



ECONOMIC & LABOUR MARKET RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS PROJECT

CANADA ○ **ALBERTA** ○ **MEDICINE HAT & AREA**

Report No. 3
August 2010

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ABSTRACT

This report provides labour market and economic information prepared for use by the Economic Development Alliance of Southeast Alberta, Alberta Employment and Immigration, City of Medicine Hat, The Community Foundation of Medicine Hat & South-eastern Alberta, and Medicine Hat District Chamber of Commerce. The report aims to provide economic and labour market information pertaining to Medicine Hat and area in specific, as well as provincial and national information, relevant to the area. The information herein covers trends of data available for the month of August 2010.

ECONOMY

In a dynamic economy, actions and activities at national and provincial levels have most certain effects at local and regional levels. This section provides information for economic activity at the national, provincial and local levels, for the month of August 2010.

CANADA

The national economy grew at a 2.0% annualized pace in the second quarter of 2010.

OVERNIGHT INTEREST RATE

The overnight rate remained at 0.75 for August. The Bank raised the overnight rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 1.00% on September 8 2010. Acknowledging that the national real GDP was lower than expectation, the Bank of Canada identified consumption and investment as the driving engines of growth. It hopes the former to remain at stable level and the latter to increase. Based on recent North American economic activity, the Bank has revised its expectation of the growth of the

Canadian economy, indicating it to be relatively slower than expected in July 2010. Despite the increase in the overnight rate to a 1.0%, which has been brought upon by A 75 basis points increase to date since June 2010, the rate still remains historically low and is seen to be conducive to provide stimulus to the economy.

The Bank expects to endorse gradual hikes to keep inflation near its preferred two per cent target.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Consumer prices rose 1.7% in the 12 months to August, following a 1.8% increase in July. This is translated to the Canadian inflation being reported at 1.7 %. Inflation rate refers to a general rise in prices measured against a standard level of purchasing power. The most well known measures of Inflation are the CPI which measures consumer prices, and the GDP deflator, which measures inflation in the whole of the domestic economy. Although the inflation rate was 1.7 % in August on a year-to-year basis, the moth-over-month prices dropped 0.1%. The core rate, which strips out volatile-priced items such as food and energy, remained unchanged at 1.6 per cent in the month.

In the last 12 months, prices of seven of eight major spending categories rose with only prices for clothing and footwear standing lower than a year earlier.

The figures are indicative of inflation not to be a threat to the economy in the foreseeable future, with both the headline and core measures forecasted to "remain near 2% during the projection period."

HOUSING

Canadian housing starts fell 3.0% to an annualized pace of 183,300 units in August. This is the fourth consecutive monthly decline since April 2010. This decline does coincide with the beginning of the interest rate normalization process. The process itself may have been the cause of a consumer perception of higher interest rates, despite the fact that 3-year mortgage rates are at their lowest level.

ALBERTA

ECONOMY

The provincial economy is growing in line with expectations and national trends. The province has received an AAA credit rating from Standard & Poor's (S&P) and other rating houses since 2001. The most recent report, 2010, issued by S&P, praises the province for its strong fiscal policies, low debt burden, and financial assets.

Alberta's August 2010 CPI rate stands at 0.6 %, decreasing 0.5% from July 2010. In the last 12 months, prices of five of eight major

spending categories rose with prices for health and care standing at 6.7 % higher than a year earlier.

The average number of rigs drilling in Alberta stood at 222 in August 2010. This was an increase of 11.7% from July 2010. Drilling activity was up 130.1% since August 2009 and through the first eight months of 2010; activity is 63.0% higher than a year ago.

The province's financial update forecasts that the province will collect nearly \$900 million less in personal taxes than it did last year. However, projections for the amount of corporate taxes have increased by approximately the same magnitude.

Royalty breaks to the oil patch, intended to simulate drilling will cost the government approximately \$700 million more than originally budgeted. However, due to the strong Canadian dollar, the provincial government will collect \$214 million less than initially forecasted. Natural gas prices, lower than projected, should lead to an \$82 million royalty increase.

Statistics Canada, in a report, asserted that wages paid to non farm payroll employees have risen for seven straight months. Among the beneficiaries of the gains in wage increases, workers in educational services fared above all, followed by accommodation and food services, whose salaries went up 11.5 %. Alberta's average weekly earnings increased by 5.2% in June 2010, from the previous year.

HOUSING

Sales of existing homes (resale) in Alberta increased by 1.2% in August, following five consecutive months of declines.

In August, housing starts in Alberta declined by 18.2% from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 23,800 units.

New house prices in Alberta fell 0.1% in June, following a 0.1% increase in the previous month. Compared to a year ago, new house prices in Alberta were 1.9% higher. Nationally, new house prices were 3.3% higher than a year ago.

BUILDING PERMITS

The value of building permits in Alberta decreased by 18.7% (seasonally adjusted) in July to just over \$966 million. The decline was completely in non-residential permits which fell by 38.8%, while residential permits were essentially flat (0.4%).

However, market rankings for trades and occupations in Alberta, published by the construction sector council's *Construction looking forward, Alberta (2009-2017)* indicate that there will be limited availability of workers for predominantly all construction related trades and occupations and the publication asserts that employers will need to compete to attract additional and appropriate labour.



The damages and recovery from the floods of June 2010 continued to influence the local economy. Damages in the agricultural industry and the delay in the financial assistance reaching deserving people are impacting the local economy.

ECONOMY

The local economy remained under influences of the repercussions of the floods of June 2010. Medicine Hat's flood claim to the \$200 million set aside for the Disaster Recovery program is \$41.1 million. \$19.1 million of the bill is for Municipal works. The city will additionally be submitting a claim for \$830,000 in damages that occurred as a result of snow and heavy rains between April 13 and May 31.

The rainfalls and flooding in the three Prairie Provinces could cost farmers close to \$3billion. Of this, \$300 million is Alberta's (predominantly southeast Alberta's) share of the expected losses. However, on the positive note, provincially good crop conditions are forecast for spring crops

Cleaning up the city's trail system following the June flooding may cost close to \$3 million.

Petroleum Services Association of Canada forecasts a total of 1700 wells drilled in Medicine Hat and Southeast Alberta, which includes 1382 natural gas wells, 213 oil wells and another 105 dry and service wells. The number was 2000 in 2009.

An energy services firm is offering Alberta farmers an investment stake in a proposed \$190 million ethanol plant in Innisfail, Alta. The plant is scheduled for construction for fall 2010 and is aiming to attract \$33 million investment from producers. Hauling Medicine Hat's wheat to the plant in Innisfail will be a decisive factor.

Pertaining to June numbers, the number of Employment Insurance claimants in the Medicine Hat region dropped 22.9 percent over the 12 month period. This can also be read as fewer individuals undertaking career transition assistance, or training for a different career. This should be of concern, especially since the economy is forecast to flatten.

The issue of Medicine Hat's Cultural Centre being handed over to the Medicine Hat College for sole occupancy for its expansion of its Visual Communications program still remains unresolved. Although the facility is currently utilized by various cultural groups on the City, the Centre, if given to the College will undoubtedly add value to the local pool of education and talent.

Business licenses picked up for the month of August 2010, after experiencing two previous consecutive drops.

TABLE 1: MEDICINE HAT REAL ESTATE VOLUME

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	34	36	53	34	49	33	46	44	54	47	34
February	32	26	34	30	36	31	41	38	38	31	34
March	45	34	32	45	45	44	60	46	45	72	52
April	37	25	45	45	54	52	57	48	64	64	45
May	40	29	37	44	35	55	87	67	49	55	56
June	34	32	31	48	42	56	54	64	54	45	41
July	40	33	35	30	36	49	27	34	40	42	34
August	40	45	31	39	36	57	46	61	29	35	47
September	27	20	45	40	45	43	35	41	46	44	...
October	42	40	43	29	39	39	31	39	63	34	...
November	25	38	31	25	45	30	59	35	38	27	...
December	16	18	37	34	34	22	23	27	18	32	...
Total	412	376	454	443	496	511	566	544	538	528	262

Source: Month end statistics, planning, building & development services department, City of Medicine Hat -August 2010

HOUSING

It's a buyers' market in Medicine Hat's Real estate – sales have been plummeting. According to Medicine Hat Real Estate Board president Jennifer McKenzie, the rise in interest rates have made even first time buyers wary. TD Canada trust's Home Buyers Report for the month states that 71 % of Albertans expect to pay less for a home, compared to 71 % nationally. McKenzie anticipates things to pick up in September 2010.

The above trend discussed in July 2010 is reflected in the tables below. August saw a sale of a similar number of real estate units as in July 2010, but the dollar value was relatively lower (Table 2). Similarly, data from Canada mortgage and Housing Corporation depicts a continuously (since June 2010) lower average house prices (Table 3).

Medicine Hat's numbers are lower than those of Lethbridge, and continue to reflect not only the slow economic recovery, but much of the aftermath of earlier heavy rainfalls and flooding.

TABLE 2: MEDICINE HAT REAL ESTATE VOLUME

	August-09	July-10	August-10
RESIDENTIAL			
Single family house	28,736,400	18,645,600	19,909,800
Single family other	3,940,600	3,690,103	3,658,900
Residential other	1,124,400	2,671,968	3,480,500
NON-RESIDENTIAL			
Farms	613,000	0	0
Vacant land	413,000	291,000	330,000
Other	1,378,200	5,041,700	2,518,300
VOLUME - DOLLAR VALUE OF UNITS SOLD	36,205,600	30,340,371	29,897,500
RESIDENTIAL			
Single family house	101	70	73
Single family other	23	21	23
Residential other	6	11	14
NON-RESIDENTIAL			
Farms	2	0	0
Vacant land	3	2	2
Other	4	13	6
SALES - NO. OF UNITS SOLD	139	117	118
listings placed	302	311	311
Active listings at month's end	1184	1337	1324
Year volume until	234,380,084	205,705,347	235,602,847
Year sales until	927	810	928
Year listings until	2419	2348	2659

Source: Medicine Hat Real Estate Board, Monthly Statistical report, August 2009, July-August 2010

TABLE 3: MARKET ABSORPTION SURVEY: AVERAGE UNIT SELLING PRICES OF ALL NEWLY COMPLETED AND UNABSORBED SINGLE DETACHED AND SEMI DETACHED DWELLINGS, MEDICINE HAT

	JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
UNITS	145	65	141	61	127	72
AVERAGE PRICE	318,341	344,377	321,854	334,656	337,299	330,653

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Monthly Housing Statistics for August 2010

TABLE 4: DWELLING START, COMPLETIONS AND NEWLY COMPLETED AND UNABSORBED UNITS, MEDICINE HAT

			DWELLING STARTS	COMPLETIONS	NEWLY COMPLETED AND UNABSORBED UNITS
AUGUST	2009	Single detached	14	20	127
		Row. Apart and other	-	-	98
		TOTAL	14	20	225
	2010	Single detached	23	35	72
		Row. Apart and other	3	20	109
		TOTAL	26	55	181
JANUARY - AUGUST	2009	Single detached	96		
		Row. Apart and other	71		
		TOTAL	167		
	2010	Single detached	180		
		Row. Apart and other	15		
		TOTAL	195		

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Monthly Housing Statistics for August 2010

TABLE 5: MEDICINE HAT HOUSING FORECAST - NEW CONSTRUCTION

Housing Starts	2009	2010(F*)	% chg 2009/2010	2011 (F*)	% chg 2010/2011	YTD 2010	YTD 2009	% chg 2009/2010
Single-Detached	156	200	28.2	225	12.5	127	71	78.9
Multiple	131	125	-4.6	150	20.0	20	69	-71.0
Total	287	325	13.2	375	15.4	147	140	5.0

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Housing Market Outlook – Prairie Region Highlights, third quarter, 2010

TABLE 6: MEDICINE HAT HOUSING FORECAST - RESALE MARKET

	2009	2010(F*)	% chg 2009/10	2011(F*)	% chg 2010/11	YTD 2010	YTD 2009	% chg 2009/2010
MLS sales	1,281	1,200	-6.3	1,250	4.2	646	626	3.2
MLS ave. price	251,310	247,000	-1.7	254,000	2.8	251,755	253,436	-0.7

Source: Housing Market Outlook – Prairie Region Highlights, third quarter, 2010

Table 5 and 6; state the revised forecast of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, for both new construction and resale market for Medicine Hat for 2010. The revisions are all lower than earlier predicted in the second quarter. This most certainly is attributed to the changing picture of the housing national housing market, with housing starts beginning to cool off since April 2010, coupled with the interest normalization process.

RENTAL

The latest numbers on Medicine Hat rental market from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Rental Market Report are those of spring 2010 and state that the city experienced the most change among centres outside Calgary and Edmonton in terms of higher vacancy rates. The vacancy rate across all unit types rose to 10.7 per cent this April, an increase of 6.4 per cent from last year.

BUILDING PERMITS

The number of building permits has increased both in volume and value since July 2010. These numbers are important as they indicate future construction activity. Construction as a result of flood damage may be reflected here.

TABLE 7: MEDICINE HAT ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS

	August-09		August-10		July-10		Current year to date		Previous year to date	
	No	Amount	No	Amount	No	Amount	No	Amount	No	Amount
RESIDENTIAL										
Houses	7	2,160,000	11	2,548,000	8	1,805,000	121	29,647,000	63	13,487,000
Duplexes							2	366,000	4	512,000
Tri & four plexes	1	466,000			1	435,000	3	1,737,000	3	1,236,000
Apartments	3	5,780,000	1	7,500,000			1	7,500,000	4	11,540,000
Manufactured homes			7	785,000	4	376,000	19	1,938,000		
RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS										
Garages	6	108,000	7	88,000	13	285,000	71	1,112,000	79	1,129,000
Alterations – apartments			2	12,000			5	717,000	3	170,000
Alterations – other	60	584,000	38	521,000	26	358,000	353	4,711,000	451	4,700,000
NON- RESIDENTIAL NEW BUILDINGS										
Commercial			1	250,000	1	32,000	7	7,986,000	7	7,478,000
Industrial							0			
Institutional							2	1,067,000	1	75,000
NON-RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS										
Commercial	10	1,125,000	11	253,000	13	5,008,000	77	9,220,000	73	6,649,000
Industrial			1	5,000			2	21,000		
Institutional	2	16,000	4	1,190,000	2	146,000	12	3,990,000	15	17,545,000
MISCELLANEOUS										
	89	10,185,000	83	13,152,000	68	8,445,000	675	70,012,000	703	64,521,000

Source: Month end statistics, Planning, building & development services department, City of Medicine Hat –Aug 2009, July-August 2010

INDUSTRIES

Tourism Medicine Hat is reporting a 15-per-cent increase in visitors to-date compared to the same time period last year. The increase in numbers of visitors, however, hasn't necessarily resulted in an increase in visitors staying overnight. Medicine Hat Lodge reported a decline of 10%, on an annual level.

LABOUR MARKET TRENDS, BASED ON LFS AND STATISTICS CANADA DATA

August 2010's employment rose by 36,000, while the unemployment rate simultaneously increased by 0.1 percentage points. This brings the national unemployment rate to stand at 8.1%. The increase in the unemployment rate is attributed to an increase in the nation's labour force.

Employment in the educational services increased by 68,000 in August, rebounding from a decline of similar proportions in July 2010. With this gain of August, employment in this industry now stands June 2010 levels. Additionally, there were increases in professional, scientific and technical services and in natural resources in August, while manufacturing; business, building and other support services; and information, culture and recreation experienced losses.

Private sector also experienced losses of personnel by 40,000, whereas self-employed and the public sector saw gains of 18,000 and 58,000 respectively.

Full-time employment rose by 80,000 while part-time declined by 44,000.

The average hourly wage for employees rose by 2.3% in August compared with August 2009

So far this year, the economy has generated 335,000 jobs, although the majority have been in part-time positions.

The labour force survey of August contained data on employment trends among the young people aged 15-24, who would be between academic terms and looking for some employment. The numbers indicate that the past summer had been rather challenging for this group, with an average unemployment rate of 16.8% (May-August). Although it was an improvement from the summer of 2009, it still is almost 3 percentage points higher than that of summer 2008.

The average number of hours worked during the summer of 2010 by students was 23.6 hours per week.

TABLE 8: LABOUR FORCE SURVEY STATISTICS - CANADA

CANADA	July-10	August-10	Monthly change	Annual change	Monthly percent change	Annual percent change
in thousands (except rates)						
15 years and over, both sexes						
Population	27,735.2	27,779.5	44.3	421.1	0.2	1.5
Labour force	18,673.6	18727.1	53.5	306.5	0.3	1.7
Employment	17,180.5	17216.3	35.8	396.3	0.2	2.4
Employment full-time	13,745.6	13825.5	79.9	294.0	0.6	2.2
Employment part-time	3,434.9	3390.8	-44.1	102.3	-1.3	3.1
Unemployment	1475.2	1510.9	17.8	-89.7	1.2	-5.6
Participation rate	67.3	67.4	0.1	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.0	8.1	0.1	-0.6	...	...
Employment rate	61.9	62.0	0.1	0.5	...	...
Part-time rate	20.0	19.7	-0.3	0.1	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24						
Population	4,407.4	4408.9	1.5	12.1	...	...
Labour force	2,846.2	2862.5	16.3	2.1	...	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey Estimates, Table 1, August 2010

ALBERTA

Employment in Alberta fell by 4,700 in August 2010, while at the same time, the unemployment rate rose from 6.3% in July to 6.5% in August.

Alberta's Ministry of Finance and Enterprise asserts that the province has recovered more than half of the job losses incurred since the start of the recession in October 2008.

The growth in employment has been the slowest in Canada, at 1.2 per cent. Additionally, Alberta lost 13,000 full time jobs within a month. Alberta's employment gains were due to part-time job growth, which accounted for 22,000 positions.

After a year of layoffs and downsizing in the energy sector, signs are emerging that Alberta's oil patch is looking to start hiring as it comes out of the recession.

A report by the Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada in June 2010 warned of an impending labour shortage manifesting as early as next year and said the industry could require 100,000 new workers by 2020. A combination of higher activity and demographic shifts will see thousands of skilled workers retiring over the next decade will contribute to the crunch, the report said.

Already, oilfield activity is showing signs of picking up.

A combination of provincial royalty incentives and economic growth has translated into higher rig counts. It shows drilling activity has increased some 30 per cent year over year since the royalty moves was announced, which is already fuelling renewed fears of job shortages in the energy sector.

POPULATION

Statistics Canada's latest provincial migration figures released in July depicted some worrisome trends.

For the first three months of 2010, the province managed to add just 312 new people to its ranks. In essence, that is a reversal of the previous two quarters.

A Pricewaterhouse-Coopers report, prepared for the government in June 2010, warned that Alberta's long-term future as a strong economic competitor may be in doubt, given that it lags other provinces in measurements of access to venture capital, innovation, productivity growth and university graduates.

Additionally, its the interprovincial migration numbers of Alberta's neighbours that may prove worrisome, which only increased. According to Statistics Canada data, this year alone saw 10,000 Albertans move one province over: 3,205 to Saskatchewan, 6,565 to B.C.

TABLE 9: LABOUR FORCE SURVEY STATISTICS - ALBERTA

ALBERTA	July-10	August-10	Monthly change	Annual change	Monthly percent change	Annual percent change
in thousands (except rates)						
15 years and over, both sexes						
Population	2,929.2	2935.9	6.7	59.9	0.2	2.1
Labour force	2,142.5	2143.8	1.3	13.5	0.1	0.6
Employment	2,008.6	2003.9	-4.7	29.0	-0.2	1.5
Employment full-time	1,635.3	1646.2	10.9	35.8	0.7	2.2
Employment part-time	373.2	357.6	-15.6	-6.9	-4.2	-1.9
Unemployment	134.0	140.0	6.0	-15.4	4.5	-9.9
Participation rate	73.1	73.0	-0.1	-1.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.5	0.2	-0.8	...	...
Employment rate	68.6	68.3	-0.3	-0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	18.6	17.8	-0.7	-0.6	...	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey Estimates Table 3, 4-9, August 2010

Both the labour force and the employment level of Medicine Hat increased in August 2010 from the previous month, while simultaneously decreasing the unemployment rate and increasing the labour force.

The number of total employed individuals has been increasing from the previous three months, with August witnessing the highest monthly percentage change in both labour force and employment. As is reflected in table 11, Medicine Hat's employment rate, although above the national rate, remained below both the provincial and economic region level. Additionally, not only has Medicine Hat's unemployment rate dropped since the previous month, but for August 2010, its unemployment rate is the lowest at all national, provincial and economic region level.

TABLE 10: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS, UNADJUSTED, MEDICINE HAT AND AREA

MEDICINE HAT*	August-09	July -10	August-10	Monthly change	Annual change	Monthly percentage change
in thousands (except rates)						
Population	59.9	60.9	61.0	0.1	1.1	0.16
Labour force	39.9	41.2	43.2	2.0	3.3	4.85
Employment	37.5	38.4	40.5	2.1	3.0	5.47
Unemployment	2.3	2.8	2.6	-0.2	0.3	-7.14
Not in labour force	20.1	19.7	17.8	-1.9	-2.3	-9.64
Participation rate	66.6	67.7	70.8	3.1	4.2	...
Unemployment rate	5.8	6.8	6.0	-0.8	0.2	...
Employment rate	62.6	63.1	66.4	3.3	3.8	...

• Includes City of Medicine Hat, Cypress County Municipal District, and Town of Redcliff
 Source: Statistics Canada, labour force survey, Table 20 August 2010

TABLE 11: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS – A COMPARISON - UNADJUSTED, 3 MONTH MOVING AVERAGE, ENDING IN AUGUST 2009 AND AUGUST 2010.

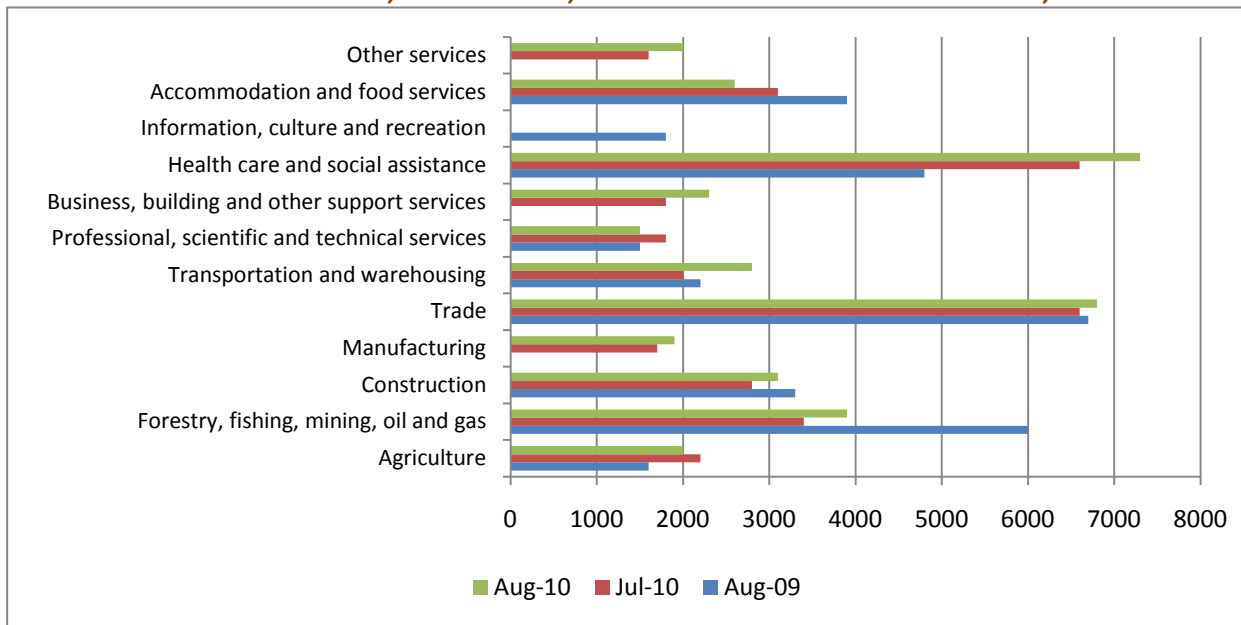
	Population	Labour force			P rate*	U rate*	E rate*
		Labour force	Employment	Unemployment			
	in thousands						
CANADA							
2009	27,325.60	18,727.80	17,103.30	1,624.50	68.5	8.7	62.6
2010	27,737.10	19,030.60	17,478.40	1,552.20	68.6	8.2	63
ALBERTA							
2009	2,870.00	2,164.30	2,010.60	153.8	75.4	7.1	70.1
2010	2,929.80	2,172.60	2,029.50	143.2	74.2	6.6	69.3
LETHBRIDGE-MEDICINE HAT (CD1,2,3)							
2009	212.5	146.9	136.7	10.2	69.1	6.9	64.3
2010	214.9	154.2	144.1	10.1	71.8	6.5	67.1
MEDICINE HAT							
2009	59.9	39.9	37.5	2.3	66.6	5.8	62.6
2010	61	43.2	40.5	2.6	70.8	6	66.4

* P rate: Participation rate U rate: Unemployment rate E rate: Employment rate

FIGURE 1: TOTAL EMPLOYED, MEDICINE HAT, UNADJUSTED 3-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE, AUGUST 2010



FIGURE 2: EMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY, MEDICINE HAT, UNADJUSTED 3 MONTH MOVING AVERAGE, AUGUST 2010



[Note: data absent for values below 1500]

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey July 2010 , custom tabulation G0610_14_Tab1.sas

[Goods-producing industries: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction, Utilities, Construction, Manufacturing, Services-producing Industries

[Services-producing Industries: Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Transportation and Warehousing, Information and Cultural Industries, Finance and Insurance, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Management of Companies and Enterprises, Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services, Educational Services, Health Care and Social Assistance, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services, Other Services - except Public Administration, Public Administration]

JOB BANK ANALYSIS

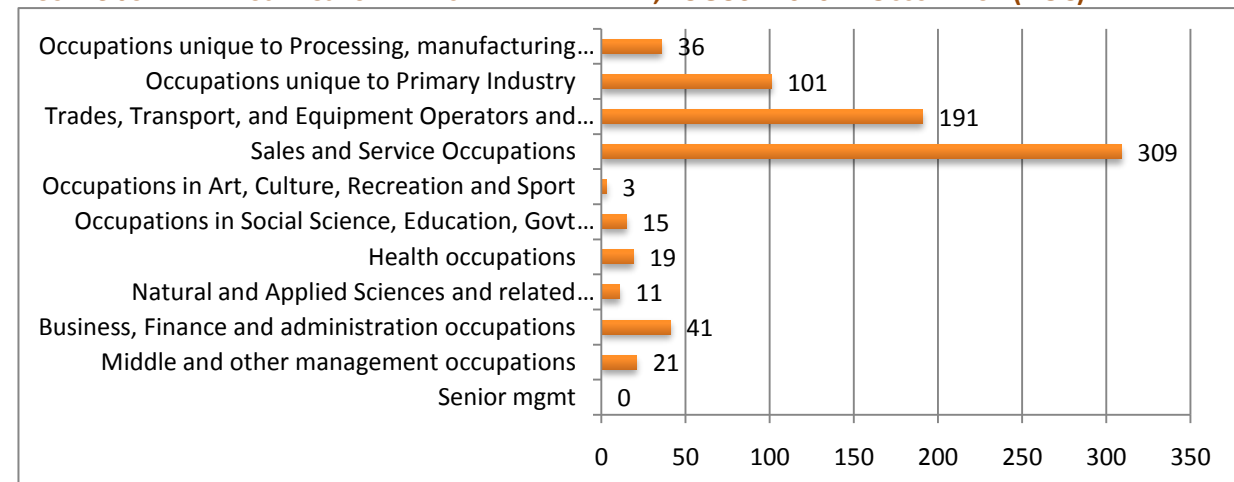
For employment analysis, and for consistency in the analysis, Job Bank listings are used to get an estimate of the nature of labour demand in the Medicine Hat and area. It is appreciated that there are other media that advertise vacant positions and that not all vacancies see it to the job bank database. However, for consistency sake and for referencing with NOC coding, only data available through the Job bank is utilized.

For Medicine Hat and area, there were a total of 747 positions listed on the Job Bank in the month of August 2010, accounting for 334 job listings.

Sales and Services occupation (major group 62, NOC) dominated in the Job bank, accounting for 42% of the jobs listed

14.5 % of the positions listed on the Job banks for July 2010 accounted for Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Occupations (NOC 6641)

FIGURE 3:JOB BANK POSTINGS FOR MEDICINE HAT AND AREA, AUGUST 2010 BY OCCUPATION (NOC): N= 747



Source: Job Bank analysis, August 2010

TABLE 12: JOB BANK TOP 20 POSITIONS FOR AUGUST 2010

Occupation	NOC	POSITIONS
Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Occupations	6641	108
Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks	6421	49
Truck Drivers	7411	39
Motor Vehicle Body Repairers	7322	32
Oil and Gas Drilling, Servicing and Related Labourers	8615	32
Nursery and Greenhouse Workers	8432	27
Sales Representatives - Wholesale Trade (Non-Technical)	6411	24
Labourers in Food, Beverage and Tobacco Processing	9617	23
Construction Trades Helpers and Labourers	7611	19
Cooks	6242	18
Food and Beverage Servers	6453	17
Food Service Supervisors	6212	16
Oil and Gas Well Drilling Workers and Services Operators	8412	16
Oil and Gas Well Drillers, Servicers, Testers and Related Workers	8232	15
Retail Trade Managers	621	12
Cashiers	6611	12
Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics	7312	11
Travel Counsellors	6431	10
Registered Nurses	3152	9
General Office Clerks	1411	8

Source: Job Bank analysis, August 2010

The following occupations were listed most at job Bank for the month of August 2010.

TABLE 13: JOB BANK 20 MOST ADVERTISED OCCUPATIONS FOR AUGUST 2010

Occupation	NOC	FREQUENCY
Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks	6421	29
Truck Drivers	7411	14
Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Occupations	6641	13
Sales Representatives - Wholesale Trade (Non-Technical)	6411	10
Construction Trades Helpers and Labourers	7611	10
Retail Trade Managers	621	9
Cooks	6242	9
Food and Beverage Servers	6453	8
General Office Clerks	1411	7
Community and Social Service Workers	4212	7
Oil and Gas Drilling, Servicing and Related Labourers	8615	7
Babysitters, Nannies and Parents' Helpers	6474	6
Grocery Clerks and Store Shelf Stockers	6622	6
Nursery and Greenhouse Workers	8432	6
Registered Nurses	3152	5
Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics	7312	5
Delivery and Courier Service Drivers	7414	5
Receptionists and Switchboard Operators	1414	4
Storekeepers and Parts Clerks	1472	4
Food Service Supervisors	6212	4

Source: Job Bank analysis, August 2010

Collection and research methodology: Information sources for this report has included data from Statistics Canada, business associations, industry associations, labour associations, government sources, national and provincial banking sectors, Industry Canada, national and local newspapers, Canada sector councils, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Medicine Hat real Estate Board, Alberta ministries and agencies, rating agencies (S&P), and Job bank.



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