

Economic Spotlight

ALBERTA FINANCE
Office of Budget and Management
July 2, 2002

ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS BY REGION

<i>Employment Growth by Region</i>	2000	2001	Level Change	Percentage Change
Lethbridge – Medicine Hat	118.8	119.8	1.0	0.8%
Camrose – Drumheller	91.4	91.6	0.2	0.2%
Calgary Region	581.5	604.7	23.2	4.0%
Banff – Jasper – Rocky Mtn. House	45.1	46.3	1.2	2.7%
Red Deer	80.4	81.9	1.5	1.9%
Edmonton Region	507.6	521.3	13.7	2.7%
Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River	111.9	113.1	1.2	1.1%
Wood Buffalo – Cold Lake	51.4	53.4	2.0	3.9%
Calgary	545.7	566.8	21.1	3.9%
Edmonton	488.9	505.3	16.4	3.4%

Employment

- In 2001, the Alberta economy created 43,900 jobs with total employment growing by 2.8%. This was the second strongest increase in Canada, behind Newfoundland (3.3%).
- Alberta's Calgary, and Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake regions experienced most rapid rates of employment growth in 2001 at 4% and 3.9% respectively. Employment growth was slowest in Camrose – Drumheller region at 0.2% and Lethbridge - Medicine Hat (0.8%).
- In 2001, Calgary and Edmonton regions were responsible for approximately 84% of jobs created in Alberta.
- During the January-May 2002 period, Alberta's employment increased 1.8% compared to the same period in 2001, trailing New Brunswick (3.3%), Quebec (2.9%), and Newfoundland (2.1%).
- Regions, which created employment most rapidly in Alberta during first five months of 2002 compared to first five months of 2001, were Wood Buffalo – Cold Lake (13.4%), and Calgary Region (4.3%). Regions with deteriorating employment growth over the same period included Camrose – Drumheller (-2.5) and Athabasca – Grand Prairie (-1.2%).

Unemployment

- In 2001, Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate among provinces at 4.6%, with a relatively small divergence in unemployment rates across regions: between 3.5% in Camrose - Drumheller and 5.0% in Red Deer.
- In contrast, the difference in regional unemployment rates in 2001 in British Columbia varied between 10.9% in North Coast & Nechako and 5.9% in Northeast. Ontario's regional unemployment rates varied between 8.1% in Northeast, and 4.1% in Stratford - Bruce Peninsula.
- Alberta's lowest unemployment regions in 2001 included Camrose – Drumheller at 3.5% and Banff – Jasper – Rocky Mtn. House at 3.7%. Alberta's highest unemployment regions were Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River and Edmonton region, both at 4.9%.
- During the January-May 2002 period, Alberta's average unemployment rate was lowest among provinces at 5.2%, well below the national average of 7.8%.
- Alberta's regions with the highest unemployment rates in the first five months of 2002 were Red Deer (6.0%) and Lethbridge – Medicine Hat (5.8%). The regions with the lowest unemployment rates during that period were Camrose – Drumheller (4.4%) and Wood Buffalo – Cold Lake with Banff – Jasper – Rocky Mtn. House both at 4.6%.

<i>Unemployment Rates by Region</i>	2000	2001	Level Change
Lethbridge – Medicine Hat	4.8	4.1	-0.7
Camrose – Drumheller	4.3	3.5	-0.8
Calgary Region	4.5	4.5	0.0
Banff – Jasper – Rocky Mtn. House	4.7	3.7	-1.0
Red Deer	5.4	5.0	-0.4
Edmonton Region	5.5	4.9	-0.6
Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River	5.6	4.9	-0.7
Wood Buffalo – Cold Lake	4.8	4.7	-0.1
Calgary	4.5	4.4	-0.1
Edmonton	5.5	4.9	-0.6
