

More Job Losses and EI Beneficiaries in Calgary

The seasonally adjusted data show that from April to May 2009, total employment dropped by 400 in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and 41,800 in Canada, but increased slightly by 600 in Alberta.

- In Canada, full-time job losses (-58,700) continued in May after a surprise gain in April, most of them were in the manufacturing sector in Ontario. Self-employment fell by 32,000 in May, offsetting the gain in April.
- Alberta's job gains in goods-producing sector (+2,200) were partially offset by job losses in service-producing sector, mainly in Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing industry (-4,700) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry (-3,000).

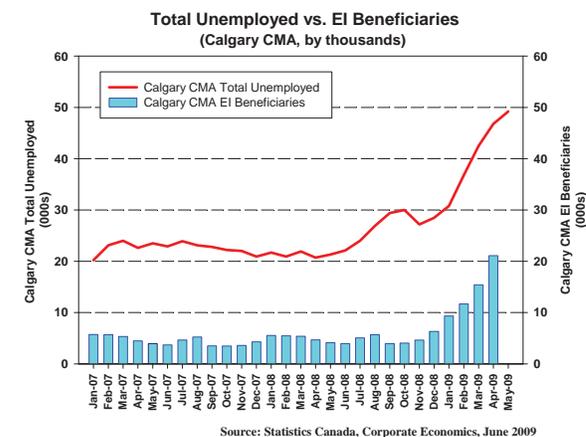
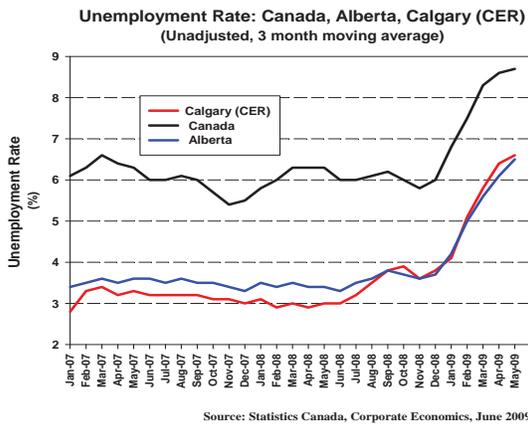
The un-adjusted data indicate that the CER labour market deteriorated faster than the rest of the country over the past twelve months. This resulted in faster growth in the number of EI beneficiaries in the region.

- The unemployment rate in Calgary (6.6%) surpassed Alberta (6.5%) for the second consecutive month, climbing faster than the national average unemployment rate.
- First time since March 2005, total employment in CER dropped by 4,800 positions, with 23,700 full-time employment losses and 18,900 part-time job gains. The biggest full-time job losses were in Trade (-12,900), Health Care and Social Assistance (-10,000) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-8,700) industries.
- The number¹ of Calgarians receiving regular employment insurance benefits jumped by 10,000 persons to a total of 15,400 persons in March 2009 from a year ago.
- The Calgary average wage rate increased by 2.2 per cent in May 2009, down from 6.4 per cent a year earlier. Increased competition from unemployed workers for available jobs is resulting in lower wage inflation rates.

Next update: July 10, 2009

¹ The number of beneficiaries in March is a measure of all persons who received EI benefits from the 15th to the 21st of March.

Based on the 2-week waiting period required before receiving regular EI benefits, these EI recipients are those who have lost their jobs before March 2009, when unemployment rate was below 6 per cent. As a result, they needed more insured hours (700 hours then compared to 665 hours now) to qualify for regular benefits and would receive shorter maximum number of weeks payable (36 weeks then vs. 43 weeks now).



Labour Force Statistics

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

| Region | Description | May-09 | Apr-09 | May-08 | Annual Change |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Calgary | Working Age Population ('000) | 1,043.5 | 1,041.1 | 1,015.4 | 28.1 |
| | Labour Force ('000) | 796.2 | 790.2 | 771.7 | 24.5 |
| | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 76.3 | 75.9 | 76.0 | 0.3 |
| | Employment ('000) | 744.0 | 740.1 | 748.8 | (4.8) |
| | Employment Rate (%) | 71.3 | 71.1 | 73.7 | (2.4) |
| | Unemployment ('000) | 52.2 | 50.1 | 22.9 | 29.3 |
| | Unemployment Rate (%) | 6.6 | 6.4 | 3.0 | 3.6 |
| Edmonton | Working Age Population ('000) | 934.9 | 932.8 | 913.6 | 21.3 |
| | Labour Force ('000) | 679.7 | 671.6 | 664.2 | 15.5 |
| | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 72.7 | 72.0 | 72.7 | 0.0 |
| | Employment ('000) | 635.6 | 632.8 | 639.0 | (3.4) |
| | Employment Rate (%) | 67.9 | 67.8 | 69.9 | (2.1) |
| | Unemployment ('000) | 44.0 | 38.8 | 25.2 | 18.8 |
| | Unemployment Rate (%) | 6.5 | 5.8 | 3.8 | 2.7 |
| Alberta | Working Age Population ('000) | 2,848.7 | 2,841.5 | 2,689.6 | 159.1 |
| | Labour Force ('000) | 2,116.6 | 2,099.9 | 1,998.4 | 118.2 |
| | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 74.3 | 73.9 | 74.3 | 0.0 |
| | Employment ('000) | 1,978.4 | 1,970.8 | 1,998.4 | (20.0) |
| | Employment Rate (%) | 69.4 | 69.4 | 74.3 | (4.9) |
| | Unemployment ('000) | 138.2 | 129.1 | 0.0 | 138.2 |
| | Unemployment Rate (%) | 6.5 | 6.1 | 3.4 | (3.3) |

Statistics Canada: CANSIM, Table ID: 282-0054
Source: Corporate Economics, Statistics Canada, June 2009

Calgary's Monthly Market Review: May 2009

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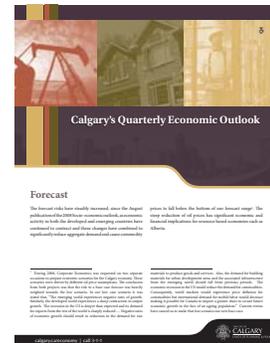
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Source: Statistics Canada

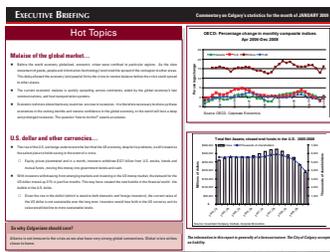
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