



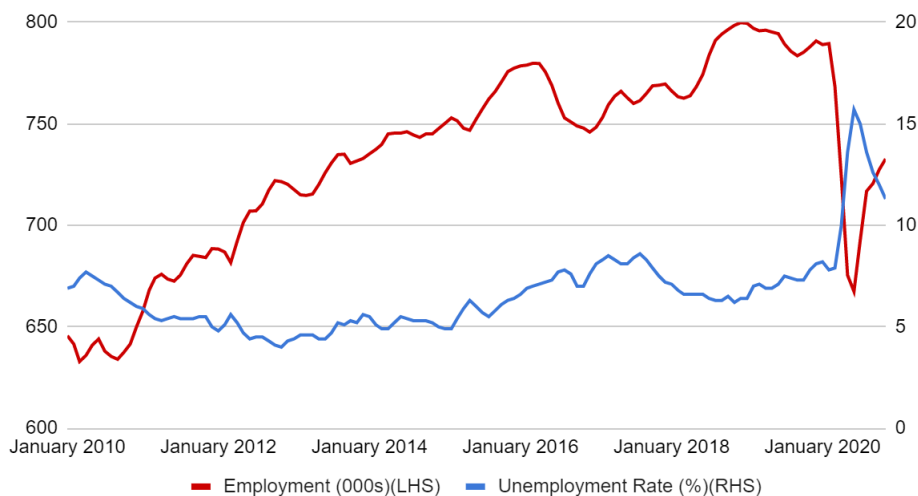
Edmonton employment growth still positive, but slowing down

December 4, 2020

Seasonally adjusted employment in the **Edmonton** census metropolitan area (CMA) continued to see month-over-month gains in November with an increase of 5,300 positions. Employment growth (unadjusted for seasonal factors) in November appeared to be primarily for part-time work. Employment continued to see improvements across sectors even though levels remained lower year-over-year for most. For the accommodation and food services, and other personal services sectors which have been hit hardest by the pandemic, November estimates point to continued weakness and a long road ahead to pre-COVID employment levels. Unadjusted employment was 54,500 positions lower in November year-over-year.

The region's labour force held relatively steady in November, which brought the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate down to 11.3 per cent from 12 per cent in October. This translates to an estimated 93,500 Edmontonians who were looking for work in November. The region's labour force estimate includes those who are employed, as well as those who are unemployed but are actively looking for work.

Edmonton CMA Employment and Unemployment Rate



Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the **Calgary CMA** decreased in November to 10.7 per cent from 11.3 per cent in October as the region's monthly employment gain outpaced growth in its labour force.

After five months of consecutive monthly gains, seasonally adjusted employment in **Alberta** lost 10,800 positions month-over-month in November. The province's unemployment rate ticked up to 11.1 per cent¹ in November from 10.7 per cent in October. The monthly employment loss was concentrated in full-time work as part-time employment continued to see monthly gains. The monthly reduction in employment was primarily in the services-producing sector which saw a decline of 13,900 positions month-over-month, notably in the business, building and other support services sector.

The pace of seasonally adjusted employment growth in **Canada** continued to slow in November with a net month-over-month gain of 62,100 positions compared to 83,600 positions in October. Employment growth in November was concentrated in full-time work. Employment estimates suggest uneven performances across sectors. Notable employment reductions were recorded in the information, culture and recreation, and accommodation and food services sectors, while employment in the finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing sector exceeded pre-COVID levels. The national unemployment rate ticked down to 8.5 per cent in November from 8.9 per cent in October.

Significance

Employment in the Edmonton region continues to show signs of recovery, though the pace of employment growth has been slowing down. Since June, employment has risen by 65,300 positions. Looking ahead, rising active case counts and public health orders that were announced after the November Labour Force Survey collection period are expected to weigh on the region's economic recovery in the short-term, potentially longer depending on how long the measures are in force. It is important to keep in mind that labour force data for the Edmonton region are three-month moving averages, so monthly data estimates carry an even greater lag when it comes to assessing rapidly changing labour market conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ For direct comparability to the CMA unemployment rates, the three-month moving average for Alberta's unemployment rate was 11.2 per cent in November, down from 11.4 per cent in October.

Labour Force Survey Results—Edmonton CMA²
Three-month moving average—seasonally adjusted

	Nov 2019	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Month- over- month	Year- over- year	Month- over- month	Year- over- year
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	%
Population (15 years and older)	1,194.9	1,214.6	1,216.2	1.6	21.3	0.1	1.8
Labour force	854.2	826.8	826.2	-0.6	-28.0	-0.1	-3.3
Employment	787.9	727.4	732.7	5.3	-55.2	0.7	-7.0
Unemployment	66.3	99.4	93.5	-5.9	27.2	-5.9	41.0
Unemployment rate (%)	7.8	12.0	11.3	-0.7	3.5
Participation rate (%)	71.5	68.1	67.9	-0.2	-3.6
Employment rate (%)	65.9	59.9	60.2	0.3	-5.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0294-01

Limitations

Employment trends tend to lag developments in overall economic activity. Because of this, they are a better indicator of past, rather than current, conditions in the economy. However, employment trends are still useful predictors of future changes in incomes and consumer spending. Statistics Canada publishes a three-month moving average of all labour force estimates for the Edmonton region, which sometimes results in the number of reported jobs lagging behind developments in the Edmonton region's economy.

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² Statistics Canada revised the Labour Force Survey seasonally adjusted estimates for 2017 to 2019 using the latest seasonal factors.