

The Illusion of Alberta's Jobs Recovery

Figure 4a: Change in Employment (number) in Alberta, July 2014 to May 2018

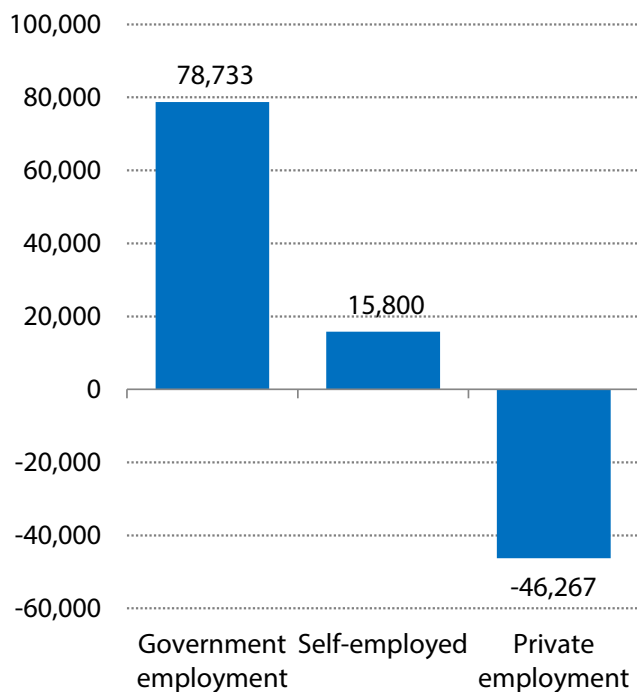
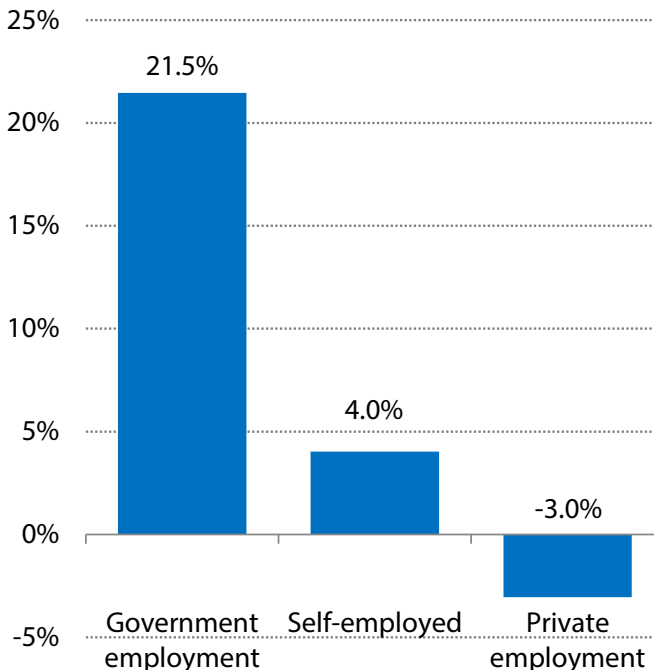


Figure 4b: Change in Employment (percent) in Alberta, July 2014 to May 2018



Note: Data presented in each month are a three-month average to smooth fluctuations.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2018a.

ment expansion—including the upward trend following the Great Recession.

Figures 4a and 4b illustrate the significance of the increase in government sector employment from July 2014 to May 2018 by comparing it to changes in private sector employment and self-employment. Government sector employment increased by 78,733 (or 21.5 percent) from July 2014 to May 2018 while private sector employment fell by 46,267 (or 3.0 percent).⁶ Clearly,

⁶ It is reasonable to ask if the government sector grew to serve a growing population. The short answer is, not entirely. Alberta's population over the

this was a period of significant growth in government sector employment while the private sector languished.

Another way to look at the data is to examine the government sector's share of total employment excluding self-employment. Figure 5 displays the share of government sector employment during the most recent period of its growth (July 2014 to May 2018). At the start of

age of 15 increased by only 5.3 percent from July 2014 to May 2018, approximately a quarter of the growth in government sector employment (Statistics Canada, 2018b).