of jobs in the service industry also decreased by 4,800, with the largest loss in the trade sector (-5,000).

Average hourly wages climbed 8.0% from the same month last year. Alberta's year-to-date wage growth currently stands at 5.9%, below the 6.9% growth recorded in 2006.

### Canada

In November, the number of jobs in the country grew 42,600, much higher than expected. Hefty employment gains in the past three months have brought year-to-date job growth to 2.2%, the highest in the past three years.

The private sector accounted for most of the employment gains in November (+48,900). Job

### ALBERTA NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Employment</b>	
Monthly Net Jobs	-7,100
% Change	-0.4%
<b>Unemployment Rate (November 2007)</b>	
Alberta	3.6%
Canada	5.9%

gains in the service industry remained strong (+47,200) and more than offset the decline in the goods sector (-4,600). Within the goods sector, the decline was led by manufacturing (-16,400).

Following several months of lethargic growth, British Columbia's job market gained ground as it added 25,800 new jobs in November, bringing the employment rate to a record high of 63.9%. Other provinces that posted notable increases were Quebec (+18,600), New Brunswick (+5,300), and Saskatchewan (+4,800). Employment fell slightly in Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia.

Growth in national average hourly wages remained strong at 4.2% between November 2006 and November 2007, well above the national inflation rate of 2.4%.

### United States

The labour market remained tight despite the turmoil in the housing and financial markets. U.S. employment rose by a stronger-than-expected 94,000 in November, while the October numbers were revised upwards. The U.S. unemployment rate held steady 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
<b>Oct 2007-Nov 2007</b>								
Change	200	-6,700	600	-2,900	-200	-400	-700	-700
Growth Rate	0.03%	-0.9%	0.9%	-2.2%	-0.2%	-0.4%	-1.3%	-0.5%
<b>Nov 2006 - Nov 2007</b>								
Change	32,400	12,600	8,200	3,200	7,900	6,300	1,300	-1,600
Growth Rate	5.4%	1.7%	13.1%	2.5%	8.0%	5.9%	2.6%	-1.2%
<b>Nov. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.9%	3.1%	3.5%	3.7%	3.2%	2.5%	N/A	4.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey