

February job markets weakened across Canada amidst a recession

On a seasonally adjusted basis, employment fell by 82,600 in Canada, 23,700 in Alberta and 6,000 in Calgary Economic Region (CER) from January to February 2009. Full-time job losses were 110,900 in Canada and 28,000 in Alberta. These losses were offset by part-time job gains of 28,300 in Canada and 4,200 in Alberta.

- The job losses in Canada were concentrated in Ontario (-35,300), Alberta (-23,700) and Quebec (-18,400) where construction (-43,200), professional, scientific and technical services (-31,100) industries were mostly impacted by sharp decline in exports to the U.S. market and private investments.
- In Alberta, the job losses in good-producing sector (-23,600) were concentrated in manufacturing (-10,000) and construction (-8,900) where cutbacks in investment were triggered by low energy prices.

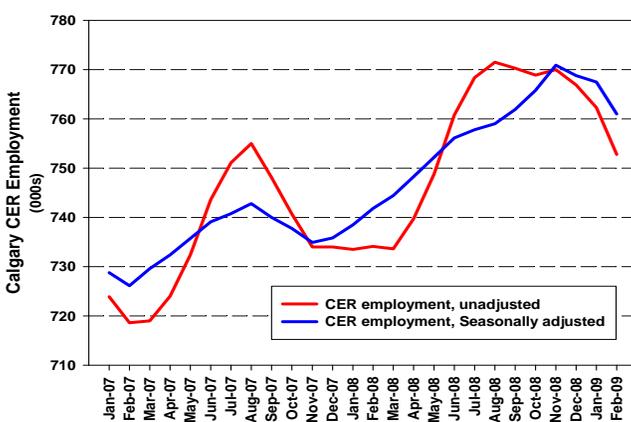
Based on the unadjusted 3-month-moving-average data, Calgary Economic Region's labour market remained in better shape than most other regions in Canada in the past twelve months (from February 2008 to February 2009).

- Total employment increased 18,700 in CER, with 5,900 full-time employment losses and part-time job gains of 24,600. Job losses mainly occurred in construction (-5,800) and health care & social assistance (-4,700).
- The unemployment rate increased to 5.1% in CER, mainly due to double increases in labour force (+4.8%) compared to employment (+2.5%).**
- Hourly wages in Alberta (\$24.4) were the highest in Canada (\$22.0), up 4.5% over the last twelve months.

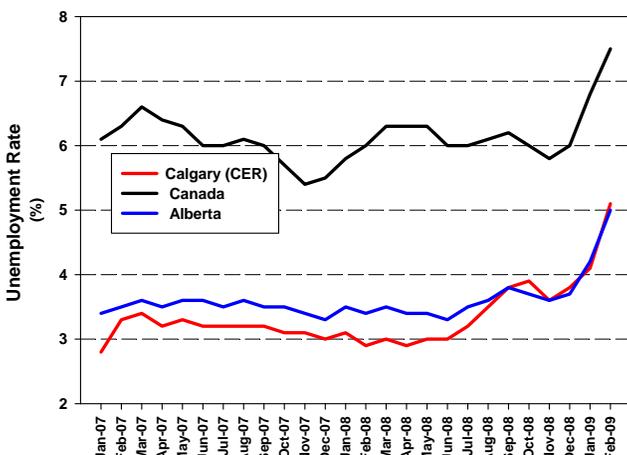
1 **Seasonally adjustment** filters out fluctuations due to seasonal events such as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays, and the opening the closing of schools. Seasonal fluctuations may account for as much as 95 per cent of the month-to-month changes in unemployment. Thus only seasonally adjusted data is used for *month-over-month* comparisons.

2 **Unadjusted data** combines seasonal factors and non-seasonal developments, such as economic activities and participation rates. To avoid the effect of seasonal factors, growth is calculated on a *year-over-year basis*.

Calgary Economic Region Total Employment
(Seasonally adjusted vs. Unadjusted)



Unemployment Rate: Canada, Alberta, Calgary (CER)
(Unadjusted, 3 month moving average)



Labour Force Statistics

Economic Regions (Unadjusted 3-Month-Moving-Average)

Region	Description	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,036.3	1,032.7	1,009.7	26.6
	Labour Force ('000)	792.8	795.2	756.3	36.5
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	76.5	77.0	74.9	1.6
	Employment ('000)	752.8	762.3	734.1	18.7
	Employment Rate (%)	72.6	73.8	72.7	(0.1)
	Unemployment ('000)	40.0	32.9	22.2	17.8
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.1	4.1	2.9	2.2
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	927.8	926.3	909.3	18.5
	Labour Force ('000)	669.9	669.7	663.8	6.1
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.2	72.3	73.0	(0.8)
	Employment ('000)	637.0	641.6	639.5	(2.5)
	Employment Rate (%)	68.6	69.3	70.3	(1.8)
	Unemployment ('000)	32.8	28.1	24.3	8.5
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.9	4.2	3.7	1.2
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	2,828.2	2,823.3	2,771.7	56.5
	Labour Force ('000)	2,098.5	2,097.7	2,045.5	53.0
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.2	74.3	73.8	0.4
	Employment ('000)	1,994.4	2,010.1	1,975.5	18.9
	Employment Rate (%)	70.5	71.2	71.3	(0.8)
	Unemployment ('000)	104.1	87.6	70.0	34.1
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0	4.2	3.4	1.5

Statistics Canada: CANSIM, Table ID: 282-0054

Source: Corporate Economics, Statistics Canada, March 2009

