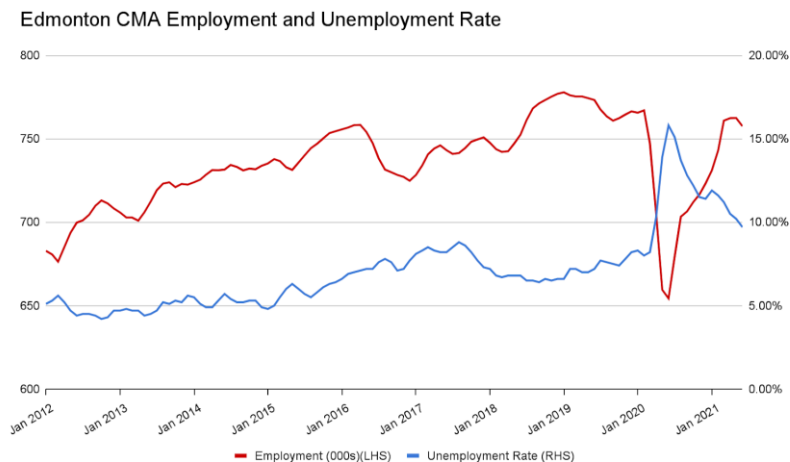


Employment pulls back in June

July 9, 2021

There were almost 5,000 fewer employed individuals in June 2021 in the Edmonton census metropolitan area (CMA) on a seasonally adjusted basis compared to May. The region's labour force also contracted in June, though to a greater extent than employment losses. This resulted in the unemployment rate coming down to 9.7 per cent in June from 10.2 per cent in May. Unadjusted employment estimates in June indicate continued year-over-year improvements for both full- and part-time employment. However, compared to June 2019, employment was lower, with the difference concentrated in full-time work.



Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted data series ending June 2021

Notes: Employment data are charted on the left vertical axis (LHS), whereas unemployment rates are charted on the right vertical axis (RHS). Historical data were revised by [Statistics Canada](#) due to the rebasing of populations to reflect counts from the 2016 Census. Revised data are available going back to 2006 for the Edmonton CMA.

Significance

Labour market conditions in the Edmonton CMA are still recovering from the negative impacts of the pandemic. Employment had been recovering relatively well from July 2020 until recent months, showing resilience throughout the second and third wave of the pandemic. However, June estimates are a reminder that there remains a significant level of uncertainty related to the region's labour market recovery. Public health restrictions had played a large part in influencing regional labour market developments but since the start of June, provincial restrictions began to ease with an eye towards the economy fully reopening. Employment in some sectors that were

more vulnerable to tighter public health restrictions like accommodation and food services, and business, building and other support services, appear to have responded positively to the economy gradually reopening¹, narrowing differences in employment compared to June 2019. Employment improving in the accommodation and services sector was a welcome development in the June release as the employment difference in this sector compared to 2019 remained the greatest. Employment estimates in the trade and manufacturing sector suggest some emerging weakness and warrant close attention in the coming months.

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

	June 2020	May 2021	June 2021	Month -over- month	Year- over- year	Month -over- month	Year- over- year
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	%
Labour force	777.3	848.7	839.1	-9.6	61.8	-1.1	8.0
Employment	654.3	762.4	757.5	-4.9	103.2	-0.6	15.8
Unemployment	123.1	86.3	81.7	-4.6	-41.4	-5.3	-33.6
Unemployment rate (%)	15.8	10.2	9.7	-0.5	-6.1
Participation rate (%)	65.8	70.8	70.0	-0.8	4.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0380-01

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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¹ The reference week in June 2021 for the Labour Force Survey was June 13 to 19. By this week, the province had moved to Stage 2 of its Open for Summer Plan.