

Labour Market Notes

Labour market resilient

Alberta

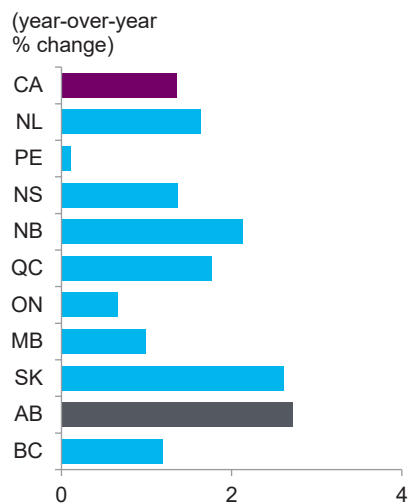
- **Employment inches down.** Alberta's employment ticked down by 1,700 month-over-month (m/m) in May following a 15,000 m/m increase in April.
- **Private sector gains ground.** Employment in the private sector advanced (+12,200) for the second consecutive month and nearly offset declines in both public sector employment (-10,700 m/m) and self-employment (-3,200 m/m).
- **Services pull back.** The service sector gave back most of April's increase with employment falling by 12,600 m/m. Seven of the 11 industries declined, led by transportation & warehousing (-6,900 m/m), finance insurance & real estate (-5,100 m/m) and public administration (-4,500 m/m).
- **Goods sector advances.** After holding largely steady since January, employment in the goods-sector jumped up 11,000 m/m led by agriculture (+6,900 m/m) and forestry, mining and oil and gas (+2,900 m/m). With the monthly gain, employment in the goods sector is up by 6,400 since the end of last year.
- **Full-time ticks down.** Employment in full-time positions eased by 1,800 m/m as part-time employment was virtually unchanged for the second consecutive month
- **Participation rate steady.** The participation rate was unchanged at 68.5% in May, but has fallen from 68.8% at the start of the year.
- **Labour force increases.** Although the participation rate was unchanged, the labour force expanded by 7,400 m/m due to continued growth in the 15+ population (+8,300 m/m).
- **Unemployment rate moves up.** With the labour force growth and dip in employment, the unemployment rate rose from 7.1% in April to 7.4% in May.
- **Annual employment growth rises.** Year-over-year (y/y) employment growth rose from 2.0% in April to 2.7% in May due to a large monthly employment decline last May.
- **Hours worked and wages recover.** After plummeting in April due to fewer overtime hours in the shortened reference week, total hours worked bounced back (+10% m/m). Average hourly wages partially recovered, rising 0.2% m/m to \$36.77 and were up 0.5% y/y.

Canada

- **National employment inches up.** Canadian employment advanced by 8,800 m/m. Increases in British Columbia (+13,000 m/m), Nova Scotia (+10,600 m/m), and New Brunswick (+7,600 m/m) were partially offset by declines in Quebec (-17,000 m/m) and Manitoba (-5,800 m/m) while Ontario was essentially unchanged.
- **Unemployment rate increases.** The national unemployment rate increased 0.1 percentage points to 7.0%, the highest since September 2021.
- **Wages steady.** Nationally, average hourly wages were unchanged at \$36.14 but were up 3.4% y/y.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY PROVINCE

May 2025 vs. May 2024



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,564,100
month-over-month change	-1,700
year-over-year % change	2.7%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	7.4%
Edmonton UR**	7.3%
Calgary UR**	7.8%
Participation Rate	68.5%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	\$1,348.13
year-over-year % change	3.7%
Average Hourly Wage	\$36.77
year-over-year % change	0.5%
Job Vacancy Rate	3.2%

Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

* All data is from the May 2025 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is from the March 2025 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Job Vacancy Rate which is from the March 2025 Job Vacancy and Wage Survey.

** This indicator is calculated as a three month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

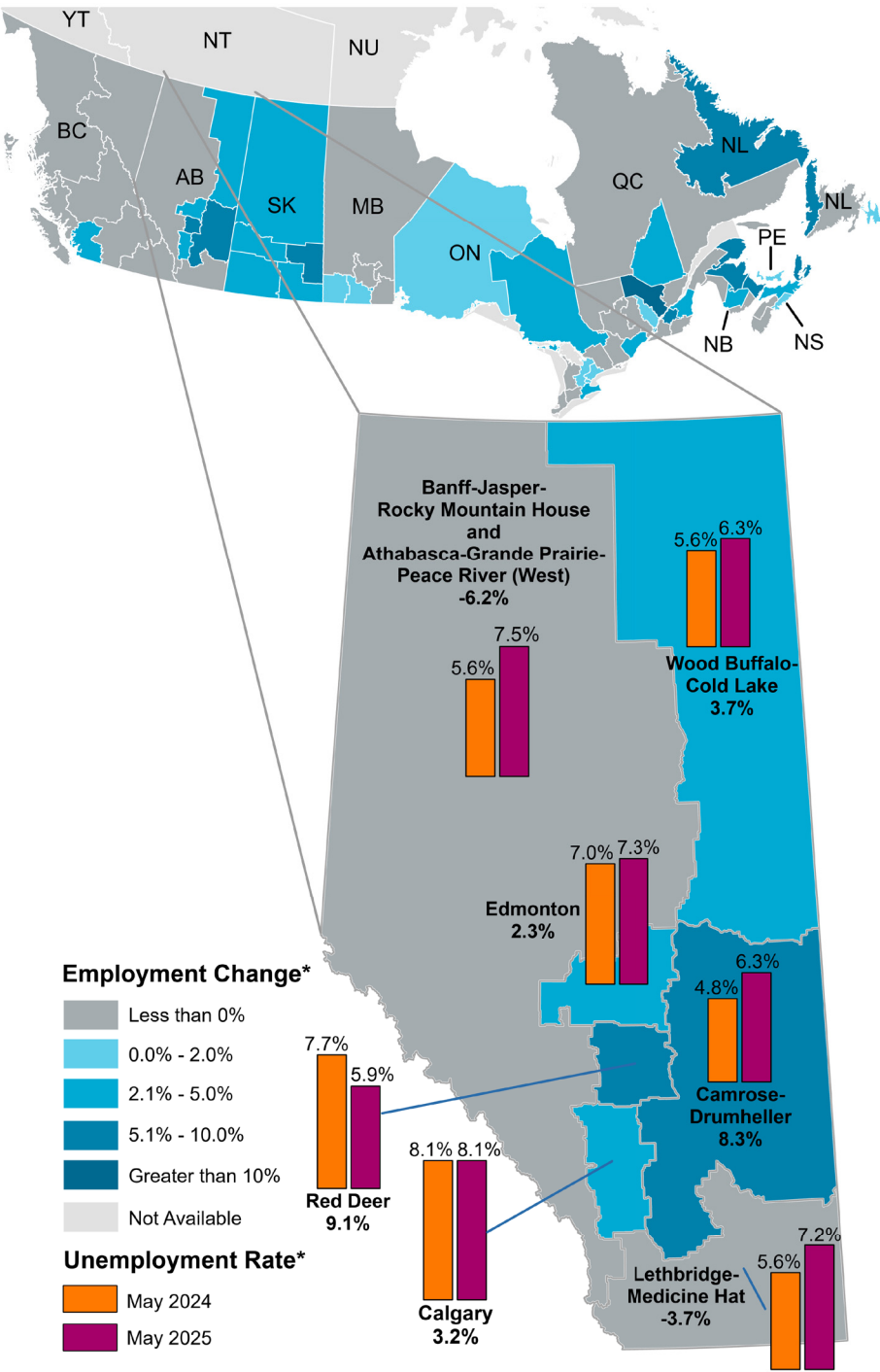
Regional labour market indicators

	2023	2024	2025 YTD
Alberta			
Population	3.9	4.8	4.4
Labour Force	3.7	4.3	3.2
Employment	3.7	3.1	2.7
Unemployment Rate	5.9	7.0	7.1
Calgary			
Population	5.3	6.2	5.7
Labour Force	3.6	6.5	5.3
Employment	3.7	4.8	4.6
Unemployment Rate	6.0	7.4	7.6
Edmonton			
Population	5.3	6.2	4.5
Labour Force	3.6	6.5	3.3
Employment	3.7	4.8	2.8
Unemployment Rate	6.0	7.4	7.3
West			
Population	1.4	1.9	1.6
Labour Force	2.3	5.5	-3.9
Employment	2.4	5.9	-4.6
Unemployment Rate	5.2	4.8	5.6
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat			
Population	2.2	3.2	2.9
Labour Force	5.1	4.3	-3.7
Employment	3.8	3.7	-3.1
Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.1	6.3
Red Deer			
Population	2.8	3.4	3.0
Labour Force	3.4	6.7	3.0
Employment	2.4	6.4	3.4
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.5	7.0
Camrose - Drumheller			
Population	1.6	2.1	1.8
Labour Force	1.9	1.7	9.7
Employment	2.6	1.2	8.2
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.8	5.9
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake			
Population	1.8	1.8	1.6
Labour Force	2.1	-0.7	0.8
Employment	2.9	-1.7	0.2
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.9	5.8

Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics
All numbers are percent growth, except unemployment rates.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY ECONOMIC REGION

Per cent change in year-over-year employment, May 2025



*Based on three-month moving averages.

Contact Austin Ference at TBF.ERFPublications@gov.ab.ca
Have a question? Send us an [email](#)

CHART 1: PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOODS EMPLOYMENT ADVANCE

Monthly change in employment

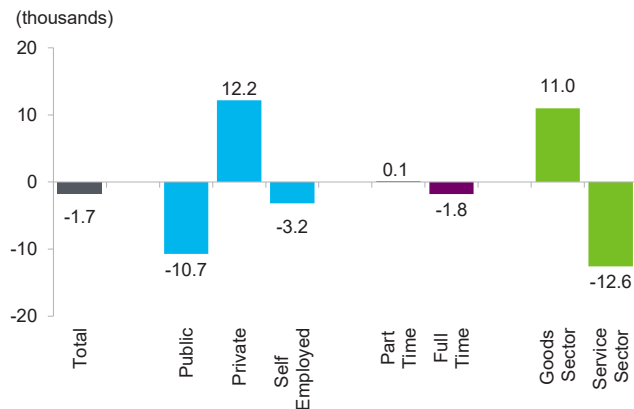


CHART 2: UNEMPLOYMENT RISES WITH INCREASE IN LABOUR FORCE

Monthly change in labour market indicators

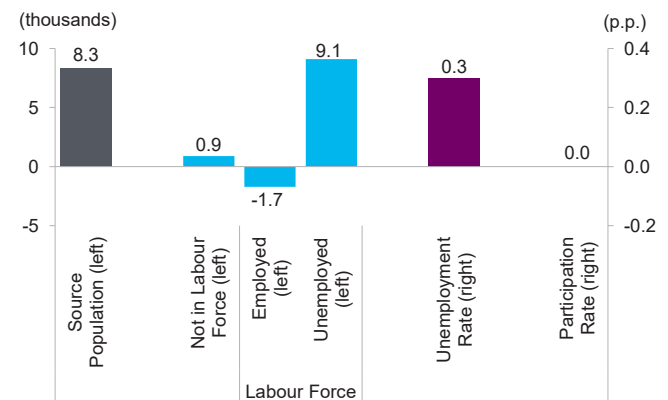


CHART 3: ANNUAL GAIN CONCENTRATED IN FULL-TIME

Year-over-year change in employment

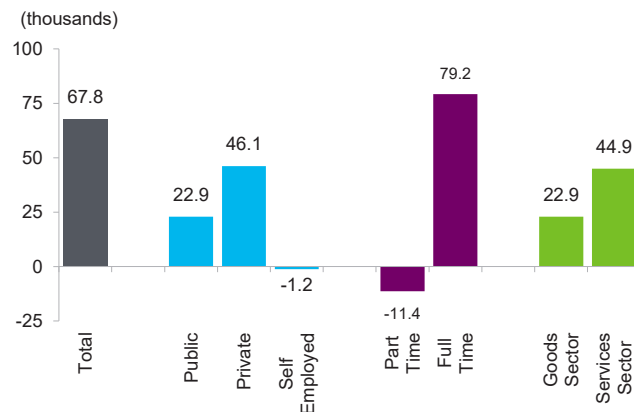


CHART 4: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LARGELY UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR WITH LOWER PARTICIPATION RATE

Year-over-year change by labour market indicator



CHART 5: EMPLOYMENT GROWTH TICKS UP

Year-over-year change in the labour force, employment, and unemployment

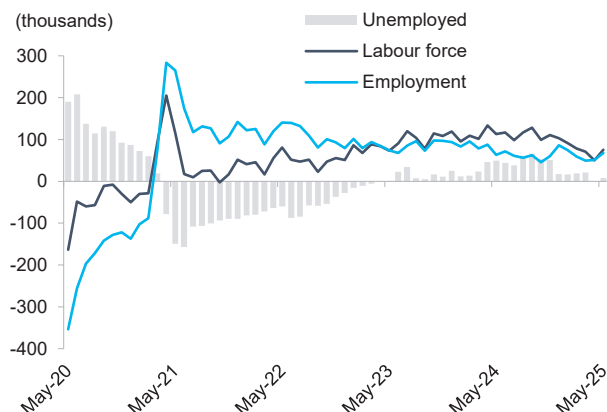


CHART 6: PARTICIPATION RATE STEADY AFTER SLIDING EARLIER THIS YEAR

Unemployment rate and participation rate

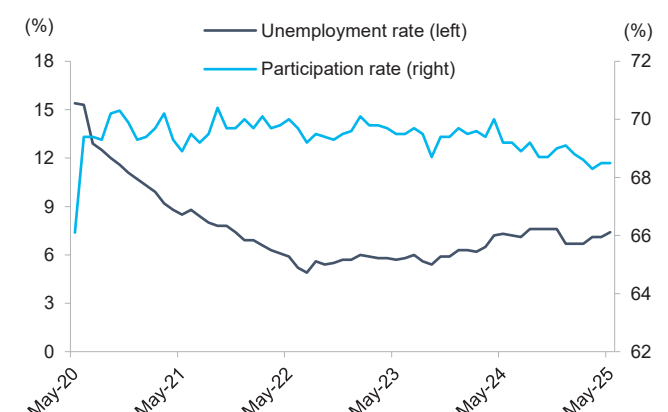


CHART 7: ANNUAL GAINS LED BY CONSTRUCTION AND TRADE

Year-over-year change in employment by industry

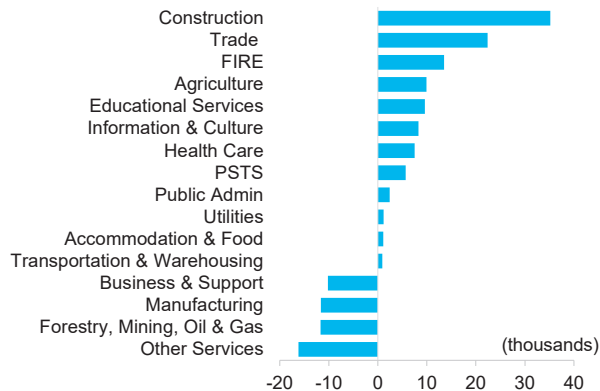


CHART 8: TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT LEADS ANNUAL INCREASE

Year-over-year change in seasonally unadjusted employment

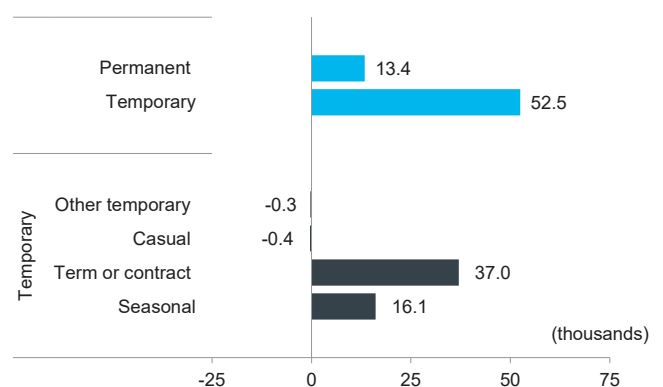


CHART 9: GOODS EMPLOYMENT GAINS GROUND AS SERVICES GIVE BACK APRIL'S GAIN

Alberta employment indexed to May 2024, by sector



CHART 10: EMPLOYMENT STEADY ACROSS REGIONS

Alberta employment indexed to May 2024, by region

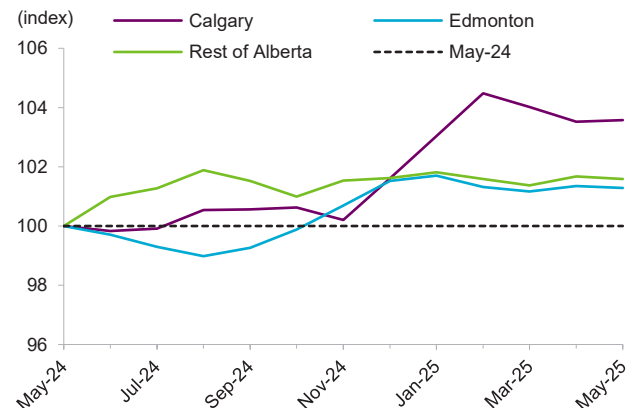


CHART 11: FULL-TIME POSITIONS CREEP DOWN AS PART-TIME IS UNCHANGED

Alberta employment indexed to May 2024, by type

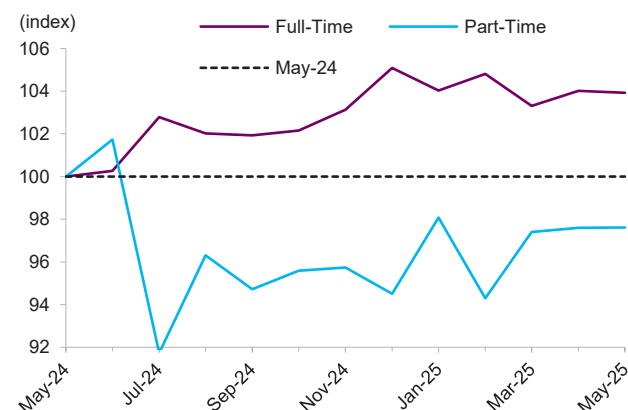


CHART 12: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT RETREATS FROM RECENT HIGH

Alberta employment indexed to May 2024, by age group

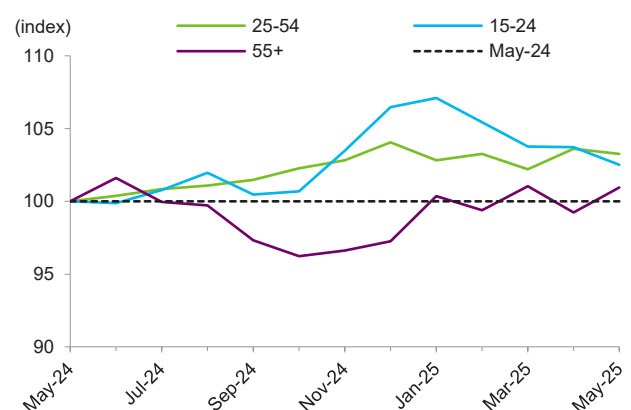


CHART 13: WAGES RECOVER SOME OF APRIL'S DIP

Average hourly wage and participation rate

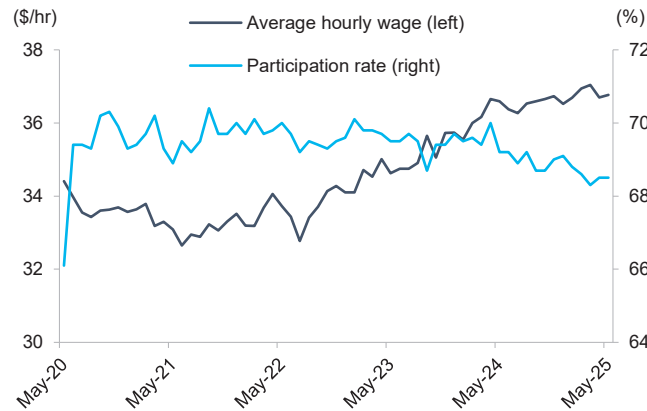


CHART 14: PARTICIPATION RATE AMONG CORE AGE GROUP SUBDUED

Participation rate by cohort

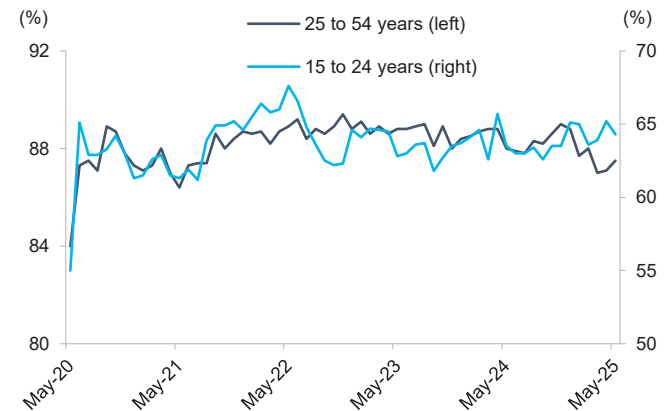


CHART 15: JOB FINDING RATE FALLS BACK AS VACANCY RATE MOVES DOWN

Job vacancy and job finding rate, 3-month moving average

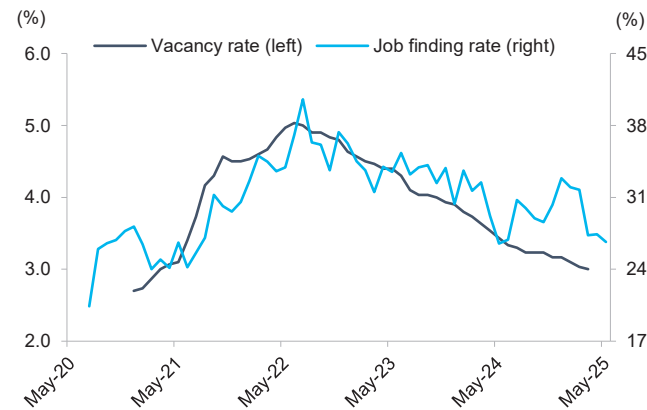


CHART 16: JOB VACANCIES CONCENTRATED IN ACCOMMODATION & FOOD AND CONSTRUCTION

Number of job vacancies, Q4 2024



CHART 17: UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOB SEPARATION RATE CREEP UP

The number of unemployed and the 3-month moving average job separation rate

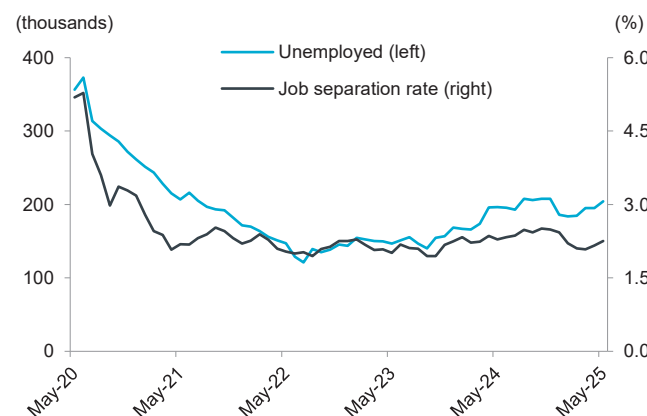


CHART 18: LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDING UPWARD

The number of long-term unemployed and average length of unemployment

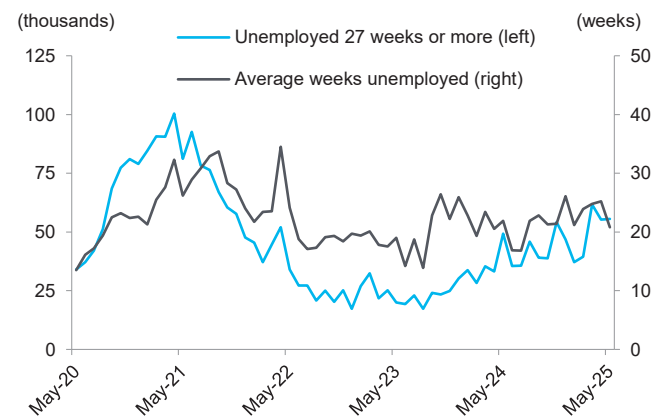


CHART 19: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR YOUTH HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

12 month change in unemployment rate by age and sex, May 2025

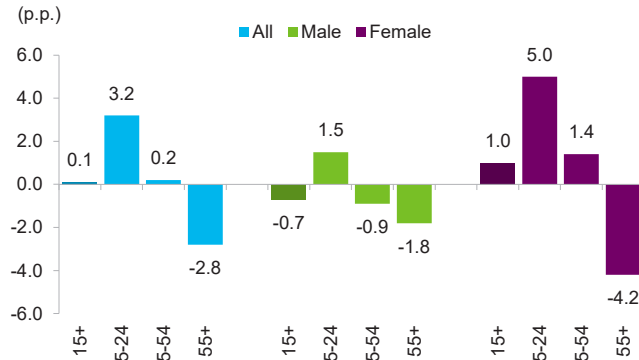


CHART 20: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HIGHER FOR CORE AGED WOMEN

Unemployment rates for 25-54 year olds

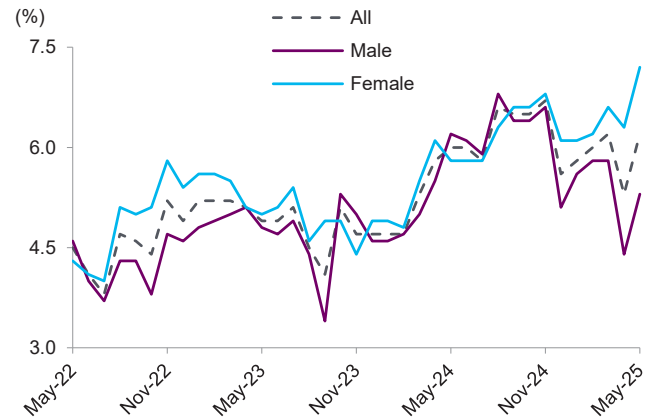


CHART 21: UNEMPLOYMENT HAS RISEN MORE FOR IMMIGRANTS WHO ARRIVED 5 TO 10 YEARS AGO

12 month change in 3-month average unemployment rate by immigrant status, May 2025

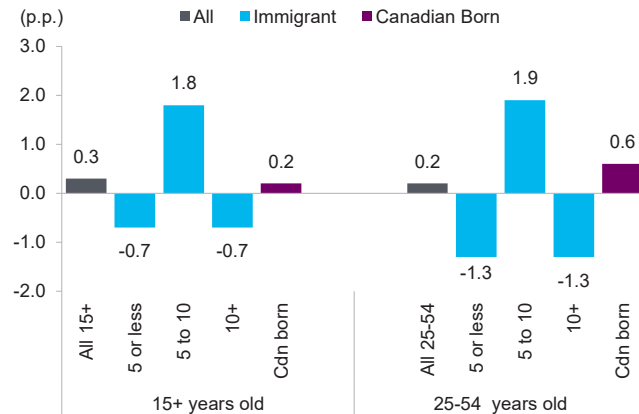


CHART 22: HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG RECENT IMMIGRANTS IN PRIME AGE COHORT

Unadjusted 3-month moving average of unemployment rate by immigrant status, for those aged 25 to 54

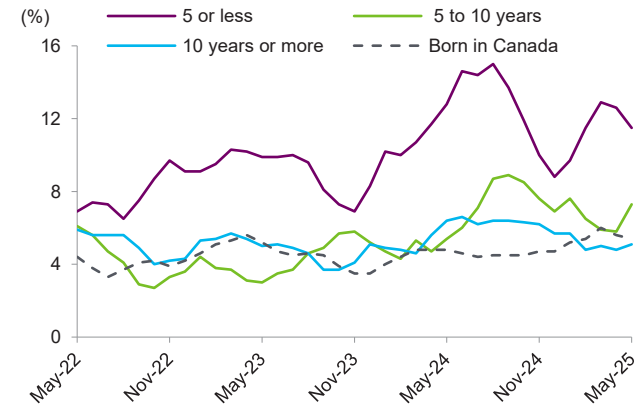


CHART 23: BROADER MEASURES OF UNEMPLOYMENT HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

12 month change in supplementary unemployment rates, May 2025

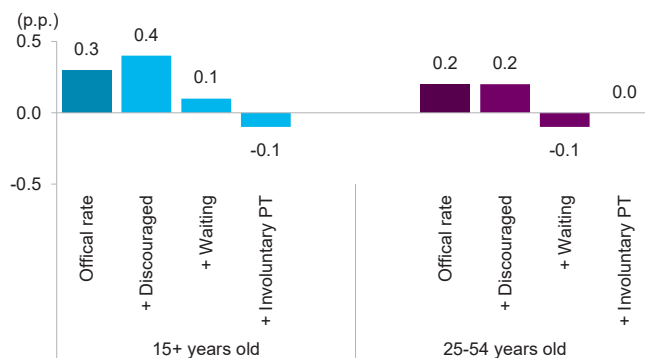


CHART 24: SUPPLEMENTARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MOVES UP

Supplementary unemployment rates

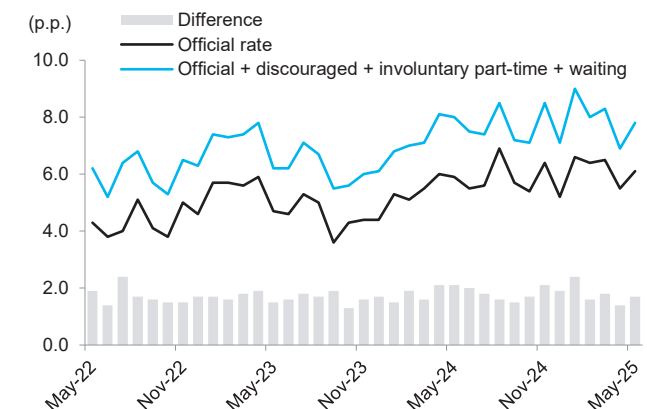


CHART 25: ALBERTA'S ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT GROWTH STRONGEST IN THE COUNTRY

Percentage change in employment since May 2024

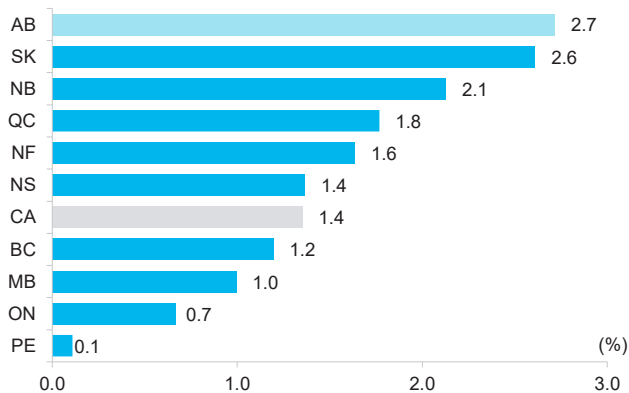


CHART 26: GROWTH IN ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT TICKS UP AND IS HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE

Year-over-year growth in employment by province

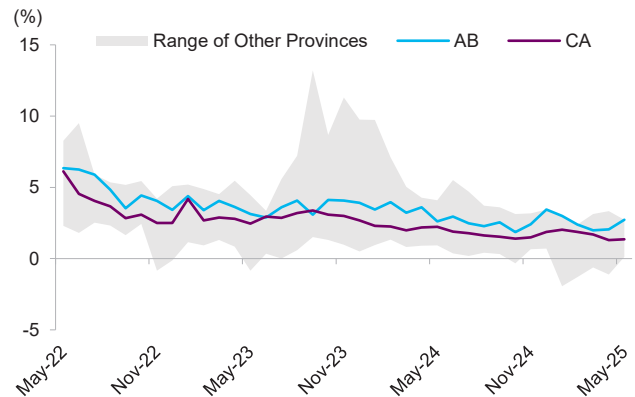


CHART 27: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ABOVE 2019 AVERAGE

Unemployment rates by province

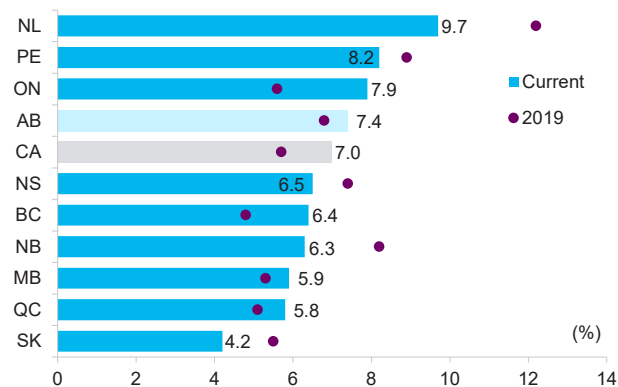


CHART 28: ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE JUST HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE

Unemployment rates by province

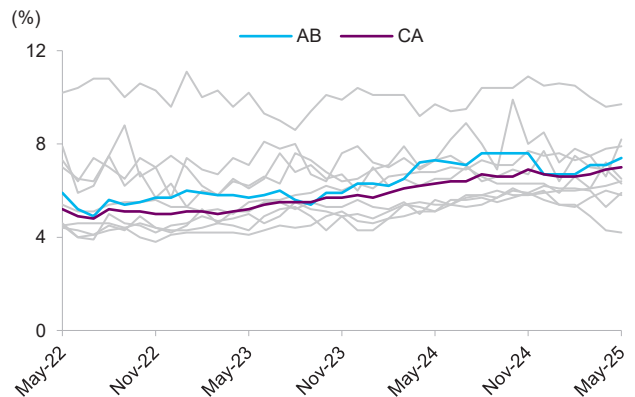


CHART 29: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS FROM 2019 BUT IS AMONG THE HIGHEST ACROSS PROVINCES

Employment rates by province

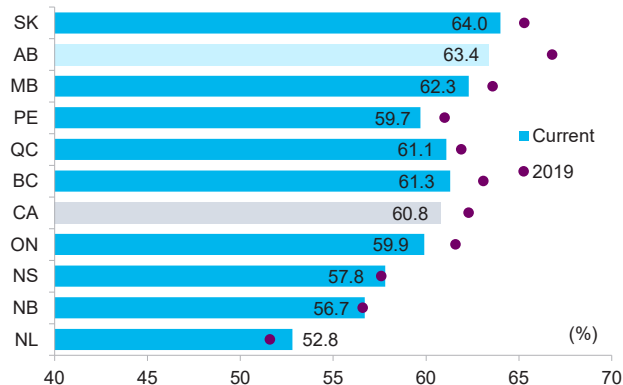
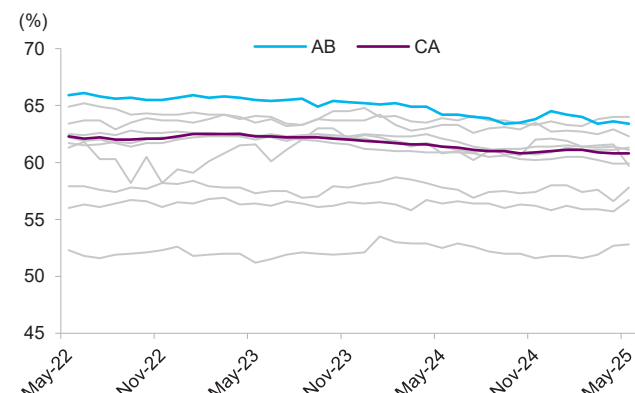


CHART 30: ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT RATE LEADS THE WAY

Employment rates by province



Sources: Unless noted otherwise, all data are seasonally adjusted and taken from Statistics Canada and Haver Analytics. All historical data are subject to revision.