

Labour Force Statistics

January 2026

ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

	January 2026	Change from Previous Month	Change from Previous Year	Year-to-Date Change
Employment	2,651,000	+20,300	+86,400	+20,300
Full Time Employment	2,197,200	+41,800	+102,100	+41,800
Part Time Employment	453,800	-21,400	-15,700	-21,400
Unemployment Rate (UR)	6.4%	-0.3*	-0.4*	-0.3*
Edmonton UR Three-Month Moving Average	6.8%	-0.7*	-0.6*	-0.7*
Calgary UR Three-Month Moving Average	6.7%	-0.1*	-1.1*	-0.1*
Labour Force	2,833,300	+13,300	+83,000	+13,300
Unemployment	182,300	-7,100	-3,400	-7,100
Participation Rate	69.0%	+0.2*	+0.3*	+0.2*
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,419.21	+0.4%	+3.0%	+0.4%

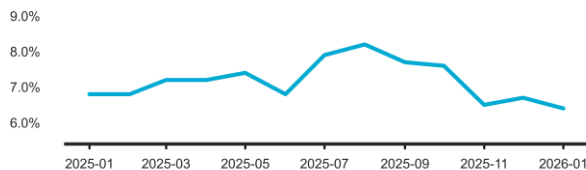
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

* Change in percentage points.

Alberta Highlights

- Alberta's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 per cent in January 2026, down 0.3 percentage points from the previous month and down 0.4 percentage points from the same month last year (Chart 1).

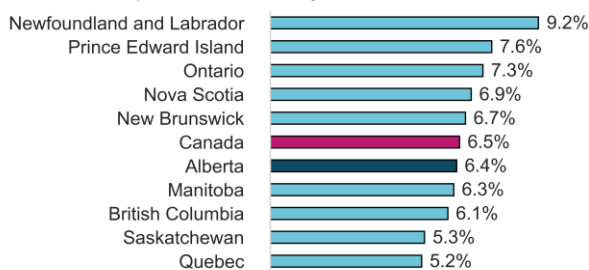
Chart 1 Alberta Unemployment Rate



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

- Alberta's unemployment rate was the fifth lowest in Canada. The national unemployment rate at 6.5 per cent was 0.3 percentage points lower than the previous month (Chart 2).

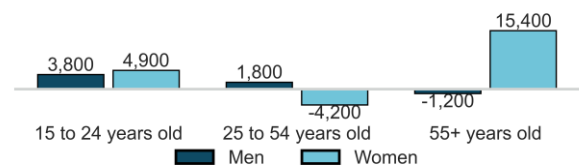
Chart 2 Unemployment Rates by Province



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

- In January 2026, the labour force increased by 13,300 to 2,833,300. The number of labour force participants increased among 15 to 24 year olds (+8,500) and people aged 55 years and over (+19,500) and decreased for 25 to 54 year olds (-14,700).
- Month-over-month, employment increased by 20,300. Employment grew for 15 to 24 year olds and people aged 55 years and over and fell among 25 to 54 year olds.

Chart 3 Monthly Change in Employment by Age and Gender



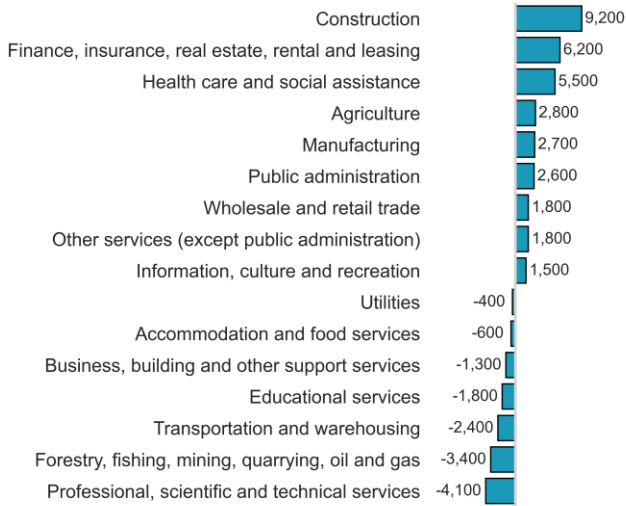
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

- Month-over-month, employment increased among the self-employed (+24,700) and decreased in the public sector (-2,600) and in the private sector (-1,700). On a year-over-year basis, private sector employment grew by 52,700 and public sector employment increased by 16,000.
- Compared to the previous month, the seasonally adjusted three-month moving average for employment grew by 5,300 in Edmonton and rose by 5,400 in Calgary. It grew by 100 in the rest of Alberta.

For additional information about Alberta's Labour Force Statistics, visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/labour-market-highlights>

- In January 2026, employment rose in nine out of 16 industries compared to the previous month. The industries with the most employment gains were: construction; finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing; and health care and social assistance (Chart 4).

Chart 4 Monthly Employment Growth By Industry



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

- On a year-over-year basis, employment increased the most in: sales and service occupations; occupations in education, law and social, community and government services; and occupations in manufacturing and utilities (Chart 5).

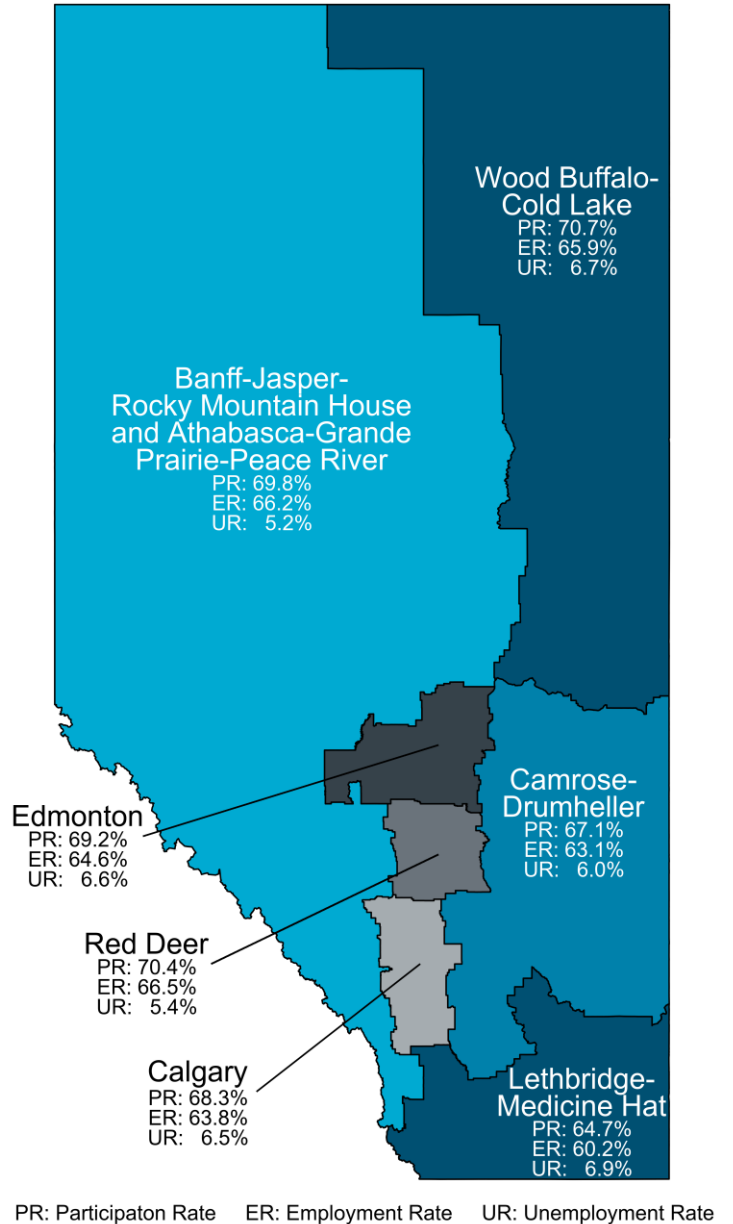
Chart 5 Year-over-Year Employment Growth By Occupation - Seasonally Unadjusted



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

- By economic regions, the seasonally unadjusted three-month moving average unemployment rate was lowest in Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River (5.2 per cent) and highest in Lethbridge-Medicine Hat (6.9 per cent) (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Economic Region Seasonally Unadjusted - Three-Month Moving Average



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

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