

# Economy at a Glance

Prepared by Alex Carrick, ConstructConnect® Chief Economist

## 'Mining' for best city labour markets, U.S. and Canada (Part I)

As the U.S. and Canadian economies recover from horrific coronavirus-induced slides last year, it's interesting to observe where, among cities, the pace is quickening most resoundingly.

Tables 1 and 2 present relatively easy-to-understand assessments of city labour markets.

Each table features side-by-side rankings of cities according to year-over-year number of jobs changes (from fastest to slowest) and unemployment rates (lowest or tightest to highest or most severe).

Table 1 is a condensed version of the whole data set for America's 51 largest (by population) cities that appears at the end of this article. It has been shortened to the top 33 cities according to both criteria (jobs growth and U rate) for ease of posting to social media.

For Canada, Table 2 includes all 35 of the nation's Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs).

By the way, the latest available U.S. numbers are for June; for Canada, the coverage is through July. Sometimes Canadian data is a month ahead; but there are instances when it's the other way around (e.g., retail sales statistics).

In Table 1, beige-coloured highlighting shines a spotlight on the two U.S. cities that are among the Top 10 for both rapid jobs growth and low unemployment rates. According to this methodology, Raleigh and Detroit currently possess the Top Tier labour markets among America's major cities.

The blue shading picks out another four cities warranting special acknowledgement because they are among the Top 10 on



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one side of the chart, but they have fallen just short of making it into the upper echelon on the other side.

The four cities making up the second tier of best U.S. labour markets are Salt Lake City, Boston, Nashville and Austin.

The labour market in Las Vegas has a remarkable story to tell. Neon City is number one for year-over-year jobs growth, +12.8%, but it's dead last (i.e., in 51<sup>st</sup> position) for unemployment rate, 9.6%. The entertainment industry is on the comeback trail, but the drop in number of jobs this time last year was so deep, there remains a lot of ascending to do to climb out of the crater.

To be continued in *Economy at a Glance*, Vol. 17, Issue 121.

For more articles by Alex Carrick on the Canadian and U.S. economies, please visit: [www.constructconnect.com/blog](http://www.constructconnect.com/blog).



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### Table I: Best U.S. City Labour Markets

**Rank by Year-over-year Jobs Change**  
Highest to Lowest  
Jun 2021 vs Jun 2020

**Rank by Unemployment Rate**  
Lowest to Highest  
June 2021

Top tier of cities for both best y/y jobs change & lower unemployment rates.  
A second-best tier ... i.e., cities in one 'Top 10' category but not quite in the other.

1	Las Vegas, NV	12.8%
2	Buffalo, NY	11.5%
3	Providence, RI-MA	9.5%
4	Boston, MA-NH	8.9%
5	New York, NY-NJ-PA	8.9%
6	Detroit, MI	8.6%
7	Orlando, FL	8.0%
8	Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD	7.8%
8	Rochester, NY	7.8%
10	Raleigh, NC	7.7%
11	Austin, TX	7.3%
12	Nashville, TN	6.8%
13	Salt Lake City, UT	6.7%
14	Denver, CO	6.6%
14	Phoenix, AZ	6.6%
16	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	6.3%
16	Portland, OR-WA	6.3%
16	San Antonio, TX	6.3%
19	Baltimore, MD	6.2%
20	Atlanta, GA	6.0%
20	Minneapolis-St Paul, MN-WI	6.0%
22	Los Angeles, CA	5.9%
23	Dallas-Ft Worth, TX	5.8%
24	Birmingham, AL	5.7%
24	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	5.7%
24	Kansas City, MO-KS	5.7%
24	Louisville, KY-IN	5.7%
24	Pittsburgh, PA	5.7%
29	Seattle, WA	5.6%
30	Washington, DC-VA-MD-WV	5.5%
31	Charlotte, NC-SC	5.4%
31	Tampa, FL	5.4%
31	Virginia Beach, VA-NC	5.4%
<b>U.S.</b>		<b>5.8%</b>

1	Salt Lake City, UT	3.2%
2	Birmingham, AL	3.4%
3	Oklahoma City, OH	3.7%
4	Raleigh, NC	4.2%
5	Atlanta, GA	4.5%
5	Indianapolis, IN	4.5%
5	Minneapolis-St Paul, MN-WI	4.5%
8	Nashville, TN	4.6%
9	Charlotte, NC-SC	4.7%
10	Austin, TX	4.8%
10	Detroit, MI	4.8%
12	Richmond, VA	4.9%
13	Boston, MA-NH	5.0%
13	Jacksonville, FL	5.0%
15	Portland, OR-WA	5.1%
15	Virginia Beach, VA-NC	5.1%
17	San Jose, CA	5.2%
17	Tampa, FL	5.2%
19	Louisville, KY-IN	5.3%
19	Rochester, NY	5.3%
19	St. Louis, MO-IL	5.3%
22	Kansas City, MO-KS	5.4%
23	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	5.5%
23	Milwaukee, WI	5.5%
23	Seattle, WA	5.5%
26	Washington, DC-VA-MD-WV	5.6%
27	Buffalo, NY	5.7%
27	Columbus, OH	5.7%
27	Providence, RI-MA	5.7%
30	Dallas-Ft Worth, TX	6.0%
30	Orlando, FL	6.0%
30	San Antonio, TX	6.0%
30	San Francisco, CA	6.0%
<b>U.S.</b>		<b>5.9%</b>

For the 51 most populous U.S. CMAs, rankings (from 1 to 33) by: (1) y/y jobs count change; & (2) unemployment rates.

Based on not seasonally adjusted (NSA) data. Cities are metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). When the ranking numbers are the same, the cities are in a tie. ... Posting online shows 51 cities.

Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics / Table: ConstructConnect — CanaData.

# Economy at a Glance

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## 'Mining' for best city labour markets, U.S. and Canada (Part 2)

Continued from *Economy at a Glance*, Vol. 17, Issue 120.

Adopting the same methodology to assess Canadian city labour markets, the two top tier cities (with green shading) presently are Abbotsford and Regina.

Additionally, there are five cities (with brown shading) that make up a second-or next-best tier — Peterborough, Victoria, Trois-Rivières, Kitchener and Ottawa-Gatineau.

### 'Composite' ranking shines spotlight on Boston and Vancouver

Admittedly, most of the cities performing best in Tables 1 and 2 are not among the largest population centers in either country.

Therefore, an additional 'composite' ranking proves useful. The composite ranking calculates the average of the jobs growth



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and U-rate rankings for each city and, in turn, places that number in an ordering from lowest to highest.

According to the 'composite' approach, the labour markets of the 12 most populous urban centers in the U.S. are led by Boston (ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 51), followed by Atlanta (7<sup>th</sup> spot out of 51), Philadelphia (24<sup>th</sup>), New York (26<sup>th</sup>), Dallas-Ft Worth and Phoenix (tied for 29<sup>th</sup> position), Washington D.C. (33<sup>rd</sup>), San Francisco (41<sup>st</sup>), Los Angeles (42<sup>nd</sup>), Miami (43<sup>rd</sup>), Chicago (48<sup>th</sup>) and Houston (50<sup>th</sup>).

Canada's major urban and labour market hubs have Vancouver in the vanguard (7<sup>th</sup> out of 35), with Ottawa-Gatineau (9<sup>th</sup>) next in line; then come Montreal (13<sup>th</sup>), Edmonton (18<sup>th</sup>), Toronto (22<sup>nd</sup>) and Calgary (28<sup>th</sup>).

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### Table 2: Labour Markets in 35 Canadian Cities

Based on averages of latest three months, seasonally adjusted (SA) data. Cities are census metro areas (CMAs). When the ranking numbers are the same, the cities are in a tie.

Data source: Statistics Canada.

Table: ConstructConnect — CanaData.

#### Rank by Year-over-year Jobs Change Highest to Lowest Jul 2021 vs Jul 2020

Rank	City	% Change
1	Peterborough, ON	26.7%
2	Vancouver, BC	16.5%
3	Abbotsford, BC	14.6%
4	London, ON	13.6%
5	Regina, SK	12.6%
6	Edmonton, AB	12.5%
7	Toronto, ON	11.3%
8	Kitchener, ON	10.9%
9	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON-QC	10.6%
10	Guelph, ON	10.2%
10	Windsor, ON	10.2%
12	Montréal, QC	10.1%
13	Hamilton, ON	9.7%
14	Thunder Bay, ON	9.5%
15	Trois-Rivières, QC	9.4%
15	Victoria, BC	9.4%
17	Moncton, NB	9.1%
18	Lethbridge, AB	8.4%
19	St. Catharines-Niagara, ON	8.1%
20	Saskatoon, SK	8.0%
21	Calgary, AB	7.7%
22	Winnipeg, MB	6.8%
23	Halifax, NS	6.0%
24	Brantford, ON	4.2%
24	Oshawa, ON	4.2%
26	Sherbrooke, QC	3.9%
27	Québec City, QC	3.8%
28	Sudbury, ON	3.6%
29	Belleville, ON	3.5%
30	Saint John, NB	2.0%
31	Kelowna, BC	-1.6%
32	Kingston, ON	1.3%
33	St. John's, NL	-0.2%
34	Saguenay, QC	-0.7%
35	Barrie, ON	-1.8%
Canada		7.8%

#### Rank by Year-over-year Jobs Change Highest to Lowest Jun 2021 vs Jun 2020

Rank	City	% Change
1	Las Vegas, NV	12.8%
2	Buffalo, NY	11.5%
3	Providence, RI-MA	9.5%
4	Boston, MA-NH	8.9%
5	New York, NY-NJ-PA	8.9%
6	Detroit, MI	8.6%
7	Orlando, FL	8.0%
8	Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD	7.8%
8	Rochester, NY	7.8%
10	Raleigh, NC	7.7%
11	Austin, TX	7.3%
12	Nashville, TN	6.8%
13	Salt Lake City, UT	6.7%
14	Denver, CO	6.6%
14	Phoenix, AZ	6.6%
16	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	6.3%
16	Portland, OR-WA	6.3%
16	San Antonio, TX	6.3%
19	Baltimore, MD	6.2%
20	Atlanta, GA	6.0%
20	Minneapolis-St Paul, MN-WI	6.0%
22	Los Angeles, CA	5.9%
23	Dallas-Ft Worth, TX	5.8%
24	Birmingham, AL	5.7%
24	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	5.7%
24	Kansas City, MO-KS	5.7%
24	Louisville, KY-IN	5.7%
24	Pittsburgh, PA	5.7%
29	Seattle, WA	5.6%
30	Washington, DC-VA-MD-WV	5.5%
31	Charlotte, NC-SC	5.4%
31	Tampa, FL	5.4%
31	Virginia Beach, VA-NC	5.4%
34	Chicago, IL-IN-WI	5.3%
35	Jacksonville, FL	5.2%
35	Riverside, CA	5.2%
37	San Diego, CA	5.1%
38	Hartford, CT	5.0%
38	Indianapolis, IN	5.0%
38	St. Louis, MO-IL	5.0%
41	Sacramento, CA	4.7%
41	San Francisco, CA	4.7%
43	Columbus, OH	4.5%
43	Miami, FL	4.5%
45	New Orleans, LA	4.4%
46	Milwaukee, WI	4.2%
46	San Jose, CA	3.6%
48	Richmond, VA	3.5%
49	Houston, TX	3.4%
50	Oklahoma City, OH	3.2%
51	Cleveland, OH	2.8%
U.S.		5.8%

#### Rank by Unemployment Rate Lowest to Highest July 2021

Rank	City	Rate
1	Québec City, QC	4.0%
2	Victoria, BC	4.3%
3	Lethbridge, AB	4.5%
4	Trois-Rivières, QC	4.6%
5	Sherbrooke, QC	5.2%
6	Abbotsford, BC	5.4%
7	Kelowna, BC	5.6%
8	Saguenay, QC	5.9%
9	Brantford, ON	6.1%
9	Regina, SK	6.1%
11	Thunder Bay, ON	6.2%
12	Peterborough, ON	6.5%
13	Moncton, NB	6.7%
14	Kitchener, ON	7.0%
15	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON-QC	7.1%
16	Hamilton, ON	7.4%
16	Winnipeg, MB	7.4%
18	Barrie, ON	7.5%
18	Montréal, QC	7.5%
20	Vancouver, BC	7.6%
21	Saskatoon, SK	7.9%
22	St. John's, NL	8.3%
23	Guelph, ON	8.4%
23	Oshawa, ON	8.4%
25	Kingston, ON	8.5%
26	Sudbury, ON	8.6%
27	Halifax, NS	8.7%
28	Belleville, ON	8.8%
28	Edmonton, AB	8.8%
28	Saint John, NB	8.8%
31	London, ON	9.1%
32	Calgary, AB	9.8%
32	Toronto, ON	9.8%
34	St. Catharines-Niagara, ON	10.6%
35	Windsor, ON	11.1%
Canada		7.5%

#### Rank by Unemployment Rate Lowest to Highest June 2021

Rank	City	Rate
1	Salt Lake City, UT	3.2%
2	Birmingham, AL	3.4%
3	Oklahoma City, OH	3.7%
4	Raleigh, NC	4.2%
5	Atlanta, GA	4.5%
5	Indianapolis, IN	4.5%
5	Minneapolis-St Paul, MN-WI	4.5%
8	Nashville, TN	4.6%
9	Charlotte, NC-SC	4.7%
10	Austin, TX	4.8%
10	Detroit, MI	4.8%
12	Richmond, VA	4.9%
13	Boston, MA-NH	5.0%
13	Jacksonville, FL	5.0%
15	Portland, OR-WA	5.1%
15	Virginia Beach, VA-NC	5.1%
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27	Providence, RI-MA	5.7%
30	Dallas-Ft Worth, TX	6.0%
30	Orlando, FL	6.0%
30	San Antonio, TX	6.0%
30	San Francisco, CA	6.0%
34	Miami, FL	6.2%
35	Baltimore, MD	6.3%
35	Denver, CO	6.3%
35	Pittsburgh, PA	6.3%
38	Cleveland, OH	6.5%
39	Phoenix, AZ	6.6%
40	Sacramento, CA	6.8%
41	Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD	6.9%
42	San Diego, CA	7.0%
43	Hartford, CT	7.1%
44	Houston, TX	7.4%
45	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	7.5%
46	Riverside, CA	7.9%
47	New York, NY-NJ-PA	8.0%
48	Chicago, IL-IN-WI	8.5%
49	New Orleans, LA	8.9%
50	Los Angeles, CA	9.5%
51	Las Vegas, NV	9.6%
U.S.		5.9%

### Table 3: Best U.S. City Labour Markets

Based on not seasonally adjusted (NSA) data. Cities are metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Often, the jobs change figure will be available a month ahead of the unemployment rate. When the ranking numbers are the same, the cities are in a tie.

Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Table: ConstructConnect — CanaData.