

Regional Labour Market Report Card

A monthly overview of regional labour market trends

May 6, 2016

B.C. Rises Above the Pack

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Canadian employment dipped by 2,100 in April, nibbling into some of the 40,600 surge recorded in the prior month. Details of the report were mixed, as full-time jobs slipped 2,400 while the private sector added 14,400. The unemployment rate held steady at 7.1%. At the regional level, 6 of 10 provinces saw employment flat or higher in April, but those were offset by another steep decline in Alberta.



Here are some notable regional facts from the report:

- **British Columbia is the standout**, with employment jumping 4.9% in the past year—for the record, the next closest is Ontario way back at 1.4%. The jobless rate plunged 7 ticks in April alone, pulling it down to 5.8%, leaving B.C. with the lowest unemployment rate in the country for the first time on record dating back to 1975. And why not? We're expecting 3.3% real GDP growth in the province this year, more than twice the national average.
- **Alberta continued to struggle** in April, with nearly 21,000 job losses, pulling employment 1.6% below year-ago levels. Resource-sector employment is now down 43,000 from its 2014 peak.
- Growth in **Alberta's labour force** has started to crack, as expected. The labour force was flat from a year ago in April for the first time since the Canadian economy was emerging from the Great Recession.
- On the flip side, **Nova Scotia** is now seeing modestly-positive labour force growth, **Ontario's** has accelerated to a solid 1.6% y/y pace, while **B.C.'s** labour force has ballooned more than 4% in the past year, the strongest clip in more than 20 years.
- *Let's recap:* B.C. has the lowest jobless rate in Canada; it has created 110k of Canada's 144k net new jobs in the past year; and the labour force is surging on the back of population inflows and rising participation—at least *some* of the housing market performance is fundamentally driven.
- **Atlantic Canada** continues to struggle under the weight of a rapidly-aging labour force and job declines. **Nova Scotia** is a positive standout, with employment up 1.2% y/y and the jobless rate just above 8% (low by Atlantic Canada standards). Some big capital spending projects are supporting employment and relatively sound fiscal management is probably helping business confidence.
- **City-level performance** rankings continue to highlight the regional rotation. **Toronto** and cities surrounding the GTA now litter the top quartile—see **Oshawa**, **Guelph** and **K-W**. Vancouver is also gaining relative strength (+19 spots over the past year).
- On the weak side, **Calgary** (-22 spots) and other oil-exposed cities have slid down the ranking (this includes cities like **Kelowna** where a good chunk of the workforce is tied into Alberta's oil sector).

Provincial Labour Market Summary

	Employment		Unemp. Rate		Emp. Rate (%)	Part Rate (%)	Median Wage (\$/hr)
	(000s : m/m)	(y/y % chg)	(%)	(ppts : y/y)			
Canada	-2.1	0.8	7.1	0.3	61.1	65.8	22.3
British Columbia	13.0	4.9	5.8	-0.5	60.6	64.3	22.2
Alberta	-20.8	-1.6	7.2	1.6	67.1	72.3	26.3
Saskatchewan	-1.6	-1.6	6.3	1.9	65.4	69.8	23.8
Manitoba	-3.0	-0.8	6.1	0.6	63.6	67.7	20.1
Ontario	-3.3	1.4	7.0	0.2	60.8	65.4	22.9
Quebec	1.8	-0.2	7.5	0.0	59.6	64.5	21.0
New Brunswick	3.9	-1.3	9.6	-0.4	56.0	62.0	18.9
Nova Scotia	2.0	1.2	8.3	-0.8	57.1	62.2	19.7
Prince Edward I.	0.0	-2.6	11.5	0.9	58.5	66.1	19.1
Nfld. & Labr.	6.1	-0.1	12.5	-0.2	53.4	61.1	20.8

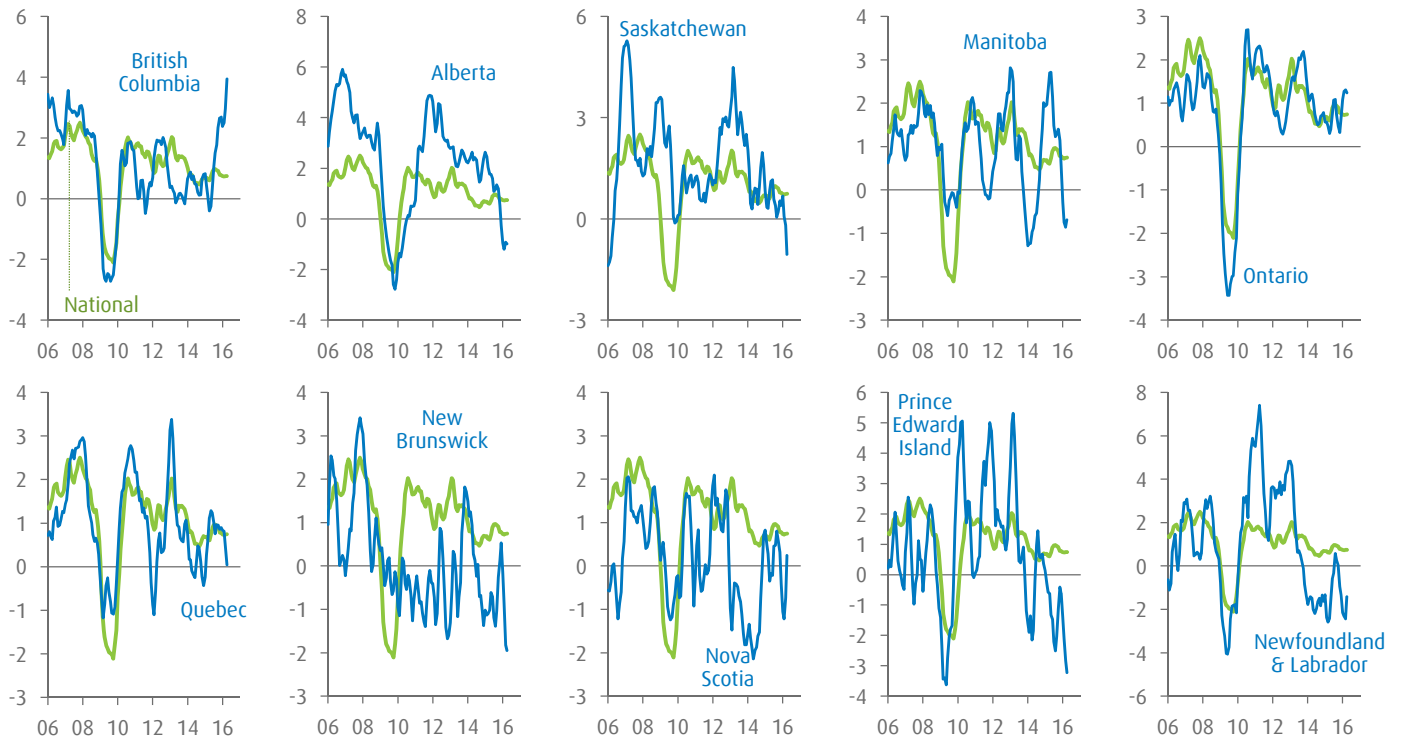
City Labour Market Performance Ranking

	Overall Rank ¹ Change		Pop. (y/y % chg)	Emp. (y/y % chg)	Unemp. Rate		Emp. Rate (%)
	(y/y)	(y/y % chg)			(%)	(y/y chg)	
Weight	15%	30%	20%	20%	15%		
Oshawa, ON	1	↑ 27	1.7	6.9	6.0	-1.6	65.1
Guelph, ON	2	↓ 1	1.2	5.1	4.8	0.7	73.0
Vancouver, BC	3	↑ 19	1.8	6.0	6.0	-0.1	62.5
Edmonton, AB	4	↑ 6	2.1	4.1	7.0	1.1	70.2
Kitchener, ON	5	↑ 3	1.0	2.5	5.6	-0.3	67.7
Peterborough, ON	6	↑ 9	0.4	-1.3	3.2	-4.6	57.6
Regina, SK	7	↓ 2	1.8	0.1	5.4	0.8	68.7
Windsor, ON	8	↑ 25	0.8	1.1	6.4	-5.0	57.5
Kingston, ON	9	↑ 23	0.8	3.0	6.3	-0.9	59.8
Winnipeg, MB	10	↓ 1	1.4	0.6	6.3	0.2	64.6
Toronto, ON	11	↑ 10	1.7	2.8	7.5	0.3	62.1
Hamilton, ON	12	↑ 5	1.1	1.8	5.4	0.3	59.9
Victoria, BC	13	↑ 17	1.2	2.7	6.2	0.1	58.6
Halifax, NS	14	↑ 13	1.5	1.2	7.0	0.2	63.8
Barrie, ON	15	↑ 3	1.7	1.1	7.9	0.1	64.4
Quebec City, QC	16	↓ 2	0.8	-2.4	4.5	-0.4	63.5
Moncton, NB	17	↑ 12	1.5	0.7	7.2	-0.1	61.9
Ottawa, ON	18	↓ 6	1.3	0.7	7.1	0.7	64.7
Sherbrooke, QC	19	—	1.1	2.8	7.3	0.4	58.7
Trois-Rivieres, QC	20	↓ 7	0.3	3.9	6.5	0.4	56.5
Saskatoon, SK	21	↓ 17	2.3	-1.5	7.1	1.9	65.1
London, ON	22	↓ 6	0.9	1.6	7.3	0.9	58.6
St. John's, NL	23	↑ 1	1.4	-1.3	7.5	0.9	64.0
Calgary, AB	24	↓ 22	2.4	-2.7	8.3	2.6	67.1
Montreal, QC	25	↑ 1	1.0	0.4	8.4	0.5	60.7
Abbotsford, BC	26	↓ 20	1.7	-3.7	6.9	1.1	60.3
St. Catharines, ON	27	↓ 7	0.4	-0.5	7.5	1.1	58.1
Kelowna, BC	28	↓ 21	1.9	-1.1	8.1	4.0	58.9
Saint John, NB	29	↑ 2	-0.2	-1.6	8.4	0.6	59.7
Thunder Bay, ON	30	↓ 7	0.0	-0.2	7.5	3.0	58.0
Brantford, ON	31	↓ 28	1.0	-5.8	7.2	2.0	60.7
Sudbury, ON	32	↓ 7	0.2	-4.2	8.6	1.7	57.5
Saguenay, QC	33	↓ 22	-0.1	-4.2	10.0	2.2	54.7
City Average			1.2	0.6	6.9	0.4	61.9

¹ based on weighted average number of standard deviations away from 33-city average, across five categories

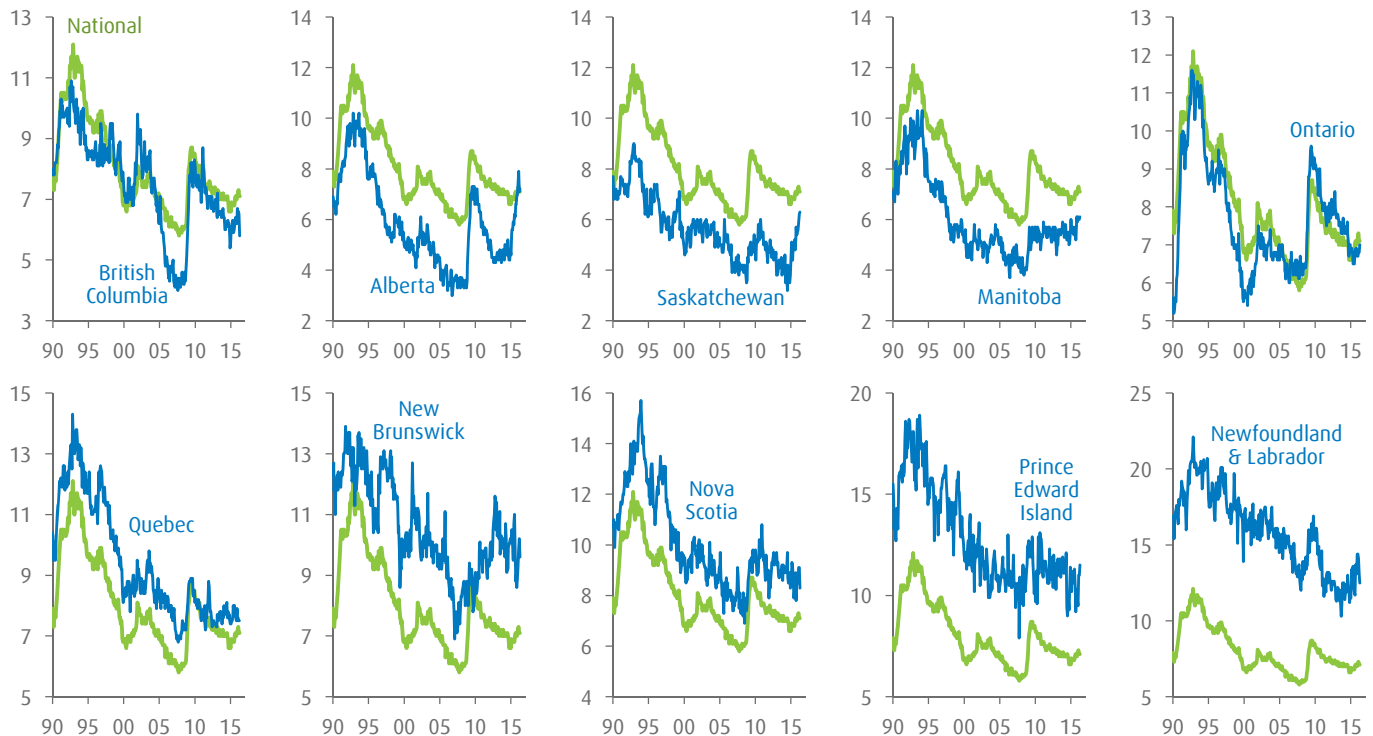
Employment Growth

(y/y % chng : 3-mnth m.a.)



Unemployment Rate

(percent)



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