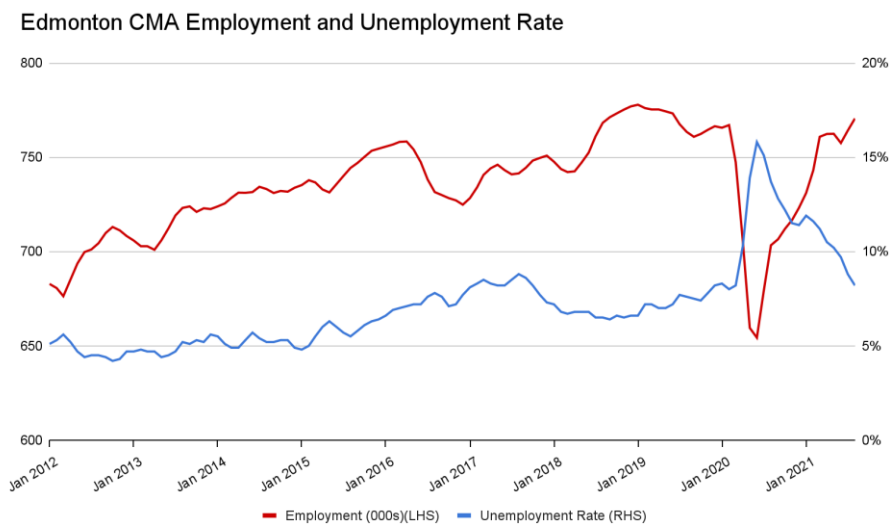


Employment gains continue in August

September 10, 2021

On a seasonally adjusted basis, labour market conditions in the Edmonton census metropolitan area (CMA) improved in August 2021. Employment increased for the second consecutive month in August, adding an additional 6,400 individuals from July. After three consecutive months of contraction, the region's labour force saw very modest growth month-over-month in August which, combined with employment growth, lowered the unemployment rate to 8.2 per cent from 8.8 per cent in July.



Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted data series ending August 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.

Unadjusted estimates in August suggest employment gains continued to be concentrated in part-time work, with part-time employment higher both year-over-year and compared to August 2019. While higher year-over-year, full-time employment in August was 18,100 individuals shy of August 2019 estimates¹.

¹ Employment in the Edmonton CMA saw very significant year-over-year reductions in many months of 2020 as a result of the pandemic and public health measures introduced to slow the virus' spread. Consequently, comparisons of monthly employment figures in 2021 against corresponding monthly

Significance

The Edmonton CMA's labour market continued its recovery in August. Seasonally adjusted employment as of August is now above pre-pandemic levels. Edmonton's labour market recovery has seen significant support from the services-producing sector. Unadjusted employment in the accommodation and food services sector saw a notable improvement in August, with double-digit gains on a year-over-year basis, as well as compared to August 2019. Employment in this sector is clearly responding well to the lifting of most provincial restrictions as of July 1, 2021. This is one factor that helps to explain the strong performance in part-time employment. Another notable improvement was observed in the forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas sector, with higher employment levels in August compared to both the previous year and in 2019.

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

	August 2020	July 2021	August 2021	Month -over- month	Year- over- year	Month -over- month	Year- over- year
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	%
Labour force	815.1	837.9	838.9	1.0	23.8	0.1	2.9
Employment	703.3	764.1	770.5	6.4	67.2	0.8	9.6
Unemployment	111.8	73.8	68.4	-5.4	-43.4	-7.3	-38.8
Unemployment rate (%)	13.7	8.8	8.2	-0.6	-5.5
Participation rate (%)	68.8	69.8	69.8	0.0	1.0

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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figures in 2019 are useful to gauge progress of the region's employment recovery as year-over-year comparisons alone may overstate the strength of any employment improvements.