

Custom Job Search Benefit Support: regional unemployment rates

If you are participating in a supported job search and regional unemployment is high where you live, WCB can help.

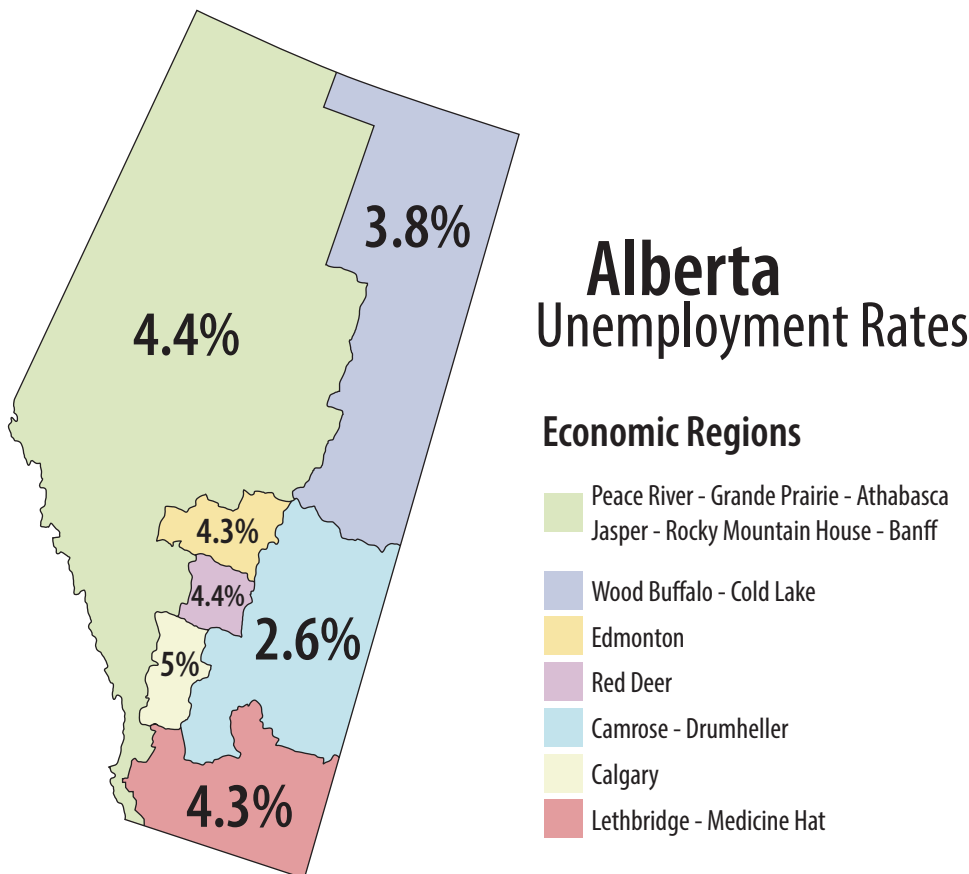
Supported Job Search

A supported job search typically lasts up to 16 weeks (approx. 4 months). During that time, your dedicated employment specialist will work with you to identify viable job leads. If you are engaged and working hard to succeed, but have been unable to find a viable job lead, the employment specialist may recommend an extension to your job search to reflect the regional unemployment rate in your area.

Seven economic regions

WCB looks at Alberta's seven economic regions and utilizes Government of Alberta information for the most up to date unemployment rates that could be impacting you and your search.

¹Depending on how long you worked for your date of accident employer (5 months or less, 6 months, between 7 and 11 months, or 12 months or more), regional unemployment rates may lead to additional weeks of financial support.



¹ Sample regional breakdown used to illustrate the seven regions and how unemployment rates may differ.

Unemployment rate impact on supported job search benefits

WCB has used the model developed by the federal Employment Insurance program to define the potential extension impact of regional unemployment on a worker's job search financial support.

Dependent on a worker's tenure with their date of accident employer prior to their accident, the financially supported job search could grow from 16 weeks to one of the maximums below:

| Worker's tenure with DOA employer | ≤5 m | 6m | 7m – 11m | ≥12m |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------|----------|--------|
| Worker's unemployment rate | Total weeks for job search (including the first 16 weeks) | | | |
| UR: ≤6 | 14 wks | 17 wks | 31 wks | 36 wks |
| UR: >6 % - 8% | 18 wks | 21 wks | 35 wks | 40 wks |
| UR: >8 % - 12% | 26 wks | 29 wks | 43 wks | 45 wks |
| UR: >12 % - 14% | 30 wks | 33 wks | 45 wks | 45 wks |
| UR: >14 % -16% | 34 wks | 37 wks | 45 wks | 45 wks |
| UR: >16 % | 36 wks | 39 wks | 45 wks | 45 wks |

Examples:

If, despite hard work, an injured worker has been unable to find a viable job lead or secure a job during the 16 weeks of supported job search, an extension may be possible as follows:

| | Example 1 | Example 2 | Example 3 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Basic entitlement | 16 weeks | 16 weeks | 16 weeks |
| Worker's circumstances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked for date of accident employer for 3m Regional unemployment rate: 3% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked for date of accident employer for 6m Regional unemployment rate: 3% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked for date of accident employer for 3 yrs Regional unemployment rate: 3% |
| Extension option | None (max. job search is to 14 weeks & has already received 16) | 1 week (max. job search is to 17 weeks & has already received 16) | 20 weeks (max. job search is to 36 weeks and has already received 16) |

Note: Because the regional unemployment rate is 3% for all three scenarios, all maximums are found on the top row of the table.

Note: Any extension granted ends when a viable lead is identified for you.

